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BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METRO CITY

RI District 3291 | Charter Date : 14/06/1995 | Club No. : 30869



January is the month of new aspirations, resolutions and dreams for a better and brighter year ahead for every social volunteer and for Rotarians it is a month when we renew our pledge to make this a better world and take stock of the first 6 months of the Rotary year. Several pertinent questions ring a bell in every Rotarian's mind, especially those who have spent a sizeable time in the movement, are we moving in the right direction? How do we retain members? Because January onward the majority of the clubs face an uphill task of retention. Are we appealing enough for the young to join? Is there too much of politics and infighting within the clubs and the Districts? Visibly there are aspiration conflicts primarily seen in our part of the Rotary world which leads to conflicts among groups to achieve the coveted positions in the District Rotary hierarchy. Questions are many; answers are either few or unconvincing. One area where Rotary is failing badly is very poor training within the movement and this despite almost unlimited web resources, the problem seems to be the trainers who are either dated or not equipped and which throws light on the relative failure of the RLI program in D3291 in not being able to produce well informed Rotarians this results in a plethora of less trained officers at both the District and the Club levels. Very often we come across District officials sometimes even RI officers who are unable to address problems or queries usually we tend to sweep such issues under the carpet and the result is a decline as we are witnessing.

This year it was shocking to see less than 450 Rotarians at the District Conference which is a clear indicator of declining interest among members. Another sad aspect is the proliferation of relatively new Rotarians and clubs getting deeply involved in the electoral politics of Rotary. There is a strong undercurrent of though among many members who feel that Rotary Leadership should be based on consensus of ability, knowledge and skills and not electoral politics mostly dominated by Past leaders who should actually get together to create an atmosphere of consensus instead of creating divisive camps. These are clearly unhealthy signs for a movement.

So how we address these issues, First and foremost let us admit there are problems rather than looking the other way. Make training meaningful and impactful and deploy Rotarians equipped to train, the District leaders need to identify the right person for the right job, too often such positions are given as a reward for electoral support. Organizations in the twenty-first century must structure themselves in ways that encourage sustained engagement opportunities which can only keep members meaningfully engaged with responsibility. Identifying the projects benefitting sizeable numbers and quantum of support must be attractive as well which shall encourage Rotarians to participate and inspire others too.

We must put our act together and Imagine Rotary to a better and brighter future.

EDITORIAL

Subhojit Roy

Presidential Message - January 2022

Jennifer Jones President 2022-23

Rotary recently surveyed our members and found something that should be unsurprising but still caused many of us in Rotary leadership to sit up and pay attention: The single most important factor in member satisfaction is the club experience. How at home you feel in your club, how rewarding club meetings are, and how engaged you feel in service projects.

I have seen this firsthand across the Rotary world this year. When members feel an emotional connection to their club, they cannot imagine leaving. And that connection is often forged in "Rotary moments," when people feel that special connection to the people around them and the impact of their service. Our Imagine Impact Tour is all about shining a light on those Rotary moments and encouraging our members to tell their stories.

But there's something else that makes an enormous difference in building and sustaining that connection. It's the comfort and care of our members – both Rotarians and Rotaractors. As my Rotary friend Todd Jenkins says, "People can't see how you think, but they sure can see your actions."

We are in the relationship business, and if we take care of each other – genuinely show concern for each other – then we will make friends for life, and we will do anything to widen that circle of friendship.

The question is: How do we live with our eyes wide open and do the things that really matter? We do this by taking time for each other, actively listening to one another, and treating every Rotary member as equally valuable – no matter how long we have been a member or what position we hold.

People like me in Rotary leadership can offer all kinds of advice about how to make your club experience more valuable. But what's most important is for everyone in every Rotary club to speak up and listen to one another. We should never be afraid to share with our fellow Rotary member what we expect to get out of our membership and have an open discussion about how to make that happen.

To lead a Rotary club is to invite such dialogue and to be willing to try new approaches. Good leadership is giving it away. Propping others up. Allowing others to feel the victory.

I have one last request for club leaders. We still need to do more worldwide to increase our female membership. It's up a bit this year, but I know we can and must do better. Rotary is growing again. As I write this, we're just a handful of members away from surpassing 1.2 million Rotarians again. So let's redouble our efforts to bolster our clubs with great new members, and then keep them for life by providing comfort and care.



Rotary projects around the globe January 2023

By Brad Webber

United States



Worldwide, only 17 percent of electronic waste and less than 5 percent of devices containing lithium ion batteries are recycled, even though their chemical elements offer a "cycle of nearly infinite recyclability," according

to Redwood Materials. Since early 2022, more than a dozen Rotary clubs across the United States have collaborated with the Nevada-based battery recycler to host collection drives, yielding tens of thousands of pounds of cell phones, laptops, power drills, electric toothbrushes, and more. "This is a turnkey project," says Clari Nolet of the Rotary Club of Los Altos, California, a board member of the **Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group**. "You clean out your junk drawer, address U.S. supply chain security and environmental issues, and assist in the adoption of electric cars."

100 million+ Cell phones discarded annually in the U.S.

Canada



On 17 September, volunteers from the Rotary Clubs of Oakville, Oakville-West, and Oakville Trafalgar, Ontario, packed more than 1,000 bags of barley bound for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, a Caribbean country recovering from a

series of natural disasters. Rotary members emptied sacks of barley into bins, manually weighed the grains into 1-pound bags, and boxed them. Normally "it takes two shifts of five full-time people to accomplish what we did in three hours," says Sundeep Khosla, an Oakville club member. His club has made a commitment to monthly shifts at the warehouse, run by **GlobalMedic**, a charity focused on rapid response to disasters worldwide.

2.3 billion Number of food-insecure people around the world in 2021

Kosovo



The Rotary Club of Peja dedicated a 9/11 memorial, d u b b e d "Memory and Friendship," in the city on the 21st anniversary of the attacks. The club, its members, local

businesses, and individuals offered financial and in-kind contributions valued at more than \$30,000 for the project. "But the real value of the memorial is immeasurable," says Club President Arbër Asllani. "Searching for such memorials globally, we found that none of them is in southeast Europe." The idea was first suggested by Nehat Devolli, a club member and businessman. The centrepiece – a steel beam from the ruins of the twin towers donated by the New York City Fire Department – was a must, according to Asllani. "New York City is almost 7,400 kilometers away from Peja," Asllani said in his address at the dedication ceremony, "but on that particular day, Sept. 11, it felt closer because tragedy unites people."

77 Minimum number of nations that lost citizens in the 9/11 attacks, according to the U.S. State Department

Excerpts from January 2023 issue of Rotary magazine

R. Gordon R. McInally wants Rotary members to create hope in the world



RI president-elect announces 2023-24 presidential theme

By **Etelka Lehoczky**

Rotary International President-elect R. Gordon R. McInally called for members to capture the world's attention and lead the way toward possibilities far beyond our current expectations.

McInally, a member of the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, West Lothian, Scotland, revealed the 2023-24 presidential theme, Create Hope in the World, during the Rotary International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA, on 9 January.

"The goal is to restore hope – to help the world heal from destructive conflicts and, in turn, to help us achieve lasting change for ourselves," McInally said at Rotary's annual training event for incoming district governors.

Promoting peace

A significant way to bring hope to the world is to put a greater emphasis on peace, McNally said. "Peace is the soil where hope takes root," McNally said. He also noted recent events that underscore the importance of Rotary's continuing focus on polio. In the past year, polio cases have emerged in many areas around the world, making it more crucial than ever for Rotary members to lead the fight against the disease. Only about 1 in 12 members currently gives to the polio eradication campaign, with fewer than 1 in 5 clubs donating each year.

Focusing on mental health

In addition, McNally said, Rotary members should offer hope to those affected by mental health challenges – a crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

McNally ended his speech by describing his ideal balance of continuity and innovation.

Club News

Rotary Calcutta Metro City initiates a project to support the HIV Positives at Anandaghar and continues its support for Thalassaemics

Rotary Calcutta Metro City has decided to support a project of OFFER for Children Living with HIV Anandaghar or the 'abode of joy', run by Organisation for Friends, Energies & Resources (OFFER) is a unique Home solely dedicated to serving and bettering the lives of children living with HIV/AIDS (CLHAs). Located at Dakshin Gobindapur, 24 Parganas (South), Anandaghar is one of the three such private residential homes in the country that caters to the specific and special needs of CLHAs. Anandaghar provides residential support, education and skill development training in addition to integrated medical support along with Anti-retroviral Treatment (ART) to the residents. The residents range from toddlers to teenagers, many of whom are orphans. The children who reside at Anandaghar are enrolled at formal schools in the area; that was initially and still is a Herculean task given the prejudice that still exists in the minds of the people with regards to HIV/AIDS. OFFER initiated a unique effort in mainstreaming youth living with HIV from Anandaghar as well as from community through 'Café Positive' the only Café in Asia which is managed and run by HIV+ young adults. The corner stone of this venture which happens to be social inclusion, economic empowerment and the societal acceptance of people living with HIV / AIDS is now established. Beyond business, Café Positive has a far-reaching social impact and is a proof of concept that this marginalised community members can earn a living and live a life with dignity. These children have a very low immunity constantly and A constant challenge to keep these children healthy is a relentless challenge. They always face the menace of HIV infection; and we need to provide them with regular medicines along with multivitamins and Health Drinks. In addition to doctor's visits, diagnostics, a major need is for medicines. Medications for infections and general health for children living with HIV has to be provided.

Project Thalassaemia

Rotary Calcutta Metro City is continuing its project Thalassaemia this Rotary year too and is focussing on supporting the need for medicines for iron chelation along with raising funds for procuring leukocyte filters required to prevent WBC to go into the system of thalassaemics. The club also intends to provide Reagents for monitoring the thalassaemia patients pathologically which is very important for proper treatment. Towards this end, The Thalassaemia Society of India, our beneficiary partner in this project, has an equipped laboratory for the patients where various pathological and biochemical tests viz. Haemoglobin screening, Creatin, LFT, Sugar etc. Besides equipment, various reagents are required for the tests.

The club is already in process of reaching out to the possible donors and our supporting clubs across the globe to fulfil the commitments towards these two projects.

Rotary Calcutta Metro City supports RYLA at Krishnachandrapur



Rotary Calcutta Metro City was one of the hosts of a rural RYLA organized by Rotary Abahaman Kolkata with 100 RYLA campers held at the Krishnachandrapur High School, Bishnupur. PP Rtn Subhojit Roy conducted the introductory or

the Ice breaking Session.

PDG Shyamashree Sen on her visit to RID 3060's District Conference as RI Presidents Representative (RIPR) to Aurangabad



Congratulations

Dr Ramendu Homchowdhury for being selected as the District Governor Nominee Designate for RI D 3291!



" It was truly an honour to represent RI President Jennifer Jones at the beautifully managed and showcased District Conference of RI D 3060 held at Aurangabad, Maharashtra. I got the opportunity to meet PRIP Kalyan Banerjee alongwith other Rotary stalwarts as Dr Bharat Pandia among others. The sessions were meticulously planned and executed and I was bowled over by the hospitality and warmth of D 3060. Indeed being selected as the only PDG from my District (as on date) as a RIPR in this special year in Rotary's history when we have the first lady RI President is unique and momentous. I was happy that I could carry RIP's message and interacted with the august assembly through the 3 days. It was a journey worth every mile that i travelled and shall forever remain treasured in my 3 decades of Rotary life."

Creetings

Wedding Anniversary

Happy Anniversary Spouse

PDG Shyamashree & PP Rtn Sunando Sen for 18th January!