



R.I. Dist. 3080

The Mid Towner

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Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown

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WILLIAM (BILL) BOYD

District Governor
DHIAN CHAND

President
DR. V.J.S. VOHRA

Secretary
R.K. LUTHER

Editor
ASHISH AHUJA

Programme



Please do attend

FRIDAY - AUGUST 04, 2006

Volume : XXXI No. 05; August 02, 2006

INSTALLATION OF RTR. SHIVANI GILL

President - Rotaract Club of Chandigarh Midtown, Dev Samaj College for Women

Chief Guest : Ann. Lovy Peter

Venue : Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Time : 7.00 P.M.

COMBATING BLINDNESS - EXEMPLARY EFFORTS BY INSTITUTE FOR BLIND

The meeting started with President Dr. V.J.S. Vohra congratulating DGE Shaju Peter who is on his way to 'Lead The Way' to his DG-ship next Rotary year, by presiding over 13 installation functions of various Rotary Clubs in District 3080. DGE Shaju has installed 13 Presidents during the current Rotary Year, which speaks volumes about his popularity in the District, thereby keeping Rotary Chandigarh Midtown in the forefront. The President also welcomed Rtn. Daljit Bais, a visiting Rotarian to our Club from Rotary Club of New Jersey, U.S.A.

The guest speaker, Maj. Gen. Rajendra Nath, PVSM (Retd.) was introduced by PP Capt. Moni Kahlon. Maj. Gen. Rajendra Nath has earned popularity and appreciation in his life not only as a very successful, seasoned army officer, but has also earned name & fame in the field of social service. Being M. Sc. in Defence Studies and having training from Staff College, Canada, to his credit, he was given challenging assignments which he discharged successfully. His career is a rare example of bravery and distinguished service for thirteen years. After his retirement from the army in 1982, he took to social work. Presently, he is the Chairman of the Institute for the Blind, Sector 26, Chandigarh, where he has been serving in this capacity since more than 24 years. Besides this, he has also

remained associated with CARES & SPCA, two other NGOs as their President.

He is not only endowed with the spirit of social service but has literary taste as well. He has authored several books namely, Military Leadership in India from Vedic Periods to Indo Pak War, Indian Security Threats & Strategies, Musharraf's War, besides several articles on military matters.

The General gave a very informative talk followed by an eye opening presentation on "Blindness in India" and "Institute for the Blind". He said 2% of India's population is blind and this figure is increasing with the population. The blind are now known as 'Visually Challenged' to make them socially acceptable. These persons are very intelligent, develop a sixth sense with a sharp memory & have self respect. They don't want to be treated as inferior to anyone else. They want :



..... the audience listens with interest.

Integration, not segregation ;

Liberation, not protection ;

Inclusion, not exclusion ; and

Opportunity, not charity.

A visually challenged person can read your mind better than you could read his. They are as productive as any normal person. The Government has 1% job reservation for these persons but ironically, this is not being strictly followed.





Guest Speaker makes his presentation.....

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The General then described at length how the Institute for Blind, run largely on donations from the general public, was doing a pioneering work in improving the lot of these visually impaired students 140 of them - of Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal & U.P. by providing them educational & vocational facilities. The visually challenged students are taught through the system of "Braille Script", which is a dotted script by means of which the students read & write through the sense of touch by the tips of their fingers. Basic training in computer education is provided to blind students with a specially designed screen reading software JAWS. Text books of students in English, Hindi & Punjabi are prepared in the Institute with the help of 'Computerised Braille Embosser'. Training for typewriting in English, Hindi & Punjabi is given to the blind students on normal manual machines. Short - hand training in Braille script is also provided to them.



Visually Challenged Boys and Girls being imparted Vocational Training at the Institute

Students are encouraged to earn while they learn. They are taught traditional crafts like preparing floor dusters and table dusters of khadi, wax candles during festival days, caning of chairs, etc. The amount received from the sale-proceeds of these dusters, candles, chairs, etc. is deposited in their personal saving bank accounts. Every student, when he / she passes out of 10+2 class, has normally saved about Rs. 14,000/- to Rs. 15,000/- in this way. Besides this, every student gets two free uniforms in a year including Braille watches & educational material. Mobility & Orientation training is provided to both boys & girls students by trained instructors. Students can independently move around with the help of 'white cane' (stick) after this training.

The Institute has a well-equipped Braille library which houses more than 5000



Sweet b'day wishes for Pres.Vohra from
Rtn. Ravinder Krishan



Happy B'day - Rtn. Om Prakash

Braille books. The library regularly gets periodicals in English & Hindi.

The inmates of the Institute have been provided accommodation in clean & tidy hostels, with all modern facilities like solar water heating system, water filters & water coolers, etc. Apart from these, many recreational activities, indoor & outdoor games are also arranged for the inmates.

An annual health check up of the students and a free medical cover, including medicines are also provided by the Institute.



Our new (and punctual!) member Rtn. B.S. Channi Anniversery wishes for Ann Dr. Sudha & Rtn. Dr. B.R. Jain

Maj. Gen. Rajendra Nath invited Rotarians to visit the Institute at Sector 26, Chandigarh and said that our club could be associated with the Insitute. This inspired DGE Shaju Peter, Pres. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra, PP B.L. Ramsisaria, PP Pallav Mukherjee, Secy. R.K. Luther and Rtn. Om Prakash to become the Patrons of the Blind Institute by donating Rs. 1000/- each. President Dr. Vohra appeals to more Rotarians of our club to become Patrons of this prestigious Institute or offer their services in cash or kind for this very humane cause.

The vote of thanks was given by Rtn. Dr. Jawahar Luthra.

 - Editor



The Potato Garden

An old man lived alone in Minnesota. He wanted to spade his potato garden, but it was very hard work. His only son, who would have helped him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and mentioned his situation:

Dear Son,

I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my potato garden this year. I hate to miss doing the garden, because your mother always loved planting time. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. If you were here, all my troubles would be over. I know you would dig the plot for me, if you weren't in prison.

Love, Dad

Shortly, the old man received this telegram: "For Heaven's sake, Dad, don't dig up the garden!! That's where I buried the GUNS!!"

At 4 a.m. the next morning, a dozen FBI agents and local police officers showed up and dug up the entire garden without finding any guns. Confused, the old man wrote another note to his son telling him what happened, and asked him what to do next.

His son's reply was: "Go ahead and plant your potatoes, Dad.. It's the best I could do for you from here."

Moral:


No matter where you are in the world, if you have decided to do something deep from your heart you can do it.

It is the thought that matters not where you are or where the person is.

Believe in it!!!

- Contributed by Rtn. Ashish Ahuja

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'PRAGATI' - Intercity at Zirakpur

As already announced in the last Bulletin, members are once again reminded of the First Intercity of the year 2006-07 to be held at Ashirwad Banquet, Kalka-Ambala Road, Zirakpur on Sunday, Aug. 6, 2006.

This meet, comprising of clubs from Zone I to IV, aims at retention, extension and strengthening of Club Membership, and is being held under the counselling-ship of PDG Yogendra Dewan.

The timings are :
Registration 8:30AM to 10:00 AM
Meeting : 10:00 AM
Lunch : 1:30 PM

Spot Registration Charges :
Single - Rs. 425/- Couple - Rs. 750/-

Members are once again requested to participate in large nos. and further boost our club's image in the District.

GSE Team Member Selected

Our GSE Team Committee meeting was held under the Chairmanship of PP Dr. Balram Gupta, in the first week of July 2006, to select a candidate for GSE Team scheduled to visit RI District 2800 in Japan, in October 2006. The candidate selected by our club, Mr Munish Singal, an advocate, has finally been selected as GSE Team member by the District Selection Committee in its meeting held at Ambala on July 27, 2006.

This is the sixth consecutive year that we are having our candidate as a GSE Team Member.



CONGRATULATIONS HUNDRED PERCENTORS - JULY 2006



- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Rtn. D.R. Aggarwal | 9. Rtn. Atul Grover | 17. PP. Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee |
| 2. Rtn. Arjan Singh | 10. Rtn. R.P.S. Gulati | 18. Rtn. Om Parkash |
| 3. Rtn. B.B. Bahl | 11. PP. Rtn. Dr. Balram K. Gupta | 19. DGE Rtn. Shaju Peter |
| 4. Rtn. J.S. Bawa | 12. Rtn. Mrs. Saroj Jhavar | 20. PP Rtn. B.L. Ramsisaria |
| 5. Rtn. Surinder Singh Bawa | 13. PP. Rtn. Manmohan S. Kahlon | 21. PP Rtn. Dr. S.K. Sharma |
| 6. Rtn. Mrs. Davinder K. Singh | 14. Rtn. Santosh Khaitan | 22. Pres. Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra |
| 7. VP Rtn. G.S. Deep | 15. Rtn. Raj Kumar Luther | 23. Rtn. Balbir Singh Channi |
| 8. IPP Rtn. R.K. Goyal | 16. Rtn. Maharaj Baksh Singh | |

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS:

Rtn. Suresh Dhawan
Rtn. Mrs. Deepa Bhar



Aug. 07
Aug. 09



PUNCTUALITY DRAW :

Won by Rtn. Balbir Singh Channi

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