

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Southerner,

I am very happy that the global grant for the 'Caring for little hearts' project is finalized and approved by the foreign partner after the discussions in the board meeting. This will be GG No 3 and for future global grants, the board has decided the following and

informed the foreign club partner.

- We cannot continue with one hospital in the future
- Alternate proposals from other hospitals will be sent
- Bringing down the price was not due to a compromise in quality
- In the long run, it would be beneficial to all concerned (the donor, the beneficiary and RCMS), if we expand the scope.

I request everyone to attend our club's Governor's visit at IIT Alumni Industry Interaction Center on 21st March.

Membership is the key to all clubs. I feel our membership has not grown this year and I request all to bring in prospects as we have another 3 months to go for this year. The district conference was an eye-opener to foster fellowships and bonding. Many green Rotarians enjoyed the speakers and the exhibition which was held for the first time.

PHF is a very prestigious add-on title for Rotarians. I request members who have not yet become PHF to become one, and if you are already one, to encourage your family members to become one. Please contact Rtn. Asha Marina for more details. The amount to be paid to become a PHF is also much lower than what it usually takes to become a PHF

Yours in Rotary
Jawahar Nichani



INVOCATIONS AT CLUB MEETINGS

In many Rotary clubs, it is customary to open weekly meetings with an appropriate invocation or blessing. Usually, such invocations are offered without reference to specific religious denominations or faiths.



Rotary policy recognizes that throughout the world Rotarians represent many religious beliefs, ideas, and creeds. The religious beliefs of each member are fully respected, and nothing in Rotary is intended to prevent each individual from being faithful to such convictions.

At international assemblies and conventions, it is traditional for a silent invocation to be given. In respect for all religious beliefs and in the spirit of tolerance for a wide variety of personal faiths, all persons are invited to seek divine guidance and peace in their own way. It is an inspiring experience to join with thousands of Rotarians in an international "silent prayer" or act of personal devotion. Usually, all Rotary International Board and committee meetings begin with a few moments of silent meditation. In this period of silence, Rotary demonstrates respect for the beliefs of all members, who represent the religions of the world.

Since each Rotary club is autonomous, the practice of presenting a prayer or invocation at club meetings is left entirely to the traditions and customs of the individual club, with the understanding that these meeting rituals always be conducted in a manner that will respect the religious convictions and faiths of all members and are non denominational in nature.

Source: RI Website



Sarvam 3232 which was organised from Feb 10th to 12th was a wonderful experience with scintillating performances by our own Rotarians, Anns and Annettes. The galaxy of speakers was very informative, interactive, and thought-provoking and the topics were quite intriguing.

The program started with a graceful dance by Neha Banerjee. The speakers who made a huge impact were Dr Sivaraman on 'Food as medicine', Sri Sri Ravishankar, and Swami Mitrananda. The Thaikkoodam Bridge band was also well-received by the audience.

Sarvam 3232 had many firsts and the hard work put up by Rtn Ambalavanan and team reflected the intensity of the district conference. The fellowship and the bonding with all the Rotarians at the district conference were enormous.

The food on all three days was a gastronomic delight as we had different South Indian cuisines which were catered from various corners of the southern states. Another first was the exhibition which was held and many shopaholics were on a buying spree.

It was a memorable experience for the Rotarians, Anns and Annettes and more so for the green Rotarians' families as they met everyone under one umbrella.

We profusely thank DG Nandhakumar and first lady Ann Sumedha for the herculean efforts and for creating this lovely event along with Rtn Ambalavanan and team. We have indeed carried many nostalgic memories.

Rtn Jawahar Nichani



PANANTHOPE SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT DAKSHINCHITRA

A group of students studying in 10th to 12th standard at Pananthope Railway Colony School was taken on a guided educational tour of Dakshinchitra located on East Coast Road. They also took part in experimental workshops during the visit.



CARING FOR LITTLE HEARTS

MOU signed with PHC - For the first time since the project was launched a few years ago, our club has signed an agreement (on 7th Feb 2023) with PUBLIC HEALTH CENTRE to undertake paediatric cardiac surgeries in their hospital located at West Mambalam, Chennai. PHC is a modern multi-disciplinary integrated hospital, with outdoor and indoor facilities in almost all branches and specialties of medicine and surgery, with arrangements for diagnostic, curative and preventive services. This will be in addition to the surgeries already being conducted at Sooriya Hospital.



PE BINA SHARES HER FOND MEMORIES OF PETS - 2023

Our DGE Rtn Ravi Raman personally welcomed each President-Elect as we alighted from the bus that took us from the Bangalore train station to the beautiful Golden Palms Resort on the eve of the President-Elect Training Seminar (PETS)

The next day saw us through 8 hours of training with experts plying us with the nitty-gritty of being a club president. It was very informational and felt like I was back in school taking down notes at a furious pace. That evening we had our mega entertainment where we the Presidents Elect were the performers. I with my team had practiced for several hours to present a medley of Tamil movie songs. Turned out to be pretty good although a tad too long. Managed to belt out a couple of solos. The day ended with everyone shaking a leg to the latest songs and some golden oldies.

The final day dawned with a note of sadness but we got ready to receive our training certificates. Very sweetly Rtn. Rajasekaran (Chairman-PETS 23-24) and his team went door to door early in the morning distributing take-home goodies. Was very proud to give the valedictory speech which summarized our experience starting from the first time we met DGE Ravi Raman in 2022, through Pre Pets 1, 2, and finally PETS. We had all jelled as one group of Co-Presidents. Equipped with all the training and new friendships, we returned to Chennai with stars in our eyes. Here's to a spectacular 2023-24!



Rtn Bina Boaz

President-Elect (2023-24)



SPOKEN ENGLISH COURSE – VALEDICTORY

All the five schools in Chennai where our club had conducted the Spoken English course with the support of CAMS were completed successfully and the valedictory functions were held to award certificates to the students. Rtn Sathyanarayana (Director – Vocational Service) was personally present to distribute the certificates. The pictures featured here are from The Corporation Girls HS School and Sacred Heart Girls High School. Other schools where the course was conducted successfully are MCN Higher Secondary School, Mary Clubwala Jadhav Girls' HS School, and Jaigopal Garodia Girls' HS School.

SESSION ON ADOLESCENT BEHAVIOUR HELD

RCMS in association with Kalanjyam Trust conducted a session on 'Adolescent behaviour' on 14th February for the benefit of Class 9th and 10th girls at PCKG School at Kodambakkam, Chennai. The session, which focused on teenage love and attraction, aimed to bring clarity towards one's self and to unveil the girls' thinking capacity. Ms Maria Jayanthi Jerome, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Development Studies at MSSW College conducted the session.



WEEKLY MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY



Date : 7th February, 2023
 Speaker : Mr V Nagappan
 Topic : The latest Union Budget



Date : 21st February, 2023
 Speaker : Ms Varsha Narayanan
 Topic : Art for children

TWO MORE SCHOOLS NOW UNDER 'FREEDOM THROUGH EDUCATION' PROJECT

On 22nd February, two more schools were added to our club's 'Freedom Through Education' project with their formal inauguration by DG Nandhakumar at Bala Mandir Vidyalaya Nursing and Primary School and Maduram Narayanan Centre both located at T Nagar, Chennai. Mr Chandrasekhar, Founder and President of Madras Dyslexia Association was the Guest of Honour. These schools are being sponsored by PP Rtn Asha Marina through the Creations Charitable Trust.



Anticipation increased every day from the day our venue was announced as The Carlton, Kodaikanal, for SETS 2023-24.

The sleepy hill-town has a sentimental connection with me and Ann Meena, as it was our honeymoon spot way back in 1992!

Any event, for that matter, becomes fascinating with the journey linked to it. Needless to explain, if it's by train, the joy becomes manifold. Travelling to Tiruchirapalli in Tejas Express was one such fun-filled passage. Happiness and excitement were contagious among the Rotarians. The palpable enthusiasm tempted the fun-loving people to move to the aisle and dance literally!

A salubrious climate, sumptuous food, comfortable stay, and warmth from all people around made this training a memorable occasion.

The training programme had been planned and scheduled meticulously to avoid boredom. It was surprising to note that there are about 50+ fellowship events in our Dist 3232. Fellowships for Beer, Beards & Moustaches, B2B, B2C in addition to popular sports like cricket, badminton etc.

I went up the hill with anticipation and came down with 'cherishable' memories.

Rtn K Narayanan
 Secretary-Elect (2023-24)





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