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NEWS LETTER

January 2019

Issue No.42

ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES OF SINGER

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Members,

" Just as a new bloom spreads fragrance
and freshness around,
May the New Year add a new beauty
and freshness into your life"

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This is the first issue of our Newsletter for the current year and with it I send you and your family our best wishes for a bright and prosperous New Year free of worries and disappointments.

First and foremost, I take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to all those members who responded to our request for articles to be published in the Newsletter. Your contributions no doubt helped us to continue with the publication last year even though we were reluctantly compelled to restrict the publication only for two issues due to circumstances beyond our control. A new year has now dawned and we expect many more members to send articles for publication. I wish to reiterate that the Newsletter is your publication, the media through which you could share your past experiences at Singer with the other members and make the Newsletter more meaningful. Sacrifice a little bit of your valuable time to pen a few words for the reading pleasure of others which will no doubt be highly appreciated.

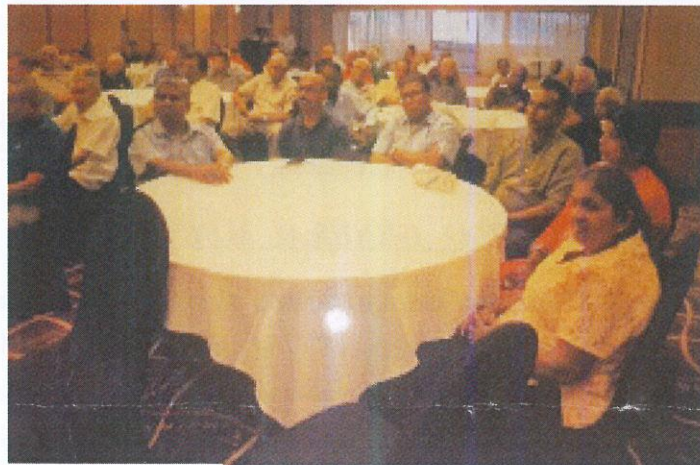
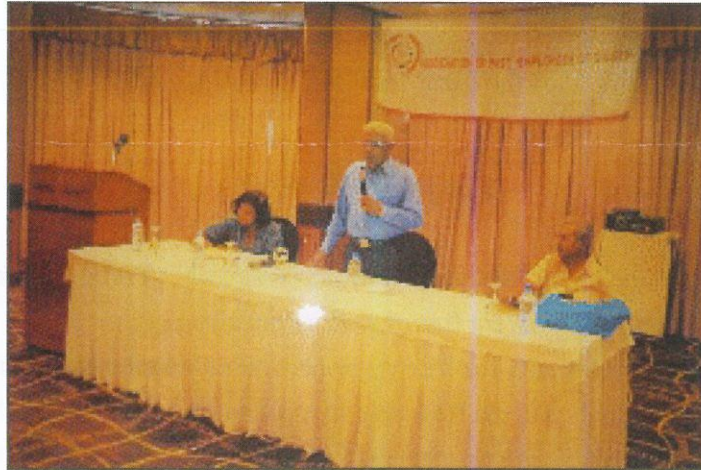
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Eighteenth Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on 9th December, 2018 at Janaki Hotel, Fife Road, Colombo 05 with the participation of 77 members as against 64 the previous year. Our Patron Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya graced the occasion as a special guest. Also present as special invitees were Mr. Mahesh Wijewardena C.E.O, Mr. Kumar Samarasinghe - Marketing Director SSL, Mr. K.K.L. Yatiwella - Finance, Director- SSL, Mr. Sujeeva Perera - Factory Director, Piliyandala and Mr. Kelum Kospelawatte - Factory Director, Regnis. Amongst the members present were former Directors Mr. Vidya Vidyaratne SIC, Mr. P. Shivaji SSL and Mr. Chitral Perera SSL.

At the commencement of the meeting, Mr. Bertie Fernando, President requested the members to observe two minutes and silence in memory of the members who had passed away including Mr. Romauld Fernando and Mr. Anton Silva, the past Secretary of the Association who was called to Eternal Rest on 16th November, 2018. During his tenure of office as the Secretary, he rendered a valuable service by playing a major role in organizing the numerous activities of the Association.

Reviewing the activities of the Association, Mr. Fernando in his address regretted that most of the activities planned for the year could not be held due to various reasons but expressed his satisfaction that the Association was able to help two members who requested assistance for medical needs and also providing financial assistance to 15 students at Stanley Thilakarathne Primary School, Mirihana through the Scholarship Fund.

Concluding his address, Mr. Fernando emphasised the need for members to contribute generously towards the Benevolent and Scholarship Funds to enable the committee to provide a better service to the members who need financial assistance for medical purposes and also enhance the financial aid to children of poor families to continue their education without any hindrances. He also stressed the importance of members contributing articles to the Newsletter without leaving the responsibility to a handful of members who regularly send articles for publication.



The meeting ended with a fellowship and grand lunch thoroughly enjoyed by the members present. A bath towel with the Association Logo was given away to the members who attended the meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following were elected to the New Committee

Patron:

Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya

President :

Mr. Bertie Fernando

Tel: 2715733

Mob:0724526229

Vice Presidents:

Mr. Nelson Mendis

Tel: 2716209

Mob:0777271375

Mr. Chitral Perera

Tel: 2874691

Mob: 0777304394

Secretary :

Ms. Judith Vannitamby

Tel: 2830306

Mob:0777330577

Asst.Secretary:

Ms. Kaushalya Murugadasan

Tel: 2363205

Mob: 0773028389

Treasurer :

Mr. A.M.M. Nissar

Tel: 2530680

Mob: 0714222325

Asst. Treasurer:

Mr. ZubairHassen

Tel: 2534836

Mob: 0777749636

Committee

Mr. Gamini Wasalathanthri

Mr. Kalyana Dhirasekera

Mr. John Emmanuel

Mr. Winston Dabare

Mr. Ranjith David

Mr. Sunethra Vidanage

Mr. Kamalangani

Mr. Russeill De La Motte

Hony. Auditor-

Mr. Priyath Salgado

Appointment of Sub-Committees

At the first Executive Committee Meeting held on 24th January 2019, the following Sub-committees were formed:

Social & Entertainment Committee-

Mr. Nelson Mendis

Mr. ChitralPerera

Mr. Kalyana Dhirasekera

Mr. John Emmanuel

Ms. Kaushalya Murugadasan

Mr. Ranjith David

Mr. Russell de la Motte

Scholarship Fund-

Ms. Sunethra Vidanage

Ms. Kamalangani Perera

Mr. Zubair Hassan

Welfare Committee-

Mr. Vincent Dabara

Mr. Gamini Wasalathanthri

Mr. Zubair Hassan

Newsletter-

Mr. GaminiWasalathanthri

Ms. Judith Vannitamby

SCHOLARSHIP FUND - ' HELPING THE NEEDY STUDENTS'

Our Association started this project in July 2015 with the sole objective of helping school going children from poor families. Initially, 12 students from the Stanley Thilakaratne Primary School, Mirihana were selected. Each student was given Rs.500/= per month and the money was utilized to purchase books, stationery, shoes etc. under the guidance and supervision of the Principal and teachers in charge. Furthermore, in 2015 and 2016, we donated gift parcels containing English story books to 170 students for their English Day celebrations. Our support and participation at these events was highly appreciated by the Divisional Director of Education, other invitees and by the Principal and parents of the school.

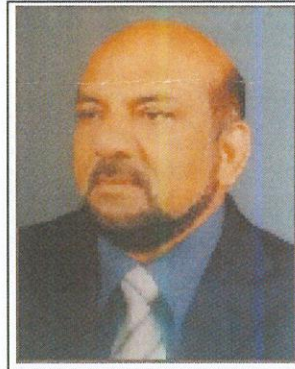
In addition to the above, at the request of the Principal, we donated Rs. 10,000/= for the Pirith Ceremony held at the school in March 2017. From June 2017, the number of students who received financial aid was increased to 15 incurring an expenditure of Rs. 7500/= a month and this is being continued to-date. With a view to promote sports activities in the school, we donate Rs. 2500/= a month to the Principal to conduct swimming classes for children of the school at the DharmapalaVidyalaya, Pannipitiya. even though we are now finding it difficult to continue with these programs due to lack of funds.

As you are aware, on an appeal made for contributions earlier we received generous donations from a few members to the Scholarship Fund which helped us to carry on with these programs even in a small way. We now need money in the kitty with a view to continue with our social responsibility programs and hence this appeal to all our members to help with donations which will be duly acknowledged by our Treasurer.

Singer is a name now famous among the students and parents in the area and we can be proud of being a member of the SINGER FAMILY.

Sunethra Vidanage

Mr. Anton Silva



Anton Silva, former HR Manager of Singer Industries (Ceylon) PLC passed away on 16th November 2018, after a brief illness.

Anton was born on 2nd January 1951, only child of the late Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Silva of Moratuwa. He started his schooling at St. Sebastian's College, Moratuwa in 1956. He excelled in cricket and other extra-curricular activities at St. Sebastian.

After leaving school, Anton joined Bata Shoe Company in 1973, and worked under the Personnel Managers, Mr. Ranjith Abeyratne, Mr. J Ellawala and Mr. C L Cooray. His loyalty and commitment to work made way for his elevation to the post of Personnel Manager at Bata at senior level in 1994.

Anton participated at many HR related conferences and seminars in many countries during his period at Bata. His knowledge, experience and contribution in HR activities were recognized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) by selecting him as the "Best HR Manager in Sri Lanka" in September 1994. This prestigious award also made way for him to attend the Annual ILO Conferences overseas.

After completing a very successful career at Bata Shoe Company of 26 years, Anton joined the Management of Singer Industries (Ceylon) PLC as HR Manager, a Senior Management position in 2001. At Singer Industries, he achieved all the tasks assigned to him with dedication and some of the hard decisions he had to take were appreciated by his superiors as well as the subordinates. The HR Managers are normally not popular among the minor staff, but in the case of Anton, he was accepted and loved by his staff. The reason behind this is that he was a very humble and friendly person who mixed with everyone and made friends while being firm and fair in his decisions.

Anton retired from Singer in 2013 and started his consultancy career. He was a well sought after consultant by many Mercantile Sector firms, to sort out their HR problems. He helped many clients until his sudden demise in November. Anton was also an All Island Justice of Peace.

Our friend and colleague, after retirement from Singer, joined the Association of Past Employees of Singer. Anton was appointed as the General Secretary of the Association in 2016. During his period as the General Secretary, until his death, he was the live-wire in organizing many social activities and get-togethers. He

was a very jovial and fun-loving personality and got involved in singing and dancing at these gatherings, being a keen musician and a singer of repute. The sudden death of our friend is a great loss to the Association.

Anton leaves behind his beloved wife Sriyani, two loving and proud daughters, Ashini and Maneesha and his two lovely grandchildren.

His friends and relatives will miss this friendly personality's company.

May his soul Rest in Peace.

Bertie Fernando

SING-A-LONG

The Sing-a-long to be held on 17th November 2018, which was cancelled due to the demise of our Secretary, Mr. Anton Silva, has now been fixed for Saturday, 27th April, 2019. We look forward to the participation of as many members as possible.

A LETTER OF APPRECIATION

We have received a letter of appreciation from Mr, Gemunu Mendis who is now domiciled in Canada which we re-produce below. It is indeed very encouraging that at least one member has appreciated our efforts to publish a Newsletter. We assure you that with your co-operation, we will continue to publish the Newsletter at least once in three months.

Editor

Hi Mr. Wasalathanthri,

Hope you can remember me? I use to work as a Product Manager in the Agro Division under Mr. Lashantha Perera.

I enjoy reading the newsletters & I wish to commend everyone who is responsible in publishing same. Could you please make a note of my new address:

1723, 24 Avenue N.W.
Calgary, Alberta.
T2M 1Z1
Canada.

Thanking You,

Gemunu Mendis”

Belated thanks to Mr. Shivaj

By Neil Hatharasinghe

This incident happened sometime back in mid 80's. When we look back into the Accounts Supervisor's history, the position was introduced in 1984 and the first one to hold the title was Mr. Ravi Perera. He was using a C90 bike at that time, which was almost like a skeleton of a now a day's motorbike. Later on he became an area manager. Then Mr. Damith Jayasena, Hargie Karunaratne and myself. Damith Jayasena was again appointed as a district manager. So Hargie and I covered all the areas for a small period of time

director Mr.P. Shivaji. At that time I was covering central area including Anuradhapura, Kegalle and Kurunegala district. The job was very interesting but a little tired when it came to rainy days and sunny days. We informed this to our director Mr. Shivaji during the meetings we had. Soon after that, he organized account supervisors' first ever dinner party at Hotel Trans Asia, at this time known as Cinnamon Hotel. The director has prepared a menu including liquor and we were asked to mention our additional requirements as well. (We had to fill a form and send it back to him) Everyone's only preference was Whiskey and nobody was worried about the meals and left it for Mr Shivaji to decide.

On the particular day, everyone arrived by their bikes. Those days the traffic law was not tough to the point as we could ride the bikes after been drunk even without any problem. So there was nothing to be worried about traveling. As we entered the hall we noticed all the directors with their wives and later on the

chairman and his wife showed up too and we started the boozing. Gradually we were getting drunk and enjoying the party. Chairman and the other directors also joined us talking about funny affairs, cracking jokes and everyone was having fun. Then we all had dinner. After the dinner all of a sudden, our former marketing director Mr. Abeysooriya also known as MD, asked who is the senior accounts supervisor and said "Hatharasinghe you have to give a speech now as a senior person". I was astonished and wasn't prepared for a speech. It was one tricky moment for me to give a speech without any prior notice but I stood up anyway and started addressing the gathering. I remember I pointed out the values of the accountant

supervisors and talked a little about their duties and so on. Finally I came up to the part where I had to thank the relevant people. While I was going on thanking, I felt somebody pulling down my trousers and I noted Mrs. Ranmali, credit director's secretary who was seated next to me murmuring and trying to say something. But I couldn't understand her. I completed the speech and sat down. Everybody gave a big round of applause and Mrs. Ranmali mumbled "Hatharasinghe you have done a mistake. It was Mr. Shivaji who organized this and you thanked everybody but him". Then only I realized the mistake and wanted to excuse and correct it. But somebody has started another speech and there wasn't a

chance for an apology. I was very upset and felt guilty for a long time for what happened. So I take this as an opportunity to thank Mr. Shivaji for organizing the first ever accounts supervisors dinner party.

Whither Simplicity

By: Pushpa Fonseka

Gone are the days of simple lifestyles. As children, we had simple erasers, pencils, sharpners and school bags in class. Now it is not so. When I see the various types of these items presently, I feel amused and at the same time sad over the unnecessary expenses that parents have to incur to please their children. It is a pity that the young generation cannot be guided to be simple amidst flooding fancy items in the market. Youngsters must be guided to be simple as 'simplicity has a charm of its own', besides simplicity encourages a thrift society avoiding overwhelming desires.

NEW MEMBERS

Eight New Members have joined the Association in the last Few months:

Member No: 248 Mr. Oscar Dias Amaratu
 Member No: 249 Mr. Mahesharatnam
 Member No: 250 Mr. M.A. Kahandage
 Member No: 251 Mr. P.H.Bandusena
 Member No: 252 Mr. M.B.R.A. Fernando
 Member No: 253 Mr. Russell C.M. de la Motte
 Member No: 254 Mr. W. Alfred De Silva
 Member No: 255 Mr. Sanjay SampathRajapakshe

OBITUARIES Mr. Romauld Fernando -
 Mr. Anton L. Silva - 16th November, 2018

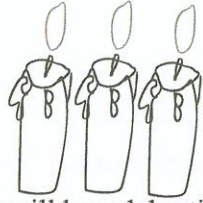
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS - YEAR 2019	
Sing-A-Long" Musical	Saturday 27th April 2019
One Day Outing For Members	Date to be decided
Lunch / Cricket Match Get-together	Date to be decided
Medical Lecture	Date to be decided
Annual General Meeting	Sunday 15th December 2019



BIRTHDAYS

Following members will be celebrating their birthdays in January, February and March. We wish them 'Happy Birthday' and a bright future. Trust we have not missed anyone

January		February		March	
Sivapragasam	2nd	Lashantha Perera	3rd	Pushpa Fonseka	1st
Kathiravelu	4th	Vasantha Wijemanne	3rd	Susima Ponnampereuma	3rd
K.H. Balasingha	7th	Ramani De Fonseka	3rd	C.A Fonseka	9th
H.L.M. Nawaz	7th	Gamini Abeysuriya	4th	Ranjith David	10th
Chandana Wijesundea	10th	W.L.Maithripala	4th	Thanuja Samaranayake	12th
Tamara Sivagurunathan	11th	Ruwan Kasturiarachchi	5th	Janaka Kumarasinghe	13th
Charith Vitharana	12th	L.A. Jayawardena	7th	Bertie Fernando	16th
Manjula Wijemanne	12th	Wasantha Perera	9th	D.D.V.Pathirana	16th
Dilum Mahawatte	14th	Marie Martyn	10th	S.S.Rajapaksa	20th
Erani De Mel	18th	H.M.K. Bandara	11th	Kamalangani Perera	23rd
Nelson Mendis	20th	Sakuntala Armstrong	11th	Sriyani Weerasinghe	23rd
Prageeth Rambukwella	22nd	Judith Vannitamby	14th	G. Devruvan	24th
D.B, Gamage	24th	T.V. Perera	14th	Shiromani Fernando	27th
Neville Peiris	27th	E.D.P. Dharmasena	16th	Swama Prematilleke	28th
Somadasa Welagedera	27th	Nanda Illeperuma	21st	Delricus Peiris	29th
Mangala Welaratne	29th	Krishantha de Alwis	25th		
M.D. Karunaratne	30th	Subadra Alutwatte	27th		
		Yasarathna Peiris	27th		

NEXT NEWSLETTER

We propose to publish the next News Letter in May 2019 subject to availability of suitable articles to fill in at least 6 x A4 pages. Therefore, please send your articles for publication not later than 20th April 2019 to the following address:-

G.C. Wasalathanthri,
No.6A, 6th Lane,
Pagoda Road,
Nugegoda.

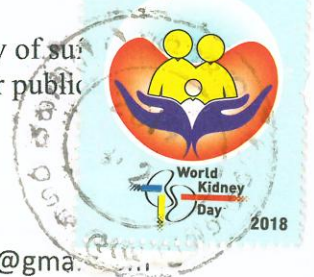
From:

G.C. Wasalathanthri,
No.6A, 6th Lane,
Pagoda Road,
Nugegoda.

Email: gwasalathanthri@gmail.com

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இலங்கை
SRI LANKA

12.00



Mr. G.C. Wasalathanthri,
No.8 6A, 6th Lane, Pagoda Road
NUGEGODA.