

# Rotary Club of Belvedere Gardens Calcutta

CLUB NO. 31255

R.I. DIST 3291



# Fragrance

## सुशब्द



R.I. THEME 2009-10

**Rtn John Kenny**  
RI President 2009-10

**Rtn Utpal Majumdar**  
Dist. Governor 2009-10

**Rtn Debajit Choudhury**  
President 2009-10

**Rtn Kishore Butta**  
Secretary 2009-10

**PRtn Alope Dey**  
Editor

VOL. XVI NO.:31 MEETS EVERY SUNDAY : THE ASTOR HOTEL AT 11.00 AM

DATED 23TH MAY, 2010

## Council Approves e-Clubs

*By Jennifer Lee Atkin*

*Rotary International News*

*The council approved continuing e-clubs during deliberations Monday.*

After more than an hour of debate, district representatives at the 2010 Council on Legislation voted Monday to make e-clubs a permanent part of Rotary International.

The measure, approved by a vote of 430 to 85, received loud applause. "This will allow Rotarians with physical disabilities or [scheduling] restraints to meet regularly and conduct service projects through the Internet," said RI Director Antonio Hallage as he presented the proposal to the Council. Representatives from Rotary's 531 districts are convening in downtown Chicago this week to consider more than 200 proposals, some that would make changes to RI constitutional documents.

Submitted by seven Rotary e-clubs along with the RI Board of Directors, the measure makes permanent the six-year-old e-club pilot project, which is set to end on 30 June.

Enactment 10-06 defines e-clubs as Rotary clubs that meet electronically. A separate amendment, approved by a vote of 311 to 197, allows for two e-clubs per district. E-club members have the same responsibilities as other Rotarians to conduct service projects and promote The Rotary Foundation. Some of the pilot e-clubs meet solely through online forums, while others combine electronic with in-person meetings. Each e-club makes that determination for itself. Noting that the average age of an e-club member is 47, supporters of the enactment noted that the clubs are an effective way to recruit younger Rotarians. "If our organization is to grow globally, we must embrace new ways to invite young members," said Lucinda General, the representative from District 5510 (Arizona, USA). The 14 e-clubs boast 360 members in 30 countries and geographical areas, and 586 service projects. E-clubs conduct meetings in Chinese, English, Finnish, Greek, Portuguese, and Spanish. Collectively, they have contributed almost US\$150,000 to the Foundation.

"I was worried that the e-club measure wouldn't pass," said Gerald Sieberhagen, of District 9270 (South Africa). "Anyone who had taken the time to visit an e-club site before this meeting would have seen

## FORTH COMING PROGRAMME

### DISTRICT NEWS

**29 May** : District Membership Seminar

Venue : Rotary Sadan.

Time : 3 pm – 7 pm.

Host Club : RC Belur.

No registration Charge

**6 June** : District RCC Award Ceremony

Venue : Rotary Sadan.

Time : 3 PM onwards

## ***DISTRICT ASSEMBLY REPORT***

The District Assembly of RI Dist 3291 for Rotary Year 2010-11 was a bit different for the previous assemblies being attended by President, Pres.Elect. and their team for 2010-11. This assembly had the all time high registrations crossing 1000 delegates and had a housefull post-lunch session. Shiv Khera, the key attraction gave a very simple suggestion to the Rotarians to transform their Dreams to Goal and according to him that is the key success factor for the success of any NGO.

## ***DISTRICT DIRECTORY***

Members are requested to book their copy of District Directory 2010-11. Cost Rs 150. The Directory has been officially released and would be made available from first week of June. Please contact PE Anirban Chaudhury & Incoming Secretary Rtn. Alope Dey

## ***WHAT MAKES A ROTARY CLUB GOOD AT RETAINING MEMBERS RATHER THAN JUST RECRUITING?***

Nothing works better than recognition. If members are properly assigned to work duties within the club, then it is easy to recognize the good job they do from the podium the following week by naming them. And recognition also helps to introduce new members to the club. Members soon figure out who does a good job at what. e.g., "Many thanks to Sally Smith for a job well done on last week's bulletin." "Thank you to Joe Smithers for a great job last week as Greeter."

– By Dan Herbert

## Council Approves Dues Increase

By Arnold R. Grahl

Rotary International

District representatives approved a US\$1 a year increase in dues during the 2010 Council on Legislation on 27 April in Chicago.

Representatives at the 2010 Council on Legislation approved Tuesday a US\$1 a year increase in per capita dues that clubs pay to Rotary International, starting in 2011-12.

The increase is only half the amount the RI Board of Directors had initially proposed. The original amount of a \$2 annual increase was based on financial forecasts projecting deficits for RI in coming years without a dues increase. But directors reduced their recommendation after a variety of recent financial indicators showed a more positive economic forecast for RI. Markets have improved considerably since the last fiscal year when the original

proposal was finalized, and Rotary's General Surplus Fund is well above the Council-mandated minimum reserves.

In addition, the Secretariat has been successful in making significant cuts in expenses, including expanded offshore operations in Pune, India. Other budget cuts have resulted in less spending for consultants, temporary help, volunteer expenses, publications, and postage. The RI Board and general secretary are committed to continued process improvements and cost reductions.

According to a five-year forecast presented to the Board last week, actual 2010 revenues are \$12 million below projections made in 2007, the last time the Council set the rate for per capita dues. But expenses are \$20 million below those earlier projections.

The Council action means that Rotary clubs will pay per capita dues to RI of \$51 per year in 2011-12, \$52 per year in 2012-13, and \$53 per year in 2013-14. Per capita dues are currently slated at \$50 for 2010-11. The measure will also result in an increase in per capita dues of \$0.50 per RIBI member each year beginning in 2011-12. The dues increase will allow RI's budget to remain profitable through 2013, but experience a deficit of about \$3 million by 2015. In encouraging the Council to adopt the increase, RI Treasurer Michael Colasurdo Sr. noted that dues are the primary source of financing Rotary's operations. "We face a formidable challenge in this area," Colasurdo said. "We need to invest in Rotary's future to ensure that we can strengthen and support our clubs, focus on increased humanitarian services, and enhance public image and awareness of Rotary." Several representatives commended the Board for scaling back its dues increase request. "Our RI dues continue to be the smallest portion of our dues and meals cost which our members pay," said Mary Beth Growney-Selene of District 6250 (parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin, USA). "The Secretariat has been fiscally responsible, while at the same time we all have higher expectations of Rotary International."

But representatives removed wording from the measure that would have allowed the Board to increase per capita dues up to 2 percent annually beyond 2013-14. A

number of representatives, including Past RI President Rajendra Saboo, argued that the provision would strip the Council of its role in establishing dues increases. The Council on Legislation meets every three years to consider changes to the RI Constitution, RI Bylaws, and the Standard Rotary Club Constitution. This year's Council convenes 25-30 April.

Representatives from Rotary's 531 districts consider more than 200 pieces of 2 legislation submitted by Rotary clubs, districts, and the RI Board of Directors.

## President, Rotary International Trustee Chair's Message -

### Why Rotarians Support our Foundation

Over the past months, I've had the pleasure of seeing a number of Rotarians and their spouses inducted into the Arch C. Klumph Society. I'm always interested in hearing why these Rotarians give so generously to our Rotary Foundation.

Their reasons vary. Bob Selinger, who experienced the practical assistance of his fellow club members during a health crisis, says that "you couldn't ask for a more giving or loving organization." Bill and Jean Wilson believe that by giving to the Foundation, they are "saying yes to a better world." Peggy Bloomfield was inspired to give by her son, Bill, also an Arch C. Klumph Society member. His reason for giving: "It's our responsibility to leave the sandbox better than we found it."

Of course, you don't have to give **US\$250,000** to have a good reason for supporting The Rotary Foundation.

Most Rotarians have humanitarian goals they want to achieve. And like recent Arch C. Klumph Society inductees Jack and Vivian Harig, they know that "giving to the Foundation allows Rotarians to do extraordinary things worldwide that they normally couldn't do themselves." Those extraordinary things are what make our Rotary Foundation so critical in today's troubled world, and your support is what makes it possible to continue this vital work.

Glenn E. Estess Sr.

Foundation Trustee Chair



### Council Approves e-Clubs.....

the huge value e-clubs offer to the organization. There's a huge opportunity for more e-clubs to be chartered." Some representatives expressed concern that e-clubs would introduce unintended

side effects if they were made permanent. "As the number of e-clubs increases, there may be a situation in which there is division

between the e-clubs and the ordinary clubs. I don't think that this is something we would want," said Chohei Hashimoto, of District 2650 (Japan).

Others noted that too many questions remained unanswered about e-clubs. "Which PETS [presidents-elect training seminar] does the president of the e-club attend, assuming he or she is not physically in the district? How does the district governor do his/her official visit?" asked Chris Offer, the representative from District 5040 (British Columbia, Canada). "Do we have to develop specific online training for one club in the district? There are probably more questions than answers today."

Douglas W. Vincent, of District 7080 (Ontario, Canada), said e-clubs presented an opportunity too valuable not to embrace. "This is not taking anything away from Rotary; it's adding to Rotary."

The Council will continue its deliberations through 30 April.