

Jeyavathsalan for 1st Vice DG 306B1

5000 cataract operations free

Text and Pict.
BEVERLEY JANSZ

District Coordinator, Lion S. Jeyavathsalan announced his candidature for First Vice District Governor, 306 B1 for the fiscal year 2009/2010 at a colourful ceremony held at Pradeshiya Sabha Hall, Hendala.

District Governor, 306B1, Lion Nimal Rajapakse and First Lady Geetha were the chief guests. Multiple Council 306 Chairman Lion Mahesh Pasqual MJF and a host of VIPs, distinguished guests, and other invitees were present.

Delivering his keynote address Lion S. Jeyavathsalan said that he was indebted to President Lion Senthilnathan and members of his home club, Lions Club of Colombo Western City for the untiring efforts taken to organise the ceremony. He paid a tribute to past leaders, Cabinet officers, Club Officers, delegates, Visiting Lions and Lion Ladies for their participation.



Lion S. Jeyavathsalan, and Lion Lady J. Shayanthini being conducted in a colourful procession to the venue of the event.



At the head table - from left are PCC Lion S. Sivanathan, PCC, Upali Samarasinghe, PDG, Lion S. Sivapathasunderan, Endorsed candidate, Lion Sunil Watawala, Vice District Governor, Lion Lakshman Wijesinghe, Multiple Council Chairman, Lion Mahesh Pasqual MJF, and District Governor, 306B1, Lion Nimal Rajapakse.

"Past Leaders advised me on a number of occasions to vie for the office of Vice District Governor but first to concentrate on the club to earn the respect of the District," Lion Jeyavathsalan said.

Our respected past leaders would vouch that I have performed all tasks given to me with commitment and dedication, he said.

Immediate Past International President, Lion Mahendra Amarasuriya had a vision of a Cataract free Sri Lanka. "Let us try and make our Lions District 306B1, 'Cataract Free'. Let our district become the 'Knights of the Blind' as challenged by Helen Keller in 1925.

Lion Jeyavathsalan said that he envisaged performing 5000 Cataract Surgeries free of charge to the underprivileged with the assistance of Lions Sight First Hospital and the hospitals where Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) has given assistance.

Among those present were PCC Lion S. Sivanathan, PCC, Lion Upali Samarasinghe, PDG, Lion S. Sivapathasunderan endorsed candidate, Lion Sunil Watawala, Vice District Governor, Lion Lakshman Wijesinghe, Multiple Council Chairman, Lion Mahesh Pasqual MJF, President, Lions Club of Colombo Western City, Rotary District Senthilnathan, DID, Lion Chuck Wijanathan, IDPG, Lion S. Raghavan, Chairman, Council of Past Governors, Lion K. Thilanthan, PDG, Lion Sarath Gunasekera, PCC Prof. W.A. Ferdinand PCC, Lion Mohan Silva, PCC Lion Chitral Amarantunge and PDG Lion Oregon Pinghe.

Lions MC 306 to assist IDP's

Collection Centre at Ward Place

With a view to assisting the thousands of displaced people in the North, Lions Multiple Council 306 has established a committee chaired by Lion Mahen Kariyawasam and assisted by IPDP Lion S. Raghavan as co-Chairman. This committee has established a collection centre at No. 38, Ward Place, Colombo 7, to receive donations from Lions Clubs around Sri Lanka, Chairman, Lions Multiple Council 306, Lion Mahesh Pasqual, MJF told the Daily News.

The committee has been established with the assistance of the Ministry of Defence, which is keen that Lions around Sri Lanka assist the displaced people in every way possible. Lion Pasqual said that the urgent needs are medicine, milk food and new clothes. He was very confident that Lions could donate dry nations, new clothes, toiletries, towels, linen or cash.

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It favour of "Lions Clubs International Multiple Council 306 IDP Assistance Fund", Account No. 1106013630 Commercial Bank of Ceylon, Sri Lanka. Deposits could be made to any branch of the Commercial Bank. Bank swift code: CCEYLKIX.

Donations Collection Centre is at No. 38, Ward Place, Colombo 07. Hot Line 0774454936. Any clarification could be obtained from Committee Chairman, Lion Mahen Kariyawasam on 0112369836 or 0777-317766.

Patapiligama awakened by Rotary Club of Battaramulla

Under a Rotary Matching Grant, Funded by six partner clubs in USA, Rotary Club of Battaramulla has undertaken "Awakening of Patapiligama" - a small underprivileged village of Kurunegala. RCB has been making a difference in these villagers' lives by implementing various projects over the past two years.

Rotary club of Panduwasnuwara has been facilitating the on-going projects.

It was a very special day for the villagers of Patapiligama. Amidst celebrations organized by them, on the invitation of Battaramulla club, Rotary District Governor Nalin Fernando ceremonially declared open the "Matching Grant Projects" and handed them over to the people of Patapiligama.

The waters of the renovated irrigation tank flowed in to the dry fields for the first time in many decades. Fresh drinking water was



Nalin Fernando, Governor - Rotary Sri Lanka unveiling the plaque symbolising handing over of facilities.

Also in the Picture - Rohan Amirthiah - President and Despal Abeysekera - Past President of Rotary Club of Battaramulla.

Founded out of the brand new Tube Wells.

All over the village there were new toilets painted in white and the Rotary Logo



Nalin Fernando, Governor - Rotary Sri Lanka addressing the villagers.

and the Number painted on it in blue. There were several other club projects such as distribution of school books to 67 students, laying of the foundation stone for the Village Community Center and the Shrine Room etc.

President, members and families of Rotary Club of Battaramulla and a large gathering of villagers participated at this ceremony.

YWCA Easter and Avurudu celebrations

Text and Pict.
BEVERLEY JANSZ

The Colombo YWCA held the traditional combined Easter and Avurudu celebration last week on a grand scale.

President of Colombo YWCA Manel Abeysekera in welcoming the gathering said that though Easter is a religious festival and is an astronomical and astrological Feast there was a commonality between them in that they

both focus on the movement from death to life - in Easter, Christ's Resurrection, and the season of Avurudu being a renewal of life in nature with Winter giving place to Spring in temperature climates and the world over be it the birds or the beasts - live with the voice of the cuckoo heralding it.

As in Sri Lanka, in other countries too there are religious observances as part of the festival. In a pluralistic country like Sri

Lanka, it is appropriate for a membership of all ethnic and religious groups, to celebrate Easter and Avurudu jointly in fellowship and harmony, at which the



Rev. Fr. Nihal Fernando, Vicar of Christ Church, Mutuwal delivers the keynote address. Seated from left are Sakuntala Joseph, Chairperson, Christian Emphasis, Manel Abeysekera, President Colombo YWCA, Manel Nanayakkara, President, National YWCA and Manel Botheju, Chairperson, Membership.

world YWCA membership is also focused on, as being the oldest women's organization with the largest membership worldwide, Mrs. Abeysekera said.



Avurudu Kumari Shanthi Kumari (centre), 1st runner up Emmerniya Anthony (left) and 2nd runner up Shamalee Liyanage.



Avurudu Kumari Shanthi Kumari (centre), 1st runner up Emmerniya Anthony (left) and 2nd runner up Shamalee Liyanage.



Avurudu Kumari Shanthi Kumari being slashed by President Colombo YWCA Manel Abeysekera. Looking on is Manel Botheju, Membership Chairperson.

Wickramasinghepura Lions 21st Charter Anniversary

Club President, Lion Vernon Dabara addressing the gathering.

The Lions Club of Wickramasinghepura celebrated its 21st Charter Anniversary.

sary at Sanora Reception Hall Pelawatte. The Chief Guest at this occasion was the District Governor District 306 C-1 Deshabandu Lion Dinesh Hettiarachchi MJF, JP and his Lion Lady Chandima. The President Lion Vernon Dabara in his address mentioned that they have completed 41 projects to date including the two ongoing projects. The highlights of his speech was that they as a club have

been able to serve over 6000 less fortune persons from which 142 Cataract operations, over 1000 spectacles distributed and over 1000 benefited from Medical Aid, Blood donations, donations of exercise books and computers to schools and many others.

His gratitude went out to Project Chairman and the Lions and Lion Ladies of the Club for being able to work towards his theme "Satisfaction through Service". Chief guest, District Governor, 306 C-1, Deshabandu Lion Dinesh Hettiarachchi, in his keynote address said that he was proud to be a member of the Lions Club of Wickramasinghepura and was pleased with the excellent service the club has done this year. He paid a tribute to Club President Lion Vernon Dabara and all members who contributed to making the club reach these heights.



Chief guest, District Governor, 306 C-1, Deshabandu Lion Dinesh Hettiarachchi (second from left) and First Lady Lion Chandima, being welcomed by Club President Lion Vernon Dabara (extreme left) and past governors, Lion Amara Disanayake and Lion W.M.S. Wijesundera.



District Governor, Lion Dinesh Hettiarachchi, (Second from left) presenting the President's Appreciation award to Lion Chandra Perera. Looking on is Club President, Lion Vernon Dabara. Pictures by Beverley Jansz

'Lions Gro-More' new service program

Text and Pict.
BEVERLEY JANSZ

Lions Clubs International - the largest service club organization in the world with a membership of over 1,425 million in 205 countries is known for the excellent work done on sight related projects. Lions have brought the luxury of vision to millions the world over, since Helen Keller in 1927 challenged the Lions to be the knights of the blind. Last year the president of Lions International our own Lion Mahendra Amarasooriya completed a \$200 million dollar fund raising campaign for 'sight first', undoubtably the Lions take the lead in the world as Knights of the Blind. There are more programmes that are promoted such as Lion Quest, Lions and education.

The caption on the banner at the recent ceremonial opening of the Multiple (all island) District Lions Gro-More Programme was "the time is now". The Chief Guest at the opening ceremony was the Minister



At the head table from left are DG 306A1 Lion Dr. Senarath Kelogama, Agriculture Minister Hemakumara Nanayakkara, Chairman Multiple Council District 306 Lion Mahesh Pasqual and Past Council Chairman Pandu Liyanage.

of Agriculture Hemakumara Nanayakkara (MP), an expert on the subject of Agriculture, challenged the Lions to accept the task of making our country self sufficient in food. He promised to give the Lions all possible support from his Ministry and the departments under his purview. He said he was certain the Lions will triumph at the end.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee past Council Chairman Dr. Pandu Liyanage said that he was motivated by a personal incident where the

flower pots at his home were used to plant vegetables.

It was a pleasant coincidence and decided to share the experience with Lions and Lion ladies of the Multiple District of Lions under 'Urban Agriculture'. Initially, his proposal to adopt 'Gro-More' food as a National Program will be placed for consideration and approval at the Multiple Convention to be held on June 7, 2009.

Recognizing the fact that Lion members are urban based the Lions decided to

promote Urban Agriculture as a National program. Project Chairman Dr. Pandu Liyanage says, he thought that in 5 years there could be a severe food shortage in the country and in 10 years we may have food riots. Fortunately we in Sri Lanka are blessed with a highly educated, knowledgeable and competent Minister of Agriculture Hemakumara Nanayakkara hence the disastrous prognosis is unlikely to happen. The success of the 'Gro-More' program depends on all of us "The time is now".

Wattala City Lions induct 20 new members

Text and Pict. NIMAL PERERA

Lions Club of Wattala City inducted 20 new members at a glittering ceremony held at the Lions Training Centre Hekitta Wattala.

Past District Governor District 306C Lions Shirly Tissera MJF was the chief guest at the ceremony.

The chief guest and his Lion Lady were welcomed by the Club President Lion Dinesh Perera and his Lion Lady Nisansala and conducted to the venue with Region Chairman Lion Dr. Seba Jayamaha and Zone Chairman Lion Shamendra Gunasekera.

Three Lion members were among the 20 new members inducted by the Past District Governor Lion Shirly Tissera MJF. The Lions Club of Wattala City also inducted another 25 new members last year under the leadership of same Club President Lion Dinesh Perera.



(Seated from left) Treasurer Lion Nadeera Goonawardana, Zone Chairman Lion Shamendra Gunasekera, Past District Governor Lion Shirly Tissera, Club President Lion Dinesh Perera, Region Chairman Lion Dr. Seba Jayamaha, Secretary Lion Lalith de Zoysa with newly inducted 20 members.



(from left) Lion Surani Jayamaha, Region Chairman Lion Dr. Seba Jayamaha, Chief Guest Past District Governor Lion Shirly Tissera, MJF, Lion Lady Anita, Lion Kishanala Club President Lion Dinesh Perera, Zone Chairman Lion Shamendra Gunasekera, Lion Udayangani and Treasurer Lion Nadeera Goonawardana.