



# Udayan



FORTNIGHTLY BULLETIN OF  
THE ROTARY CLUB OF GAUHATI SOUTH (RI DIST 3240)

RI PRESIDENT  
Rtn Holger Knaack

DISTRICT GOVERNOR  
Rtn Subhashish Chatterjee

PRESIDENT  
Rtn Giti Bujarbaruah

SECRETARY  
Nawajyoti Sharma

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## ROTARY HISTORY



### THE OFFICIAL ROTARY FLAG

An official flag was formally adopted by Rotary International at the 1929 Convention in Dallas, Texas. The Rotary flag consists of a white field with the official wheel emblem emblazoned in gold in the centre of the field. The four depressed spaces on the rim of the Rotary wheel are coloured royal blue. The words "Rotary" and "International" printed at the top and bottom depressions on the wheel rim are also gold. The shaft in the hub and the key way of the wheel are white.

The first official Rotary flag reportedly was flown in Kansas City Missouri, in January 1915. In 1922 a small Rotary flag was carried over the South Pole by Admiral Richard Byrd, a member of the Winchester, Virginia Rotary Club. Four years later, the admiral carried a Rotary flag in his expedition to the North Pole.

Some Rotary clubs use the official Rotary flag as a banner at club meetings. In these instances it is appropriate to print the words "Rotary Club" above the wheel symbol, and the name of the city, state or nation below the emblem.

The Rotary flag is always prominently displayed at the World Headquarters as well as at all conventions and official events of Rotary International.

### *From the Editor*



August is membership and club development month, a time to focus on and appreciate our members, celebrate their devotion to the club and the impact they have made. It is also a time to think about developing strategies around growing our membership. The reason why Rotary is such a successful organization is because it is full of members that have one trait in common - the passion to make a difference in the world. All of us share this passion and that is what drives us to work together.

Today, a growing population of youth are not even aware of what the organization is or does, while those that do are unable to join for a variety of reasons. It is true that many changes have been made to combat this challenge such as the introduction of e-clubs, relaxed attendance requirements, more meeting time options, etc. but we still have a long way to go. Members continue to leave and clubs continue to struggle to recruit.

This issue of Udayan carries a very comprehensive and lucidly written article by Rtn Gayatri Bhattacharyya on club membership, wherein she has focussed on the three core issues pertaining to membership, viz. recruitment, retention and extension.

This year our club has already inducted four new members, two of whom are ladies. Let us make sure that the trend continues.

As we usher in another year of India's independence, we are aware of the major challenges that our country faces. As Rotarians, it is our duty to try our best to turn these challenges into opportunities for the welfare of all.

**Rtn. Priyam Goswami**

## JENNIFER E. JONES MAKES HISTORY



Jennifer E. Jones, a member of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, Canada, has been nominated to become Rotary International’s president for 2022-23, a groundbreaking selection that will make her the first woman to hold that office in the organization’s 115-year history.

Jones will officially become president-nominee on 1 October if no other candidates challenge her. Jones says she sees Rotary’s Action Plan as a catalyst for increasing Rotary’s impact.

“As we reflect upon our new strategic priorities, we could have never envisioned that *our ability to adapt* would become our North Star during what is inarguably the most profound time in recent history,” Jones said in her vision statement. “Silver linings rise out of the most challenging circumstances. Using metric-driven goals, I will harness this historic landscape to innovate, educate, and communicate opportunities that reflect today’s reality.”

As the first woman to be nominated to be president, Jones understands how important it is to follow through on Rotary’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Statement.

“I believe that diversity, equity, and inclusion . . . begins at the top and for us to realize growth in female membership and members under the age of forty — these demographics need to see their own reflection in leadership,” Jones said. “I will champion double-digit growth in both categories while never losing sight of our entire family.”

Jones is founder and president of Media Street Productions Inc., an award-winning media company in Windsor. She was chair of the board of governors of the University of Windsor and chair of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce. She has been recognized for her service with the YMCA Peace Medallion, the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal, and Wayne State University’s Peacemaker of the Year Award, a first for a Canadian. Jones holds a Doctor of Laws (LL.D.). A current Rotary Foundation trustee, Jones has been a Rotary member since 1997 and has served Rotary as RI vice president, director, training leader, committee chair, moderator, and district governor. She played a lead role in Rotary’s rebranding effort by serving as chair of the Strengthening Rotary’s Advisory Group. She is the co-chair of the End Polio Now Countdown to History Campaign Committee, which aims to raise \$150 million for polio eradication efforts.



Rtn Giti Bujarbaruah with Rtn Jennifer Jones at the RI Convention at Seoul



## MEMBERSHIP ISSUES IN ROTARY

**Rtn.Gayatri Bhattacharyya**

After PDG Kediaji's brilliant talk last week, covering all aspects of Rotary membership, I was very hesitant to write on the same topic. But our editor was firmly insistent – I had to write!

Rotary International depends upon the Rotary Clubs, and the Rotary Clubs in their turn depend upon their members, the Rotarians.

At the same time, RI requires that each club has a well balanced membership base, where no one profession, business, or type of service predominates. This requirement sometimes poses problems for a club in a community where one or the other occupation or business far outweighs the other. But that has been long solved by RI when it suggested that there may be more than one member per profession, and it was also deemed that one profession can have various specialties, which would merit different classifications.

There are basically three components of membership Development – Recruitment, Retention, and Extension.

So far as Recruitment of new members is concerned, the first question that arises is, whom to recruit? At this stage we need to remember the long standing and much debated question of "Quality versus Quantity".

Both the RI and the District set goals for Membership Development. So, do we recruit new members indiscriminately in order to meet these goals? Or do we take our time, get the Membership Development Committee to look around before determining who would meet the requirements of Quality as defined by Rotary ideals? Very briefly, Quality members would be those persons who would be assets to the club, not just passive members increasing the attendance percentage. The problem here is: how do we define the criteria for judging the "quality" of the persons, so far as the ideals of Rotary are concerned.

Therefore we need a well-crafted Membership Action Plan, with a strong and knowledgeable Membership Committee to look into these matters. This committee must adhere strictly to the rules framed by RI regarding recruitment policies. There should be continuous Classification surveys, and updates. At this point, it seems relevant to point out that Classification in Membership is unique to Rotary, and sets it apart from all other such organizations.

It is also desirable to promote an attractive and adequate publicity for the Club, and also Rotary in general, emphasizing the aspects of Service as well as the benefits of Rotary membership.

Retention is probably more important now than Recruitment. And when talking of retention, the first thing that comes to mind is the figure, 1.2 million Rotarians. We have been hearing this figure, - minus or plus a little, - for at least 15 to 20 years now. This is surely a sad commentary on an elite world organization like Rotary International. It is not that Rotary is losing its popularity or reputation. It is probably due to the vast changes that have taken place in the world, the rat race that is gripping the younger generation now. As usual Rotary has taken steps to try to overcome this situation. Its rules have become much more flexible, countries and clubs have been allowed to bend the rules to a great extent to suit their individual needs, so that the busy, younger generation find time to attend Rotary meetings, and enjoy them. The problem of retention is not new. In fact, it may be of some comfort to know that two of the first four members left Rotary within four months.

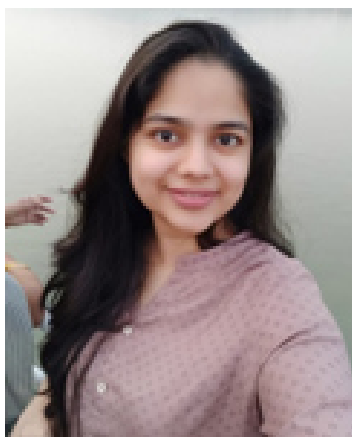
The third component of membership development is Extension. This component rests upon the individual Rotarians recognizing his/her responsibility and obligation to share Rotary, thus helping to extend it through

proposing qualified persons for membership. But the most important part of Extension is sponsoring new Rotary Clubs in the District, mentoring the members of the new clubs so that these become solid and vibrant Clubs.

At the same time, the various stages of Rotary Education is extremely important in retaining Members, and the President must see to it that these are carried out in time. Let it suffice here to say that there are basically three stages of this Education, the first stage coming after a person is selected for membership. The second stage should be just before the Induction when the member to be is informed about his duties as a Rotarian, the

attendance rules, the fees he will have to pay, etc. The third stage is what is known as the ‘continuing’ education and this is important to all members and not to the newcomer alone. This comes in the form of the various District training sessions, the District Conference etc. and the training meetings that may be held in the club itself.

It has undoubtedly become problematic for all the above in these days of the pandemic. But as our Editor has pointed out in her previous editorial, some clubs have found a way out with “hybrid” clubs where members may attend either in-person or virtually. Indeed, Rotary and Rotarians will never admit defeat!



### **Rotarylet Aastha Agarwal, shares her experience with us.**

The past few months have been challenging for one and all. Since the time this Pandemic was announced in January 2020 and the subsequent lockdown in India from the far end of March 2020, a lot has been written, said and discussed on this virus. However, my experience of being infected and living with this disease was entirely different from what was ever articulated by the experts. I started showing symptoms of being infected on 23rd June 2020. However, I was not sure whether I was a victim of the virus or not. Not wanting to infect anyone else in my family, I decided to quarantine myself. More symptoms emerged one after the other including difficulty in breathing. This is when I turned to meditation which

helped me emotionally, mentally and physically as well. After a week in isolation, I decided to get myself checked and the result was positive for COVID-19. I was taken to the GMCH where I faced several challenges. From hygiene and comfort to sanitation and privacy, I was scared and apprehensive, but had to tackle it all. With every hurdle I reacted and with every reaction came a realisation.

There was a shortage of cleaning staff and the patients wanted every comfort that they could have had or maybe not in their homes. There were a lot of complaints regarding shortage of washroom, the air condition, sanitization, etc. The patients didn't realise that it was an

isolation centre and we cannot expect a healthy uninfected person to be on call 24x7 for each and every problem neither did anyone bother to lift themselves to even clean their immediate area. We were provided with blankets, good healthy food and looked after by amazing hardworking doctors. I realised when we humans choose to see the negative we are unable to see the positives around.

There were elderly who were infected and weak, unable to help themselves. I was up and about helping as many as I could in their daily routine. The sad part was the patients near them didn't even reach out to help them.

We need to realise that the elderly are the most vulnerable and risk prone. It is not just the government's responsibility, we too can help flatten the curve by doing our bit to the society.

My takeaway from my experience was, one needs to take precautions, not just outdoors, but indoors as well. Maintain a distance with the old ones to keep them safe. Today it gives me immense peace knowing that I didn't transmit the virus to anyone. Just by keeping a distance and taking precautions we can flatten the curve.



## **MINUTES OF THE 2107<sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY, 2020**

1. The President called the meeting to order at 6.10 pm after welcoming all the members.
2. Members rose to sing the National Anthem.
3. The President then offered Wedding Anniversary Greetings to PP Rtn. Dilip Sarkar and Anne Lipika and also the Birthday Greetings to our Senior Member Rtn. Anjana Buragohain.
4. President informed that very soon our club is going to release an audio capsule composed on Assamese Grammar for visually impaired school children. She also informed that due to the ill health of the treasurer designate, Rtn. Prasanta Das, the BOD has decided to select Rtn. Shahenshah Akbar Muskirin to take charge of Treasurer from Rtn. Nawajyoti Sharma for this year. Rtn. Akbar has accepted the proposal. All members congratulated him. President then thanked the Editor of our fortnightly bulletin Rtn. Priyam Goswami for taking out the E-issue of the bulletin "Udayan" on time and so nicely editing it. President then wished speedy recovery of the IPP Rtn. Amrit pal Singh, who has undergone cataract surgery recently. Since this meeting is dedicated as the 1st Family Friday, President requested the Chairperson Culture Rtn. Priyama Goswami to take over and start the variety programme as she has planned.
5. The programme started with a devotional song of Late Dr. Bhupen Hazarika by our senior Rtn. Tarun Bordoloi. He also sang another song of Late Jayanta Hazarika. The second item of the programme was a Hindi song of Lata Mangeskar by Rtn. Nivedita Baruah. After this Rtn. Gitanjali Kalita recited an Assamese poem written by her. Next was a beautiful Assamese song of Jayanta Hazarika by Rtn. Probin Borthakur who also entertained the members with another Hindi song of Md. Rafi. Thereafter, Rtn. Indira Bordoloi recited a beautiful Assamese poem written by her titled "Asha". Rtn. Ranjana Gogoi sang an Assamese song of a popular singer Rupam Bhuyan. Rtn. Dr. R.N. Mazumder entertained with one of his own written Assamese poem titled "Niruddexh". The last item of the programme was a short play enacted by Rtn. Ranjana Lahkar and Rtn. Gitanjali Kalita which was enjoyed by all members. At the end Rtn. Dr. R. N. Mazumder completed with an Assamese Joke.

6. President then requested Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan to briefly speak about our projects on Sanitary Napkin Vending Machine and Food Bank. He informed that the Rotary club of Silchar had been efficiently implementing the food bank project worth about Rs.15.0 lakh, for last several years . The food items include items like Maggie, Biscuits, Amul products etc. which are manufactured at Guwahati. We need to have a place where we can store the materials for a few days before distribution to the school children of various schools in an around Guwahati. The quantity of food materials will be about a truck load every month. We can engage some voluntary organizations like World Vision to work on our behalf to distribute the items to the jointly selected schools within one week of receiving the food materials. Since there is no financial involvement from our club we can carry out this work. Our club will constitute a committee to oversee the work of storing and handing over to the selected NGOs. Members opined that, since the schools and other institutions are not open due to covid situation, this project can be operational only after reopening of the schools. Regarding the three sanitary napkin vending machines which will be delivered to us at the end of this month, one is to be installed at the Gauhati Commerce College and the other two in two schools in

Bamunimaidam Rly Colony. The manufacturing unit of sanitary napkin will be installed in Rajkamal Bhuyans place at Hatigaon Chariali, Guwahati. The manufacturing cost of each pad will be around Rs.3/- and it will sold at Rs.5/- (coin to be inserted) through vending machine. The used pad will be disposed off by burning thru an incinerator to be placed in 3 premises.

Rtn Ralkamal Bhuyan requested all the members to give their suggestions and comments by middle of this month so that it can be launched as soon as the schools /institutions reopens.

7. The Secretary then gave his report by stating that the total number of participants in the meeting was 40, out of which 35 Rotarians and 5 Annes.
8. President then requested Rtn. R.N.Mazumder to offer formal vote of thanks. Rtn Mazumder while congratulating and appreciating all the participants of this cultural event, hoped that some more hidden talents of our club will come forward and take part in such programmes in the near future when we will be able to hold physical meetings. He thanked all the members for their presence in the meeting and enjoyed the programme.
9. The meeting was adjourned by the President at 7.35 pm.



## **MINUTES OF THE 2108<sup>th</sup> WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 7 AUGUST, 2020**

1. The President called the meeting to order at 6.10 pm after welcoming the members present.
2. National Anthem was rendered and all the members took part.
3. President welcome the Guest Speaker, PDG Rtn. Prabhat Kedia and also Dr. Hitesh Baruah, who will be inducted as a new member of our club. The oath of office will be conducted by PDG Rtn. Kedia.
4. As there was no other club business to be discussed, President requested Rtn. Kedia to give his speech on Rotary. He spoke extensively on Rotary Membership, Classification of Members and Diversification characters of the rotary. According to him Rotarians always differ from the members of

other organizations. He stated that, although Rotary was started long before the Lions club started, but membership number is still below the membership number of the Lions club. Therefore he stressed upon induction of more members into Rotary club with good quality people. He emphasized the great need of female membership as well as young people to carry forward the activities of the club as most of the present members are crossing the age limit of 65 years. He said that the Greatness of Rotary is the networking. The more you meet people and help, the more you grow. He ended his speech by thanking all the members of RCGS for inviting him to this meeting.

5. President then requested Rtn. Dr. R.N.Mazumder to introduce Dr. Hitesh Baruah who shall be inducted to our club.
6. Dr. Hitesh Baruah was then inducted as a new member who took the oath of office conducted by the PDG Prabhat Kedia.
7. After taking the oath Dr. Baruah in his short speech promised to dedicate himself for the cause of upliftment of the society through his selfless service
8. The President then requested Rtn. Dr. Anil Mahanta to apprise our members about the latest development in fighting against Corona virus by our country and of course by the whole world. Dr. Mahanta gave very useful information and requested all not to be panic but follow all the prescribed guidelines of the government to be safe and prevent spreading the infection to the masses. He said that this pandemic was going to stay on earth for some more time and hoped that sooner the vaccine is developed the better it would be for mankind.
9. The Secretary then gave his report by saying that the total number of members present in the meeting was 35, out of which one was the guest speaker PDG Prabhat Kedia and the other was our new member Rtn. Hitesh Baruah.
10. On request from the President the IPP Rtn. Amrit Pal Singh offered the formal vote of thanks to all members including the guest speaker and the newly inducted member.
11. The President adjourned the meeting at 7.45 pm.



## **MINUTES OF THE BOD MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2020**

A BOD meeting to discuss two important matters was held on virtual zoom platform on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 at 6.00 pm. Prior to the regular weekly meeting.

The meeting was presided over by the President Rtn. Giti Bujarbaruah. Other members present were:

Rtn. Nawajyoti Sharma – Secretary, RCGS.

Rtn. Rajesh Bhatra - Vice President.

Rtn. R.K. Bhuyan – Chairperson, Rotary Foundation Committee.

Rtn. Chandan Rajkhowa – CLCC.

Rtn. Dr. Anil Mahanta – Chairperson, Club Service Committee.

Rtn. Amrit Pal Singh – IPP

Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati – Chairperson, Club Administration Committee.

Rtn. Dr. Bibekananda Saikia – Chairperson, Club Membership Committee.

The members discussed the issue arising out of the inability of the Club Treasurer designate Rtn. Prasanta Kr. Das to continue due to his illness and decided to select Rtn. Shahenshah Akbar Muskirin to act as Treasurer for the current Rotary year. All members agreed to this proposal and requested Rtn. Nawajyoti Sharma to hand over the charge of Treasurer to Rtn. Muskirin soon.

The second issue was the induction of a new member Dr. Hitesh Baruah to our club who is not only a medical practitioner but also a renowned cultural activist. All members agreed and decided to induct him in the next Weekly Regular Meeting.

The meeting decided to place these two decisions in the next weekly meeting for appraisal and endorsement of the members of the club.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.25pm.

