

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hi Southerners,

Festive greetings to all of you!

On a personal level, we have so much to be thankful for as we recoup from the Michaung cyclone and the ensuing floods. Many parts of Chennai city are still water-logged and Rotary has stepped in admirably to help where needed. Southerners

have been particularly wonderful in contributing generously to flood relief. Thank you.

Now, looking back at November we continued to hand over cheques for student scholarships to 5 more schools bringing the total to 173 students being financially assisted. We will continue adding more such students from other schools in the month of December.

Our Deepavali bash was well attended. Ann Olagi Veerappan, leading the ladies in lighting the lamps was a fitting start. The quiz and dance turned out to be very interactive and entertaining. Yet another wonderful family participation event organized by Sathya.

PCKG School, Kalanjiam, and RCMS awarded many students on Children's Day for competitions held in English, Computer, Arts & Crafts and Drama. A great motivating moment! Nextwave Multimedia has sanctioned almost Rs.5 lakh to be used for vocational services in Kattur and Vyasarpadi.

A tailoring course was inaugurated by District Director for Vocational Services Rtn Gopalakrishnan, at Kattur. Many RCMS members (led by Rtn Seshadri who initiated the Kattur project in 2013) took the trouble to drive the long distance for a worthy cause.

S.R.Madhu our Program Director of 25 years was felicitated at Tag Centre where Dev Anand's 100th year was also celebrated with a beautifully curated program by Madhu himself. Madhu, the legend!

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S R MADHU – A VETERAN SOUTHERNER FELICITATED



PP Rtn S R Madhu, a long-standing member of RCMS since 1996 was felicitated by our club for completing 25 years as Programme Director, organising excellent speakers to address our club members week after week from varied professions to enlighten them on a multitude of topics. An unmatched record not only in our District but (one can safely presume) across Rotary Clubs in India. In the year 2016, after completing 18 years, he published a book titled "Windows to the World" comprising around 170 circulars (which he prepares meticulously to introduce a speaker), dividing them into 15 subject categories. Another record in the world of Rotary!



At an event to celebrate 100 years of Dev Anand on 25th November, curated and presented by Madhu himself, with clippings chosen from some memorable songs from among many of the star's classic films over the years, DG Ravi Raman, the Chief Guest, presented a plaque to Madhu on behalf of our members. PDG N Nagoji, PP Shyamala, and President Bina Boaz paid rich tributes to Madhu for his contribution to RCMS.

(As this issue goes to the press, Madhu has received another award for his role as a Distinguished journalist. Watch this space for more on this)

MORE SCHOLARSHIP CHEQUES PRESENTED

There was a flurry of activities under the School Scholarship project during the month of November in several schools. Around 200 selected students from the following schools received the sanctioned scholarship amount.

The project launched this rotary year is supported by Acsys Systems.



Don Bosco HS School – Vyasarpadi



Mary Clubwala Jadhav School – Egmore



P Venugopal Chetty HS School – Choolai



Sri Sankara Schools – Thoraipakkam and Thiruvanmiyur



Dr K KNirmala School – K K Nagar

CAREER GUIDANCE PROGRAMME – WHAT NEXT AFTER 12TH STD?

A career guidance programme for the students of PCKG School, Kodambakkam was conducted on 17th Nov. Subject expert speakers organised by our school projects partner Kalanjiyam Trust addressed the students on the various career options available after the students complete their 12th standard studies.



....Continued from President's Message

A very exciting multi-directional career was shared by Mr.Balasubramanian at our speaker meeting. M.C.Srikanth and Ann Lakshmi hosted a delightful fireside gathering at Gandhinagar Club with great food and enthusiastic participation by all present, in a session of dumb charades.

St.Anthony's School held a very useful eye camp organized by Rtn Dr.Sherren's Udhi Hospital and Interact Director Rtn Ajit Gautham.

I took part in the preliminary talent round of RAFTS (Rotary Attitude Fashion Talent Star) organized by RC of Chennai Spotlight. Excited to report that I made it to the finals which will be held on 22nd December.

Until next time, 'Ciao'.

Yours in Rotary

Bina Boaz

DEEPAVALI CELEBRATIONS – SOUTHERNERS ROCK

Our Club's Deepavali Family participation event on 5th November proved to be everything that the invitation promised --- the venue beautifully adorned with lamps, a fun quiz efficiently anchored by Annette Krishnan, S/o Rtn K Narayanan, graceful Garba dance performed by our Anns, a selfie booth with eye-catching placards to hold and the usual 'spirits' flowing freely capped by a sumptuous dinner. The pictures here attempt to capture the mood of the evening, though a lot more seems to have happened beyond these images during the 'after party' according to President Bina! Rtn Sathyanarayanan and his Family Participation team proved once again that they have mastered the art of giving the Southerners a gala time month after month!



EYE CAMP AT ST ANTHONY'S SCHOOL

Our Club conducted an ophthalmic checkup camp for the students of St. Anthony's School, Egmore on 28 November. In the day-long camp organised in association with Udhi Eye Hospital, specialised doctors inspected the eye health of the students of the school, and prescribed treatment and spectacles for those who needed it. This project was done as part of the Interact Services of the Club.



A NEW TAILORING COURSE INAUGURATED AT KATTUR



On 16th November a Tailoring course for underprivileged women was inaugurated at our Community Learning Centre (CLC) in Kattur village, Thirupporur. Rtn Gopalakrishnan – District Chair for Vocational Services was the chief guest. This was a regular course at the Centre since its inception in 2013 until it was interrupted by the pandemic lockdown in 2020. The evening tuition classes under the TN Govt's "Illam Thedi Kalvi" programme continue to be conducted at the Centre, benefitting scores of local school children.

SPEAKER MEETING IN NOVEMBER



Date : 14th November, 2023

Speaker : Mr A Balasubramanian

Topic : My many career journeys

Rtn Sarvesh@VOD



The finals of the Voice of District were conducted at the MMA Auditorium on 5th November. Organised by R C Chennai Towers annually, Season 15 this year had the young and ebullient Rtn Sarvesh Shyam of RCMS joining the race in the English songs category. Due to the lack of entries in the English category, it was clubbed together with Tamil Koothu. What an anomaly. Two segments that were poles apart were competing. However, Sarvesh went into

the finals and soulfully renditioned John Denver's Annie's Song.

Rtn Renjit Joseph

SIVA RAMASWAMY INDUCTED



FIRESIDE HOSTED BY MCS



PP Rtn M C Srikanth and his gracious Ann Lakshmi, hosted a delightful Fireside lunch get-together at the Gandhinagar Club rooftop on 26th November. Around 15 Southerners enjoyed the quiz and dumb charade games meticulously planned and organised by Ann Lakshmi. A cool, balmy weather, fine fellowship and food ensured that everyone present carried pleasant memories as they reluctantly departed.

CHILDREN'S DAY AT PCKG SCHOOL



On 10th November, Children's Day was celebrated at PCKG School in Kodambakkam when 'Achievers' among the students were recognised. Rtn P R Rajendran was the chief guest. Ann Kalpana was also present.

Sivasubramaniam Ramaswamy was inducted as a member of RCMS by PP Rtn SR Madhu at our speaker meeting held on 14th Nov. Rtn Siva is a freelance leadership trainer and president of The Stenographers' Guild. He and his Ann Vijayalakshmi are blessed with two children, Neeraj(11) and Anjhanaa (5).

WITH BEST WISHES FROM

Rtn A R ASHOK

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