

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Southerner,

So far, it has been a great and eventful year. The achievements in the last couple of months are

- 1) Freedom through education -- two schools sponsored by Rtn Shankar and two schools sponsored by Rtn Asha Marina are in the final stages of the

application for global grants. Donation of an oxygen concentrator to a senior citizen's home. We had a programme on the inclusivity of the transgender community.

It makes me proud that we initiated the Freedom Through Education project. It not only impacts the children but also their families and their future. Rtn Mukund and I travelled more than 1000 kms to make our dreams for this project come true.

- 2) MOU was signed for the CFLH project including PHC with full details of doctors, etc

Bringing on board a second hospital for paediatric heart surgeries will surely be a game changer, enabling us to reach out to beneficiaries quicker.

All the projects have been possible through the hard-working team I have and the support of all of you. Thanks to all our members, we have made a tremendous impact in all avenues.

Yes, we still found time to have fun and extensive fellowship in the last 7 months.

- Cricket fellowship
- Spanish night
- Movie fellowship
- Beer pe baathcheet
- Retro Nite
- Visit to Farm guru

The Pananthepe School children were taken to the Birla planetarium.

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MEMBERSHIP IN ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

If you asked a Rotarian if he or she belonged to Rotary International, the individual probably would look puzzled and answer, "Of course I'm a member of Rotary International:" But in this instance, the confident Rotarian would be technically wrong. No Rotarian can be a member of Rotary International!



The explanation of this apparent contradiction is simple. The constitutional documents of RI state that membership in Rotary International is limited to Rotary clubs. More than 31,000 Rotary clubs belong to the organization we call Rotary International.

A Rotary club is composed of persons with the appropriate qualifications of good character and reputation and a business or professional classification and who serve in an executive or managerial capacity. The Rotarian belongs to a club - the club belongs to Rotary International. This technical distinction is not obvious or even known to most Rotarians and seldom does it create any problems or complications. It does explain, however, why the Rotary International Board of Directors places expectations upon and extends privileges to Rotary clubs, rather than to individual Rotarians.

If someone asks if you belong to Rotary International, your most accurate answer would be, "No, I belong to a Rotary club?" But it is doubtful anyone would understand the difference, or, in fact, would really care.

Source: RI Website

A BUSY MONTH FOR STUDENTS OF PANANTHOPE SCHOOL



January was a busy month as we had to cover the STEM and mentoring programs, Art Therapy and Counselling as scheduled with the Pongal Festival thrown in.

But the icing was the visit by the children of classes 6th to 9th to the Periyar Science & Technology Centre, Kotturpuram.

The children also visited The RKM School interactive Labs: Maths, Biology, Physics, and Chemistry. The instructors there had been briefed on the subjects to be taken thus we tied up

STEM with Planetarium and the Lab. Art Therapy is the most loved by the children as they are unfettered. Dance, music, yoga, theater. All fun activities.

Counseling sessions included one-on-one counseling as well as group activities like Guessing Emotions (like dumb charades), and appreciating fellow students.



We also held an Eye camp for the students and teachers with the help of Udhi Eye Hospitals. Thanks to Rtn Sherren and Ann Anbarasi.

PP Rtn V Mukund



O2 CONCENTRATOR DONATED

Our club donated an Oxygen Concentrator to the Manolayam Senior Citizens Home during the weekly meeting held on 10th January. This project was enabled by R C Green City, whose president, Rtn Senthil, was also present. PP Rtn S R Madhu handed over the O2 Concentrator to Dr Ezhil Valli of Manolayam.



THIRD PRESIDENTS MEET HELD

The third presidents' fellowship meeting was held on the beach side at VGP Resort on 29th January. For a change, we had moved from the claustrophobic enclosure of an air-conditioned hall to the ambience of nature.

We had many presidents attending along with district officials. The cuisine had a live barbecue and a wonderful buffet. The bar was well decorated along the beach side and we had lovely music for us to shake a leg with amazing lighting. The committee had also organised many games which added to the fun and awesome fellowship.

Jawahar Nichani



A FUN(SUN)DAY AT FARM GURU

A few Rotarians, Anns, and Annettes from our club visited The Farm Guru on the outskirts of Chennai on Sunday, 22nd January for a day of fun and fellowship. Rtn Sherren and Ann Lakshmi Srikanth had this to say about the visit:

“After an hour-and-a-half-long drive, we arrived there to be welcomed with coconut water which we drank the natural way without any straws. After being blessed by a well-dressed Kamadhenu followed by a photo session there was a session of 'kili joshiyam' for the inclined. The highlight was the artificial waterfalls which were thoroughly enjoyed by kids and adults alike. We were introduced to the techniques of planting rice and separating the husk from the rice and had our hands on. A tractor ride was followed by a sumptuous lunch in the open air. Some of the families left home while the rest stayed on to enjoy the bullock cart ride and 'uri adithal'. Overall it was a Sunday well spent with family and friends thanks to the efforts of Rtn Mukund and Ann Sheela.”

Rtn Sherren



“Everything was in place. There was a 'boom-boom maadu' fully decked. It was well-behaved and blessed whoever touched its forehead.

We were led around the farm by Parikshit, Rtn Sai's (the owner) son who patiently answered all our questions. We also got a peek into the Kosasthalayar river running behind the farm.

It was a great experience. It's worth giving such an experience to our kids away from all the gadgets.

Thank you RCMS for organising such an adventurous afternoon.”

Ann Lakshmi Srikanth



PONGAL CELEBRATED

Our club's Community Learning Centre at Kattur celebrated the Pongal Festival on 15th January. The Centre is being currently used for conducting after-school classes for the children from the neighbourhood.



WEEKLY MEETINGS IN JANUARY



Date : 3rd January, 2023
 Speaker : Ms Shreya Ramnath
 Topic : Bhava without borders



Date : 24th January, 2023
 Speaker : Rtn Kalpana Kumar
 Topic : Including the excluded



Date : 10th January, 2023
 Speaker : President Rtn Jawahar Nichani
 Topic : Cricket is not just an entertainer, it's also a healer

B B VENGATESH HONOURED



The Rotary Club of Adyar presented their Vocational Excellence Award to PP Rtn B B Vengatesh on 24th January. BBV is the Founder- Director of USAM Technology Solutions which began from a compact space in Chennai with a focus on IT Solutions and Training. The Company today has branches across India and continues to grow rapidly. He has been a member of RCMS since 1997. Southerners congratulate Rtn Vengatesh on this achievement.

....Continued from President's Message

The mantra I follow is simple:

- I do not do everything myself (even if I want to).The next step? STEP BACK- and make way for other members to step in.
- Do not rely only on messages (any mode). Rtn Madhu always finds the time to call us for meetings. "Our meetings". It makes a difference.
- Think twice and take advice before stepping off. Taking into consideration different views are very important especially in a club trying to bring in younger members.
- I trust my passion and more importantly those of others too.
- I always do what is correct whatever others may think or say.

A few more months to go... let us make the most of it.

Yours in Rotary

Jawahar Nichani

CARING FOR LITTLE HEARTS



Ford renews its support

A fresh agreement was signed last month between RCMS and FORD with the latter pledging a sum of Rs 40 lakh for the project which started in 2018. Due to changes in CSR rules, the funds will be released directly for the project by FORD in the coming year.

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