

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Southerners,

Make the most of it has been the motto of this year's team. We did not allow lockdowns to pull down our enthusiasm.

- Weekly meetings - Rtn. Madhu - We had eleven virtual and six physical meetings. Speakers talked on a wide range of topics from photography to perfumes.
- Firesides - Rtn. Shyamala - Three well attended Fireside meetings were organised.
- Rainwater harvesting project - Rtn. MC Srikanth and Rtn. Magdoom - 62 RWH wells were handed over to the government and corporation schools under this Global grant project.
- Fellowship - Rtn. Sathyanarayanan - One virtual DJ nite and two grand physical fellowships carried our spirits to the heights.
- Opening of computer centre at Vyasarpadi will be a boon to the children in that area. We donated the furniture and computers for the centre run by 'Vyasai Thozhargal' an association of local youth - Rtn. Srikanth and Rtn. Mukund
- All the Rotaract Clubs sponsored by RCMS were installed and they have taken up activities, though in a limited way - Rtn. Bina
- Interact clubs could not be installed due to government restrictions. However we were able to start a new Interact club at AKG Public School - Rtn. Ajit
- Little Hearts - Rtn. Saravanan - 28 surgeries were conducted during the period 1st July to 31st Dec 2021 and balance 68 surgeries are expected to be completed by May 2022. In order to ensure seamless continuity the proposal for the third global grant is being submitted.

A HALF YEARLY REVIEW....

- Board Meetings - Board meetings were conducted every month and all activities were taken up only after Board approval.
- Membership Development - Rtn. Magdoom. We started the year with a membership of 68 and we have a net growth of 3 members, after adding 6 new members and sadly losing 3 existing members.
- Kattur CLC - We could revive the activities at Kattur Centre, the only physical asset Madras South has got. From 1st Dec 2021 the centre is open for free tuitions for school children from the surrounding villages.
- Community Service - Rtn. Kishore - Distribution of 200 blankets to the roadside dwellers.
- Bulletin 'The Southerner' - Rtn. Seshadri - Month on month well laid out and informative editions were brought out.
- Ford Digital Literacy - Rtn. Mukund and Rtn. Srikanth - This year the project was taken to the frontiers of our country. Rtn. Mukund travelled to Machhal in Kupwara district near the LOC in Jammu and handed over 50 laptops. This is apart from the regular distribution which is happening in our district.
- Annadhanam at East Eden Foundation has been happening as planned on the last Saturday of every month.
- Apart from the regular activities planned, we are in the process of applying for a global grant for providing COVID testing microscope to VHS. Applying for FCRA and starting Ramakrishna Raja memorial project are the pending activities which we have planned for this year.

Yours in Rotary

Renjit Joseph

KARAOKE NITE – AN ENTERTAINING MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

When it comes to Indians, movie songs always bring in an instant connect. Be it a reunion party or a WhatsApp group, one can find discussions galore on a particular singer or genre. Southerners' year end fellowship get-together at Hotel Radisson Blu on 18th December, was a Karaoke evening. The overwhelming response to sing was not unexpected.

As usual the best review came from Rtn. Madhu, which is reproduced here:

"It was a most entertaining musical evening. The sheer number of singers, and their enthusiasm, were heart-warming. The emcee did a fine job.

The best male singer: Sarvesh Shyam. Compelling bass voice, excellent control and impeccable rendering. A future

"Voice of the district" as Nichani remarked.

Prodyot Bowmick was excellent with his Hindi song, and would rate second among male singers. Saravanan rendered a Tamil song with his usual panache.

Best female singer: Raji Varma. Her professionalism showed. She is one singer who performs better on her own, without karaoke and without orchestra. Her voice shines through.

Best Annette singer: Aniksha, daughter of Rtn. Anand Katare, shone with her zest and self-confidence.

The best duet performers: Mukund and Bina. Very competently sung. The rollicking song from Ayirathil Oruvan, Adho andha paravai pola vazha vendum, was a joy. Rendered by a Rotarian-Anne combo including Saravanan, Magdoom, Ms (Rajeena) Magdoom and a few other ladies."

Mr. Nabarun Ghosh played the role of an emcee very well and he also helped with the Karaoke tracks and audio equipment.

Another highlight was the invitation extended to former Southerners. There was lot of warmth in meeting the past members like RT Chari, Shivakumar, Hema, Girija, Padmini etc.

Rtn. Satyanarayanan, Director- Family Participation and Rtn. Jawaharlal Nichani, President Elect worked behind the scenes to ensure the success of the program.

Rtn Renjit Joseph



RESTARTING OF ACTIVITIES AT COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE, KATTUR



In the Rotary year 2012-13, the District launched a project named 'Happy Village'. Under this project, each club adopted a village and initiated activities under various avenues of service for the upliftment of the local population. The then president, Rtn R Seshadri, identified Kattur village (Vembed Panchayat) in Thirupporur around 38kms from Chennai (Adyar). An 800 sq ft. CLC was constructed at a cost of Rs 8.48 lakh. The Centre was inaugurated in Feb 2013. The team of Rotarians who made the Centre happen included Suresh Arunachalam, Chethan Jhabak, Raghupathi and Somdev Goyal.

The land belongs to the Panchayat, and they have allotted this portion to RCMS with a release note. RCMS is the owner of the building, and we are paying the electricity charges.

The Centre conducted tuitions for students and provided training in tailoring and computer operation with the support of various NGOs like AID India, Hand in Hand and ACDS over the years.

Activities at the CLC were put on hold from March 2020 due to COVID. During August/ September 2021 we conducted survey in the locality to understand their current needs. We identified that with the schools closed and classes being conducted online, the children had issues in understanding the basics and they required extra support. With the help of local NGO, ACDS, we identified a young graduate girl from the village and have started a tuition class at the centre from 1st Dec 2021.

The sessions are going on well and about 40 students are benefitted by these classes. We propose to put up a CCTV camera for monitoring the activities remotely. Our cost for this program is Rs.10000/ per month, and request Southerners to contribute generously. The Centre is also being used for the "Veedu Thedi Kalvi" scheme launched recently the TN Govt.

VISIT OF RI PRESIDENT TO CHENNAI

RI President Rtn. Shekhar Mehta was in Chennai on 13th December 2021. He was passing through the city after the 'Rotary Institute 2021' conducted at Mahabalipuram. This was for Zone 4,5,6 and 7. Seizing the opportunity our district arranged for a 'Meet & Greet' with the RI President. It is a president's dream come true to have a photo-op with the RI president during his tenure. Photographs show the Change Makers presidents in attendance at the event and President Renjit along with first lady, Ann Rose for the dream pic with RIP Mehta and DG Rtn J Sridhar.



SHEILA SRIPRAKASH INDUCTED AS A NEW MEMBER

Sheila Sriprakash, spouse of our Past President (Late) M V Sriprakash joined our Club as the newest member on 7th December. Sheila is a renowned and seasoned architect for more than 40 years based in Chennai and has been recognised globally for her urban planning designs. She runs the firm, Shilpa Architects in Chennai. Sheila was accompanied by her grand daughter (in the pic) during the brief induction ceremony as member and Rtn. Shyamala Jayaprakash formally inducted her. Our guest speaker of the evening, Mr. Chandu Nair and our President Renjit Joseph are the others in the pic.



WEEKLY MEETINGS IN DECEMBER



Date : 7th December, 2021

Speaker : Mr Chandu Nair

Topic : Are you relevant?

THE SOUTHERNER WISHES YOU A



OFFICE BEARERS ELECTED FOR RY 2022-23

At a closed door meeting held on 14th December, the president and office bearers for the RY 2022-23 were elected unopposed as per our club's tradition. Rtn Jawahar Nichani will lead the club as president during the year alongwith his team. PP Rtn R V Rajan conducted the elections as the 'Returning Officer'. Southerners wish Rtn Jawahar and his team all the best for a rollicking year under his leadership.



RCMS OFFICE BEARERS FOR RY 2022-23

1. Jawaharlal Nichani	President	14. PP. Asha Marina	Director - Rotary Foundation
2. Renjit Joseph	Immediate Past President	15. PP. S R Madhu	Chairman - Programs
3. Ajit Gautham	Secretary	16. PP Sujeesh	Chairman - Membership Development and Annette's Club
4. Jothilakshmi V S	Treasurer	17. PP. R Balachander	Chairman - Outstation fellowship
5. Parveen Sikkandar	Joint Secretary	18. PP. R.Seshadri	Chairman - Bulletin Editor
6. Bina Boaz	President Elect and Club Service	19. PP.K Prakash	Chairman - Fund raising and Ryla
7. Kishore Bafna	Director - Family Participation	20. D Vishnupriya	Public relations
8. R. Sathyanaryanan	Director - Vocational Service	21. PP Prodyot Bowmick	Firesides
9. Vijay Menon	Director - Community Service - Health	22. PP. M.C Srikanth	Chairman Global Grant, FCRA and Little Hearts
10. Ashok A R	Director - Community Service - Development	23. PP. Mukund Vedapudi	Chairman - Digital Literacy, special projects and Trainer
11. Sarvesh Shyam	Director - Youth Service - Interact	24. Somdev Goyal	Chairman - Club Archives
12. Rajanbabu Ramachandran	Director - Youth Service - Rotaract	25. S N Gupta	Seargent -at- Arms
13. B.B Vengatesh	Director - International Service	26. PP.Shyamala Jayaprakash	Seargent- at- Arms

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