

barber's hand. He was rearing to have ago at someone. After some time I got seated in the hair cutting chair and noticed through the mirrors that the 'lawn mower' was with the assistant. Oh my god was my reaction, I am his first customer, and I did not like it either but had no choice and could not protest too. Soon he was copying his mentor's movements of hands and playing his debut innings on me. He played all possible cricketing shots on my head and there I was staring at myself in the mirror after the innings was declared. Even though there was not much variation from the previous cuts I could not believe that I could look so ugly after a dress up. I started crying in the chair the moment the clipping stopped. Both the mentor and the assistant turned around to my crying. There was an un-mistakeable laugh in their eyes but an unpardonable look on the mentors face on his assistant. He promptly calmed and consoled me and running his scissors on my head and making a few adjustments per se. Now I had the shortest hair in my life, next to only when we were back from Tirupathi. Still I was weeping and sensing his losing touch went out immediately and bought Parry's toffees and sent me home. I narrated the incident to my mother and the only words she uttered were stop crying or else I will tell your dad. On hearing this I controlled myself but for the next whole month used to cry every day in the morning after bath each time I looked at the mirror. I also feared the next visit to the barber shop.

The following month the stipulated day, even though the hair was not fully grown, my dad asked me to come to the shop. With no choice, I went with him and after my dad left the senior barber saw my eyes moving around the shop. The assistant was also present but he had other customers to cater for as he had gained experience over the last month and was more calm and understanding.

The senior then called me and asked me to sit in his chair and promptly asked me what style I wanted? Much to my surprise and he could see the smile and happiness radiating all over my face. Even though the choice was limited and could not deviate from my dad's original instruction that was the day I felt that I can decide on my hairstyle on my own. We moved house from that locality to another and for few years I used to go to the same barber, this time after school before going home. This association continued for a long time till I found a new one close to our new home by which time I had reached college and could well decide on my hairstyle with minimum infringements.

Rtn. PHF S Sasidharan

Member Column

November ---- Rotary Foundation Month

"Give, but give until it hurts." Mother Teresa

At the beginning let me honour and admire our honorary member Bettey Karan for her whole-hearted willingness to contribute the largest amount ever paid by an individual in the district 3211 to The Rotary Foundation.

Everybody knows the Rotary Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends who share its vision of a better world. Better world in the sense, to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

Rotary International's masterpiece is The Rotary Foundation. It transforms our most daring dreams into the most splendid realities. The Rotary world and even the political world are already aware that The Rotary Foundation is the most generous expression of Rotarian magnanimity - a generosity that brings help to solve the problems that affect mankind. Only God achieves the impossible, but The Rotary Foundation achieves the best that mankind can possibly achieve.

Did you know that in just two years from now, in 2017, we will celebrate The Rotary Foundation's Centennial year. Imagine, 100 years of Doing Good in the world. To fulfill that mission our personal commitment, involvement and financial support is essential.

Contributions should always come from the bottom of your heart. No club has ever succeeded in forcing members to give. You cannot obtain help and win the required co-operation of members by pressure or force. Pressure creates resistance and force creates enemies. We don't need resistance and enemies in Rotary. Our Foundation relies not on the great wealth of the few but on the regular contributions of the many. That is the whole idea behind the theory of "Every Rotarian, Every Year", thereby encourage all Rotary club members be a part of the Foundation financially each year. I am confident that you all are convinced that The Rotary Foundation supports many wonderful projects. The success of all those projects lies upon the contribution of individual Rotarians. It is through these individual efforts that we have the combined strength to change the lives.

Rtn. MPHF. P. O. Thomas



Three month calender of events

November, 15, 2015

TRF Seminar -
GV Rama Convention Centre,
Hotel Samudra, Kollam

January, 10, 2016

FIRE (Family Involved Rotary Entertainment)
Camelot Convention Centre Alappuzha



February 06,07, 2016

District Conference
Winsdor Castle Convention Centre,
Kottayam

Club Business

Minutes of the meeting held on 04th November 2015

The meeting was called to order by the President Rtn. Adv. V Deepak. Rtn. Dr. Abraham Thayyil invoked the blessing of Almighty. In Presidential address Rtn. Adv. V Deepak thanked for healthy attendance despite adverse conditions, also thanked members for successful delivery of hectic activities month on October 2015. He said after the successful completion of numerous projects previous month now it's time to focus on District Project WINS, as last year's successful implementation of Solar lights at KSRTC Stand this year we are going to execute WINS on 9 schools. Among the 9 schools Govt. Girls High Secondary School, Alappuzha is being identified for 3 star category. He also informed about TRF seminar at Kovalm on 15th November and requested for registrations. He shared the glad news about inauguration of House Boat of our fellow Rtn. Jose Abraham on 6th November 9.30 am at Rajeev Jetty. Rtn. Jacob Neroth shared a succinct narration of his recent visit to Greece, he was of the impression that financial meltdown we heard in media doesn't reflect in normal life of citizens. Being Rotary Foundation Month, IPP Rtn. P O Thomas detailed on activities and functioning of Foundation. He quoted famous words by Mother Teresa "give until it hurts" to emulate Rotarians in donating towards Rotary Foundation. He suggested Rotarians to donate 100 \$ towards "EREY". In this line PAG Rtn. Sajan Nair suggested DG's should try to extend distribution of District assistance to those clubs who contribute towards Rotary Foundation, he also informed that PHF contributions are funds which come back to Clubs and Arch Klumb Contributions are endowments. A medical assistance worth Rs 3500/- was given to a 1 year old child hailing from kidney disease, the money was handed over by Rtn. Dr. Abraham Thayyil. Then Secretary Rtn. Krishnan Venugopal informed about upcoming Birthdays for the week and thanked Rtns. Jacob Neroth, P O Thomas and Sajan Nair for sharing their views. He also thanked Rotarians for attending the meeting, he concluded with a special thanks to the host for the day Rtn. John Thayyil.

Rtn. Krishnan Venugopal

Tea Host for Regular Meeting on 11.11.2015, Rtn. John Mathew

RI President's Message - November 2015

RI News

One sunny morning at the end of June 1991, a van drove through the busy, rush-hour streets of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Winding through traffic to a northern suburb, the van arrived at the Forward Command Headquarters of the Defense Ministry. Security guards stopped it for inspection. When they did, the two suicide bombers driving the van detonated their cargo: thousands of kilograms of plastic explosives.

The roof of the building was blown off completely. Debris was strewn for blocks. In total, 21 people were killed and 175 people injured, among them many pupils of the girls' school next door. More than a kilometer away, the blast shattered every window in my home. My wife raced toward the sound of the explosion – toward our daughter's school.

Our daughter was then nine years old. That morning, she had forgotten her pencil case at home. At the moment of the blast, she was coming out of a stationer's shop, admiring her new pencils. Suddenly her ears were ringing, the air was filled with sand, and everywhere around her people were screaming, bleeding, and running. Someone pulled her into the garden of the badly damaged school, where she waited until my wife arrived to bring her back to our home – its floors still covered with broken glass.

Sri Lanka today is peaceful and thriving, visited by some two million tourists every year. Our war now is only a memory, and we as a nation look forward to a promising future. Yet so many other nations cannot say the same. Today, more of the world's countries are involved in conflict than not; a record 59.5 million people worldwide live displaced by wars and violence.

In Rotary we believe, in spite of all that, in the possibility of peace – not out of idealism, but out of experience. We have seen that even the most intractable conflicts can be resolved when people have more to lose by fighting than by working together. We have seen what can happen when we approach peace-building in ways that are truly radical, such as the work of our Rotary Peace Fellows. Through our Rotary Foundation, peace fellows become experts in preventing and resolving conflict. Our goal is that they will find new ways not only to end wars but to stop them before they begin.

Among the hundreds of peace fellows who have graduated from the program, two from Sri Lanka, one from each side of the conflict, studied together. In the first weeks of the course, both argued passionately for the rightness of their side. Yet week by week, they grew to understand each other's perspective; today, they are good friends. When I met them and heard their story, they gave me hope. If 25 years of pain and bitterness could be overcome by Rotary, then what, indeed, is beyond us?

We cannot fight violence with violence. But when we fight it with education, with understanding, and with peace, we can truly Be a Gift to the World.

K R Ravindran - President 2015 - 16

For Private Circulation only.

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