Women in Rotary

On October 05, 2018 the Chief Guest Rtn Mrs Poonam Gandhoke, Past President of Rotary Club of SAS Nagar, Mohali was welcomed by President Rtn Ashok Puri. Poonam Gandhoke was introduced by Rtn Arjan Singh as a Rotarian since 2001 and member of Rotary Club Mohali. She served as Club Secretary 2009-10, President 2013-14 and Assistant Governor 2016-17. Daughter of a senior Army officer, she had an excellent opportunity to see the diversity of India which built in her the cosmopolitan outlook. Her Army background helped her in becoming independent, self reliant and a successful entrepreneur. She got married to PDG Rtn Manpreet Singh Gandhoke and is blessed with three children and two granddaughters. Her journey in Rotary has been very enjoyable and purposeful. During her year as President she completed phase two of RVTC construction which helped in stopping the non-construction fee. Closed three matching grants project and did projects in all five avenues. She was awarded the Best President, Best Club and more. She has taken part in International and Indian medical missions. She has active exposure of Rotary at District and International levels.

Poonam was well equipped with facts and figures as she pointed out that it took 84 years after Rotary was started in 1905, as women were inducted in Rotary in 1989. Today only a little over 20% of world’s Rotarian are women. In India out of 1,42,010 Rotarians only 15984 are women which is a mere 11.25%. In our district out of 3220 Rotarians only 218 are women a mere 6.7%, as on 1st August 2018.

As per our Mythology woman is celebrated as the most powerful and the empowering force - the feminine energy, the one who creates all matter and consciousness. But we see diverse and conflicting views on the position of women, ranging from highest level of leadership as the goddesses, to limiting her role merely to an obedient daughter, housewife and mother.

Women have slowly started recognizing their true potential. There is no arena, which remains unconquered by women. Whether it is politics, sports, entertainment, literature, technology, its women power all along.

Poonam shared her experience as a Rotarian. Having joined Rotary Club Mohali in 2001 she enjoyed the fellowship, meeting people, hosting GSE Team, youth exchange, friendship exchange program, leadership and motivational training programs of Rotary. All this she implemented in her business to run it smoothly and professionally.

Women are the new growth factor. If we are able to channelize their energy in productive work in Rotary they can do wonders. They bring decorum in club, new ideas, warmth, love and compassion into our projects. By doing service women will enhance their own self esteem and thereby of their family. Therefore we need to encourage more women to join Rotary and dispel the myth that they are not welcome.

Poonam strongly feels that the role of women is most important in building not only the family but the society. That is why focus in Rotary this year is going to be on more women in Rotary. If we have more women in Rotary it will mean that more families are in Rotary.

She complimented our Club for having good number of women Rotarians and even five women Presidents. Poonam stressed for more Lady Governors in our District, whereas till now we had only one! She had very interactive session with our Rotarians and R’anns. She also held a lively quiz about women in Rotary as well as in District 3080.

On behalf of our club PP Kanan Diwan thanked PP Poonam Gandhoke for her impressive talk on an interesting topic, sharing her candid thoughts about Women in Rotary.

President Puri has introduced one minute inspiring talk by our members in our weekly meetings. To inspire our women Rotarians, the President invited Rtn Shuchi Thakur to be the first one.
Swachta He Sewa, a fortnight campaign on occasion of 4th anniversary of Swach Bharat Abhiyan was held at Civil Hospital Panchkula on October 02, 2018. PRIP Rtn Rajendra K Saboo was the chief guest and he donated e-cart for garden waste and horticulture use which was flagged off by him in gracious presence of Dr Yogesh Sharma CMO Panchkula and Dr Mankirat PMO Civil Hospital Panchkula. The staff of the hospital, Inner Wheel, Rotary and Rotaract took the swachta oath and participated in cleanliness drive and tree plantation. The nets for slum houses were donated by Rtn Anupam Jain. CMO and PMO thanked the volunteers and donors for their contributions and their efforts for clean and green India.

Swachta cum Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated at Govt Elementary School Peermashala, Zirakpur by our Club and Venus Army. Children performed skit on swachhta, songs, dance and poems. Drawings and estimate were prepared by PP BL Ramsasaria, Rtn Rajinder Rai and PDG Yoginder Diwan. PDG Shaju Peter and President are planning a project for supporting this school. Sweets were distributed to children. Rtn Shuchi Thakur provided snacks for Rotarians and guests.
Rotarians of Chandigarh Midtown having District Assignments as per Directory, released recently

1. PDG Shaju Peter – District Rotary Foundation Chair, Member Election Committee and Chair Measles & Rubella Vaccination
2. PP BL Ramsanaria – Chair District History
3. PP Dr VJS Vohra – Addl Secretary District Website and Coordinator Publications
4. PP Amarjit Singh - Addl Secretary Public Image (Social Media), Chair Grants Sub Committee and Co Chair District Conference (Audio Visual)
5. PE Salil Dev Bali – Addl Secretary Communications
6. PP Dr Balram Gupta - Chair Free Legal Aid
7. PP RTPS Tulsi – Member Fund Raising
8. PP Hanish Sethi – Co Chair Vocational Awards and Member Golf
9. PP Ajit S Gulati – Co Chair Adult Literacy
10. PP Gurdip S Deep – Member Public Relation
11. PP Ritu Singal – Assistant Governor Zone 3
12. PP RK Luther – Co Chair Stewardship Committee
13. PP Karan Diwan – Coordinator for Teach
14. PP Deepak Sood – Chair E Learning
15. IPP Dr Rita Kalra – Chair Communication (Literacy) and Member Women Membership Promotion
16. Rtn Dr Sanjay Kalra – Member Dental Awareness
17. Rtn Ashok Puri – Our Club President
18. Rtn Salil Chopra – Our Club Secretary and Chair Swachh Bharat

(In case of any error or omission, please inform the Editor)

Blood Donation Camp

Rotaract Chandigarh Midtown Orientation Seminar

85 units collected at PGGC Sector 1 Panchkula. President Ashok Puri, IPP Dr Rita Kalra, Rtn Nitin Kapur and Rtn Dr Sanjay Kalra are there to inspire the donors

IPP Dr Rita Kalra, PE Salil Dev Bali and Rtn Nitin Kapur inspiring the Rotaractors with President Rtr Shivansh Sharma

Moral Education

Talk on Moral Education and Adolescent at GHS Hallomajra by Rtn Dr Shashi Jain and Rtn Dr Harinder Jit Kaur

President Rtn Ashok Puri’s Thought of the Week

Learn to believe in yourself and your dreams and be your own biggest cheer leader while you are on the pursuit of those dreams

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Acknowledgement with Thanks
Mr GS Kang, IAS (Retd)                               Rs 91000
Rtn Sanjay Bhatia                                     Rs 5000
PP Rtn Subhash Bindra                                 Rs 2000

Birthday of Spouses
R’ann Pritpal Gulati                                 October 13
Mr Raj Karan Bhatti                                   October 18

Birthday of Rotarians
PP Rtn Amarjit Singh                                  October 13
Rtn Viney B Aggarwal                                  October 15
PP Rtn Prem Anand                                     October 15

Wedding Anniversary
R’ann Neera & Rtn Rajiv Gupta                         October 12
Rtn Dr Manjushri & Rtn Dr Anurag Sharma              October 14
Rtn Ritu & Rtn Sanjay Bhatia                         October 16

Won by PP Rtn Vinod Kumar Jawa

Punctuality Award

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