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STOP PRESS



POPE FRANCIS IS NO MORE

“The Vicar of Christ Returns to His Creator”

With deep sorrow Royalweeks reports the passing away of Pope Francis. The Vatican announced that he died on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025, at 7:35 a.m. CEST, at the age of 88, in his residence at Casa Santa Marta in Vatican City. His death followed a prolonged hospitalization due to a respiratory crisis that developed into double pneumonia. Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Pope Francis made history in 2013 as the first Latin American and Jesuit pope. His 12-year papacy was marked by efforts to modernize the Catholic Church, emphasizing compassion, humility, and outreach to marginalized communities. He was known for his progressive stances on issues such as climate change, social justice, and interfaith dialogue. In accordance with tradition, the Vatican will now enter a period of mourning, and a papal conclave will be convened to elect his successor. The conclave, composed of eligible cardinals under the age of 80, is expected to begin within the next few weeks. Pope Francis's final public appearance was on Easter Sunday, where he blessed the faithful in St. Peter's Square and briefly met with U.S. Vice President JD Vance. His passing marks the end of a transformative era for the Catholic Church, leaving behind a legacy of humility, inclusivity, and a commitment to addressing contemporary global challenges.

EDITORIALLY YOURS



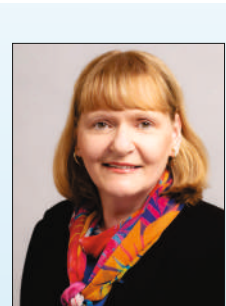
As we step into the final stretch of the Rotary year, we carry forward the momentum of remarkable accomplishments and the promise of more to come. Just two weeks ago, our club successfully hosted the Governor's Official Visit—a milestone event that reflected our collective commitment, meticulous planning, and impeccable execution. The DG Rtn AKSM Sudhi Jabbar heaped praise on President Kurian and team Alleppey for the well balanced activities covering all avenues of Rotary. The camaraderie and energy displayed by our members were truly heartening and emblematic of the spirit of Rotary Club of Alleppey. Amidst the celebrations, we continue to keep our eyes firmly set on what is perhaps the most impactful initiative of our Platinum Jubilee year—the Rotary Village housing project. We feel proud that the foundation stones for two more houses were laid by the DG, taking the total to five houses under this transformative project. These homes are not just structures of brick and mortar; they are symbols of hope, dignity, and new beginnings for the deserving beneficiaries.

Our greatest task in the remaining two months of this Rotary year is to complete the construction of these houses and hand them over to the families who await them with hope in their hearts. This mission is not just ambitious—it is deeply personal to our leadership. President Rtn. John Kurian is sparing no effort in mobilizing resources and support, while Secretary Rtn. Sujith stands with him every step of the way. Their dedication and drive will undoubtedly make this project a shining jewel in their Rotary journey. This dream is within reach—but only if we move forward together. I wholeheartedly exhort all members to extend their full support, in spirit, effort, and contribution, to help realize this vision. Let us stand united in making this project not just a Rotary success story, but a legacy of service and compassion that will resonate for years to come.

Let us build, not just homes—but hope.

Jai Rotary!

Rtn PAG MPHF M Kumaraswamy Pillai



STEPHANIE A. URCHICK
RI President



Rtn. AKSM SUDHI JABBAR
Dist. Governor



Rtn. ANTONY MALAYIL
Asst. Governor



Rtn. JOHN KURIAN
President



Rtn. SUJITH T.S
Secretary







Sir Emeka Ofor commits US\$5 million to Rotary's maternal and child health program in Nigeria

EVANSTON, Ill., USA (10 Apr. 2025) — Nigerian Rotary member and philanthropist Sir Emeka Ofor has committed US\$5 million through the Sir Emeka Ofor



Foundation (SEOF) to The Rotary Foundation to expand and strengthen its initiative aimed at reducing maternal and neonatal mortality in high-need areas of Nigeria.

"Helping mothers and babies survive and thrive is among the greatest investments we can make in Nigeria's future," said Sir Emeka Ofor, founder of the SEOF and a member of the Rotary Club of Oraifite, District 9142, Nigeria. "We have seen a unique opportunity to build upon a Rotary-led program to further turn the tide on maternal and child mortality by working together. This partnership marks a powerful step forward for the health and wellbeing of families across Nigeria."

Nigeria has some of the highest maternal and newborn mortality rates in the world. Improving access to prenatal care and skilled deliveries in equipped facilities has been shown to reduce this burden. Recognizing this, the Rotary-led program trains health workers, upgrades clinics, engages communities, and strengthens health data systems. Two years into implementation, supported facilities in four target regions have reported increased antenatal visits and reductions of 20% in maternal deaths and 28% in neonatal deaths. The US\$5 million gift from the Sir Emeka Ofor Foundation reflects these early successes and will help expand the program's reach. "This

extraordinary commitment from the Sir Emeka Ofor Foundation comes at a critical time in our member's efforts to improve maternal and child health in Nigeria," said Mark Maloney, Chair of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation. "We deeply appreciate Sir Emeka's partnership and his strong belief in Rotary's ability to reach even more communities and create lasting change for the health and wellbeing of families for generations to come."

Rotary's 'Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria' program was first launched by Rotary members in Nigeria and Germany, in partnership with the Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health (RMCH), the Federal Ministry of Health, and leading professional health associations. In 2022, it was the second program to receive a Programs of Scale grant from The Rotary Foundation, an annual competitive process that awards \$2 million to an evidence-based initiative driven by Rotary members with the capability for scaling up to help more people. Sir Emeka Ofor is chairman of the Chrome Group, a Nigerian-based conglomerate with interests spanning oil and gas, insurance and finance, power and energy, telecommunications, logistics and port management, and travel and hospitality. A long-time Rotary member and supporter, he is part of the Arch C. Klumph Society's Platinum Trustee Circle, which recognizes contributions between US\$2.5 million and US\$4.99 million. He has donated over US\$3 million to The Rotary Foundation, supporting four of Rotary's key areas of focus: peace and conflict management, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy, and polio eradication.

In 2019, his leadership gift of US\$250,000 helped inspire the creation of Rotary's first Peace Center in Africa, located at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. He has also contributed more than US\$4 million to polio eradication efforts in Nigeria, making him the largest individual donor to this cause on the African continent.

Among his many contributions, he funded the construction of a 1,600-seat Rotary Hall at the Rotary Centre Complex in Abuja, unveiled on 20 June 2020, at a cost exceeding 100 million. Rotary members throughout the world develop and implement sustainable, community-driven projects that fight disease, promote peace, provide clean water, support education, help mothers and children, grow local economies and protect the environment. Over the last 100 years, US \$5.5 billion has been awarded through The Rotary Foundation – Rotary's charitable arm that helps clubs work together to perform meaningful, impactful service.

About the Sir Emeka Ofor Foundation: The Sir Emeka Ofor Foundation (SEOF) is a charitable, non-governmental organization committed to promoting human capacity development and economic empowerment in Nigeria. Through initiatives in education, health, youth empowerment, and widows' support, SEOF seeks to alleviate suffering and enable self-reliance among underserved populations. The Foundation has partnered with global organizations including Rotary International and

Minutes of the GOV family meeting held on 9th April 2025

The meeting commenced at 7:40 PM with the Ceremonial Parade led by Sergeant at Arms Rtn Princy Sebastian. Following the Lighting of the Lamp by DG Rtn Sudhi Jabbar and other dignitaries, the meeting was called to order by the President, Rtn. John Kurian. Rtn. Ajith Kumar R.N. invoked the blessings of the God Almighty. Rtn. Ajith Kumar T.S. then welcomed the gathering. In the presidential address, President Rtn. John Kurian spoke about the Club Assembly held on the occasion of the District Governor's visit and the inauguration of various projects. He expressed his gratitude to the District Governor for inaugurating the projects and his encouragement and support to the club. He also thanked all Rotarians who supported the projects financially. The Secretary Rtn. Sujith T.S. presented the club project report through a PowerPoint presentation. It was also informed that the voice for the presentation was generated through AI technology. After the presentation, the club executed two projects: the handing over of a vehicle key to Marian Divyakarunyalayam, Muhamma, under a CSR project and the donation of an electrical wheelchair. Both projects were inaugurated by the District Governor. Then, the 41st edition of the club bulletin was released by the AG Rtn Antony Malayil after a brief introductory remarks by the Bulletin Editor Rtn. Kumaraswamy Pillai and a copy was handed over by the Assistant Governor to the District Governor. After which, AG Rtn. Antony Malayil, GGR Rtn. John Mathew and the neighbouring club presidents felicitated. Rtn. Joji Cyriac introduced the Dist. Governor AKS Member Rtn. Sudhi Jabbar. In his key note address, he appreciated the activities of the club and club officials. The DG explained the projects undertaken by various clubs under Uyare project and also narrated future plans in the year. A raffle draw was held, and the winner PAG Anitha Gopakumar of RC Alleppey East was awarded a prize by the District Governor.

The Secretary, Rtn. Sujith T.S., thanked the President, Chief Guest District Governor AKSM Rtn. Sudhi Jabbar, First lady Salma Muhammed, AG, GGR, Presidents of neighboring clubs, MCs Ann Deepa Sujith and Ann Megha Jijo, and the host team: Rtn. Jacob Philipose, Rtn. Lakshmi Gopakumar, Rtn. Nagaraj H., Rtn. Vidhu Kumar, Rtn. Thomaskutty K., Rtn. Joji Cyriac, Rtn. Ajith Kumar R.N., Rtn. Ajith B.S., and Rtn. Ajith Kumar T.S. Then the meeting was adjourned by the president at 9.10 pm for dinner, entertainment and fellowship.

Rtn. Sujith TS
Secretary

Minutes of the regular meeting held on 16th April 2025

The meeting was called to order by the president Rtn. John Kurian at 7:30 pm. Rtn. Sajan B Nair invoked the blessings of God almighty. The president Rtn. John Kurian in his speech, spoke about the successful conduct of the GOV and thanked everyone involved particularly the members of the the host team of the family dinner meeting. Then he mentioned that the last date to pay the RI dues is 30th April 2025, he also requested all the members who have not yet paid the club subscription to do so at the earliest

Rtn. Tomi Eapan then spoke about the translation of the Rotary Four-Way Test into Malayalam and extended his thanks to Ann Deepa Sujith.

Then the Secretary Rtn. Sujith T S thanked all members who participated in the meeting and offered special thanks to the host of the meeting Rtn. Sajan B Nair.

Then the meeting was adjourned by the president at 8.00 pm for dinner and fellowship.

Rtn. Sujith T S
Secretary



Hug a Tree – A Simple Gesture, A Powerful Message

This World Earth Day, let us pause and show our love to one of nature's oldest friends—the tree. “Hug a Tree” is more than a symbolic gesture; it's a heartfelt reminder of our deep connection to the Earth and our responsibility to protect it. Trees give us life—clean air, shade, food, and shelter for countless species. They stand as silent guardians of our planet, absorbing carbon dioxide, preserving biodiversity, and protecting the soil. Yet, in a world rushing toward urbanization and consumerism, we often forget the quiet strength they offer. By hugging a tree, we acknowledge this bond. We stand for sustainability. We plant the seed of awareness in the hearts of others. And most importantly, we take one step closer to living in harmony with nature. This Earth Day, go ahead—hug a tree. Thank it for all it gives. Let it remind you of the power of stillness, resilience, and rootedness. And let that hug inspire action—plant more trees, reduce your carbon footprint, and be a guardian of the environment. Because protecting the Earth begins with love—and love begins with a hug. I recall that in the District Governor's address at the GOV family meeting, he exhorted all of us to observe the WORLD EARTH DAY by Hugging a Tree. I am extremely delighted to note that our Teacher is only one among us to observe “Hug a Tree” and share the photos in our group. Kudos to Rtn Major Donor D Vijayalakshmi Nair.

2025 Chicago Council on Legislation (CoL)- A recap



The 2025 Council on Legislation (COL) of Rotary International, held April 13-17 in Chicago, made several key decisions including:

- Approved an increase in the per capita dues by US\$3.50 per member annually through 2028-29 to support Rotary's operations and initiatives.
- Adopted multiple amendments to club administration, such as allowing either election or selection of club officers (other than presidents), reducing the number of members required to charter a new club, and removing admission fees for new clubs.
- Set age limits for Rotaract members and recognized the Standard Rotaract Club Constitution as a constitutional document, allowing Rotaract clubs to propose enactments and resolutions.
- Revised qualifications and duties for governors, directors, and the general secretary, including term limits and election procedures.

- Strengthened processes for removing officers and members for cause, including governors and club members.
 - Amended governance rules related to voting at RI Board meetings and appeals processes for Board decisions.
 - Enhanced diversity clauses and reaffirmed Rotary's non-political nature.
 - Adjusted legislative procedures, including deadlines, representative terms, and provisions for postponement of the COL in case of worldwide emergencies.
 - Other decisions involved financial reporting, district governance, and revisions to the Avenues of Service to include mental health support.
- These decisions reflect a broad update to Rotary's constitutional documents to improve governance, membership, and operational effectiveness.

MY FITNESS CHALLENGE



Rtn S Sivakumar

I have never looked at physical fitness as a challenge, nor have I ever aimed to challenge others in this regard. For me, fitness is not about extremes—it's about consistency. My routine may be simple, but it's regular, and that's what makes the difference. Unless I'm unwell, I never miss my morning physical activity. My day begins at 5:30 a.m., and after freshening up, I set out for a brisk one-hour walk. I usually take the beautifully renovated AC Road, walking up to the Pallathuruthy bridge. On my way back, I pass through Kaithavana Junction, offering a silent prayer to Lord Ganesh from outside the temple. This walk is not just exercise—it's a peaceful start to my day. But I don't stop with walking. I've set up a small gym on the rooftop of my house, where I continue with a short run on the treadmill for about 15 to 20 minutes. Following that, I engage in muscle-toning exercises using dumbbells. In total, I dedicate around 90 minutes every morning to aerobic and strength exercises. After my workout, I take some time to water the plants—a routine that brings me both joy and calm. As a wholesale lottery dealer, my work involves long hours of sitting—either monitoring shops or coordinating with them over the phone. By 1:30 p.m., I return home for lunch, followed by an hour of television, usually lounging on the sofa. I am fully aware that much of my day is sedentary, whether at the shop or at home. But I believe that my 90-minute morning fitness routine helps me balance that out. My humble appeal to all my friends: find time for at least 45 minutes of aerobic activity each day. Fitness doesn't need to be a challenge—it just needs to be a habit.



Rtn John Mathew

I'm reminded of the headline from my editorial in Issue #3667 of Royalweeks, which read: "Mastery begins with humility." Those words were inspired by none other than Rtn John Mathew, who stepped up with grace and selflessness during a moment of uncertainty—accepting the post of Club President for 2020–21 after the then President-elect withdrew at short notice. What followed was a tenure marked by calm, resilience, and quiet strength. Despite the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, John led the club with poise and purpose, proving himself to be one of our most effective Presidents. But interestingly, what endears JM to his fellow Rotarians is not merely his accomplishments—it is his character. Humility is his signature. John never seeks credit, even when it's well deserved. He prefers to observe quietly in meetings, rarely commenting unless invited by the chair. Yet, those who know him well are aware that he forms well-considered opinions on matters discussed, though he seldom voices them publicly. John's contribution to the Club's financial stewardship is equally noteworthy. He has served as Treasurer on three occasions—under Presidents Rtn Subramonia Iyer, Rtn S Murugan, and Rtn M Kumaraswamy Pillai. I can personally attest to his value on my own Board in 2017–18. With timely insights and gentle reminders, he helped us maintain financial discipline, often cautioning against overspending. A true multitasker, John remains professionally active even after retiring as Chief Finance Officer of the Karan Group of Companies. He now serves as a Consultant in their Finance Division, is a Partner at J Krishnan & Co., and heads the Alleppey Centre of Computer Age Management Services (CAMS). To add to that, he is also an entrepreneur—exporting coir and coir products through his own venture, Goods Coir Mats & Matting Co.

This year too, in his characteristic quiet way, JM continues to lend his support—this time to AG Rtn Antony Malayil in his role as GGR.

It is with great pleasure and deep respect that we place the spotlight this week on Rtn John Mathew—a man of substance, humility, and unwavering commitment.(Editor)

NEXT MEETING @7.30 pm on 23/04/2025 Host:Rtn. Subramania Iyer



7. Rtn. Lakshmi Gopakumar, **20.** Selvi D/o Arjun Reddiar
20. Rtn. S. Sivakumar **22.** Rtn. Joseph Francis, **23.** Rtn. George Thomas
24. Rt'ne Yamuna Arun, **25.** Thahassum D/o NAM Kunju
27. Rtn. Siby george, **29.** Rtn. Varghese Kurisinkal

APRIL



02.Rtn. George Thomas & Lizzy**10.** Rtn. Jose Abraham & Suni,
16. Rtn. Subramania Iyer & Meera **19.** Rtn.Sivakumar & Princy
22. Rtn. Venugopala Panicker & Sunitha,
25. Rtn. Dr. Sethu Ravi & Sri. Jayakumar
27. Rtn. T. Sivakumar & Sreedevi

TEAM 2024 — 2025

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PRESIDENT ELECT - Rtn Lakshmi Gopakumar | **SECRETARY** - Rtn T.S.Sujith
TREASURER- Rtn R.N.Ajith | **Imm.PP** - Rtn John .V.George
CLUB ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR - Rtn Vijayalakshmi Nair | **ROTARY FOUNDATION** - Rtn T.Sivakumar
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR -Rtn George Jose Malayil | **PUBLIC RELATION DIRECTOR** - Rtn Tomy Pulikkattil
SERVICE PROJECT DIRECTOR - Rtn Raju Chandy | **BULLETIN EDITOR** - Rtn M Kumaraswamy Pillai
CLUB ADVISOR - Rtn Mohamed Shafeeq | **GENERAL CO-ORDINATOR**- Rtn K.Chorian
CLUB TRAINER - Rtn R.Krishnan | **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY** - Rtn George Thomas
JL. SECRETARY - Rtn Dr.Sethu Ravi | **SERGEANT AT ARMS**- Rtn Princy Sebastain

STRATEGIC COMMITTEE

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GENERAL CONVENOR - Rtn Prof. Gopinathan Nair | **CLUB SERVICE** - Rtn Adv. S.Murugan
COMMUNITY SERVICE-Rtn Subramania Iyer | **FOCUS PROJECT** - Rtn Adv. V Deepak
VOCATIONAL SERVICE- Rtn Jose Arathupally | **FAMILY OF ROTARY** - Rtn Rosie John
YOUTH SERVICE - Rtn Ambu Vaidyan | **LITERACY MISSION AND CLUB HISTORIAN**- Rtn Tomi Eapen
CLUB RECREATION - Rtn Naga Raj | **CLUB IT OFFICER** - Rtn Lukose Mathew Malayil
CLUB PROJECTS - Rtn R.Sreenivasan | **FESTIVAL AND FELLOWSHIP** - Rtn Jijo Chacko

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തുടങ്ങി വല്ലഭത്തിൽ തീർത്ത അപൂർവ്വ കലാസൃഷ്ടികൾ
സ്വന്തമാക്കൂ അതിരയിടിക്കുന്ന വിലകളിൽ



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