

Issue No. 1558

Date: 21 Jestha 2081 / 3 June 2024

<p><u>Today's Programme:</u></p> <p>Business Meeting via Zoom</p>	<p><u>Congratulatory Events</u></p> <p><u>Birthdays:</u> Rtn. Bishwa B. Sharma – 2 June</p> <p><u>Wedding Anniversaries:</u> Nil</p>
--	---

Minutes of Meeting No. 1903

Date: 14 Jestha 2081 / 27 May 2024

1. President Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal called the RCP's Meeting No. 1903 to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Guest speaker Ms. Pramita Khanal, Chairperson of Nepal Cancer Survivor's Society (NeCaSS) with a team of eight from NeCaSS, two Rotaracts from Rotaract Club of Patan, and spouses of RCP members.
3. The last meeting minutes of the RCP were reviewed and adopted.
4. Happy News Contribution Pledges:
 - Rtn. Matsyendra L. Kayastha – for 'Happy Birthday' in absentia (ha.ba.).
 - Rtns. Kamala & Padam L. Maharjan – for 'Happy Birthday' of Rtn. Kamala Maharjan in absentia (NRs. 500 via Viber).
 - Rtn. Krishna Hachhethu – for his induction programme today (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal – for vocational award recipient Prakriti Bhattarai's 'Bhadas' birthday (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey – for the PEEF distribution/selection done at Bisankhu Narayan school (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi – for today's programme with NeCaSS presentation (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal – for the above, and the induction of Rtn. Krishna Hachhethu (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Ramesh L. Maskay – for the 'Birthday Fellowship' programme of the RCP today (NRs. 500).
5. Other Contributions:
 - Ms. Mithila Rajbhandary contributed NRs. 8,500 on the occasion of her Spouse Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary's 85th birthday to the RCP's PEEF programme fund.
6. Rotary Information:
 - President Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal and Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal Informed on the PEEF scholarship distribution/selection at Mahendragram School together with the additional activity of career counselling of 27 students of grade 10, which was very much appreciated.
 - Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal briefed on the 'Internet/Digital Addiction and Safety' awareness programme conducted with the support of Ms. Mandira Shrestha of ChildSafeNet, Nepal at Siddhimangal School.
 - Rtn. Preeti Khemka briefed on her participation in the District interaction meeting of region 2 and 3 with the participations of the District Governor and respective Assistant Governors and President Elects. She also reminded on the two forthcoming District events – the District Training Assembly on 15 June and the District Grant Management Seminar on 16 June 2024.
 - Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey and Rtn. Ganesh R. Shrestha briefed on the distribution/selection of PEEF students at Bisankhu Narayan school at Godamchaur. They also provided some feedback on the difficulty of selecting four out of six new students at grade seven.
 - Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi updated on the Global Grant Project on RHD screening planned in three districts of the far west – Acham, Bajhang and Bajura during 1 – 9 June 2024. A twenty-member team, including six from the RCP, has been confirmed.
 - Editor/Coordinator of Lalitdhara Souvenir for this year Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty informed on the plans for this year's publication. Request for articles, sponsorship of advertisements, suggestions on cover photo, and for update of photos, request was also sent to all by e-mail.

7. Induction of Rtn. Krishna Hachhethu – President Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal welcomed Rtn. Krishna Hachhethu and his spouse Ms. Kamal Devi Hachhethu with 'Khada' and flower bouquet respectively and conducted the induction programme. Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty gave a brief introduction of Rtn. Krishna Hachhethu and his family. They have a son and two daughters. A Doctor of Philosophy on Political Science and Government, Rtn. Hachhethu was working at the Tribhuvan University, Department of Political Science until his recent retirement.

Rtn. Hachhethu is a well-known political analyst of Nepal. He was a member of the high-level restructuring recommendation commission of Nepal – 2012 for the first constituent assembly. He has been a visiting scholar at Wolfson College, University of Oxford, U.K., and the country coordinator of South Asia Democracy Study Network. He was an international observer for elections in South Africa and in Sri Lanka and has authored/co-authored over 18 books and 50 research papers in Nepal and abroad. His last book 'Nation-Building and Federalism in Nepal' was published by the prestigious Oxford University Press.

Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha administered the 'Oath of Office' of Rtn. Krishna Hachhethu pinned him with the 'Rotary Pin' and welcomed him and his spouse to the RCP and the family of Rotary around the world. In his acceptance speech, Rtn. Hachhethu appreciated the hearty welcome of the RCP family. He mentioned that he was deeply motivated by the Rotary's motto of 'service above self' and wished to use this new and wonderful platform to contribute to the society together with the RCP family.

8. Rotary Club of Patan's third 'Birthday Fellowship' – Following the meeting, the RCP family celebrated its third 'Birthday Fellowship' coordinated by Fellowships coordinator Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha.
9. Before the adjournment of the meeting by the President, Secretary, Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka announced: happy news contribution of NRs.4,500 (50% of NRs.2,250 each to the RCP's operational and sunshine funds), and the meeting attendance of 8 guests, 2 Rotaracts, 21 members, 9 spouses, and 11 make-ups.

Summary of talk programme by Ms. Pramita Khanal, Chairperson & Founder President of Nepal Cancer Survivor's Society (NeCaSS)

President Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal welcomed Ms. Pramita Khanal and the entire team of NeCaSS and Rtn. Sandhya Regmi introduced Ms. Khanal.

Ms. Pramita Khanal has been a cancer survivor since over 13 years, who has successfully grown her family of four – spouse Mr. Kailash Niraula who is a mechanical engineer, two sons and a daughter-in-law. She did her master in sociology followed by post-graduate study on women studies to become a gender expert.

Ms. Khanal has a broad work experience with contributions to the society including through the establishment of Nepal Cancer Survivor's Society as its founder president. She has contributed to cancer awareness through her work as a motivational counsellor at Nepal Cancer Hospital, as a coordinator of breast-cancer counselling clinic, with Nepal Cancer Support Group, and was awarded 'Woman of Substance Digital Award in 2021. She has worked in various capacities with Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI/Nepal), Helen Keller International, Nepal, and Environment and Resource Management (ERMS), a consultancy firm.

Ms. Khanal made her presentation with the support of power-point, and first introduced NeCaSS, which was established in 2018 as a not-for-profit organisation to raise cancer awareness, advocate on behalf of cancer survivors, and support them. She explained the typical journey of a cancer survivor from diagnosis, treatment, recovery/post treatment, survivorship and the cases of end-of life care highlighting key issues at each stage of this journey. Addressing how to deal with the social, financial, and cultural issues associated with cancer victims, she highlighted the importance of advocacy, monitoring, financial and psychosocial support, awareness raising, access to health service and rehabilitation. Ms. Khanal also briefed on NeCaSS's current sponsors and collaborating partners, and their continuous efforts to expand them.

After an interesting Questions/Answers session, on behalf of the RCP, Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi gave a 'Vote of Thanks' to Ms. Pramita Khanal for her excellent presentation and for the selfless social service work of NeCaSS team.

Rtn. Sandhya Regmi added her own words of thanks for the motivated work of NeCaSS that she was pleased to support. She handed-over her token contribution of NRs. 50,000 to NeCaSS through its Chairperson. NeCaSS Chairperson also presented Rtn. Sandhya Regmi their 'Token of Appreciation'.

Mr. Dhruva Humagain from NeCaSS also briefed on his personal efforts at awareness raising on cancer as a patient survivor cum bicycle traveller.

President Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal concluded the session with his own words of thanks and presentation of a token of appreciation from the Rotary Club of Patan.