



SUMITHRAN

"A WARM SMILE"

സുഖിതം



Major Donor Dr.G.Sumithran
District Governor

Governor's Monthly Letter
RI District 3211, 2023-24

CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

GML ISSUE # 3, SEPTEMBER 2023



DG Dr.G.Sumithran along with Vice Governor PDG.AKSM.Dr.G.A.George at the Arch Klumph Society Gallery in RISAQ, New Delhi.

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - SEPTEMBER 2023 [Excerpts]

The International Day of Peace takes place on September 21. The United Nations General Assembly declared this a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace through observing 24 hours of non-violence and ceasefire. It is not enough, as people of action, to simply avoid war. If we are to Create Hope in the World, we must aggressively wage peace.

My advice is to start small but think big. I look to Rotary members in Pakistan and India for inspiration. In March 2020, about 50 Rotarians from Pakistan met with around 50 Rotarians from India at Kartarpur Sahib, a shrine in Pakistan, honouring Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, practised in both countries. Tensions between the two countries barred many religious pilgrims from India from visiting the shrine. That is, until Pakistan opened a visa-free pathway to them in 2019. Earlier this year, Rotary members from opposite sides of the border again met at the shrine, with about twice as many participants.

Any work toward building peace needs to be brave and bold. What these Rotary members have done is just that. The Pakistani government took an important step toward peace when it admitted Indian pilgrims to Kartarpur Sahib shrine, but Pakistani Rotarians took the next step when they welcomed Rotarians from India as friends and family. That is Positive Peace at work. These peacebuilders did not stop there. Club representatives at this year's meeting signed twin club agreements to recognise their long-term commitment to continue to work together on more peacebuilding efforts, through joint meetings via video chat.

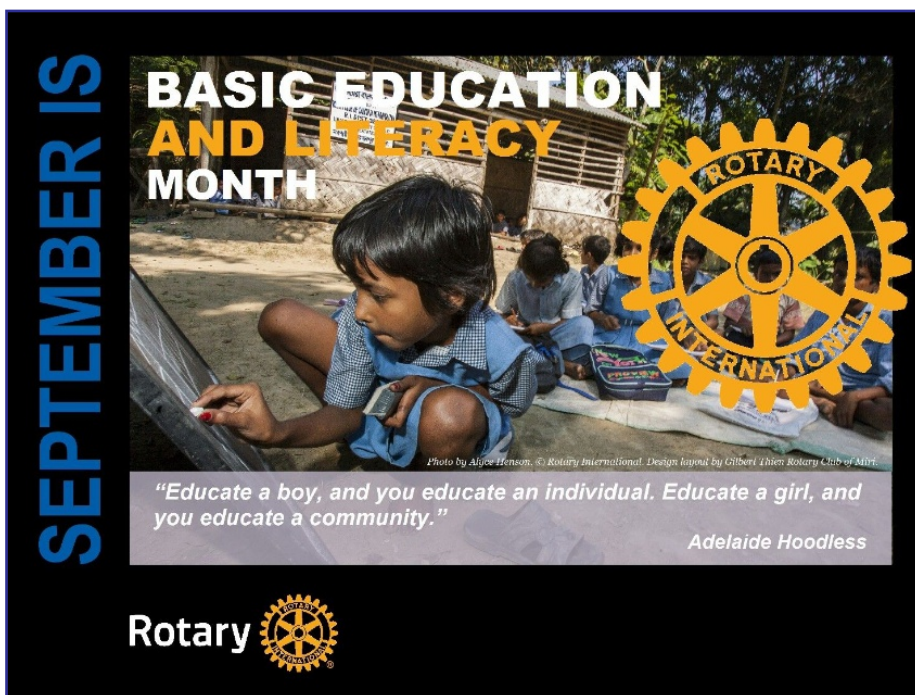
A virtual exchange uses online platforms to connect people from different parts of the world to share their traditions, priorities, values, and more. They can serve as a window to another part of the world through activities such as cooking class, learning a new language, or even designing service projects with a global impact. Taking that knowledge and using it to better the lives of our fellow human beings is the next step. Let's see where it takes us.

R Gordon R McNally
President, Rotary International



Our Independence Day, 15th August marks an important event in the history of Rotary International.

Representatives of 16 Rotary clubs gathered in Chicago from 15th to 17th August, 1910 and created the National Association of Rotary Clubs of America (now Rotary International). They adopted a constitution for the organization, and elected a president and board of directors.



FROM DG'S DESK.... MANKIND IS OUR BUSINESS !

Dear rotarians,

Every one of us is surely elated with the success of Lunar Mission CHANDRAYAAN 3, which put a lander on the South Pole of the Moon, for the first time ever in the history of mankind. Many rotarians who served with ISRO, in the past and at present, have directly or indirectly contributed. I congratulate them on their achievement.

By the time you read this, Onam would be over. Let me wish you and your family a pleasant, peaceful and prosperous Onam, enriched with generosity to others who need it badly. Already, many of our clubs have conducted Onam celebrations and distributed Onam kits, Onasadhya and Onakkodi to inmates of Care Homes, Palliative Clinics, Paediatric Ward of RCC, etc. This single action alone is a vivid instance of Rotary's humanitarian approach.

As far as Rotary is concerned, Mankind is our prime objective to deal with. All our programs aim at the overall well-being of humanity as a whole. Especially this year's District Project "SATRANGI" aims at absolute coverage of major health issues of our fellow beings; I am extremely excited to see that all Rotarians have taken it close to their hearts. The exemplary success of the Seminar on SATRANGI held on 30th July 2023 at Kundara epitomises the excellent acceptance of this meaningful project. Happy to witness the overwhelming enthusiasm exuberantly exhibited by all clubs of our district from Day#1 itself, for implementing various activities in tune with the objectives of SATRANGI. The dedicated Chairperson, Rtn.Dr.Meera John has put in considerable effort to keep up the tempo and momentum of the program at its present pace.

Friends, as you know, August is designated as Membership Development month. The future, nay, the very existence, of any organisation solely depends on the member factor. Let me express my gratitude to Rtn.Gopakumar Logic, Chairman (Membership Development), for his trendsetting style and involvement in fulfilling our dreams to hit the target of 6,000 members during the current Rotary year. The seminar on Membership Development, "EMBRACE ROTARY", successfully conducted on 20th August 2023 at Kollam, under his meticulous guidance, proves beyond doubt that our Rotarians are on the right path to write a new chapter in the history of membership growth in RI Dist 3211.



FIRST LADY'S COMMUNICATION

Dear friends,
In Rotary, August was the month of membership development and club extension. Membership development is very important, as it adds on the number of hands doing services. More members means more resources, in terms of money and manpower. This increases the public image of Rotary in the public. I am sure that this virtuous circle is known to all Rotarians and you all have put in your heart and soul into this movement.

On August 15th, all clubs celebrated Independence day in a patriotic way and also our harvest festival Onam, last week.

May the new Malayalam year usher in prosperity and purpose in our lives, with increased willingness to do good for others whom God has not made as fortunate as us. I wish you all my friends, a Happy and Prosperous Onam.

Yours in Rotary

Rtn.Dr.Smita Sumithran
First Lady-RID 3211 (2023-24)

Under the able leadership of Rtn.M.Kumaraswamy Pillai, our Focus Project SUDARSHAN is progressing briskly, with many clubs implementing it enthusiastically, with the end goal of contributing our bit to Reverse Global Warming.

Along with our Vice Governor PDG.AKSM.Dr.G.A.George and DSG Alex Koshy, I had the occasion to attend a Workshop at New Delhi on TRF Endowments, Major Gifts & CSR Grants. Nowadays, many individuals are giving away large portions of their wealth to TRF, convinced that it will be utilised wisely and transparently for Doing Good in the World. We are slowly realising that Giving will enable us to live and leave this world in a blessed state of fulfilment. I deeply appreciate the philanthropy of Rtn.PP.Mathew of RC Kottayam who generously agreed to donate 1.25 acres of his land in Kottayam for Rotary to construct 50 homes for deserving needy under "ABHAYAM - Home for the Homeless" Community Service Project of the District.

My dear Rotarians, we have to work hard for ten more months; I am confident that our mindset of doing good to the world will materialize all the dreams of our district.

Yours in Rotary

Rtn.Dr.G.Sumithran
District Governor, RID 3211

THE JUNE-TO-JULY MEMBERSHIP CHASM.... REASONS & REMEDIES

- PDG.Dr.Thomas Vavanikunnel, Asst Rotary Co-ordinator (Membership), RI Zone 5



Growth is imperative for the sustenance of any organisation.

Rotary, founded 117 years back with just four members, has considerably grown manifold over the years until the year 2023, but it is alarming to see that the membership has been declining in numbers, that too drastically during the last one decade. In spite of the persistent efforts of our global leaders, we couldn't control the drop in our membership figures.

Even though we claim to be an organisation of 1.2 million members worldwide, the total membership (as of 1st August 2023) is 1,167,919 Rotarians spread over 36,941 Clubs. Note that there was an overall membership loss of 12,614 over last year. Also note that the Rotaractors, numbering around 1,77,000 are also now treated as rotary members and subsumed into this total. Surprisingly, the number of clubs increased slightly, which tells a sorry tale. In India however, the numbers actually increased after a small decline in 2022-23, as the enclosed table (diligently compiled by Rtn.N.Bhaskaran Pillai of our adjacent District 3201) shows.

India: Membership Growth		
Date	Clubs	membership
1 July 2004	2,615	84,366
1 July 2005	2,615	84,796
1 July 2006	2,629	86,139
1 July 2007	2,676	88,922
1 July 2008	2,782	94,613
1 July 2009	2,891	101,099
1 July 2010	3,023	106,376
1 July 2011	3,086	110,470
1 July 2012	3,184	115,371
1 July 2013	3,235	117,191
1 July 2014	3,313	119,539
1 July 2015	3,493	131,664
1 July 2016	3,607	135,176
1 July 2017	3,715	138,989
1 July 2018	3,711	139,641
1 July 2019	3,843	145,756
1 July 2020	3,941	148,381
1 July 2021	4,266	156,406
1 July 2022	4,476	165,177
1 July 2023	4,537	164,098

Every year, the club and district leaders work really hard to bring in more members to our organisation but, like water flowing out of a leaky bucket, many members leave. Being a highly professional organisation with a corporate framework, Rotary International had made in-depth studies on this alarming threat and had come out with lot of suggestions to strengthen the organisation. Reducing the strict entry policy requirements, Rotary has opened its doors to any good human being to join by introducing flexible membership and attendance, new club models and many other novel initiatives.

As of 31st July 2023, our District 3211 has 159 clubs and 5006 Rotarians. This is as compared to 5098 Rotarians as on 1st July 2022. There has been a membership drop of 150 to 200 every year in June-July. A similar, but smaller drop (50 to 100) is noticed in Dec-Jan. It is no coincidence that this matches with the dates when the RI Dues instalments become due. Graphically depicted, this would resemble the serrations in a saw blade. This is where the chasm comes, showing that even after all these efforts, our District couldn't achieve the expected membership growth. Another interesting statistic is that 60% of members who leave, do so in the first 5 years of their membership. We were not able to retain members in our clubs. The reasons are not hard to discern.

On 13th June 2023, there were 12 clubs from our district in the Terminated list due to non-payment of RI dues. Also, many clubs formed recently are just pulling along, deteriorating to skeleton membership. Some reasons are:

- The new clubs were not properly mentored.
- Prospective members were not properly informed about the financial commitments in Rotary.
- Lack of pre-counselling for prospective members with Rotary information.
- No proper bonding between the senior Rotarians and new members.
- Not engaging the new members in service projects and other club activities

Indiscriminate formation of new clubs is thus not in the interest of quality membership growth.

What People do after joining Rotary (Results of an RI Survey]

First 5 Years : Networking, developing business and leadership skills

5-20 Years : Connecting with their community and providing service to others

20+ Years : Maintaining Friendships gained

As far as female membership is concerned, the numbers increased from 303 in 2019-20 to 345 in 2020-21 and further shot up to 434 in 2021-22. In 2022-23, it declined to 377. This year, it stands at 404. A quick look will reveal the reasons for this. In many clubs, the President makes his wife a Rotarian during his Presidentship year. He will also motivate his fellow Rotarians to do so, just to show a membership growth during his tenure. Only statutory RI Dues are charged for them, which does not directly benefit the club. In the very next year, most of these lady Rotarians resign and continue as Rotary Anns. Most of them are homemakers and continue to contribute in the same way which they did all along as Rotary Anns in the club. This "pseudo growth" is a bad practice and is to be avoided.

How can we retain membership and arrest and the big fall from June to July?

- Form a Revenue District and Zonal level membership committee.
- Form a membership committee in each club under the leadership of club Membership Chair
- The membership committee should follow up with each individual club and make sure that they have paid the club dues in time, to avoid termination.
- Make the weekly club meetings alive and active.
- Involve the rotary family members in club projects and family meetings. Conduct Ann's and Annette's Day celebrations.
- Attract new members by showcasing your club's service activities.
- Market your club properly so as to create a desirability factor in a person's mind to become a Rotarian, instead of going after him with a "persuasion" bowl.
- Never add new members in your clubs just for the sake of getting awards.

At present, we are conducting the District Awards function at the end of the Rotary year. It may be better that we do so after the current Rotary year expires on 30th June, so as to avoid the Membership Chasm I am referring to in this article.

Let us strengthen our clubs with more young Rotarians and female members in particular, to focus and increase humanitarian service and to enhance Rotary's public image and awareness.

Our District Governor Rtn. Dr.G.Sumithran has set a target of adding 1000 new members in the year 2023-24. I am sure that he will be able to achieve this target for our District. His new initiative of conducting Club Officer Training (COT) Programs is a welcome step in the right direction, to enable club leaders to make Rotary more interesting and effective so as to attract only genuinely interested members into its fold.

When we look back, membership retention is more important than adding new members. Many a time, we see senior rotarians backing out of activities or leaving the club when it gets swamped with new members. It is also seen that some new rotarian upstarts sometimes consider the older members as those who don't spend any money, but only give advice for everything. To them, I would ask whether they can match the 30+ years already invested by a senior person into Rotary (time, skills, experience and money). Also, whether they themselves will have the same level of enthusiasm which they are showing now, after 30 years. (Some persons joined Rotary with the sole intention of enhancing their status for temporary needs such as children's marriage and leave the very next year. Some only wanted to secure a US Visa on the pretext of attending an RI Conference. One of our clubs once admitted an artiste as club member just for the sake of getting an award in that year's FIRE.) So, consistency and sincerity to the club should be the watchword when selecting a new member.

Every club has its own personality and character. The criteria it uses for identifying new members, conceiving projects and organising club programmes varies from club to club. So, each club has to find its own solutions to retain its members and to identify and attract new individuals. It has also to be very choosy when it comes to admitting new members.

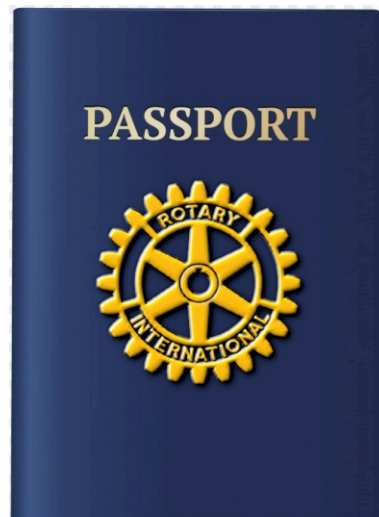
Let us join together to strengthen our organisation with members who are dedicated, socially responsive, who can afford the expenses of being a Rotarian and thereby enjoy the privileges that Rotary bestows. Let us make all efforts to retain our existing members, keeping them satisfied and motivated by the activities and the good work we do for our community and society.

NEW ROTARY CLUB MODELS

Growth of Rotary and membership development are the most important internal priorities of Rotary. Newer club models will pave way for better retention of members, greater acquisition of new members and higher number of starting new clubs. The whole idea is to have an affordable Rotary Club centered around service, with a flexible meeting schedule and lower costs. The traditional Rotary Club will of course, continue. Rotaract is now classified as a type of Rotary membership.

What is a Passport Rotary Club ??

A Passport Rotary Club encourages members to be engaged in service in ways that fit their time, talent and finances; to fit Rotary within their family, work and life commitments. Passport Clubs differ from e-clubs in that members live within a defined geographical region, and can get together occasionally for face to face meetings as well as monthly on-line meetings, with a relaxed attendance policy. Rotary Passport Club members are full Rotary members, with the same privileges and rights as Rotarians in traditional clubs. "Members have a "passport" to visit and work with any other Rotary Club in the world and to take part in activities, programs and projects that interest and engage them."



Membership in a Rotary Passport Club is a passport...

- into Rotary, for people with busy lives or many other commitments
- into other Rotary Clubs, members to visit other clubs and take part in their service projects, fundraisers, and activities
- into their community, by becoming ambassadors for Rotary in places in their communities where they already volunteer

The first one was chartered in Sacramento, California (D5180) on May 1, 2015. It had 60 members in the beginning, but grew to 90 within one year.

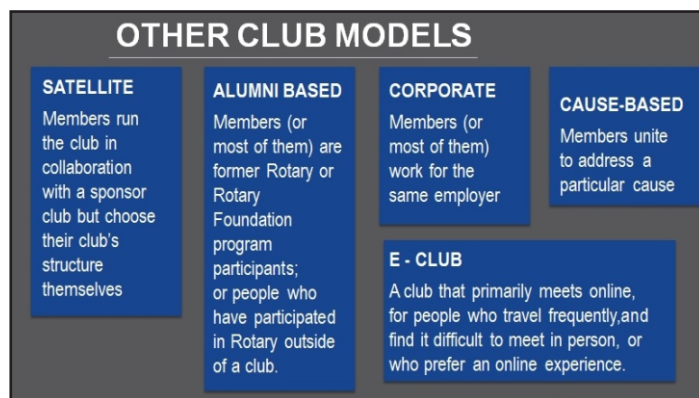
Passport Clubs are designed to be flexible, affordable and accessible to people who want to be Rotarians but find that traditional Rotary clubs don't fit their lifestyle. The unique element of a Passport club is that they have fewer in-person meetings. A club might meet six times a year instead of weekly meetings. Members have a "passport" to visit other Rotary clubs. Passport clubs use measures other than meeting attendance to gauge club health. For example, some passport clubs require their members to participate or perform service for a minimum number of hours per year, which can include attending meetings of their own club or any other Rotary club, helping other clubs with fundraisers or projects, or participating in a service activity outside of Rotary.

Club meetings can be social gatherings, service activities, virtual meetings, or fundraisers.. Not all members have to attend to make it a valid club meeting, as long as it is open to all members and visitors.

The benefits of a Passport club include:

- Flexibility : Different options for getting involved.
- It accommodates members' busy schedules, allowing them more choices for fitting Rotary into their lives.
- Engaging meetings : Meetings can focus on service and socializing rather than speakers and meals. By visiting other clubs' meetings, members can learn what other clubs are doing and bring new ideas to their club.
- More connections : Members quickly build relationships across the district and beyond with younger members.
- Stronger service projects : Connecting with members of other clubs presents opportunities for clubs to partner on service projects to create greater impact.

- Affordability : Costs are kept to a minimum because meetings don't have to include meals.



THE NEW MEMBERSHIP TYPES OF ROTARY

The recent Council on Legislation changes allows clubs to create alternate membership types. Although Rotary International has only two types of membership - "Active" and "Honorary" - clubs are free to have other types of membership, but only "Active" members are included in the official count of club members.

1. FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: The Family membership consists of any family member (e.g. Spouse, Partner, Adult aged Child). Family members are all active members and have all the same rights, privileges and obligations as other members. Obligations include payment of RI dues and District dues, Annual club dues as determined by the club (with a reduction for all family members after the initial family member), Meal/beverage costs as determined by the club.

2. CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP: The cost for corporate membership, as determined by the club, may be higher than the individual membership because the Rotary club agrees to include the corporate name as a sponsor of their club. The actual membership fees would be determined by the club. Corporations designate two employees to become active in the club with all of the normal requirements and responsibilities of club membership. The corporate CEO or his/her designee may attend any of the club's meetings at any time without charge but have no responsibilities of membership. In this example, RI would consider each corporate membership to count as two members.

3. YOUNG ROTARY LEADER MEMBERSHIP: A Rotary Club may induct Young people who are 35 and under and who demonstrate leadership in their profession and meet all the qualifications of Rotary membership as Rotary Young Leaders membership program. Young Rotary Leaders may be allowed to pay reduced fees for their first five years of membership.

4. INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP: A Rotary Club may induct to the club as introductory membership. New members can join at a reduced rate for the first six months and a bit higher rate for the second six months. After the first year of membership, they have to pay the standard rate.

5. TRIAL MEMBERSHIP/ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: The goal of a trial membership is to give both the individual and the club an opportunity to get to know each other, allowing an individual to become familiar with the club, its members, its programs and projects, and the expectations of membership, which should improve retention. The trial member should have a mentor, attend a new member orientation and obtain a sponsor. The trial member does not pay dues until inducted after the trial period ends. The trial member has no voting privileges nor can this member hold office. This membership level is not considered to be an "Active" by Rotary International.

6. EMERITUS MEMBERSHIP: Emeritus Status may be awarded to those Rotarians who were long term exemplary members of the Club and who, for various reasons, can no longer actively participate in regular meetings/events. This status is to be considered an honour for service and gives the recipient a continuation of belonging to the Club. The name of a candidate for Emeritus status is proposed to the club's Board of Directors in writing, and the Board shall determine the election. This status remains in effect until revoked by the Board. Emeritus members do not vote, cannot propose new members to the club, may not hold office and are exempt from attendance requirements. The Emeritus Member is a member of the club but not a member of Rotary and does not pay dues.

7. FRIENDS OF ROTARY: A Rotary Club may invite interested people to join club as Friend of Rotary or Friendship membership". It is designed for members who are interested in helping the club and taking part in projects, but who cannot commit to meetings. Friendship members have to pay a reduced amount for snacks and meals. If the Friend becomes a full member in the same Rotary year, that amount is prorated and deducted from regular membership fee.

8. SENIOR ACTIVE: is a form of membership reserved for members who have provided substantial years of service to Rotary and is usually regarded as a mark of Rotary distinction. Being a senior active member signifies that a Rotarian has been involved in club activities over a long period. It is important to remember, senior active is not a classification it is a type of membership. A senior active member is always identified by "former classification," which describes a business or profession.



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Almost all the clubs celebrated Independence Day with patriotic fervour on Aug 15. Just a few of them are given below.

RC Paripally Town constructed and donated a flagpost to Govt LP School, Paripally.

RC Trivandrum Phoenix celebrated Independence Day at Asha Bhavan, a Care Home run by Govt of Kerala.

RC Alleppey Coir City conducted Flag hoisting at St. Antony's school. Rotary Anns of the club also conducted various competitions for 27 mentally challenged children at Buds School, Aryad.

RC Trivandrum Cosmos conducted a medical camp at PRS Court Apartments, Pulimood, Tvm on Independence Day.

RC Trivandrum South donated 50 sandalwood saplings, which were planted by children of Sree Chitra Home at the premises.

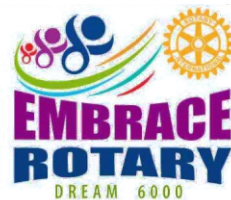
RC Kozhuvanal celebrated Independence Day at Girls Town, Kozhuvanal.

RC Kayamkulam Palace undertook Food Distribution to the inmates at Govt. Ayurveda Hospital.

RC Kollam Residency celebrated Independence Day at S.N Trust High School, Kollam with a Rally.

PDG.K.Babumon has been selected as Member of the National Adult Literacy Committee of RILM (Rotary India Literacy Mission) for the year 2023-24. PRID Kamal Sanghvi is Chairman of the Committee.

Hearty Congratulations & Best Wishes on this prestigious assignment!!!



RI District 3211
DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR
20TH AUGUST 2023
YOUNUS CONVENTION CENTRE
KOLLAM

The District Seminar on Membership was held at Kollam on Aug 20. PDG.C.Sivagnanaselvam, Regional Membership Co-ordinator RI Zone 5 was Chief Guest, with PDG.George Sundararaj as Guest of Honour. Our own PDG.Dr.Thomas Vavanikunnel, Asst Membership Co-ordinator Zone 5 gave a detailed presentation. Thanks to efficient co-ordination by Membership Chairman Rtn.Gopakumar Logic, the event had excellent participation, entertainment and dinner.

OTHER CLUB NEWS.....

RC Quilon donated Rs 2,00,000/- for medicines for a poor patient suffering Guillain-Barré syndrome, a very rare but lethal disease. Miraculously the patient recovered very well and is convalescing. The club also conducted a Rotary Eye Camp.

RC Alleppey Coir City conducted an Anti Drug Awareness class to students of Thiruvampady HS, Alappuzha by on 9th August

RC Kazhakuttom distributed five tricycles worth Rs. 1 lakh, donated by DGN AKSM.Sudhi Jabbar.

RC Alleppey Greater donated tiffin boxes for free food distribution to the needy in Alleppey municipality.

RC Tvm Phoenix inducted 5 new members.

RC Pathanamthitta South conducted a Cancer awareness program

IFCR 3211 Fellowship conducted Double Wickets Cricket Tournament at St. Xavier's Cricket Ground Thumba on Aug 12..

RC Kollam Royal City donated Sewing Machines to two needy women.

RC Ranny inaugurated two memorable projects at Ranny Taluk Hospital. Provided a Public Address System to hear the announcement at every corner and painted the casualty building.

RC Chathannoor conducted an Ayurvedic Medical Camp in association with Doctors from JSM hospital.

RC Pala conducted a Friendship Day Tour to our neighbouring Rotary Districts.

RC Kottayam Southern installed a Water Purifier to provide safe drinking water at Cancer Ward of Kottayam Medical College.

RC Kovalam distributed Onam Kits to poor and needy palliative care patients in association with District Palliative Care Unit.

RC Marari has started organic vegetable cultivation in a specially demarcated area to support their innovative Organic Vegetable Stall at Kanjikuzhi.

RC Shertallay Town distributed Onakkody to the children of Mayithara children's home.

As its Signature Project, **RC Trivandrum Central** conducted Onam celebrations at Paediatric Ward of RCC, Trivandrum in a grand manner with a Magic Show, and donated a TV set.

RC Punalur Riverside conducted a Medical Camp at Thenmala Ecotourism Centre on 24 August 2023.

RC Quilon Lotus distributed Onakkody and Onasadhya to 70 inmates of Santhwanam Seva Kendra and Mayyanad Seva Samithy.



റോട്ടറി ക്ലബ്ബ് ഓഫ് ആലപ്പി ഈസ്റ്റ് സുവർണ ജൂബിലി ആഘോഷം: റോട്ടറി ഇന്റർനാഷണൽ മുൻ പ്രസിഡന്റ് കെ.ആർ.റവീന്ദ്രൻ ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്യുന്നു. ആർ.രാഘവനാഥ്, ബേബി കുമാർ, ജി.അനീൽ കുമാർ, കെ.പി.ഹരൻ ബാബു, ജി.സുമിത്ത്, പ്രശാന്ത് ജേക്കബ് തുടങ്ങിയവർ സമീപം.

റോട്ടറി ക്ലബ്ബ് ഓഫ് ആലപ്പി ഈസ്റ്റ് സുവർണ ജൂബിലി ആഘോഷം

ആലപ്പുഴ • റോട്ടറി ക്ലബ്ബുകൾ 118 വർഷമായി വിജയകരമായി ജീവകാരുണ്യ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ നടത്തി വരികയാണെന്നു റോട്ടറി ഇന്റർ നാഷണൽ മുൻ പ്രസിഡന്റ് കെ.ആർ.റവീന്ദ്രൻ. റോട്ടറി ക്ലബ്ബ് ഓഫ് ആലപ്പി ഈസ്റ്റ് സുവർണ ജൂബിലി ആഘോഷം ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്യുകയായിരുന്നു അദ്ദേഹം. ജീവകാരുണ്യപരമായ സേവനം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനും ജീവിതത്തിൽ ഉയർന്ന നൈതിക മാനദണ്ഡം പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും സൗഹൃദം വളർത്തുന്നതിനും വേണ്ടിയാണ് റോട്ടറി പ്രസ്ഥാനം ആരംഭിച്ചത്. പോളിയോ നിർമ്മാർജ്ജനം, അന്ധതാ നിവാരണം, അർബുദ ചികിത്സ, ഹൃദയ ശസ്ത്രക്രിയ തുടങ്ങിയ ജീവകാരുണ്യ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ വിജയകരമായി നടപ്പാക്കുവാൻ റോട്ടറി ക്ലബ്ബുകൾക്ക് കഴിഞ്ഞു എന്നും അദ്ദേഹം കൂട്ടിച്ചേർത്തു. ക്ലബ്ബ് പ്രസിഡന്റ് കെ. പി.ഹരൻബാബു അധ്യക്ഷനായി എ എം.ആരിഫ് എഫി, റോട്ടറി ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് ഗവർണർ ജി.സുമിത്ത്, റോട്ടറി ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് മുൻ ഗവർണർമാരായ ജോൺ ഡാനിയൽ, ആർ.രാഘവനാഥ്, കെ.എസ്. ശശികുമാർ, ഓർഗനൈസിങ് കമ്മിറ്റി ചെയർമാൻ ജി.അനീൽകുമാർ, ചീഫ് കോ ഓർഡിനേറ്റർ ബേബി കുമാരൻ, കൺവീനർ പ്രശാന്ത് ജേക്കബ്, സെക്രട്ടറി അനീൽകുമാർ ശിവദാസ്, റോട്ടറി ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് മുൻ ഗവർണർമാരായ ഷിറിഷ് കേശവൻ, കെ.ബാബുമോൻ, തോമസ് വാവാനിക്കു ന്നേൽ, കേശിനിവാസൻ, നിയുക്ത ഗവർണർമാരായ സുധി ജബ്ബാർ, ടിന ആന്റണി തുടങ്ങിയവർ പ്രസംഗിച്ചു.



RC Tvm South inducted 12 new members.



RC Thalayolaparambu honoured three outstanding farmers of the district for their sterling contributions to agricultural practices.

Commitment is an act, not a word - Jean-Paul Sartre.



[Anti-clockwise from Left]

1. **RC Desinganad Kollam** conducted an Oral Cancer screening camp at Rama Varma Club on 02-08-2023.
2. **RC Kozhuvanal** provided a Freezer worth Rs.25,000 to Karunya Bhavan Kozhuvanal on 2-08-2023.



NEWS



3. **RC Chengannur**, in association with IMA and Pathanamthiotta Orthopaedic Society, conducted practical training to 500+ children of AMM HSS on basic medical care for accident victims. They took an oath against drug abuse and donated First Aid Kits. The club also conducted a mega multispeciality medical camp on Independence Day for the general public, with Doctors from ten specialities, free blood test for life style diseases, Osteoporosis test, etc.

4. **RC Mavelikara** organised a mini multi medical camp at Bishop Moore Vidyapith, on 04.08.23, supported by Ahalia Foundation for Ophthalmology, IDA and VSM Hospital. More than 300 students were examined.



5. A proud moment for **RC Tangasseri** when its Global Grant Project "Save Kidney Save Life" worth US\$ 42,000 was inaugurated by DG on 23-07-23 at Matha Medical Hospital, Kollam. The club donated four dialysis machines and related equipments in return for five dialysis everyday totally free of cost for the patients recommended by the club, for a five year period.



6. Flagging off of the Mobile Diabetic care bus 'Padasparsh'- a project of **RC Parassala** by Hon'ble Governor of Kerala Sri Arif Mohamed Khan, a project worth Rs 70 lakhs.



7. **RC Karunagapally** conducted a Geriatric Medical Camp, which benefited many aged members of the public.

8. **RC Punalur Riverside** conducted a Pulmonary Disease Detection Camp at Govt HS Ottackal, in association with National Service Scheme.

9. **RC Kadakkal** conducted a medical camp for detecting life style diseases, along with awareness talks for the public.



9. **RC Kadakkal** conducted a medical camp for detecting life style diseases, along with awareness talks for the public.





സ്കൂളിന് ശുചീകരണ സാമഗ്രികൾ നൽകി



എഴുപുന്ന എൻ.എസ്.എസ്. എൽ.പി. സ്കൂളിന് അരുൺ റോട്ടറി ക്ലബ്ബ് ശുചീകരണ സാമഗ്രികൾ കൈമാറിയപ്പോൾ

അറവുകാട് ഹൈസ്കൂളിൽ ടോയ് ലെറ്റ് ബ്ലോക്ക് നവീകരണം

ആലപ്പുഴ: റോട്ടറി ക്ലബ്ബ് ഫണ്ട് അലക്സി സെൻട്രലിന്റെ ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് പ്രൊജക്ടിന്റെ ഭാഗമായി അറവുകാട് ഹൈസ്കൂളിൽ ഹൈസ്കൂളിന്റെ ടോയ് ലെറ്റ് ബ്ലോക്ക് നവീകരിച്ചു നൽകി. പുന്നപ്ര തെക്ക് പഞ്ചായത്ത് പ്രസിഡന്റ് പി.ജി.സൈനുസ് ഉദ്ഘാടനം നിർവ്വഹിച്ചു. സ്കൂൾ മാനേജർ പ്രൊഫ. കെ.എസ്.എസ്.എസ്. റോട്ടറി പ്രസിഡന്റ് ഡി.എസ്.നന്ദകുമാർ, സെക്രട്ടറി തുളസിദാസ്, സർവീസ് പ്രൊജക്ട് ചെയർമാൻ സി.ജയകുമാർ നമ്പിരസലാം, ജോജി, വിനോദ്, റെജി, രാമകൃഷ്ണ, ജോജി, എന്നിവർ പങ്കെടുത്തു.

SATRANGI - Support to Schools

Top Left - RC Tiruvalla handed over play equipments to MTLP School, Kizhakkamuthoor.
Left - RC Kulanada funded for Cleaning Eqpt at Govt HS



പ്രാഥമിക ചികിത്സാ കിറ്റുകൾ നൽകി

ചെങ്ങന്നൂർ: റോട്ടറി ക്ലബ്ബ് ആവിഷ്കരിച്ച പദ്ധതിയായ സർവ്വംഗിയുടെ ഭാഗമായി പൂത്തൻകാവ് മെട്രോപ്പോളിത്തൻ ഹയർ സെക്കൻഡറി സ്കൂളിനു പ്രാഥമിക ചികിത്സാ കിറ്റുകൾ നൽകി. ഇന്ത്യൻ മെഡിക്കൽ അസോസിയേഷൻ ചെങ്ങന്നൂരിന്റെയും മിഡിയ വിങ് ചെങ്ങന്നൂരിന്റെയും പത്തനംതിട്ട ഓർത്തോപീഡിക് സൊസൈറ്റിയുടെയും സഹകരണത്തോടുകൂടി പ്രാഥമിക ചികിത്സയിൽ അറവുകാട് കുന്നത്തിന്റെ ഭാഗമായിട്ടാണ് കിറ്റുകൾ സംഭാവന ചെയ്തത്. അപകടത്തിൽപ്പെടുന്നവർക്കു വൈദ്യസഹായങ്ങൾ എങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യണമെന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കു പരിശീലനം നൽകി. ഡോ. ഷൺരീലി പുതുമനയും ഡോ.ആർ. ജയകൃഷ്ണനും ക്ലബ്ബുകൾക്കു നേതൃത്വം നൽകി. ക്ലബ്ബ് പ്രസിഡന്റ് ഡോ. ബിജു സി. തോമസ് അധ്യക്ഷനായി. ജില്ലാ കോ-ഓർഡിനേറ്റർ അയ്യങ്കേണൽ കെ.ജി. പിള്ള, ഐ.എം.എ. പ്രസിഡന്റ് ഡോ. കുര്യവിള ജോർജ്ജ്, ഐഎസ് സക്കീരിയ, ജേക്കബ് ഫിലിപ്പ് തുടങ്ങിയവർ പങ്കെടുത്തു.

SATRANGI - Medical Camps

[Anti-clockwise from below] - RC Kundara Central, RC Kundara Midtown, RC Haripad Greater, RC Kuravilangad



ചേർത്തല ടൗൺ റോട്ടറി ക്ലബ്ബിന്റെ ആഭിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ മതിലകം ഗ്രീൻ ഗാർഡൻസ് ആശുപത്രിയിൽ സ്ഥാപിച്ച രക്തം കംപോസ്റ്റ് ബർതിലൈറ്റുകുന്ന ഉപകരണത്തിന്റെ ഉദ്ഘാടനം ഡോ. മീരാ ജോൺ നിർവ്വഹിക്കുന്നു.

രക്തം കംപോസ്റ്റ് പരിശോധനാ യന്ത്രം നൽകി ചേർത്തല ടൗൺ റോട്ടറി ക്ലബ്ബ്

ചേർത്തല: ചേർത്തല ടൗൺ റോട്ടറി ക്ലബ്ബിന്റെ ആഭിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ മതിലകം ഗ്രീൻ ഗാർഡൻസ് ആശുപത്രിയിൽ രക്തം കംപോസ്റ്റ് ബർതിലൈറ്റുകുന്ന ഉപകരണം സ്ഥാപിച്ചു. അനുപതം ലക്ഷം രൂപയോളം മുതൽമുടക്കുള്ള ഉപകരണം ചേർത്തലയിൽ ആദ്യമായാണ് സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നത്. ഇതരനേതൃത്വത്തിൽ പരിശോധനകൾക്കായി ആലപ്പുഴയിലും എറണാകുളത്തും ആയിരുന്നു ജനങ്ങൾ പോയിരുന്നത്. റോട്ടറി ക്ലബ്ബിന്റെ മുൻ പ്രസിഡന്റുമാരായ സന്തോഷ് കുമാർ, വിനോദ് കുമാർ, സേവ്യർ ചൊള്ളയിൽ, ഡോ. ലൂക്കോസ് എന്നിവരുടെ ശ്രമഫലമായി ലഭിച്ച യൂണിറ്റിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനം ഉദ്ഘാടനം റോട്ടറിയുടെ ജില്ലാ പ്രോജക്ടായ സർവ്വംഗിയുടെ ചെയർപേഴ്സൺ ഡോ. മീരാജോൺ നിർവ്വഹിച്ചു. ടൗൺ റോട്ടറി ക്ലബ്ബ് പ്രസിഡന്റ് കെ.ലാൽജി അധ്യക്ഷത വഹിച്ചു. ഡോ.ജോൺ ഡാനിയൽ മുഖ്യപ്രഭാഷണം നടത്തി. ഒരു മാസം 20 യൂണിറ്റ് രക്തം റോട്ടറി ക്ലബ്ബ് ഫണ്ട് ചേർത്തല ടൗൺ നിർവ്വഹിക്കുന്നവർക്ക് സൗജന്യമായി നൽകാനും തീരുമാനമായി. മോഹനൻ നായർ, വിജയകുമാർ, സിന്ധുജി, ഇസ്മൈൽ ഫ്രാൻസിസ്, ഡോ. ബസന്ത് റായി, സിന്ധുജി സോണി എന്നിവർ പ്രസംഗിച്ചു.

ക്യാൻസർ ബോധവൽക്കരണ സെമിനാർ

പത്തനംതിട്ട: പത്തനംതിട്ട സൗത്ത് റോട്ടറി ക്ലബ്ബ് ജീവനം ക്യാൻസർ സൊസൈറ്റിയുമായി ചേർന്ന് ക്യാൻസർ ബോധവൽക്കരണ സെമിനാർ നടത്തി. റോട്ടറി ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് ഗവർണർ ഡോ. ജി സിന്ധുജി ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്തു. പത്തനംതിട്ട സൗത്ത് റോട്ടറി ക്ലബ്ബ് പ്രസിഡന്റ് ശ്രീമത്ത് അബ്ദു ക്ഷമ വഹിച്ചു. കൊട്ടയം കാരി തോമസ് റോട്ടറിയിൽ ഓരോജോജി വിഭാഗത്തിലെ സിന്ധുജി സർജൻ ഡോ. ജോജോ വി ജോസഫ് കൂടെ നയിച്ചു. സെക്രട്ടറി സജീവ് സ്വാഗതം പറഞ്ഞു. ജീവനം ക്യാൻസർ സൊസൈറ്റി പ്രസിഡന്റ് സന്തോഷ് കുമാർ, സെക്രട്ടറി ബിജു തുണ്ടിൽ, റോട്ടറി ക്ലബ്ബ് മുൻ അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് ഗവർണർമാരായ അഡ്വ. എ കെ സതീഷ്, പി ജി ശാഹാനിക്കാർ, ജിനു ടി വർഗീസ്, ജസ്റ്റസ് നാടവള്ളിൽ, ടി സി സുനീല, കൊട്ടമൺ ഗ്രാമ പഞ്ചായത്ത് വൈസ് പ്രസിഡന്റ് ധന്യാ ദേവി, ഗ്രാമ പഞ്ചായത്ത് വൈസ് ചെയർ എ ജി ശ്രീകുമാർ എന്നിവർ സംസാരിച്ചു.



SATRANGI - Cancer Care RC Pandalam donated Rs.5,000/- to a patient undergoing treatment.



SUDARSHAN ROUNDUP...

Clockwise from Bottom Left :



1. RC Trivandrum Central: Distributed tree saplings to 100+ students at Govt HS, Kattachakonam on Independence Day.



2. RC Alleppey Coir City: Awareness Class and inauguration of vegetable/flower garden at GHS, Alappuzha by Rtn. M. Kumaraswamy Pillai, Chairman, Sudarsan project.



3. RC Kanjirappally: Tree planting and Climate Change Awareness talk at St. George HS Manimala.



4. RC Pala: Inauguration of Sudarshan project by distributing saplings on Independence Day by Shri Jose K Mani MP.



5. RC Kottiyam: Shri.N.K Premachandran MP honouring Smt. Sosamma, who won several recognitions as best organic vegetable farmer, on Karshaka Dinam, celebrated by the Club

6. RC Erumely: Environmental Pledge taken by children of CCM School at Karikkattoor, with Tree planting and Awareness class.

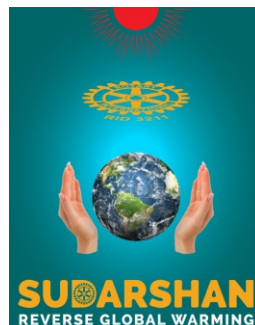


7. RC Trivandrum South: The children of Sree Chitra Home planting 50 sandalwood saplings. Programme inaugurated by Shri Antony Raju, Minister for Transport, Govt of Kerala.

8. RC Pathanamthitta Central: Installed Solar lamps at the campus of Catholicate College, Pathanamthitta, organised awareness programme for the students in association with the NSS unit.

9. RC Haripad Greater: Distributed saplings for creating vegetable and fruit bearing plants to children of Haripad International Model HSS on Independence Day.

10. RC Quilon East: Conducted a Tree Plantation Campaign at Lakeford School, Kollam.



YES.... I'M A PROUD ROTARIAN... [My Visit to RISAO, New Delhi]

- Rtn. PAG PHF.Kannan S.Prasad, RC Greater Changanacherry

നമസ്കരേ!!! 2003 വർഷത്തിന്റെ ആദ്യപാദത്തിൽ കണ്ണൻ എസ് പ്രസാദ് ആയിരുന്ന ഞാൻ, ജൂലൈ മാസത്തോടുകൂടി Rtn. കണ്ണൻ എസ് പ്രസാദ് ആകുകയും എന്റെ റോട്ടറിയിലെ ആദ്യത്തെ assignment ആയ Sergeant-at-Arms ൽ തുടങ്ങി ക്ലബിന്റേയും സോണിന്റേയും എല്ലാ ഭാരവാഹിത്വങ്ങളും ഏറ്റെടുത്ത് ഇപ്പോൾ 2022-23 വർഷം അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് ഗവർണ്ണറും ആയി. ശരിക്കും റോട്ടറി എന്തെന്നറിയാതെയാണ് ഞാൻ ക്ലബിന്റെ മെമ്പർ ആകുന്നത്. പിന്നീട് അങ്ങോട്ട് ഇന്നുവരെയുള്ള എന്റെ ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ ഒരു ഭാഗം റോട്ടറിക്ക് വേണ്ടി നീക്കിവെച്ച് ഉത്തരവാദിത്വത്തോട് കൂടി ഏറ്റെടുത്ത ഓരോ പ്രവർത്തികളും ഓരോ സ്ഥാനമാനങ്ങളും ഭംഗിയായിട്ട് നിർവഹിച്ച് ഒത്തിരി സന്തോഷത്തോടെ ഊറ്റം കൊള്ളുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന ഒരു റോട്ടേറിയനാണ്.

മറ്റൊരാൾക്കായി ഡൽഹിക്ക് പോയപ്പോൾ എനിക്ക് ഒരു ലക്ഷ്യം കൂടി ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. Rotary International South Asia Office സന്ദർശിക്കുക എന്നത്. ആ ഓഫീസ് കാണുകയും അവിടുത്തെ ആദിത്യ മര്യാദയും ചിട്ടവട്ടങ്ങളും അനുഭവിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തപ്പോൾ ഒരു റോട്ടേറിയൻ എന്ന നിലയിൽ ഞാൻ അഭിമാനിക്കുന്നു. ഓഫീസ് ബോയ് ഞങ്ങളെ വിസിറ്റിംഗ് റൂമിൽ ഇരുത്തി വെള്ളവും ചായയും ബിസ്ക്കറ്റും തന്നു. ഓഫീസിലേക്ക് കയറുമ്പോൾ തന്നെ AKS Members ന്റെ gallery യിൽ നമ്മുടെ District ന്റെ അഭിമാനങ്ങളായ AKS Betty Karan, PDG Dr.G A ജോർജ്ജ്, PDG. ജോൺ ഡാനിയൽ, DGE സുധി ജബാറിന്റേയും ഫോട്ടോകൾ അ ഗ്രൂപ്പിൽ കണ്ടപ്പോൾ ഒത്തിരി അഭിമാനം തോന്നി. അപ്പോൾ ഓഫീസ് സെക്രട്ടറി ഞങ്ങളുടെ അടുത്തേക്ക് വരികയും നല്ല ജോലിത്തിരക്കിന്റെ ഇടയ്ക്ക് നമ്മളുടെ കൂടെ വന്നിരുന്നു സംസാരിക്കാനും സമയം ചിലവഴിക്കാനും ആ ഓഫീസ് മുഴുവൻ എന്നെ കൊണ്ട് കാണിക്കുവാനും അവർ കാണിച്ച മനസ്സും, എന്റെ ഒന്ന് രണ്ട് office ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ അതാത്തിന്റെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്തപ്പെട്ടവരെ വിളിച്ചുവരുത്തി സംസാരിച്ച് 20 മിനിറ്റ് കൊണ്ട് എന്റെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ സാധിച്ചുതരാൻ അവർ കാണിച്ച ആത്മാർത്ഥത, രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ പല ഭാഗത്തുനിന്നുള്ള അമ്പതോളം ആൾക്കാർ അവിടെ ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്. വളരെ സുരക്ഷിതത്വത്തോടെയും അച്ചടക്കത്തോടെയും ആയിട്ടാണ് ആ ഓഫീസ് പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നത്. ഒരു റോട്ടേറിയൻ എന്ന നിലയിൽ വളരെ അഭിമാനം തോന്നിയ നിമിഷങ്ങളായിരുന്നു. ഓർമ്മവച്ച നാൾ മുതൽ റോട്ടറി എന്തെന്ന് കണ്ടും കേട്ടും അനുഭവിച്ച് മനസ്സിലാക്കിയ ഒരു റോട്ടറി ആനന്ദ് എന്ന നിലയിൽ ആസ്വദിക്കുന്ന എന്റെ മകൻ അദ്വൈത് കണ്ണനും എന്നോടൊപ്പം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

Yes..... I'm a Proud Rotarian!!!

ജയ് റോട്ടറി!!!



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WHY I JOINED ROTARY - AN "INFANT" MEMBER'S PERSPECTIVE

- Rtn. Prem Kumar Thampi, RC Trivandrum Central

Two years back, I retired from service after completing 36 years of banking career, with SBI and ICICI Bank, along with foreign stints as well. While it might seem like retirement should be a time when one can finally relax and enjoy the fruits of labour, it also led to some level of anxiety. This may be because our work brings a sense of usefulness and purpose. There is a lifelong desire to be a good provider for one's family, an achiever, and a useful part of society. My sense of self was linked to what I was doing for a living as a banker; and, I was worrying that with retirement, a sense of loss might occur which could lead to me struggling to understand who I am and what my values are. Retirement is also a reminder of the fact that I am aging, with fears about sickness, disability and finally departure from life.



In order to make an easier transition into the next stage of my life, I decided to take the retirement challenge headlong by:

- Ensuring that I stay active and keep both mind and body busy such as taking classes, participating in cultural events, doing volunteer work, or even taking a part-time job.
- Strengthening social and family ties by visiting my daughter, who lives abroad or other members of my family with whom I have been out of touch because of my work. Make new friends and network with like-minded people.
- Finding a new sense of purpose in life by doing volunteer work related to my former career or identify a cause which I cared deeply about.
- Try to fulfil my dreams of wanting to learn to play a musical instrument, travel to new places, etc.
- Develop a loosely structured and flexible schedule like what it used to be when I was working, so that I do not give my mind any opportunity to brood.

While I was going about executing these strategies to face the retirement challenges, I came upon this opportunity to join the Rotary movement. While I had made up my mind that I would join a local club for recreational purposes, this was unanticipated; I thought of giving it a try and went about trying to understand more about Rotary before I commit. I realised that Rotary could be a wonderful organisation to be associated with, a place for networking with like-minded people and making new friends as well as carrying out volunteer work – kill two birds with one stone. I said yes to the opportunity and soon the president of Rotary Club of Trivandrum Central, one of the many Rotary clubs operating in Trivandrum, contacted me and sought my biodata and family details, which I shared. He also clearly explained me in detail the club's process for joining - i.e., attend two regular weekly meetings and a family meeting along with my family, followed by an induction ceremony once my membership is formally approved.

Accordingly, I attended two weekly meetings which were quiet affairs attended by about 20 members and chaired by the President, assisted by the Club Secretary. These weekly meetings follow a set agenda with the President calling the meeting to order followed by a Rotary invocation prayer. Subsequently, the Secretary would present the minutes of the previous meeting, followed by President discussing the other actionables pertaining to Service projects and other club activities. The meetings ended with singing of the national anthem followed by fellowship and dinner. I was introduced to the other members of the club and warmly welcomed by all of them. The family meeting which was held on 27th May, was a grand affair with all the club members attending the event with their families. Me and my wife thoroughly enjoyed it and was overwhelmed by the warmth and affection with which we were welcomed. Subsequently, the club President Dr. Ranjit Suseelan invited me to join as a Rotarian of Rotary Club of Trivandrum Central.

My induction ceremony was held on 14th January, 2023 at Laguna Beach Resort in the outskirts of Trivandrum; a solemn affair with me reading out the Rotary oath and receiving the Rotary Pin from Asst Governor Dr. M. Suresh Kumar. The Pin is a symbol of a Rotarian's commitment to Service above Self. It is a reminder that as a Rotarian, we have an obligation to Serve Humanity and Do Good in the World everywhere and to whomsoever needs Rotary service the most. The ceremony was followed by a cultural event organised by the club members and their families.

Post my induction, I started participating in all the weekly meetings and family get-togethers and slowly eased into the role of an active member of the club. I now proudly hold the position of the Club IT Officer, responsible for administering the Club's website. I look forward to widening my activities in originating and participating in service projects for our community; besides engaging with all other club activities, as an active member of the club in the foreseeable future. I am extremely thankful and honoured to be able to serve Rotary and thank all the members of RCTC for accepting me as a member.

Election of Club Presidents & Office bearers (ie. Club Director Board)

1). When is the President Nominee of a Club elected?

Except in the case of a Club which is younger than 18 months, the President Nominee has to be elected in the AGM of the Club at least 18 months before He/She takes charge.

2). What is the procedure in case of a New Club ?

At the time of formation of a Club the proposed Members should elect a President and a President Elect. President Elect will take over after the tenure of the President.

3). What are the qualifications of a President Nominee?

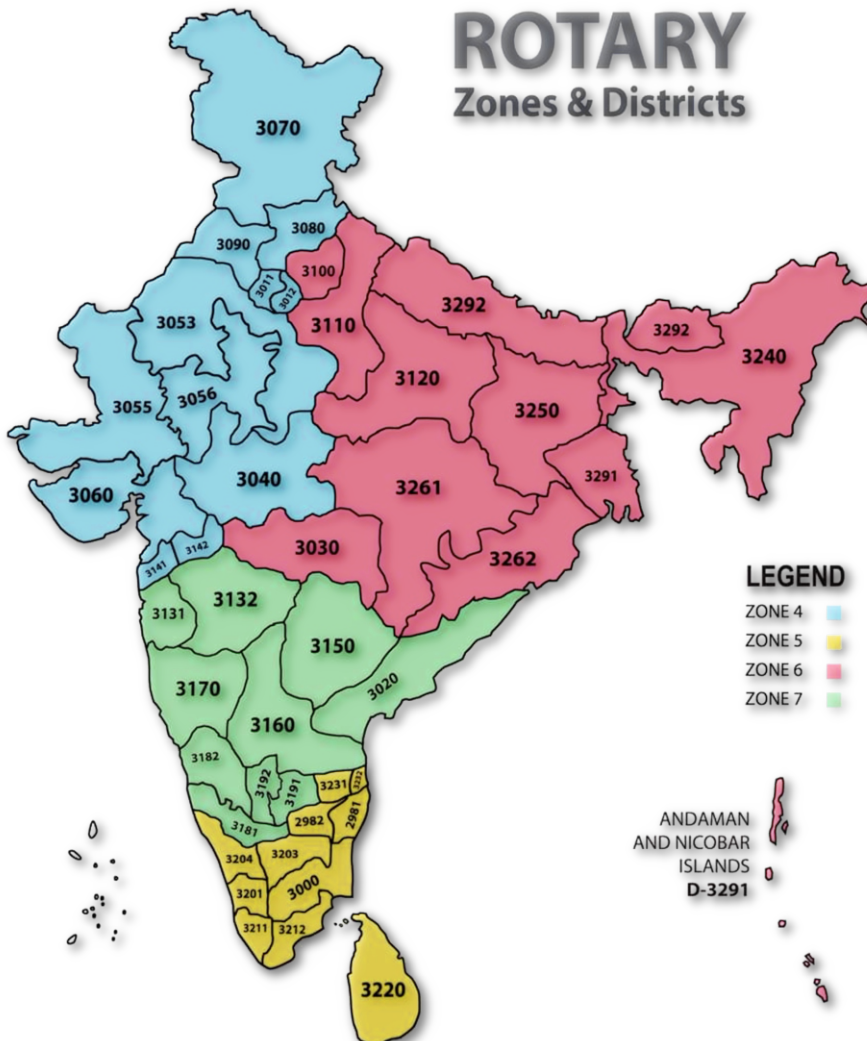
Should have completed at least one year as Rotarian. Exception being the age of the Club. District Governor can give exemption.

4). What is the tenure of the President?

One year from 1st July. Extendable upto one year if AGM decides.

5). When and how are the Director Board Members elected ?

At the Annual General Body Meeting of the Club, at least six months before they take charge on 1st July.



OBITUARY



Rtn. Binoy Thomas Panikkamuriyil of RC Mallappally passed away due to a sudden cardiac arrest on Aug 16. He was 61. An active member of the club, he was a keen athlete and sprinter. He was due to lead the Indian team for the Masters Open Athletic Meet to be held in Malaysia from September 16. He was Vice President of Pathanamthitta Athletic Association and also Secretary of Pathanamthitta District Petroleum Dealers Association.

May his Soul Rest in Peace and Almighty God give solace and comfort to the bereaved family members!!!

Mário César Martins de Camargo of Brazil selected to be 2025-26 Rotary International President

Mário César Martins de Camargo, of Rotary Club of Santo André, São Paulo, Brazil, is the selection of Nominating Committee for President to become Rotary International's president for 2025-26. He will officially become the nominee on 15 September if no other candidates challenge him.



De Camargo plans to boost Rotary's public image by working from the top down. "Rotary today has strong competition for members and funds," he says. "We need to rejuvenate the brand, especially in some zones. We should utilize post-pandemic meeting tools ... to allow the president to address Rotarians all over the globe. We also need to develop more long-term partnerships with political, community, and business leaders. Let's emphasize our greatest asset: 1.4 million volunteers."

He also hopes to improve Rotary's process for appointments and governance. "Rotary should adopt a more transparent system to appoint volunteers for positions, with clear criteria and data-based evaluation of results," he says.

De Camargo was president of Gráfica Bandeirantes and has been a consultant to the print industry in Brazil. He has also served as president and chair of several printing and graphics trade associations, including the Brazilian Association of Graphic Technology and ABIGRAF, the Brazilian Printing Industry Association. He has served on the board of Casa da Esperança (House of Hope), a hospital sponsored by his Rotary club that serves 150,000 children with disabilities every year. De Camargo studied in the U.S. and Germany and holds degrees from EAESP-Fundação Getulio Vargas in business administration and Faculdade de Direito de São Bernardo do Campo in law.

A Rotarian since 1980, De Camargo and his wife, Denise, are Major Donors and Benefactors of The Rotary Foundation.

The Incredible Journey of a Club Bulletin

- **Rtn.Tomi Eapen, RC Alleppey (53 years in Rotary & Rotaract)**

[Excerpts from the prelude to his book 'The Platinum Saga', to be published on 25th July 2024]

A Club bulletin is an integral part of a Club and the Clubs in the modern era do have bulletins since its beginning. But as old as 75 years old bulletin began may be the first and the oldest in the Rotary world. Perhaps the most illuminating embellishment of a Club is that it publishes a weekly Bulletin since the very next week of the Charter Presentation. The bulletin dated 1-8-1949 was titled "Members' Bulletin", Vol. 1, Issue No. 1", typed on sky-blue coloured manifold paper and carbon copied. Believe it or not, it never stopped its publication and the last week bulletin was numbered "Vol. 75, issue 3854 since 1 August 1949" The bulletin underwent many a refulgent transformation in its outlook, printing, content and quality. It was renamed as "ROYALWEEKS " which stands for 'Rotary Club of Alleppey Weekly Bulletins'. ROYALWEEKS has won a number of awards and recognitions incessantly over the years. In 1980, it was adjudged the Best Bulletin in India, by RC Muradabad in UP.

Next year, Rotary Club of Alleppey reaches a Platinum milestone, completing seven and a half decades of fruitful existence. The club has generated many District leaders which include a DG, 3 DSGs, 3 Dist. Assembly Chairmen, 2 GML Editors and a number of Assistant / Associate / Lieutenant and Deputy Governors.

Sponsored by RC Cochin, led by the charismatic Jewish Industrialist PDG S.Koder, RC Alleppey was chartered on 25.07.1949 as Club #7339, with 21 Charter members from among the elite of the town. The Club belonged to RI District 56, comprising of the State of Kerala, part of Madras and Mysore (now Tamil Nadu & Karnataka) States and the whole of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).

The club's major achievement in service is the establishment of Rotary Blood Bank at W & C Hospital, Alappuzha functioning since 1980. The Rotary Community Centre was set up in 1974 in the city. Over the years, it has transformed into full fledged venue for meetings and has hosted two District Conferences as well.

ROTARY INFORMATION ...

[Contributed by Rtn.K.M.Mammen, RC Chengannur]

Why does the Rotary year begin on 1st July ?

Ever wonder why 1 July is the beginning of the Rotary year? Initially, our conventions played a key role in determining the start date of our fiscal and administrative year. Rotary's last fiscal year began the day after the first convention ended, on 18 August 1910. The 1911-12 fiscal year also related to the convention, beginning with the first day of the 1911 convention on 21 August.

The next August, the Board of Directors ordered an audit of the International Association of Rotary Clubs' finances. The auditors recommended that the organization end its fiscal year on 30 June to give the secretary and treasurer time to prepare a financial statement for the convention and board, and to determine the proper number of club delegates to the convention. The executive committee agreed and, in April 1913, designated 30 June as the end of the fiscal year. This also allowed for changes to the schedule for reporting club membership and payments. Even *The Rotarian* changed its volume numbering system to correspond to the fiscal year (beginning with Volume 5, No. 1, in July 1911). Rotary continued to hold its annual

Rotary Sonnet

[This 14-line poem is entirely composed by ChatGPT, the Artificial Intelligence Platform]

In the realm of service, Rotary stands,
A beacon of hope, a guiding light so bright,
A noble quest, with purpose in its hands,
To spread goodwill, to aid in darkest night.

With fellowship as strong as ocean's tide,
In unity, they forge a path of grace,
Their hearts aligned, in service they abide,
A force for change, transforming lives they trace.

From distant lands to corners of the earth,
They reach with love, compassion's gentle art,
Through every trial, proving their true worth,
A legacy of kindness, they impart.

Oh Rotary, thy mission strong and clear,
With every act, a better world draws near.

[Will ChatGPT replace the GML and Club Bulletin Editors in the coming years? - Ed.]

Tongue in cheek...



Menu item at a recent District event

conventions in July or August until 1917. Delegates to the 1916 event in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, approved a resolution to hold future conventions in June, mainly because of the heat in cities where most of them occurred. The next one was held 17-21 June in Atlanta, Georgia. The term "Rotary year" has been used to signify Rotary's annual administrative period since at least 1913. An article in *The Rotarian* that July noted, 'The Rotary year that is rapidly drawing to a close has been signaled by several highly successful joint meetings of Clubs that are so situated as to assemble together easily and conveniently.'



Rotary Club of Chicago, the first club to be formed, put up this Plaque at their original meeting location (Room 711, Unity Bldg) when they celebrated their Centennial in 2005.

FAMILY PAGE

Passion for Cars and Motoring

- Rtn.Jacob Xavier Kayyalakakath

I am a Charter Member of Rotary Club of Pala (chartered in 1985).

My passion for Cars started way back during my School days in the 1960s. We had a few American Cars in my family those days. All were 6 or 8 cylinders - Studebaker, Pontiac, Dodge etc. I started driving at the age of 12. Because of my enthusiasm, the then drivers allowed me to take the wheel for short trips. Later during my college days in the early 80s, I used to attend several car rallies. My first car was an Ambassador. Later I got a Maruti Gypsy, which I used within the family estate. Then I shifted to a diesel Jeep CJ 500.

In 1985-86, I brought the first Mercedes Transporter (now Tempo Traveller) from Coimbatore N.Mahalingam & Co. Those days it was the first of its kind in Kerala with a yellow colour paint. Over 70% parts were German Made. If I remember correctly, the number was TAB 4988. I altered it to a 6 seater, with a table and 4 chairs, 1 twin bed, 1 all side covered bed for my kids, a Sanyo Mini Fridge and a coffee maker. Those days I had to travel to Madras once or twice in a month. Most of my friends have travelled in that vehicle for Rotary meetings in Tamil Nadu which was part of our Dist 321 during those days.

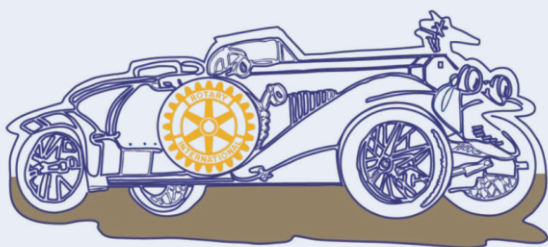
After my marriage, I used to occasionally take my wife Rani for a few Rallies. She didn't like the speed and risks involved, instead she started loving long trips and Interstate travel mostly in connection with my work. Participating in rallies and offroading activities needs many modifications on the car, including strengthening the chassis and increasing the height, stronger springs and shock absorbers, heavy duty tyres and wheels, and more. I have used both my Jeep and my Mercedes for this. The adrenalin rush of climbing over a boulder or water wading or rough hill climbing has to be experienced to be believed; I would not recommend it to the faint hearted. Our own state has many locations where offroading can be done such as in Wayanad, Devikulam, etc. Thanks to my estate properties, I had plenty of opportunities to explore rough roads.

In 1996 I requested my close friend in Abu Dhabi to get me a good second hand Mercedes W 123 240D. He checked out imported one from Germany and brought it to Abu Dhabi, where it was altered to RHD from LHD and from 14-inch wheel to 15-inch, due to our road conditions then. I used it for more than 20 years. In between I bought a W124 E 250D Automatic. It was a 5 cylinder diesel; for long trips, the comfort and confidence it gave was unbelievable. After all my children got married, I slowly started offloading two of my first Mercedes and later settled with a W 203 C 200 CDI. After using it for a few years, I met with an accident, slept while driving and hit an electric post at 1 am in the morning. Thanks to its robust construction, I escaped with minor injuries, but had to scrap the car because of the heavy damage. My experience in using these cars earned me the nickname Benz Pappan.



പാപ്പച്ചൻ കയറാലക്കകത്ത്
മാനരാം ന്യൂസ് ഫോട്ടോ





In early 2000, I took on a special task of getting a Limousine for my NRI friend. Though I advised him to import a good second hand one, he wouldn't listen. He needed one made created and built on an Indian Car. So after several discussions, I bought an Ambassador and drove down to Bombay. Before that, I made a few trips to check the companies doing automobile coachwork and also the costs. Finally we chose Parekh Motors. Money was of no issue. Every month I had to go there to check and report to my friend about the progress. I had also given them a plan, how the interior and exterior should be. It was delivered after several months; a stretched Ambassador with Scorpio headlamps and Honda City tail lamps along with lots of internal goodies. We drove it all the way to Kerala. The looks were so unbelievably beautiful, that at several places, we were forced to stop the car for people to gape and gawk at. The venture cost Rs.16 lakhs, which was a lot of money in 2006. My friend used it for many years before disposing of it.

I also had the task of creating a Caravan on a Tempo Traveller chassis for another friend of mine. This was an easier task as there was enough space inside.

Passing through so many years, I lost interest in all these and concentrated on agricultural development in my lands. Now I have modified my 53-year old Home and developed into a Home Stay, with a Swimming Pool, without losing the greenery around. Since it's in the middle of Pala Town, I named it Pala Central. I have also been interviewed about my Grandfather's first Bus Service in Kerala, started as early as 1910, which was published in Malayala Manorama a few years ago.

As an active rotarian, I have participated in many of my club's projects and am privileged to know many of our Rotary leaders. I was lucky enough to attend a few International Conferences too. During his Governorship tenure, PDG.Dr.Thomas Vavanikunnel designated me to accompany him for his Governor's Official Visits and conferences. In this way, I got the opportunity to visit more than 100 clubs all across Dist 3211. Though I am in Rotary for the last 37 years, then only I come to know how little I know about Rotary. I could learn immensely by going out with him. I am proud to be closely acquainted and have close friendships with many rotarians in southern Kerala. I am also grateful to do some Charitable Services for which I have been recognised more than a few times. Over and above all these, I am proud to be a Rotarian.

In conclusion, I suggest that we set up a Rotary Fellowship of Automobile Enthusiasts in our District to share car and motoring experiences. I will request our younger generation rotarians to come forward to make it possible, I shall be glad to assist in every way I can.

The Antique, Classic and Historic Automobile world Fellowship of Rotarians (ACHAFR) is dedicated to promoting the preservation and utilisation of antique, classic and historic automobiles as an opportunity for fellowship and service. The Fellowship was founded in 1988 and now counts twelve national chapters in Europe and North America as well as contact representatives in Australia, New Zealand, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay.

BULLETIN REVIEW...

[Reviewing a selected club bulletin of our District]



CENTRE OF THE WHEEL (RC TVM CENTRAL)

I am happy to read Issues 3-6, Vol.XXXVI of Centre of Wheel, the prestigious bulletin of RC Trivandrum Central. Thirty six years of uninterrupted publication, regularly every week, a great feat indeed. Wish that the issues could have been numbered continuously as done in the minutes, indicating the meeting number. Editor Rtn K Janardhanan Nair deserves full appreciation for filling up all 12 pages, striking a balance of RI news, Inter district news, District news, Club news, Member news, motivational stories and article on topics of interest. Notwithstanding that considerable amount of space goes for advertisements, there are adequate materials for a leisurely reading. The advertisement on the first page catches your eyes more than anything else. Looking at the front page, perhaps it will be difficult to distinguish between issues. (I found that this has been corrected and the advt. on the first page has been shifted to elsewhere in Issue #10). The Editorials are descriptive, written in a lucid style. The Editorials of #4 & 5 explain on Visioning and Goal Setting and the Editor, at the cost of repetition, might have thought to highlight the importance of the subject. Secretary's Reports are exhaustive and the engagements for the next four weeks are also included prominently. It was quite nice to see the cover page of The ROTARIAN, Issue 2 of August 1914. The caricature depicts service rendered by Rotarians is oiling the rotary wheel for its way forward, relevant even today. The write up on "Quality Time" by Annet Joanne Lisa Stanley is the icing on the cake. I liked the painting on the 'Historic Meeting' by Raja Ravi Varma and the article on the Hanging Bridge of Punalur. The article captioned "Death will be optional and ageing curable by 2045" by Dr K L Jayakumar is sure to kindle the imagination of Rotarians with life expectancy beyond 2045. "Empty your Cup (Classic Zen Story)" is also worth reading. It would be only appropriate to insert the source of the material for better transparency. To summarise, I have no hesitation in admitting that COW is a complete Club bulletin with enough material for reading.

- Rtn PAG M Kumaraswamy Pillai.

EDITOR'S CORNER

[The next few issues will feature Guest Editorials from Rotarians in our district. Any subject of topical interest is encouraged. Inviting our Rotarians to send their creations, limiting to 300-350 words. - Ed.]



The merit of Democracy and the Glory of the Idol

- Rtn.PP.PHF Rojes Jose, RC Alleppey Greater

[Chairman Alpha Academy and Genius Integrated School, Alappuzha]

Gandhiji explains what democracy is. If ten people participate in a race, only one will win. Democracy is when the winner turns around and cares, accepts and loves the nine losers and imparts the knowledge so that they too can become winners tomorrow.

Some time ago, in a country, the local people decided to build a place of worship and install an idol that provides prosperity and peace in the temple. An artisan sculptor carved a beautiful idol in black stone, taking many months to complete the work.

The locals decided to ceremonially bring the idol to their dream shrine, using the local washerman's donkey to carry the heavy idol. They bathed the donkey, which till then had only been scolded and beaten by the washerman, dressed it with ornaments, touched sandalwood, took out the idol and welcomed it with lamps. People, young and old, showered flowers along the road with cheers and garlanded the donkey. When they finally reached the shrine, they took the idol and placed it there.

By this time the poor donkey had become arrogant. He mistakenly believed that he had some invisible power and that is why the locals were bowing down to him. But the donkey did not have the intelligence to understand that it was the idol he was carrying that idol was being worshipped by the local people. After the idol was removed, no one paid attention to the donkey. Poojas, offerings and pats were gone. Just scolding and beating from the washerman as before. The donkey now began to harm everyone. The locals threw stones and chased him away from the area.

Some people in life are like the stupid donkey. They do not know the greatness of the position they carry. They will mistake it for their own glory. They become foolish and proud of themselves, not realizing that their glory is actually in the positions they hold. Certain positions will give us status, fame, and recognition, and each of us should be able to humble ourselves and not behave arrogantly.

Chief Editor : Rtn.R.Ravindra Kumar

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