



The Southerner

Monthly Bulletin

Rotary Club of Madras South

Chartered on June 30, 1960



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Service Above Self

March 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Southerners,

Good day to all of you! February turned out to be a lot more eventful than January.

We started off with a well-attended Board meeting on the 1st. On the 4th, English Communication class was kickstarted in Vyasarpadi. A local English teacher was hired to establish a better connect. On the 6th our member and Secretary Elect Parasuraman gave a very thought-provoking speech on 'Converting Resolutions to Revolutions this New Year'. I think all of us present that evening had many takeaways.

The District Conference this year was held in IIT Research Park from 9th to 11th February. *(see pg 2 for my report)*

On the 10th we also had a program for our Rotaractors (from AC Tech, CEG, and Asan College of Arts and Science). The Alert NGO had a demo for them on First Response, followed by a talk on the POCSO Act organized by our Jothi. The entire event was orchestrated by Sibi. It was a grand success.

On the 17th there was a Sports Meet for the physically and mentally disabled, in Nandanam by RCC Bharathi. RCMS was a sponsor and I represented our club. It was a heartwarming event, well attended by several organizations.

We had Dr. Usha Sriram (Diabetologist from VHS) speak to us on the 20th. It was very informative and she debunked several myths attached to Diabetes.

Nagoji's son's wedding reception saw many of us gather on the 21st and it was a very pleasant evening. On the 25th RC Gold Coast had a music program as part of a fundraiser for renovating and building toilets for government schools. Wonderful to listen to some fantastic Retro songs.

Spoken English classes sponsored by RCMS in 5 schools were concluded on the 26th and they were all felicitated on the same day. Rajan Babu and I had quite a rocking day!

Last year's accounts were passed on the 27th and it was followed by 4 of our members speaking on the pros and cons of cell phones. On the 29th Parasuraman and I left for Trivandrum for SETS where we joined Sridharan who had left earlier as SETS secretary to facilitate the training program.

Quite a month, huh? Until later, stay blessed.

Yours in Rotary,

Bina Boaz

MARCH IS ROTARY'S 'WATER AND SANITATION' MONTH

Clean water is a basic human right that many are often denied. There are 2.5 billion people in the world who lack access to improved sanitation and 748 million people who don't have clean drinking water. Nearly 1400 children die each day from diseases caused by lack of sanitation and unsafe water. When people have access to clean water, they live healthier and more productive lives.

Rotary members around the world are committed to reaching water and sanitation needs through projects like building wells, installing rainwater harvesting systems, and teaching community members how to maintain new infrastructure.

During March, Rotary Water and Sanitation Month, we are celebrating our commitment to creating healthier communities by supplying clean water and sanitation facilities to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

Over the years RCMS has been quite active in ensuring the clean water and sanitation needs of the community by constructing 65 recharge wells through its Rainwater Harvesting project in 14 schools in Chennai and in building over 250 toilets in schools and villages in TN.

(Source : RI Website)

SANGAMAM '24

...Planting Hope Together...

RID 3232 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

This year's District conference (Sangamam'24) was held at the IIT Madras Research Park from 9th to 11th Feb.

It took a little getting used to after attending it for so many years in the Chennai Trade Centre. It started with the Presidents' Parade to welcome our Chief Guest. That evening I took part in a Fashion Show. Our sarees and jewelry were sponsored by some big stores in our city. The practices were fun and the show was a great success. On the 10th our

PP Madhu was honoured by the District for his 25 years of service as our Club Programme Chairman. RCMS was also acknowledged for its 10 health-related projects this Rotary year. PP Renjit was introduced as AG for the next year, Narayanan as President, and I as Regional Secretary for the year 2024-25. The food was excellent (Chettinad cuisine) and the entertainment was superb.

Bina Boaz



PP Renjit Joseph (standing middle) will take charge as Asst Gov next Rotary year



PP S R Madhu honoured by the District for his dedicated service as Chairman of Programmes (Club Service) for 25 years



President Bina with the RCMS flag at the event and also participating in the fashion show



SPORTS MEET WITH A DIFFERENCE

An initiative to promote paralympic sports titled "Odi Vilayaadu" was held at the YMCA grounds in Nandanam on 17th February. Around 1800 people participated both as contestants and audience in this Multi-District event for children and adults with special needs. Dr Kalanidhi Veeraswamy, MP was the chief guest for the inauguration and Dr H V Hande (former Health Minister of TN) for the valedictory. The meet was organized by RC Chennai Bharathi with a host of sponsors making it a memorable event. RCMS, one of the sponsors was represented by President Bina Boaz. In the picture she can be seen with Jayashree Kidambi, (extreme right) President of RC Chennai Bharathi.



ENGLISH COMMUNICATION CLASSES STARTED

Our club kickstarted the English communication classes at Vyasarpadi on 4th Feb with the help of a local English teacher for a better connect with the students. RCMS has been associated with Vyasai Thozhargal, a group of youngsters working for the benefit of the Vyasarpadi residents for several years.

We meet on Tuesdays at 6.30 pm at Hotel Savera

VALEDICTORY OF SPOKEN ENGLISH CLASSES

RCMS has been conducting Spoken English classes in several schools in Chennai over the years. 26th February was a busy day for both President Bina and Rtn Rajanbabu, Director – Vocational Service as the Valedictory functions of the course were conducted in 5 schools across the city spread through the day. Beginning with Jaigopal Garodia Govt. Girls HS School, the event was held at Chennai Girls HS School, K K Nirmala Girls HS School, Mary Clubwala Jadhav Girls HS School and Sacred Heart Matric. HS School. The course has been sponsored by CAMS.



Jai Gopal Garodia



K K Nirmala



Mary Clubwala



Chennai Girls

A MEMORABLE PETS

Sri Lanka, another version of God's Own Country was our PETS location. Cinnamon Lakeside, a 5 Star Hotel in Colombo was an amazing destination, where we all were accommodated.

Colombo: a lot has changed since I visited last 4 years ago and tourism has improved a lot. The city was very neat and tidy. I could see a rag-picker and a Rolls Royce together! The gap between the rich and the poor was conspicuous!

Needless to say, there was a lot of camaraderie, networking, and fellowship among the elected presidents and this was the first such event for the newly-chartered District 3234. Prominent Rotarians including PRIP Rtn Ravindran, RPID Rtn Venkatesh, and PDGs spoke during the valedictory function.

Popular Sri Lankan Radio celebrity Abdul Hamid graced the evening. Presidents were taken to Bentota, a destination for water sports. I took time to buy some philately at the Colombo Head Post Office!

Overall, a memorable experience for all.

Narayanan K

President Elect (2024-25)



RESURGENCE

Our club in association with the Rotaract clubs of AC Tech, CEG and Asan Memorial organized an event titled "RESURGENCE". During the event on 10th Feb held at Anna University, ALERT (NGO) conducted a training on CPR awareness. The students who participated were also made aware of the prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace.

Rtn Jothilakshmi and Advocate Nalini Olivannan were the chief guests at the event on 10th Feb at Anna University. Rotarians Sibirajan and Rajanbabu from RCMS also spoke.



SPEAKER MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY



Date : 6th February, 2024
Speaker : Rtn K Parasuraman
Topic : Converting Resolutions to revolutions this year



Date : 20th February, 2024
Speaker : Dr Usha Sriram
Topic : Facts and myths about diabetes



Date : 27th February, 2024
Speakers : Rtn Parveen Sikkandar,
 Rtn S Elumperiyar,
 Rtn R Rajanbabu,
 Rtn Renjit Joseph
Topic : Cell phones – boon or bane?

WEDDING CELEBRATED IN THE NAGOJI FAMILY



PDG Natarajan Nagoji and Ann Nandini celebrated the wedding of their son Suraj with Janani Vaidyaraman on 22nd Feb in Chennai. Several Southerners attended the reception on 21st Feb and the Muhurtham on 22nd and blessed the newly wed couple.



NEW MEMBER INDUCTED



Ramesh Sunderrajan was inducted into our club as a member during the weekly meeting held on 20th Feb.

Rtn Ramesh is a graduate of the College of Engineering, Guindy, and a post-graduate from NITIE, Mumbai. He has been involved with the automotive business most of his life and retired as President and Country Head of Mahle India. He is currently an independent management consultant and advisor to auto component companies. He is proficient in Carnatic music, both vocal and instrumental. His wife, Ann Ramaa is an accomplished creative artist specializing in Tanjore paintings. Their daughter is married and settled in the US. Southerners welcome Rtn Ramesh and Ann Ramaa to the exciting world of Rotary.



Udhi Eye Hospitals

(Alwarpet & Velachery)

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