

Issue No. 1394

Date: 3 Falgun 2077 / 15 February 2021

<p><u>Today's Programme:</u></p> <p>Regular Weekly Meeting</p>	<p><u>Congratulatory Events</u></p> <p><u>Birthdays:</u></p> <p>Rtn. Shiv Prakash Khemka – 12 Feb., Rtn. Padam Lall Maharjan – 13 Feb. Rtn. Jamuna K. Tamrakar – 17 Feb., Rtn. Suraj Pradhan – 18 Feb., and Rtn. Nirmal Kumar Pradhanang – 18 Feb.</p> <p><u>Wedding Anniversaries:</u></p> <p>PDG Rtn. Tirtha Man & Nani Shova Sakya – 14 Feb. Rtn. Kedar Bhakta & Shanta Shrestha – 15 Feb. Rtn. Kamal Bahadur & Sulochana Nyachhyon – 18 Feb. Rtn. Rabendra Raj & Chandra Lekha Pandey – 18 Feb.</p>
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Minutes of Meeting No. 1742

Date: 26 Magh 2077 / 8 February 2021

1. President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang called the virtual meeting No. 1742 to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for Nepal & world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Inner Wheels and spouses of the RCP members, and Ms. Monika Niroula
3. The last meeting minutes were reviewed and adopted.
4. Pledges of 'Happy News/Sunshine' contribution and to the Operational Fund marked as 'OF':
 - Rtn. Suraj and Meera Pradhan – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' in absentia (ha.ba.).
 - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang (NRs. 500 to OF) and Rtn. Ganesh R. Shrestha (NRs. 500) – for today's talk programme of Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal.
 - Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht – for the above, hiking of 18 km Nakhu/Pashupati/Nakhu, and Ms. Monika Niroula's participation today (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtns. Bijaya and Gabriele Mallapaty - for successful Thesis of Ms. Monika Niroula with distinction and for a wonderful family trip to Halesi Mahadev (NRs. 2,000).
5. Rotary News/Information:
 - President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang shared the following information:
 - This year's District Conference is planned to be held during 9-11 April 2021 at Park Village Hotel, but has not yet been confirmed.
 - Interested members to the District TRF Seminar and Recognition Programme being held on 20 February 2021 may register directly with the district or through him.
 - The Anandakuti school reconstruction project inauguration ceremony was held on 3 February 2021 with worship ceremony by Bhikhues(Bhantes) and vegetarian food.
 - World Cancer Day was celebrated by the District on 4 February 2021 with good speakers. It was suggested that all Rotary clubs support vaccination of young girls (pre-menstruation) against the Cancer of Uterus, which is valid for life.
 - A District seminar on the 7th focus area of Rotary on 'Environment' was held with an interesting talk programme by Mr. Nabin Bikash Maharjan (our partner in the Anandakuti school reconstruction project) focussing on 'Plastic'.
 - The regional office and the District have launched 'Rotary on Wheels' website. Members may download the App to get contacts about clubs and members.
6. Salutation: By PP Rtn. Jamuna K. Tamrakar – RC of Numata, Gunma Administrative Region, Japan; Chartered: 1958; Current President – Rtn. Keisuke Kiyono; and Members: 73. District: 2840, Clubs: 47, and Members: 1968.
7. Before the closure of the meeting by the President, the Secretary announced: total contribution pledges of NRs. 4,000 (NRs. 3,500 to the sunshine fund and NRs. 500 to the 'OF' of the RCP); and the attendance of 1 guest, 30 members, and Inner Wheels/spouses of the RCP members.

Rotary Questions/Answers presented by Rtn. Kiran Thapa

- Q.** Who proposed the idea to establish the Rotary Foundation of RI?
A. Arch. C. Klumph in 1917, the 6th RI President from Cleveland, Ohio, USA.
- Q.** Name of committees for clubs recommended by Club Leadership Plan (CLP).
A. Club Administration, Membership, Public Image/Relations, Service Projects, and The Rotary Foundation
- Q.** Name of Past RI President who attended the inauguration of RI District 3292 in 2008.
A. PRIP, Rajendra K Saboo

Summary of Classification talk of Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal

President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang welcomed Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal for her classification talk with specific focus on her experience in western Nepal.

Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal gave her classification talk with the help of a power point presentation. Born in Markanda village of Baitadi in the far western part of Nepal, Rtn. Bisht Rawal studied in Hetauda and completed her education in Kathmandu with a Masters in Sociology from Tribhuvan University.

She started with heart touching memories of her childhood in the village as a girl child who is socially discriminated. Among the discriminations, she explained 5 key points - the life confined to kitchen work, 'Kanyadan' or giving away of the daughter to the groom's family, maltreatment of girls during menstruation, welcoming behaviour towards son-in-law as opposed to a daughter-in-law treated as a family servant, having to disown the birth home once a girl is married, and economic dependence. These social ills motivated and encouraged her from childhood to be an independent and progressive woman.

Rtn. Bisht Rawal choose to work particularly for women's development. Noting the pain women have to go through to cope with the social ills, she, as a woman, understood their needs and could take a leadership role in contributing towards the betterment of women's conditions.

Rtn. Bisht Rawal started her career in the Government of Nepal service in 2049 B.S. as a Women's Development Officer and by 2071 B.S. she rose to the position of under-secretary level. Currently, she is working in the Lalitpur District Metropolis as the chief of section of women's development and is the GESI (Gender Equity & Social Inclusion) focal person as well as coordinator of the functional committee on gender-based violence.

During the course of her career, she has worked at 6 District Offices, at National Women's Commission, at Prime Minister's Cabinet Office, at the Ministry for Children and Senior Citizens, and currently at the Lalitpur Metropolis.

Amongst her achievements, Rtn. Bisht Rawal has managed to establish various women groups and committees and enabled them to run autonomous financial cooperatives, produce and market agricultural products and manage community level construction projects for the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the poor rural women. She has also been instrumental in empowering the poor rural women and reducing the gender-based discrimination through various participatory activities with women wherein she also involved the men to bring about changes in the communities. Other activities included protection of child rights, girl's empowerment, work on violence against women, development of leadership capacity of women, and orienting women for businesses.

As an example of extreme poverty in rural Nepal, Rtn. Bisht Rawal presented the situation of Dadheldhura village in 2049 B.,S. where she did some of her flagship work to empower and improve the economic standing of women in the male dominated village. She also explained the key achievements with her work in Banke District, Makwanpur District, Morang District, and her later work at the central level offices. Finally, she talked about her current initiatives at the Lalitpur Metropolis. She is working on awareness raising against gender-based violence by bringing together all the parties concerned for a collaborative work; policy making with the involvement of the elected officials of local governments; creating and improving the environment for women to do business for their economic empowerment; and to improve the institutions and mechanism to deal with gender-based violence.

Following a very interesting Q/A session, President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang thanked Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal for her classification talk with so much of insights into the rural areas of Nepal and the enormous work that is still needed to improve the condition of women.