



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

(RI Theme, 2017-18)

UDAYAN

Rotary



FORTNIGHTLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF GAUHATI SOUTH
Rotary International District-3240, India

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Dist. Governor
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President
Rtn. Sweta Pegu

Secretary
Rtn. Rajesh Kumar Bhatra

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Editor's Column

Rotary celebrates the month of August as Membership Month. It means that new members join the Rotary club. It is believed that a vibrant Rotary Club is one that can not only attract new members but also retain these members once they feel that their presence as a member does have an impact in the Club. When a new member joins Rotary, the member must feel the value of Rotary. That Rotary as an organisation is doing a lot of work to make the world a better place is what every Rotarian should feel; be he new or old, and enjoy the Rotary experience



When a new member joins Rotary he or she does so to meet new people and also to be a part of the social activities of the community that Rotary involves in. It is seen that there are many Non-Rotarians who are also looking out for the same thing—meeting new people and doing some meaningful work. We can thus invite such friends and family members, business and professional acquaintances and younger community leaders and make them feel the Rotary experience. We can also acquaint them with an overview of Rotary by sharing the prospective projects and social activities.

Every Rotarian must attend the meetings not because they should but because they should want to do so, provided the club meetings are interesting. It should be varied and entertaining for all members and only then will the club meetings be effective. Moreover meetings should be held on time, as we all know, that people have limited time and every member should feel that their time has been well invested.

It is important that there should be some regularly scheduled social events. Club members should be encouraged to bring new guests to club functions and should the guests feel that Rotary is indeed a worthy organisation, then they can come forward, join the club and be an active member and participate in all the activities of the club. We must help our members to get involved about the ways of Rotary, volunteer their time in a worthy manner and that every member should feel that their presence in the club is making a difference.

In keeping with Rotary's avowed aim of working towards maintaining the environment our club joined hands with RC, Guwahati West, and RC Guwahati City and the Forest Department, Govt. of Assam in a Mega tree plantation programme at Deepor Beel on 1st August 2017.

Again as a part of its New Generation Project, our Club associated itself with Ramoji Krian University, Hyderabad in a Creative Careers Workshop on 6th August at Gauhati Commerce College.

Rtn. Manjusri Baruah

Minutes of the 1961st Weekly Meeting of the Rotary Club Of Gauhati South

The 1961st WM of RCGS was held on 28.07.2017 at our regular venue Rajdhani Regency. The Club President Rtn. Sweta Pegu chaired the meeting.

CLUB ASSEMBLY STARTED AT 7.10 PM

President requested the respective Directors to submit their goals and budget for the year.

Rtn Prashanta Goswami, Director cum Chairman, Rotary foundation Committee, gave his detailed report and budget for the incoming year. He spoke about ways and means to utilize Global Grant and District grants by contributing to it regularly. He spoke about peace fellowship, GSE, Pulse Polio and International Youth and Family welfare.

Rtn Anil Mahanta, Director cum Chairman, Club Administration Committee, gave his detailed report and budget for the incoming year. He requested all members to download ROW. He spoke about fellowship and weekly program proposed to be organized in the meeting and assured the club members that good speakers will be invited invariably in the club meetings. He also put stress on club website and requested the members to draw attention and inform Rtn. Tarun Bordoloi, if any important event is missed out to be uploaded.

Rtn Tejindra Bordoloi, Director cum Chairman, Membership Committee, spoke about his aims to include new members in the club, detailed about how to retain existing members and stressed upon classification of club members for which he discussed about having orientation and educational programs.

Rtn Vikash Bajaj, Director cum Chairman, Club Service Project Committee, spoke about his aims and goals. He invited participation of members in the club projects. He spoke about different avenues of the committee such as Community, Vocational, international and RYLA. He stressed about organizing rural RYLA at Nalbari.

Rtn Arman Ahmed, Director cum Chairman, Public

Relation Committee, spoke about his aims and goals. He ensured that proper coverage of clubs projects and events will be covered in Print as well as Screen media. He ensured that proper co-ordination amongst the members will be reached out for maintaining external relations and events. He sought co-operation from the members.

Rtn Indira Bordoloi, Director cum Chairman, Literacy (TEACH) Committee, submitted her report and spoke about her aims and goals. She invited participation of members in the project.

In between Rtn Minoti Borthakur, announced that she want to give a fellowship Dinner in the name of her husband Late N.B. Borthakur and requested Rtn. Anil Mahanta to fix up a date in the month suitable to her.

Formal meeting of the club started at 8.10 p.m. with rendering of National Anthem.

Guests were introduced.

Announcements were made

Birthday were announced : Rtn Prashanta Goswami on 28th July and Rtn Anjana Buragohain on 31st July.

Wedding Anniversary of Rtn. Dilip Sarkar & Anne Lipika on 31st July and they were wished.

President informed the house about request of Rtn. PDG Endow to plant 25 saplings on 1st Aug at Deepor Beel which will be a joint project with Govt of Assam and Hon'ble Forest Minister will be present at the site of plantation.

President informed the house that a joint project with Ramoji Krian University, Hyderabad is being organized on Creative Career counseling at Gauhati Commerce College, as such requested members to be present on 6th of August at 10 A.M.

Secretary read out the day's statistics and informed the house that there were 31 members and 8 guests present.

Rtn. Nabajyoti Sarmah offered the Vote of thanks.

Fellowship was arranged by Rtn. Dilip Sarkar

TRF collection was Rs. 640 and the meeting was closed at 8.35 pm.

Minutes of the 1962nd Weekly Meeting of the Rotary Club Of Gauhati South

The 1962nd WM of RCGS was held on 04.08.2017 at our regular venue The Rajdhani Regency. The Club President Rtn. Sweta Pegu chaired the meeting.

The meeting started at 7.05 p.m. with the rendering of the National Anthem.

Guests were introduced.

1 minute silence was observed as a mark of respect for the death of mother of Rtn Tamal Sen

President thanked Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan for taking the lead in co-ordinating the members to take part in the Tree plantation programme on 1st Aug at Deeporbeel, which was a joint project with Govt of Assam and Hon'ble Forest Minister was present at the site of plantation.

President once again asked the members to participate in the joint project with Ramoji Krian University, Hyderabad which is being organized on Creative Career counseling at Gauhati Commerce College, on 6th of August at 10 A.M.

President announced about the invitation for Joint Installation of Rotaract Club of Gauhati Mid-town and Rotaract club of Guwahati Luit to be held on 05.08.2017 at Hotel Rituraj.

President announced that a visit to Old Age Home at Kahilipara is being proposed for which Rtn Vikash Bajaj is taking the lead on Independence Day the 15th August. The National Flag would be hoisted at the Old Age Home followed by a health check up camp.

President further announced that the Inter Institutional-college Quiz "LEST WE FORGET" retracing 70 glorious years of Indian Independence,

shall be organized in the name of Late Kuladhar Kutum and Late Pramila Kutum, father in law and mother in law of Rtn. Sweta Pegu and offered to give the prize money of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand) in their name. She also informed the house that the Quiz will be conducted by Quiz Master Deepankar Kashyap, and that the quiz is to start positively at 4 P.M., so that the entire programme can be completed prior to our regular club meeting.

President requested the members to attend the District Membership Seminar at Duliajan on 27th August.

President also announced that the Literacy Seminar shall be held on 3rd September at Silchar.

A Slide Show was presented by President Rtn. Sweta Pegu. about our activities in the month of July.

Guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Purnananda Bordoloi, IFS Retd, who gave a detailed speech with the help of slide shows on "vanamahotsava"

Secretary read out the day's statistics and informed that there were 33 members, 7 Annes, 1 Rotarylet and 2 guests present.

Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati was wished for his Birthday.

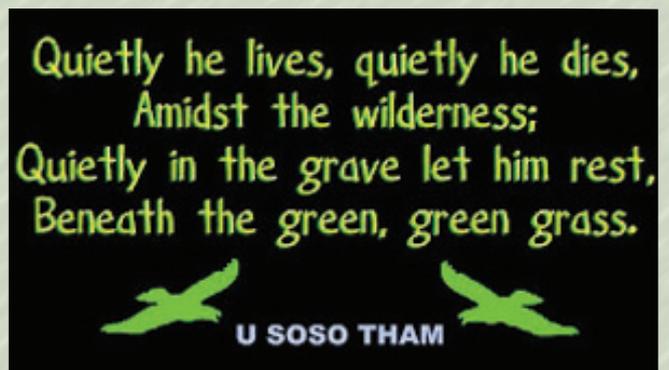
Rtn. Prashant Goswami offered the Vote of thanks.

Fellowship was arranged by Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati.

TRF collection was Rs. 400 and the meeting was closed at 8.15 pm.

Famous Personalities of Northeast

U Saso Tham (1873-1940)- Born in Cherrapunji, U Saso Tham became an outstanding khasi poet. He brought in a revolution the poetic scenario and was one of the first few noteworthy poets of the Khasi Language. Khasi is an offshoot of the Mon Khmer language which belongs to the Austro – Asiatic family. He translated Aesop's fables, Charles Dickens and other classics apart from his own poems. However life for him was not easy and he had to go door to door trying to sell his book Ki Phawar U Aesop (Aesop's Fables, 1920) which today is considered on the most widely read khasi book. His first collection called Ka Duitara Ssiar(The Golden Harp) was first published in 1925. Dr. S. K. Bhuyan, the prominent historian of Assam, called him the Robert Burns of the Khasi Highlands. And today he is fondly remembered as the Bard of Khasi Hills.



ROTARY EDUCATION - A TOOL FOR MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Rtn. Gayatri Bhattacharyya

To be effective, a Rotary club needs members, - and the club's ability to assist local and international communities, to support the Rotary Foundation, and to develop leaders capable of serving Rotary's ideals, is directly related to the strength, size and involvement of its membership.

Rotary education, i.e., knowledge about Rotary, is vital to the growth of the club. It is probably one of the most important tools of Membership Development and Retention. Unless one knows all the relevant details about the organization he/ she is part of, or is thinking of joining, it is more than likely that his interest will decline after some time. Membership development and retention is crucial for the growth of the Rotary movement. So every Rotarian, old or new, must be thoroughly educated in the essentials of Rotary, and the education must be updated constantly. Knowledgeable members are more likely to take initiative, and become more active. So, it is important to communicate information about Rotary to all members, - prospective, and new members, as well as experienced Rotarians.

In this context, the club's MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE has the primary responsibility.

Rotary education should ideally start as soon as a new member is inducted. In fact, even before that, when the Membership Committee of a club has decided that a particular person is suitable for Rotary membership, a member of the Committee should be entrusted to explain the benefits and responsibilities of Rotary membership, including the financial aspect, to potential members. The prospective member should also be informed about Rotary, - its history, ideals, information about the club, and its activities. THE membership committee can work with the president and the PR committee to provide prospective members with introductory information. It should also implement orientation and education strategies for the new members. The committee could also compile this information and keep it handy to present to visitors to the club as, and when, necessary. This could include the RI brochure entitled, "THIS IS ROTARY" a current copy of "THE ROTARIAN", or "ROTARY NEWS", and the latest club bulletin.

This would probably be the first step in Rotary education.

The second step would start with the INDUCTION CEREMONY in which the person who inducts, - usually a senior, knowledgeable Rotarian, would give a brief introduction of the salient points of the Rotary movement. The Induction Kit could also contain a copy of that most essential information handbook, - THE A B C OF ROTARY, besides the other things. Every member of the club needs to take an active role in the new member orientation, and it is essential to involve the new member immediately. It is advised by RI that the club should identify a preferably senior, experienced Rtn. of the club who is willing to act as MENTOR to the newcomer, and advise him/her on how to be an effective Rotarian.

At one time, we had a practice in our club of devoting 5 minutes at every Rotary meeting to Rotary information. All the members, including the new ones, had to speak for 5 minutes on some aspect of Rotary. This was a very good way of getting all the members to not only to educate themselves about Rotary, but also be involved.

Continuing Member Education ensures that members remain challenged, motivated, and enthusiastic. So the membership committee should have a continuing Rotary education plan in order to keep existing Rotarians up-to-date on both Rotary and the club. Such plans could include:

- REGULAR CLUB ASSEMBLIES to discuss which activities club members want to continue, and which they want to change;
- Discuss ANNUAL GOALS AND PLANS;
- The importance of new members and retention strategies;
- At least 4 weekly club programmes per year focused on Rotary and all relevant details;
- Promote club members' participation in district meets that address continued education.

RI publications are excellent continuing education tools. These are mostly affordable and easily available. Also "The Rotarian" and the Rotary News keep all Rtns. up-to-date on Rotary activities worldwide.

It would be ideal if the club could have a mini library, - or at least one cupboard, - of Rotary materials, like relevant RI publications, copies of the regional magazines, and The Rotarian, the MANUAL OF PROCEDURE (MOP), copies of the club bulletins and Souvenirs, for ready reference. Indeed, the MOP is the Rotarian's Bible. If a member reads bits of it, at random, every day, or every week, they are sure to get a lot of education on Rotary. Also, in today's hi-tech world, when almost everyone is computer savvy, the easiest way to keep up-to-date, and to educate oneself, is to log onto www.rotary.org, and browse right through it. It has almost 45000 sites of Rotary information!

The more you know Rotary, the more you will love Rotary, the more you love Rotary, the more you will enjoy rotary; and when you enjoy Rotary, you will be more inclined to urge your friends to join Rotary!



Tree Plantation at Deepor Beel

Rotary Blogger

the good, the bad and the ugly of Rotary International

Is Rotary a unique opportunity?

Rotary Blogger July 23, 2017

In this the first of a series of blogs we ask the questions that every member of the organisation will ask in their journey through one of the most prestigious organisations in the world.

The other week I met with a good friend for lunch. One of the first announcements he made was that he had left Rotary and he said it was like a weight being lifted from his shoulders. Now this was a person who had helped start a new club and over the years had been involved in taking part in reviews for RIBI so he had a good idea of the organisation and the system. We did not really go into the precise detail for his leaving we had many discussions over the months, and he had spoken with colleagues and I did not want to go over old ground. In our discussions over the months he had left me in no doubt that he had become disillusioned with the organisation and it's ability to adapt to the changing world. I came to the conclusion right or wrong that he reckoned he had done his bit to try to bring about change had got his ideas knocked back so many times that he felt the battle was not worth it. He had found lots of other things to do using his extensive experience in business starting companies and using his marketing and sales skills and I knew he did not give in lightly.

I came away from our lunch somewhat concerned . Here was a good Rotarian who had a lot to offer, had a lot of respect for the organisation and was still supporting the Rotary Foundation but could see no future requirement for his skills and talents and as we talked even less for the organisation within the UK and Ireland. Was he right I wondered to give up and move on? What was so wrong with the organisation from his point of view to bring him to this decision?

In recent discussions with other Rotarians in a similar position I realised that his and their thinking was along much the same lines and some had not taken high office they were members of clubs who could see their club failing and were disheartened.

"He had left Rotary and he said it was like a weight being lifted from his shoulders."

As you do, if you are concerned about something you think further and speak with a few people to balance your view. Should I be alarmed.

Time and again sadly I came up against the same opinions, some members were taking over being President of their club for a second or even a third time but had no club members to take other posts. Others turned up at meetings now when there was a good speaker, some turned up each week because they had friends at the club and just enjoyed a chat and a meal once a week. There were others who would turn out to shake a bucket or help with a charity event but that was as far as their involvement went. All of them realised they needed new members to freshen the club and all of them like myself think it's a great organisation that needs to modernise fast to make it relevant to modern day living.

So on their behalf I did some more thinking and came up with a few thoughts and of course questions.

Is the organisation changing, is it adapting to a changing world, do the people leading the organisation see the need for change and understand



How many others will take flight and offer their skills and expertise to other organisations outside Rotary?

what needs to be done? Indeed do they have the vision, courage, leadership skills, enthusiastic devotion and organisational ability to bring much needed change about?

Some of us have been asking these questions for years now and the more we ask the more urgent our questions become.

Before suggestions are made it is perhaps worth reflecting on Rotary the organisation in the United Kingdom and Ireland referred to as Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland RIBI. The structure is unique within the Rotary organisation in that there is an association of clubs forming various committees and groups at the top of which is a General Council consisting of the District Governors representing the clubs across RIBI all led by an elected President with a team around them.

This structure is administered by a team based in Alcester known as the Secretariat.

With such a unique organisation and structure come unique opportunities not on offer anywhere else within Rotary. So in many respects members of Rotary within RIBI have two bites of the cherry. They can engage the facilities of Rotary HQ in Evanston Illinois and also what's on offer at RIBI.

With these unique opportunities comes a responsibility to engage and add value for members within their field of support. RIBI have various committees within their remit to facilitate many aspects of the Rotary Clubs activities within these islands.

"With such a unique organisation and structure come unique opportunities not on offer anywhere else within Rotary."

Unquestionably the most important of these committees is Membership Development and Retention closely followed by Public Image, then The Rotary Foundation, Community Service, International Service, Vocational Service and Youth Service.

Within all of these committees/groups/teams call them what you will are truly devoted and passionate Rotarians tasked with supporting Districts, Clubs and Members within RIBI. They are or should be tasked with changing mindset and lifting morale, enthusiasm and motivation. I reckon this support is required more now than ever but I'm struggling to find it. The line of communication is from the committee to district then to club and of course the most important person in Rotary the grass roots club member.

I believe if we were to ask many club members, who are the backbone of the organisation but have never been called to high office, what value RIBI adds to their experience as a member and if as a result they would be more engaged in the organisation the answer would almost always be a negative.

So lets face it, the stark truth, something somewhere is wrong and not working, something is fundamentally wrong. Is it in the execution of the plans of these committees, is it the communication from RIBI to the members after all the chain is long and a link could easily break, result: information and engagement lost. Does RIBI have a pragmatic communication plan, is it planning new and innovative ways to alter mindset to open minds of present members to accept new ideas in the second decade of this century?

"Something somewhere is wrong and not working, something is fundamentally wrong."

So I return to my friend who I had met for lunch and of course discussed Rotary. He is no longer part of the team but he so wanted to be to play his part to help Rotary grow. He was never in a competition for recognition for himself or his club he just wanted to get on and do a good job for Rotary but let's face it he was rejected and dejected and if you are reading this I am sure you will be concerned as there are so many like him in the organisation. He was a talent we could ill afford to lose, there are a lot more like him so it is beholden on us to try and keep such members, to engage and motivate them to spread the Rotary message of doing good in the world. We say we are people of action but that begins at home so let's see if the people of action can take the right actions to keep good members, engage the present ones and be attractive enough to encourage people to join us.

This blogpost was written by Allan Berry, a Rotarian from District 1080 and former Editor of RIBI's National Magazine. In a future blog Allan will take a look at ways and ideas of engaging members present and prospective.

Source : <http://rotaryblogger.co.uk/>

Collected by : Rtn. Tarun Bordoloi



Dr. Purnananda Bordoloi IFS who spoke on Vanamahotsav



Creative Careers Workshop under Ramoji Krian University

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