

**Issue No. 1554**

**Date: 24 Baisakh 2081 / 6 May 2024**

**Today's Programme:**

Business Meeting, and  
Remembering PDG late Tirtha M. Sakya

**Congratulatory Events**

**Birthdays:**

Rtn. Chandralekha Kayastha – 4 May  
Rtn. Jeevan K. Shrestha – 6 May  
Rtn. Kuldeep R. Tuladhar – 8 May

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

Rtn. Shanta K. & Nirmala Shrestha – 3 May

**Minutes of Meeting No. 1899**

**Date: 17 Baisakh 2081 / 29 April 2024**

1. President Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal called the RCP's Meeting No. 1899 to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for world peace, health and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Guest speaker Mr. Rishi Ram Dhakal, President of Spinal Cord Injury Network Nepal (SCINN) together with his team of six members of SCINN; Rtn. Sonia Perez, visiting Rotarian from international Rotary E-Club on WASH; Interact PP of Rato Bangla School, Mr. Arjit Adhikari; and Mrs. Ramita Bajracharya.
3. The last meeting minutes of the RCP were reviewed and adopted.
4. Happy News Contributions:
  - Rtn. Yagya B. Shrestha – for 'Happy Birthday' (NRs. 500).
  - Rtn. Shiva K. Pradhan – for 'Happy Birthday' (NRs. 500).
  - Rtn. Mahendra B. and Lalita Thapa – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' (NRs. 500).
  - Rtn. Jamuna K. and Meera Tamrakar – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' in absentia (ha.ba.).
  - Rtn. Sandhya Regmi & Dr. Dinesh R. Shiwakoti – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary', and for the talk programme by SCINN today (NRs. 1,000).
  - Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey – for today's talk programme and for ADSoN's remarkably successful Charity Golf tournament participated by himself and Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty from the RCP (NRs. 1,000).
  - Rtn. Bishnu P. Sigdel – for his religious tour 'Tirtha Yatra' to Sunsari (NRs. 500).
  - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang (NRs. 500), Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi (NRs. 500), Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht (NRs. 500), and Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka (NRs. 500) – for having the programme with SCINN today.
  - Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty (NRs. 1,000) and Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty (NRs. 500) – for the successful lecture by nephew Christian Muecke at the KU School of Management through Rtn. Ganga R. Gautam, for their new car and today's programme.
  - Rtns. Padam L. & Kamala Maharjan – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' and today's programme (NRs. 1000).
  - Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal – for today's programme and for the participation of E-Club guest Rotarian (NRs. 500).
5. Other Contributions:
  - Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa contributed NRs. 2,500 to the RCP's PEEF programme fund from his participation to the NOH's management board meeting.
  - Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey pledged to make a personal contribution of NRs. 96,000 to sponsor one person at SCINN for one year, which he will channel through the RCP's KPAD programme fund.
  - Rtn. Sandhya Regmi handed over her contribution of a wheelchair to the SCINN through its President Mr. Rishi Ram Dhakal and his team in memory of her late mother Mrs. Bimala Regmi.
6. Rotary Information:
  - President Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal:
    - Informed about the signing of the MOU with BP Eye Foundation with the participation of 5 members from the RCP.

- Briefed on the planned collaboration with NCD Alliance, through Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi, to have an essay writing competition in the RCP's PEEF supported schools on the theme of smoking and human health coinciding with the 'No Smoking Day – 31 May'.
  - Informed about an awareness raising programme on 'Child Safe Net' conducted by the RCP's KEEA awardee Ms. Mandira Shrestha for the students at the RCP's adopted Siddhimangal School.
  - Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht informed about his hosting of two Rotaracts from India for three nights on information/exchange tour in collaboration with the Rotaract Club of Patan.
  - Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi informed about the field visit plans for RHD screening during 9-12 May to Siraha and Dhanusha, and during the last week of Jestha 2081 to Achham, Bajhang and Bajura for a 10-day period. He requested interested members to confirm their participation in these trips.
  - Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht confirmed the RCP family outing to Bhaisepati (Grace Hotel complex) from 12-00 to 15:00 hours on a cost-sharing basis, following a Board meeting earlier on the same date.
  - Rtn. Sonia Perez from the international Rotary e-Club of WASH informed about the thematic e-club, which is registered in New Zealand and meets every week at various times to accommodate different time zones.
7. Before the adjournment of the meeting by the President, Secretary, Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka announced: happy news contributions of NRs. 9,000 (50% of NRs. 4,500 each to the RCP's operational and sunshine funds) and NRs.6,100 for attendance to the operational fund, and the meeting attendance of 7 guests, 1 visiting Rotarian, 1 former Interact, 27 members, 1 spouse, and 7 make-ups.

### **Summary of Talk Programme by Mr. Rishi Ram Dhakal, President, Spinal Cord Injury Network Nepal (SCINN)**

President Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal welcomed Mr. Rishi Ram Dhakal and his team from the Spinal Cord Injury Network Nepal (SCINN) to the Rotary Club of Patan meeting, and Rtn. Sandhya Regmi introduced Mr. Dhakal.

Mr. Dhakal had completed his 10+2 education and during his employment in Malaysia in 2060 B.S. had a spinal injury. Following hospital checks, he was referred to the spinal injury rehabilitation centre where he worked with Mr. Kanak Mani Dixit. During the rehabilitation, he learned several skills on computer, mobile phone repair etc. and got motivated to improve the conditions of people with spinal injury. He contributed to the establishment of Nepal Spinal Cord Injury Sports Association (NSCISA) in 2066 B.S. and worked as its General-Secretary for six years. During his tenure, NSCISA participated in the para-Olympic and several other tournaments including wheelchair basketball tournaments.

He is the Founder President of Spinal Cord Injury Network Nepal (SCINN), which was established in 2072 B.S. around the time of the major earthquake in Nepal. It has some 75 people for rehabilitation. Since his injury, he has been continually active in improving the conditions of people with spinal cord injury to facilitate them to live as normal life as possible, both physically and mentally. He has been awarded for his work by various organisations and written on the subject. He is a member of local government coordination committee and an expert member on disability at the concerned ministry.

On behalf of all his team, Mr. Dhakal thanked Rtn. Sandhya Regmi for organising the talk programme and gave a comprehensive presentation on the subject with the aid of power-point. He first defined and briefed about the spinal cord injury and went on to explain the classification of ten distinct types and disabilities in Nepal with four colour coded identification (Red, Blue, Yellow, and White with red being the most seriously disabled) given by the government depending on the severity of the disability.

Mr. Dhakal explained the causes of spinal cord injury in the context of Nepal with a considerable number due to tree fall, grass-cutting, construction work and falls/accidents with vehicles. He narrated the challenges people with spinal cord injury face in the society including in their rehabilitation. He also talked about the importance of awareness raising in the society to prevent spinal cord injury including through improved methods of carrying them to the hospitals following an accident, need for infrastructural improvements, and support for their mental and social well-being.

On behalf of the RCP, Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi gave a 'Vote of Thanks' for his excellent presentation and his team's efforts to improve the conditions of people living with this disability. He also explained the RCP's work since a long time in the field of disability and willingness to continue to work in this field in collaboration with organisations such as SCINN. President Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal concluded the session with the presentation of a token of appreciation to the guest speaker.