



ललित धारा

RI District 3292

Club No. 23126

Chartered: 29 August 1985

Past President & Editor: Bijaya Mallapaty Past President & Assistant Editor: Chandralekha Kayastha Secretary: Preeti Khemka

Issue No. 1406

Date: 4 Jestha 2078 / 17 May 2021

<p><u>Today's Programme:</u> Regular Weekly Meeting</p> <p><u>Forthcoming Programme:</u> 24 May - Talk Programme by Dr. Rinjan Shrestha, WWF Canada, on 'Tigers of Nepal'</p>	<p><u>Congratulatory Events</u></p> <p><u>Birthdays:</u> Nil</p> <p><u>Wedding Anniversaries:</u> Rtns. Bijaya & Gabriele Mallapaty – 14 May</p>
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Minutes of Meeting No. 1754

Date: 27 Baishakh 2078 / 10 May 2021

1. President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang called the virtual meeting No. 1754, to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for Nepal & world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Rotaract Club of Patan PP Rtr. Peshal Bhattarai.
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. Jeevan K. Shrestha – for 'Happy Birthday' (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Shiva K. Pradhan – for 'Happy Birthday' from last week, and for doing today's Rota Quiz (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty – for 'Happy Birthday', and travel to Germany (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa – for her concept paper on Results-based management through IIDS approved as a certified course by Kathmandu University (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey – for his daughter teaching a class on Buddhism including psychology counselling to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Kiran Thapa – for 'Mother's Day' (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Preeti Khemka – for recovery of her father-in-law and herself from COVID-19 (NRs. 2,000).
 - Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty – for spouse Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty's birthday, travel to Germany, and Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka's hard work on the customs clearance/transportation of the disinfectant container (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang – for the participation of Rtns. Bijaya and Gabriele Mallapaty in the meeting from Germany, and for the progress in the receipt of the disinfectant container (NRs. 500).
5. Rotary News/Information:
 - President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang reminded on the registration details of the forthcoming Rotary International Convention being held virtually during 11-15 June 2021.
 - RCP's support to the current wave of COVID-19 pandemic: Following an update on our earlier efforts, President Nirmal K. Pradhanang briefed on a request for oxygen cylinders to support the isolation centre with 50 beds just established by Nepal Youth Foundation at their nutrition rehabilitation centre at Sunakothe with the approval and full support of the Lalitpur Municipality. This centre will support poor people who do not have the facility to isolate themselves at home. Following deliberations, the 'House' unanimously agreed to allocate NRs. 200,000 from the RCP's available budget to sponsor 10 oxygen cylinders. Modalities of this support with visibility of the RCP will be managed by the President with the Lalitpur Municipality and Nepal Youth Foundation with the support of Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal.
6. Salutation: By President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang - RC of Salzburg, Austria; Chartered: 1927; and Members: 104 (Current President Rtn. Cristian Dreyer). District: 1920, Clubs: 63, and Members: 3160.
7. Before the closure of the meeting by the President, the Secretary announced: total contribution pledges of NRs. 8,500 to the sunshine fund of the RCP and attendance: 29 members & 1 Rotaract.

IN MEMORY

- RCP family observed a 'minute of silence' in memory of the following friends who passed away recently:**
- former RCP charter member Suresh Chandra Lakhey who was with the RCP for 29 years
 - former RCP member and 2005-2006 President Gyanu Shakya who was with the RCP for 17 years, and
 - former Assistant Governor for the RCP, Rtn. Surya Shakya

Rotary Questions/Answers presented by Rtn. Shiv K. Pradhan

- Q. How many members formed the first Rotary club on 23 Feb. 1905? **A.** 4 members
- Q. What does ESRAG stand for? **A.** Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group
- Q. When was the Red Cross Lalitpur Blood Bank established by Nepal Rotary and Nepal Heart Foundation?
A: In June 2014.



RI President Holger Knaack's May 2021 message

For years, Susanne and I hosted many Rotary Youth Exchange students in our home. This program was an entry point to Rotary for me, and my heart is truly in it. When Rotary's exchange programs were suspended because of COVID-19 to keep students and families safe, we felt sorry, especially for the participants, because those years cannot be repeated.

Because of the many uncertainties of the pandemic, the Rotary Board has decided to suspend in-person exchanges through June 2022. As we look ahead with hope, we thank Youth Exchange officers, host families, and volunteers for their contributions in years past, and we encourage districts to offer virtual exchanges as a way of connecting students around the world with each other and with our communities.

For those who are not able to participate in Rotary Youth Exchange, Rotary offers other opportunities. New Generations Service Exchange (NGSE) is a Rotary program that deserves wider recognition: It is an excellent opportunity for young people ages 18 to 30 to participate in community service as individuals or in a group and to gain internship experience. Simukai Matshalaga, a Rotaractor from Zimbabwe, stayed with us in Ratzeburg during her NGSE experience three years ago.

When I applied for the New Generations Service Exchange program, I did not realize that I was signing up for a life-changing experience. This program gave me that opportunity and much more. It taught me about the importance of failing fast, learning quicker, and being myself.

Some of my greatest experiences happened at the dinner table. The warmth and kindness of every home I lived in still resonate with me today. It took me weeks to understand how a stranger could care for me as deeply as these members of the Rotary family did. I am inspired by the lessons of humility I learned from all the amazing people I met. I came to understand a new culture and realized that the only things that separate us as people are our experiences and, at times, our false assumptions.

Professionally, it gave me confidence in my own abilities as an engineer. Seeing how other organizations handled problems made me aware that the best person to solve the challenges in my country was me. Returning home from northern Germany, I declined a promotion, quit my job, and began building a family business — a decision that previously I would have never made, out of fear.

I am indebted to the Rotary family. I am not sure whether the friends, mentors, and families I left behind knew that they changed my life permanently. I hope they now do.

New Generations Service Exchange changed Simukai's life. It can change yours, too. All Rotary members can experience something similar at any time: I encourage everyone to take a virtual journey this month and visit meetings of other clubs online. You will see how different Rotary is around the world as you meet great people and make new friends.

Let us build upon these connections forged online — and later, when the time is right, enjoy in-person exchanges through Rotary Friendship Exchange, another excellent program for Rotary members of all ages. Our ability to meet in person is limited now, but we know that *Rotary Opens Opportunities*, always. Now is the time to get ready, so that when the pandemic is behind us, Rotary's exchange programs will come back stronger than before, serving a world that is yearning to reconnect.