

**Issue No. 1473** (Following Souvenir Issue No. 1472)

**Date: 13 Bhadra 2079 / 29 August 2022**

**Today's Programme:**

District Governor's official club visit, 4th Club Assembly, and the Rotary Club of Patan's Charter Day celebration

**Forthcoming Programme**

5 Sept. – Business Meeting

**Minutes of Meeting No. 1819**

**Date: 6 Bhadra 2079 / 22 August 2022**

1. President Rtn. Shiva K. Pradhan called the regular weekly meeting number 1819 to order with 'Silent Invocation' of 15 seconds for world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Guest speaker Rtn. Dhruva P. Acharya, District Membership Committee Chair; and Rotaract President Sandeep Chhetri and two Rotaracts from the Rotaract Club of Patan.
3. The last meeting minutes were reviewed and adopted.
4. 'Happy news' Contributions:
  - Rtns. Khadak S. Bisht and Bijay Bajracharya – for 'Happy Birthday' in absentia (ha.ba.).
  - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang – for 'Father's Day' next week (NRs. 500).
  - Rtn. Ganga R. Gautam (NRs. 500) and Rtn. Shiva K. Pradhan (NRs. 500) – for today's talk programme by Guest Speaker Rtn. Dhruva P. Acharya.
  - Rtn. Jamuna K. Tamrakar – for the above and for the purchase of an electric vehicle (NRs. 1,000).
  - Rtn. Ganesh R. Shrestha (NRs. 1,000) and Rtn. Kamal B. Nyachhyon (NRs. 500) – for today's talk programme and for participating in 'Prakriti Premi Samuha's programme in Dalchowki for three and half days.
  - Rtn. Pushkar M. Shakya – for today's talk programme and for his recovery from sickness (NRs. 500).
  - Rtn. Ramesh L. Maskay – for his recovery from sickness (NRs. 500).
5. Other Contributions:
  - Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty handed over the contribution of NRs. 5,000 from former RCP Rotarian Kiran Shrestha to the PEEF Programme Fund.
  - Rtn. Preeti Khemka pledged contributions totalling US \$400 (\$100 each to the Annual Fund and PolioPlus Fund of TRF) from herself and Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka.
  - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang pledged to contribute US \$300 (In N. Rs.) towards an additional PHF recognition, and US \$100 to PolioPlus Fund of TRF.
  - Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa pledged to contribute US \$300 (In N. Rs.) towards an additional PHF recognition.
6. Rotary Information:
  - Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty informed about the sickness of Rtns. Matsyendra L. and Chandralekha Kayastha with Covid-19 from which they are recovering. However, unfortunately Matsyendra ji fell in the bathroom twice and is suffering from pain and cannot walk for the time being. They regret that they would be missing the RCP's Charter Day celebrations. The RCP family is saddened to get this news and sends him best wishes for a quick recovery.
  - Sergeant-at-Arms & Events/Fellowship Coordinator Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha requested all members with spouses to be punctual for the RCP's Charter Day with the District Governor's official club visit and the 4<sup>th</sup> Club Assembly on 29 August 2022 at 5:30 p.m. He also suggested the dress code for the event. Guest fee for additional guests such as potential members or family members is fixed at NRs. 2,000 with advance information to the President.

7. Before the adjournment of the meeting by the President, Joint Secretary Rtn. Ganesh R. Shrestha announced: contributions of NRs. 6,900 (NRs. 5,000 to the sunshine fund and NRs. 1,900 to the operational fund of the RCP), and the meeting attendance of 1 visiting Rotarian, 1 guest, 19 members, 3 Rotaract, and 8 make-ups.

**Summary of Talk programme by District Membership Committee Chair  
Rtn. Dhruba P. Acharya on 'Membership in Rotary'**

President Rtn. Shiva K. Pradhan welcomed Rtn. Dhruba P. Acharya, District Membership Committee Chair for a talk programme during the Rotary month of 'Membership Development and New Club Extension' and the RCP's Membership Chairperson Rtn. Jamuna K. Tamrakar introduced him.

Rtn. Dhruba P. Acharya is a Past President of RC Kopundol and has served in various District/Club committees including as an Assistant Governor. Apart from his Rotary credentials, he is a natural resource analyst and organizational development facilitator with over 30 years of experience in the government, donor INGOs and private companies. He graduated from Dehradun, got his M.Sc. from Edinburg University, U.K., and a PhD in Management from T.U., Nepal. He is also Hubert Humphrey Fellow of the USA.

Rtn. Dhruba P. Acharya started by thanking all for this opportunity to speak in the RCP, which is the Parent Club of his club, RC Kopundol, on the subject of membership in Rotary. He talked about 'Membership' being the Foundation of Rotary and went over the statistics of growth, which has stagnated globally but continues to grow in South Asia. While globally we have 1.18 million members, which has been similar for 20 years, in our District, there are 5,933 members (in 154 clubs), which, compared to 2008 figure of 1892, is a threefold increase. He also shared the latest statistics on gender diversity and age diversity, in both our District is doing relatively o.k.

Rtn. Acharya highlighted the main challenge as 'Retention of Members' as demonstrated by the figure of 61% new members leaving in the first two years of joining Rotary. Leaving members not only reduces our membership but also are bad ambassadors of Rotary. In terms of reasons of leaving Rotary, 30% because of cost/time, 23% because of club environment and 19% as their expectations are not met. Therefore, Rtn. Acharya emphasised the need to address the needs of members, particularly of the group of new members.

Rtn. Acharya's suggestions include make clubs attractive, healthy, and welcoming; explore and access probable members; inform, educate, orient and mentor; involve and engage; and give members positive & meaningful experiences. He strongly suggested to do 'Club Health Check' and 'Member Satisfaction Survey' to see where clubs stand and what could be done in a focussed way.

Rtn. Acharya believed in the power of 'acknowledgement' and recommends it as a valuable tool to encourage and to establish a good environment in the clubs. In this regard, he did a five-minute exercise asking every member to acknowledge positive aspects of another member that are appreciated. The exercise turned out to be excellent in energising the members and promoting goodwill.

Following an extensive Q/A, on behalf of all the participants, Rtn. Pushkar M. Shakya gave a 'Vote of Thanks' to Rtn. Dhruba P. Acharya for an excellent presentation and answers to members queries/concerns. President Rtn. Shiva K. Pradhan added his own words of thanks before concluding the session.

***Rotary Information: City of Evanston celebrates 68 years as home to Rotary  
International World Headquarters***

*(Source: rotary.org)*

With ten commemorative signs posted throughout Evanston this week, the city proudly marks its 68th year as home to Rotary International World Headquarters, where a diverse global team of 700+ professionals support the work of Rotary's 46,000 clubs worldwide to strengthen communities and improve lives.

"Rotary has been an economic anchor for decades, not only as one of our largest employers, but surprising to some, one of the largest property taxpayers in our city," said Paul Zalmezak, City of Evanston's Economic Development Manager. "Rotary's reach goes beyond corporate staff shopping and dining at local businesses. With its global membership, Rotary contributes over \$1 million to our local economy with more than 2,000 international visits annually. We are proud to house an organization that is transforming communities and positively impacting lives around the world."