



SUSMITHAN

"A WARM SMILE"



Major Donor Dr.G.Sumithran
District Governor

സുസ്മിതം



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

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

GML ISSUE # 6, DECEMBER 2023



AKSM.Krishnan G Nair &
AKSM.Rajashree Nair



AKSM.M.Mohanan Nair
& AKSM.Nirmala Kumari

Record Contribution to The Rotary Foundation from District 3211
Two more AKS Members, with commitment of \$250,000/- each

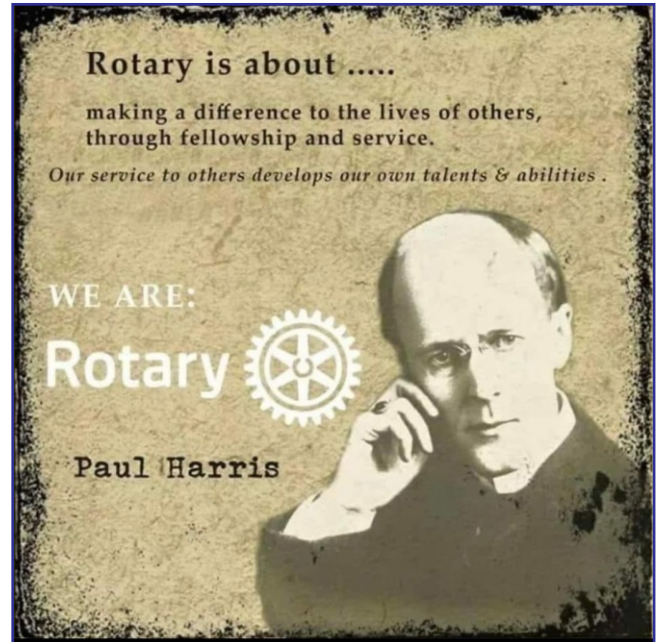
Rotary projects around the globe

United States: After a 2021 tornado and subsequent electrical fire damaged the African American Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky, a Rotary club in RID6710 acquired a \$10,000 disaster relief grant to restore the museum. Instead of just handing out the money, the club got directly involved with the preservation of artifacts. Rotarians attended workshops on archiving, and the club is assisting the museum in digitizing documents. The museum reopened in August, and Rotarians continue to assist with cleaning damaged artifacts, pictures, and equipment.

Jamaica : Advocates in Jamaica highlight a shortage of housing that meets the needs of people with limited mobility. RC Kingston funded a \$23,000 refurbishment of Cheshire Village, a transitional housing facility associated with a rehabilitation center. The club, supported by donations from RC Naples North, Florida, raised the height of toilets and added support bars and railings along restroom walls, installed new kitchen cupboards, sinks, and faucets to improve accessibility for people who use wheelchairs. A first phase, to install six solar streetlights, with the retrofit of existing streetlights, finished in June.

Portugal : RC Almancil International, has an active approach to serve children, notably those with autism spectrum disorders or Down syndrome. Members sponsor activities including surfing lessons and animal therapy. In June the club unveiled a sensory room at a school to serve students ages 5 to 16. The room, with state-of-the-art equipment including a soothing waterbed, music, and many sensory light and tactile objects can provide a sense of calm and help improve students' visual and auditory skills and help regulate their behavior. The project cost more than \$16,000. The club provided about \$5,000, with businesses and friends donating the remainder.

Sri Lanka : While sea turtles can live to be more than 100 years, as few as 1 in 10,000 survive to adulthood. Five of the world's seven sea turtle species visit Sri Lanka, but poaching for food and shells, along with disruption caused by recreation, imperils the creatures. The Rotaract Club of CINEC at the Colombo International Nautical and Engineering College in Malabe organized a public webinar to raise awareness of the vulnerability of turtles, coral, and other sea life. The club conducted an overnight operation to move turtle eggs out of harm's way. Rotaractors met at Rekawa Beach to help transport about 350 eggs to a conservation center for safe hatching. They worked by the light of cellophane-covered lamps to avoid disturbing the light-sensitive turtles, carefully digging around the nest to expose and collect the eggs.

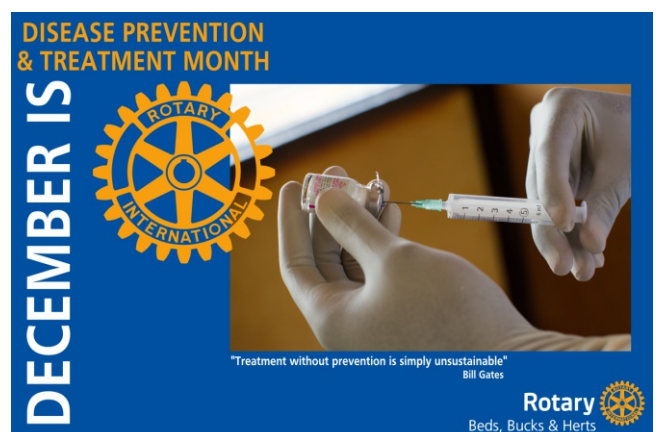


RI DUES - SUPPORTING ROTARIANS

Each of the 1.2 million individual Rotarians remits US\$ 70 every year as RI Dues. These funds are used to support rotarians, clubs, and districts. Here's how membership dues are allocated per capita :

Program and Member Services	: \$ 26/52
IT Operations & Administration	: \$ 19/22
Communications	: \$11/09
Finance	: \$5/20
Governance & Executive	: \$3/75
International Operations	: \$2/59
People & Talent; Legal & Audit	: 2/53

Source: <https://www.rotary.org/en/annual-report-2022/our-finances>



FROM DG'S DESK....

My dear friends in Rotary,

Greetings from RI Dist 3211.

November is moving on to December. As the humble leader of RI Dist 3211, I am overwhelmed with extreme excitement and contentment because our generous Rotarians rose to the occasion by contributing substantially to the TRF. Let me express my personal gratitude to them for their efforts to strengthen the basic cause for the long lasting existence of the wonderful organisation, Rotary.

Rtn.PAG Krishnan G. Nair really became a role model by his extraordinary magnanimity of getting into the list of AKSMs on the auspicious occasion of the recent TRF Seminar. Serving AG of Zone 27 Rtn.M.Mohanan Nair of RC Sherthallai is another committed Rotary leader who deserves our whole hearted appreciation and congratulation for his assurance to become the 6th AKS member of RI Dist 3211. We are also getting 13 Major Donors (3 of them Second Level). Besides, 17 clubs have offered \$10,000/- and above each to TRF. One club has agreed to become a 100% PHF club.

I have to specially mention about the conduct of the TRF Seminar "PUNYOLSAV" at KTDC Water Scapes, Kumarakom, one of the most panoramic venues of Kerala, in the gracious presence of PRID Dr.Manoj Desai, the chief guest on the occasion. The Seminar witnessed the participation of 1200 plus Rotarians including their Ifamily members. The meaningful Rotary event won the hearts of all the participants just through the unique way in which that was organised. Kudos to Rtn.Joseph Luckose and his mighty team from RC Vaikom Lake City.

I am also reminding you that our District Conference SYMPHONY is on April 27-28, 2024. The last date for the Early Bird Registration for Dec 31, entailing a free gift of a thawa. Please register in large numbers and make it a grand success.

And friends, you know that December is the month of Disease Prevention and Treatment, as per the Rotary calendar. So it's my request to you to implement suitable projects in tune with the principles of Rotary. The amazing performance of all our clubs in the avenues of services, especially in the District Project SATRANGI, are to be well appreciated and congratulated. Smita joins me to offer you a big salute for your wonderful support and co-operation for our smooth functioning so far this year. Earnestly expecting your continuous patronage.

Yours in Rotary

Rtn.Dr.G.Sumithran, DG, RID 3211



FIRST LADY'S COMMUNICATION

Dear friends,

'Punyolsav', our TRF seminar was a scoring success in terms of participation, content and contribution. Thank you for the ambience, awesome, ardent speakers and excellent food and fellowship. Everything skyrocketed on the declaration of the two AKS members, Rtn Krishnan G Nair and Rtn M.Mohanan Nair, who have generously contributed to a good cause.

GOVs are going on wonderfully well. Each club is different, so are the GOVs. Meeting Rotarians and families and interacting with them are new experiences for me and I am enjoying it.

FIRE Revenue District competitions have started; Pathanamthitta and Kollam revenue district competitions are over. Family involvement and talent hunt are the main highlights of FIRE, which is a unique program of RID 3211. Looking forward for the Alleppey, Kottayam and Trivandrum revenue competitions, and wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours in Rotary

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

ROTARY MEMBERSHIP: BALANCING AFFORDABILITY AND IMPACTFUL SERVICE

- PDG.Er.P.G.Muraleedharan

Rotary International, with its noble motto "Service above self," has been a beacon of hope and service for communities worldwide. Rotary members are people of action who bring about change in our own communities and around the world. Rotary's core values — Fellowship, Integrity, Diversity, Service, and Leadership — reflect a commitment to building strong, ethical, and service-oriented communities. The qualifications for membership, emphasizing good character, integrity, and leadership; professional and societal recognition; and a service-minded approach, underscore Rotary's dedication to fostering individuals who actively contribute to positive change.



However, the issue of affordability has emerged, particularly in developing countries, where the globally uniform rate of annual dues can be perceived as burdensome. Rotarians in such regions often find it challenging to balance the mandatory dues with the financial resources needed for service projects, hindering the overall impact of Rotary clubs. In addressing this concern, it's crucial to strike a balance between the financial obligations faced by Rotarians and the impactful service that Rotary International provides.

The annual membership dues charged by Rotary International is about US\$80 per Rotarian, but the district dues and club dues vary depending on the club and the country. However, it is essential to recognize the valuable services provided by Rotary International in exchange for the annual dues. Rotary International offers its members a wide range of services and opportunities to develop personally and professionally as they carry out their passion for service. Through their clubs, Rotarians and Rotaractors have the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills through public speaking, networking, fundraising, team building, and event planning. Rotary International also provides its members with access to publications, licensed products, online tools, and more through its Member Portal. Additionally, Rotary International has established various fellowships and action groups that unite members, family members, program participants, and alumni who share their expertise in particular fields by collaborating with clubs and districts on projects. To get an idea about the cost involved in providing these services, let's look at a typical annual budget of Rotary International. In 2023-24, the RI Board approved a budget of US\$125,346,000 total revenue, and \$128,073,000 total expenses, with provision for funding from reserves. Therefore, the cost of these services must be acknowledged, and efforts should be made to communicate to the prospective members the tangible benefits that Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation bring to the members.

To address the affordability concern, Rotary clubs in India should focus on transparent communication with their members. Prospective members need to be informed about the financial commitment before joining, ensuring that they are fully aware of the dues and the impact these contributions have on the global community. This approach fosters a sense of responsibility and commitment among Rotarians. While the mandatory annual dues cover essential services, Rotary International also encourages voluntary contributions to the Rotary Foundation. Clubs should emphasize the importance of these voluntary donations in enhancing the impact of Rotary's global initiatives. Rotarians, both in India and globally, should be reminded of their duty to support the foundation voluntarily, recognizing the substantial positive changes it brings to communities.

The Rotary Foundation is a non-profit organization that transforms your contributions into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. The Foundation has spent more than \$4 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects since its inception over 100 years ago. Your contributions help Rotary members to advance communities, improve health, and promote peace by providing clean water and sanitation, fighting disease, supporting education, growing local economies, and protecting the environment. When you give to the Rotary Foundation, you help make grant-funded humanitarian projects, scholarships, and activities such as vocational training teams possible. Your support is essential to make these projects a reality and to benefit you, your club, and your district. For example, with your help, the Rotary Foundation has been able to provide clean water to communities in need, protect mothers and children from preventable diseases, and support education by providing scholarships and teacher training. The Foundation has also been able to promote peace by supporting conflict resolution and peace building initiatives.

Given the financial burden faced by Rotary clubs in developing countries, a strategic approach to fundraising for community projects becomes imperative. Clubs can explore creative and sustainable ways to generate funds locally, reducing the dependency on individual contribution for project financing. Collaboration with local businesses is a potential avenue for securing additional resources such as CSR funds.

Rotary International has also made provisions to address the travel costs of Rotarians attending mandatory district training events. The Board of Directors has agreed to allow districts to convene online their training events, including PETS and district training assembly, at no cost to Rotary International, should their government recommend restricting gatherings due to COVID-19 or if district leaders feel such action is appropriate. The RI Board of Directors meeting held on 22–25 January 2018 in Del Mar, San Diego County, USA recommended that district conferences and other major district meetings be held, when possible, within the district to reduce participants' travel costs.

To overcome the challenge of growing membership in developing countries, Rotary should focus on empowering local leadership within clubs. This involves providing training, resources, and mentorship to Rotarians, enabling them to effectively manage club finances, projects, and membership growth. By building strong, self-sufficient local leadership, Rotary clubs can better navigate financial challenges and enhance their impact.

Rotary clubs are self-governing and self-supporting, and each club is responsible for its own finances. However, Rotary International provides a financial management guide for clubs that covers topics such as budgeting, receipts and payments, bank accounts, recording of transactions, project funds, management reports, and audit. However, there are some additional tips that could help reduce the total cost of Rotary Club membership:

Budgeting: Clubs can prepare an annual budget for their income and expenditure. Operating on a budget will ensure that there is controlled expenditure during the year and that all items of expenditure are within the budget lines. The budget also acts as a planning tool for the club.

Membership dues: Invoicing club members for membership fees when they are due will remind them of their obligation.

Offer flexible payment options: Consider offering flexible payment options to members who may not be able to afford the full membership fee at once. This could include monthly or quarterly payments.

Fundraising: Clubs can organize fundraising events to raise funds for their projects and activities.

Collaboration: Clubs can collaborate with other clubs or organizations to share resources and reduce costs.

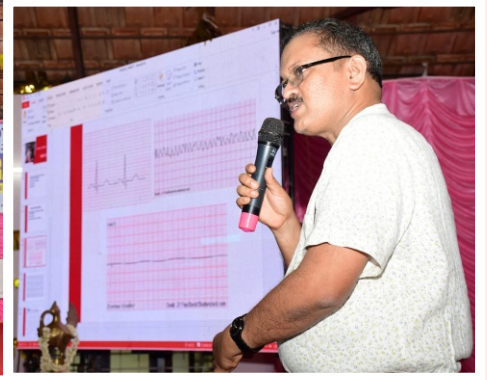
Partner with local businesses: Partner with local businesses to offer discounts or other incentives to members. This could help offset the cost of membership and make it more affordable.

Unbundle dinner costs from membership dues: Instead of adding cost of providing dinner to member dues payments, consider paying for it separately. This could help reduce the financial pressure on members who may not be able to attend all meetings.

Consider scheduling more service projects: Consider scheduling a busy season of service projects that can take the place of club meetings. This could help reduce the cost of food and encourage more members to participate in service projects.

Also, promote the benefits of membership: Highlight the benefits of Rotary Club membership to potential members. This could include networking opportunities, professional development, and the chance to make a positive impact in the community.

To conclude, Rotary International's vision of a world where people unite to create lasting change embodies the spirit of service and community. While the uniform annual dues may pose financial challenges in certain regions, it's essential to strike a balance between affordability and the impactful services provided by Rotary International. Transparent communication, strategic fundraising, and an emphasis on voluntary contributions can contribute to alleviating the financial burden on Rotarians in developing countries, fostering sustainable growth and positive change. Ultimately, by staying true to its core values and vision, Rotary can continue to be a force for good in communities across the globe.



SATRANGI NEWS.....



RC Kottayam Central, RC Trivandrum South, RC Haripad conducted Self Defence training programs for girls at various High Schools.

RC Trivandrum Empire supported kidney patients by donating three Wheel Chairs and one Medicated bed for a Cardiac patient at Satyanweshana Charitable Society on Nov 2.

RC Tangasseri, Quilon, in association with KIMS Health Limb Centre, organised Artificial Limbs & Calipers measurement camp at TKM College of Arts & Science, Kollam. 53 patients were examined.

RC Chengannur arranged free first aid, food and resting facilities to Parumala Pilgrims at Orthocare Hospital, a great relief to many devotees in their long pedestrian walk to Parumala Church.

RC Haripad conducted a Life Style Disease Detection Camp on Oct 31. Medical examinations and Mental Counseling for needy patients was conducted. 74 patients attended the camp.

RC Alleppey East inaugurated MEDSUPPORT, an Inter District Project along with RC Cochin West, distributing free medicines at Buds School.

RC Quilon Lotus (all ladies club) conducted a Multispeciality mega medical camp at S S Samithi Sevakendram, Mayyanad. The club also provided a cupboard, notebooks, school bags, dresses and essential items to the children of Sai Niketan Orphanage.

RC Chathannoor conducted Drug Awareness class by Chirakara Madhu (Rtd. ACP, Excise Dept.), for students at Govt. HS Chathannoor.

RC Tiruvalla handed over Rs.60,000/- to Vikas School towards sponsorship of 4 differently abled students, on the eve of Kerala piravi.

RC Alleppey North distributed electric wheelchairs to needy persons, handed over by Sri.P.P.Chitharanjan MLA.

RC Mavelikara donated a wheel chair to an amputee.

RC Trivandrum Phoenix conducted a medical camp at Thiruvallam Venkara Residents Association. More than 150 beneficiaries attended. The club also provided Annadhanam at Swapnakoodu Destitute Care Home.

RC Kottiyam conducts Satrangi Medical Camps regularly on the first day of every month in association with Jeeva Hospital.

RC Kilimanoor handed over a cot to Bhaskaran, a bedridden person at his residence on Nov 11.

RC Trivandrum Kowdiar in association with ICC conducted a CPR training programme at Cosmopolitan Hospital, Trivandrum.

RC Quilon Lake City handed over Rs.50,000/- to a Cancer patient.

RC Alleppey Coir City distributed medicines to Alfa Paliative Care Home.

RC Puthur conducted a Medical Camp at Kulathuppuzha.

RC Marari conducted a Life Style Disease detection and Dental Camp.

ReC Kerala Global, Dubai conducted a Blood Donation Campaign.





രോഗികൾക്ക് പ്രാഥമികമായി ഒരു വിദ്യാലയത്തിൽ ഹാജരായിട്ടുള്ളവരുടെ അടുത്തടുത്തായിട്ടുള്ള ക്ലാസുകളിൽ ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുന്ന രോഗങ്ങൾ പരിശോധിക്കുകയും അതിൽ പ്രതിരോധനം എടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിലാണ് പ്രധാന ലക്ഷ്യം. അതിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കുന്നവർക്ക് അടുത്തടുത്തായിട്ടുള്ള ക്ലാസുകളിൽ ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുന്ന രോഗങ്ങൾ പരിശോധിക്കുകയും അതിൽ പ്രതിരോധനം എടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിലാണ് പ്രധാന ലക്ഷ്യം. അതിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കുന്നവർക്ക് അടുത്തടുത്തായിട്ടുള്ള ക്ലാസുകളിൽ ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുന്ന രോഗങ്ങൾ പരിശോധിക്കുകയും അതിൽ പ്രതിരോധനം എടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിലാണ് പ്രധാന ലക്ഷ്യം. അതിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കുന്നവർക്ക് അടുത്തടുത്തായിട്ടുള്ള ക്ലാസുകളിൽ ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുന്ന രോഗങ്ങൾ പരിശോധിക്കുകയും അതിൽ പ്രതിരോധനം എടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിലാണ് പ്രധാന ലക്ഷ്യം.

RC Alleppey conducted a Leprosy detection camp at Temple of English School, in association with W&C Hospital on Nov 11. The club also conducted their fourth Cervical Cancer detection camp and Free PAP Smear test on Nov 8.

RC Kozhuvanal conducted an awareness class for 800+ girl students.

RC Mavelikara conducted a full fledged medical camp at Gandhi Bhavan, Elanjimel. The club also donated an Inverter, six dining tables and an almira, and conducted a Walkathon on World Diabetic Day.

RC Kanjirappally has taken up a comprehensive health package project for the 2000+ residents of Ward 7 of Chirakkadavu Grama Panchayat, covering every aspect of Satranghi health care.

RC Sherthalay Town sponsored one water purifier worth Rs 28,000/- to "Jeevodaya Social Centre & Old Age Home. They also conducted Basic life support classes for students in Rajagiri School on Oct 26.

RC Haripad organised a Zonal Seminar on SATRANGI at Haripad RC Community Hall on Nov 19, with thought provoking classes on Cardiac Care, Life Style Diseases, Mental Health and Cancer Awareness. 75 persons participated from various clubs.

RC Kilimanoor distributed Hearing Aids worth Rs.15 lakhs to hearing impaired.

Diabetes Camps were conducted by RC Neyyatinkara, RC Anchalumoodu, RC Quilon, RC Punalur, RC Haripad, RC Aroor Satellite City, RC Quilon Lotus, RC Quilon Westend, RC Nedu-moncavu, RC Kottiyam.

OTHER CLUB PROJECTS.....

RC Trivandrum South inducted 11 members, taking the total tally to 89. As of now, number of lady members is 20, achieving 64% membership increase this year.

RC Quilon initiated 'SUKHINO BHAVANTHU' - a CSR Project with support from Western India Cashew Company to upgrade Cardiac & Surgical ICU facilities at Dr Nairs Hospital, Kollam by signing of an MOU on Nov 18.

RC Alleppey installed a convex mirror at Kommady-Mangalath Road, Alappuzha, inaugurated by Sri.PP.Chitharanjan MLA.

RC Kollam Royal City built a new house for an Auto driver's family under Rotary Abhayam project at a cost of Rs.7,50,000/-. The key was handed over by PP Rtn.Nelson Policarp in the presence of President Rtn.Alexander Sebastian & AG Rtn.B.Santhosh.

RC Jammu Tawi, RI District 3070 set out to help CREATE HOPE IN A WAR TORN WORLD. Many days away from home and loved ones, driving through chaotic roads, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, bound by their friendship and a common cause. RC Quilon was proud to receive and host them at Kollam.

RC Trivandrum Travancore implemented direly needed relief measures for residents of Kamaleswaram area of the city which had been badly affected by the recent floods, by distributing cleaning materials to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. The club also donated classic books to the library of Vanchiyoor HS where many financially backward students study.

RC Shertallai Town conducted a Mega Car Rally on World Polio Day, flagged off by Sri.A.M.Arif, MLA.

RC Alleppey celebrated Children's day at Rotary Alfa Learning Development Centre, inaugurated by Sri.PP.Chitharanjan, MLA.

RC Kazhakuttam sponsored jersey and shorts for the Volleyball team of HSS Kazhakuttom. The club celebrated Children's day by recognizing the students who won accolades in various items in inter-school competition. A children's day quiz competition was also conducted and prizes were awarded to the winners.

RC Marari conducted a Rotary theme drawing competition for the children at Adoration Convent on Children's Day. The club also donated books to the library of VVSD School Pathirappally on Kerala Piravi Day, to promote reading habits among children.

RC Cherthala Green City conducted a Teacher Training Programme at Sobha College of Teacher Education with a talk on National Education Policy by Dr.U.Suresh Kumar. The club also sponsored the installation of AI Detection Cameras at SL Puram Junction and a Road Safety Awareness Campaign led by Rtn.V.R.Vidyadharan, former Jt.RTO.

RC Kilimanoor conducted the marriage of a financially backward couple Mathu and Arun on Nov 19, and helped them with a good start in life, thanks to support from White Pearl.

RC Pathanamthitta conducted a Career Guidance Class at Catholicate Higher Secondary School, led by the insightful Alex Mathew from T-Horizon (Kochi). The session was a beacon of knowledge for over 175 eager students.

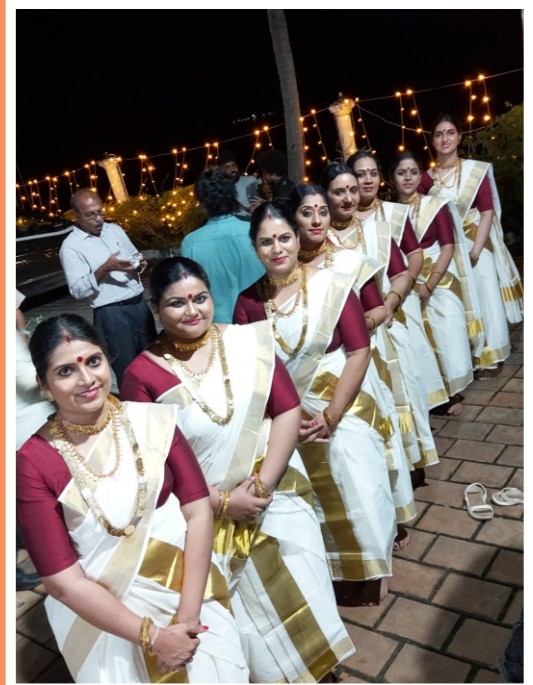
RC Tiruvalla secured approval for its Global grant application partnering with RC Cupertino, USA for the amount of US\$30,050/- to provide three dialysis machines and pulse oximeters to Tiruvalla Medical Mission (TMM).

RC Changanassery, RC Trivandrum Central and RC Kazhakuttom are joining hands **under the leadership of RC Quilon** to conduct three Artificial Limb Camps under a Global Grant Project partnering with RC Wolverhampton, UK. The first Camp is underway at Changanassery.

FIRE
FAMILY INVOLVED ROTARY ENTERTAINMENT



Competitions in Pathanamthitta and Quilon Revenue Districts are over. Kottayam, Alappuzha and Trivandrum Revenue District level competitions will be conducted this month.





Governor launches housing project for 50 beneficiaries

Governor Arif Mohammed Khan formally launched a housing project jointly implemented by Rotary Club of Trivandrum South and K. Chittilappilly Foundation here on Monday. Fifty houses will be constructed as part of the 'Udayakiran' project and the construction of 10 of these will begin on Tuesday, according to a press note. The beneficiaries have been identified among below poverty line (BPL) families that possess at least 2 cents of land. Rotary Governor G. Sumithran, Rotary Club of Trivandrum South president Parvathy Reghunath, former Rotary Governors R. Reghunath, K. Sreenivasan and Governor-designate Sudhi Jabbar and Udayakiran project chairman V. Vijayakumar were among those who were present on the occasion.



December is Rotary Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

Rotary is dedicated to fighting and preventing disease. Disease Prevention and Treatment is one of Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus. Disease and illness results in pain and injury. Prolonged severe illness may result in loss of employment and income. It affects families. It affects quality of life. Rotary and Rotarians are committed to helping people to live healthy lives. Our signature project in this area is Polio Eradication. But polio is not the only disease or aspect of healthy living on which Rotarians have expended energies.

One way to provide attention to an area of concern is through a Rotarian Action Group (RAG), which is a voluntary organization that functions independently of Rotary International. Each RAG establishes its own rules, dues requirements, and administrative structure. RAGs are composed of Rotarians, family members, program participants and alumni who are experts in a particular field. Group members share their expertise by collaborating with clubs and districts on service projects.

There are more than a dozen Rotarian Action Groups (RAGs) committed to disease prevention and treatment. Given below is a list of RAGs: <https://my.rotary.org/en/rotarian-action-groups>.

Here are eight of the many RAGs that address health issues:

Alzheimer's/Dementia RAG. They provide information and support to Rotarians on dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Members use their knowledge, experience and leadership to fight Alzheimer's disease and dementia. <http://adrag.org/>

RAG for Blindness Prevention. This RAG helps prevent blindness and promotes eye health and vision worldwide. <http://www.rag4bp.org/>

RAG of Dental Volunteers. These volunteers provide humanitarian dental service throughout the world. <http://ragdv.com/>

AG for Diabetes. This RAG provides has commitment to education, identification, and treatment of diabetes. They are especially concerned about diabetes among children in developing countries. They work with the International Diabetes Federation. <http://ragdiabetes.org/>

Rotarians for Hearing RAG. These Rotarians promote hearing help for children and adults with hearing loss. <http://www.ifrahl.org/>

RAG on Mental Health Initiatives. The mission of RAGMHI is to act as a worldwide resource for Rotarians in the field of mental health and mental illness to promote, protect, restore, and to help re-build the lost human capital to make a happier and healthier world. <http://ragonmentalhealth.org/>

RAG for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness. These Rotarians work to make people aware of MS and improve the lives of People with MS. <https://rotary-ragmsa.org/>

Polio Survivors and Associates RAG. These Rotarians are dedicated to permanently ending polio. They focus on improving the health and well-being of polio survivors. <http://www.rotarypoliosurvivors.com/>

Do you have a passion in one of these areas? Can you contribute your knowledge, skills and expertise to one of these RAGs? Check it out today. This is another way in which we can serve as Rotarians in the focused area of Disease Prevention and Treatment.

Vaccinations Suggested for Adults

- Rtn.Col.Dr.K.E.Rajan, RC Trivandrum Central,
Consultant Pulmonologist

Make sure everyone is up to date on these vaccines:

- Chickenpox vaccine (varicella)
- COVID-19 vaccine
- Flu vaccine (influenza - yearly)
- Hepatitis B vaccine
- HPV Vaccine (human papillomavirus)
- MMR Vaccine (measles, mumps, and rubella)
- Tdap Vaccine (Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) or Td (tetanus, diphtheria)

For those above 60 Years

- RSV (Respiratory syncytial virus)
- Pneumococcal vaccine
 - * Pneumo. Conjugate Vaccine (13 variants):
Single IM dose 0.5ml
 - * Pneumo. PolySacharide Vaccine (23 variants);
Given after 1 year, plus a booster at 5 years from the first.



Roundup

“Restoration of Ecosystem will pave way for checking Global Warming” says K V Dayal, Environmentalist

Mr K V Dayal, resident of Muhamma in Alappuzha District and nicknamed the Forest Man of Kerala, made a great forest on 1.50 acres of land in such a way that the sunlight does not fall on the ground, a model for the world today. Creating new changes through organic farming methods, the forest has 200 different plants, about 1000 creatures, and two small ponds.



Mr Dayal founded Vembanad Natural Club, an environmental organisation in 1986 and serves as its Advisor. The Club has taken up ecosystem restoration of the serene Pathiramanal, a small island located in Vembanad Lake. It was home to many rare varieties of migratory birds from different parts of the world. Of late, owing to the criminal acts of miscreants, all the migratory birds have deserted the island and only crows are left. They have already transplanted a few species of birds and rabbits to the island and will be monitoring their process of acclimatisation and create a congenial atmosphere for survival. The Sudarshan team felicitated Mr Dayal by adorning him with a Ponnada for his stupendous service rendered in the areas of restoration of ecosystem, and expressed Rotary's desire to associate with the Vembanad Nature Club.



RC Alleppey North, in association with P C Varghese Foundation distributed saplings and seeds of vegetables to the families of Kalavoor Residents Association for setting up of kitchen gardens.



The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI), a training program for incoming Asst Governors for 2024-25 was conducted as a two day affair at Haveli Resorts, Alleppey on Nov 25-26. This is a landmark training event to prepare the leaders for their responsibilities during the coming year under the leadership of DGE Sudhi Jabbar. The AGTS will be held in the month of February 2024, in Malaysia.

Signature Project

ROTARY INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF SPECIAL CARE - PROJECT OF RC TRIVANDRUM

- Rtn.Major Donor R.Kesavan



The Rotary Institute for Children in Need of Special Care started as a community service project of RC Trivandrum in 1964. The then office bearers of the club registered this Institute under the Charitable Societies Registration Act XII, 1955, administered by the Management Committee consisting of rotarians. Over the last 60 years, the club members, contributing profoundly from their pockets, have toiled a lot to sustain the Institute, as a multi-focal treatment-cum-training centre for mentally challenged children, as per the guidelines issued by the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped (NIMH).

The Institute was started with just 12 students mostly from poor families. The foundation stone for a new building for the Institute was laid by Her Highness Aswathy Thirunal Gouri Lakshmi Bayi in 1969. Subsequently a three-storey boarding block was built in 1974-1975. As we approach its Shashtiabdapoorthy, with 60 years of service, we have 147 differently abled children in the Academic Year 2023-24, with Free boarding facilities and well trained special staff to take care and guide the students.



The Children are grouped into Pre-primary (2 division), Primary I (3 division), Primary II (1 division), Secondary (2 division), Pre-vocational I (2 division), Prevocational II (2 division) and Vocational (1 division) classes. Grouping of the students is on the basis of their chronological age and level of intellectual functioning. We have Speech Therapy, Physio Therapy, Music therapy, Psycho-therapy, Computer Lab to develop their cognitive capabilities. From this annual year we have re-introduced a batch vocational division after a long gap, the earlier vocational division with age criteria was abolished by the Govt of India as per rules. Currently children in the division are getting training in stitching and making paper covers, etc. Also, depending on the availability of funds, we are planning to start computer training.



The staff includes a Principal, Office Administrator, 13 Special Educators, Speech Therapist, Physio-Therapist, Psycho-therapist, a Craft Teacher a Music Teacher and 24 supporting staff with helpers, cooks and two drivers. The Institute has its own transporting facilities consisting of 2 buses to transport our students to the institute and back home.



The institute is not collecting any type of fee from its children. The expenses are met mainly by grants from Govt of India and State grants. However, this is not sufficient to pay the staff fully. Moreover, Gol grant is delayed for the past two years (2021 - 2022 & 2022 - 2023). So, half of staff honorarium (averaging Rs.10,700 each) is pending for the period. Other running expenses including pending salary component are met by donations from well wishers. Under the "LEND A HAND" programme started by the club from



2012 onwards, donations to the tune of Rs.15,000/- are being received by a few kind hearted persons and organizations to cover the expenditure for a child per year.

The institute has some requirements to be fulfilled immediately. It needs to upgrade its existing C grade to A grade to increase the grant available from Govt of Kerala. For this the existing infrastructure of the institute needs to be augmented. The size of the existing rooms needs to be restructured from 180 sq ft to 250 sq ft in order to comply with the norms. The Vocational Training Division needs to be computerized.



"We need from you generous financial support. Your contribution can make a world of difference to our children in need of special care."
- An ardent request by club President Rtn.Sasikumar K and members.

Bank Details :
Name: ROTARY INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF SPECIAL CARE
Bank name: The Federal Bank Limited
Account No. 14290100182329
IFSC Code: FDRL0001429



SELECTION OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINEE

The election for the post of DGN will be taking place within a few months. A few important points of information regarding the election are being given below.

Q 1 : When is the District Governor Nominee elected?

Ans : The District shall select a Nominee for District Governor between 24 and 36 months before taking office.

Q 2 : What are the qualifications required of a District Governor Nominee?

Ans : a) Has to be a Member in good standing of a **Functioning Club** in the District for a minimum **seven years**..
b) Has served as a Club President for a full term or as a Charter President for at least six months.
c) Demonstrate knowledge, willingness, commitment and ability to fulfill the responsibilities of Governor as prescribed in the Byelaw
d) Submit to RI a statement to that effect.

Q 3. : What are the procedures for selecting a DGN?

Ans : a) Selection by a Nominating Committee, OR b) by a Club Ballot, OR c) At the District Conference.

Q 4 : How does a District choose the procedure?

Ans : A District shall adopt any one of the above three procedures, by means of a resolution at a District Conference by a majority vote of the electors present and voting.

Q 5 : Can any Club be disqualified from participating in the Election process?

Ans : **YES**, if they have not paid the relevant dues. To participate in the District voting for the election of the DGN, a Club shall have paid the required District levy for the Rotary Year in which the voting is taking place and shall not be indebted to the District.

Q 6 : How does a Club suggest a Rotarian for the post of DGN?

Ans : The Governor shall invite clubs to submit their suggestions for nominations for DGN. The suggestions from the clubs shall be submitted by a resolution naming the suggested candidate, adopted at a regular club meeting and certified by the Secretary of the Club.

Q 7 : Can a Club suggest a Rotarian from another Club?

Ans : **NO**. A Club shall suggest only one of its own members.

Q 8 : What is the role of the Nominating Committee ?

Ans : The Nominating Committee is expected to propose the best qualified candidate as DGN.

Q 9 : Who sets the guidelines for the Nominating Committee?

Ans : The terms of reference of the Committee including the method for selecting the members shall be determined in a resolution adopted by the electors present and voting at a District Conference.

Q 10 : Can a Nominating Committee select any candidate who was not suggested by a Club?

Ans. : **YES**. The Committee shall nominate the best qualified Rotarian and the choice need not be limited to those names that are submitted by the Clubs in the District.

Q 11 : Can a club challenge the nomination of a Candidate by the Committee?

Ans : Any club in the District may also propose a challenging candidate for DGN, but only if it had previously suggested the same candidate to the Nominating Committee.

Q 12 : What is the procedure for challenging the Nominee of the Committee?

Ans : The name of the challenging candidate shall be submitted by a resolution of the Club adopted at a regular meeting and filed with the Governor, which shall be within 14 days of notification of the selection of DGN.

Q 13 : What are the further steps required for challenging the nomination?

Ans : The Governor shall inform all clubs through a Form prescribed by RI of a challenging candidate and ask whether any clubs concurs with the challenge. In order to concur with the challenge, the clubs will have to adopt a resolution to that effect at a regular meeting of the club in the same way as mentioned above and file it within the time frame set by the Governor.

Q 14 : Can a club concur with the challenges made by more than one club?

Ans : **NO.**

Q 15 : How many Clubs should concur with the challenge to make it a valid challenge?

Ans : Ten other clubs or 20% of the total clubs in existence for more than one year as of the beginning that Rotary Year - whichever number is higher.

Q 16 : If there are valid challenges, what are the further steps for selecting DGN?

Ans. : Within seven days after the deadline for receiving concurrences, the Governor shall notify the clubs that there is valid challenging candidate/candidates. The notice shall include the name and qualifications of each challenging candidate, the names of the challenging and concurring clubs and state that the candidates will be voted on in a Club Ballot or at the District Conference if the challenge remains valid for 30 days after the notice by the Governor.

Q 17 : How do you determine the voting strength of the Clubs for Club ballots or voting at the District Conference?

Ans. : A club will have one vote for each twenty five members and another vote for more than half of the next twenty five. As an illustration, Upto 37 members - One vote; 38 - 62 members - Two votes; 63 - 87 members - Three votes. 88 - 112 members. - Four votes. The increase in voting power goes up in that manner.

[NOTE : The Membership Strength of the Clubs are determined as follows:

For Voting by Club Ballots - As per the 1st JULY Invoice from RI

For Voting at District Conference - As per the latest Invoice from RI.

Since the District Conferences are held in March-April in our District, it will be according to the **Semi Annual Invoice issued by RI on 1st JANUARY.**

Q 18 : Can a Club divide their eligible votes among more than one Candidate?

Ans. : **NO.** A Club can vote for **ONLY ONE CANDIDATE.** If there is a split vote, the entire Club votes will be **INVALIDATED.**

Q 19 : How is the Club Ballot conducted?

Ans. : The Governor shall send a single transferable ballot to each Club listing the Candidates in alphabetical order. When the ballots results from a challenge, the name of the candidate selected by the Nomination Committee shall be listed first. The Governor shall send a copy of the Ballot signed by all the Balloting Committee members with instructions that the completed ballots should reach the Governor by a specified date decided by the Governor. Validation and Counting will be done by the Balloting Committee at the time, date and place announced by the Governor.

Q 20 : How is the reporting of the results done?

Ans. : The Balloting Committee will report the results to the Governor. The Candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast will be declared as DGN Designate. If there is a tie vote, the Candidate selected by the Nominating Committee will be declared as DGND.

Q 21 : What is the procedure for selecting the DGN by District Conference?

Ans. : If a District chooses to select its District Governor Nominee at the District Conference, the Governor shall invite the Clubs to submit their suggestions for nominations for DGN. Except for voting at the Conference where each Club shall designate one elector to cast all its votes, the other procedures closely follow that of a Club Ballot.

Q 22 : Is there any provision for filing a complaint against the election process or results?

Ans : **YES.** However, a complaint will be considered by the RI Board only if it is

- a). made by a Club with concurrence of at least five other clubs or by a current RI Officer or by a President's Representative to a District or Zone meeting;
- b) in writing; and
- c). filed with the General Secretary within 21 days after the results are announced.

A decision by two-thirds majority in the Board is required for disqualifying a Candidate.

Q 23 : What actions can the RI Board take if there is merit in the complaint?

Ans : The RI Board can :

1. disqualify from the election the Nominee and any or all candidates and select a qualified individual from a Club in the District to serve.
2. remove from office any person who improperly influences or interferes in the election process and
3. declare that a current or past RI Officer who improperly influences or interferes in the election process is no longer a current or past RI Officer.

Q 24 : What is the outcome if too many election complaints from a District are upheld?

Ans : If within the previous five years the Board has upheld three or more election complaints from a District, the Board may dissolve the District and assign the Clubs to the surrounding Districts.

Q 25 : Is there any code of conduct for the DGN Candidates?

Ans : In order to select the best qualified Rotarian for the Office, any efforts to influence the selection process in any manner including campaigning, canvassing, or electioneering by the DGN Candidates or other persons on their behalf is prohibited.

"Much of the trouble in the world today is not so much the voice of the bad as it is the silence of the good." - W.Jack Davis.

OBITUARY

Rtn.PP.MPHF.Krishnan Viswanathan (71) of RC Trivandrum North expired on Nov 5. A rotarian for more than 30 years, he served as President of RC Trivandrum Central in 2005-06, before joining his present club. He is survived by his wife Rtyn.Uma Viswanathan, an active Inner Wheel member, son Nandakishore and daughter Ranjini.

Rtn.Ossey Binoy Feriah (52), Past President of RC Chavara Mineral Coast passed away on Nov 15. Working as Associate in HDFC, he was a rotarian of the club for more than ten years and an ardent cricketer. He is survived by his wife Ann Shyla, a son and a daughter.

We pray that the dear departed souls may Rest In Peace!!!



ROTARY INFORMATION....

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

The Council on Legislation (COL) meets every three years to vote on legislation. Every rotarian contributes an extra \$1 progressively every year to meet expenses for conduct of the COL.

The enactments, selected by the Council Operations Committee, will be considered by the representatives ahead of the COL. Those items that receive more than 80% of eligible votes in support of the item shall be considered on a consent agenda for the 2025 COL. Those items that receive greater than 80% of eligible votes opposing the item will be considered rejected by the Council and will not be considered further at the meeting of the COL. The purpose of this vetting process is to make the COL more efficient by more easily considering those items that have widespread support or opposition.

Our District regularly sends one of our PDGs to attend every COL. This time, PDG.George Mathew is being deputed. He has suggested some changes in the RI Constitution & Bylaws to improve the effectiveness of Dispute resolution systems both in the Club and District level to strengthen District Administration; which we can highlight at the COL. He requests clubs to send him their specific suggestions. COL group meets are planned on 14th Dec at Bangalore to discuss further, before presenting in appropriate form to the COL when it meets in 2025.

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST RI BOARD MEETING (ABSTRACTS)

The 2023–24 RI Board of Directors met on 16–18 October 2023 at Rotary International World Headquarters in Evanston, IL, USA and reviewed 13 committee reports and recorded 48 decisions. The following are related to the Clubs and Districts

The Board

- adopted a worldwide membership growth goal for Rotary clubs of 1,250,000 members by 1 July 2030 in celebration of Rotary's 125th anniversary;
- reaffirmed its decision that upon the certification of polio eradication, to advocate in pre-selected countries for implementation of the polio post-certification strategy, as developed by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative;
- approved a new strategic partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme;
- renewed Rotary's service partnership with Ashoka;
- changed the name of the Rotary Citation to the Club Excellence Award, effective 1 July 2024.
- agreed to eliminate the creation of an annual presidential theme and logo starting in Rotary Year 2025–26;
- approved a framework by which a set of multi-year Action Plan-led presidential messages are proposed by the Communications Committee and Strategic Planning Committee and approved by the Board, starting in Rotary Year 2025–26;
- approved a process of setting three-year rolling targets and three-year rolling regional plans for the club, district, and zone level beginning in 2024–25;
- agreed to the registration of "Rotary Australia New Zealand Asia Pacific" (or a similar name) as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee in Australia to facilitate the Zone 8 regional pilot operations.
- agreed to submit to the 2025 Council on Legislation enactments to:

- a). remove the requirement to hold an annual district conference;
- b). remove mandatory reports from the Rotary Institute in order to make Institutes optional;
- c). provide for a uniform process for removing officers and committee members for cause;
- d). provide that disputes must be appealed to the COL to exhaust all remedies in the constitutional documents;
- e). amend the process for removing a governor for cause;
- f). amend the process for determining per capita dues;
- g). amend the titles of president-elect training seminar and district training assembly;
- h). increase per capita dues and amend the process for determining per capita dues;
- i). eliminate challenges in the election process;
- j). amend the criteria for determining the composition of zones;

FAMILY PAGE

From Educator to Entrepreneur

- Rty Ann.Chinu Mathew, RC Ettumanoor

I did my B.Tech in Electronics & Communication Engg and M.Tech in Applied Electronics. I got campus placement as Asst professor in Karunya University, Coimbatore. Later on, wanting to move to my native place, I joined as Asst Professor in St. Joseph College of Engg & Technology, Palai.

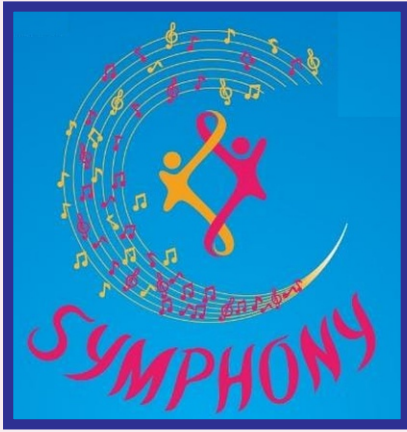
After 10 years in academics, I resigned and decided to start my own business. It was because of my inner call to do something creative and at the same time, good for society, using the land my father had given to me. It was his vision to develop the land to a park and food space. My father, who retired as HOD of Zoology Dept from MES Kalladi College, is my super hero. But due to an accident, he was paralysed and we took care of him for 8 years. Actually, I would have been more comfortable to start a boutique as I was very much interested in designing. But there was an urge in me to conceive of some project useful to the people and society. I found that for a proper park or place to play or an outdoor enjoyment area, we had to go to Ernakulam. Why no such projects are available in Kottayam?

At the same time, I wanted to fulfill my father's desire to develop this area in the most novel and useful manner. Problems and crises were many. First of all, there were no basic architects to check the site and provide a structural design for a small project like this. Finally, after studying the loopholes and challenges, I documented my ideas and dreams on to a chart paper, with careful positioning of each point and spot of enjoyment. My husband was in charge of selecting proper play equipments. After a wide online search of links, persons and exhibitions, we purchased apt materials for games and finalised our location plans - where to fix the pool, multi-play stations and also various trivial matters to cater to the tastes of parents and children.

I started work from a barren piece of land. We carried on the work with normal contractors and workers, diligently checking each day's progress. Our project was completed in six months and was ready for inauguration one month prior to the planned date. Regarding license, this was the first play area of this kind in Ettumanoor municipality and they checked all legal aspects before issuing a green signal. For each query regarding the safety of the equipments, we could provide satisfactory proof to the public and officials. We were really blessed to secure the goodwill of all. Parents promoted this Playworld by bringing their own as well as their relatives' and friends' kids. Finally, the opinion of the customers regarding the utility and enjoyment from this project led to our success and satisfaction.

I think the most important challenge was to disprove suspicions on the sustainability of this project just because it is managed by a lady. My husband and partner Maju V Thomas is my greatest supporter to face all the challenges. We developed Hangout Playworld Park as a nice hangout for kids and parents to enjoy with Waterplay station, Multi-play stations, Videogames, Games and Dance with Mickey mouse and Panda, etc. When we realised that Play World was warmly welcomed by the public, we thought of taking another risk - the starting of a food hub. From our wide travelling experience, we found that people, irrespective of age, enjoy roaming and having delicious street food, a place to hang out and have a variety of dishes under the same roof. That's how Hangout Street Food Hub was born, consisting of eleven food counters with diverse cuisines all under one roof. It became the first Nightlife Hub in Kottayam and the first Street Food Hub in Kerala, attracting a vast audience and praise from the public. Our vision is to make Hangout a Complete Family Entertainment Zone, providing families and youngsters with the facility to spend quality time away from the virtual world and kids to engage in healthy activities by building new stress free lifestyles.





The District 3211 Conference, the biggest event of the Rotary year, will be held on April 27-28 at Al-Saj Convention Centre, Trivandrum. Rtn.Dr.Meera John is Conference Chairman. An Early Bird Gift of a metal non-stick thava will be given to those who register before Dec 31, 2023. Registration Fees are as below:

- Rotarians : Rs.4,720/-
- Lady Rotarians/Rotary Anns : Rs.4,130/-
- Rotary Annets (5-11 years) : Rs.2,900/-
- Annets (12 years & above) : Rs.3,500/-
- Guests (no Conference Kit) : Rs.5,000/-

Register on-line at :

https://www.rotary3211.org/rotary_districtconference_reg.php



ഡോ.വികിരണാനന്ദൻ,
 B.Sc, MBBS, MD, DMRD, DNB, etc.
Chief Consultant Radiologist



Created by :
 Rtn.PP.PHF.Dr. James Joseph, RC Pala
 (Dermatologist by Profession,
 Cartoonist by Passion)

This Newsletter is for Private circulation only. Printed and published by Dr.G.Sumithran, Rotary District 3211 Office, Pada South Market Road, Karunagapally, Kollam 690 518. Contributions & suggestions may please be sent to the editor by email, ravindrakumar.rm@gmail.com. Disclaimer: Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of Rotary District 3211. Every effort is made to see that the GML contents are accurate. Information published is in good faith and no liability can be accepted for any loss or inconvenience arising from errors and omissions.

BULLETIN REVIEW...

[Reviewing a selected club bulletin of our District]

BULLETIN OF RC PATHANAMTHITTA

I received the November issue of the weekly bulletin of RC Pathanamthitta for review. When I opened the digital copy, I was a little confused to see "Rotary News" on the top, resembling its masthead. To reconfirm, I verified the back issues and found that it doesn't appear in other issues. These have only "ROTARY CLUB OF PATHANAMTHITTA" on the top. Though it is not mandatory to have a separate masthead, I would strongly recommend coining an attractive name to be used as masthead for the club bulletin. The news of GOV on 21st November is prominently inserted, mentioning the importance of DG's Official Visit. That shows how seriously the President and team attend the mandatory programmes in the rotary year. The page also shows the importance of friendship and fellowship among the family members by inserting a news item on the family meeting on board Minar Cruise at the Marine Drive, Kochi, hosted by Rtn Asok Kumar Mehta to celebrate the first birthday of his grandson Ruthvik Mehta. Page 2 gave me a surprise under the head 'Rotary Careers'. When I scanned the QR code given under the column, it took me to the "Careers" page in the website of Rotary International. Novel idea by the rotarian who has edited the bulletin, Sadly, his name is unknown; I could not find it anywhere in the eight pages of every issue released so far this year. The bulletin invariably contains the President's message, Secretary's Spotlight and Treasurer's Note; but no editorials. When I talked to the President Rtn Shibu Mathew, I was given to understand that the Treasurer Rtn Nithin George Thomas is acting as Editor. I advised Nithin to come out of his shell and start communicating with the readers as the proud Editor of the bulletin and coin a suitable name for the bulletin. He has agreed to do so.

The use of technology like QR code scanning needs special appreciation. Guest articles on different topics like health, finance, etc are welcome. The Game Zone involving a Quiz, through QR scanning in Rotary knowledge is worth mentioning. In the article on Rotary's support to people affected in the Ukraine war, again QR code is used. I think too much use of QR code is not advisable as the reading flow will be lost.

To sum up, I am sure with minor changes the Monthly Bulletin of RC Pathanamthitta will be elevated as one among the top rated bulletins of RI District 3211.

- 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 Rotarians to send their creations, limiting to 300-350 words. - Ed.]



DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

- Rtn.PAG.Raju M.Kollavelil,
RC Trivandrum Kowdiar.

Rotary is dedicated to fighting and preventing disease. Disease Prevention and Treatment is one of Rotary's Seven Area of Focus. Disease and illness results in pain and injury. Prolonged severe illness may result in loss of employment and income. It affects families. It affects quality of life.

Rotary and Rotarians are committed to helping people to live healthy life. Our signature project is Polio Eradication and we have achieved our aim to eradicate polio from the World.

Rotary aimed to achieve Water Sanitation and Hygiene program in schools named as WASH in Schools. Poor sanitation, unsafe and inadequate drinking water facilities and unhygienic behaviour are usually found to be disastrous for children. School children spent most of their day time in schools, therefore an enabling environment in schools is an important factor for their health and wellbeing. Water-borne and water-related diseases may spread faster in schools where children gather for hours during school time with limited spaces and unhygienic conditions. If the children are affected, it will easily spread to the community.

WASH in Schools program helps to realise the commitments in universal rights to education and health; and to fulfil the agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3 and SDG 4) by 2030, adopted by United Nations in 2015.

Our District 3211 got the opportunity to be part of the programme adopted by Rotary Foundation in implementing the WASH in Schools. We had spent around Rupees One Crore in implementing the WASH in Schools, fully funded by The Rotary Foundation and this program has been implemented in around 40 schools in our Rotary District. I got the opportunity to take part in the programme as Treasurer.

Chief Editor : Rtn.R.Ravindra Kumar
Co-Editor : Rtn.Dr.Tessy Kurian