



ROTARY MEANS
BUSINESS
FELLOWSHIP

RMBF NEWS

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR

Dear Rotarians,

I am excited to come back to you with the editorial for the 7th Volume of RMBF News. At the outset I would like to once again introduce my team of Office Bearers to you.

Rtn.Arvind Batra - Vice Chair

Rtn.Leonardo - Secretary

Rtn.Mark Burchill - Chair Emeritus and Treasurer

Rtn.Sachin Gururaj - Chair Emeritus / IPC

Visit www.rotarymeansbusiness.org and scroll down to the bottom of the home page to know about our Directors. I take this opportunity to thank all our Directors for their great support extended to me.

An initiative was taken to educate our members regarding the importance of branding and the brand guidelines of RMBF. Rtn.Nurveen Ratty, our fellow Director, gave a talk on this subject recently. The participants found this very useful. You can access Brand Identity Guidelines of RMBF from our fellowship website and version 2 will soon be uploaded. Requesting members to strictly follow logo and other brand usage as per the guidelines.

I thank Leaders of various chapters who have constantly promoted RMBF in their District and beyond. We have done our best to present some of the articles received from our fellow members in this newsletter and I welcome your feedback at

editor@rotarymeansbusiness.org.

Cheers,

Rtn.Rajamohan Dhandapani


Chair

Rotary Means Business Fellowship




Network


Exchange


Work


Succeed

SECRETARIAL REPORT

(01.07.2024 to 30.09.2024)



Rtn. Leonardo Santos

Chapters as on 30th June 2024 : 221
 Number of f New Chapters added : 12
 Chapters Terminated : 0
 Current Number of Chapters : 233

List of recently chartered Chapters:

Charter Number	Chapter Name	Chartered On
222	RMB Germany	5-July-2024
223	RMB Hyderabad Central	11-July-2024
224	RMB District 7080	11-July-2024
225	RMB Wayanad	16-July-2024
226	RMB Berhampur	10-Aug-2024
227	RMB Palakkad	19-Aug-2024
228	RMB Salem Bright	24-Aug-2024
229	RMB Gandhidham	26-Aug-2024
230	RMB Balkans	4-Sep-2024
231	RMB Kollam	9-Sep-2024
232	RMB Chennai Super Stars	13-Sep-2024
233	RMB Chandigarh	23-Sep-2024



Rotary



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do:

- 1 is it **TRUTH**?
- 2 is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



KNOW YOUR DIRECTOR

Portuguese version

Olá, meu nome é Leonardo Santos, e atuo no RMB desde 2015, quando tive a oportunidade de trazer o primeiro capítulo ao Brasil, atualmente sirvo ao grupo como secretário mundial.

De lá para cá, consegui desenvolver diversas oportunidades de network, bem como trazer muitos rotarianos às fileiras da nossa instituição.

Sou Sócio da Bender Corretora de Seguros, uma empresa que atua na proteção de patrimônio de pessoas e de empresas no Brasil a quase 10 anos, estamos comemorando nosso aniversário em fevereiro de 2025. Nossa atuação é em território nacional, com uma atuação voltada para atender empresas, na proteção da sua operação, bem como das pessoas que compõem a sua estrutura. Atuamos nos ramos de seguros de empresas, pessoas, aeronáutico, planos de saúde, entre outros.

Atualmente, sou vice presidente do Rotary e-Club de Motociclistas, club virtual no distrito 4521 de Rotary Internacional. Como sócio fundador deste club, terei a oportunidade no ano rotário 2025/2026 presidi-lo e buscaremos desenvolver o nosso primeiro projeto Global, que já está desenhado para ser uma escola Rotary ON LINE. Em tempo, já estamos buscando parceiros internacionais, preferencialmente países de língua portuguesa, mas sem excluir outros países com outros idiomas.

Gostaria de expressar a minha gratidão ao RMB e dizer às pessoas que estão lendo este artigo o quanto sou grato por ter tido a oportunidade de conhecer pessoas em todo o mundo. O RMB me permitiu conhecer pessoas na Índia, Estado Unidos, Uruguai, Austrália, e em outros lugares do mundo. O nosso grande diferencial esta exatamente na nossa globalização de network, Aproveitem essa oportunidade, e usem de maneira sabia.



Rtn. Leonardo Santos

“*De lá para cá, consegui desenvolver diversas oportunidades de network, bem como trazer muitos rotarianos às fileiras da nossa instituição.*”

KNOW YOUR DIRECTOR

English version

Hello, my name is Leonardo Santos, and I have been working at RMB since 2015, when I had the opportunity to bring the first chapter to Brazil. I currently serve as the group's world secretary.

Since then, I have been able to develop several networking opportunities, as well as bring many Rotarians into the ranks of our institution.

I am a partner at Bender Corretora de Seguros, a company that has been protecting the assets of individuals and companies in Brazil for almost 10 years. We are celebrating our anniversary in February 2025. We operate nationwide, with a focus on serving companies, protecting their operations, as well as the people who make up their structure. We operate in the areas of corporate, personal, aeronautical, health insurance, among others.

I am currently vice president of the Rotary e-Club de Motociclistas, a virtual club in District 4521 of Rotary International. As a founding member of this club, I will have the opportunity to preside over it in the 2025/2026 Rotary year and we will seek to develop our first global project, which is already designed to be a Rotary ONLINE school. In the meantime, we are already looking for international partners, preferably Portuguese-speaking countries, but without excluding other countries with other languages.

I would like to express my gratitude to RMB and tell the people who are reading this article how grateful I am for having had the opportunity to meet people all over the world. RMB has allowed me to meet people in India, the United States, Uruguay, Australia, and other places around the world. Our great differential lies precisely in our global network. Take advantage of this opportunity, and use it wisely.

You can reach Leonardo on secretary@rotarymeansbusiness.org.



Rtn. Leonardo Santos

“*Since then, I have been able to develop several networking opportunities, as well as bring many Rotarians into the ranks of our institution.*”

200TH CHAPTER - RMBF BANGALORE BUSINESS CIRCLE

RMBF Bangalore Business Circle is the 200th chapter and the grand installation ceremony was conducted on 9th July 2024 @ RG Royal Hotel. RI 3192 DG Rtn.Mahadev Prasad was the installation officer and graced the occasion.

Charter Chair Rtn. Manjunathan, Secretary Ravikumar LN along with Treasurer Rtn. Madhusudan Bidi present along with the BBC members.



MEGA MEMBER INDUCTION OF RMB TIRUPUR CHAPTER

Hello,

We are in our 8 th term of our chapter and we are running successfully since 2019. It was our pleasure to induct 14 new members for the first time on 20.08.2024. and we have made it to 40+ elite members.

We, the members of RMB Tirupur, are more focused on "values and code of ethics" and we make sure that our members give the best service to the referrals given by our fellow partners. We had intensified the R2R program which resulted in better business growth. Yes, we believe that only R2R can make our partners understand and build a trust which helps our partners to pass a good referral.

We believe that business should be coupled with fun. In one of the recent programs our members had an outing with their family members. We chose to go for a movie namely "Indian 2" and all of them enjoyed the movie and bonding amongst members was excellent.

Our goal is to achieve 50+ members by the end of Oct 2024 and we are working towards this with our team.

Rtn. John Kennady

Chair, RMB Tirupur



CELEBRATING CONNECTIONS : A SUCCESSFUL RMB UNITED STATES EVENT

On July 26-27, the RMB United States community convened for a two-day event focused on networking, inspiration, and recognition. Hosted in a welcoming venue, the meticulously planned agenda aimed to cultivate connections among members and celebrate the leadership within the organization.

Friday, July 26: An Evening of Recognition and Inspiration

The event kicked off with a check-in and refreshments, allowing attendees to mingle and recharge. As members arrived, the atmosphere buzzed with anticipation. Jeffrey Allen, a pivotal figure within the organization, welcomed everyone with warmth and enthusiasm, setting a positive tone for the evening.

The highlight of the evening was the awards ceremony, where awards were presented to seven outstanding chapter leaders. Each award was a testament to the dedication and hard work of these individuals, who have made significant contributions to their respective chapters.

Following the awards, each chapter leader had the opportunity to recognize a member of their team. This segment was not only about accolades but also about fostering community and appreciation among peers.

Thor Davidson (District 6440 current Governor) keynote, captivated the audience. His insights into leadership and the importance of community service resonated deeply with attendees, reinforcing the values at the heart of RMB United States. After Thor's address, the evening continued with words from Erin Ramirez, aimed at the youth and future networkers, emphasizing the importance of nurturing the next generation of leaders.

The night concluded with a networking session, allowing attendees to forge new connections and strengthen existing one's.



CELEBRATING CONNECTIONS : A SUCCESSFUL RMB UNITED STATES EVENT

Saturday, July 27: A Day of Learning and Collaboration

Saturday began early with Antunes' introduction, followed by a welcoming keynote from Jane Bullock, Chief Purpose Officer, and Glen Bullock, CEO of Antunes. Their discussion on purpose-driven leadership set a compelling framework for the day, inspiring attendees to align their professional endeavors with their personal values.

The breakout sessions started, offering tailored learning opportunities for participants. This format encouraged active engagement and allowed members to dive deep into topics relevant to their professional growth and the advancement of RMB's mission.

Lunch and networking provided another chance for members to connect and share insights. This informal setting was vital for building relationships and brainstorming collaborative projects, reinforcing the ethos of fellowship that RMB champions.

After lunch, Wendy Davidson, President and CEO of Hain Celestial, delivered a powerful keynote that addressed sustainability and ethical business practices. Her emphasis on social responsibility resonated with attendees, many of whom are eager to incorporate these values into their professional lives.

Following a series of engaging breakout sessions, Andre Adams, the Regional Director of the Rotary Means Business Fellowship, presented a closing keynote. His address underscored the importance of community engagement and collaboration among businesses, aligning perfectly with the goals of RMB.

The day culminated in a final networking session, where attendees reflected on their experiences and forged new partnerships. The event concluded with heartfelt thanks to all participants, reminding everyone of the power of connection and collaboration.

Conclusion

The RMB United States event successfully brought together leaders and future influencers in an environment that celebrated achievements, fostered learning, and promoted networking. The structured agenda, combined with moments of informal connection, created a memorable experience for all attendees. As members left the event, they carried with them not only new knowledge and inspiration but also strengthened bonds within the RMB community, setting the stage for future collaboration and growth.



ANNUAL REPORT REQUEST

Dear Rotary Means Business Fellowship Chapter Leaders,

Happy times!!! - It is time for our 7th edition of RMBF NEWS. Very happy to write to you all as immediate past chairman of this prestigious fellowship and I would like to emphasize the critical importance of your annual report. This report is not just a formality; it has become an essential tool for our organization's growth and compliance.



We are looking forward to more than just a report through this Annual report

- 1. Chapter Confirmation:** The annual report now serves as official confirmation of your chapter's active status, crucial for maintaining an accurate record of our global network.
- 2. Bylaw Compliance:** we are looking forward to review and ensure that each chapter is meeting the requirements set forth in our bylaws. This helps maintain the integrity and consistency of our fellowship across all chapters.
- 3. Enhanced Communication:** facilitates better communication between RMB Fellowship leaders and chapter leaders. It provides a structured channel for sharing information, challenges, and successes.
- 4. Information Dissemination:** Your report allow us to efficiently send important information, updates, and resources that are tailored to your chapter's needs and activities.
- 5. Best Practice Sharing:** By compiling these reports, we can identify and share best practices across chapters, fostering innovation and improvement throughout our fellowship.
- 6. Strategic Planning:** The collective information from all chapters helps in shaping the future direction of our fellowship, ensuring that our strategies align with the needs and experiences of our members.

Please submit your annual report at your earliest convenience. A google form has been shared, I am also providing the google form link for your quick access.

<https://forms.gle/2Tt5yoRKC1DfnLAY8>

Your prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated and directly contributes to the strength and effectiveness of our global fellowship.

Thank you for your continued dedication and service to the Rotary Means Business Fellowship.

Sachin Gururaj

Immediate Past Chair
Rotary Means Business Fellowship
Email: sachin@rotarymeansbusiness.org



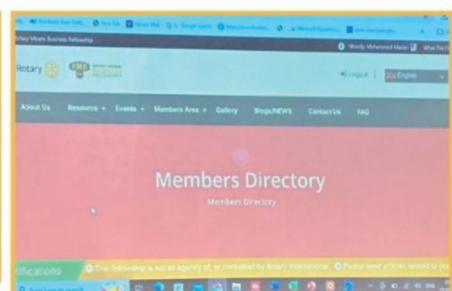
**ROTARY MEANS
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RCN

RMBRCN Aims for 100% Member Registration on the RMB Website

RMBRCN is actively encouraging all its members to become registered RMBians on the official RMB website. Achieving 100% registration, whether as life members or annual members, is a top priority for the chapter. To help us reach this goal, President Rina Sinha took the initiative to request the Chairman of RMB International India, RMBian Raj Mohan Dhandapani, to organize a special training session for our Director-in-Charge, RMBian Rajesh Salkotia. This training was crucial in ensuring that our leadership is fully equipped to guide members through the registration process and maximize the website's potential.

Mr. Dhandapani responded swiftly and graciously to this request, arranging the training session without delay. Following this, RMBian Rajesh Salkotia underwent comprehensive training and subsequently conducted an informative and engaging live demonstration for all RMBRCN members. The session provided an in-depth overview of the website's capabilities, and members were given a hands-on experience on how to navigate and make full use of the platform. The live demo generated tremendous enthusiasm, as members quickly realized the global connectivity and vast opportunities that registering on the RMB website offers.

RMBRCN and President Rina Sinha extend their heartfelt thanks to Chairman RMBian Rotarian Raj Mohan Dhandapani for his invaluable support and for arranging this critical training. His prompt assistance has empowered us to move forward with confidence and ensure that every member can fully engage with the RMB platform. We are excited about the future and are committed to making RMBRCN a 100% compliant chapter, united in our effort to enhance our collective reach and impact.



MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER OF RMB

For almost a year, information and opinions have been circulating regarding the Rotary Means Business Fellowship. Some of them are supportive, and some of them are critical. Some of the information is truthful, some is completely false. Many of the opinions are worded in ways that imply malevolent intentions by Fellowship leadership.

As founder of the Rotary Means Business Fellowship (RMBF), I think it is time to address some of these communications, and inform our membership of the truth, as well as improvements your leadership is making to address some legitimate concerns.

RMBF grew out of a business networking idea from a few Rotary Clubs in the region of San Francisco, California, USA. These small groups began meeting in the mid-2000's. My Rotary Club adopted RMB in 2009. In the early 2010's I traveled around the state of California, promoting the idea of RMB, and helping to launch a half dozen RMB groups. Then RMB was discovered by Rotarians in New York, Pennsylvania, and even in Australia. Rotary Means Business was a bootstrap operation that became an international movement.

Finally, in 2013, Rotary reached out to my group (we weren't called chapters yet) and gave us the opportunity to become a full-fledged Fellowship. I assembled a small team, and together we completed the arduous process to be approved as a Rotary Fellowship. We then invited other independent RMB groups to join us as the earliest chapters of the Fellowship.

RMBF grew slowly in the early years. Twelve months after our chartering, we counted only 8 chapters. In the next six years, we added fewer than a dozen chapters per year, totaling only 78 chapters and a few hundred members by the beginning of 2020. In those early years, we often did not have enough candidates to fill all the positions on our Board.

Then, suddenly, we hit a massive growth streak. In 2020 and 2022, we added 30 chapters each year. Last year we added 45 chapters, and in the first half of this year we have added another 26 chapters. Our individual membership exceeds 1,500 RMBians.

Much of the recent growth is due to the efforts of the Directors from India. The majority of recent life memberships and chapters came from India and surrounding regions during this period.

We are no longer a sleepy little Fellowship, We are now one of the largest Fellowships in Rotary. Growth like that is both rewarding and challenging. With our large membership, we are now more valuable to Rotary. But our governance may not have kept up with our massive and sudden growth. A 1,500 member group needs more specific guidelines than a 300 member group.

Some of the criticism, like that requesting more specific financial and chapter monitoring controls, was very legitimate. Other comments, especially those accusing leadership of nefarious motivations, were completely wrong, destructive, and hurtful to real people who were only doing their best to serve their fellow RMBians. RMBF leadership tried to ignore the dishonest and accusatory messaging. Nevertheless, we're only human, so those lies and attacks did hurt. And when certain critics took actions intended to harm the Fellowship, we were forced to take action.

One individual presented his misinformation to outside entities in order to inflict damage on RMBF. He attempted to get the Rotary International General Counsel to completely shut the



Fellowship down. He pursued criminal charges, attempting to get members of the leadership arrested and imprisoned. He made demands that, if implemented, would have resulted in the complete disbanding of the Rotary Means Business Fellowship.

Your Fellowship leadership fought back. When we became aware of falsehoods, we attempted to bring the truth out. When attempts were made to have RMBF leaders arrested, we went directly to the authorities with the truth and they declined to press charges. When USA government agencies were presented with false information in an attempt to have those agencies destroy your Fellowship, I personally traveled to their regional office to meet with a representative of those agencies, and presented the actual facts and evidence.

The leadership has been forced to spend thousands of dollars of your dues on legal costs to defend RMBF against these multiple attempts to destroy our Fellowship. Excessive legal costs will result in reduced funding available to upgrade our website, promote the Fellowship at future conventions, support regional meetings and other chapter promotion and mentoring activities. Your Board of Directors recognized that it was time for governance to expand, to meet the needs of a larger organization. As such, a new set of Policies & Procedures were recently adopted by the Board. The Policies (as well as our By-Laws) are available on our website. Contrary to comments by some individuals, Policies do not require a vote of the general membership. Only By-Laws must be approved by the general membership, after first being approved by Rotary International, and then by the Fellowship Board.

A strict budget process for discretionary spending moving forward is outlined in the Policies. This was implemented to make costs for Fellowship promotion, local and regional event support, and convention attendance to be more structured and predictable. A new electronic voting software was purchased and utilized in the most recent election. An independent election committee investigated and declared that the election was fair and the results had not been interfered with. And term limits were included in the new By-Laws, recently approved by the general membership.

When further reforms or controls are identified as necessary, you can count on your leadership to consider those reforms very seriously. At the same time, we will not tolerate members whose goal is to spread falsehoods, cause harm to other members' reputations, or to destroy the entire Fellowship. The person referred to in this message, who shall remain nameless, repeatedly refused to discontinue his harmful actions, so his membership in RMBF and in his local chapter was terminated. Now is the time to move forward.

It has been a joy to watch this little project that was launched in suburban California blossom into a Fellowship that serves so many Rotarians worldwide, and helps them become more successful. Yet there continues to be room for new blood and new ideas. My service as a voting member of the Rotary Means Business Fellowship Board of Directors will end in 2026, with the completion of my final term as Director. However, I intend to remain active in a non-voting consulting role as long as the Board values my contributions.

If any member has suggestions for improvement to our Fellowship, I will remain available at Emeritus@RotaryMeansBusiness.org.*

Mark Burchill

Chair Emeritus and Treasurer,
Rotary Means Business Fellowship



www.RotaryMeansBusiness.org
Emeritus@RotaryMeansBusiness.org

RMB SALEM BRIGHT INSTALLATION

"Success is best when it's shared." - Howard Schultz

#228 - RMB Salem BRIGHT Celebrates Installation of 43 New Members on 27th August 2024.

RMB Salem BRIGHT - Rotary held a successful installation function, welcoming 43 new members into its growing community. The event, attended by approximately 150 people, was a celebration of commitment, growth, and the promising future of the chapter.

The ceremony was graced by distinguished guests.

District Governor RID 2982 Rtn. Sivakumar, the Guest of Honour, added his words of wisdom, further inspiring the audience.

Our Special Guest, Rtn. Rajamohan, International Chairman - RMBF highlighted the importance of Dedication, Networking and Mutual support in achieving business success.

Chief Guest Mr. Vimalan, Director SRC Projects Pvt. Ltd., who shared his insights and congratulated the new members, encouraging them to embrace the opportunities that RMB provides.



A significant highlight of the evening was the appointment of **Rtn. Velpari Natesan as the Founder Chairman of RMB Salem BRIGHT**. In his address, Rtn. Velpari Natesan shared the Vision, Mission, and Core Values that will guide the chapter. He emphasized the commitment to fostering business growth, building a strong network of trust, and upholding integrity and high standards in all dealings.

The installation function was a resounding success, thanks to the dedicated leadership of **Rtn. EM Sankar, District Chairman, RMBF RID 2982**, and the organizing team. The event went on smoothly and wrapped up ahead of schedule, offering plenty of time for members and guests to connect & share ideas.



Welcoming 43 new members, this milestone marks an exciting new chapter for RMB Salem BRIGHT. It reflects the chapter's appeal and commitment to fostering growth and collaboration.

Looking ahead, RMB Salem BRIGHT is enthusiastic about the future. Guided by our core values and supported by our vibrant members, we are ready to make a meaningful impact in the business community and beyond.

Together, we thrive

DECLARATION OF ROTARIANS IN BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS

As a Rotarian engaged in a business or profession I am expected to:

- Consider my vocation to be another opportunity to serve
- Be faithful to the letter and the spirit of the ethical codes of my vocation, to the laws of my country, and to the standards of my community
- Do all in my power to dignify my vocation and to promote the highest ethical standards in my chosen vocation.
- Be fair to my employer, employees, associates, competitors, customers, the public, and all those with whom I have a business or professional relationship.
- Recognize the honour and respect due to all occupations which are useful to society.
- Offer my vocational talents; to provide opportunities to young people, to work for the relief of the special needs of others, and to improve the quality of life in my community.
- Adhere to honesty in my advertising and in all representations to the public concerning my business and profession.
- Neither seek from or grant to a fellow Rotarian a privilege or advantage not normally accorded to others in a business or professional relationship.

IMPORTANCE OF CALICUT IN BUSINESS: HISTORICAL ROOTS AND THE GROWTH OF ROTARY MEANS BUSINESS FELLOWSHIP

Calicut, or Kozhikode, located at approximately 11.25° N latitude and 75.78° E longitude, has long been a pivotal hub for trade in India, tracing its significance back to the arrival of Vasco da Gama in 1498. This event marked the beginning of direct maritime trade between Europe and India, establishing Calicut as a critical center for the spice trade and a melting pot of cultures. The city's strategic location along the Malabar Coast facilitated a flourishing economy that attracted merchants from around the world.

Today, Calicut continues to thrive as a business center, supported by initiatives like the Rotary Means Business Fellowship (RMBF) Calicut Chapter, which has been actively promoting professional connections and collaboration among local entrepreneurs.

ROTARY MEANS BUSINESS FELLOWSHIP CALICUT CHAPTER: A YEAR OF GROWTH AND CONNECTION

Founded in October 2023 with 30 members, the RMBF Calicut Chapter has rapidly expanded to 49 members in less than a year. This growth reflects the chapter's commitment to fostering strong business relationships among Rotary members. Regular weekly meetings, held every Thursday, have allowed members to reconnect and share insights about their businesses—something they hadn't done in detail despite their long-standing friendships.



KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Weekly Meetings and Bond Groups:** Over the past 11 months, the chapter has conducted 45 weekly meetings, during which members have shared approximately ₹4.5 crores in business opportunities in the first meeting alone. To deepen connections, the chapter formed six Bond Groups, facilitating informal meetings at members' offices to promote understanding and collaboration.
- R2R Meetings:** The chapter implemented R2R (Rotary to Rotary) meetings, allowing members to meet directly at their offices to discuss business needs. This initiative has been instrumental in generating new business leads and strengthening ties among members.
- Inter-Chapter and Collaborative Meetings:** To further enhance business opportunities, the chapter organized inter-chapter meetings and collaborated with other business organizations. These initiatives have expanded the network and provided valuable business leads for members.

4. **Celebrations and Bonding Activities:** Celebratory events have played a significant role in fostering camaraderie among members, reinforcing relationships and building a sense of community.
5. **Support from Leadership:** The chapter is fortunate to have the guidance of three Past District Governors—Rtn. MD Dr. Sethu Shiv Shanker, Rtn. MD Sreedharan Nambiar, and
6. Rtn. MD Dr. Rajesh Subhash—whose support has been vital in achieving the chapter's goals and reaching new heights.
7. **Remarkable Growth in Business:** Within just 11 months, the RMBF Calicut Chapter has collectively achieved ₹100 crores in business transactions among its members. This impressive milestone underscores the effectiveness of the fellowship in promoting business growth.
8. **Expansion Plans:** Looking to the future, the chapter plans to establish 10 new chapters by December 31, 2024. Recently, a new chapter was successfully launched in Wayanad, with plans to extend to Kanhangad this month. Other locations, including Payyannur, Kannur, Thalassery, Nilambur, Thamarassery, Mananthavadi, Vadakara, and Calicut 2, are also in the pipeline for future expansions.

Conclusion

Calicut's historical significance as a trade center continues to thrive today, bolstered by the initiatives of organizations like the Rotary Means Business Fellowship. The Calicut Chapter has demonstrated the power of networking, collaboration, and community support in driving business success. As it expands and evolves, the chapter is set to play an even more critical role in shaping the local business landscape, ensuring that Calicut remains a vital hub for entrepreneurship and commerce in India.

Thanks and Regards

Rtn. Ratheesh Kumar E B

Chairman, RMBF Calicut

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FROM THE DESK OF KARAN GARG

SYMPOSIUM 2024 by RMB Udaipur Chapter: A Grand Celebration of Business, Fellowship, and Fun

On August 31st, 2024, the RMB Udaipur Chapter hosted one of the most anticipated events of the year—SYMPOSIUM 2024. Held at a picturesque venue in Udaipur, this vibrant gathering brought together Rotarians and business leaders from across the region, transforming a traditional cross-chapter business and fellowship meet into a dynamic and lively celebration of collaboration, innovation, and camaraderie. SYMPOSIUM 2024 was a testament to the power of Rotary Means Business (RMB) to create opportunities for personal and professional growth while fostering lasting relationships.

The day was packed with engaging discussions, insightful presentations, and opportunities to build valuable business connections. The atmosphere was charged with excitement and energy as attendees from RMB chapters of Udaipur, Jaipur, Kota, Ahmedabad, and Vadodara joined hands to exchange ideas and strategize for future growth.

Our Chief Guest Rtn. Arvind Batra, Vice Chair, Rotary Means Business Fellowship. The traditional lighting of the lamps symbolized the beginning of a bright and successful gathering. Rtn. Batra, a key figure in the global RMB movement, delivered an insightful speech on the current structure of RMB worldwide. He emphasized the importance of expanding RMB's reach and shared exciting plans for the future, including the establishment of new chapters in various regions. His vision for global growth resonated with the audience, highlighting the potential for RMB to become an even more powerful force in business networking among Rotarians.





SYMPOSIUM 2024 was designed to encourage collaboration and networking, and this goal was achieved through a series of interactive sessions that allowed attendees to connect with one another in meaningful ways. One of the standout sessions was the “R2Rs” (RMBians to RMBians) round table discussions, where participants from different industries and classifications sat together to share details about their businesses, exchange visiting cards, and provide referrals. This session created an atmosphere of open communication and collaboration, helping delegates forge new connections and explore potential business opportunities.

A key moment in the symposium was the panel discussion featuring leaders from RMB Udaipur, RMB Jaipur, RMB Kota, RMB Ahmedabad, and RMB Vadodara. This dynamic session, moderated by Rtn. Karan Garg, Past President and Board Member of the RMB Udaipur Chapter, delved into growth strategies, best practices, and future plans for each chapter. The panelists spoke candidly about their experiences, sharing valuable insights on how to strengthen and expand the RMB Fellowship worldwide. There was a huge exchange of ideas between the panelists and the knowledgeable audience.

We also had business presentations, selfie contests, rejuvenating the spirits with Yoga, Meditation, and Laughter, Inspiring talks by guest speakers for the curious learners and the closing session was a night to remember with a fabulous DJ Dance party.

As SYMPOSIUM 2024 came to a close, the RMB Udaipur Chapter bid farewell with smiles, cheers, and a promise to make SYMPOSIUM 2025 even bigger, grander, and more thrilling. The event was not just a business meet—it was a celebration of fellowship, collaboration, and the incredible potential of RMB. Here's to an unforgettable year ahead and the exciting adventures that await at the next chapter of this amazing journey!

ROTARY MEANS BUSINESS IN AUSTRALIA

Rotary Means Business in Australia has existed for over 9 years. The strongest Chapter in this region is certainly Rotary Means Business – Western Australia (RMB-WA). Originally setup as a Chapter for District 9455 some 7 years ago – with the re-districting that took place in Western Australia this Chapter is now open to all Rotarians and friends in this part of Australia.

The state of Western Australia is vast (more than three and a half times as big as the State of Texas in the USA) and recently RMB WA has begun exploring the establishments of satellite chapters to increase their ability to cover such a diverse geography. With wine and agriculture in the southwest and enormous mining operations in the North – there is certainly an opportunity to see Rotary Means Business grow in Western Australia. Rotary International (RI) is currently allowing Rotarians in Australia and New Zealand to undertake a Regionalisation Pilot that will see significant shifts in the way Rotary is structured and works in this region. Should this pilot program go well, it is hoped that other parts of the world will also benefit from this approach at modernising the way we do Rotary. Unfortunately, this has meant that much of the focus locally on Regionalisation has made new Chapter development in RI Zone 8 quite problematic as the energy of many Rotarians is on making the pilot a success.





DIRECTOR PROFILE

PDG Jon Bilson joined the Rotary Means Business Fellowship Board in 2021. As the first representative for Australia and New Zealand living in the region, Jon has been a strong advocate for RMB in this part of the world. His experience as a Past District Governor has provided the RMBF Board with a different perspective over the past 3-4 years. His passion for Rotary Means Business is driven by the inspiration of Paul Harris in starting Rotary as a way for people in business to care and give back to their communities. With so many Rotarians now at or near retirement age, this is certainly the time to re-visit our roots as a global organisation and engage once again with people in business and provide them with an opportunity to give back and make a lasting positive impact on people in need.

Professionally Jon is a Business Psychologist and owns a successful management consulting business that has operated in Australia and internationally for 34 years. He is also the current WA Chapter President for the Institute of Management Consultants.

ROTARY MEANS BUSINESS IN CROATIA

On September 14th, Rotary Means Business (RMB) Croatia (with its still informal name South-East Europe) hosted a highly successful event in Vukovar, Croatia, further demonstrating the chapter's vibrancy, regional inclusivity, and strong collaboration across multiple districts.

Rtn Robert Stezinar, International Board Director for RMB Europe and one of the founding members of the chapter, along with Rtn Fran Mikuličić, chapter Chairman delivered an insightful presentation on the best practices and strategies from Indian RMB meetings, with the goal of adapting them to the unique European business landscape.



Our chapter continues to experience steady growth, now approaching 150 members across six countries. The event was further enriched by the presence of a special guest from the newly formed RMB Balkans chapter, Rtn Lyubomir Borisov. In the next 30 days we plan to start with morning RMB meetings and adapt to future non-Rotarian members in our chapter. A special thanks to the Rotary Club of Vukovar for their co-organization and support in making this event a success.

ROTARY REPORTER

On September 12, the Rotary Clubs of Carlisle and Carlisle Sunrise hosted and sponsored in partnership with Venue and Special Event Sponsor Dickinson College's Popel Shaw Center and its ACE Peer Mentor program one of the most successful and innovative District 7390 RMB events since its inception in 2014. Some 34 Rotarians and guests from six district clubs (Carlisle, Carlisle Sunrise, Hershey, Mechanicsburg North, District 7390 Passport, and West Shore) and roughly 15 ACE Peer Mentor students gathered to network, make connections and enjoy the fun and fellowship of RMB. The ACE Peer Mentor program seeks to assist incoming first year students adjust to campus life with the help of the sophomore, junior and senior year students.

Special kudos to the work of Travis Soprano and Kim Lockwood in explaining Rotary and what it does in the world. The ACE Student Coordinator helped Rotarians understand what the ACE Student Mentor program does to help incoming first year students. He did a wonderful job and showed great enthusiasm and belief in the value of the program. PDG Alden Cunningham talked briefly about the Vision and Purpose of RMB and its evolution from its beginning in 1905. Dr. Yvette Davis also took a few moments to further explain the ACE Mentor Program and the Popel Shaw Center's mission within Dickinson College. Carol Cunningham as the event photographer took some special photos of the event and its various phases.

All in all a very special time was enjoyed by everyone. Thank you to all involved. Our next RMB event will take place in November hosted by the Rotary Club of Hershey. Stay tuned for future announcements regarding this event.

Melissa, in light of the Dickinson College being both a venue and special event sponsor, I want them to receive publicity as a Major Sponsor for the next year in all inputs regarding RMB events. Thank you.

Alden





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