

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Southerner,

A group hug to all of you as I begin this Rotary year as President of the Rotary Club of Madras South.

'Create Hope in the World' is the theme for the 2023-24 Rotary year as announced by Gordon R. McNally our

Rotary International President. By keeping our minds open and focused on building peace, McNally wishes for us to have a more hopeful world. In our first weekly meeting, PDG Subbu elaborated on the theme and said something that struck a chord with me. He said that if we make 'creating hope in the world' a part of our everyday life where every relationship and every situation is approached with that conscious thought, we would automatically create more hope in the world impacting emotions, decisions, and end results.

Increasing membership in our club is going to be key this year and the membership team headed by Balaji, Magdoom, and our inimitable R.V. Rajan have launched 'Project Revival'. We are hoping to end the year with a minimum of 80 members.

Some of our long-term successful projects like 'Little Hearts, Annadanam, Digital Literacy and Vocational projects will continue. Community Development projects in Kattur and Vyasarpadi will be revived. This year, under Community Health we will start a new project 'Vision Mission'. The beneficiaries will be patients with Retinopathy. We already have a CSR cheque for Rs.5 lakh towards this project. This month we will zero in on the hospital to work with. A global grant is being considered.

Another request has come in from YWCA to dredge the 1-acre size pond they have on the premises. A survey is underway to see the scope of work and its impact on the surrounding area. If the benefit is substantial for the

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RTN BINA BOAZ INSTALLED AS PRESIDENT FOR RY 2023-24



At a glittering event on 27th June at Hotel GRT Grand, Rtn Bina Boaz was installed as the 63rd president of RCMS. She is the third lady president to lead the club during its 63-year history.

Rtn Ravi Raman, DG for RY 2023-24 (Dist. 3232) was the chief guest. In the absence of the outgoing secretary, Rtn Ajit Gautham, joint secretary, Rtn Parveen Sikkandar presented the activities of the club during the last rotary year. DG Ravi Raman released the first copy of the club roster for 23-24 which was received by PDG N Nagoji.

Unlike the formal DG address, DG's speech was interactive and focused on membership development. He provided some important tips to the Membership Development team on ways and means of adding new members during the year.

The evening also witnessed the installation of Annette Siddharth (S/o Rtn PR Rajendran) as president of the Annettes Club of Madras South along with his team of office bearers.

Rtn K Narayanan took charge as the Secretary of the club and received the club charter from Rtn Parveen Sikkandar.

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PRESIDENT BINA BOAZ - A WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE

Rtn Bina Boaz joined RCMS in 2016 and is only the third lady president (after Rtns Shyamala and Asha Marina) to lead the club.

Born in the US, she has lived in five countries (US, India, Brazil, Singapore, Malaysia) and therefore has a global viewpoint. She has bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from Madras University and is a trained Montessori teacher with a certificate from Canada and experience from Texas, USA. Today she helps run the Boaz Public School (started by her father) in Gowrivakkam near Tambaram along with her sister Asha. Her brother Ajit runs a hospital for the mentally challenged.



Bina with her family

During International Women's Day this year, Bina addressed our club narrating her life story. She came across as a woman of substance with guts, resolve and resilience.

She loves traveling, is a wildlife enthusiast, crazy about photography and loves the performing arts (singing and dancing) and never fails to actively participate in the singing and dancing contests held either by individual clubs or the district.

She lives in Chennai with her mother and son Joseph.



Renjit receiving the first basket from R V Rajan

THE FELLOWSHIP BASKET RETURNS

The Fellowship Basket, a part of our club's family participation activities in the past, saw its revival at the installation function on 27th June. The purpose of the basket is to enhance bonding and friendship among individual Southerners, when the member holding the basket invites another member to his home along with his/her family for Hi-Tea or a meal in order to get to know each other better. The first three baskets were handed over to PP Renjit, Rtn Vijay Menon and Rtn Elumperiyar by PP R V Rajan during the function.

VICE CHANCELLOR OF AU INDUCTED

Our club has been following the tradition of inducting the incumbent Vice Chancellor of Anna University as a Hon member of RCMS in view of some significant projects we have implemented (eg. Dana Bergh, AC repair & service course, etc.) in association with the University. On 22nd June, the current Vice-Chancellor, Mr R Velraj was inducted by IPP Jawahar Nichani in the presence of our veteran member, Rtn KS Jayaraman.



THE CFLH PROJECT ACHIEVES TWO MILESTONES

When 7-year-old Vijay from Cuddalore underwent cardiac surgery at the Soorya Hospital on 25th May, the 'Caring For Little Hearts' project achieved a new milestone of 500 surgeries. Since its launch seven years ago, the project has seen a "roller coaster journey" according to Rtn R Srikanth, one of the driving forces behind the project along with PP Rtn K Saravanan. Another milestone achieved by the project was the approval of the 3rd Global Grant by The Rotary Foundation last month, providing a further fillip for the continuation of the project in the coming months. Kudos to the CFLH team for their persistent efforts in not only saving young lives but also giving them back their normal lives.

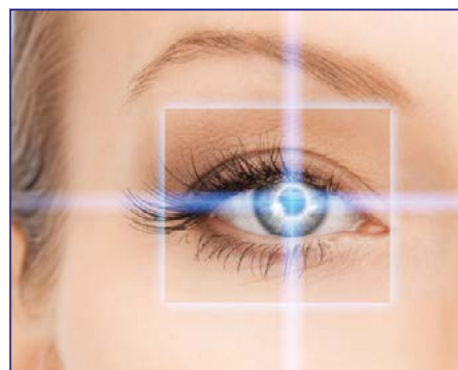


*Chandru, the first patient in August 2017 and
Vijay the 500th patient*

VISION MISSION – SAVING THE PRECIOUS EYES

This project, launched by our club during the current rotary year, is a medical and surgical intervention for retinal diseases that if left unchecked leads to blindness. Most common problems leading to retinal diseases are diabetes, retinal detachment, wet macular degeneration, retinal vascular occlusions, and HIV-induced problems.

The success rate of these procedures is very good and in many cases, medical or surgical intervention is the only option. The goal according to Dr.Parthasarathy (VHS) is to minimize the requirement of major procedures by diagnosing the disease early and treat with injections or just laser.



Most patients approaching VHS for the above-mentioned problems cannot afford to pay for treatment even though VHS keeps the cost low. VHS also has 5 feeder centres from where patients are brought to the hospital in Tharamani, Chennai where our project will be carried out. Soon, they will have 3 more feeder centres to facilitate treatment for those in need. Transport will be provided for the patients. Watch this space for more on this project in the months to come.

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community at large, and if the board approves, we will consider helping them with this mammoth project.

With a slight tweak of our format for the weekly meetings we are hoping to increase participation and entice old and new members.

My request to all members and families is to please make time to get to know each other by attending more meetings, involve yourselves with the various projects that our club is associated with, and generally stay engaged, so there is a sense of belonging. Let's make our club irresistible to non-members.

Yours in Rotary

Bina Boaz

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Some of the senior Rotarians were specially honoured by IPP Jawahar Nichani for their contribution to our club's activities. The fellowship basket was also launched by PP Rtn R V Rajan, who handed over the first three baskets to 3 Rotarians.

While the invocation song was rendered by Ann Raji Varma, the 'Lata' of the Southerner family, Rtns Sarvesh and Parveen acted as the MCs with Rtn Renjith supporting them as a co-ordinator.

Southerners wish Rtn Bina and her team a glorious year of service and fellowship.

PRESIDENT BINA'S INSTALLATION IN PICTURES



A section of the audience



Siddarth installed as Annettes Club president



Senior Rotarians being honoured



Rtn K Narayanan receiving the club charter as Secretary



RCMS Board members for 2023-24



Southerners at the installation

WITH BEST WISHES

FROM A WELL-WISHER

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