

midnight oil to keep this spark lit throughout the entire duration of the lengthy project. Babumon, in his usual noble and magnanimous way, with deep pockets ensured the ultimate success of this mega project. Our own charming Vijyalakshmi Nair with her persuasive and human relation skills coupled with her youthful energy competently supported Babumon, and both of them complemented each other till the very end. They were ably supported by other team members and the result was there for all of us to see, involve and enjoy on that afternoon.



The grand finale of FIRE was so well attended by over 1500 Rotarians and their families and friends from the district. The event was managed and executed to perfection and the programming was so crisp and time bound that there was never a dull moment for the audience. The legendary Malayalam playback singer M G Sreekumar, Come back actress Manju Warriar, guest of honour and the ever bubbly Malayalam television anchor Ranjini Haridass who was the master of ceremonies added the extra frill and the additional colour to the already colourful function. It was a seen to be believed function. The presence of so many Rotarians, families and friends in one venue was a first in this state. The wholehearted cooperation and the togetherness proved beyond doubts the collective and individual performances of each of the participants and the applause they received at the end of it. FIRE- truly engulfed the district and rekindled everybody's emotional family feelings and certainly endorsed our RI Presidents catch phrase BE A GIFT TO THE WORLD.

The ceremonies concluded with the customary fellowship and a sumptuous dinner and all left the venue with a feeling of togetherness and with renewed bondages. The first edition of FIRE set a bench mark of excellence for all of us to emulate in the future editions of this wonderful initiative of our Rotary district leaders.

Rtn. PHF S Sasidharan

Member Column

January—Vocational Service Month.

What is this 'Vocational Service' .?

Your and my vocation calls us to contribute our talents, share our knowledge, and spread the richness of our success. Vocational Service is the way Rotary fosters and supports the application of the ideal of service in the pursuit of all vocations. If you remove Vocational Service, Rotary becomes purely a community service organization. And if you take out ethics from vocational service, then vocational service falls flat.

The classification principle — the guideline by which nearly all Rotary membership is determined — ensures that each club's membership represents a cross-section of its community's business and professional population. Classification and vocational service go hand in hand. Just as a Rotarian represent his vocation in Rotary, so too do they represent Rotary in their vocations. Thus, Rotary becomes a group of like-minded people from different vocations, and when such people, with clean hands, big hearts, and open minds, extend themselves to serve the community, acceptability of Rotary in society becomes all the more profound. The world is full of non-governmental organizations working for humanitarian causes. Then there are many organizations espousing ethics and values. But there are very few that are equally focused on ethics-based profession/vocation on one hand and humanitarian service on the other. Rotary is one such organization.

Many Rotary Clubs conduct its vocational awards nite in pomp and splendour. Many times it did allow me to ponder about the bigger philosophical question 'who deserves the vocational awards?' It demands a serious attention and rethinking on our part. Without much of a difference of opinion, many believe that Rotary clubs are giving undue importance to 'glamour dolls', 'silver screen heroes' and other gaudy and glittery 'stars' because that often attracts wider viewer ship, which essentially means 'more business'.

The Rotary Club has been instrumental in recognizing those talents which often go unnoticed. I believe that a more sublime essence is to give awards to the down-trodden ones who miss recognition and encouragement because they are crippled by lack of resources, tact or political / cultural 'godfathers'.

While recognizing talents it is more desirable and advisable to go for the ordinary lots who have made some notable contribution in their work- a- day world. That is, the Rotary Club thereby create 'Stars' bringing the less fortunate ones to the lime light who can realize the worth of the award with a sense of self esteem. And these people will surely feel elated and obliged, greatly appreciating and cherishing the honour bestowed upon them by an international organization like the Rotary Club. The need of the hour, therefore, is to examine whether we have misplaced our priorities.



From my earliest memories, I recollect awards being given to those 'less fortunate' ones, whereby a 'star' is created by the Rotary Clubs, because he/ she deserves such recognition and not simply to call upon the already existent 'busy ones'

In the wake of the deteriorating business and professional environment, the world is looking for people who are ethically sound and committed to social responsibility. If we can, Rotary will be recharged, ready and relevant to the needs of the 21st century. And people will be lining up to join us.

I encourage you to think about ways to celebrate our vocational diversity and ethical ideals this month.

Rtn. P. O. Thomas

Club Business

Minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2016

The meeting was called to order by the President Rtn. Adv. V Deepak. Rtn. Muhammad Sali invoked the blessing of Almighty.

In Presidential address Rtn. Adv. Deepak acknowledged presence of AG. Rtn. Sheryl Berry Dist 1220, RC of Claycross UK and her work associate Mrs. Sheryl Vincent. President informed the members about grand success of FIRE (Family Involved Rotary Entertainment) more than 30 Rtns and their family members participated. He also brought to attention that Pulse Polio 1st stage is on 17/1/2016 and requested members to support the cause. He informed about District Governor's visit to our club on 20th of this month and shared about the details on proceeding on that day. On 15th of this month RC Alleppey is observing Palliative Care Day at our club hall by 2.30 pm. He also informed the general body about last board meeting decision to make our former member EK Antony a honorary member.



AG Sheryl Berry extended greetings from her Dist. 1220; she expressed her happiness in interacting with a 5 star club. She said her association with RC of Alleppey spans over last 5 years and she thanked our club for the assistance provided at HOPE village. She also informed that now immediate assistance needed at hope is for House Mothers. Rtn. D Vijyalakshmi Chief General Coordinator FIRE informed about huge success of FIRE and thanked all members from club on various committees who gave excellent support in successful conduct of the event.

AG Gopinathan Nair talked about Pulse Polio 1st Stage activities on 17th and also expressed his gratitude to Rotarians for making FIRE a grand success. Rtn. P O Thomas congratulated Rtn. D Vijyalakshmi Chief General Coordinator FIRE for her sincere efforts in making the event a huge achievement. He also informed about candidature of PDG Rtn. Sunil Zachria and Rtn. Chokkalingam for the RI Directorship, the voting is going on.

Rtn. Sajan Nair informed about the marriage of a girl who was brought up at HOPE, he also congratulated and suggested that its time to propose name of Rtn. D Vijyalakshmi for the post of District Governor. He also expressed his views on RI Director Election. Rtn. George Thomas informed that Rtn. D Vijyalakshmi and Rtn. Gopinathan Nair also contributed Trophies for the winners of FIRE, and assured that club will look into the proposal of Hope village. GGR Adv. S Murugan congratulated Rtn. D Vijyalakshmi; he said that it was an exact example of an entertaining family event. He also expressed views on ongoing RI Director Election.

Secretary Rtn. Krishnan Venugopal read out anniversaries for the week and in vote of thanks thanked all Rotarians for attending meeting and for their valuable suggestions and appreciations, He extended a special thanks to Host for the day Rtn. Mohammed Sali, and then the meeting was adjourned by the President.

Rtn. Krishnan Venugopal

Host Team for DG visit Dinner 20.01.2016, Rtns, T Sivakumarr, Sujith T S, Dr. Abraham Thayyil, Joseph Thayyil, George Thayyil, Thomaskutty joseph, V J Francis, Siby George, Arjun P , and Boney Mani Thomas



Three month calender of events

January, 20, 2016

District Governor's visit to the club
at Revi Karunakaran Rotary Hall, Alleppey

February 06,07, 2016

District Conference
Windsor Castle Convention Centre, Kottayam

June 19, 2016

Awards Night
Trivandrum Club, Trivandrum

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