

TEXCITY

Rotary



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE



texcity

TIMES

A Bulletin of Rotary Club of Coimbatore Texcity Dist. 3201

Issue No. 1
July 2017

Dist. Gov. : Rtn. Vinod K Kutty

President : Rtn. Mahaveer Bothra

Secretary: Rtn. Narendra Kumar

Editor: Ann. Alka R. Nichani

"I BELIEVE THE
GREATER RESULT WILL
BE A ROTARY THAT
RECOGNIZES OUR
RESPONSIBILITY NOT
ONLY TO THE PEOPLE
ON OUR PLANET, BUT
TO THE PLANET
ITSELF."

- IAN H.S. RISELEY, ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

2017-18



THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

My dear Texcity Family,

Our reason for being Rotarians is to make a difference to the Society, to make a difference in lives which we could never reach alone. I sincerely request you to have this thought in your mind every day so that, together we continue to build on the strong foundation that Texcity is standing on. When we do this, we are helping ourselves by becoming better people.

Icons like Abraham Lincoln, Mother Theresa, Mahatma Gandhi and JRD Tata made a difference to the world. They took ownership of their respective areas and did what they believed in. I urge you to take ownership of your membership and give it a thrust by doing more than you ever have. Don't just "Be a Member". Instead, be the go to person for everyone; the leader who everyone looks up to. It will bring magic into your life and that of others.

Inspired by the teachings of our great saint Mahavir, who advocates nonviolence (Ahimsa), truth (Satya), non-stealing (Aucharya), and non-possession (Aparigraha), I happy and extremely grateful to you all for acceding my demand for a vegetarian Rotary year.

A word about our Community Service plans for the year: Planting of a 1000 trees and a massive blood donation drive are two projects that we shall do immediately. In keeping with the Rotary theme for the year, Texcity will Make a Difference at the General Hospital by providing a bore well at the cost of Rs 1,00,000 which will touch over 2000 lives. 96 toilets are in need of renovation which we will undertake at an outlay of Rs 3,00,000. 12 Govt schools along Avinashi Road will be provided furniture for the Abdul Kalam libraries at a cost of Rs 2,50,000.

I am honored to announce that 2 of our members are becoming Major Donors this year. Rtn Kamal Kumar and Rtn Mani, God bless you for your generous contribution to The Rotary Foundation. As the days and weeks go by I am sure you, dear members, will come forward with your project ideas and initiatives. The ongoing projects of Texcity, (The Vocational training centre, our prestigious RYLA, our project for child health care in association with Shanti Asharam) will be done with new vigour. We shall rejuvenate and support our Interact and Rotaract clubs.

The Anns and Annets have always been our biggest asset. We shall continue to encourage and support them. The governing board looks forward to working together to impact Society positively.

Thank you Dear Texcity family. Together we Make a Difference in the coming Rotary Year.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

This year President Ian Risely has braved Rotary clubs across the world to make a difference by announcing his theme "Rotary: Making a difference" Environmental degradation and global climate change are serious threats he says and has challenged every Rotary club to make a difference by planting a tree for each of its members. Mother Nature is one who always gives and we have a lot to learn from her. In this issue, you will find a piece on Rithu, a Texcity Annet who chose to give of herself because she felt that someone needed it more than she did. A truly noble gesture which we could emulate.

Giving is not always the easiest thing to do. However, if we follow these four principles as advocated by Azim Premji of Wipro, it will help put things in perspective.

Finding common ground: The reality of the world is that there will always be disagreement and differences between people, but finding common ground is the only way of moving forward.

Concern for others: We must respect all human beings equally and we must have the same respect for nature. This respect must manifest in action. Connectedness: We must recognise that societies, economies, and the environment are all deeply connected. So, every effort of ours to find solutions and to find meaning must strengthen this connectedness.

Commitment to values: The bedrock of everything must be an unflinching commitment to Values, at the core of which is Integrity. Integrity is about honesty and honouring commitments and is about having the courage to persevere for what is right and what is good.

In short; May you always be proud of the work you do, the person you are and the difference you make. Happy New Rotary Year to you!

Ann Alka Nichani

Rtn. MD. Mahaveer Bothra

GOVERNING HANDS 2017-2018



He is the man with excellent marketing and PR Skills. Vice chairman of the well known "Mahaveer's" he will lead Texcity with elan in the coming year

Rtn. MD. **Mahaveer Bothra**
President



This dashing combination of Sachin Tendulkar and Ajith looks more like an older brother of his 2 sons. He is getting set to take on the big mantle of leadership next year. This year he will continue to star in Texcity's cricket victories and fellowship

Rtn. PHF. **Senthil Kumar K.**
President Elect



His sense of humour and his singing skills are not his only assets. His pleasant demeanour and perseverance make him the right choice for serving on the Board as VP.

Rtn. PHF. **Vijay C.R.**
Vice President



After a successful year as President, he will continue to contribute positively with his wealth of experience. He has helped many Presidents build the Texcity brand and is constantly innovating to better it.

Rtn. PHF. **Brijesh K.P.**
Immediate Past President



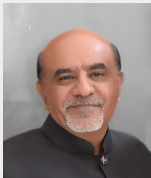
He towers above the crowd and his friendship with our President is stuff that movies are made of. With his bird's eye view, he will have an excellent perspective of how to run the year well.

Rtn. PHF. **Narendra Kumar**
Secretary



Soft spoken and dependable, he is every President's go to guy for the post of Project Chairman. Once he takes on something, he does not rest until it's taken to its logical end.

Rtn. PHF. **Reji Kurian**
Joint Secretary



Vastly experienced having served in various capacities at both, the Club and District levels, he is the right person to balance the debits and credits which are going to be big numbers this year.

Rtn. PHF. **Suresh S. Lund**
Treasurer



After getting his only daughter married and taking his first road trip up north, this Past President feels he wants to see the rest of the world. While he will wear the club admin hat, he will surely include some travels for all the members during the year.

Rtn. PHF. **Ramesh A. Nichani**
Chairman-Club Administration Committee



He is well read, has a big social circle and is good at making friends. A good combination and the right choice for Membership committee chairman

Rtn. PHF. **Kamal Kumar**
Chairman-Membership Committee



A man with a wealth of Rotary experience, he stands by every President. He builds homes and factories as a profession; and friendships and contacts as a passion!

Rtn. MPHF. K.I. **Antony Johnson**
Chairman-Service Projects Committee



He has been in Rotary for only a few years now but his activities could span several decades. A mover and shaker, he has friends across the District and is the perfect choice for maintaining good Public Relations

Rtn. PHF. Dr. **Z. Mohamed Irfan**
Chairman-Public Relations Committee



This Rotarian has proved his mettle on this very post recently. He believes in walking the talk and is adept at motivating people to give to the Foundation.

Rtn. MD. **S. Vijay Kumar**
Chairman-TRF Committee



He is a man with a Mission.. In the year gone by, he was chairman for XPD2470 which was a RILM project. He will take things to a new level when he heads the committee for RILM

Rtn. PHF. **Krishnaraj R.**
Chairman-Rotary Literacy Mission



A person you can count on, this man with great style delivers with great élan whether it is a grand theme party or a big project. Wash in Schools is a thrust area of Rotary and Rajesh will make sure it gets impetus under his able leadership

Rtn. PHF. **Rajesh Jagadeesan**
Chairman-Wash In Schools



Commitment is his middle name. He is stickler for rules and protocol. This Past President will step into the shoes of Sgt at arms to maintain order, timing and decorum at every meeting.

Rtn. PHF. **Gigi Eapen Cherian**
Sr Sergeant at Arms



An enthusiastic Ann who has been part of Rotary since her childhood. She has been editor of Texcity Times several times over and Co-editor for the Governor's Monthly letter in 2015-16. Expect an informative and interesting bulletin this year.

Ann. **Alka R. Nichani**
Editor - Texcity Times



A very talented person, she is already full of ideas on how to keep the very prestigious flag of the Ann's club flying high.

Ann. **Padmini Manoj Vakli**
Anns Chairperson



This Class 10 student is a champion quizzer, tennis player, Science and math wizard, karate senior brown belt holder and part of her school council. She will prove her leadership skills as Annet's club Chair.

Annet. **Kripaa Padmanabhan**
Annet Chairperson

WHEN DID THE FIRST ROTARY MEETING TAKE PLACE ?

On February 23, 1905, Paul Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele and Hiram Shorey gathered at Loehr's office in Room 711 of the Unity Building in downtown Chicago. This was the first Rotary Club meeting. They decided to call the new club "Rotary" after the practice of rotating meeting locations.

Harris's desire for camaraderie among business associates brought together these four men and eventually led to an international organization of service and fellowship.

Read about each of the first four Rotarians below, and about Harry L. Ruggles, who is often called the "fifth Rotarian."

Rotary's founder, Harris, was born in Wisconsin, USA, on 19 April 1868. He was raised by his paternal grandparents in Vermont and attended the University of Vermont, Princeton, and the University of Iowa. He was Rotary president from 1910 to 1912 and a member of the Rotary Club of Chicago until his death on 27 January 1947.

Loehr, a mining engineer, was born on 18 October 1864 in Carlinville, Illinois. He was a Rotarian for only a few years, never holding office at the club or international level. But that first Rotary meeting was held in his office, Room 711 of the Unity Building in downtown Chicago. He died in Chicago on 23 May 1918.

WHY DID THE ROTARY FOUNDATION COME INTO EXISTENCE?

The Rotary Foundation was born as an endowment fund in 1917, the brainchild of RI President Arch C. Klumph. It was reborn 12 years later in the form we know today, The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. However, it wouldn't be until after the passing of Paul P. Harris in 1947 that TRF would reach the financial health and world importance that it enjoys today.

Technically speaking, it is a not-for-profit corporation that supports the efforts of Rotary International to achieve world understanding and peace through international humanitarian, educational, and cultural exchange programs. It is supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world.

Its expenses are borne solely by the interest earned on its contributions over a three year period. As an endowment fund for Rotary "to do good in the world". It has grown from an initial contribution of US\$26.50 to more than US\$1billion. It has one of the largest and most prestigious international fellowship programs in the world

A Rotarian for only a few years, Shorey served as recording secretary during the club's first year. He was born in Maine in August 1862 and died in March 1944.

Schiele, a coal dealer, served as the Chicago club's first president in 1905 and Rotary International's third treasurer in 1945. Born in Terre Haute, Indiana, in June 1870, Schiele attended Terre Haute Business College and served in the U.S. Army during the Spanish-American War. He was president of the Schiele Coal Company from 1902 until his retirement in 1939. He and Harris became lifelong friends and lived near each other on the South Side of Chicago. Schiele died on 17 December 1945 and is buried near Harris at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Originally from Michigan, Ruggles was a graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and joined Rotary at its second meeting. He was treasurer of the Chicago club during its first year, president from 1908 to 1910, and a Rotary director from 1912 to 1913. He is known for having introduced singing to Rotary club meetings. His printing company, H.L. Ruggles & Co., printed the first issue of The National Rotarian and the first Rotary songbook. He died on 23 October 1959, an honorary member of seven clubs in addition to his home club, the Rotary Club of Chicago.

Its event-filled 100 years has been a story of Rotarians learning the value of service to humanity, and the citizens of the earth benefiting from that service. Rotary has received \$355 million in challenge grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Rotary committed to raising \$200 million by June 30, 2012 and met that goal by January 2012. This represents another \$555 million toward polio eradication.

The Humanitarian Programs of the foundation help fuel international Rotary projects to improve the quality of life, providing health care, clean water, food, education, and other essential needs primarily in the developing world.

A major Humanitarian Program is PolioPlus, which seeks to eradicate the polio virus worldwide. Through its Educational Programs, the Foundation provides funding for some 1,200 students to study abroad each year. Grants are also awarded to university teachers to teach in developing countries and for exchanges of business and professional people. Even its former participants in the Foundation's programs can continue their affiliation with Rotary as Foundation Alumni.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

WHO IS THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL?

The executive staff manages operations at RI World Headquarters, including member services and programs, finances, technology, development, strategy, legal services, and our international offices in Buenos Aires, São Paulo, Zurich, New Delhi, Seoul, Tokyo, and Parramatta (Sydney).

John Hewko is the general secretary of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation.

From 2004 to 2009, Hewko was vice president for operations and compact development for the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a U.S. government agency established in 2004 to deliver foreign assistance to the world's poorest countries.



At MCC, he was the principal United States negotiator for foreign assistance agreements to 26 countries in Africa, Asia, South America, the Middle East, and the former Soviet Union. During his tenure, he completed the negotiation of assistance agreements

totaling \$6.3 billion to 18 countries for infrastructure, agriculture, water and sanitation, health, and education projects. Prior to joining MCC, Hewko was an international partner with the law firm Baker & McKenzie, specializing in international corporate transactions in emerging markets. He helped establish the firm's Moscow office and was the managing partner of its offices in Kyiv and Prague.

While working in Ukraine in the early 1990s, Hewko assisted the working group that prepared the initial draft of the new Ukrainian post-Soviet constitution and was a charter member of the first Rotary club in Kyiv. Hewko has been a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, an adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University, and a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He has published papers and articles in leading U.S. and international publications, and he has spoken extensively on political and business issues dealing with the former Soviet Union, Central Europe, Africa, and Latin America. He is also a member of the Council of Foreign Relations.

Hewko holds a law degree from Harvard University, a master's in modern history from Oxford University (where he studied as a Marshall Scholar), and a bachelor's in government and Soviet studies from Hamilton College in New York. As general secretary, Hewko leads a diverse staff of 800 at Rotary International's World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA, and seven international offices. Hewko is a Paul Harris Fellow. He and his wife, Margarita, live in Evanston.

WHAT IS ROTARY'S MOTTO?

Rotary's official mottoes, Service Above Self and One Profits Most Who Serves Best, trace back to the early days of the organization. In 1911, He Profits Most Who Serves Best was approved as the Rotary motto. It was adapted from a speech made by Rotarian Arthur Frederick Sheldon to the first convention, held in Chicago the previous year. Sheldon declared that "only the science of right conduct toward others pays. Business is the science of human services. He profits most who serves his fellows best."

The Portland convention also inspired the motto Service Above Self. During a convention outing on the Columbia River, Ben Collins, president of the Rotary Club of Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA,

talked with Seattle Rotarian J.E. Pinkham about the proper way to organize a Rotary club, offering the principle his club had adopted: Service, Not Self. Pinkham invited Paul P. Harris, who also was on the boat trip, to join their conversation. Harris asked Collins to address the convention, and the phrase Service, Not Self was met with great enthusiasm.

At the 1950 RI Convention in Detroit, slightly modified versions of the two slogans were formally approved as the official mottoes of Rotary: He Profits Most Who Serves Best and Service Above Self. The 1989 Council on Legislation established Service Above Self as the principal motto of Rotary, because it best conveys the philosophy of unselfish volunteer service. He Profits Most Who Serves Best was modified by the 2004 Council to They Profit Most Who Serve Best and by the 2010 Council to its current wording, One Profits Most Who Serves Best.

WHERE WILL THE NEXT R.I. CONVENTION BE HELD?

The Rotary International Convention, organized by the Rotary International will take place from 24th June to the 27th June 2018 at the Toronto Hilton Hotel in Toronto, Canada. The conference will cover areas like Rotary International Convention and local Rotary members are already hard at work making sure your stay is as enjoyable as possible. This bustling metropolis is the perfect venue for our biggest event of the year because like the city itself, the convention brings together people from around the world who are eager to celebrate and share their diverse backgrounds.



A YEAR THAT CHANGES YOUR LIFE...



Rotary Youth Exchange is one of the most rewarding programs of Rotary International. Every year 9000 students crisscross the globe to spend one academic year in a foreign country, hosted by multiple Rotarian families. They are thus global ambassadors while learning a new culture and making friends from across the world. It is an exchange that makes an indelible mark not only in the life of the students but also their parents and hosts. Here is Ananka Ashwin, a very recent ROTEX (Rotary Exchange alumna) talking about her experience. This piece is featured to encourage parents and their eligible young children to get inspired and understand this rewarding program. Two Annets of Texcity have been ROTEX earlier. Texcity Times features their experience in pictures at the end of this article.

Travelling to a new destination is intriguing, but to get the opportunity to live there, to learn the lifestyle and maybe even be one among them, the feeling is ineffable.

After grade 10, I applied for the Rotary Youth Exchange program and a few months later, after sending out the application and an interview, I got to know that I was going to Germany. The Rotary Youth Exchange officers were very organized and arranged for orientations in safety, public speaking, etiquette. Their guidance and support made a wonderful variance.

The first half of my exchange was a constant game of charades, trying to decipher the language and communicate with the locals. Over time, with constant encouragement and trying at every chance, I became fluent in the German language. As a chance to study abroad, I went to school there, commuting by local and public transportation. Learning in a language one is just beginning to learn is an interesting puzzle itself. Tours across country (and for some, the continent of Europe) are also part of the game.

I had two host families who, went out of their way to make my exchange marvelous, treated me and took care of me just as one of their own. I bonded with them so well that I now have two homes with them and they are just as close as my real family. I encountered other exchange students from various parts of the world and the more time we spent together and shared our stories, it turned into a potpourri of multi-cultural, multi-racial relationships, creating friendships for life. Change. It's a herculean part of going on exchange other than being a cultural ambassador, representing a country. I once came across a quote by Oliver Holmes "A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions."

My experience may be different than the others but now that I have returned, I find myself being able to talk to anyone, more outspoken, confident, mentally stronger, lot more organized, and independent. I've learnt more in this seemingly long time than I would ever have in the next five years of my life. While I spent my time learning the ways of Germans, I spent a lot of my time portraying my culture - food, art, dance, language, stories and folklore I grew up with. Hence, fulfilling the goals of Rotary - Fellowship, Integrity, Diversity, and Service.

My exchange year did have a few valleys but the peaks touched the sky. I may have been away from my family a while and I may have missed a year of schooling. But this once in a lifetime experience was definitely worth it and if ever possible, I would do it again. I would encourage every 15-18 year old to take part in this safe, exciting and life changing event. This, without doubt, has made me a better person and has given me a greater cognizance of the world, widening my perspective. And as it is rightly believed by every exchange student, "It's not a year in a life, but a life in a year."



Ananka Shreya Ashwin RYE 2016-17, Germany



Annet Alice Kuriachan, RYE 2015-16 to R.I District 1580, France



Annet Kartickram Krishnaraj, RYE 2014-15 to R.I. District 1670, France



SHE MADE A DIFFERENCE

Our young Annet Rithika (daughter of Srilatha and C. Karthikeyan) is not quite 12 years old yet but knows her mind and has her heart in the right place. When she heard about her mom's friend donating her hair for wigs for cancer patients, she decided she wanted to do this for her birthday. 15 inches of her precious hair is what she gave on 7th June. Now THAT is called "Giving".

Well done Rithu ! Texcity is proud of you!

DISTRICT AWARDS WON BY TEXCITY - 2016-17

- > District Governor's Special Recognition Award for Hosting AGTS - Rtn. Suresh S Lund
- > Regional Rural Ryla - Rtn. R.S. Maruti
- > Projects 100 Toilets to Tribal Village - Ann. Menaka
- > Public Image Activities
- > Best Club for Youth Service - Rtn. Prasanna K.
- > Outstanding President - Rtn. Brijesh K.P.



Texcity's Atlanta Convention Experience



I was proud to have been part of the gathering of 40,000 Rotarian from around the globe. The Atlanta convention was a celebration of 100 years of The Rotary Foundation. We as a team of 7 members of Texcity experienced the joy of giving. Bill and Melinda Gates foundation contributed USD 450 million from the total contribution of 1.2 billion to the Foundation. Their contribution is specifically towards Polio. It was an inspirational experience. We had the opportunity to interact with Rotarians from across the globe who could be potential partners for Matching Grant projects. I would highly recommend that every Rotarian attend at least one convention to enjoy the magnitude of Rotary first hand. - Rtn. Brijesh K.P.

