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Chennai dances to the tune of Coronavirus

Second edition of Vocational Awards gets rescheduled

After the declaration the outbreak of Coronavirus as Pandemic by the World Health Organisation, there was panic all round. Chennai city also danced to the tune of Covid-19 along with others.

People started to avoid large gatherings, meetings, functions and celebrations alike. Some of it were either postponed or cancelled. It was no exception for Rotary Club of Madras Chenna Patna. Zoho Corp asked its over 8,000 staff to work from home.



Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu worked from a farm in Tenkasi. It might not be outplace to mention that Mr. Sridhar was one of the candidates selected by RCMCP Vocational Awards Committee for this year's top award. He politely refused to take part in the function stating that they were adhering to social distancing. Later, it became a norm for all.

It was business as usual for vocational committee team of RCMCP. It was planning to hold its annual awards programme on March 19.

The candidates were shortlisted, citation were ready, chief guest was invited. As the stage was set ready, a few of our members felt it was not wise to have a huge gathering as people have been travelling and some may be carriers of virus. They called for postponement of the event. It was seconded by all immediately. The programme is now rescheduled for the latter part of April.

Annette Vaishnavi Anand was the first to miss the much awaited Semester at Sea programme, as the vessel she was to board was diverted to Mauritius.

Our Vocational Committee chairman Senthan Amuthan firm faced several cancellations. Notable among them was a trip to New Delhi with 95 students, followed by Munnar/Kochi, Vizag and Coorg. Big corporate firms cancelled their events. The only silver lining during this time was Ethiraj College conducted its annual day as scheduled. Club Services director Sathyanarayanan along with his friends provided food for 500 migrant workers.

The postponement of the function has come as a blessing, since Mr. Sridhar, who had expressed his inability, might take part in the rescheduled meeting to honour our club.

Short-listed candidates for the Vocational Awards - II

Sridhar Vembu

Zoho Corporation is an India-American cloud-based business software company founded in 1996. It has its core software development centre in Tenkasi and offices in California, Singapore, China, Japan and in Renigunta. Zoho focuses on web-based business tools, office tools suite and IoT management platform. Today Zoho has 30 products that competes with Google and SalesForce.

Vembu runs the in-house Zoho University, which provides training to students who have completed 12th grade and have certain math and tech skills. He is India's 76th richest Indian with a networth of \$1.83 billion according to Forbes magazine.

Dr. Vijay Shankar

He is son of the famous actor ' Jai Shankar. City-based Dr. Vijay Shankar is a well known eye surgeon, who has done more than 70,000 cataract and refractive surgeries.

He became an eye surgeon to fulfill his late father's wish. Dr. Shankar did his MS in Ophthalmology from KMC, Manipal, Fellowship and further training at Sankara Nethralaya. Currently, he practices at Apollo Medical Centre in T, Nagar. His wife Dr. Deepika is a Senior Consultant, Head and Neck Surgery at Apollo Hospitals.

Dr. Vijay Shankar also manages the Jai Shankar Medical and Charitable Trust through which he helps the poor and needy with their eye related problems.

Senior Journalist K.V. Vasudevan

This Senior journalist had a long stint in sports having covered Champions Trophy, SAF Games, Santosh Trophy, Football Federation Cup, Chennai Open Tennis. Besides scores of National Table Tennis championships for The New Indian Express.

He has done interviews on sports personalities in the level of Wimbledon champion Krajicek, Boris Becker and cricketers Wasim Akram and Sachin Tendulkar among others. During the long stint, he also dabbled in movies. He profiled all the big names in the film industry for Express Sunday magazine. He contributed to The Hindu Cinema plus for two years. He also covered international film festivals in Dubai, Bangkok, Hong Kong and Chennai.

Actor Stalin Muthu

Though he has been involved with Tamil Film and TV industry for more than 15 years, Stalin Muthu became famous after acting in Saravanan Meenakshi. He has appeared in some well known television serials such Andal Azhagar Pasamalar, Mappillai and 7C.

He also tried his luck in Sengathu Bhoomiyilae, Komban and Muthukku Muthaaga films. Currently, he is doing the leading role in Pandian Stores serial for Vijay TV.

Ninth Board Meeting held on 10/03/2020



- Approved a budget of Rs. 18,000 for sponsoring Datchayini under the Operation Daybreak to complete her CA course.
- It was decided to conduct blood donation camp in TCS Siruseri and adopt Black Bug by the end of March 2020.
- Second edition of Vocational Award to be held on 19th March and three personalities were selected.
- Decision to conduct Summer tour to Yelagiri will be taken on April 1 after studying members mood. As an alternative, a day fellowship can be held closer to the City.



Paul Harris Volleyball Championship

Senthan Amuthan and Sathyanarayanan team won the second place in the Paul Harris Volleyball Championship held during the first week of March 2020. Pattinathars have played a major role in Paul Harris Cricket Championship again represented by Senthan Amuthan and Vishwanathkrishnan, who secured first two places for their respective teams & Ram in Paul Harris Golf championship sealing the third place.



India's first Transgender couple venture into tea business



Transman G. Premkumaran and Transwoman L. Preethisha, India's first transgender couple, have ventured into business by setting up a tea-cum-snacks shop in Kalamman Koil Street in Virugambakkam, Chennai.

This is the second business venture for the transgender couple, who had earlier tried their hands in preparing and selling organic oil items prepared in Erode. In both the cases, **Rotary Club of Madras Chenna Patna** lend them a helping hand by giving a micro loan of Rs. 50,000 to them.

While Preethisha is from Kalyanipuram in Tirunelveli, Premkumaran is from Erode. Earlier, Preethisha did some odd jobs like doing small roles in films and as a delivery person for Uber Eats. Premkumaran also drove for Uber to meet the financial commitments.

"Having worked for others, we wanted to live on our own. That's when the organic oil business was booming. While people are ready to buy shampoo for Rs. 800, they are hesitant to buy Rs. 120 worth organic products. Hence, we decided to go slow on it and think of a different venue," said Premkumaran.

The tea stall cum snacks centre will sell beverages, juice, soup and bread items in the morning. It will offer different types of organic food items in the evening.

"The summer is approaching, we will add ice creams, tender coconut and many more items. We have been prompt in repaying our loan. I don't want to have any debt. We will clear the first loan very soon. That's why **Rotary Club of Madras Chenna Patna** offered us the second loan of Rs. 50,000," said Premkumaran as he was readying his new shop, which is located adjacent to L&T Prayas Medical Centre in Virugambakkam.

Rotary Club of Madras Chenna Patna has been providing interest free soft loan of Rs.25,000 to street cart vendors, tailors, hair stylist's, food makers and tea shop vendors among others for nearly two decades. The loan amount was recently doubled. This transgender couple was the first beneficiary to bag Rs. 1 lakh.

The microloan project is spearheaded by past president PL. Muthiah.

Distribution of Sewing Machine, bagging medals



Our club donated a sewing machine to Devi Arumugam, whose husband is paralysed due to brain tumour. Rtn R.C. Srinivasan recommended her case.

Rotaract Club of Madras Chenna Patna recently bagged four medals at the Rotaract Olympics held on March 15. Seen in the pictures are our award winning Rotaractors.

RCMCP seeks global grant for ibreast project

After a gap of 10 years, the Rotary Club of Madras Chenna Patna has geared to launch a project along with RC Cataraqui, Kingston and has sought global grant. This time, it is a project on "Awareness Creation and Early Detection of Breast Cancer" (ibreast). It aims to deploy an innovative & technologically advanced device, which is clinically effective and non-invasive method to detect breast cancer at very early stage in Tamil Nadu.



The plan is to start the project once the COVID-19 situation is brought under control. Total capital cost is Rs.28 lakh and our contribution is 20%.

The project involves procuring four ibreast scanners and cartridges along with training and project management costs. Operational expenses will be borne by us. Our club has tied up with four nursing colleges to be our operational partners. The club is planning to kick start the project at the earliest.

Ram Kevalur

PHF Rtn. B. Suryabaskar
President

PHF Rtn. G. Prabhakar
Immediate Past President

PHF Rtn. B. Chakravarthy
President Elect & Treasurer Trust

Rtn. N. Anand
Secretary

PHF Rtn. K. Sathyanarayanan
Director Club Administration

Rtn. S. Karthikeyan
Treasurer - Admin

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Joint Treasurer - Admin

Rtn. Vidya Alagu Perumal
Chairman - Operation Daybreak
& Chairman - Special Projects

Rtn. Vidya Alagu Perumal
Director Community Service (Dev.)

Rtn. Dr. Ani Grace Kalaimathi
Director Community Service (Health)

Rtn. T.R. Udaya Kumar
Director Youth Service

Rtn. G. Senthana Amuthan
Director Vocational Service

PHF Rtn. K.N. Ramanath
Director International Service

Rtn. R.C. Srinivasan
Public Image

PHF Rtn. G. Prabhakar
PHF Rtn. PL. Muthiah
Sergeants-At-Arms

Chennapathra

PHF Rtn. G. Prabhakar
Rtn. N. Anand
PHF Rtn. R. Dileep Kumar
PHF Rtn. K.N. Ramanathan
Ann. Deepa Mogili
Rtn. B. Surendra

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

As a precautionary measure and to safeguard the health of fellow Rotarians, Anns and Annettes it has been decided to cancel all meetings on account of Covid-19 till April 14, 2020.

The dates for vocational awards function and closed door meetings will be announced once the situation improves.

BIRTHDAYS

Rtn Kumaresan Bojan	04
Annette Pavithra D/o. Rtn. Pattabiraman	08
Rtn Hemachandrudu	16
Annette Vaishnavi D/o. Rtn Anand	16
Annette Swathi D/o. Rtn Raja Sriraam	18
Annette Nandita R/o Vishwanathkrishnan	24
Rtn Udaya Kumar	28

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Rtn. Deepak Pungaliya & Ann Seema	19
Rtn. AVS Rau & Spouse Rama	20
Rtn Mohan Sidhan & Ann Gomathi	25

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