

Issue No. 1400

Date: 23 Chaitra 2077 / 5 April 2021

<p><u>Today's Programme:</u></p> <p>Business Meeting</p> <p>(No regular weekly meeting on 29 March 2021)</p>	<p><u>Congratulatory Events</u></p> <p><u>Birthdays:</u> Rtn. Bijaya L. Shrestha – 4 April</p> <p><u>Wedding Anniversaries:</u> Nil</p>
---	--

Minutes of Meeting No. 1748

Date: 9 Chaitra 2077 / 22 March 2021

1. President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang called the virtual meeting No. 1748 to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for Nepal & world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Guest speaker Rtn. Kusum Tamang, IW members/spouses, Rotaract Club of Patan President Rtn. Kritika Sharma and Rtn. Aman B. Shrestha.
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. Lalita Thapa – for 'Happy Birthday' (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa – for 'World Water Day', participating in the President Elects' Training Seminar (PETS) during 17-18 March 2021 at Bhairahawa, and being Heart Club Nepal member (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang – for having Rtn. Kusum Tamang as today's guest speaker (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Kiran Thapa – for the above, and for spouse Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa's birthday (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Santa K. Shrestha – for his donation for the traffic light in Bandipur shared earlier (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary – for the vacation of his son's and daughter's families in the USA/Mexico, and good health of grandson despite a serious accident while ice-skating (NRs. 1,000).
5. Other Contributions: Rtn. Lalita Thapa and Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty contributed NRs. 1,850 each to the RCP's PEEF Programme Fund for their participation in Nepal Orthopaedic Hospital (NOH) board meeting. Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty also briefed on the good meeting with Donors/Rotary Representatives' presenting a common stand on the composition of the NOH Management Board. The Mayor and the local government authorities were in full support of it and a Nepal Disabled Association subcommittee was directed to present draft new guidelines in this regard.
6. Rotary News/Information:
 - President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang shared the following information:
 - Interact Club of Shree Balkumari School's executive committee meeting with election of new committee for 2021-2022 was attended by himself and Rtn. Ganesh R. Shrestha on 19 March 2021.
 - The District's 2019-2020 Award Ceremony planned for 26 March 2021 in Sauraha has been postponed. PDG Rtn. Tirtha M. Sakya added that it may be held on 2 May 2021 in Kathmandu.
 - RYLA planned for 26-28 March 2021 is also not certain to be held due to Covid-19 pandemic.
 - The Rotary Club of Patan President for each year has been nominated as an 'Ex-Officio' Adviser by Nepal Heart Foundation for the next four years.
 - Rtn. Ganesh R. Shrestha briefed on the status of PEEF distribution for this year that has just been completed in all the 26 schools.
 - Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty briefed on the completion of interviews of the ten awardees of KEEA students by the team of President Elect, Chair of Service Project, and the Secretary with support from PEEF Programme Manager Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal and Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty. The ceremony date will be decided once the RCP starts physical meetings.

- PDG Rtn. Tirtha M. Sakya mentioned about some doubts on the dates of the planned District Conference. More information to follow.
 - Rtn. Chandralekha Kayastha, Technical Committee Member of Lalitpur Community Heart Care Centre, informed about the meeting held on 17 March 2021 with agreement to appoint a consultant.
 - Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa briefed on his participation in the President Elects' Training Seminar (PETS) during 17-18 March 2021 in Bhairahawa wherein RI President Elect Sekhar Mehta talked about his high goals for Nepal during his Presidency. His spouse Rashi Mehta has been named an honorary member of RC Biratnagar Downtown. He also mentioned of the plans to have the District Training Assembly on 29 May 2021 in Kathmandu.
7. Salutation: By PP Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary – RC of Medvode, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Chartered: 2001; and Members: 20 (Current President: Borut Halfner). District: 1912, Clubs: 43, and Members: 1037.
8. Before the closure of the meeting by the President, on behalf of the Secretary, Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty announced: total contribution pledges of NRs. 5,000 to the sunshine fund of the RCP, and the attendance of 1 Rotarian guest speaker, 3 Inner Wheels/Spouses, 2 Rotaracts and 25 members.

Rotary Questions/Answers presented by Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa

- Q. What is the current location of the Rotary Int'l Headquarters? A. 1560 Sherman Ave. Evanston, Illinois, USA
- Q. What was the first location of the Rotary Int'l Headquarters? A. Chesley R. Perry's office, LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois, USA
- Q. What was the first meeting venue of the RC Patan? A. Narayani Hotel, Lalitpur.

Summary of Talk Programme by Rtn. Kusum Tamang on 'Child Sex Abuse and Prevention'

President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang introduced Rtn. Kusum Tamang from E-Club of Nepal who has been devoting herself in the service of the underprivileged for the last 13 years and heads the 'Hiteri Foundation'. Rtn. Tamang has a degree in community welfare and Buddhist theology, and is doing a MBA. He noted the particularly noteworthy feeding programme she managed for the poor for nine months during the current Covid-19 pandemic. This was done with contributions of only NRs. 50 for each meal for 100 to 150 persons every day.

Rtn. Kusum Tamang started a comprehensive power-point presentation on the above subject emphasising the role of education and awareness raising in bringing about a change. She first defined child sexual abuse as any sexual act between an adult and a minor, or between two minors when one exerts power over the other. It may occur anywhere, e.g. homes, neighbourhoods, schools, public spaces or by phone/internet. She mentioned that globally 20% of children who are sexually abused are abused before the age of 8, 60% of the abused children never tell anyone, and that 60% of the abusers are people that the family trusts.

In Nepal, Rtn. Tamang described the acts of child sexual abuse and key areas of prevalence such as child prostitution, child trafficking, in travel and tourism industry, early/forced marriages, in general community and online. She explained the stages an offender goes to sexually abuse a child and how to recognise physical and behavioural/psychological signs of sexual abuse in children. She also advised on what and how to raise awareness in children and teach them body safety as well as how to approach a child when one suspects child sexual abuse.

Rtn. Kusum listed the reporting mechanism for sexual abuse of children as: Child Helpline 1098 by Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN), and Community Police – Dial 100 and mentioned child sexual abuse report.

She explained about the NGO 'TSHK' (Timro Surakshya Hamro Kartabya) that aims to raise awareness about child sexual abuse at different levels of the community. Their current projects and campaigns are available on various online portals including <https://www.facebook.com/TSHKorg/>

During the Q/A and comments session, Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal and President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang suggested to collaborate with Rtn. Kusum Tamang, the Lalitpur Municipality and the RCP, particularly to work in the RCP's adopted schools within Rotary Nepal Literacy Mission. On behalf of the RCP, President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang thanked Rtn. Kusum Tamang for her very impressive presentation and her personal dedication to the cause of preventing child sex abuse in Nepal.