

Rotary



ROTARY MEANS
BUSINESS
FELLOWSHIP

RMBF **10TH** **ANNIVERSARY**

**SPECIAL EDITION
NEWSLETTER**



CHAIRMAN SPEAKS

RTN. SACHIN GURURAJ

Dear RMBians

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I invite you to join us in celebrating a decade of Rotary Means Business Fellowship on our 10th anniversary! This special edition of our newsletter is dedicated to commemorating the remarkable journey we've undertaken together over the past ten years.

A decade ago, we embarked on a mission to bridge the gap between Rotary service and the world of business, fostering connections and opportunities that have left a lasting impact on our communities. As we reflect on this incredible journey, we are filled with immense gratitude for the support and enthusiasm of our members, without whom this fellowship would not be what it is today.

In this special anniversary edition, you can expect:

A Decade of Highlights: A trip down the memory lane (Mark Burchill), revisiting some of the most memorable moments and accomplishments of our fellowship.

Member Spotlight: Hear from our own members about their personal experiences, achievements, and the difference they've made through their involvement in Rotary Means Business.

Messages from Fellow Rotarians: We've reached out to fellow Rotarians and Rotary leaders who have witnessed the impact of our fellowship, and

they will be sharing their heartfelt messages and congratulations.

We are now a whooping 186 chapters as I write this, a testament to the growth and vitality of our fellowship. This incredible expansion has been made possible by the dedication and passion of our members, and it represents a bright future for Rotary Means Business.

I also wish to extend my deepest gratitude to the Rotary Means Business Fellowship Steering Committee, who worked tirelessly from 2012 to 2013 to lay the foundation for this fellowship. Your dedication and vision have been instrumental in bringing us to where we are today.

Furthermore, I express my sincere appreciation to all the board members who have served since the very beginning. Your commitment and leadership have played a pivotal role in shaping the fellowship and ensuring its continued success. I acknowledge your dedication, and proud to have had you as part of this beautiful journey.

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to all the chapters of Rotary Means Business Fellowship. Your dedication and hard work at the local level have been instrumental in our growth and success. Each chapter represents a unique hub of opportunity and connection.

To our chapter leaders, your commitment, guidance, and passion have been the driving force behind our local initiatives. I salute your leadership and express deepest appreciation for the tireless effort you've put into shaping the success of your chapters.

A special shoutout goes to the Jaipur chapter for making the first conclave a resounding success. Your hard work and dedication set the stage for future international conclaves.

As we look to the future, I extend my best wishes and good luck to the future International Conclave host chapters in Bangalore and Pune Business Circle. The whole board has every confidence in your ability to continue the tradition of excellence and collaboration that defines our fellowship.

Moreover, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the award winners of the bizNESS Awards presented by the fellowship. Your

outstanding achievements and contributions to the business and Rotary communities are truly commendable. Your dedication and commitment to our shared values have made a significant impact, and here we celebrate your success.

Last but not least, I offer my heartfelt appreciation and thanks to our founder and Chair Emeritus, Mark Burchill. Your visionary leadership, dedication, and tireless efforts have been the cornerstone of our fellowship's success. Your commitment to Rotary Means Business has left an indelible mark on our journey, and we are profoundly grateful for your support.

As we embark on our second decade, let us continue to strengthen the bonds between Rotary and the business world, and together, create a lasting legacy of service and impact.

Thank you for being a part of our journey, and here's to the next ten years of collaboration, growth, and service!

Yours in RMB,

Sachin Gururaj
Chairman, Rotary Means Business Fellowship

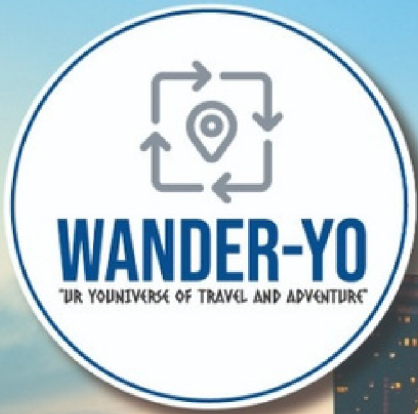
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A trip down the Memory-Lane

RTN. MARK BURCHILL,
FOUNDER & CHAIR EMERITUS



There may have been business networking groups connected to Rotary prior to the formation of the first Rotary Means Business group, but this history will focus on the groups that eventually led to the formation of the Rotary Means Business Fellowship.

In 2004, The Rotary Club of San Francisco #2 (California, USA) launched a business networking initiative. The intention was to provide a platform for club members to network with each other, and support each other's businesses. By 2005, both the southern suburbs (known locally as The Peninsula) and the northern suburbs (Marin County) of San Francisco each had their own RMB groups. Over the next few years, Rotarians in other areas of the USA heard about the concept, and independently founded their own RMB groups. Many of those groups, with no central organization to keep them connected, were short lived.

In 2008, Tony Benner, a Rotarian from Sydney, Australia, visited San Francisco and discovered RMB. He brought RMB to Sydney. As such, he founded the first international chapter of RMB.

In late 2009, the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa discovered RMB. After a few months, Mark Burchill was asked by the original leader to take the reins of the RMB group. By the next year, work began on a website. Shortly after www.RotaryMeansBusiness.org was launched in 2011, Rotarians from far and wide began connecting with RMB.

At that point, Mr. Burchill realized that the RMB concept had the potential to be much bigger than a collection of random networking groups, and that it might have the potential to qualify as a Rotary International Fellowship. So he convened a RMB Fellowship Steering Committee, which worked to fulfill all the requirements to become an official Rotary International Fellowship.

The application was submitted just prior to the 2013 Rotary International Convention in Lisbon. In November 2013, the Rotary International Board of

Directors approved the application, and Rotary Means Business became the 52nd official Rotary International Fellowship. (As of this writing, there are more than 100 Rotary Fellowships.) In addition, recognizing that the name “Rotary Means Business” had already become a valuable brand, RI gave RMB the rarely awarded (at that time) permission to use the word “Rotary” in the Fellowship’s name.

Upon approval as an official Rotary International Fellowship, the known groups were invited to join the Fellowship as local chapters. By the end of 2014, the RMB Fellowship had 8 chapters.

From 2015 to the present, the RMB Fellowship has become truly international, adding local chapters on every continent except Antarctica. Some of the strongest growth is in India, South America, and the USA.

As of this writing, the Fellowship has over 1,000 life members and more than 160 active local chapters.



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Secretary's Message

Rtn. Rajamohan Dhandapani

I have been associated with RMB since 2015 ever since we heard about RMB through the website of Rotary International. We chartered the first ever chapter of India called RMB Coimbatore. Life in Rotary changed suddenly for all our chapter members as Rotarians in our district started asking, "Are you sure you guys want to talk about business in Rotary because Rotary is all about Service?". It wasn't easy going at all for most of us.

However, our core team was thoroughly convinced that RMB is here to stay and hence started working on a framework that would help our chapter to conduct fellowship meetings in a purposeful way and make it engaging for guests who turn up for our meetings. In due course, we saw good success in terms of closed businesses for most members.

Gradually, we realised the need to have chapters close to us geographically so that our members can network and associate with complimenting businesses and see growth in revenue. As new chapters came up, Rotarians started showing more interest in the fellowship in Tamil Nadu and then other parts of India gained momentum as well.

The biggest challenge was to keep the enthusiasm alive and to keep the chapter membership growing at a steady pace. We brought in excellent speakers from our RI District to our meetings and this helped a lot in getting RMB its due recognition and of course the members got good business. Guests who attended our meeting always got more interested in the fellowship and joined soon.

To be more successful and sustainable, the thumb rule was to involve the Board of each Chapter in every policy decision and use the Board members to effectively handle the Chapter administration with well defined roles and responsibilities.

RMB is in its best shape on its 10th anniversary with great chapters coming up all around us. Some RMB chapters are very large with 100+ members, some with all Rotaractors as

its members, chapter with all members being women Rotarians, great business networking conclaves, regular cross-chapter meetings, closed businesses reported in millions, fun filled social meetings are happening all the time and today RMB is truly a vibrant and magnificent Fellowship that Rotary Founders would be proud of.

For me it has been a very engaging journey and I consider it as a great privilege and joy having served the international Board of Fellowship of RMB for over 6 years now as Secretary. I will cherish the journey that has led us to this 10th anniversary. Greetings to each one of you on this great occasion.

A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTORS



Rtn. Kalpana Srilalitha

“

Ever since I joined RMB in 2016, I shared sure shot business referrals of US\$2.83 million till Sep. 2023. I have always shared in the order of RMBians followed by Rotarians. We Rotarians are a pretty decent sized tribe, aren't we? I look for experts from various fields who can take swift actions. By connecting with multiple RMB chapter members, I get to know who is suitable to work and also my reputation stays intact. In this 10th anniversary, I wish all the RMBians happy sharing.

Rtn. Arvind Batra

In a rapidly globalizing world, the need for effective networking and collaboration across borders has never been more crucial for businesses. Rotary International, a renowned global service organization, has emerged as a powerful platform that not only connects members within a country but also facilitates business growth worldwide. Join Rotary Means Business today and unlock the potential of a truly global network!

”



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Success Stories



I have joined Rotary Means Business (RMB) Kolkata in the year 2016.

RMB has helped me to get business of Rs 10lakhs yearly for the last three years consistently.

Would like each Rotary member to join RMB to increase your existence business.

–SUNNY KOLLANNUR, RMB KOLKATA

I joined RMB Kolkata in the month of August 2023. Upon joining I was entrusted with the task of taking care of the social media and digital promotion of RMB Kolkata. Seeing my work some of my fellow RMB members entrusted me with the responsibility of brand designing and digital marketing for their organizations. I received a decent amount of business and some great feedback from my RMB member clients. My networking at RMB paid off quite well.

–SUDIPTA KUNDU, RMB KOLKATA



My wife Adv. Jayasri Kulkarni is an RMB member, she use to promote my paintings during RMB PBC meetings. During Diwali celebration of RMB PBC in 2020 I set up my stall. My first sale happened there. In 2022 I appeared in 4 major physical exhibitions including one Solo exhibition. The business module of paintings sales, painting workshops & painting coaching, with the help of RMB, is yielding me a brand name, image as well monetary gains. The business done out paintings vertical is roughly around Rupees 2 Lacks and growing.

–ANAND KULKARNI, RMB PBC

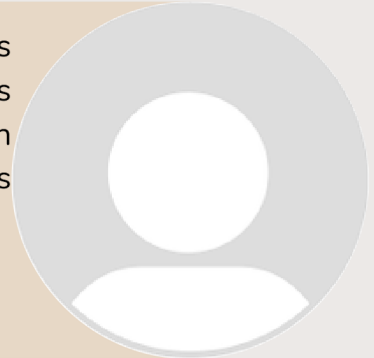


With the support of my networking friends at RMB, I have been privileged to qualify for this MDRT Membership for 3 years in a row. Current year highlight was the collection of my Biggest Single Premium Cheque of ₹ 3.3 Crores from an NRI Client Fellow RMBian, Mr. Mahesh Saptarshi was the influencer in me getting this huge business this year, and I am extremely thankful to him and RMB for their support.

–MILIND PANDIT, RMB PBC

Dear All Rotarians & Rmbians, Truly enjoying this journey from joining of RMBF. All of our RMBF's members are very friendly flexible and supportive in business & helpful to connect in business. Be proud as RMBians.

–C RAVI SHANKAR



I joined RMB about 1.5 years ago when it started in Jalandhar. I've received good business (approximate Rupees 75 lakh) from RMBians and also referred business to them. (Approximate Rupees 80lakhs).
I've introduced many new members to this RMB chapter. In short, RMB is the best way to boost your business."

–RAJESH BAHRI, RMB JALANDHAR

The Rotary means business group was a success as it allowed us as business owners to get to know one another personally outside of the rotary chamber meetings and create business to support our Rotary habits. During that time, we suffered the depression of 2008. The RMB was a great way to market and created a great marketing group that supported one another. It also gave a purpose for other young professionals to have a reason to join Rotary and created retention in our chapter.
I am so glad to hear the success of this group and thank you for sharing.

–TROY CARRINGTON, CALIFORNIA



Being in RMBF I get numerous friends who are now a backbone in my life. Getting referrals in business & helps to introduce / enroll Non-Rotarians into Rotary.

–A.C. PARAMASIVAM, RMB ERODE UNITED

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Happy Networking!

- Rotary Means Business Fellowship

RMBF thanks Annet Samith Gururaj for his excellent contributions and volunteering as an 'Editor' to bring out this special edition newsletter.