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BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METRO CITY



As July draws to a close the euphoria of the new Rotary year, Installations, decked up Rotarians for the evening show, speeches and speeches on the loop, banter and some inane small talks, the soft peddling of candidates comes to an end giving way to the serious business of Rotary. The entire period of June and July every 'pandemic free' Rotary year brings a question to the minds of many about the need and efficacy of an installation. Few years back our club's PDG had tried to mobilise an Installation free July, partially succeeded and gave us a wonderful program of a unified changeover on 1st July, but as with most good initiatives the successor promptly trashed it next year basking in the glory of the arc lights, gifts, flowers and same speeches on the loop. This again leads to a question why are good initiatives not followed by the successors is it personal glory, gratification, ego? Whatever the reason, it leads to loss of very precious money, man hours and quality project time for Rotarians as well as the leaders who bring it on themselves.

This year August is a very special year for Indians and hopefully the leadership at the District and India levels shall do something which shall leave a mark forever, 75 years of our Independence needs a befitting response in terms of a major project unifying the Nation.

A recent quote by the IPRIP on creating a federal structure of the movement left me baffled, for an ordinary Rotarian like me, this would mean growth of sub Nationalism within the framework of an International body creating a spirit of division and destroying the Universal fraternity, friendship and cooperation which is the essence of the movement and all this for more representation at the RI. Is it justified?

Let us all think of means to better the movement and keeping intact the quality of membership, retaining members and fostering friendship, cooperation and exchange with a global outlook rising over parochial and narrow gains as well as views.

EDITORIAL

Subhojit Roy

Rotary members aim to root out the global scourge of human trafficking

Combating human trafficking, a scourge which impacts an estimated 40 million people worldwide, is the goal of the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery and several cause-based Rotary clubs



A student at Pace prepares to celebrate the festival of Holi

When Dave McCleary first heard about human trafficking, it seemed like something that happened far away, probably overseas, but not in the United States and certainly not in his hometown.



RAGAS Chair Dave McCleary; 2021-22 RI President Shekhar Mehta; and Virginia McKenzie, founder of the Rotary Club of the Pacific Northwest Ending Sex Trafficking

Then one day he invited a speaker who knew otherwise to talk to his Rotary club in Roswell, Georgia. Her name was Melissa. She was originally from Roswell and had gone to the same high

school McCleary's girls had attended. Melissa dropped out at 16 and was offered a modeling job by a man who turned out to be a sex trafficker. For two years, she was trapped and trafficked in downtown Atlanta before police and a local organization helped her escape.

After the meeting, another Rotarian approached Melissa and gave her a big hug. McCleary asked him how he knew the young woman. He said she used to babysit his kids when she was 12, and he had wondered what had happened to her.

"For me, that was when it became real," says McCleary, who is now chair of the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery. "Now it wasn't someone else's problem. And I remember thinking at the time: Rotary – we're in 200 countries, with 34,000 clubs and 1.2 million Rotarians, and we tackle the tough issues. Why not slavery?"

Of the many global issues, human trafficking (or modern slavery, as it is sometimes called) is one of the toughest to combat. It's estimated that more than 40 million people are trafficked across the world. "It's probably the largest human rights travesty existing today," says Karen Walkowski, founder of the Rotary Club of District 5950 Ending Human Trafficking. "Bigger than all the refugees, all the displaced people. It's one of the three largest illegal industries, bringing in about \$150 billion in revenue every year."

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Sex trafficking is one kind of modern slavery, but there are others that fall under "labor trafficking," where people find themselves trapped in jobs in forestry, farming, restaurants, carnivals, and traveling sales crews of young people peddling magazine subscriptions, and they are not allowed to leave.

Meanwhile, in the U.S., at least three new cause-based clubs have been formed to fight human trafficking. In addition to Walkowski's club, there is the Rotary Club of Community Action Against Human Trafficking, which was started in Kansas, and the Rotary Club of the Pacific Northwest Ending Sex Trafficking, based in Seattle.

The latter was founded by Virginia McKenzie after a speaker from a local anti-trafficking organization told her former club, the Rotary Club of Seattle, about a fake advertisement that posted a 15-year-old for sale for sex. Within two hours it received 250 calls, mostly from downtown Seattle businesses. "There was an audible gasp," McKenzie says. "For myself, it was like I was struck by lightning. Instantly I felt cold anger, red hot fear, and deep sadness, all at once."

For several years, McKenzie worked on her club's peace building committee doing trafficking-related projects. Among other things, they trained 1,000 health care professionals to see signs that someone is being trafficked (such as marking tattoos, hyper vigilant escorts, not knowing what city they are in or what day it is) and how to respond in a trauma-informed, HIPAA-compliant way. But she wanted to do more, so she started the new club, which was chartered last year with 25 members – most of them new Rotarians, along with several who had left Rotary.

In Sacramento, California, there was a major Rotary-sponsored educational program, and in southern California, more than two dozen clubs have joined the Rotary Clubs Fighting Human Trafficking initiative. Meanwhile, the Rotary Club of Community Action Against Human Trafficking received several global grants to create a drop-in center for victims in Topeka, Kansas, and a plan to educate people on how to spot victims. And in February, the RI Board of Directors approved an anti-human trafficking resolution that encourages Rotary members to become more familiar with the growing problem of modern-day slavery and to work toward solutions.

Some success stories aren't even project related: A Rotarian in Argentina got a message from a woman in Mexico she knew through her network of activ-

ism groups. The woman had learned of a girl who was being trafficked in the state of Michoacán, where she was chained to a bed and tortured. The Rotarian in Argentina got in touch with the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery. Members of the action group reached out to their contacts in Mexico City, and the girl was freed within 24 hours.

"That's the kind of impact that Rotary can have," says McCleary, adding that he wants Rotary to do even more. "We believe that this is a movement, not just a series of projects."

This story originally appeared in the July 2022 issue of Rotary magazine

Rotary Fellowships amplify Ukrainian relief efforts



Rotary's global network has sent millions of dollars' worth of relief and medical supplies to help the people of Ukraine. Rotary Fellowships, which bring together members who have a shared interest or hobby, have amplified the impact of these efforts. Members of the flying fellowship leapt into action to help their fellow pilots as soon as the war began. George Chaffey, then-world president of the fellowship, says he and other members quickly contacted the Ukrainian members, who have been instrumental in identifying the most effective ways to channel the assistance. One of them has been Olha Paliychuk, a member of the Rotary Club of Cherkasy, Ukraine. Paliychuk, who is a doctor and working toward her pilot's license, has helped coordinate response plans through both the flying fellowship and the International Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals.

"Within a week we raised more than \$12,000 and a large volume of medical supplies, all cleared through Olha," Chaffey says. "We collect what the Ukrainians tell us they need and direct it to exactly where it is needed."

Chaffey says the fellowship members based in Hong Kong have arranged the delivery of more

By the numbers

- 40.3 million
People in forced labor, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and forced marriages worldwide
- 4,750
Dollars made per second from forced labor
- 71
Percentage of people in forced labor who are women or girls

Source: International Labour Organization

than \$25,000 overall in medical supplies. At one point, they raised more than \$10,000 in just four days for urgently needed medical equipment. Fellowship members worked out the details of the shipment in a message chat that spanned multiple time zones.

"Talk about speed and how technology has made the world a small place," says George Ritchie, the 2022-24 world president of the group. "I'd like to think our fellowship was one of the quickest out of the block to help."

Medical professionals

John Philip, chair of the International Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals, says he and the group's other leaders also acted swiftly to connect with its Ukrainian members, including Paliychuk. The group quickly developed an effective approach to aid and holds weekly meetings with medical workers in Ukraine about the supplies they need.

Ski event benefits Ukraine

Even sporting fellowships have joined the effort. The International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians organized a benefit week in Scuol, Switzerland, in March. More than 100 skiers from 16 European countries attended, raising about €35,000 (US\$35,000) to buy clothing and other goods that were sent to a warehouse near the border of Ukraine for distribution.

Long-term solutions

Philip says the healthcare fellowship quickly realized that it would need a more coordinated, strategic response than a single funding effort. Fellowship members have heard in their weekly meetings about long-term problems developing because of how people have been displaced and the infrastructure that has been disrupted. This includes reports of children going unvaccinated and chronic health issues going untreated. Having to respond so quickly to the events in Ukraine, Philip says, has shown the fellowship that it can mobilize to provide long-term care in response to other conflicts and natural disasters.

Club News

Coming Up:

- 2nd August'22: COVID Vaccination camp with Rotaractors & RN Tagore Hospital
- 7th August'22: Health Check up camp in association with RCC Vivekananda Mission Seva Pratisthan at Kasba

Rotary CALCUTTA METRO CITY D3291

IMAGINE ROTARY

PDG Shyamashree Sen
Speaks on "Jennifer & I."

An insight into the mind, vision and plans of RI's first lady President by a close friend!

7 PM **AUG 14**

Zoom ID: 788 355 1740
Passcode: RCCMC

Meeting starts at 7pm

Rotary ROTARY CLUB OF ADI BHOWANIPUR
RID 3291

In Association with
RUBY GENERAL HOSPITAL

Present:
Freedom from Cancer

Awareness Seminar cum Panel Discussions at
Rotary Sadan, on Friday 26th August, 2022, from 6:30 PM

Associate Clubs: R.C. Cal. Majestic, R.C. Cal. Metrocity, R.C. Cal. Charnockcity

Inauguration by: **PDG Amitava Mookerjee**
Resource Coordinator, R.C.C.

Moderator: **Dr. Chanchal Goswami**
Consultant Oncologist
Ruby General Hospital, Kolkata

Panelist:

Dr. Manish Kumar (Interventional Radiologist) | Dr. Anirban Deb (Consultant Pulmonologist) | Dr. Sayed Hassanrajjaman (Surgical Oncologist)
Dr. Sudipta Bandyopadhyay (Medical Oncologist) | Dr. Sanjoy Roy (Consultant Radiation Oncologist)

All Are Welcome

Greetings

Happy Anniversary to IPP Bandana & Rtn Shanker Das for 11th August!

Happy Birthday to Rtn Shanker Das for 19th August!

Club Leadership meets Rotaract leadership for setting Annual Plans



President Rtn Amrita Basu and Club Trainer PP Rtn Subhojit Roy met the Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers of Rotaract Clubs of Calcutta Metro City and GCELT at the Govt College of Engineering and Leather Technology campus in the presence of the Principal of the college.

The entire year's Plan of Action was worked out and notes exchanged between the sponsoring Rotary Club and the Rotaract clubs for the road map ahead. Several joint projects and programs have been finalised for RY 2022-23.

PDG Shyamashree Sen meets RI President Jennifer Jones at RI headquarters



From the archives: July 1911

This edition onwards of Metro Mail we shall revisit the archives of Rotary International

THE NATIONAL ROTARIAN

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

One year ago, when asked the question, "In what cities are there Rotary Clubs?" it was our custom to give the list. Now we find it easier to say: "There are Rotary Clubs in all important cities of the United States except Baltimore, Washington, Milwaukee, Louisville, Atlanta and Denver. There are also two clubs in Canada and we have strong reason to believe that we shall soon have a club in London, England, and another in Glasgow, Scotland."

But who would have thought to pick out the above group of American cities and label them with the badge of unprogressiveness "non-Rotarian"?

Let every Rotarian send to the National Headquarters the name of every person in those cities whom he knows and believes to be the right sort of which to make a good Rotarian; this, to the end that the next National Convention may include representatives from every important American city.

Some years ago I made discovery of the fact that I could associate just as enjoyably with a man who might be in a position to send me an item of business as with a man who could not by any possibility do so. The thought that a friend of mine might perhaps insist on thrusting business upon me possessed for me no terrors nor constituted an impairment of my enjoyment of his society. After this psychological phenomena had been given opportunity to fully soak in, I made application for membership in Rotary.

Across the big pond there are rich opportunities for Rotary. There was a time within your remembrance and ours when Great Britain and the planet Mars seemed about equi-distant, but luxurious leviathans have taken the "across the seas" out of the planetary class, and with the result that Liverpool now sounds scarcely more foreign than Oshkosh.

Adolescence in organizations carries with

it as convincing evidences as it does in humanity. When a boy has outgrown his suit of clothes, there is nothing within reason to do but get him another. When an organization has swelled itself to the point where it fills every chink and cranny of the land of its nativity, there is nothing rational to do but cast aside its national garb and don its vesture of internationalism.

To how great a percentage of the inhabitants of this globe does the acquisition of influence and power constitute the Ultima Thule of human ambition? How or to what end such influence and power is to be used is often deemed a matter of minor or absolutely no importance. One of the most powerful influences in the civilization of this day is the press, and yet many American journals whose tremendous circulations constitute indubitable proof of their influence and power, wield such influence and power with about the same degree of tender regard to principle and truth as would a bar room full of drunken sailors. It is to be hoped that THE NATIONAL ROTARIAN may possess an influence and the power to spread the principles of Rotary throughout the land and that its publishers may never become unmindful of the fact that the acquisition of influence and power means the assumption of great responsibility.

It is most pleasing to note how Rotary stimulates and brings forth ideas in all the clubs. Let us have a competition at the Portland Convention. We will give an award of merit for the best new and original idea for the advancement of the interests of the individual clubs. The Convention itself or a committee can make the award. Let each club endeavor to send its delegates with at least one new idea or suggestion.

PAUL P. HARRIS.

This edition of Metro Mail is sponsored by PP Rtn Subhojit Roy

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