

Lankan Lions - Knights of the Blind - Crusaders against Darkness

The grand finale to a unique year of unparalleled social services in Sri Lanka by six Lions Districts headed by six District Governors was meticulously organised and conducted by Lions District 306 Multiple Council last week at the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Convention Centre of the BMICH.

The International President of Lions International, Mahendra Amarasinghe and First Lady Kushlani were the chief guests.

The Multiple Council Chairman Lion Sarath Fonseka chaired a unique meeting with an interesting agenda that celebrated many milestones in the 50th year of Lionism in Sri Lanka.

It is an amazing coincidence that Sri Lanka was able to produce a leader for the world of Lionism, which celebrates its 91st year in Bangkok, Thailand from 23-27 June 2008 with International President Mahendra Amarasinghe at the helm.

Another significant event was the election of Lion Mahesh Pasqual District Governor 306B2, the Chairman of the Multiple Council for the Lionistic year that begins on 1st July 2008 with Lion Dr. C. J. Jan as the Vice Chairman, DG Elect 306 A1 Lion Senarath Rakagama as the Secretary, and DG Elect 306B2



Lion Shalini Senanayake, President, Lions Club of Colombo Somerset receives the "International President's Bannerette" award from International President, Lion Mahendra Amarasinghe, Looking on is Multiple Council District 306 Chairman Lion Sarath de Fonseka, and DG 306B2 Lion Mahesh Pasqual.



Lion P. Jayarajan, District Governor Elect 306B receiving the "International President's Leadership Medal" from International President, Lion Mahendra Amarasinghe. Looking on is Multiple Council District 306 Chairman, Lion Sarath de Fonseka.

Lion P. Jayarajan as the Treasurer. An outstanding and memorable Golden Jubilee year came to a fitting finale with the award ceremony that recognised



Multiple Council District 306 Chairman Lion Sarath de Fonseka greets Multiple Council District 306 Chairman Elect, Lion Mahesh Pasqual.

the work of the Lions in the six Districts who made a huge difference to our society as "Knights of the Blind" and "Crusaders against Darkness" spread

First Lankan to lead Toastmasters International-District 82

Advanced Toast Master Arunasalam Balraj was elected unanimously as the District Governor District 82 at the District Conference held at the Nimhans auditorium in Bangalore from May 16-18.

He was installed as Governor by the International Director for Toastmasters DTM, Mohammed Murad who is a member of the International Board head quarters in California U.S.A. now based in Dubai. The next year's 2009 conference will be held in Sri Lanka from May 22-24 2009 which will attract members from all nine divisions along with the new members joining the movement.

Sri Lanka will receive a massive boost when delegates from the Region and America attend this prestigious conference.

The conference in Bangalore was attended by more than 100 delegates from Sri



International Director, Toastmaster Mohammed Murad (left) installing Toastmaster Arunasalam Balraj as the District Governor for Toastmasters District 82 at the District conference held in Bangalore.

Lanka's various Toastmasters clubs. The following Toastmasters Kapila Bandara, Chandana Weerasekera, M. Z. Saleem, Bhalhiya Hettiarachchi were also installed to the respective offices as District Secretary, District Treasurer and Division A and H Division Governors, respectively. The

Toastmasters movement was founded by Dr. Ralph R. Smedley in the year 1924 in Santa Ana, California, U.S.A. Toastmasters is currently represented in 94 countries with a total of 11,600 clubs.

More than five Million members have benefitted through the Toastmasters Programme from around the

Rotarian outing for children of prison inmates

The Rotary Club of Colombo Central in association with Gotabara Hovos Rotary Club of Sweden and Rotary International Club of Brunswick Maine, USA organised a one-day trip for the children of prison inmates, to Pinnawala Elephant orphanage.

This was part of the project "Literacy for innocent children of prison inmates," a "Matching grant project" involving the Rotary Club of



Here, the little-ones at the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, with teachers, prison officers and Rotarians. Donal Gammithilaka, Keerthi de Silva, Badhra and Malkanthi. Pic: Nimal Perera, Wattala group corr.

DG 306C1 Hemasiri's "Vision for All" a big success

The 3rd Annual District Convention of Lions District 306C1 was held at the BMICH last week with International President, Lion Mahendra Amarasinghe and First Lady Kushlani as chief guests.

District Governor 306C1, Lion Hemasiri de Silva's main theme "Vision for All" the 2000 cataract operations project, was a significant feature during Lion Hemasiri's tenure as District Governor.

The district has already performed 2650 cataract operations and this humanitarian service is still being continued.

For the past one year clubs in District 306C1 have donated over 31,000 spectacles after eye-screening. Around 102 Diabetic Awareness programmes and clinics too have been conducted during Lion Hemasiri de Silva's tenure as District Governor 306C1. Some of the projects carried out during the past year are the donation of over 800 wheelchairs, fifteen houses have been built for the poor, and many more meaningful projects that have an impact on society. A massive fundraising and image building project "Miss Sri Lanka 2008" which was held at the Colombo Hilton in March this year, was a big success.

Lion Hemasiri de Silva can now look back with satisfaction on his achievements during his term of governorship, when he hands over his governorship to his successor.



International President Mahendra Amarasinghe accompanied by District Governor Lion Hemasiri de Silva and First Lady Lion Vijitha presenting the prestigious "Spirit of Lionism" award to Dr. Lal Thilakarathne, (now living in Japan), the award being accepted by his father Mr. Thilakarathne. A special feature is that the chief guest International President, Lion Mahendra Amarasinghe walked down to the audience to make this presentation. Pictures by Beverley Jansz

The district has already performed 2650 Cataract operations

District 306C1 received, funds amounting to Rs. 50 million from Lion Clubs International Foundation for a Housing Scheme for tsunami affected people in Trincomalee. The first stages of the program has already commenced under the leadership of District Governor Hemasiri de Silva.

The Land for this project had been donated by the Government of Sri Lanka. This will certainly be one of the best tsunami housing projects, DG Hemasiri said.



District Governor Hemasiri de Silva and First Lady Vijitha were accorded a rousing welcome on arrival at the BMICH for the District Convention.

The far-sighted plan of DG Diresh

The 3rd Annual District Convention of 306C1 was held at the BMICH last week, with Lions International President, Mahendra Amarasinghe and First Lady Kushlani as chief guests.

A large gathering of distinguished guests and members of the Lions Club of Wickramasinghepura and Lions of District 306 C1, graced the occasion.

Over 150 Lions who were selected as outstanding Lions, were presented with awards.

Vice District Governor 306 C1, Deshabandu Lion Diresh Hettiarachchi MJE, JP was elected District Governor, 306 C1, 2008/2009. A unique feature here is that Lion Diresh Hettiarachchi was elected with a massive 99.8 per cent affirmative votes. Prior to being Vice District Governor in 2007, and being elected District Governor, Lion Diresh was a



DG elect, Deshabandu Lion Diresh Hettiarachchi receiving an award from International President, Lion Mahendra Amarasinghe. Pictures by Beverley Jansz

Deshabandu Lion Diresh Hettiarachchi (right) being recognised as District Governor elect 306 C1, for 2008/2009, by present District Governor, Lion Hemasiri de Silva. Lion Diresh Hettiarachchi will take his oaths as District Governor, for

Three Multiple awards for Lion Dinesh Perera



The Lions Club of Dehiwala-Mt. Lavinia counting over four decades of services, was recognised at the 3rd Annual District Convention of Lions International District 306A1 held at the BMICH.

Club President, Lion Chamith Hettiarachchi received many awards for humanitarian services devoted to the community



President, Lions Club of Wattala City (a new club) Lion Dinesh Perera bagged three Multiple District Awards at the District 306 Multiple Convention held at the BMICH last week. The awards were "Highest membership growth with the highest membership of under 40 years", "Membership growth at club level" and "Sponsoring highest number of Lions by an individual Lion". Here Lion Dinesh receives his awards from International President Lion Mahendra Amarasinghe. Looking on are District Governor 306 B1 Lion S. Raghavan and Multiple Council Chairman, Lion Sarath de Fonseka.

Lion Dr. Rekogama - Governor with a vision

Lion Dr. Senarath Rekogama of the Lions Club of Kotelawalapura, and his family members were accorded a rousing welcome by his home club and members of District 306A1, when Lion Dr. Rekogama was named Governor elect - District 306A1 - for the year 2008/2009 at the District Convention held at the BMICH last week.

Lion Dr. Rekogama

begin his Lionistic career 20 years ago when he joined the Lions Club of Kotelawalapura.

He has held prestigious positions in the District Cabinet and Steering Committees. Twice a Zone Chairman, and an "Outstanding" Zone Chairman in 1993/94, Lion Dr. Rekogama was once a Region Chairman, twice the Cabinet Secretary, District Chairman, Youth Exchange

and International Affairs, the list is endless.

Lion Dr. Rekogama has participated five times at International Conventions. Another special feature is that Lion Dr. Rekogama was appointed President of the Lions Club of Kotelawalapura in the Diamond Jubilee year of Lionism - 1991/1992. He was one of those Lions who received an overwhelming mandate when he was elected

Vice District Governor in July last year.

Lion Dr. Rekogama declared his meaningful theme and vision for the year. His theme is "Quality and Productivity" and vision "Achieving excellence in service through quality and productivity." His special areas would be "Towards Cataract free Sri Lanka." He plans to conduct eye-screening projects and will sponsor 2000

Cataract Surgeries. A 100,000 tree planting project, village awakening project, and "youth is our future" are a few of the many meaningful projects he has planned for the year 2008/2009.

His Lady Menaka who is also a Lion, is a Senior Executive at Janashakti Insurance.

Dr. Senarath Rekogama is the Managing Director of Pearl Lanka Engineering

Services (Pvt) Ltd. He was also the Chairman of the State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation for over two years.

Lion Dr. Rekogama left for Hyderabad, India yesterday to attend the District Governor's Election. He will take his oaths as District Governor - 306A-1 at the Lions International Convention to be held in Bangkok, Thailand in June this year.



DG Lion Dr. Rekogama delivering his keynote address