

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Southerner,

At the very outset of my presidency, my team and I were determined to carry forward the legacy of the club in terms of voluntary activities and extensively enhancing fellowship. It has been a fruitful year filled with fun and freedom.

The year began with the signing of the MOU between RCMS and ACSYS Investments for the development of PCKG Govt. School at Kodambakkam and the launch of the year's flagship school project. The following months saw the commencement of activities including the inauguration of the respective Interact and Rotaract clubs.

Various firesides and fellowship get-togethers took place hand in hand and who can forget the cricket fellowship where our dynamic Southerners and Annettes participated, smashing boundaries and breaking stumps.

Children formed an integral part of this Rotary year with many activities centered around them. Under the 'Freedom through Education' project, we had the inauguration of Panantheop Railway Colony School's programme by DG Nandakumar.

Southerners also took part in various initiatives of the district such as the Rotary Metro hunt that was designed to promote public transport. September marked another historic occasion for our esteemed club. We cemented our long-standing association with Ford and their digital literacy initiative that will have a great impact on enabling future generations to harness the power of digital.

We also had four eye camps in four schools and it was a joy to meet the wonderful school children.

The Alertathon was a rousing success and saw the participation of Rotarians and Rotaractors alike. A spate of fellowship events took place in quick succession such as movie night, Beer pe Baathcheet and firesides.

In November, Rotary District Governor Dr Nandakumar inaugurated the use of the fluorescent microscope at the VHS hospital - the donation of which was an outcome of excellent collaboration between two Rotary clubs - Rotary Club of Madras

South and Rotary Club of Campbell Town, Australia as well as leveraging Rotary International's Global Grant Program to enable Advanced Technology for identifying Fungi and reducing turnaround time in the process.

Leading up to November also saw the Southerners enthralled by the "Spanish Night" and "Retro Night", a first-of-its-kind fellowship that saw many a Southerner showcase their incredible talents. Towards the end of the month, we conducted our RYLA, on a gorgeous, rainy afternoon amidst the stunning backdrop of green plantations and farm animals, which turned out to be a tremendous learning experience for the children.

Despite a brief setback during the pandemic, the 'Caring for Little Hearts' project has gathered momentum once again. A total of 30 surgeries were performed during the months of November and December.

The 'Freedom through Education' project which we started in July and August 2022 only in two schools expanded as PP Rtn Asha Marina came forward and supported two additional schools (Bala Mandir Vidhyalaya and Madhuram Narayanan Centre). Two more schools (Padma Subramaniam Bala Bhavan and Saraswathy Vidhyalaya) are being supported by A S Trust. This project will be completed by 23rd June 2023 with desktop computers, and interactive smart TVs donated to PSBB and Saraswathi Vidyalaya Schools. Desktop Computers will also be donated to Bala Mandir School and Montessori equipment to Kendriya Vihar School. I profusely thank all the Rotarians for their contributions to the above donations.

We also donated an oxygen concentrator to a senior citizen's home and had a programme on the inclusivity of the transgender community. Sarvam 3232 which was organised from Feb 10th to 12th was a wonderful experience with scintillating performances by our own Rotarians, Anns and Annetes. The galaxy of speakers was very informative, interactive, and thought-provoking and the topics were quite intriguing.

RCMS in association with Kalanjiyam 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.

March was equally exciting with many lovely events. DG Nandakumar visited our club for the Governor's official visit and we also had four more schools inaugurated under the 'Freedom through Education' project.

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DISTRICT TRAINING ASSEMBLY FOR RY 2023-24

“Make your club irresistible!”, “Meetings are subsidized by absentee members!” Who else could be as forthright and frank as RID Rtn A S Venkatesh? He inaugurated the DTA on 6th May at Hotel Green Park, Vadapalani and gave a short and crisp lecture peppered with quotes and stories.

As usual, RID's speech was a treat to all the passionate Rotarians.

Contrary to the practice followed so far, our DGE Rtn R Ravi Raman, had requested, rather insisted, the PEs (Presidents Elect) and SEs (Secretaries Elect) to attend all Avenue Service Seminars held on 13/14th May and 20/21st May 2023 at MMA Hall in Anna Salai.

The DTA was an opportunity for the newly elected leaders to expand their social network as well as their knowledge of Rotary. Club Officers were assured of support anytime for anything by the District trainers.

The information received during 4 days of hectic training would require more time to digest and when it reached a point of satiation



another Rotary icon in Dist 3232 Rtn SVRM Ramanathan, held the mike, and needless to explain, engaged the audience from the beginning and explained friends in Rotary are more adorable and how philanthropy through Rotary helped him in his business!

Rtn Narayanan K.
Secretary-Elect 23-24

SUMMER CAMP AT PCKG SCHOOL

Summer Holidays are looked forward to by many school-going children. That is the time they travel on holiday, visit their grandparents, etc.

Well, that is not the case with many of the students of PCKG Government Higher Secondary School. They have no place to go and spend time wandering around, watching TV, etc. Realising this Kalanjiyam Trust (our NGO partner) suggested that we conduct a summer camp for them and we got the required permission from the school authorities.

The camp was conducted from 2nd to 12th May 2023. Football, Badminton and Photography were the activities done. Football and Badminton classes were conducted for classes 6-8 and Photography for class 9. Around 100 students participated in the summer camp.

PP Rtn Renjit Joseph



....Continued from President's Message

India Sudar Educational and Charitable Trust, a registered NGO founded in 2004 received the second Ramakrishna Raja Memorial Award for excellence at a glittering function in Hotel Savera.

On 31st March, PP Rtn Renjit Joseph handed over a cheque for Rs 1 lakh on behalf of the club to the East Eden Foundation, a Chennai-based NGO involved in rehabilitating and reuniting specially abled men. Southerners also took a little time out for fun and grooved to the music at the first pub fellowship at Black Orchid.

May saw the Southerners bring in the summer season festivities with a Mango themed celebration at RCMS' family participation event. The highlight of the event included guessing various mango dishes, and a game of Tambola and ended with food,

drinks and a gift hamper of mangoes for all. An autism awareness camp was conducted by Rtn. Kalpana in association with RCMS. The camp included a dental check-up and also saw around 200 students and their parents get opinions on speech therapy, behaviour management while experts also conducted job evaluations and assessments for adults with autism.

All in all, it has been a very fruitful and fun year and the club collectively achieved most of the objectives that we had set at the start of my tenure. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Southerners for their support and wish incoming President Rtn. Bina Boaz and her team all the best and a very successful year ahead.

Signing off,

Yours in Rotary
Jawahar Nichani

OXYGEN CONCENTRATORS DONATED

In a joint project between RCMS and the Rotary Club of Chennai Towers (RCCT), 11 state-of-the-art Oxygen Concentrators were donated to the Government Hospital of Thoracic Medicine in Tambaram Sanatorium on 31st May. Both Rtn Satish Jupiter (President Chennai Towers) and RCMS President Rtn Jawahar Nichani were present. Thanking both the clubs, the hospital superintendent said that all the supporting team of GHTM felt indebted to the Rotary clubs for their unstinted service to the cause of humanity. This donation will go a long way in providing home oxygen concentrators to some of their patients who require long-term oxygen therapy (LTOT).



In addition, our club also donated an OC to Sai Illam, a senior citizen's home located at Annanur, Chennai.

SPOTLIGHT ON R V RAJAN



The Rotary Club of Chennai Spotlight (RCCS) invited PP Rtn R V Rajan to speak on his 'Rotary journey' and 'thinking out of the box' on 17th May. A veteran Rotarian of over 45 years and an Octogenarian, he is in great demand as a speaker not only among Inner Wheel members but also among clubs exclusively for women, like the RCCS. He regaled the audience with his talk, and it seems, made some of those present emotional with his anecdotes! PP Rtn Venkateshwaran was also present.

GORDON R. MCINALLY *R I President-elect 2023-24*

Rtn. Gordon R. McInally is the president-elect of Rotary International for the RY 2023-24. He was educated at the Royal High School in Edinburgh and at the University of Dundee, where he earned his graduate degree in dental surgery. He operated his own dental practice in Edinburgh until 2016. Rtn Gordon was chair of the East of Scotland branch of the British Paedodontic Society and has held various academic positions. He has also served as a presbytery elder, chair of the Queensferry parish congregational board, and commissioner to the general assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Gordon joined Rotary in 1984 at age 26. A member of the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, he has served as president and vice president of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI). He has also served RI as a director and on several committees, including as an adviser to the 2022 Houston Convention Committee and chair of the Operations Review Committee.

He visited Chennai in April this year accompanied by his wife Ann Heather and was overwhelmed to see the incredible projects that Rotary clubs in the city were doing. During his visit, he also inaugurated a series of projects including a digital mammography machine donated by RC Madras T Nagar at the Government Royapettah Hospital for cancer diagnosis.



WEEKLY MEETINGS IN MAY



Date : 9th May, 2023
Speaker : : Dr Pavithra Venkatagopalan
Topic : Bacteria and viruses that influence our lives every day



Date : 16th May, 2023
Speaker : Ms Nandini Vijayaraghavan
Topic : Adani after Hindenburg

RI THEME FOR RY 2023-24

RI President-elect R. Gordon R. McNally calls for Rotary to create hope in the world by working for peace and mental well-being. He urges members to engage in tough conversations and earn the trust that's necessary to realize these values.

Leading the Way Toward Lasting Change and Peace

He has called for members to capture the world's attention and lead the way toward possibilities far beyond our current expectations. During the Rotary International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, McNally revealed the 2023-24 presidential theme: "Create Hope in the World". He emphasized the importance of promoting peace in troubled nations and helping those affected by conflict, as well as maintaining the initiatives started by past leaders.

One significant way to bring hope to the world, according to McNally, is to put a greater emphasis on peace. He cited the action taken by Rotary members to support the people of Ukraine and the recent emergence of polio cases, making it more crucial than ever for Rotary members to lead the fight



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

against the disease. McNally also pledged to continue the Empowering Girls initiative and maintain the emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout Rotary.

In addition, McNally highlighted the importance of offering hope to those affected by mental health challenges, a crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. He emphasized that Rotary will work to improve mental health services and be known as an organization that takes care of its members as well as the people it serves.

McNally ended his speech by describing his ideal balance of continuity and innovation, stating that "Rotary helps create the conditions for peace, opportunity, and a future worth living." By continuing what we do best, remaining open and willing to change, and keeping our focus on building peace in the world and within ourselves, Rotary helps create a more peaceful world — a more hopeful world.

Let us all come together and support President-elect McNally's vision of "Create Hope in the World".

(Source:RI Website)

INSTALLATION OF RTN BINA BOAZ

As President of RCMS along with her board for RY 2023-24

Chief Guest : **Rtn Ravi Raman** – DG 2023-24

Date & Time : 27th June, 7 pm.

Venue : Hotel GRT Grand, T Nagar, Chennai.



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