

Dear RCI Family,

Warm Rotary Greetings.

2 months have passed since the new Rotary year. Serious Rotary activities have started to roll out. We did a Dental camp at our RCC at Maravanthuruthu, which was well attended. The Panchayat President who inaugurated the camp admired the good work carried out by RCI in the past and assured us continuous support for our future activities there. Other speakers at the function also mentioned on some of the camps that are relevant for village. With the professional expertise and the contacts available in RCI, we are confident of meeting their requests.

We also had decent attendance for the district seminar on TRF. Some of our members were truly motivated by the messages in the seminar. We hope to have decent contribution to TRF this year also. In September we plan to have a workshop for Teachers of Special School, as part of our Vocational Service. We also need to plan for the RYLA, which is in October. Our Anns have been our strength in these events. This year also, we are assured of their complete support. Our family fellowship is going strong with fireside gangs in full action. We shall see more action in this line in the coming months. Rotary months ahead shall be filled with serious service activities and fun for the family.

Let's together enjoy Rotary.

Rotary regards,

V Prashanth Menon



Prez..



RI President



Rtn. Dong Kurn Lee
2008-09



DC 2008-2009
Rtn. Baby Joseph

RCI Reconnect

MONTHLY BULLETIN



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Rotaract - are we missing something ?

September is "New Generation" Month and Rotract clubs form a part of it so I thought it was perhaps the best time for us to know about Rotract and various activities that could be done to make the new leaders aware of and their potentials and also to make them responsible Rotarians and citizens. I am appending below the article sent to us by Rtn PP MPH James Kalassery (Cochin Midtown), who is currently District Rotaract Committee Chairman (DRCC). According to him the situation in our district as far as Rotaract is concerned, is pathetic and miserable. While 69% of Rotary clubs in India have sponsored one or more Rotaract clubs, in our district it is as low as 22%. Let us try and know what Rotract is and how we can move ahead to having our own Rotract club.

The perfect platform for grooming future Rotarians Rtn PP MPH James Kalassery

Rotaract is ideally positioned between Interact and Rotary, open to youth in their late teens and pre-thirties (18-30 years to be precise).

Members of Rotaract clubs are a privileged group, who, as part of this dynamic movement, gets unlimited opportunities for self-development. As Rotaractors, many doors are open to them, which would otherwise be closed. Being part of Rotaract (which is a part of Rotary) gives them access to great leaders in the community in which they live, especially when they take the lead to develop responsible citizens. The more they give to Rotaract in various ways, the more Rotaract will fine tune them into more responsible individuals.

Apart from the regular leadership training programs for the members and the youth in their community, they also organise community service projects. The Rotaractors with their abundant energy, drive, enthusiasm and self-motivation, excel in doing projects that sometimes humble even the Rotary clubs.

These opportunities give them the confidence and experience to handle real-life situations with considerable maturity and ease, later in life. Further, as Rotaractors, they imbibe the principles of Rotary at a much younger age than most new Rotarians, which will later become their greatest asset. The aptly worded motto "Service above Self", around which all our programs revolve, leaves an indelible impression in their young minds. All these place Rotaractors in an enviable position. At the end of their Rotaract term, they are already budding leaders in professions and communities. By then, Rotaract would have geared them to become good Rotarians and naturally ideal members Rotary is looking for. They are also naturally inclined to join Rotary than any other organisation. Rotaract is, therefore, no doubt, the perfect platform for grooming future Rotarians.

Yet, according to RI Rotaract Committee's PreConvention 2008 Report by 2007-08 Chair Irene Lewitt, there are only 7,300+ clubs in the world (525 districts, 162 countries) with a membership of 1,70,000. Only 480 new clubs were chartered in 2007-08. The report further states that more than 50% of these Rotaract clubs are confined to five countries - India (1762), Brazil (646), USA (533), Philippines (478) and Italy (397). While 69% of Rotary clubs in India have sponsored one or more Rotaract clubs. Compared to India's national average of 69%, in our District 3201, it is abysmally low at 22% (yes, 22%)! Needless to say, there is much space for Rotaract to grow in our own district, in the above countries, and in many other countries as well.

Realising the importance of this steady stream of membership, the top leaders of Rotary and the RI Rotaract Committee have taken several steps to augment the growth of Rotaract. The committee has proposed that

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Rotaract clubs should be invited by their sponsoring club for District Governor's Official Visit. It has also proposed that Rotaract information of the district should be included in the Club and District Administration file of the DGEs at the International Assembly. Two other encouraging proposals are that the topic of Rotaract Alumni be included in Membership Training Seminars and DGE training sessions on membership, and to encourage DGEs to include Rotaract in their PETS program. Even though RI Board decisions have recommended funding attendance and training of DRRs at PETS, many districts do not diligently follow them.

Many districts and Rotary clubs in the world, including ours, have not yet realised that Rotaract is a never ending source for good and future Rotarians. Therefore, this year, when we celebrate Rotaract's 40th anniversary, past Rotaractors in Rotary should come forward and assist their leadership to create programs and projects to attract the youth in their community to become part of Rotaract, which is now included in the Youth and Young Adults program of Rotary.

Speaker Meetings for the month of August

The 7th weekly meeting was on 13th August 2008 - the speaker was our own Rtn Dr Sanjay Bhat and the topic he chose to spoke on was "Are you a man? Don't you want to live longer."

He talked on Prostate Cancer and its dangers. He said every man beyond the age of 40 should be aware about the danger of having prostate cancer-Early diagnosis of the ailment can result in complete cure where as very late detection could lead to a very painful death. This can be detected through a single PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) blood test and/ or through a DSE (Digital Rectal Examination). Most of the male Rotarians realized the importance of the PSA tests and we had a big queue the next day at Amrita- needless to say for what. As the **Rtn. LADY** editor was absent for this meeting - Rtn Hari gave a report of this meeting.

Our 8th weekly meeting of the year was held on 27th August 2008 and the speaker of the day soldier and Rotarian, Commander Kuruvilla of Rotary Club of Cochin Central.

He spoke to us about the recent and one of the most controversial deal that the present government had a tough time getting approval for- India NSG Nuclear deal. He started the topic with lot of technical theories of fission and fusion blast, the importance of Uranium and Thorium, and covered almost all aspects of the deal. A brief of it is given below by Rtn Prakash who had such an in-depth knowledge on the topic that Cdr Kuruvilla for few seconds thought he was a journalist.

The Nuclear Deal

The nuclear deal has occupied a large section of both the print as well as visual media for the last 2 years. Is it good for India, or does it bind us down to a set of conditions which was resisted by our Government for many years?

Everyone has their opinion on the N-deal, and the opposing views on the deal almost led to the Central Govt. being voted out, on a one point agenda in July 2008.

We had therefore invited a distinguished soldier and Rotarian, Commander Kuruvilla, of Rotary Club of Cochin Central, to address us on the aspects of the deal and the implications for India, at our 8th Weekly Meeting on August 27th 2008

Cdr Kuruvilla began by explaining about the basic of nuclear reactions, and its key components including Uranium, heavy water, fission and fusion. While fusion represented the holy grail as far as clean nuclear reactions went, it is still mainly an uncharted territory as we have not learnt how to make it sustainable, and currently finds application in bombs etc.

Nuclear fission has been in existence since the end of World War II, which it actually helped to end, when American fission bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 resulted in the capitulation of Japan and cessation of hostilities in the Eastern sector. India's trust with nuclear fission is constrained by our limited internal source of Uranium 235 and the lack of indigenous technology available to develop Reactors that can run on Thorium, of which we have plentiful supply. After India exploded its nuclear devices in 1974 and later in 1998, a good part of the world, led by the US has been devoting their energies to cap our nuclear program.

Thankfully there has been a reassessment of the situation with many western powers, the US mainly, understanding that it was in the democratic world's interest to allow India to develop its civilian nuclear technology and fuel its resurgent demand for energy. It has been a long journey from Nov 16th 2006 when the Hyde Act was passed by the US Government for cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy with India. India had then to overcome severe domestic opposition to the deal and after a vote of confidence in the Government; it was able to obtain a clearance from the International Atomic Energy Agency, which was to be subsequently ratified by a 45 member Nuclear Suppliers Group.

The speech by Commander Kuruvilla was lucid and was supported by a ppt presentation. We are thankful to Commander Kuruvilla for his mission in clearing the fog on the N-deal and bringing our Rotarians on par with the situation.

PS: Following a full blast lobbying exercise actively supported by the US, India managed to get a unanimous approval from the Nuclear Suppliers' Group through a waiver that will enable the Government to carry out nuclear commerce on September 6th 2008. The waiver has not been exactly on our terms but it does allow us to do international nuclear commerce and also keep our military nuclear facilities without any safeguards from civil agencies. Hopefully this will be the beginning of a new era for unlimited and cheap energy for our people and industries.



Community service Project-

A Free Dental Camp was conducted at Maravanthuruth on 31 August 2008 by our RCC.



The Panchayat President of Maravanthuruth inaugurated the camp. In his inaugural speech he stressed on the need for the panchayat to get involved in a bigger way with RCC and RCI. He requested all the panchayat members and officials present to extend all support to RCC and RCI in carrying out the humanitarian activities in the panchayat.

The secretary of RCC Mr TK Kunju presented the report on the activities carried out by RCC Maravanthuruth highlighting the number of meetings conducted, the projects undertaken and those planned. It was a lengthy report, which made the presidents of RCI and RCC happy while those in the audience looked up with curiosity and sense of happiness.

Rtn Dr. Siby TC gave a talk on "Dental Problems and its Care". He dealt at length on common dental problems and its cure. He emphasised on the requirement of dental care and requested everybody present to take adequate care in keeping the tooth clean. The audience participated in the Question and Answer session and Ann Dr Alice Kurian also joined in the discussions. The number of questions asked spoke volumes of how informative the camp was to the people of Maravanthuruth.

Mr Chandran KG, a ward member who spoke later expressed the need for a blood donor's list in the panchayat. He requested RCI to conduct a blood detection camp to prepare a blood donor's list.



The President of RCI Rtn V Prashanth Menon felicitated, secretary of RCC Mr TK Kunju welcomed the gathering and Rtn Dr. Shuheer OV, Community Services Director, proposed the vote of thanks. Rtn Dr. Sudheer agreed to conduct a blood detection camp at Maravanthuruth.

Soon the dental camp started and four doctors took charge. Dr. Siby TC, Dr. Alice Kurian, Dr. Saumya & Dr. Swarna examined close to eighty patients. Rtn Navin and Ester (volunteer of YOI) distributed the free toothpaste, brush and leaflets brought by Rtn Dr Siby TC. Rotarians Mathew G, Sudheer OV, Rajiv V, Harikrishnan PK, Madan MJ and Reji Raman assisted the RCC members in conducting the camp. The camp benefitted more than 87 visitors. Announcements on the free dental camp had appeared in all the morning dailies.

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Report by Rtn Regi Raman.



TRF-

A district Seminar on TRF was on 31st August 2008 at Hotel Presidency. Rotarians Prasanth, Cinu, Aby, Gibu and Sunil had participated in the seminar.

The Board meeting for month of August-

The 2nd board meeting of the year was held on 4th of August 2008. Fourteen board members were present. Various topics and projects were discussed during the meeting like- Rain water harvesting- could be done at any special school, Road safety- seminar in schools, RCC activities at Maravanthuruth, workshop of teachers of various schools, medical exhibition, Ryla, Medical camps and Bhavana. Rtn Dr Siby was unanimously elected as the Chairman for "Bhavana 2009". The meeting ended at 8.30 with a high tea.

Preparations on for Sep/Oct events-

Onam 2008 celebration is on 20th September at Hotel Mermaid. Anne Preeta and Suma are organizing the activities for the kids for the day. All should come in Onam traditional attire and make it more Colourfull like the colours in the pookallam.

Workshop on special school teachers-Rtn Gibu Mathew, Director - Vocational Services initiated this project, which is scheduled on 27th September 2008. The venue is blocked at the Rotary Hall of Cochin East near TOCH School.

RYLA 2008 is on 10/11 October 2008 and the venue is at Youth Hostel Kakkanad. Rtn Gibu and Rtn Sunil will be the joint Chairmen for the same. The theme for this years RYLA shall be **"GO GREEN"**. The preparations for the same have started. I request all Rotarians, Annes and Annettes to actively participate and make it a grand success.

Hello everyone. . . .

*3rd rocoint for month of September.
We have had a great last month with
The main event being dental camp and
Naveen and Ruth's wedding. Preparations are*

*On for next month and we have many events lined
up. Its going to be hectic for RCI and lets hope
all of us together can make it one stap up then the last as
we have always done year after year.*

Yours . . .Edit..or

The first wedding in RCI- Naveen weds Ruth.....

On 17th August 2008- our young and vibrant Rtn Naveen got married to Ruth It is the first wedding in RCI since the club has been chartered. All the Rotarians, annes and annettes attended the function with great enthusiasm. A report on the function by our Anne Annie Sunil and photos for those who missed The moment.

On the 17th of Aug just two days after we had celebrated our 61st Independence day, I was forced to recollect a movie which I had seen when I was around 18 years of age, the movies was called "Padamati Sandhya Ragam", which means the Evening music of the West, it was a telugu movie and it showed a love story of young boy from the US and a simple telugu speaking young girl. The movie very beautifully brought how this emotion develops between the two and the culmination of both the cultures which ends up



into a traditional wedding of both the parts of the world. The couple Navin and Ruth reminded me of this movie, Ruth all dressed up as a traditional Kerala bride with lots of jasmine flowers looking really beautiful and Navin with the traditional



Mundu and silk shirt and wearing an expression of an accomplishment of a great mission....the wedding took place in a very traditional style. The evening of 17th Aug at Renaissance hotel was the gathering of Navin's close friends, I

had the honor of introducing Ruth to the invitees and Rajiv Nair introduced Navin and our SR raised the toast to the couple. It was a very lively eveningabove all one does not get to see such marriages often. Navin and Ruth...wish you all the happiness, prosperity and a great future together from all of us at RCI.

Virgos....

They are usually observant, shrewd, critically inclined, judicious, patient, practical supporters of the *status quo*, and tend toward conservatism in all departments of life. They combine mental ingenuity with the ability to produce a clear analysis of the most complicated problems.

Ayushi
D/o- Madan & Falu
29th Aug



Dr Alice
W/o Dr Siby
06th Sep



Rtn Benny
17th Sep



Anisha
D/o- Sunil H
30th Aug



Aswathy
D/o Prakash
15th Sep



Anuja
W/o Manoj M
23rd Sep



Dr Lilan
W/o- Dr Sanjay-
02nd Sep



Rtn Jagan
02nd Sep



Preetha
W/o Gibu
22nd Sep



LIKES
Health foods
Lists
Hygiene
Order
Wholesomeness

DISLIKES
Hazards to health
Anything sordid
Sloppy workers
Squalor
Being uncertain

The colors for Virgo are **GREEN AND DARK BROWN**