

The Midtowner

Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown

2015-16

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Club No. 15228
R.I. District 3080

R. I. President
K.R. Ravindran

District Governor
David Hilton

President
Mrs. Kanan Diwan

Secretary
Sanjay Bhatia

Editor
Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Volume XXXX No. 35 Dated: March 01, 2016

PROGRAMME

Surrogacy sign of Interrogation?

Chief Guest:

Anil Malhotra

Advocate and an Author

Friday, March 04, 2016

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Highlights of District Conference – Panchsheel

The purpose of the District Conference is to provide opportunities for networking, inspirational addresses, and discussions of Rotary-related matters. The event recognizes the service programs, projects, and public relations achievements in the district in order to inspire Rotarians to become more involved in service. The conference also gives Rotarians and clubs a vision of Rotary beyond the club level and provides a memorable fellowship experience. Many Rotarians have said that they were never truly enthusiastic about Rotary until they saw an inspirational presentation at a district conference.



PDG Shaju Peter gives highlights of the conference

In our regular meeting on February 26, 2016 PDG Shaju Peter gave the highlights of District Conference – Panchsheel held on February 20-21, 2016 at Dehradun. He started his talk by discussing the five core values of Rotary, which serve as fundamental components of the Rotary Strategic Plan and determine most of the direction and good intent for the whole of our leadership. The five core values are: Service, Fellowship, Diversity, Integrity and Leadership. All of these core values are reflected in

the Object of Rotary and The Four-Way Test, which we use in our daily lives. They inspire us to foster and support the ideal of service for developing and maintaining integrity in human relations and in all our interactions.

Regarding District Conference PDG Shaju said, “Generally a conference is of two days which also has a pre-conference dinner which is assembly of Rotarians and their families.” For this the registration fee is extra.

Governor of Uttarakhand Dr. K.K. Paul inaugurated the District Conference on February 20, 2016. PDG Shaju remarked, “The inauguration was absolutely spectacular and a vibrant programme.”

(For detailed report about the inauguration please see page 2 of previous bulletin No. 34).

PDG Shaju said, “One great thing about this conference was that there was a tremendous content of service projects and celebration of projects by Rotary International President's Representative.” Every district conference has a representative from the RI President because he himself cannot go to 534 conferences all over the world.

Therefore he sends his personal representative to each of the 534 conferences. For our district conference, due to PRIP Raja Saboo, as RI President Ravindran's Representative we had RI President Nominee (2017-18) Ian Riseley from Australia who was accompanied by his wife Juliet. RIPN Riseley is a chartered accountant by profession, a major donor and a Paul Harris Society member.

District Governor David Hilton who is a teacher and runs a school was able to get thousands of school children to participate in this event which created a tremendous atmosphere in the venue.

Shaju was pleased to say, “I was impressed by the revival of Rotaract movement in 3080.” This year we have a dynamic young man as District Rotaract Representative Rtr. Mohit Singla. He added, “Similarly the Interact Chair of the District, our own President Nominee Dr. Rita Kalra made a remarkably effective presentation on Interactors of 3080 which went off extremely well.”

There were eminent speakers to address the Rotarians. Shaju appreciated the 20 minute presentation by Swami Chidananda Saraswati from the Parmarth Niketan. Another impressive speaker was Mrs. Jo Chopra, an American settled in Dehradun after her marriage to a Punjabi. She caters to the needs of the disabled. Her son is a business man and a daughter is doing doctorate. She adopted a mentally challenged child who is now grown up. Another speaker retired Air Marshal Denzil Keeler, PVSM, KC, AVSM, VrC who is Chairman of Special Olympics Bharat inspires disabled people to compete in the para Olympics, an event for the disabled from all over the world.

There was an amazing presentation of reconstruction of schools in Uttarakhand. Out of 35 schools our district has built up 25 each costing about Rs. 12 lakh. All this has been possible due to the devotion of PRID Yash Das and PDG Prem Bhalla. There were presentations on Medical Missions to Mallavi, Ethiopia and Rwanda, and the RI Convention in Seoul.

Second day of the conference had a business session where the issues related to our district were debated and replied to by a panel led by PDG Yoginder Diwan, which was dealt in an amicable manner and with understanding.



Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra giving presentation at the Conference

Shaju had great praise for the shreyas awards which was instituted in Rotary year 2007-08 when he was the District Governor. The awardees selected for the current conference were exceptionally brilliant people which included the well known Bollywood actor Tom Alter.

The conference culminated with the selection of District Governor Nominee Designate for 2018-19. This time the nominating committee did not have any Past District Governor but only nine Past Presidents as its members who were selected by draw of lots. This was according to the current legislative. The nominating committee interviewed all the candidates and announced the name of PP Jitender Dhingra of Kurukshetra who was selected as the

DGND.

Secretary Sanjay Bhatia thanked PP Harish Sethi for organizing the visit of Rotary Friendship Exchange team. He also thanked PDG Shaju Peter for the detailed account of the District Conference.



Vice President Ashok Puri with actor Tom Alter at the conference



PP Rtn. Prem Anand calls meeting to order, followed by National Anthem by R'ann Sudha Puri and R'ann Indu Anand



PP Rtn. Harish Sethi talks about Rotary Friendship Exchange team and presents a flag to President Rtn. Kanan Diwan



Secretary Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia gives vote of thanks



President Kanan Diwan presents birthday gift to R'ann Shradha Sachdeva



Wedding anniversary gift to R'ann Dr. Savita & Rtn. Brij Mohan Gulati



Punctuality award goes to PP Rtn. Prem Anand

Rotary Friendship NID Team's Visit (20th -23rd February 2016)

NID Team's visit was coordinated by PDG Madhukar Malhotra who is the DRFC for the current year. This year the dates of NID team's visit to Chandigarh clashed with the District Conference dates. Therefore neither PDG Madhukar nor our Club President Kanan Diwan and members of our Board of Directors were available in Chandigarh on 20th and 21st to meet them. PP Harish Sethi from our Club and PDG Kawal Bedi were given the responsibility to organize their hosting and plan their visit to various projects, in which they were interested. PP Harish was requested by President Kanan to apprise the members about their visit to various projects and other places of tourist interest in the city.

PP Harish Sethi explained that the team consisting of 18 members arrived in Chandigarh on 20th. Team consisted of 6 members each from Alaska, Cubec and Canada. Other members were from Maine, California and Florida from USA. Two members were from Australia.

The team members from District 5010, Alaska visited the recently completed Toilet block at village Makhan Majra. Rotary Club Anchorage Alaska, District 5010 is our partner in the recently sanctioned project of 'Sanitary Rest Room Facility in Schools'. The team members appreciated the facilities provided in a rural area school. The team then visited our Rotary Sarai in GMCH-32. They were really impressed by the concept of our project and the fact that our Club has been augmenting the facilities from time to time. PP Prem Anand gave all the details how the project was carried out in different phases. As usual he had arranged tea and snacks for all of us, which the team members enjoyed very much.



The hosts and the RFE team

As per the initial itinerary the Team was to depart on 23rd morning for Ambala but we had to extend their stay till late afternoon to show them our important project of e-Learning at Govt. Model High School at Manimajra. This project has also been sanctioned under Global Grant in which Rotary Club Quebec-Charlesourg from District 7790 is our partner. Principal Renu Chopra, Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra, PP Deepak Sood and our very innovative Rtn. Salil Chopra had organized the visit extremely well to show the various facilities to the team. They gave us a surprise by celebrating Rotary's birthday in Principal's room. PDG Serge Poulin cut the cake. The team thoroughly enjoyed going round the campus and complimented our club members for implementing the various components of the project. PDG Serge offered to take up more projects jointly with our club.

President Kanan thanked all the hosts: PP Harish Sethi, PP Inderjeet Sengupta, IPP Ravi Tulsi, PP Sandeep Sandhu and their gracious wives for making stay of our guests so comfortable and enjoyable. Thanks to PP B.L. Ramsisaria, PP Prem Anand, PE Amarjit Singh and other Rotarians who gave all their support to make the visit of NID team to our projects fruitful.



At toilet project in Makhanmajra



Aasra sarai in GMCH-32

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to PDG Kawal Bedi on the demise of her husband Major Tikka A.S. Bedi, Past President of Rotary Club Chandigarh. Our prayers to the Almighty to give strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

We also offer our deep condolences on the demise of PP Jon Deisher of Rotary Club Anchorage Alaska who was instrumental in the recently sanctioned global grant project of our club.

One minute silence was observed in our meeting on February 26, 2016 as a mark of respect.

Role of mothers in educating their children

The 61st programme of the current Rotary year on literacy for teaching the skills to students was a tailor made attempt based on the need of a typical situation. Mrs. Upinder Kaur, the STC coordinator informed us that Govt. schools are facing problem from the mothers who do not want to send their children to schools.

A special course had to be designed for such mothers to advise and motivate them that they start sending their children to school and then the teachers could provide them proper education. Rtn. Salil Chopra got full support from President Elect Rtn. Amarjit Singh, and together they designed a powerpoint presentation with videos which they showed to 80 mothers, who were told about e-learning and modern ways of education and how children are exposed to new techniques to meet challenges. The 75 minutes presentation inspired the mothers and motivated them to assure that they would encourage their children to attend the school regularly. It was a



PE Amarjit Singh and Rtn. Salil Chopra give an inspiring presentation to the mothers

successful project focusing on the importance of the role of mothers in education of their children which will go a long way towards total literacy. Principal Ms. Manita, Mrs. Upinder Kaur and 3 other teachers were also present during this unique presentation.

PE Amarjit assured the continuity of such meaningful programmes with better infrastructure and other related support.

Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia

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e-Learning assessment



e - Learning assessment was done at Govt. Sanskriti Model High School, Panchkula by Rtn. Salil Chopra. Our club had donated projectors for class X at above school. Our

62nd programme of the year was conducted here on Rotary, being Hindustani and our contribution to the society. It was interactive and participative course and children were delighted. All students and teachers were happy over new learning process instituted by our club.

32 units Blood collected



Ms. Harleen Kaur, President, Saint Soldiers Ex-Student Association, d/o PE Amarjit Singh organized a blood donation camp for second consecutive year with support of School management and Blood Bank GMCH-32, Chandigarh.

Birthday of Rotarians

Rtn. Ravinder K. Jain
Rtn. R.S. Sachdeva
Rtn. D.K. Gupta



March 04
March 06
March 08

Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Shashi & PP Rtn. Dr. Balram K. Gupta
R'ann Rekha & Rtn. Lalit K. Azad
R'ann Asha & Rtn. Vinod Sobti

March 04
March 04
March 06

PDG Shaju Peter speaks at 3202 Conference

PDG Shaju Peter was one of the invited speakers at the District Conference of 3202 held at Muthukrishnan Convention Centre, Tirupur on February 06 and 07, 2016.

Invited by District Governor Dr. George Sundararaj, PDG Shaju dealt with the topic 'Total Literacy in India – a Challenge' in the first plenary session on February 07. The 40 minute session included the formal introduction by PDG V.G. Nayanar and a 35 minute talk by Shaju on Literacy. He dealt with the Global scenario of literacy with particular emphasis on India and the lesson to learn from his home State, Kerala with the highest literacy rate of 94% in India.

District 3202 comprises of 135 clubs in parts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu with over 5000 Rotarians. The Conference had an attendance of over 1000 delegates.

Punctuality Draw

Won by PP Rtn. Prem Anand

Change of Residence and Office Address

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PDG Rtn. Shaju Peter

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