

**Issue No. 1585**

**Date: 1 Poush 2081 / 16 December 2024**

<p><b><u>Today's Programme:</u></b></p> <p>Talk programme by Dr. Bishesh Pouel, Haematologist, on awareness creation and treatment options for blood cancer</p>	<p><b><u>Congratulatory Events</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Birthdays:</u></b> Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey – 14 Dec. Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty – 17 Dec. <b><u>Wedding Anniversaries:</u></b> Nil</p>
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**Minutes of Meeting No. 1929**

**Date: 24 Mangsir 2081 / 9 December 2024**

1. President Rtn. Preeti Khemka called the RCP's Meeting No. 1929 to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Guest speaker Shri Neha Pokhrel 'Snehi Kaakha' together with three-year-old Annapurnata and Mr. Keshav from 'Snehi Kaakha', Rotary Scholar Monika Niroula, Mr. Kabir B. Chitrakar, Interact Ryan Awasthi from Australia, PP Rtn. Ewerhard Engels from RC Tegernsee, Germany, Rotaract President Aman B. Shrestha with Rotaract Prabin Maharjan from the Rotaract Club of Patan, and Rotarian spouse Ramita Bajracharya.
3. The last meeting minutes of the RCP were reviewed and adopted.
4. Happy News Contribution Pledges:
  - Rtn. Piyush B. Bajracharya – for 'Happy Landing' from the USA and for 'Happy Birthday' (Rs. 1,000).
  - Rtns. Khadak S. Bisht and Maheswari Bisht Rawal – for 35<sup>th</sup> 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' (Rs. 1,000).
  - Rtns. Shiv P. and Preeti Khemka – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' (Rs. 2,000).
  - Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka – for having today's guest speaker, and for the last Board meeting fellowship (Rs. 1,000).
  - Rtns. Bijaya and Gabriele Mallapaty – for having today's guest speaker (Rs. 1,000).
  - Rtn. Ewerhard Engels – for wishing 'Merry Christmas' and the RCP's welcome (Rs. 1,000).
  - Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary – for 'Happy Landing' from Australia (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Ganesh R. Shrestha – for the completion of the RCP's PEEF selection/distribution campaign (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa – for having her brother Mr. Kabir B. Chitrakar as a guest and for having the guest speaker of today (Rs. 1,000).
  - Interact Ryan Awasthi – for participating in today's meeting (Rs. 1,000).
  - Rtn. Pushkar M. Shakya – for the participation of his school friend Kabir and today's guest speaker (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal – for giving an orientation to students at Mahendra Adarsha School on addiction prevention and participating in a mental health related programme with RC Kathmandu (Rs. 500).
5. Other contributions:
  - Mr. Kabir B. Chitrakar pledged to contribute Rs. 60,000 to support 'Snehi Kaakha' through the Rotary Club of Patan.
  - Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha handed over his contribution of Rs. 50,000 to the RCP's KPAD Fund as pledged earlier.
6. Rotary Information:
  - Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal briefed on his participation together with President Rtn. Preeti Khemka in the annual programme of B.P. Eye Foundation, his participation together with Rtn. Bishnu P. Sigdel and District representatives on an interaction programme on hearing problems and need for its detection. A possible project with a global grant was also explored.

Rtn. Rawal also briefed on a new awareness programme he developed for school students titled 'Empowering Students Through the Rotary - Technology Addiction Prevention (TAP) Programme' in line with the RI Rotary Action Group - Addiction Prevention (RAG - AP) and trial run of the programme at the Mahendra Adarsha School, Imadol, Lalitpur.

- Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht briefed on the status of implementation of the RCP's support to (a) the flood victims (Rs. 425,000), (b) two forest fire victim families of Godawari (Rs. 200,000), and (c) flood victims in Bethan Chaur in collaboration with TRIFC and ADSoN (Rs. 250,000).
  - President Rtn. Preeti Khemka:
    - Reminded members to volunteer to join the District's Rota Quiz contest as team members of the RCP; and
    - Updated on the planned KEEA and the Graduate Studies Scholarship award programme being held in December 2024.
  - Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha briefed on RCP's annual outing planned for 20-22 December 2024 to visit Asha Kiran Kendra, Birgunj. So far 15 participants have confirmed, and he requested any additional participants to confirm by 10 December 2024 for the organisation of the trip.
  - Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht and Maheswari Bisht Rawal have been supporting the collection of in-kind contributions (clothing etc.) to support the recent flood victims. They briefed on its status and mentioned that members may also suggest needy persons if identified.
7. Salutation: By Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa - RC, Luxembourg; Chartered: 1929; & Members: 103. District: 1630, Clubs: 86, & Members: 3591.
8. Before the adjournment of the meeting by the President, Secretary Rtn. Ganga R. Gautam announced: happy news contribution pledges of Rs. 11,000 (50% of Rs. 5,500 each to the RCP's operational and sunshine funds), Rs. 6,700 for attendance to the operational fund, and the meeting attendance of 5 guests, 2 Rotaracts, 1 Interact, 24 members, 1 spouse, & 10 make-ups.

**Talk programme by Shri Neha Pokhrel (NGO Snehi Kaakha) on the problems of the least priority sector – neglected children, women, and men in streets.**

President Rtn. Preeti Khemka welcomed guest speaker Ms. Shri Neha Pokhrel from 'Snehi Kaakha' and her team on behalf of the RCP family and Rtn. Pushkar M. Shakya introduced Ms. Pokhrel. She has completed her B.A. studies and had been a drama teacher at James School and Purna Chandi school and has been active in dance and acting. After seeing the plight of the mentally ill and most vulnerable women, adolescent girls, children, and the elderly who are left on streets, she devoted herself to support them by providing food, shelter, clothes, medicine, education, and entertainment.

Ms. Pokhrel started her presentation with a video show on the plight of the people who are mentally & psychologically ill, without guardians, and wandering on the streets with great risk of abuse. At the age of 14, she was moved by the dire situation faced by children and women on the streets, which motivated her to help them. Her wish to reenergise the human spirit in support of the most vulnerable led her to establish Nepal Snehi Kaakha (Nepal Caring Lap) in 2010, where currently some 100 women and men (including 17 children) are sheltered and taken care of. Her aim is to open a hospital for them.

Ms. Pokhrel appreciated the opportunity to talk to the RCP family and thanked several of the RCP's members who have already visited and contributed to the centre. The Snehi Kaakha has been using the Nepali concept of 'Muthhi Daan' (pious giving) to support the poor and vulnerable, which has been largely successful although with challenges of sustainable resources. She encouraged the RCP family to make further visits to the centre for them to personally see the condition of those sheltered and supported there. Contacts could be made with the help of Rtn. Pushkar M. Shakya.

If the rescued mentally ill are cured at the Snehi Kaakha, they are sent back to their homes, but if not, they must be cared at the Snehi Kaakha. Ms. Pokhrel is nick-named 'Ama' (mother) by all the children, women, and men in the shelter regardless of their age for the motivated humanitarian support she leads in providing them. She also shared a brochure giving the background, objective, and their current activities including its management structure.

Following a Questions/Answers session, on behalf of the RCP family, Rtn. Bishwa B. Sharma gave a 'Vote of Thanks' to Ms. Shri Neha Pokhrel from Snehi Kaakha mentioning how appreciative the RCP family was to hear the noble work she and her institution was doing. President Rtn. Preeti Khemka also added her own words of appreciation, shared the RCP's souvenir magazine 'Lalitdhara' and shared the RCP's keen interest to further our contacts and collaboration.