



ललित धारा



RI District 3292

Club No. 23126

Chartered: 29 August 1985

Immediate Past President & Editor: Bijaya Mallapaty

President & Assistant Editor: Chandralekha Kayastha

Secretary: Mahendra Thapa

Issue No. 1222 (After Souvenir Issue No. 1221)

Date: 13 Bhadra 2074 / 29 August 2017

**Today's Main Programme: Charter Day Celebration
with DG's Visit and 4th Club Assembly**

Forthcoming Programme:

4 Sept. – Business Meeting

Congratulatory Events

Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries:
To be observed in next weekly meeting

Minutes of Meetings No.1573

Date: 5 Bhadra 2074 / 21 August 2017

1. President Rtn. Chandralekha Kayastha called the meeting no. 1573 to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for Peace and Happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: DG Nominee Rtn. Kiran L. Shrestha, and 4 Rotaracts including President Rubina Shakya.
3. The last meeting minutes were reviewed and adopted.
4. 'Happy News' Contribution:
 - Rtn. Bijaya Bajracharya – for 'Happy Birthday' in absentia (ha.ba.).
 - Rtn. Dr. Prakash R. Regmi – for 'Happy Father's Day' with his father of 91 years (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Jeevan K. Shrestha – for his interview on TV today.
 - Rtns. Matsyendra L. & Chandralekha Kayastha – for the return of Rtns. Gabriele and Bijaya Mallapaty with successful knee operation of Rtn. Bijaya.
 - Rtn. Nirmal Pradhanang – for the classification talk of Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha today.
 - Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary – for the participation of DGN in today's meeting & the return of the Mallapatys.
 - Rtn. Gabriele and Bijaya Mallapaty – for 'Happy Landing' from Germany and successful knee operation of Rtn. Bijaya (NRs. 1,000 each).
 - Rtn. Kamala Maharjan – for 'Happy Father's Day'.
 - Rtn. Bharat N. Joshi – for appointment to 'Doleswor Bikash Kosh' board as an adviser (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha – for his classification talk programme - part II, today.
5. Other Contributions: Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty contributed NRs. 1,000 to the PEEF Operational Fund from his attendance to the NOH Board Meeting.
6. **Flood Relief:** President Rtn. Chandralekha Kayastha briefed on the District Governor's request and RCP's fund-raising efforts from its members through Viber message. She thanked all who have already pledged and contributed. It was agreed that the RCP will contribute NRs. 25,000 and together with the members' contributions, a cheque will be handed-over to the DG on the Charter Day of the RCP. As for the list circulated by Secretary Rtn. Mahendra Thapa, total pledges and contributions so far have reached NRs. 175,000.

Those who have not pledged/contributed, are requested to do so voluntarily as early as possible through Viber, e-mail, or phone call so that the cheque being handed over to the District Governor could include all pledged contributions.

7. Rotary News/Information:

- Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary briefed on the Inter District Youth Exchange Programme (IDYEP) being held by District 3142 in Mumbai during 24 to 28 August 2017. The RCP has sponsored one candidate for this multi district event upon request of the Rotaract Club of Patan. Vice-President of Rotaract Club of Patan Rotaract Peshal Bhattarai.
- **President Rtn. Chandralekha Kayastha reminded that the regular meeting of Monday 28 August will be held on Charter Day, i.e. on Tuesday, 29 August 2017.**

8. DG Nominee Rtn. Kiran L. Shrestha spoke a few words thanking the RCP's various contributions to the District and expecting close cooperation to further enhance the quality and strength of our District's work as a whole.
9. Rotaract President Rubina Shakya and Rotaracts from Rotaract Club of Patan presented a cake to the RCP as its parent club to celebrate the 'Father's Day' and thank the RCP for its continued support. President Rtn. Chandralekha Kayastha appreciated this wonderful gesture on behalf of all the RCP family.
10. Salutation: By PDG Rtn. Tirtha M. Sakya – Rotary Club of Angelholm, Sweden; Chartered: 1949; & Members: 80. District: 2400, Clubs: 59, & Members: 3108.
11. Today's Main Programme: Please see below for a summary of the classification talk of Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha.
12. Before the closure of the meeting by the President, the Secretary announced: contribution of NRs. 7,200 (NRs. 2,300 for attendance, and NRs. 4,900 for sunshine funds); attendance: 1 visiting Rotarian, 4 Rotaracts, 23 members, and 5 make-ups.

Rotary Questions/Answers presented by Rtn. Kamala Maharjan

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| Q. Name of first woman Rotarian in Nepal and her club: | A. Dr. Suniti Acharya, RC Kathmandu in 1989 |
| Q. Which year Rotary club of Bhutan was formed? | A. 2012 |
| Q. Which is the biggest museum in the world? | A. British Museum, London |

Summary of Classification Talk Part II of Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha

Past President Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha continued the part II of his classification talk from 1985. The first part of the classification talk till 1984 was made on 17 July 2017 (See Lalitdhara Issue No. 1216 for a summary).

In 1985, he was back in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) upon return from his posting in the USA. In 1987, he played an important role in the establishment of the SAARC Secretariat in Nepal. Following a meeting of the Head of States of SAARC countries in Bangalore in November 1986, it was decided to have the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal. Pakistani President Jia Ul Haq and the then Nepalese King Birendra were instrumental in getting this decision approved. Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha was named the first Director of SAARC. Work on war footing was done to establish the Secretariat in a record time of two months, which was only possible with the support of many. Unlike today, the environment at the time was excellent with goodwill for regional collaboration with every professional group wanting to have regional collaboration.

After five and half years in SAARC, Rtn. Shrestha returned to the MOFA. With the rule of a maximum of 30 years of government service introduced by the then PM Girija P. Koirala, and the retirement of two seniors, he became the senior most, and became the Secretary of the MFA. During his tenure as the Secretary from 1994 to 1997, he was also the senior most Secretary among his colleagues in SAARC countries, which facilitated a lot of regional level collaboration.

After retirement from government service, in 1997, Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha became the second Ambassador of Nepal to the European Union in Bruxelles, for four and half years. Bruxelles, being at the centre of Europe, was a very attractive location, for all the dignitaries from Nepal including the then Crown Prince, Royal Family members, and Prime Ministers, to cover in their visits. Therefore, it was a very busy posting based in this trilingual country (French, Flemish and German) with world famous beers and chocolates.

Rtn. Shrestha joined the Rotary Club of Patan after 37 years of his career in 2002, but had to take a break when he was called upon to become the Ambassador of Nepal to the USA based in Washington D.C. in 2004. Just after 5 months of his posting, former King Gyanendra took all the powers in his own hands. It was one of the most challenging tasks to be the Ambassador of Nepal in the USA during that time. There was a lot of pressure in dealing with several international organizations, human rights groups and media including CNN. As the Ambassador, he had to continuously put the government's position to the international community while being in continuous contacts with the authorities in Nepal.

In 2006, when the new government took over, 12 Ambassadors were recalled including himself. Thus Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha completed his 40 years of service as a career diplomat. In summary, he is very happy with what he has been able to achieve and do. During his term in the USA, he was also able to use his position of the Ambassador to push for the establishment of Rotary District 3292 in Nepal with the then RI President Glenn E. Estess.

President Rtn. Chandralekha Kayastha congratulated Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha for his illustrious career and appreciated his continuous contributions to the Rotary Club of Patan.