



NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 1

ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES OF SINGER

320, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 2

September 2000

Dear Members,

WHERE WE ARE, AND WHERE WE'RE HEADED

The inaugural meeting of the Association of Past Employees of Singer was held on 24 June, 2000 at the Company's Head Office, which was the fulfillment of a long-felt need.

The Patron of the Association is Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya, Chairman, Singer (Sri Lanka) Ltd., and the following were elected as Office Bearers:

- President** : Mr. Bertie Fernando
(☎ 715733 (Res.))
- Vice President:** Mr. L. De Chickera
(☎ 696693 (Res.))
- Vice President :** Mr. G. C. Wasalathanthri
(☎ 854745 (Res.)
821454 (Off.))
- Secretary** : Mr. Nelson Mendis
(☎ 716209(Res))
- Asst. Secretary:** Mr. A.H. Epa
(☎ 865351 (Res.))
- Treasurer** : Mr. A.M.M. Nissar
(☎ 530680 (Res.)
074 721217 (Off))
- Asst. Treasurer:** Mr. S. Thiyagarajah
(☎ 437617 (Res.))

Committee Members:

Mr. Ranjith David
(☎ 581406 (Res.))

- Mr. Lasantha Perera**
(☎ 712412 (Res.) 506436 (Off.))
- Mr. P.S. Maniam**
(☎ 586123 (Res.))
- Mr. R.G. Moorthy**
(☎ 052 22982 (Res.) 072-226175 (Off.))
- Ms. Judith Vannitamby**
(☎ 074-407033 (Res.) 580691-Ex.320))
- Mr. R.D. Seneviratne**
(☎ 075-520921 (Res.) 437350-Ex.279))
- Ms. Kaushaliya Murugadasan**
(☎ 583205 (Res.) 074-514854 (Off.))
- Mr. W.G.C. Dabare**
(☎ 233957 (Res.))

The meeting provided many of the former employees of Singer an opportunity to renew past friendships and relive past memories. We must thank all those responsible for promoting the idea and bringing it to fruition. When we joined Singer it never entered our minds that one day in the future we would gather together as past employees. But with the progression of time, the inevitable happened and it gave us who gathered at the historic meeting the joy of reunion of one-time colleagues.

In forming this association, the organizers were guided by the desire to commit ourselves in one way or another to serve the best interests of the larger community. The objectives are set out

clearly in the preamble to the constitution which says:

- (a) To continue and foster the cordial and mutual relationship the members had during their stay at Singer
- (b) To help members who require assistance in times of need
- (c) To propagate the Singer image whilst keeping to the set norms of the Company
- (d) To organize social, cultural events to help less fortunate people of Sri Lanka as deemed proper by the Executive Committee.

The fact that so many of past employees assembled at the meeting is adequate proof, if proof were needed, of the commitment the members have to the proposition that all human beings are created equal and that it is almost obligatory on the part of every individual to help to spread the fruits of economic growth and to ensure that such progress shall not remain the privilege of the few but the heritage of the many. This is easier said than done. The question is how are we going to get about all this? The answer is loud and clear – **increase membership.**

The membership we feel should bring us a broad spectrum of interests and abilities, members who will share the views enshrined in our statement of objectives. If each member makes it a point to enroll just one more past employee, the drive for membership will gather momentum.

We who have hitherto been languishing in the limbo of the forgotten past, after years of loyal and sincere services, are awakening from the deep slumber to find

meaning to our existence. We seek a forum where our voices can find utterances and be heard. It is our solemn task, therefore, to spread out the net to bring in as many as we possibly can. It is there – we only have to reach out to find.

The intention in the first newsletter is to help all of us to focus our attention on the objectives spelt out and make our contribution towards the realization of these objectives. Let us go forward together hand in hand emboldened by the fact that we have the blessing of the Management.

You will be happy to learn that arrangements are also underway to organize a Dinner Party with the participation of the spouses. It is hoped that such a get-together would create an atmosphere where long forgotten acquaintances can be renewed and the bonds of brotherhood of yesteryear further strengthened.

The Association look forward to sending regular newsletters so that members may be kept informed of steps taken to make a meaningful contribution towards the furtherance of our objectives.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR – 2000

1. The first Get-together of the Association – the **'Ole Singer Dinner** – will be held on **7th October, 2000** - Details will be notified shortly. It is hoped that all members will avail of this opportunity to meet their former colleagues and renew past friendships.

Other activities proposed are:

2. A Soft-Ball Cricket Tournament .
3. A Day Out for the family
4. Christmas Party for the children of members.

Details will be notified later.



WIT AND HUMOUR

Negotiations between union members and their employer were at an impasse. The union denied that their workers were flagrantly abusing their contract's sick-leave provisions. One morning at the bargaining table, the company's chief negotiator held aloft the morning edition of the newspaper, "This man," he announced, "called in sick yesterday!" There on the sports page, was a photo of the supposedly ill employee, who had just won a local golf tournament with an excellent score. The silence in the room was broken by a union negotiator. "Wow," he said, "Think of what kind of score he could have had if he hadn't been sick!"

The doctor answered the phone and heard the familiar voice of a colleague on the other end of the line. "We need a fourth for poker." Said the friend. "I'll be right over," whispered the doctor. As he was putting on his coat, his wife asked, "Is it serious?" "Oh yes, quite serious," said the doctor gravely. "in fact, there are three doctors there already!"

A couple drove several miles down a country road, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument, and neither wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules and pigs, the wife sarcastically asked, "Relatives of

yours?" "Yep," the husband replied, "In-laws"

There are three engineers in a car: an electrical engineer, a chemical engineer and a Microsoft engineer. Suddenly the car engine shuts off, leaving the three engineers stranded by the side of the road. All three engineers look at each other wondering what could be wrong. The electrical engineer suggests stripping down the electronics of the car and trying to trace where the fault might have occurred. The chemical engineer, not knowing much about cars, suggests that maybe the fuel is becoming emulsified and getting blocked somewhere. Then, the Microsoft engineer, not knowing much about anything, comes up with a suggestion, "Why don't we close all the windows, get out, get back in, open the windows again, and maybe it'll work!?"

FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

It's your ATTITUDE

Micheal is the kind of guy you love to hate. He is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say: When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!"

He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Michael was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious. So one day I went up to Michael and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?"

Michael replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone

comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life.

"Yeah, right! It's not that easy," I protested. "Yes, it is," Michael said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live life."

I reflected on what Michael said. Soon thereafter, I left the Tower Industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made choices in life before reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that Michael was involved in a serious accident, falling some 60 feet from a communications tower. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Michael was released from hospital, with rods placed in his back. I saw Michael about six months after the accident.

When I asked him how he was he replied, "If I were any better I'd be twins, Wanna see my scars?"

I declined to see his wounds, but I did ask him what had gone through his mind as the accident took place. "The first thing that went through my mind was the well being of my soon to be born daughter."

"Then as I lay on the ground, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or choose to die. I chose to live."

"Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked.

Michael continued "..... the paramedics were great! They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read "He's a dead man." I knew I needed to take action.

"What did you do?" I asked.

Well there was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me," said Michael. "She asked if I was allergic to anything. Yes, I replied.

The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, GRAVITY!

Over their laughter, I told them "I'm choosing to live, operate on me as if I am alive not dead."

Michael lived, thanks to the skills of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude.

I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully.

ATTITUDE after all is EVERYTHING!

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

(Matthew 6:34)

Remember:

Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday!

If this really sinks in ... then choose how you start your day tomorrow!!

NEWSLETTER, CALENDAR AND
PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Members are invited to make contributions towards the Newsletter by way of articles of interest, memorable moments at SINGER or towards our 'Wit and Humour' column. Please send in your contributions by 31 October, 2000, for the next Newsletter, to be published in December, to The Newsletter, Calendar & Publicity Committee, C/o. Mr. P.S. Maniam, 24, Block 'N', Government Flats, Colombo 4.