



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Southerner,

Being a Rotarian is all about the people we help. At the end of the day, the only thing that matters in Rotary is how much better the world has become because of Rotary and Rotarians who made a difference!

I started the Rotary year 2016-17 with a slogan **LET'S STRIVE TO TOUCH A LIFE EVERYDAY.**

Here are a few highlights of the year:

1. Toilet construction in schools and villages

To execute this project we had a mega fund raising event **TWO TO TANGO**, a musical concert by Karthick and Shwetha Mohan.

I wish to thank the Rotarians who really worked for this event and all the Sponsors for their generous contribution.

My heartfelt gratitude to CAMS for their sponsorship of all our club's projects.

One school led to the other and now we have completed 110 toilet units out of which 86 units are in 8 schools and 26 individual toilets in 1 village. Our future plan is to make 2 villages Open Defecation Free. We would be touching close to 300 units of toilets soon.

Our club also availed the District Grant for the toilet project after many years. Thanks to our DG.

2. 'Sight Now', a project executed along with Niles Rotary Club, California and Sankara Nethralaya

We had identified 3 suburbs around Chennai and performed around 140 eye surgeries and gave away free spectacles to needy patients.

3. TAG - VHS Retina Care Centre

A new unit has been set up in VHS Hospital to treat poor patients for Glaucoma and Advanced Critical Retinal Disorders.

Rtn Chari from our club has donated some high end sophisticated equipment for treating patients with these disorders covering the high capital cost. His donation would help patients' treatment cost to be drastically brought down.

These patients if not treated immediately will lead to permanent blindness.

Our Club is the service partner for this project and our members have donated generously towards the advanced retina surgeries.

4. **Annadhanam** was performed every month at East Eden Foundation, a Home run for mentally challenged men picked up from the streets of Chennai, given treatment and a few of them also reunited with their families. Our Rotarians have so far contributed Rs 2,50,000/- for this noble cause.

5. Ford-Rotary Digital Literacy programme.

This year around 2200 computers have been donated so far, thanks to the special efforts of Rtn Srikanth. There was an equal balance of projects and fellowship.

Every month there was either a family participation or fireside which strengthened the bonding between the families.

I profusely thank the Board members who constantly encouraged me to move forward. All of them were very busy doing projects the whole year.

My biggest pillar of support has been our club's Secretary Rtn Balaji. He is a green Rotarian who joined the club only in 2015. But his dedication and commitment towards serving Humanity is beyond words. He is already a double PHF and his Ann is a PHF. Thank you Balaji.

I take this opportunity to thank every Rotarian, my well-wishers and God for giving me the strength and courage to be able to perform my role as President.

My family played a major role here – I thank my Mother who took charge of the household chores in my absence, my daughter Dr Preethi and my son Prithvi were always there to share my responsibilities.

My spouse Kumar was ready all the time to keep pushing me to the front. Now I would reverse the proverb and say Behind my success it was fully my husband's support and encouragement!

I would like to conclude saying

'Either you run the day or the day runs you'.

I wish to state that over the last eleven months we have lit up Rotary. Let us now use that light to create a path so that we can Serve Humanity.

Thank you.

Rtn Asha Marina

INCOMING TEAM – INTERACTION MEETING



Rtn Magdoo Mohamed, PE (RY 2017-18) organised an Interaction Meeting for the incoming Board members on 13th May at the Presidency Club. PDG Ollivannan presided over the meeting. He briefed those present on the importance of their role with emphasis on Strategic Planning.

DG's HOMECOMING



The official visit of a District Governor to a Rotary Club in his District is a very significant day for the incumbent President. It's a day when all the work done under various Avenues of Service comes under close scrutiny. President Asha Marina and her Team have worked relentlessly during the current Rotary year and have executed several impressive service projects under every avenue of Service. The official visit of DG Natarajan Nagoji on 16th May to his own Home Club was a unique experience to Southerners with the atmosphere quite relaxed both at the Club Assembly and the formal meeting later in the evening.

The day began with DG Nagoji performing Bhoomi Puja for the Toilet Block to be constructed at the Andhra Mahila Sabha in Adyar. He later also visited some of the completed Toilet Blocks constructed by our Club at CSI Deaf and Dumb School in Santhome. Visibly impressed with the quality of work, DG Nagoji paid rich compliments to the President and her Team which had worked on this project.



Bhoomi Puja for the Toilet Block renovation at AMS



The Club Assembly held during DG visit

Later the DG presided over the Club Assembly held at Hotel Savera where he attentively listened to the Board members presenting the work done during the year and gave his valuable inputs.





The young MCs –
Annettes Joseph and Marveena

The formal function in the evening was a gala affair with an impressive audience of over 200 including Rotarians, Anns, Annettes, visiting Rotarians and other guests. Annettes Marveena Mukund and Joseph Boaz performed their role effectively in supporting



DG launching the RCMS Archives

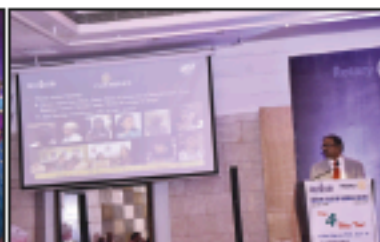
PP Rtn Mukund as MCs. Secretary Rtn Balaji made an impressive Power Point presentation showcasing all the projects executed during the current Rotary year.



RCMS contribution to TRF



PDG Raja cuts his 80th Birthday cake



Secretary Balaji presents his report



'Ever Serving' Presidents honouring DG Nagoji



'Ever Serving' Presidents group with
DG Nagoji and First Lady Nandhini Nagoji



DG and First Lady Nandhini with the Southerners

PDG Ramakrishna Raja's 80th birthday was celebrated with a surprise cake cutting ceremony. DG Nagoji also formally launched the RCMS Archives painstakingly put together by Rotarians Somdev Goyal and Renjith Joseph capturing the rich Heritage and Tradition of our 57 year old club. An impressive contribution of US \$ 30,000 was made by RCMS to the Rotary Foundation. PDG Raja, PP Shyamala, PP Madhu and Ann Sheila Mukund felicitated the District Governor. He was also felicitated by all the 'Ever Serving' Presidents present with a huge garland and a crown reflecting their affection towards their popular Governor.

The meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks by PE Magdoom Mohamed. It was followed by fellowship and a sumptuous dinner and of course the usual bonhomie evident when Rotarians and friends get together for such events.

VALEDICTORY – HAPPY VILLAGE PROJECT



The certificate distribution function for the students who successfully completed Batch 3 of the Smartphone Servicing and ITeS Skill Development programme as part of the Happy Village Project of our Club was held on 26th May at Thirupporur. The project was sponsored by CAMS.

WEEKLY MEETINGS IN MAY



Date : 2nd May, 2017
Topic : The Magical World of
Perfumes and fragrances
Speaker : Ms Samhitha Muralidharan



Date : 31st May, 2017
Topic : Music Parodies
Speaker : Mr Yohan Chacko



Date : 9th May, 2017
Topic : My driving adventures
across continents
Speaker : Mr Suresh Joseph

FLAGS EXCHANGED



Rtn Shafi Syed from Rotary Club of Saratoga, California, USA visited our Club during the weekly meeting held on 30th May and exchanged flags with President Asha Marina.

MOVIE OUTING



A group of 21 Southerners saw the movie Bahubali – The Conclusion at INOX Citi Centre on 7th May. This was the second fellowship movie outing of Southerners during the current Rotary year.

DISTRICT ANNETTES QUIZ



FACTS AND FURIOUS, a quiz competition for the Annettes of our District was held at the ASAN Memorial School on 1st May. Annettes Club of Madras South was the Lead club in organising the event with Rtn Suresh Arunachalam mentoring our annettes. Ms Sivagami (D/o Rtn R N Veerappan) was the Quiz Master. Annettes Kalpakiran and Divyadarshini of RCMS won the third place.

FIRESIDE MEET



Rtn V Shankar and Ann Sudha hosted a Fireside get-together at the lawns of their sprawling residence in Ashok Nagar on 20th May. The couple made it a memorable evening for those present with their hospitality and some entertaining games they had specially organised for the evening.

With Best Wishes From


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PVT. LTD.
www.travelairmadras.co.in

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The Southerner is published by Rotary Club of Madras South for private circulation and is Printed by Multicraft (2431 0419)