

ललित धारा

RI District 3292**Club No. 23126****Chartered: 29 August 1985****President: Mahendra Thapa Past President & Editor: Bijaya Mallapaty Past President & Assistant Editor: Chandralekha Kayastha****Issue No. 1430****Date: 15 Kartik 2078 / 1 November 2021**

<u>Today's Programme:</u> Business Meeting and an update on contributions of the RCP to the TRF	<u>Congratulatory Events</u> <u>Birthdays:</u> Rtn. Preeti Khemka – 3 Nov., Rtn. Santa K. Shrestha – 5 Nov., & Rtn. Nabin B. Maharjan – 5 Nov. <u>Wedding Anniversaries:</u> Nil
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Minutes of Meeting No. 1777**Date: 8 Kartik 2078 / 25 October 2021**

1. President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa called the virtual RCP meeting No. 1777 to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Rotaract Aman Shrestha from the Rotaract Club of Patan.
3. The last meeting minutes were reviewed and adopted.
4. Pledges of 'Happy News/Sunshine' contribution:
 - Rtns. Bijaya and Gabriele Mallapaty – for today's talk programme by Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa – for the above (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey – for buying an electric car (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary – for Vijaya Dashami Tika in Kathmandu and in Texas, USA (NRs. 500).
5. Other Contributions:
 - President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa pledged to contribute NRs. 1,500 for free participation in the District's World Ethics Day celebration to the RCP's PEEF Programme Fund.
 - Rtns. Gabriele & Bijaya Mallapaty pledged to contribute US \$ 200 each (Total US \$400) to TRF for PolioPlus.
6. Rotary News/Information:
 - President Elect Rtn. Shiva K. Pradhan briefed on the District's World Ethics Day celebration participated by President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa and himself. This was a successful hybrid (physical and zoom meeting) wherein RI President Shekhar Mehta and speakers from Nepal joined.
He also suggested for the RCP to start the hybrid meetings as soon as possible.
 - President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa briefed on the Polio Day – 24 October walkathon and cycle rally organized by the District. From the RCP nine members participated.
 - Rtns. Bijaya & Gabriele Mallapaty visited the site of the RCP's partner KOSHISH's (National Mental Health Self-Help NGO) working for the promotion of mental health and psychosocial disability at the grassroots community in Nepal. The new transit home, under construction in Pharping, is for females with mental health problems. Part of the project is financed by a grant of about US \$200,000 from the Japanese Embassy in Kathmandu. The site is spread in seven ropanis of land with 65% of construction work already completed.
 - Rotaract Aman Shrestha of the Rotaract Club of Patan informed about their annual plan for a 'Deusi/Bhailo' programme. He also requested RCP's suggestions in terms of timing and participation.
7. Salutation: by Past President Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty - Rotary Club of Gomoti, Bangladesh; Chartered: 2005; and Members: 29. District: 3280, Clubs: 158, and Members: 4415.
8. Before the adjournment of the meeting by the President, Acting Secretary Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht announced: contribution pledges of NRs. 3,000 to the RCP's sunshine fund & the meeting attendance of 1 guest, 2 Rotaracts, and 28 members.

Rotary Questions/Answers presented by Rtn. Bijaya L. Shrestha

Q: In which year did WHO certify the African region polio-free?

A: In 2020, after Nigeria did not record a new wild poliovirus case for three full years.

Q: When did Rotary launch the PolioPlus programme?

A: In 1985

Q: What does KEEA stand for and how many students are awarded each year?

A: Kamalmani Educational Excellence Award – awarded annually to 10 outstanding PEEF scholarship recipients

Summary of Talk Programme by Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty on Polio Eradication and Rotary

On the occasion of the 'World Polio Day – 24 October', President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa welcomed Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty to make a presentation on the above-mentioned subject.

Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty made a power-point presentation updating on the latest situation of Polio globally and in Nepal. Rotary has been one of the five key partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) that has been working since 1988 in partnership with WHO, UNICEF, CDC, and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Donors, private sector, national governments, NGOs, media, and millions of volunteers have joined hands in this effort.

From 125 endemic countries in 1988, currently only Pakistan and Afghanistan are endemic, but in 2021 there was only one case each in both these countries, which is the lowest in history. However, more efforts are required for the final push to eradicate Polio.

While there are only two cases of Wild Polio Virus in 2021, there have been 1037 cases of circulating vaccine derived Polio cases (cVDPV) in 2020, and so far 263 of the same in 2021. With the support of a brief video presentation, Rtn. Mallapaty explained in detail the two types of polio – the Wild Polio Virus and the vaccine derived polio cases. The cVDPV is a mutated version of the live weakened virus in the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV). It now poses a key challenge in the final stage of the global polio eradication efforts.

Eradicating polio for good requires eliminating both the wild polio virus and the vaccine-derived polio virus. Rtn. Mallapaty described the various types of vaccines that have been used and about the new innovative vaccine called novel Oral Polio Vaccine type 2 (nOPV2). In many countries, the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) is no longer part of the routine child immunization regime. It continues to be given to children during outbreaks of cVDPV and re-emergence of wild polio virus in non-endemic countries. For the routine immunization, inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) injections are introduced in many countries around the world.

Rtn. Mallapaty mentioned that Nepal has a very good immunization programme, and it was one of the pilot countries that introduced IPV injections into the routine immunization programme in 2015. Therefore, in Nepal, the oral polio drops are no longer given to children as part of the routine immunization programme.

She explained the global Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026 with two goals – first to interrupt all poliovirus transmission in the two remaining endemic countries, and second, to stop cVDPV transmission and prevent outbreaks in non-endemic countries. It is targeted to interrupt the wild poliovirus transmission by the end of 2023 thereby, after three years, certify eradication of wild poliovirus by 2026. And, at the same time, validate the absence of CVDPV2.

Finally, there is a need to capitalize on the unique opportunity due to the latest favourable epidemiological situation and implement the polio eradication strategy to get rid of polio for good from this earth. This will be the fruits of Rotary's efforts, together with many partners, of 35 years since the first project to vaccinate children against polio in the Philippines in 1979. Since then, Rotary members have contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect three billion children in 125 countries from this paralyzing disease.

Rtn. Mallapaty also acknowledged the support of her Polio Team friends in WHO in providing the latest updates on GPEI's efforts.

Following a vibrant Q/A session, on behalf of all present, President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa thanked Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty for her excellent presentation and clarifications on the subject close to Rotary's heart.



May the Laugh Bug Bite You 😊😊😊😊😊

Went to a buffet - on the table there was a big bowl of apples. A note said God is watching, take only one.

A little further down, I come to a bowl filled with chocolates.

I left a note of my own: 'Take all you want...God is watching the apples'