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DEN CHATTER

ISSUE 1 - 2019/2020

JULY 2019

IN THE DRIVING SEAT FOR 2019/2020

Lions of Colombo (Host)



President
Sumudu



1st Vice President
Amr



2nd Vice President
Dilrashaan



3rd Vice President &
Secretary
Dulmi



Treasurer
Deen



Director
Ameer



Asst. Treasurer
Brian



Im Past President
Shyana



Director
Dudley



Director
Dilshard



Director
Mahin



Asst. Secretary
Harshi

MESSAGE FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

It's indeed a privilege to be a part of COLOMBO (HOST) Lions Club, the club which sponsored Leo Club of Colombo (Host) and hence provided me a platform to be a Leo for 9 years and a Leo District President to Leo District 306 A1. When I was invited to the Lions Club by Lion Dr Ameer Zainudeen, it was with sense of gratitude I accepted to join, even though I was eagerly looking forward for a break after a tiring year of Leo District Presidency.

5th year into being a Lion, I am to serve the Lions Club as the president.

The past five years, our Lions Club faced an enormous makeover. While we had unexpected farewells to much respected Lions, the youngest Lions Club president was elected and that too was a lady and a Leo Lion at the time of being elected, Lion Nirupa Mohan. Then we had the much-anticipated leader taking over two years in a row, Lion Shyana Jayalath. The first term she spelled the magic and brought the club to the helm to win the Best Club of the Year at the 13th Annual Convention. At the convention held last year she was awarded as the Lion of the Year and the Global winner for the New Voices in the field of Marketing. Also 08 new members joined our club adding young blood.

The key objective of my team is 'to do the basics right and to ensure the members would remain enthusiastic for the rest of the year' whilst serving the community.

Stepped on to the 62nd year of service, the maturity the club holds has given the advantage of higher scope in the field of voluntary service in the country just like a tall tree has the advantage of more sunlight which induces its growth.

Our team has already finished 03 projects for the month of July, one on Hunger, two on Vision and one on Diabetes. In our year plan, covering the full spectrum of LCI global causes is the number one priority. However the club shall always remain open to the new ideas brought in by members. We are also looking forward for a possibility to carry out joint projects with the fellow Lions Clubs in the District.

Being in line with the District Governor, Lion Srilal Fernando's theme, we the Lions of Colombo (Host) will be the 'Catalyst of Service' in our community.

Looking forward for an exciting year of Community Service.

Lion Sumudu Hewage
President



We started our service with **Meals on Wheels**

providing 150 road sweepers and needy people in and around Colombo with a hot meal on a busy Sunday morning! Our thanks to all donors and the Meals on Wheels squad!

CONGRATS RAJ ON TAKING ON YOUR FIRST PROJECT FOR THE CLUB!



memories

A glimpse of the activities that took place in the month of July .



The gavel along with the presidency passed from one past Leo of Colombo Host/ Past District President to another !



DG Lion Srilal speaks at the 15th cabinet installation of 306A1. Lions Sumdu and Shyana attended



The obligatory group selfie at the Leo Club installation



Lion Dr. Mahin installs our Leo Club office bearers



Multi Service Health Camp

Our first multi service health camp was held on 27th July in Hakmana. This was a joint project with the Leo Club of Colombo.

Congratulations to Leo Harish who lead this project for both the Lions and Leos!

Thank you Mahin for the all assistance and to Sumudu, Amalie, Harshi and Leos who travelled to Hakmana for the project

A few clicks from the 102nd Lions International Convention held in Milan where Lion Shyana was awarded a presidential medal for being the New Voices global winner in marketing . We also conducted a campfire session to introduce our #StopShaming program and encourage Lions to think beyond traditional lines of service and come together to speak up on social issues such as cyber exploitation and, violence against women.



Lions' Efforts in 2007 Result in New Therapy in 2018

Physician clinicians and researchers in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Iowa have been working to make important research breakthroughs in the fight to combat Leber congenital amaurosis (LCA), a genetically inherited eye disease that causes babies to be born blind or children to go blind before reaching school age. Many individuals with LCA have been told, "Nothing can be done," to restore their sight. But today, that has changed.

In 2007, researchers at the University joined with the Lions Clubs of Iowa to create Project 3000, the goal of which was to find people born blind or adults who became blind as children, test them, and find the roughly 3,000 people in the U.S. with LCA. The researchers worked with other researchers across the country, who also enlisted their local Lions clubs in the efforts. The Iowa Lions canvassed their own club communities to locate individuals throughout Iowa who might have LCA and offer them genetic testing.

The Iowa Lions responded with great enthusiasm and identified more people in Iowa with LCA than would have been expected given its population.

Since that time, researchers have been working toward a gene therapy to help treat patients with LCA, and in 2017 their efforts resulted in helping to restore sight to affected individuals and gaining FDA approval for the treatment.

In the study, 29 patients between the ages of 4 and 44 were given the same gene therapy, called SPK-RPE65 and developed by Spark Therapeutics, Inc. Prior to the therapy, none of the patients could see well enough to walk unassisted in a regularly lit room. They were tested on their ability to navigate a room set up as a kind of obstacle course. The treatment is injected directly into the eye. In the final stage of the trial, patients were directed by arrows through a mobility course in seven different light levels. The course changed with each change of light level. The lowest level of light was that of a moonless summer night, and the brightest was that of a well-lit office.

After a year, patients treated in both eyes improved by 1.9 light levels, and their visual acuity improved by eight letters — roughly one and a half lines on an eye chart.

In December 2017, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved this treatment. It is the first gene therapy in the U.S. for a genetically inherited disease, and the first in which the patient directly receives a corrective gene.

It was an 11-year journey from locating patients who might have the disease to a clinical trial and FDA approval for a treatment to restore sight, and the results could not have been achieved in such a timely manner without the efforts of the Lions clubs of Iowa in 2007. And while this breakthrough has obvious immediate benefits from those who suffer from LCA, this treatment may also open the door for future gene therapy treatments for other disorders.

Read more inspiring stories in LION magazine which can be downloaded via the App or visit the website www.lionsclubs.org and read about our work carried out worldwide.

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/explore-our-clubs/service-stories/lions-efforts>

Dear Friends,

And just like that we start a new year of service, our 62nd year of service! There is much to look forward to.

They say it takes all sorts to make a world and we see it all around us, including Lionism. This year I see it in the diverse personalities of 3 people who take up leadership roles in Lionism - our club president, district governor of A1 and our International President. Their personalities and way of working are vastly different from each of their predecessors. In the words of our new International President we work for the 'Greater Good Through Diversity', Lions don't just serve the world, we represent it!

Our club President has worked out a program with her team, presented it to the members .



We will go into new areas of service, one of which has not been a cause of focus for our club — Environment. An interesting and 'active' program awaits.

Colombo (Host) will keep making changes while sticking to its roots and truly live up to our new DG's theme to be a 'Catalyst in service'.

Let's actively celebrate the diversity of each other. It's our diversity that brings about our diversity in service. Our ability to have a broader understanding of each other and our communities makes us better people and better Lions!

Wishing you all a wonderful year of 'We Serve'!

Lion Shyana