



# Rotary Club Of Sonarpur

R.I. District - 3291



**RI PRESIDENT: RON D. BURTON**

**PRESIDENT: GAUTAM RAY**



**DISTRICT GOVERNOR: RAJANI MUKERJI**

**SECRETARY: DEBASIS CHAKRABORTY**

**RI CLUB NO. 23960, CLUB CHARTER DATE 30TH JUNE 1986**

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## **Straight shooter**

*The Rotarian -- July 2013*

With his congenial manner and his inclination to keep things simple, Ron Burton has a natural ability to put people at ease. But don't let the easygoing demeanor of Rotary International's new president lull you into thinking that he doesn't get serious when it's time for business.

"If you ask my opinion, you're going to get it," Burton says, his neighborly look morphing into a solemn gaze. "When I feel strongly about something, I will argue like crazy for my position. I suppose that's sort of an ego thing, but if I discern that someone has a vested interest or may be looking at a personal economic benefit, I have a simple suggestion: Apply The Four-Way Test."

An uncompromising sense of ethics may be the only personal quality that the former president of the University of Oklahoma Foundation Inc. is willing to wear on his sleeve. "Like most people, I don't like to be told I'm wrong," he says. "But I can be convinced that there's another way to look at something, and sometimes I'll change my mind. If it's an ethical issue, though, you're not going to tell me I'm wrong. It's not going to happen. I've dealt with too many people over the years who wanted to misuse funds. I've looked them in the eye and said, 'I'm not going to jail for you or anyone else.'"

Burton says most of his career success came from being "in the right place at the right time." It started with growing up in a small town (Duncan, Okla., USA) in the postwar era and having a chance to operate his own business at age 13. "Delivering newspapers was a business back then," he says, recalling his days as a *Duncan Banner* carrier. "You had to buy your papers, buy your rubber bands, buy your bag; you had to wait for the papers, roll them, and deliver them; you had to collect, you had to pay your bill. Anything left over was yours."

When it came to meeting his future wife, Jetta, Burton was initially in the right place, but his timing was a bit off. Both charter members of the baby boom generation, they were born in the same year and at the same overcrowded hospital, where dresser drawers substituted for bassinets. But he arrived three months ahead of her. They had mutual friends growing up and finally met in high school, where they were members of the band. He was a junior and played trombone. She was a sophomore and played bassoon. Their first date was 18 September 1962. They tied the knot in college.

After 45 years of marriage, with a daughter, a son, and three grandchildren, Burton emphasizes that their life together has been a partnership, especially when it comes to Rotary.

"Jetta is my best critic," says Burton, a member of the Rotary Club of Norman. "She will level with me, on whether I made a natural and believable presentation – on all sorts of things. She's been supportive all along the way, from presidents-elect training seminars to district assemblies and conferences. If she had not supported me in this, I wouldn't be here today."

The vital role of the family in Rotary is at the core of Burton's beliefs. "When we talk about the family of Rotary, I know public relations is a part of that," he says. "But to me, it really is the family of Rotary. If you get your own family involved in this, with your own heart, and it expands to the world, that's the family of Rotary – that's community service."

Throughout his time in Rotary, especially during this past year of traveling



and meeting Rotarians from various countries, that perspective has helped Burton appreciate the diversity and ever-growing potential of the organization. "Speaking to Rotarians from around the world has made me more tolerant of different points of view," he says. "You learn that there is another way to do things, that there are differences in cultures and differences in individuals. But the basic tenets come through for all of us, no matter where we are. I'd like to think there are no regional differences in the integrity aspect of the organization, but I believe we may need to do a better job of working on that and highlighting it."

Burton is firm in his view of the relationship between Rotary International and Rotarians. "Rotary International is nothing more than an association of Rotary clubs, and the Secretariat is here to serve those clubs," he says. "Rotary International's job is to support the clubs, and Rotarians are the ones who do things. We need to keep that in mind. The Secretariat is a sacred place, and it should be respected, just like the office of the president. Our job is to inspire people, to act as an inspirational pivot point to bring the senior leadership in, to serve those clubs and districts so that we can make things happen. But Rotary International is not an end in itself."

Burton is enthusiastic about the success of his "first class" campaign, which aims to make the 2013-14 class of Rotary leaders the first in which every district governor and club president contributes to The Rotary Foundation. "We've already raised \$3.6 million, and we've only got 8,128 club presidents so far," he says. "All the governors are in, for the first time in history."

Success in fundraising was a hallmark of Burton's three decades of service at the University of Oklahoma Foundation. During his tenure, he notes, the foundation's assets grew from \$17.5 million to \$890 million. But that achievement is not on the short list of his proudest accomplishments.

"There are two things I take great pride in," he says. "One is that there was never a penny out of place – every single cent was always accounted for. The other is that, more than five years after I've left, except for subsequent retirements, everyone who was working for me is still there. I think that's a great testament that I did something right."

The management style that led to that success is unlikely to change much, but Burton, whose reading pleasure runs toward biographies of American presidents, believes that his experience watching and working with past Rotary presidents will help him hone an effective approach.

"I don't want to leave anyone out, but some of them do stick out in my mind," he says. "Bill Boyd had a big impact on me – he's a great communicator. I learned a lot about tolerance from Carlo Ravizza. Jim Lacy ran a great meeting and was businesslike in his approach. Jon Majiyagbe is a great role model as a gentle person with a steady manner. And then there's Frank Devlyn. I'll tell you what: If you don't like Frank Devlyn, I don't like you. It's that simple."

Seeing and expressing things in simple, straightforward terms is one of Burton's most apparent strengths. "If I had one wish for the American people," he says, "it's that they could go to one of the impoverished countries that Rotarians do so much work in and see how good we have it here."

For Burton, there's no doubt about how good he's had it. "I think Rotary gives me an opportunity to help make this world a little bit better and help give others a better life – not only my grandkids but other people's grandkids too."

A year from now, Burton will look back and measure his success by a standard that is pure Oklahoma: "At the end of the day, I hope to leave the woodpile just a little higher."

**We meet every Friday, 7.30pm at Hotel Park Palace, 49/2, Gariahat Road, Kolkata 700019**

# “ego”

## is the only requirement to destroy any relationship

## So, be a bigger person skip the “e” and let it “go” !

### Minutes of Meeting

**Meeting no. 1194**
**Dated 05.07.2013**

Sgt-at-Arms, Rtn. Swapan Kumar Paul honored new club President Rtn. Gautam Ray with caller, Gable and Hammer for starting the first RWM of the year 2013-14.

President Rtn. Gautam Ray calls meeting no. 1194 to order National Anthem led by Rtn. Bibhas Kr. Roychoudhury Minutes of the last meeting confirmed.

### Discussions

President thanked all club members for their active and whole hearted participation in Installation Ceremony and Charter Day celebration on 30 th June “ 2013. Members present reciprocated and thanked the organizing committee. Rtn Bibhas Kr. Roychoudhury & Rtn. Swapan Kr. Paul humbly expressed their feelings for being felicitated on the Charter day.

Members present congratulated Rtn. Swapan Kumar Paul, Rtn. Amal Bhattacharjee and Rtn. Dr. Malay Chatterjee for being recognized by RI District 3291 for their services. Rtn. Amal Bhattacharjee handed over the Club's award to the Club.

President informed that Syd. Sarifuddin of Usthi, who had undergone heart surgery, has been reported to be fit after recent medical checkup.

Members present discussed the status of the Helping Grant project and resolved to meet the fund deficit by allocating Rs. 50000.00, the sponsorship assured by Rtn. Rana Safui, and supplementing the rest from the club fund/ additional contribution of members, if need be.

Inauguration of the renovated and extended School Building at Ashram Anandam, Sonarpur fixed for 21<sup>st</sup> July 2013 in presence of District officials. Necessary completion report to be submitted immediately to EIRWT.

President requested members to give new and innovative ideas for Club projects. Rtn. Pradeep Choudhury shared proposal for a project to enhance Rotary Public Image with the help of Rtn. Biman Bhattachajee near Garia.

Rtn. Rana Safui showed his eagerness to arrange for speakers on 'Drug Abuse'. Members present accepted the same and resolved to have a seminar on Drug Abuse on 19<sup>th</sup> July ' 2013.

Stressing the need for a strong Rotary Family, members present resolved to have a Fellowship night on 19<sup>th</sup> July '2013.

Members present resolved to induct Mr. Mridul Chanda on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013 .

President handed over the business to the Secretary who announced the receipt of letters, bulletin from neighboring clubs and the upcoming District events before handing back the meeting to the President.

There being no other business, President terminated the meeting.

Members present: 13

Sunshine collection: 260

## British ophthalmologist receives top Foundation alumni award

By Dan Nixon , Rotary News -- 10 July 2013



Dr. Harminder Singh Dua, an Indian-born ophthalmologist in Nottingham, England, received the 2012-13 Rotary Foundation Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award at the Rotary International Convention in Lisbon, Portugal, in late June. He was nominated for the award by District 3030 (Maharashtra, India).

In 1981, Dua traveled from India to Pennsylvania, USA, as a member of a Group Study Exchange team, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Nagpur South, Maharashtra. Recalling the flight that began his trip, from Bombay (now Mumbai) to New York, he said, “Traveling with the sun, we had 24 hours of daylight. Isn't that a wonderful thought: Let there be no darkness. I had unwittingly captured, at least in part, the spirit of Rotary and the spirit for which I would work for the rest of my life.”

Dua, who is chair and professor of ophthalmology at the University of Nottingham, Queen's Medical Centre, has treated patients in the United Kingdom, India, and the United States and has shared his skills with students and colleagues around the world. Renowned as an authority on corneal disorders, he performs advanced surgeries.

While living in India, Dua performed thousands of free operations on poor patients with cataracts and glaucoma at free eye clinics sponsored by Rotarians and nongovernmental organizations.

“The poverty and simple lives of the villagers and the huge difference [the] operations made to them, and to the lives of children who had to spend time away from school to guide the people around, was plain to see,” he said. “There was no escaping the enormity of their need and our [medical team's] ability to fulfill some part of it.”

More recently, Dua is credited with discovering a previously undetected layer of the human eye that is located at the back of the cornea -- a discovery that was reported in the journal *Ophthalmology* in May. Called Dua's layer, it is much thinner than a human hair. Its discovery is expected to make corneal transplant surgery safer and simpler, and to contribute to knowledge about some diseases affecting that part of the eye.

In accepting the Foundation award in Lisbon, Dua said, “If I were to pick one defining period from amongst all the years, it will have to be, without any doubt, my trip to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as a Rotary Group Study Exchange team member. . . . [It] had a profound positive influence on my thinking and actions, and I would like to believe, through me, to so many others -- students, patients and colleagues -- whose lives I have touched.”

### Health Point



### Did you know?



### Four way Test

of the things we think say or do

- Is it the TRUTH? ● Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL & FRIENDSHIP?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

