

ललित धारा

RI District 3292

Club No. 23126

Chartered: 29 August 1985

President & Editor: Bijaya Mallapaty

President Elect & Assistant Editor: Chandralekha Kayastha

Secretary: Bishwa Bandhu Sharma

Issue No. 1174

Date: 3 Aswin 2073 /19 Sept. 2016

Today's Programme:

Talk programme by Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey on
"Development of Airline Industry in Nepal"

Forthcoming Programme:

26 Sept: Entertainment Programme (Replacement of 5th Monday missed)
3 Oct: Business Meeting, followed by RCP's TRF Update
10 Oct: No Weekly Meeting (Dashain)

**ROTARY'S BASIC EDU. &
LITERACY MONTH**

Congratulatory Events

Birthdays: NIL

Wedding Anniversaries:
Dr. Mukti N. Shrestha – 19 Sept.

Minutes of Meetings No. 1526

Date: 27 Bhadra 2073 /12 Sept. 2016

1. President Bijaya Mallapaty called the meeting No. 1526 to order with 15 seconds of 'silent invocation' for Peace and Happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Guest Speaker Rtn. Namrata Sharma, Socio-Economist.
3. The last meeting minutes were adopted. It was noted that in line with the RCP's aim to work in an increasingly 'paperless' mode, hard copies of Lalitdhara is reduced to a minimum.
4. 'Happy News' Contributions:
 - Rtn. Sharada Prasai – for a successful 'PP Award' function held as the 'Rastrapati Bhawan' (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Matsyendra L. Kayastha – for having a lady Guest Speaker Rtn. Namrata Sharma.
 - Rtn. Padam L. Maharjan – for obtaining a special Rotary Watch during his recent visit to the USA.
 - Rtn. Kamalmani Dixit – for 'Happy Landing' from the U.K.
 - Rtn. Dr. Bishwa B. Sharma – for having his friend Rtn. Namrata Sharma as today's guest speaker.
 - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang – for having 4th birthday of his grandson (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey – for participating in today's weekly meeting.
 - Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha – for having 25 or more members' attendance to the weekly meeting.
5. Rotary News/Information:
 - Update on Bhutan District Conference – more news to be shared upon receipt from the District.
 - Conference on Literacy & WASH – Focal Point from the RCP is Rtn. Ganesh R. Shrestha.
 - Capacity Building for 'Women in Rotary' being held on 17 September at Bagaicha (1300-1800 hrs). Focal Point from the RCP is Rtn. Lalita Thapa.
 - RYLA Camp September 21 - 24 at Kakani – Upon request of the Rotaract Club of Patan, participation of 2 Rotaracts (if selected) will be sponsored by the RCP at NRs. 5,000 each.
6. Salutation: By Rtn. Kamalmani Dixit - Rotary Club of Kisa, Sweden; Chartered: 1949; Members: 33. District: 2410, Clubs: 73, and Members: 3188.
7. Please see below for a summary of the talk programme on 'Micro-Finance in Nepal'.
8. Before the closure of the meeting by the President, the Secretary announced: contribution of NRs. 5,200 (NRs. 2,500 for attendance and NRs. 2,700 for sunshine fund); with the attendance of 1 Guest Speaker, 26 members and 3 make-ups.

Summary of the talk programme by Rtn. Namrata Sharma, Socio-Economist, on 'Micro-Finance in Nepal'

Rtn. Dr. Bishwa B. Sharma introduced Rtn. Namrata Sharma as a Socio-Economist with over 25 years of experience in Micro-finance, Decentralization, NGO capacity building, Women's Rights and Journalism in Nepal, U.K., Kenya, India and Afghanistan. Currently she is the Chairperson of Centre for Investigative Journalism, Vice President of Rural Health Education Service Trust (RHEST) and Publisher/Editor of 'Nariswor (Women Voice... a quarterly Magazine), and a freelance consultant.

Rtn. Namrata Sharma gave a succinct presentation on 'Micro-Finance in Nepal' in relation to women's rights and development, followed by a lively Questions/Answers' session.

Rtn. Sharma briefed on the origins of Micro-Finance in the 1970s in Ahmadabad, India with the start of 'SEWA'. This was followed by the 1st International Women's Conference in Mexico in 1975. She talked about two approaches to Micro-Finance – a 'Savings approach' started in India while a 'Loan approach' started in Bangladesh. In Nepal, Micro-Finance started in the 1970s as small farmers' development plan. In the 1980s poverty targeted credits were introduced and in the 1990s female targeting for financial sustainability became popular.

She summarized the three paradigms in the development of 'Micro-Finance' – (i) Poverty Alleviation with household wellbeing, (ii) Feminist Empowerment for women's economic empowerment, and (iii) Financial Sustainability for women's social and political empowerment. She also talked about the problems in Micro-Finance targeted towards women, but taken advantage by men. She ended with a philosophical explanation of Micro-Finance making women "sleeping less, working more, & still happy".

On behalf of the RCP family, Rtn. Kiran Thapa gave a 'Vote of Thanks' to Rtn. Namrata Sharma for an excellent presentation, and President Bijaya Mallapaty presented her the 'Rotary Ka Kura' and Lalitdhara Souvenir as a 'Token of Appreciation'.

RI President John F. Germ's Message: September 2016



In the summer of 1917, only a few months after the United States entered the First World War, Rotary held its eighth annual convention in Atlanta. Although many Rotarians at the time thought the convention should be cancelled, the Board of Directors ultimately agreed with Paul Harris that it should continue as planned. In the midst of such uncertainty and fear, Harris penned, as part of his convention greeting, some of the most-quoted words in Rotary: ***Individual effort when well directed can accomplish much, but the greatest good must necessarily come from the combined efforts of many men. Individual effort may be turned to individual needs but combined effort should be dedicated to the service of mankind. The power of combined effort knows no limitation.***

Fittingly, it was at this convention that then-President Arch C. Klumph proposed a Rotary endowment fund "for the purpose of doing good in the world." The power of combined effort was joined by a new power: that of combined resources. It was a combination that has proved unstoppable and has been behind so much of Rotary's work for the last 100 years. Today, it is difficult to imagine Rotary without its Foundation. It was the Foundation that turned Rotary from an organization of local clubs into an international force for good with the power to change the world. In this Rotary year, we are marking the centennial of our Rotary Foundation in the city where it all began: Atlanta. Our 108th Rotary International Convention promises to be one of the most exciting yet, with inspiring speakers, great entertainment, and a wide array of breakout sessions to help you move your Rotary service forward. And of course, we'll be celebrating the Foundation's centennial in style.

Whether you're a regular convention goer, haven't been to one in a few years, or haven't yet attended your first, the 2017 convention will be the one you won't want to miss. Atlanta is a great destination in its own right, with great food, friendly people, and many local attractions to enjoy. But the real reason to come to the convention is always the convention itself, and the people, ideas, inspiration, and friendship you'll find there. To learn more, and save money on registration, visit www.riconvention.org. See you in Atlanta!