

# ROTALORE

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Program Today

**29.04.2021**

**Alkaline Water -  
Technology and  
Benefits.**

**by  
Mrs. Preethi  
Nayak**

## What every Rotary club should know about running Virtual/In-Person meetings

*By Jim Marggraff, Entrepreneur and Member of the Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise, California, USA*



(Please click on the play button to watch the video)

Four years ago, my wife MJ surprised me with an unearthly question. “How can we keep Mars-bound astronauts connected with their loved ones on Earth?”

This question sparked a journey, though not yet to Mars... Instead, I embarked on a journey to understand social isolation on Earth, to develop new ways to connect remote loved ones using advanced technologies, to found another company, my seventh, **Kinoo.family**, and to **become even more deeply engaged with Rotary!**

While few Rotarians are likely to find ourselves hurtling toward the red planet, many of us do understand the feeling, if not the risk, of social isolation, and the



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desire to remain close to our friends and families. Strikingly, within months of COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020, nearly 80% of Rotary clubs embraced Zoom, or other video conferencing software, to host virtual club meetings and stay connected.

Recognizing both an opportunity and a need, Rotary International commissioned a Presidential Task Force to look at **how virtual connectivity can be used in Rotary's future**, and I was honored to be invited to participate. As an inventor and entrepreneur, having created the LeapFrog learning system, LiveScribe smart pen, and most recently, an eye-tracking company, Eyefluence (initially funded by Rotarians) that we sold to Google in 2016, I am comfortable applying cutting edge technology to gnarly problems.

With Zoom meetings came the opportunity for resourceful clubs to recruit world-renowned distant speakers, bringing them into their meetings in a virtual setting. Some clubs even began reimagining meetings, creatively exploring the capabilities of virtual connectivity, rather than force-fitting incompatible, traditional, in-person activities into a small screen of headshots.

**Inspired by our discussions within the Pandemic Task Force, I reached out to other Rotarians with an idea.** I quickly found support from Rotary International, from my Lamorinda Sunrise Club in the San Francisco Bay Area, and from a Rotary nonprofit I had co-founded, The Global Impact Group TGIG.org. The idea was to produce a video to help clubs see how easy it can be to host a “hybrid,” or virtual/in-person (V/IP) meeting, one that brings people together physically, while giving remote members simultaneous access to the meeting.

We recognized that the emergence from lockdowns, with clubs returning to in-person meetings, would still leave some members uncomfortable or unsafe, rapidly returning to their club venue. Also, in cities around the world, surveys have shown that some Rotarians have embraced occasional remote



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participation while traveling, or to avert commute traffic. Finally, virtual connection has opened the door to some extraordinary remote speakers, who are delighted to present to Rotarians via video chat platforms, and to field questions remotely.

**So my wife and I cleaned out our garage**, and with some industrious, masked and socially distanced LSR club members, we transformed our garage into a studio to film a *live* virtual/in person meeting to show how easy it can be to bring remote virtual participants to an in-person gathering, and vice versa. This allowed us all to have fellowship and real time exchanges!

We quickly realized, however, that our enthusiasm in mentoring clubs on hosting such hybrid V/IP meetings might not attract widespread viewing by clubs across Rotary. We knew we needed another hook to get more Rotarians to view our video and convince them to model our approach in their clubs.

Another spark! What if we could **attract some legendary speakers to help Rotarians look in a mirror**, to see who we really are at times of crisis, when the world needs us most?

On that thought, I reached out to my friend and colleague, Dr. Sten Vermund, Dean of the Yale School of Public Health, and within weeks, we created a lineup of Zoom interviews with global health experts and Rotary celebrities ranging from Dr. Anthony Fauci to Rotary CEO John Hewko and Rotary International President Holger Knaack.

Two resulting videos are available at **TGIG.org**. **Virtual/In-Person Meeting** is a 25-minute video of our garage meeting with the above celebrity speakers – and more, which is designed for you to show to your club. A second short 2-minute **Quick Start Video** shows you how easy it is to run an engaging Virtual/In-Person (V/IP) meeting. Thanks to Rotary International, this video is now available in eight languages!

So you need not be planning a trip to Mars, but dreaming of reaching the stars may spark a Rotary moment, and help you begin your own next Rotary journey!

*(Source: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org))*



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## Club Diary - 22.04.2021

### Every Step Matters By Mr. Privil Rodrigues



With the second wave of COVID-19 hitting our neighborhood it was decided to hold our weekly meetings online for the safety of our members and guests until it is safe for us to go back to holding physical meetings. Our members were already accustomed to this format and most of us did not find it difficult to switch to this format again. Members started to login at 7 PM for fellowship and at precisely 7:20 PM, President Rtn. Archibald called the meeting to order, and an invocation was rendered by Rtn. Vishal Mallya followed by President Rtn. Archibald welcoming the members and guests. With a brief introduction he also welcomed the chief guest of the evening Mr. Privil Rodrigues. Members celebrating their anniversaries during the week were wished. Members were informed that a letter was received from our District Governor

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informing that election for DGN 2023-24 will held through electronic voting system. Members were also informed that our Global Grant application for Human Milk Bank has been authorised by all District Governors and DRFC's of the clubs who are supporting this project financially through their District Designated Fund.

The Chief Guest of the evening was Mr. Privil Rodrigues and he was introduced by Ann Veera Katpitia. Mr. Privil Rodrigues is currently working as Alliance & Business Enablement Manager at Tech Mahindra. He is skilled in Leadership & Public Speaking, Partner Alliance Initiatives, Public Relations, Networking. A Passionate Toastmaster since 2018 who has served as the VP Education VP Membership & VP Public Relations at Tech Mahindra Bangalore Toastmasters Club. He is also driving the fitness initiative called Toastmasters Treaders an initiative to promote Fitness & Social Well-being. He is also part of an NGO called Being Social Ek Nayi Shuruaat. He was nominated by the CEO of Tech Mahindra, Mr. CP Gurnani for the Happiness Challenge. He spoke on the topic "Every Step Matters." Being a passionate walker, he wanted his friends and colleagues to be more physically active especially due to the sedentary lifestyle and also when most of the companies wanted them to work from home. He kept motivating them to take up physical activities and kept a track of their activities. He also checked upon them when they were not participating. He spoke on few health apps which incentivizes you to be physically active. He also mentioned that there



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are a few apps which donates to various causes for every step you take. He spoke on the health benefits of walking even for a short duration and wanted everyone to take walking as a form of physical activity especially during lockdowns. Vote of thank was rendered by Rtn. Vispi and the meeting was adjourned.

## Know Rotary

### TOLERANCE OF DIFFERENCES

Occasionally there is a temptation to criticize the laws, customs and traditions of another country which may seem strange or contrary to our own. In some instances illegal practices or customs of one nation are completely lawful and acceptable in another. As members of an international organization dedicated to world understanding and peace, it behoves Rotarians to exercise restraint in judging our Rotary friends and citizens from other countries when their behaviour seems unusual to us. A Rotary policy has existed for more than half a century relating to this dilemma of international relationships.

The statement, adopted in 1933, says that because it is recognized that some activities and local customs may be legal and customary in some countries and not in others, Rotarians should be guided by this admonition of tolerance: “Rotarians in all countries should recognize these facts and there should be a thoughtful avoidance of criticism of the laws and customs of one country by the Rotarians of another country.”



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The policy also cautions against “any effort on the part of Rotarians of one country to interfere with the laws or customs of another country.”

As we strive to strengthen the bonds of understanding, goodwill and friendship, these policies still provide good advice and guidance.

*Anniversary Greetings*

**Rtn. B. Srikant Kamath  
& Ann Veena S. Kamath**

25<sup>st</sup> Apr

**Rtn. B. Ganesh Nagvekar  
& Ann Saraswathi**

24<sup>th</sup> Apr

**Club Pulse**

**22.04.2021**

Club Strength	96
Present	43
Absent	53
Percentage	45%
% After Make-up	
15.04.2021	51%
08.04.2021	66%

**Weekly Meeting**

**Thursday  
At 7.00 PM  
Online Meeting  
(Zoom App)**

**Program Next Week**

**06.05.2021**  
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