



# SUMITHAN

"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 # 7, JANUARY 2024

Rotary International Zone 5  
bestows this

PUBLIC IMAGE  
CHAMPION AWARD 2022-23

on  
DG K Babumon  
District Governor, D 3211



For  
Enhancing Public Image through Service Projects  
Positive Social Media Engagement  
Presence in the Print Media  
For Conducting an Effective Public Image Seminar  
For Organizing Local Public-Facing Events to Enhance Public Image



## RI President's Message (Excerpts.....)

In difficult times like these, it's impossible to avoid feeling heartbroken over the devastation and loss of life caused by war and destruction. Rotary always stands against harming and displacing civilian populations and using armed aggression instead of pursuing peaceful solutions. We advocate for the observance and respect of international law. We believe in strong action to defend and promote peace, even in the darkest of times. But we also take our position as an international, nonpolitical, nonreligious organization seriously. To respect the global perspectives and experiences of our members, and to work most effectively in our peacebuilding efforts, we do not choose sides in conflicts.



Rotary is made up of 1.4 million people in communities all over the globe who are united in our commitment to building a peaceful world. Our members seek to offer humanitarian assistance to those affected by conflict, and our global reach requires that we promote peacebuilding and conflict prevention with cross-cultural, cross-border connections and friendship through Rotary.

Rotary members who wish to wage peace can use district grants and Rotary Foundation global grants to support projects with other Rotary members that help refugees and displaced people, provide medical support, and more worldwide. Members can also work with or join peace-focused Rotary Action Groups, Friendship Exchanges, Fellowships, and intercountry committees. And District Designated Funds or district cash can support our peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts.

Members and nonmembers alike can learn more about peacebuilding through the Rotary Positive Peace Academy, a free online course available to anyone with an internet connection. You can find it at [positivepeace.academy/rotary](https://positivepeace.academy/rotary).

There is no denying that incidents of violence and atrocities being perpetuated around the world seem to be escalating. Global peace is fragile, and the stakes are getting higher. Still, we know that it is possible to bring all people together to work toward a shared goal. Rotary members do so every day in every part of the world. May our ability to unify in common purpose be a spark that helps light the path out of these dark days.

Together, let's Create Hope in the World.

**Rotary** 

**JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICES MONTH**

*"TEAMWORK IS THE ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARD A COMMON VISION. THE ABILITY TO DIRECT INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD ORGANIZATIONAL OBJECTIVES. IT IS THE FUEL THAT ALLOWS COMMON PEOPLE TO ATTAIN UNCOMMON RESULTS."*

- ANDREW CARNEGIE



## FROM DG'S DESK....

My dear friends in Rotary,

I am pleased to report that myself, along with a galaxy of our PDGs attended the Rotary Institute 2023 held at Bangalore during 15-17 Dec. RI President McInally presided. The highlight was the keynote speech by Union External Affairs Minister Dr.S.Jaishankar on "A Decade of Change" detailing India's advancements in the world community (see photo opposite, below). RID Raju Subramayam presided over and RI President Gordon R McInally was the Chief Guest. Another highlight was the presentation of Zone Institute 2024 Kochi by our team lead by RID Anirudh Roy Chaudhary and Chairman PDG Dr John Daniel. Congratulations to PDG.K.Babumon for being recognised with the Public Image Champion Award 2022-23 for Zone 5, at the event (see cover page).

Friends, as you would have known, the landscape of our sister District RID 3212 in southern Tamilnadu is reeling with heavy floods. Thousands of people have been affected. The District is dealing with the dire human consequences of heavy rain and flooding in their region, and striving to provide all humanitarian help. They have sought our support in the form of Kits costing Rs.1400/- each, to be distributed to the affected public. I request our clubs to pitch in with contributions for providing these kits. I am grateful to RC Trivandrum South, RC Travancore, RC Quilon, RC Quilon Lotus as also many of our service minded rotarians who immediately responded to my call.

Friends, the FIRE programmes are proceeding apace, with enthusiastic family involvement from most of the clubs. **The Grand Finale will be held at Balakrishna Convention Centre, Chengannur on Jan 14, led by Rtn.B.Ravi Kumar, Chairman. Please keep the date free for your participation, with family.**

Two out of five SANTHWANAM Artificial Limb Camps have already been successfully conducted - at Changanassery and at Vaikom. Three more are planned at Alleppey, Kollam and Trivandrum during this month. District Project SATRANGI has far exceeded my expectations, with many clubs undertaking worthy projects for public and personalised health care. Kudos to the clubs and to Dr.Meera John, Chairman (Satrangi) for her incessant efforts and motivation. A half yearly Progress Review will soon take place to quantify our achievements. **I am also reminding you to register for SYMPHONY, the forthcoming District Conference on April 27-28, 2024, a Rotary Extravaganza, for which she is Chairman.**

**Wishing you all the best throughout the year 2024;**  
Yours in Rotary

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



**The first batch of kits towards Anbodu Rotary initiative worth Rs.2 lakhs, was handed over to Dr. Shekhar Kuriakose, Member Secretary, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority by PDG.Suresh Mathew, on behalf of our District 3211.**

## Rotary Clubs Recapture Their Glory Days, Just Not in the US

**Despite declining interest among Americans, commitment to service and fellowship is driving membership growth among professionals in India.**

[Extracts from an article in Bloomberg magazine, December 15, 2023]

Every Tuesday around 8 p.m., Kamal Sanghvi meets with fellow business leaders from across Dhanbad, India. High on the agenda is community service. Club members discuss the wide range of local programs they run, including a blood bank, a prosthetic limb center and a school for special-needs children. “There’s so many of these projects that everyone is involved in something,” he says. Sanghvi and his cohort are members of Rotary International, the global service organization. Founded in Chicago more than a century ago as a fellowship of civic-minded professionals, Rotary has been fading in popularity for decades in the US. But in India people are clamoring to join: Membership in the country has more than doubled since 2005, to approximately 164,000. In the US it’s fallen 29% over the same period, to 272,000.

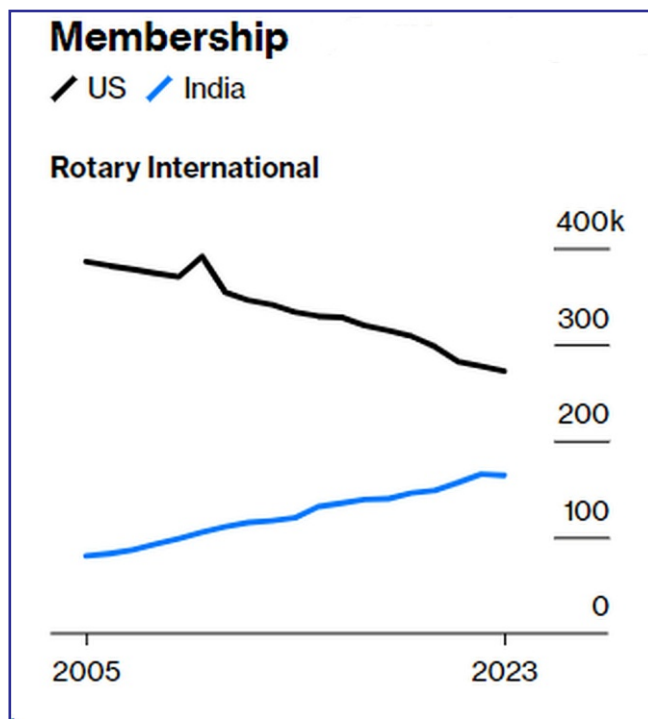
Rotarians command a certain respect in India, says Pavithra Venkatagopalan, who runs a medical diagnostics company and is part of a club in Chennai that strives for diversity in its members’ vocations. Many of them run small to medium enterprises, offering them more flexibility to engage in Rotary activities. Sanghvi’s club is similar. “If I miss out on office for two hours, hell doesn’t break loose,” says Sanghvi, the managing director of a family-owned banking, finance and construction conglomerate.

These characteristics hearken back to Rotary’s US origins as a network of “almost aristocratic” social clubs, says Jeff Charles, an emeritus professor of history at California State University at San Marcos and author of **Service Clubs in American Society: Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions**. Paul Harris, a Chicago lawyer, created Rotary as a way to foster local connections, assembling a flock of Illinois businessmen in 1905. That model spread to other major cities, then to rural areas and later internationally, with meetings often held over lunch in hotels, churches and public buildings.

At first, Rotary clubs restricted the number of members from any one profession to encourage them to use one another’s services; a Rotarian doctor might hire a Rotarian lawyer. These networks grew rapidly in their influence, with Rotary counting many influential persons among its ranks. Charles attributes the rise of Rotary to the fast growth of cities in the early 20th century, as well as social concerns that corporations were becoming overly powerful. In service clubs (as in Freemasons), members looked out for each other. The emphasis on philanthropy and volunteer work came later; in addition to local efforts, the international parent groups have raised hundreds of millions of dollars toward causes such as disease prevention.

But the popularity of Rotary and its peers started to decline after the 1970s, as members began to age and clubs struggled to attract new recruits. Today 42% of Rotarians in the US are 60 or older; in western Europe, that figure is 55%. Efforts to enlist younger men—and women, who weren’t allowed in Rotary until 1989—have flagged.

In India membership skews more toward people in their 40s and 50s. Participants say the meetings fit into their schedules: In Rotary some clubs meet seasonally, and some meet virtually; others are multiple times a week. A feeling of fun and fellowship is key, Sanghvi says. Unlike the old US model of Rotary, his club doesn’t restrict meeting attendance to members alone. Spouses, parents and children are invited to the dinnertime gatherings, where there’s often entertainment and games to bind the multigenerational community. Another draw is the huge opportunity for service: In a country where hundreds of millions of people live in poverty, Rotarians can see the impact of their donations and volunteer work. “That also probably feeds our soul,” Sanghvi says.





# News

**RC Kazhakuttom** conducted Neuropathic Diabetic foot Tests and Medical Camp utilising the Mobile facility of RC Parassala on Dec 3 at Kolathukara, Kulathoor temple compound.

**RC Chengannur** conducted a Mega Medical Camp at SVHS School, Pandanad in association with Aster - Padmavathi Foundation and Microlab. Eight medical departments, bone density test, and free blood tests were the highlights of the camp. 175 individuals were tested at the camp. A big thanks to St. Thomas Hospital Malakara for sponsoring 20 hearing aids worth Rs. 24,000/- each to students.

**RC Vembanad Pallipuram** conducted a Mega Ayurveda Medical Camp at Govt LP School, Thirunalloor. "Ayurvedavum Jeevithavum" awareness class was taken Dr.A.Jayaraj, Senior Medical Officer Govt Ayurveda Hospital, Aroor.

**RC Quilon** conducted medical examination of sick and destitute patients at SS Samithi Abaya Kendram, Mayyanad, Kollam; hosted lunch for the inmates and donated cups and plates.

**RC Karode**, a one-year-old baby club, implemented SATRANGI with a detailed health awareness conference on various topics by Dr. S.S. Lal and Rtn.Dr Ajaiyakumar. It was followed by a multidisciplinary Giga medical camp with the participation of nine famous hospitals - KIMS Hospital, SK Hospital, Saraswathy Hospital, NIMS Hospital, PMS Dental College, Sarada Krishna Homeopathic Medical College, Gayathri Ayurvedic Hospital, Regional Ayurveda Research Centre and Sreenethra Eye Care, with the attendance of large number of beneficiaries. Each hospital covered various verticals of Sattrangi.

**RC Alleppey North** organised a community service project in which they donated a wheelchair and blankets to elderly people in and around Alappuzha. Former minister G.Sudhakaran inugurated. The club also conducted a mega medical camp, utilising the service of a team of Doctors under the leadership of the veteran Dr.Venugopal.

**RC Kottiyam** members visited the residence and handed over Rs.20,000/- to Sreelal Kannan for treatment of his 10-year old daughter Gayatri at Amrita Hospital, Cochin. The club also donated food kits to 65-year old Reena Varghese and her family; and an air bed to 86-year old Veronica who is bedridden.

**RC Sherthalay Town** organised "KOOTTANADATTAM" in connection with world AIDS day. AG AKSM M Mohanan Nair flagged off the event.

**RC Cherthala Green City** organised a Drug Awareness programme along with an Ottanthullal on the subject, at PJ UPSchool, Valavanad.

**RC Chengannur** conducted a free diabetes detection camp and awareness class for the Thalapanangadu residents association on Nov 19, with active participation of 90+ residents. Dr. Alexander Koshy, a renowned expert in the field of diabetes, led the session and provided valuable insights into managing and preventing diabetes.







# Roundup



[Clockwise from Top Left]

**RC Palai:** Organised a Talk on Project Sudarshan- Reverse Global Warming, by Prof. Jomy Augustine, a passionate environmentalist and Advisor to the Haritha Keralam Mission, Govt of Kerala.

**RC Erumely:** Celebrated “WORLD SOIL DAY” on 5th December by planting saplings of Jack fruit tree.

**RC Greater Changanassery:** DG Rtn Dr G Sumithran inaugurated a Solar Water heater installed at SUKRUTHAM Mental Health Centre by the club under the vertical “Renewable Energy”. Rtn Dr Tina Antony, DGN inaugurated the Solar street light installed near Neelamperoor Knanaya Church.

**RC Alleppey:** Under the vertical Renewable Energy, Rtn Tomi Eapen purchased an electric car, setting a personal example.

**RC Alleppey Coir City:** Smt K K Jayamma, Municipal Chairperson inaugurated a project for creating a vegetable garden in the campus of Govt Girls Higher Secondary School, Alappuzha.

**RC Alleppey North:** Honoured the student farmers of Mannanchery High School at a function presided over by Sri.P.P.Chittaranjan MLA.









# Signature Project

## RC PALAI AND MARIASADANAM

- Rtn.PAG.PHF.Er.Tisson Mathew, RC Palai

Rotary Club of Palai was chartered in the year 1985. Just 4 km away, my schoolmate Mr.Santhosh Joseph, attracted by the biblical dictum "when you do something good to someone who is an orphan or downtrodden, you are doing it to me", gave shelter to a mentally disabled wanderer in his own house along with his parents, wife and kids. This was in 1998.



He went on taking care of many such unwanted, abnormal people from different places, those entrusted by government and NGOs; thus, Mariasadanam, home for the care and rehabilitation of mentally challenged men and women and their normal kids was established in Pala. The centre was run by the financial, physical and intellectual support of well wishers and friends from all parts of the world. But as the number of inhabitants increased, it went beyond the means of Santhosh.... of course people of Pala kept on lending a helping hand for these helpless people who do not know who or what they are or were.

When I joined the club in 1996, I had noticed that many members were staunch supporters of Mariasadanam, either by way of cash or in kind (sponsoring meals, medicines and services); solving various day-to-day and infrastructural issues. Young members were observing the transformation of troubled minds into reasonable individuals with proper treatment and rehabilitation.

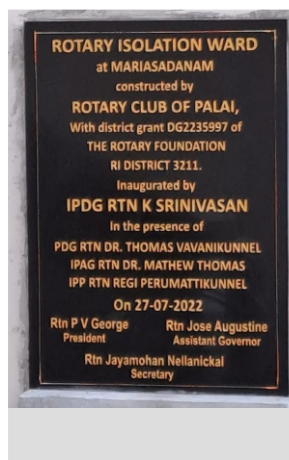


This voluntary service supports the 500 inmates today.

RC Palai is following the service above self motto just by being a part of this care centre. Through a Global grant worth Rs.56.29 lakhs, we could address three issues which were threatening the very existence of Mariyasadanam.



- 1) Waste water treatment plant was installed and the treated water was used for gardening
- 2) Solid waste treatment plant was installed
- 3) Rain water harvesting plant installed to address water scarcity





Earlier, Mariyasadanam was bringing water by tanker Lorry from a distant place except during rainy season, Last year RC Pala implemented drinking water project with support of European Rotary clubs. A friend and well wisher provided 8 cents of riverfront land 1.5km away, for digging a well. We laid a pipeline and installed pumpsets to pump water to the Care Home. This was a great celebration for the inmates.

Through a district grant, the club constructed a pediatric ward and one for children. Two wards, including a general ward for inmates was sponsored by rotarian families. A free dental clinic was established by a rotarian couple, later extended for destitute non-inmates also. An eye hospital is also ready. A guestroom was donated by the relative of a rotarian. One of our Presidents facilitated a donation of Rs.10 lakhs by MTR Foods and Eastern for a children's ward. Two members were instrumental in releasing the CSR fund of Rs.30 lakhs from KSFE. A Kitchen extension project worth Rs. 13.75 lakhs was undertaken by one of our members who also provided a water purifier. An Incinerator stand was erected.

During the Covid Pandemic, RC Palai spent Rs.14.50 lakhs for COVID support including provision of an isolation ward for COVID patients and meeting all the food requirements of all the 450 inmates for 30 days.

Inspired by the above, Rotary Clubs of Kozhuvanal and Kottayam Southern also constructed wards for inmates who were increasing in number. RC Erattupetta helped their rehabilitation by setting up a paper packaging unit. Many anonymous rotarians from all over District3211 supported with financial contributions.

A brief visit to Mariyasadanam will cast a lasting impression in the mind of the visitor. The talents and calibre of the inmates has to be seen to be believed. It leads one to realise that any person, even you or me, can lose our mental balance and control. The inmates list consists of cine artists, musicians and not-so-well-to-do people, all of diverse talents. Members of the club have enthusiastically introduced many business magnates, professionals and public personalities to Mariyasadanam, and successfully motivated them to contribute to their specific needs.

Though RC Palai is the backbone of Mariyasadanam, our members, even when they spend crores of rupees for its noble cause, wish to remain anonymous, yet committed. Medical support, eye care, cataract surgeries, psychiatric and psychological assistance, all provided free of cost, help to keep the inmates comfortable in their daily life.

Yes... Mariasadanam is now a veritable part of our club. The members of RC Palai welcome any rotarian of our District to Mariyasadanam during their next visit to the region so that they can understand first-hand the magnitude of Rotary humanitarian service rendered and also contribute their mite. In fact, each of our 163 members can be proud that SERVICE ABOVE SELF is the guiding spirit of RC Palai.



## "PUNYOLSAV" , LITERALLY PROVED TO BE A HOLY CELEBRATION !!

- PAG Major Donor Joseph Lukose, Organizing Committee Chairman.

Yes my dear friends, Sunday the 5th November 2023 people could witness that all the roads of revenue districts, Trivandrum, Kollam, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta and Kottayam seemed to be leading to KTDC WATER SCAPES, KUMARAKAM where one of the most meaningful Rotary events, TRF Seminar, rightfully named " PUNYOLSAV" by our visionary beloved DG, was materialized. I express my personal gratitude to our leader and DG, Rtn.Dr.Sumithran for his confidence to assign the organizing committee Chairmanship to me which in fact led me to do something worth to the benefit of our wonderful organisation, Rotary. As you know, my friends, without strengthening the financial status, no one can dream about the long lasting existence of an organisation like Rotary. And this seminar was intended to showcase the real necessity of the above purpose just through the thought provoking deliberations by most sought after speakers from the Rotary arena itself.



The words of wisdom by the chief guest PRID Rtn.Dr.Manoj Desai, Rtn.Sam Mova, Rtn.Dr.Rajesh Subhash, PDG Rtn.Harjit Singh Talwar could throw some new light in the hearts of the listeners. The sweet and krispy speeches by our own beloved leaders of RI Dist 3211 like, Dist Chief Adviser,PDG Dr.John Daniel, Dist Chief Learning Facilitator,PDG Rtn.Shirish Kesavan and Dist Vice Governor, Rtn.Dr.G.A.George added its own spark and spice to the plenary sessions. Beloved DG Rtn.Dr.G.Sumithran in his remarks requested the Rotarians to come forward to exhibit their generosity in the art of giving. It's of my great surprise to see that responding to the humble request of the down to earth personally Rtn.Dr.G.Smithran, two of our wonderful Rotarians, ie Rtn.PAG Krishnan G.Nair and AG Rtn.M.Mohan Nair of zone 27 rose to the occasion by expressing their willingness to be listed as AKS members. Rtn.Krishnan G.Nair went one step ahead by completing the full amount for the AKS membership. Apart from the above exciting moments, the participants could also witness the assurance given by seven of our Rotarians to become Major Donors during the current Rotary year itself.

In fact, the seminar turned to be a 100 percent successful one by virtue of achieving the purpose to the maximum level. It's to be specially mentioned that the program had been witnessed by 1200 plus Rotarians including their family members, and proved to be an all time record in the history of RI Dist 3211, as far as a TRF Seminar is concerned . The mesmerizing ambience, sumptuous and delicious food delicacies served by the vetaran caterers, "RUCHI" , stimulating fellowship and scintillating cultural entertainments, could provide an unforgettable experience to the entire participants.

I will be failing in my duty if I don't mention a word about all the dedicated members of the organizing committee, especially the Secretary PAG Rtn.Sujith Mohan, who left no stone unturned for the smooth and error free conduct of this spectacular Rotary celebration. Thank you my friends.....

***Our District welomed two serving RI Directors RID Henrique and Renata from Brazil & RID Hens Harman and Nadija from Germany who are on a visit to Kerala. They were given a warm reception by Rotary Club of Alleppey Coir City. Asst. Governor Rtn. K. Cherian, President Rtn. Sanalkumar, GGR Rtn. Rajan Peter and Secretary Rtn. Alex Philip, welcoming them with flower garlands.***



## TRF COMMITMENTS RECEIVED AT PUNYOLSAV

1. AKSM Rtn Krishnan G Nair, RC Quilon (Contributed 2,50,000 USD)
2. Rtn M Mohanan Nair, AG, RC Sherthallai (Commitment as AKSM)
3. Rtn Harikrishnan R Nair, RC Quilon (3rd Level Major Donor)
4. Rtn Dr G Sumithran DG & Dr Smita, RC Karunagappally/RC QIn Lotus. (2nd level Major Donor)
5. Rtn Dr Sajana and Rtn Sheena Sajana AG, RC Puthur/RC QIn Lotus (2nd level Major Donor)

### Major Donor Commitments

1. Rtn ML Unnikrishnan, AG, RC Trivandrum
2. Rtn Harish Mohan, AG, RC Trivandrum Techno Park
3. Rtn Manulal Nair, AG, RC Trivandrum Ananthapuri
4. Rtn Gireesh, RC Parassala
5. Rtn Padmakumar, PAG, RC Parassala
6. Rtn Rajeeve Kumar, President QIn Lotus
7. Rtn Krishnakumar PN, PAG, Chairman District Assembly, RC Karunagappally
8. Rtn Adv Anil Kumar K, RC Kottarakkara
9. Rtn Adv Jyothish Muraleedharan, RC Kottarakkara
10. Rtn Jacob Samuel, AG, RC Harippad Greater
11. Rtn Anu T Cherian, PP, RC Kayamkulam
12. Rtn Salikumar S, AG, RC Harippad
13. Rtn Rojes Jose, PP, RC Alleppey Greater
14. Rtn Rajeeve P, RC Cherthala Green City
15. Rtn Santhosh P, RC Cherthala Green City

### CLUB COMMITMENTS (USD 10,000 Minimum)

1. RC Sherthallai
2. RC Quilon
3. RC Kozhuvanal
4. RC Karunagappally
5. RC Trivandrum
6. RC Balaramapuram
7. RC Krishnapuram Royals
8. RC Harippad Greater
9. RC Trivandrum Technopark
10. RC Alleppey Greater
11. RC Trivandrum Central
12. RC Quilon West End
13. RC Trivandrum Ananthapuri
14. RC Kazhakuttom
15. RC Quilon Lotus
16. RC Kottarakkara
17. RC Kayamkulam
18. RC Cherthala Green City

100% PHF CLUB  
RC Chathannoor

**PUNYOLSAV 2023**

Rotary RID 3211

CREATE HOPE IN THE WORLD

കുടുംബശ്രീ

# PUNYOLSAV

## THE ROTARY FOUNDATION SEMINAR

**1200+**  
REGISTRATIONS

**2**  
AKS MEMBERS

**3**  
SECOND LEVEL  
MAJOR DONORS

**15**  
MAJOR DONORS

**17**  
CLUBS OFFERED ABOVE  
USD 10000

**1**  
100% PHF CLUB

Thank you

RTN. DR. G. SUMITHRAN  
District Governor

RTN. JOSEPH LUKOSE  
Organizing Chairman

## MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT CHAIRMAN

Esteemed fellow Rotarians,  
As you all know "FIRE" is a unique program duly envisaged by our late PDG Rtn C Luke. Pranam to the dear departed. Lets enhance and empower our fellowship through this feat.

We have completed almost all levels of "FIRE" competitions impeccably. The "grand finale" is impending. The competition items are the same. But the mind blowing performances flabbergasted all and sundry. The talented participants put the judges in utter confusion. At this juncture I would like to congratulate all the Rotary luminaries as well as vibrant FIRE team members for their priceless initiatives and dedication.

We have been making meticulous arrangements for the "GRAND FINALE" ON 14 TH JANUARY 2024 SUNDAY at the Balakrishna Convention Centre, Kottah, near Chengannur. The programme starts exactly at 2 pm. Lets celebrate the day by enjoying marvellous performances with a galaxy of celebrities and their performances too. I ardently solicit your cozy presence, co operation and active participation. Lets embark our journey with a bang in 2024.

- PAG B. Ravikumar.



## **ARE ROTARIANS MEMBERS OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL???**

Many Rotarians are not clear whether they are members of Rotary International or not. We put this issue in perspective.

### **Q 1. Who is a member of the Rotary International? A Rotarian or a Rotary Club?**

Ans : Only the Rotary Clubs (or Rotaract Clubs) are members of Rotary International; **NOT ROTARIANS.**

### **Q 2. How does one reach such a conclusion?**

Ans : In the RI Bylaws,

- a) under the Membership in RI, only Rotary Clubs and Rotaract Clubs are mentioned as members
- b) Rotarians are specified as members of Rotary Clubs and not as members of RI.
- c) Individuals of good standing are selected as Rotarians by the Director Board of the Club, RI's permission is not required.
- d) Termination or suspension of a Rotarian can be decided only by the Director Board of the Club and not by RI. RI can suspend or terminate a Club only and not Rotarians, for the reasons mentioned in the RI Bylaws.
- e) For election of RI Officers, only the Clubs have the voting rights and not individual Rotarians.

### **Q 3. What are the probable reasons for creating confusion as to Rotarian's membership in RI?**

- Ans : a) collection of International Dues in the names of individual Rotarians of each club  
b) Giving International ID number to Rotarians  
c) Updating membership details in My Rotary page of Rotary website  
d) Confusion caused by our leaders in their talks on membership.

### **Q 4. If Rotarians are not members of RI, why are International Dues collected from the Clubs based on the number of Rotarians in the Clubs on per capita basis, based on their name list?**

- Ans : a) It is for the right to be called a Rotarian and enjoy the privileges of being a Rotarian anywhere in the world.  
b) Right to be welcomed to and attend the meetings of any Rotary Club around the world.  
The RI Dues collected are exclusively used for Administrative expenses related to Member Services.

### **Q 5. If the Rotarians are not members of RI, then what is the purpose of giving International ID numbers to the Rotarians ?**

Ans : An International ID number is given to a Rotarian to identify him/her as such, and enable him/her to enjoy the privileges of a Rotarian in other Clubs. Rotary Clubs are supposed to issue Club ID cards showing the ID numbers; enabling other Clubs to verify the current status of a visiting Rotarian. Each Rotarian will be given a unique ID number which will not be reassigned to another Rotarian even if the original holder is no longer a Rotarian.

### **Q 5. If the Rotarians are not members of Rotary International why does RI insist on updating the membership details on RI website?**

Ans : This is to ensure the current status of a member. Also, the number of votes a club is eligible to cast while electing RI officers is based on the number of members in the club.

### **Q 5. In many Rotary meetings especially during the talks on membership development, some speakers state that membership growth of RI is stagnant at 1.2 million (now being projected as 1.4 million including 0.2 million Rotaract Club members). If Rotarians are not members of RI, why make this statement ?**

Ans : The actual membership of RI is based on the number of clubs, which number about 37,000 worldwide. The figure of 1.2 million should not be referred to membership in RI but to the number of active Rotarians worldwide.

**NOTE : In the last GML issue, an inadvertent error occurred in the answer to Q 2, which may kindly be read as follows: "The Candidate for DGN has to be a Rotarian for at least seven years, on the day of assuming office as the District Governor."**

## ROTARY INFORMATION....

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

### DID YOU KNOW?

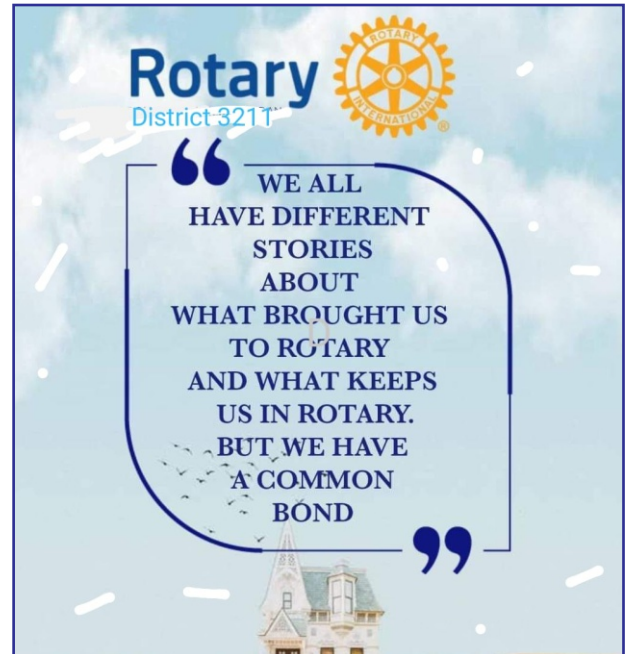
In 1905, when Rotary began it was not based on the idea of "SERVICE ABOVE SELF". Instead, the two main aims of the Chicago Club were :

"THE PROMOTION OF THE BUSINESS INTERESTS OF ITS MEMBERS", and

"GOOD FELLOWSHIP AND OTHER DESIRE ORDINARILY INCIDENT TO SOCIAL CLUBS."

### SOME ROTARY FIRSTS:

- The first Rotary club meeting was in Chicago, Illinois, on February 23, 1905.
- The first regular luncheon meetings were in Oakland, California, chartered in 1909.
- The first Rotary Convention was in Chicago in 1910.
- The first Rotary club outside of the U.S. was chartered in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, in 1910.
- The first Rotary club outside of North America was chartered in Dublin, Ireland, in 1911.
- The first Rotary club in South America was chartered in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1918.
- The first Rotary club in Asia was chartered in Manila, Philippines, in 1919.
- The first Rotary club in Africa was chartered in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1921.
- The first Rotary Club in India was chartered in Calcutta in January 1920.



## OBITUARY

**Rtn.Suja Varghese (58 years), Past Director Board Member of Rotary E-club of Kerala Global, Dubai** and wife of Rtn.PP.PHF Varghese Samuel passed away on Oct 15 at Dubai. Native of Mavelikara, she had been working with Metlife Insurance Middle East, Dubai for the last 30 years, last serving as Product Implementation Manager. The couple have a son Ruben, daughter Ruby and Son-in-law Rovin.



**Rtn.PHF. Ramachandran.N of RC Chathannoor** expired on Dec 13. He joined Rotary in the year 2016 and was an active member of the club, with classification as civil contractor. He is survived by his wife Rtn.Thulasi Bai, sons R.Dilip Kumar (Advocate), Pradeep Kumar (Asst. Engineer) and Pramila Devi (Manager, Kerala Bank).



**Rtn.Adv.Ezhamkulam Jayaraj (58 years)** of RC Adoor expired on Dec 19. A Rotarian since 2018, he is survived by wife Rtn.Maya G. Nair, working as Headmistress in NSS School, Adoor and son Dr.Aromal Raj J, MBBS, MD, who is a Radiologist working in Adoor.



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



# DISTRICT SEMINAR ON PUBLIC IMAGE VOCATIONAL SERVICE & CLUB ADMINISTRATION



VENUE: O BY TAMARA, THIRUVANATHAPURAM

04 February  
2024

09:30am

Registration starts @08.30am

Chief Guest



RTN. PDG AKSM  
ER. MURUGANANDAM M  
ROTARY PUBLIC IMAGE  
COORDINATOR-(ZONE 5)



SPEAKER  
JACOB PUNNOOSE  
(IPS RTD)  
FORMER DGP



SPEAKER  
DR. ALEXANDER JACOB  
(IPS RTD)  
FORMER DGP

Rotary members are expected to uphold a strong set of ethics and principles as part of their commitment to the organization. These ethics are outlined in Rotary's Four-Way Test and Rotary's Code of Conduct.

As you know, January is the month of VOCATIONAL SERVICE, which is considered to be the "Second Avenue of Service". It's frequently demonstrated by offering young people career guidance, occupational information and assistance in making vocational choices. Some clubs sponsor high school career guidances. Many recognise the dignity of employment by honouring exemplary service of individuals working in their regardless of the ways that vocational Service is expressed, it's the banner by which Rotarians "recognise the worthiness of all useful occupations" and demonstrate a commitment to "high ethical standards in all business and professions". That's why the Second Avenue of Service is fundamental to every Rotary club.

- Dr.G.Sumithran.

Rotary  **4 Way Test**  
of the things we think, say, or do:  
Is it the **TRUTH**?  
Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?  
Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?  
Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

## Rotary's Code of Conduct:

Rotary International has a Code of Conduct that outlines the behavior expected of all Rotary members. This code includes principles such as:

- **Integrity:** Members should be honest and transparent in their actions, maintaining the highest ethical standards.
- **Respect:** They should respect the dignity and worth of all individuals, regardless of differences.
- **Service:** Rotary members commit to service above self and are expected to actively participate in service projects that benefit their communities and the world.
- **Leadership:** Members are encouraged to be leaders in their professions and communities and to use their skills to make a positive impact.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** Rotary values diversity and strives to create inclusive environments where all individuals feel welcome and valued.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Members should avoid situations that may involve a conflict of interest and should act in the best interests of Rotary and its mission.

Rotary members are expected to adhere to these ethical principles in all their interactions, both within the organization and in their personal and professional lives. These ethics are at the core of Rotary's mission to promote goodwill, peace, and the betterment of communities worldwide.

# FAMILY PAGE

## Palm Souffle - A Tasty Dessert

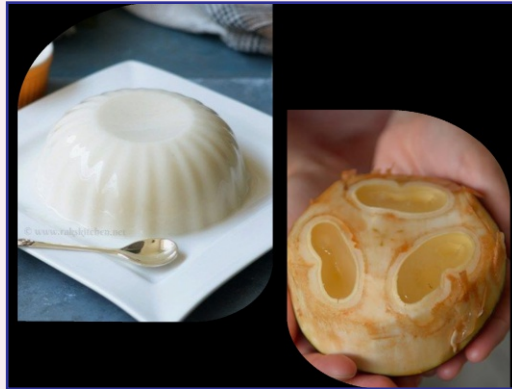
- Rtya Linta Jinny, RC Kottayam Southern

### Ingredients

Milk - 1 Ltr  
Gelatin - 25 gm  
Whipping Cream - 200 ml  
Vanilla Essence - 1 tsp  
Palm Fruit - 4 Nos

### Method

1. First in a mixer add in the Palm juice and Palm pulp and make a paste. Keep this aside.
2. Take a small bowl put some cold water in it and soak the gelatin in it for 10 min. After 10 minutes, melt the gelatin and keep it aside too.
3. Now pour the cream to a large bowl and beat the Whipping cream till it gets its perfect texture. Keep this mixture in fridge till you use it.
4. Now take saucepan and pour in the milk add in the sugar and vanilla extract and bring it to a boil. Allow it to cool.
5. Now to the cooled milk add in the Palm pulp, gelatin and mix everything. Now finally fold in the cream gently taking small portion, once fully mixed. Transfer this mixture to a serving Tray. Place it in the Freezer for 20 minutes and then transfer it to the Refrigerator for 2-3 hours to set.



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## GREAT DETECTIVE WORK

- Contributed by Rtn.R.Sukumara Pillai, RC Quilon

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of the world-famous detective Sherlock Holmes, was not above telling self-deprecating tales.

In one situation, he was waiting at a taxi stand outside the railway station in Paris.

When a taxi pulled up, he placed his suitcase in the car and took a seat next to it. "Where can I take you, Mr. Doyle?" asked the taxi driver.

Doyle was flabbergasted. He asked the driver whether he knew him by sight.

"No, sir, I have never seen you before."

The puzzled Doyle asked him how he knew he was Conan Doyle.

"This morning's paper had a story about you being on vacation in Marseilles. This is the taxi-stand where people who return from Marseilles always come to. Your skin color tells me you have been on vacation. The ink-spot on your right index finger suggests to me that you're a writer. Your clothing is very English, and not French. And so, I deduced that you are Sir Arthur Conan Doyle."

Doyle remarked, "This is truly amazing. You are a real-life counterpart to my fictional creation, Sherlock Holmes."

"There is one other thing," the driver said.

"What is that?"

"Your name is on the front of your suitcase."

**BULLETIN REVIEW...** [Reviewing a selected club bulletin of our District]

## **“THE QUILON ROTARIAN” - BULLETIN OF RC QUILON**

The first quarterly club bulletin “The Quilon Rotarian” of the prestigious RC Quilon in the digital format was received and reviewed by me. I was given to understand by the Editor Rtn George Abraham that they release both printed and digital copies of the bulletin on a quarterly basis, while they prepare digital copies of the bulletin every month and circulate only among the club members. The sixteen-page quarterly is a visual treat - fully packed with photographs of various activities of the club over a period of three months starting from July 23. I was very much impressed with the way the Editor has presented the Rotarians, celebrated birthdays and wedding anniversaries with pictures in the opening pages of the bulletin itself. After President’s and Editor’s columns, there is an array of activity photos spreading over 10 pages, encompassing reports on Club events, District Project Satrangi and Public Image project on International Day of Girl Child. (In fact, the latter activity featured as the cover page of a GML issue. - Ed.) The article on “Friendship and Fellowship in Clubs” by Rtn Humayun Thaj is worth reading. A recap of the weekly meetings has been provided in the penultimate page.

To summarise, I find that ‘The Quilon Rotarian’, though adequately covering the club activities, conspicuously misses any District news/RI News or other general matters of interest to the readers - unbefitting of a legendary club like RC Quilon which will be celebrating its Platinum Jubilee year in six months' time. It is true that my expectations were quite high when the Editor asked me to review the club bulletin of RC Quilon which has produced veterans like PDG Rtn Udayakumar Sir, Rtn Zachariah Samuel, Rtn Krishnan G Nair.... the list is long. My advice to the Editor Rtn George Abraham is that he may endeavour to publish ‘The Quilon Rotarian’ at least on a monthly basis by including more District/RI News. Due to the hectic activities taken up by the club in the quarter, possibly he might have been forced to discard other reports due to space constraints. By bringing out the bulletin on a monthly basis, I think he will get more space to accommodate good readable materials on District/RI and contributions from the members too.

- Rtn **PAG M Kumaraswamy Pillai.**

## **EDITOR'S CORNER**

[Featuring 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.]

### **"Embracing the Tapestry of Humanity: A Deep Dive into Sharing, Caring, Love, as a Rotarian" - PP.MPHF. Varughese Edayadiyil, Rotary Club of Paippad.**

In a world that can often feel fragmented and detached, the principles of sharing, caring, and love radiate as beacons of hope within the global community of Rotarians. At the heart of Rotary International's ethos is a profound commitment to service, a commitment that manifests itself through the intricate interplay of sharing one's time and resources, caring for the well-being of others, and expressing love in its most altruistic form.

Sharing, a fundamental tenet of Rotary service, extends far beyond the mere exchange of material possessions. Rotarians share their expertise, experiences, and invaluable time to address the myriad challenges faced by communities worldwide. This generous act of giving, whether through mentorship programs or collaborative projects, exemplifies the spirit of Rotary—a spirit that recognizes the interconnectedness of humanity and the collective responsibility we bear for one another's welfare.

Caring, as a driving force behind Rotary initiatives, is a nuanced and deeply rooted expression of empathy. Rotarians care for the broader global community by responding swiftly to disasters, providing aid and comfort where it is most needed. This genuine concern for the well-being of others permeates every aspect of Rotary service, from supporting local healthcare initiatives to championing educational programs. It is through caring that Rotarians nurture resilience and instill hope, fostering a culture of compassion that transcends borders.



Love, within the context of Rotary, is a transformative force that propels individuals toward selfless acts of service. Rotarians embody a profound love for humanity—an unyielding commitment to making the world a better place for all. This love is not limited to personal connections but extends to a broader sense of responsibility and interconnectedness. Through Rotary, members discover a shared purpose that goes beyond individual aspirations, creating a ripple effect of positive change.

The intricate tapestry of Rotary service is woven with threads of diverse expertise, cultural understanding, and a shared vision for a better world. Rotarians leverage their professional skills and leadership acumen to drive sustainable projects, leaving an indelible mark on communities in need. The ethos of sharing, caring, and love acts as a catalyst, inspiring Rotarians to transcend boundaries and create a legacy of enduring impact.

In conclusion, the elaborate dance of sharing, caring, and love within the realm of Rotary International mirrors the complexity and beauty of the global tapestry of humanity. As Rotarians continue to champion the values of service above self, they contribute to a narrative of unity and compassion that echoes across continents. In a world often characterized by division, Rotary stands as a testament to the enduring power of human connection and the transformative potential of shared, caring, and loving actions, which are in perfect consonance with our 4 way Test.

## **The Rotary Four-Way Test: A Guiding Compass for Caring Leadership**

In a world often marked by complexity and moral dilemmas, the Rotary Four-Way Test stands as a timeless beacon, guiding individuals in their pursuit of ethical behavior and caring leadership. Developed by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor in the 1930s, this set of four simple questions has become a cornerstone for personal and professional integrity.

The first question challenges us to consider the truth in all our dealings. In a society where misinformation can spread like wildfire, embracing honesty fosters trust and builds the foundation for genuine connections. Caring leaders understand that truthfulness is not just about accuracy but also about maintaining the dignity of relationships.

The second question urges us to ponder the fairness of our actions. A caring leader recognizes the importance of equity, ensuring that decisions are not only just but also considerate of the diverse perspectives within a community. Fairness fosters an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and heard.

The third question encourages us to cultivate goodwill and better friendships. Caring leaders understand that genuine concern for others creates a positive ripple effect. By fostering goodwill, we contribute to a culture of collaboration and support, reinforcing the idea that success is most fulfilling when shared.

The final question prompts us to examine whether our actions are beneficial to all concerned. This holistic perspective challenges us to think beyond immediate gains and consider the long-term impact of our choices. A caring leader takes into account the well-being of the entire community, fostering sustainable and compassionate solutions.

Caring, as embodied in the Four-Way Test, extends beyond mere empathy. It becomes a deliberate and principled approach to leadership. By incorporating these guiding questions into our daily lives, we not only navigate the complexities of decision-making but also contribute to the creation of a more compassionate and interconnected world.

In essence, the Rotary Four-Way Test and caring are inseparable companions on the journey toward ethical leadership. They remind us that our actions, both big and small, have the power to shape the world around us. As we strive to live by these principles, we become not only leaders but also catalysts for positive change, creating a legacy of caring that transcends time.

Wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

*Though a bit lengthy, Rtn.Varughese has magnificently captured the essence of Rotary, so the editorial is being published in its entirety. Thanks a lot!! - Ed.*

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

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