

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. 1447****Date: 23 Falgun 2078 / 7 March 2022**

<u>Today's Programme</u>	<u>Congratulatory Events</u>
Business Meeting	<u>Birthdays:</u> Rtn. Kiran Thapa – 2 Mar. <u>Wedding Anniversaries:</u> Rtns. Nirmal K. & Bijaya Pradhanang – 6 Mar., Ramesh L. & Shobha Maskay – 6 Mar., Siba B. & Mithila Rajbhandary – 6 Mar., and Nabin B. & Sunita Maharjan – 8 Mar.

Minutes of Meeting No. 1794**Date: 16 Falgun 2078 / 28 February 2022**

1. President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa called the regular weekly meeting number 1794 to order virtually by Zoom with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Guest Speaker Rtn. Hom K. Chaulagain and Rtn. Neeta Regmi from RC Durbar marg.
3. The last meeting minutes were reviewed and adopted.
4. Contributions/pledges for 'Happy News':
 - Rtn. Piyush B. & Ramita Bajracharya (NRs. 1,000), and Rtn. Shiva K. & Tika Pradhan (NRs. 500) – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary'.
 - Rtns. Bharat N. & Meera Joshi, Pushkar M. & Rita Shakya, Kuldeep R. & Meera Tuladhar, & Bijay & Rajani Bajracharya – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' in absentia (ha.ba.).
 - Rtn. Preeti Khemka – for elder son's recovery from COVID-19 in Hong Kong (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa – for the participation of today's guest speaker Rtn. Hom K. Chaulagain and Rtn. Neeta Regmi from RC, Durbar marg (NRs. 500).
5. Rotary News/Information:
 - Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal briefed on the progress with the preparations for the 8th of March International Women's Day 'Cycle Rally' with all the partners under the leadership of the Deputy Mayor of Lalitpur Metropolis. Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht noted the difficulty faced by interested persons without bicycles and possible renting of bicycles in future rallies. He is also donating a bicycle for training purposes. Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal also requested for a donation of a bicycle for a cancer affected woman participant from any interested RCP members. Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa mentioned that she has one bicycle for donation, but it needs to be repaired.
 - Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa briefed on the District Assistant Governors Training Seminar (AGTS) held last Saturday. It focussed on training of trainers with the new 'Triple T' terminology, i.e. Train the Trainers, and emphasised training planning and delivery effectiveness. There is also a AGs training being held by two districts in Gyantok during 4 to 5 March 2022.
 - Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal and Rtn. Ganesh R. Shrestha updated on the distribution of 'Tiffin Carriers' that have been completed in two schools and is being done for the third school at Sunakothi. He also mentioned that the PEEF campaign for RY 2021-2022 was completed.
 - President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa informed that during the Rotary Anniversary celebration by the District, all Executive Secretaries/Office Assistants of clubs (Basant Ale Magar from the RCP) were given certificates of appreciation.
6. Salutation: By PP Rtn. Matsyendra L. Kayastha - Rotary Club of Cupar, Fife, Scotland; Chartered: 1932 and Members: 53. District: 1010, Clubs: 88, and Members: 3135. He also provided brief highlights of the country and the club.

7. Before the adjournment of the meeting by the President, Joint Secretary Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht announced: contribution pledges of NRs.3,000 to the Sunshine Fund of the RCP, the meeting attendance of 24 members, 2 guests, and 2 make-ups.

Rotary Questions/Answers presented by Rtn. Preeti Khemka

- Q. From which year was the 4 digit numbering introduced for Rotary Districts? **A. 1st July 1991**
- Q. What does RAGFP stand for? **A. Rotary Action Group for Peace**
- Q. Who was the first Paul Harris Fellow from Nepal? **A. Rtn. Hulas Chand Golchha**

Talk Programme on 'Peace and Conflict Resolution' by Guest Speaker, PP Rtn. Hom Kanta Chaulagain, Chair, District Conflict Resolution Sub-Committee

President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa welcomed PP Rtn. Hom K. Chaulagain as the guest speaker during this Rotary month of 'Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention' and Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal introduced him. PP of RC Durbar marg, Rtn. Chaulagain is the Chairperson of District Peace and Conflict Resolution Sub-Committee. He holds LLM, MA and LLB degrees and is an advocate and lawyer with over 25 years of experience specially representing clients at the Supreme Court. He is associated with C&K Associates and has been an Adviser/Past Chairperson of Human Right & Peace Society (HURPES). He has been involved in Democratic/Republic movement of Nepal including Civil Rights Movement of 2006, and the peace process that followed. He has an extensive experience as a Legal Adviser and Expert of various institutions, an active member of Nepal Bar Association, and has been a trainer in legal matters.

Rtn. Hom K. Chaulagain talked about his involvement in human rights and peace process in Nepal and his active involvement in conflict resolution. Defining 'Peace' as the absence of war, violence, and conflict, he mentioned about various kinds of conflicts such as ethnic, political, religious, as well as internal peace - physical and mental. He elaborated on the negative impact of conflicts in the society, both at national and international level. He highlighted that peace is obtained only if people feel that justice has been done.

Rtn. Chaulagain explained Rotary's historic role in promoting peace through peacebuilding, conflict prevention and creation of an environment of peace. This is done by carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships addressing the underlying causes of conflict, poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education and unequal distribution of resources. He described the eight recognised key factors, or pillars, which comprise positive peace as - well-functioning government, sound business environment, equitable distribution of resources, acceptance of the rights of others, good relations with neighbours, free flow of information, high levels of human capital, and low levels of corruption.

Highlighting Rotary's four roles of promoting peace as practitioners, educators, mediators, and advocates, Rtn. Chaulagain elaborated on how Rotary works practically in promoting and accomplishing each of these roles.

Talking about Nepal, Rtn. Chaulagain gave a historic brief on political conflict with details since 2007 and the current situation since the promulgation of the constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal adopted in 2015 after the end of the Maoist Revolution. Nepal's peace process is cited as a positive example of conflict resolution by the UN, but there are still several areas of conflict that need to be addressed to establish a good environment of peace.

PDG Rtn. Tirtha M. Sakya appreciated the talk given by Rtn. Chaulagain and added his own brief on the role of Rotary in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. While Rotary is not a political or religious institution, he emphasised the need to continue to talk about peace, including in Nepal where conflicts have not ended. Efforts should continue to restrain conflicts and create an environment of peace.

Following a Questions/Answers session, on behalf of the RCP, President Elect Rtn. Shiva K. Pradhan gave a 'Vote of Thanks' to Rtn. Hom K. Chaulagain for his excellent talk and responses to the questions of the RCP members. President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa concluded the session with his own words of thanks to the speaker.