Rotary

The Midtowner

Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown

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R. I. President John F. Germ | District Governor Raman Aneja | President Amarjit Singh | Secretary Sundeep S. Sawhney | Editor Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Volume XXXXI No. 45 Dated: May 09, 2017

PROGRAMME

Club Assembly

Chief Guest:

PP Rtn. Deepak Sood

Assistant Governor (Zone 2)

Date: **May 12, 2017 (Friday)** Time: **7.00 p.m.** Venue: **Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh**

Empowering Persons with Disabilities Strengthens Human Solidarity for Everyone

In our regular meeting on May 05, 2017 President Rtn. Amarjit Singh welcomed the chief guest, Mr. Balbir Singh Sidhu, MLA, SAS Nagar (Mohali), and also congratulated him for being elected as MLA for the third time in a row. President Amarjit also acknowledged the presence of MLA of Bassi Pathana, Mr. Gurpreet Singh who accompanied Mr. Sidhu.

Mr. Balbir Singh Sidhu

Chief Guest MLA Balbir Singh Sidhu had earlier visited our club on 3rd December 2010 to celebrate the International Day of People with Disability, when Rtn. Prem Anand was the President. Mr. Sidhu was then introduced by PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee but this time Mr. Sidhu desired to give his own introduction. He was born on 01-04-1959 at Tapa Mandi, District Barnala. He is a well known popular congress leader who has done immense social work including mentoring the disabled persons helping them in their empowerment and getting suitable jobs for them. He does not hesitate whenever they need his help.

Mr. Sidhu's interest towards the disabled persons strengthened as his own elder brother was disabled and he shifted from Barnala to Mohali in 1981 to get better facilities available in Chandigarh. Mr. Sidhu came in contact with PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra and his late father Col. D.S. Vohra. He appreciated Dr. Vohra for his contribution and dedication towards disabled persons, to provide them proper facilities for empowering them.

Mr. Sidhu stressed the need for suitable employment for disabled persons, and acknowledged the initiative taken by persons like Harmesh. He said they should never be made to feel helpless. In his capacity as MLA he is able to do the needful in a better manner for their empowerment.

A tricycle being donated by our club to a needy disabled person in presence of MLAs Mr. Balbir Singh Sidhu and Mr. Gurpreet Singh

First Lady Sunita presents a bouquet to MLA Balbir Singh Sidhu

Before Mr. Sidhu's talk the President had invited Chair Disability Empowerment, PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra to give a powerpoint presentation on Persons with Disabilities. He said, "There cannot be anything more stressful than the physical disability. But now due to awareness, and the availability of the modern rehabilitation techniques and gadgets they have empowered themselves to take care of their disability." It is the self empowerment of these persons that has enabled them to lead a life of dignity and pride. Pointing at Harmesh who was present in the meeting with number of disabled persons who are members of our Rotary Community Corps, Dr. Vohra said there are two RCCs - Panchkula and Dadumajra, sponsored by our club, which are being led by K.C. Wadhawan and other one by Harmesh, both wearing walking calipers, being victims of polio. These RCCs are having special persons as members, who are fully empowered, and are also providing community service to the society. These two RCCs managed by disabled persons are not only unique, but may be the only ones of its kind in the Rotary world.

These persons know their rights, for which Rtn. Salil Bali is providing necessary legal advice and has also filed a writ in the high court to get them the justice they deserve.

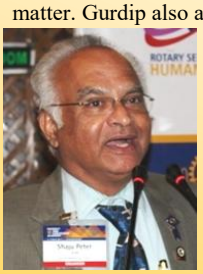
Several leading organizations of the world like Otto Bock, Endolite and Ossur have opened up their establishments in India to offer state of the art facilities to the disabled persons which have further empowered them. Dr. Vohra also showed a brief audio visual presentation in which the disabled persons are doing their routine daily activities with the help of artificial limbs, and also participating in Olympics. In an inspiring display of the 'belief system', Vivek Bindra, the speaker says, "This mind is so powerful that it can break you or it can make you. You can become strongly mental or become mentally strong. You can have a hopeless end or you can have an endless hope."

PP Rtn. Gurdip S. Deep presents a memento to Mr. Balbir Singh Sidhu. Looking on is President Amarjit Singh

He then went on to show the video on Arunima Sinha, a national level volleyball player who lost her one leg below the knee when thieves pushed her out of a running train in 2011. After getting a prosthetic leg she climbed the Mount Everest and several other mountain peaks. She was awarded Padmashri in 2015 by President of India Pranab Mukherjee. Arunima has proved that a person can never be disabled physically, unless the mind becomes disabled…!

Dr. Vohra said, "Disabled persons can create their own destiny. They do not need anyone's sympathy. Persons with Disability Act and other disability related regulations and policies should be implemented in its true spirit, and these should not remain as a topic, merely for discussions in seminars."

PP Gurdip S. Deep thanked Mr. Balbir Singh Sidhu for being with us in spite of his busy schedule, and sharing his valuable views with us on disability matter. Gurdip also acknowledged the "highly motivational style" in which Dr. V.J.S. Vohra gave his presentation on disability empowerment.



PDG Shaju Peter - Leadership workshop. *See page 4*

President Amarjit Singh welcomes MLA Balbir Singh Sidhu

PP Dr. V.J.S Vohra - Disability Empowerment

Announcements by Secretary Sundeep Sawhney

Vote of thanks by PP Gurdip Singh Deep

MLA Balbir Singh Sidhu presents punctuality award to PP Gurdip S. Deep. Looking on is President Amarjit Singh

MLA Mr. Balbir Singh Sidhu presents wedding anniversary gift to R'ann Santosh & PP Rtn. Dr. Kesho Ram Gupta, and they present a story book authored by her to Mr. Sidhu

R'ann Lalita & Rtn. Chandra Parkash celebrate their wedding anniversary

Project - Rotary Chandigarh Midtown in collaboration with Rotary Mohali

Books of General Knowledge, Punjabi and Hindi were presented for Library to Principal Mrs. Virpal Kaur by our Club at Govt. Primary School, Mataur (Mohali). Our visit to this school was a pleasant sight to see the students of class 1 and 2 sitting on the benches provided by our Club. It was in the month of February when Secretary Sundeep Singh Sawhney visited the school and found young girls sitting on mat in the class. Immediate action was initiated with due support of our Board and PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra, who got the benches shifted from Zirakpur to the Primary School.

We also visited our Global Grant sanitation project which was done on contract for initiating the construction of toilet block for girls at Govt High School, Mataur (Mohali). Books of General Knowledge, Punjabi, Maths, Science and Hindi were also presented by our club to Principal Mrs. Sangeeta Sharma.

Rotarians present on the occasion were PDG Yoginder Diwan, IPP Kanan Diwan, Secretary Sundeep Singh Sawhney, Rtn. Sukhpreet Singh Giani, President of Rotary Mohali and IPP K.K. Seth.

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Official Visit of District Governor Raman Aneja on 18th May 2017 (Thursday)

40th anniversary celebration of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown

President Amarjit Singh announced that the official visit of District Governor Rtn. Raman Aneja will be on Thursday, 18th May 2017. Please note the change in date and venue of our regular meeting which would be held at 7.00 p.m. at **Hotel Sunbeam Premium, Sector 22, Opposite Bus Stand,** Chandigarh. We have been eagerly awaiting the Official Visit of our District Governor this year as it is scheduled for 18th May, the 40th anniversary of our Club. We also look forward to the gracious presence of our District First Lady R'ann Meenu Aneja on this special occasion.

Detailed programme of DG's official visit will be given in the next bulletin. President Amarjit requests all our Rotarians and spouses to attend this important event of the Rotary year.

District 3080 Leadership Academy – Residential Workshop

Sitting (L-R) Associate Dean PDG J.P.S. Sibia, Dean PDG Shaju Peter, PRID Yash Das, PRIP Raja Saboo, DG Raman Aneja, trainers Ms. Inderjit Kaur and Ms. Navneet Sandhu with the participants standing behind them

Three days residential leadership workshop of Rotary District 3080 Leadership Academy's 16th batch was held on 05th to 07th May 2017 at Hotel Shivalikview, Sector 17, Chandigarh. The inaugural session on the first day was addressed by the Chairman of the Academy PRIP Raja Saboo, PRID Yash Pal Das, Dean PDG Shaju Peter, Associate Dean PDG J.P.S. Sibia and District Governor Raman Aneja. Rich tributes were paid to PDG Major Som Dutt, the dynamic first Dean of the Academy who served the Academy right from its inception in 2001 till February 2017 when he passed away. However, the Academy will continue to serve its mission of developing leaders in our district under the Chairman PRIP Raja Saboo, the founder and architect of the programme, and the present Dean of the Academy PDG Shaju Peter with his team of dedicated Rotarians.

The 16th batch had 12 participants who were given extensive training on first 2 days by professional trainers Ms. Inderjit Kaur and Ms. Navneet Sandhu who have been efficiently conducting the workshop for last several years. The training on the third day was conducted by a very senior trainer from Delhi Dr. Vijay Chopra for whom age is no barrier, and he too has been responsible for the success of many of our 136 graduates, who are now using the leadership techniques acquired from the Academy in Rotary as well as their profession and business. Day 2 and 3 began at 6.30 in the morning with yoga lessons/exercise by Yogi Pankaj Sharma. As both yoga and entertainment play an important role in leadership development, the second day had a talent evening in which spouses had also participated. PRIP Raja Saboo anchored the cultural evening including antakshri, the main attraction of the evening, after a rocking dance performance by Rtn. Dr. Sanjay Kalra and our President Elect Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra.

All the participants were greatly benefitted, motivated and enriched by this three day exciting workshop. It was strongly felt that more Rotarians should come forward for this unique leadership course as all those who have graduated in the past 16 years, speak very high of this programme.

From our club Rtn. Dr. Sanjay Kalra, Rtn. Jeeten Bhambri and Rtn. Nitin Kapur participated in the leadership workshop. In addition to PDG Shaju as the Dean, Administrator of the Academy PP B.L. Ramsisaria and PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra were present amongst the observers of the workshop.

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Program under RILM

Three hour program for three classes of Vedic Sr Sec School for girls, Manimajra was conducted by Rtn. Salil Chopra on 06th May 2017 in which 82 children from class 12 of different sections took active part and learnt how and when to set the goals without wasting time. They were also explained how to face the emerging challenges of life. Teachers and even the Principal Mrs. Sekhri appreciated the efforts. Children were thrilled to participate in this useful program to prepare them for the future.

Congratulations

PP Gurdip S. Deep honoured by Bhai Kaniya Ji Sewak Dal, Jalandhar

Badminton tournament 2017

Congrats to PE Dr. Rita Kalra as she is the Winner in women's doubles and mixed doubles

Birthday of Spouses

R'ann Neena Jauhar	May 12
Mr. B.C. Gupta	May 14

Wedding anniversary

R'ann Chanchal & Rtn. C.J. Rai	May 17

Punctuality Award

Won by PP Rtn. Gurdip S. Deep

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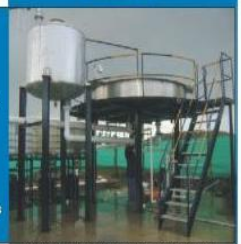

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