



# NEWSLETTER

February 2017

Issue No 37

## ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES OF SINGER

80, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 2

### LAST IN THE SERIES OF ANTIQUE SEWING MACHINES



'A' type Machine with original stand



1859 saw the introduction of the letter 'A' machine. The drive was transmitted between the handle bar and shuttle shaft by a vertical shaft with bevel gearing. The arm was lengthened to provide greater space with more freedom for operating the machine

### FROM THE EDITOR'S

With the dawn of a New Year, fresh hopes, ambitions and expectations emerge in the minds of every individual, young and old and it is the sincere wish of the President and members of the Executive Committee that such hopes will be fulfilled to your entire satisfaction. We also take this opportunity to wish everyone of you, your spouses and children, not forgetting your grandchildren, if there are any, a very happy New Year with good health and prosperity. May all your dreams come true culminating in immense happiness to the entire families.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The sixteenth Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on 11th December 2016 at Janaki Hotel, Fife Road, Colombo 05 with the participation of 62 members. In addition, our Patron Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya, the present Chairman of the Singer Group Dr. Saman Kelegama graced the occasion as special guests. Furthermore, the present Directors of Singer (Sri Lanka) Ltd., Mr. Mahesh Wijewardena and Mr. Kumar Samarasinghe along with Mr. Kelum Kospelawatte from Regnis participated as special invitees. Amongst the members, former Directors Mr. Vidya Vidyaratne and Mr. Vasantha Wijemanna (SIC), Mr. Gamani Abeysuriya and Mr. Chithral Perera (Singer Sri Lanka) were present. At the commencement of the meeting, Mr. Bertie Fernando requested the members present to observe two minutes silence in memory of the members who have passed away (Contd..2)

Reviewing the activities of the Association, Mr. Fernando in his address to the members expressed his satisfaction that all the activities planned by the Executive Committee had been carried out even though the participation of members at these events was far below expectations. He emphasized the importance of members participating in these activities where they could meet, greet and interact with their past colleagues. He also stressed the importance of members sharing their past experiences with their friends by contributing articles to the Newsletter without leaving the responsibility to a handful of members who continuously send articles for publication.

At the conclusion of election of Office Bearers for the current year, the President invited Dr. Saman Kelegama to address the members. Dr.Kelegama in his brief speech said he was extremely happy to be present at this event and said he was equally pleased with the progress made by the Association especially in providing financial assistance to sick members and providing scholarships and educational material to poor students of schools. He was highly impressed with the social work done by the Association and assured he would render whatever assistance he could to foster the praiseworthy activities of the Association.

Concluding Dr.Kelegama said "No organization engaged in any sphere of activity could flourish without the active participation of its members. Words of Wisdom " ***A load has to be shared together, no matter how heavy or light.***" The meeting ended with a fellowship and grand lunch thoroughly enjoyed by the members present.

***A specially designed wall clock with the Association Name and Logo prominently displayed on the face of the clock was given away to the members as a souvenir. This clock was co-sponsored by Mr. Zubair Hassen.***

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 2017

The following members were unanimously elected to serve in the Executive Committee for the year 2017.

Patron:	Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya	COMMITTEE	Mr. G.C. Wasalathanthri
President:	Mr. Bertie Fernando		Mr. John Emmanuel
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Nelson Mendis		Mr. Winston Dabara
	Mr. Kalyana Dhirasekara		Mr. Ranjith David
Secretary:	Mr. S.Anton L.Silva		Ms. Kaushalya Murugadasan
Asst. Secretary:	Ms. Judith Vannitamby		Ms. Sunethra Vidanage
Treasurer:	Mr. A.M.M.Nissar		Mr. Samitha Perera
	Mr. Zubair Hassen		Ms. Kamalangani Perera



### APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

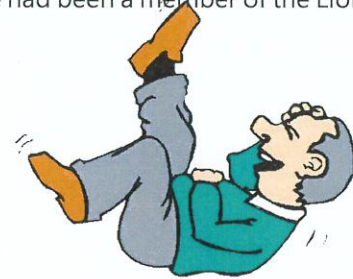
The following Executive Committee Members were appointed by the President, to serve in the Sub-Committees to plan and implement various activities planned for the year.

- 1.SOCIAL & ENTERTAINMENT - Mr.Nelson Mendis, Mr.Kalyana Dhirasekiera, Mr.John Emmanuel, Ms. Kaushalya Murugadasan, Mr. Samitha Perera & Mr. Ranjit David
- 2.SCHOLARSHIP FUND - Ms. Sunethra Vidanage, Mr. Zubair Hassen & Ms. Kamalangani
- 3.NEWSLETTER & PUBLICITY - Mr. Gamini Wasalathanthri & Ms. Judith Vannitamby
- 4.WELFARE OF MEMBERS - Mr.Wincent Dabara & Mr. Zubair Hassen

## හුළං බැස්ස Audit Manager -by Neil Hatharasinghe

When I was working in Anuradhapura District as an Accounts Supervisor in 1986, I was instructed to visit Approved Dealer, Buttala and submit a special report to the Credit Dept. I visited the area and met the Area Manger Mr. Russell De LaMotte the District Manager Mr. Lal Devaraj and planned on how to check the field and started my work. During the checking period I was staying at Monaragala Rest House. A couple of days later when I returned from my work around 6'O clock in the evening, Mr. De La Motte and Mr. Devaraj were also there to spend the night at the rest house. We had a cup of tea and a chat about the progress when all of a sudden Mr. De LaMotte said "Now Mr. Ariyadasa, Approved Dealer- Monaragala will join us for a drink and we shall play a joke on him. "Neil you should act like the Audit Manager. We will respect you and call you 'Sir', and you must call us just Russell and Lal." I agreed and went back to my room where I could see the rest house lobby through the ajar door. Soon after Mr. Ariyadasa came in a van and stepped into the lobby. Then Mr. Russell De LaMotte and Devaraj walked towards my room; knocked on the door and said "නිල් වැඩේ හරි" I came out of the room stepping in to the lobby with the Area manager and the District manager just behind me. As Mr. De LaMotte introduced me, Mr. Ariyadasa stood up and said "Hello Sir" to me quite a number of times. We were talking about business, arrears and the then current marketing situations. In the meantime Mr. De La Motte was answering my questions with 'Yes Sir, No Sir, Right Sir' in a timid voice. Then all of a sudden Mr. Ariyadasa asked "Where's your car Sir?" I said "it was in the garage, I don't like to show it to the Managers (For the record I didn't have one) We were enjoying the drink and gradually everybody was high. Then I asked "Russel what are your plans for tomorrow?" and he said "Sir tomorrow I'm going to Badulla" and I want to check Approved Dealer Monaragala, and if you wish you may also join us. Then at once Mr. Ariyadasa said "Monaragala is ok Sir, everything is up to standard, you better visit AD Buttala; he's having some problems." (Clearly he was trying to avoid my visit and coming up with an excuse.) He was repeating that I don't need to visit Monaragala till I said "Tomorrow the first thing in the morning I will be visiting your shop for the checking and be prepared for it". At once, he stood up and said "සර්ට ඕනෑ නම් බුක්තල වෙස් කරන්න මොණරාගල එන්න එපා" in a strong voice. I was astonished by the way he talked to the Audit Manager, whom I was pretending to be. Lal Devaraj put his hands on his head but Mr. Russell De LaMotte was laughing and giggling, as he was enjoying the situation. Soon after that Mr. Ariyadasa left and the party also came to an end.

After some years I came to know that Mr. Ariyadasa had passed away and that he had been a member of the Lion's club in the area as well as a thug ...



## Laughter is the Medicine - By Neil Hatharasinghe

A leaned and wiry innocent showroom manager who was working in Kegalle district in 1980's had a habit of chewing betel during the work time. This was noted by former Marketing Director Mr. Abeysooriya and advised him a number of times not to do that but that did not work. One day in the morning when he was working inside the showroom time enjoying a "බුලන් පිට", he saw the Marketing Director coming towards the showroom. He was helpless and didn't have time to spit it out and he knew that. He had a glass of water and could not speak a single word !!!! If the Marketing Director sees this, he would be in big trouble. Without thinking twice, he swallowed the "බුලන් පිට". Marketing director was there for a short time and took off to Kandy. Soon after he left the Showroom Manager was sweating and was about to faint. ***I guess still the former Marketing Director Mr Abeysooriya has no idea about this incident and took for off to Kandy. Soon after he left, the Showroom Manger started sweating and was about to faint. He had a glass of water and could not speak out a single word !!!***

**NEW MEMBERS**

We warmly welcome the following five members to our Association, and look forward to their unstinted co-operation in carrying on our activities successfully.

**Member No.**

230  
231  
232  
233  
234

**Name**

Mr. M.Wilfred Dharmasena  
Mr. E.D.P. Gooneratne  
Mr. Dulip Soiysa  
Ms. Prashanthi de Silva  
Mr. C.A. Fonseka



**BIRTHDAYS**

We wish "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" to all our members who are celebrating their birthdays in the months of February, March & April

**FEBRUARY**

Lashantha Perera 3rd  
Vasanthi Wijemanne 3rd  
Ramni de Fonseka 3rd  
Gamani Abeysuriya 4th  
W.L Maithripala 4th  
Ruwana Kasturiarachchi 5th  
L.A. Jayawardena 7th  
Romauld Fernando 7th  
Marie Martyn 10th  
H.M.K Bandara 11th  
Sakuntala Armstrong 11th  
Judith Vannitamby 14th  
T.V. Perera 14th  
M. Wilfred Dharmasena 16th  
Nanda Illeperuma 21st  
Krishantha de Alwis 25th  
Subadra Alutwatte 27th  
Yasaratne Peiris 27th

**MARCH**

Pushpa Fonseka 1st  
Susima Ponnampereuma 3rd  
C.A. Fonseka 9th  
Ranjit David 10th  
Thanuja Samaranyake 12th  
Janaka Kumarasinghe 13th  
Bertie Fernando 16th  
D.D.V. Pathirana 16th  
Kamalangani Perera 23rd  
Sriyani Weerasinghe 23rd  
G. Devruvan 24th  
Swarna Prematilleke 28th  
Delricus Peiris 29th

**APRIL**

D.A. Ariyadasa 3rd  
Ananda Perera 5th  
Ruan Abeyaratne 11th  
Sanath Wijetunge 13th  
Percy Gunawardena 14th  
D.M. Heen Menike 14th  
J.W. Dickman 16th  
Anton Abeysekara 18th  
Ananda Epa 20th  
R.G. Moorthy 20th  
Roshan Kulasuriya 21st  
Nevin Noyahr 23rd  
P. Shivaji 26th

මා සිංගර් සමාජයේ සේවයට සම්බන්ධ වූනේ 1981 දෙසැම්බර් පළමුවෙනිදාය. ඒ කාලය වන විට සමාගමේ සේවකයින්ගේ යැපෙන්නෙක් (මව හෝ පියා) මිය යාමේදී යම් ආධාර මුදලක් ගෙවීමක් තිබුනේ නැත. එසේ ගෙවීමක් කලේ නම් ඒ හිතවත් අය විසින්ම ඒ අවස්ථාවේදී එකතු කළ මුදල් ආධාරයක්ය. මෙම තත්වය සිංගර් ගබඩාවේ සේවය කළ හැම දෙනා අතරට මම කතා බහට යොමුකර පසුව සිංගර් ගබඩාවේ මරණාධාර හා සුඛ සාදක සමිතිය පිලිගත් ව්‍යවස්ථාවකට අනුව පිහිටවිය.

අවුරුද්දක් පමණ ගෙවී යනවිට සමිතියේ අරමුදල තරමක් වැඩිවන විට සමිතියේ සාමාජිකයින්ගේ අසනීප තත්වයකදී හදිසි මුදලක් ණය වශයෙන් ලබා දීමේ වැඩ පිලිවෙලද සක්‍රීය කරණ ලදී. ඒ වන විට ණය මුදල වශයෙන් ලබා දුන්නේ රු 500කි. මරණයකදී බැතරයක් පාලම් කොඩියක්ද සකස් කරණ ලදී. 2016 සැප්තැම්බර් මස 22වෙනි දින සමිතියේ අරමුදල ශක්තිමත් කර ගැනීම සඳහා වූ ලොතරුයි දිනුම් ඇදීම සඳහා මටද ආරාධනාවක් ලැබුණි. මම එයට සහභාගි වීම මෙයින් මම අදහස් කරනුයේ ආදි සිංගර් සාමාජිකයෙක් වශයෙන් අප අතීතයේ සමාගමේ සේවය කරණ කාල වකවානුවේදී කරණ ලද යම් යහපත් දෙයක් වේනම් අපගේ සැදෑ සමයේදී ඒවා දැක ලබන සතුට කොතරම්ද යන්නය. අපි ඉදිරියටත් යහපත් දේ කරමු එයයි අපේ පැතුම අපේ සතුට.

මංගල වේලාත්ත

**ENGLISH DAY AT STANLEY THILAKARATNE PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
MIRIHANA, NUGEGODA**



Continuing with our program to provide assistance to poor students, the Executive Committee decided to donate Gift Packs containing English Story Books to 170 students on the English Day at the school. This donation was made at the request of the Principal who had organised the event with the assistance of the teachers and parents

The Gift Packs worth Rs.30000/= were presented to the poor students by our Treasurer Mr. A.M.M.Nissar and Executive Committee member Ms. Sunethra Vidanage in the presence of a large gathering of parents.

The assistance given by the Association to the poor students of the school was highly appreciated by the Divisional Director of Education and In-service Adviser for English who were present at this event and the Principal, Teachers and Parents as well.

Speaking at the function, the Principal said that in addition to the donation of gift packs, the Association was continuing to provide financial assistance to 12 students from the poorest of poor families in the area to continue with their studies without any hindrance. Concluding her speech, she said the assistance given by the Association was praiseworthy and should serve as an example to other similar organizations.

**By: Sunethra Vidanage**

අපේ යහපත් පැවැත්ම අපේම සතුටට හේතුවනු ඇත. යම් කෙනෙක් වරදක් කළවිට එයින් පළමුවම දුකට පත්වන්නේ තමුන්මයි. අපේ වැරදි වැඩිවලට වෙනත් අය පටලවා හෝ එයින් ගැලවෙන්නට ඕදෙන්නට උත්සාහ කළද තමන්ගේ සිත තමන්ට නොදැනුවත්ව සාප කරණු ඇත. සිතට එකඟව සෑම කෙනෙක්ම ජීවිතය හැඩගස්වා ගැනීමට උත්සාහ කළ යුතුය. යමෙක් වටිනා ඇඳුම් ඇඳගෙන සුවඳ වලවුන් තවරාගෙන පිටස්තරයන්ට පෙනෙන්නට සිටියත් තමන්ගේ සිතට එකඟව තම ජීවිත රටාව සකස් කරගෙන නැතිනම් එයින් උවදොන්නේ අන් අය නොවේ තමන්මය. අන් අය රටවා මුදල් උපයාගන්නා අය වත්මන් සමාජයේ ඔනෑතරම් ජීවත් වෙති. අන් අය රටවා බොරු කියා තමන් කැපී පෙනෙන්නට කොකරම් උත්සහ කළත් තමන්ගේ සිත තමන්ට පාලනය කර ගැනීමට නොහැකිවන තරමටම බොරුව තමන්ට බලපෑම් කරයි.

මේනිසා කිසිවකුගේ ජීවිතයට මුදලට ක්‍රියාවලට වඩා වැදගත් වන්නේ තමන්ගේ සිතට එකඟව කටයුතු කිරීමය. කිසිවෙකු උවදොන්නට පෙර තමන් උවදොන බව වටහා ගැනීම වැදගත් වේ. අනුන්ගේ වැරදි අඩුපාඩුකම් පෙන්වා දීමට පෙර තමන්ගේ අඩුපාඩු පිළිබඳව තමන් මොහොතක් දැස් පියාගෙන කල්පනා කිරීම වඩා වැදගත් වනු ඇත. අපගේ ජීවිතය දවසින් දවස වෙනස් වේ පරිසරය වටාපිට පරිසරය සංස්කෘතිය සඳාචාරය සිරිත් විරිත් යනාදී සෑම දෙයක්ම වෙනස්වන ලෝකයේ වෙනස් නොවන එකම දෙය නම් වෙනස් වීමය. අපි හැමෝම තත්පරයෙන් තත්පරය මරණය කරා පියවර තබන බව ඔබ දන්නවාද. මෙම යතාර්ථය අප පැහැදිලිව අවබෝධ කරගත යුතුය. මෙය තේරුම් ගැනීමට හැකිවන පුද්ගලයා මරණයට බය නැත. තමන් වැරදි වැඩ කර නැත්නම් මරණයට බියවිය යුතු නොවේ.

අප සිදු කරණ ප්‍රථම යහපත් ක්‍රියාවන් අපට කවදා හෝ ප්‍රයෝජනය වනු ඇත. අප මී අඹ ඇටයක් රෝපනය කළවිට එලය අස්වන්න මී අඹයි. අපි කටට ගන්නට බැරි ඇඹුල් අඹ ඇටයක් රෝපනය කළවිට එයින් ලැබෙන්නේ කටට ගන්නට බැරි ඇඹුල් අඹයි. එනිසා අප කරණ සෑම යහපත් අයහපත් ක්‍රියාවක් සඳහාම ප්‍රති ක්‍රියාවක් ඇත හොඳ දේ සඳහා හොඳ ප්‍රතිපලක් නරක දේ සඳහා නරක ප්‍රතිපලක් අපට ලැබෙනු ඇත. මේනිසා අපේ ජීවිතයේ සැදැසුම සමය අවසන් වීමට ඇත්තේ ඉතාම කෙටි කාලයකි. එනිසා අපි යහපත් දේ පමණක් තෝරා ගමු නරක සියල්ල අත් හරිමු. නොකරමු.

තම තමන්ගේ ආගම දහමට අනුව යහපත් දේ කරමු. එයින් තමන්ගේ සිතට සතුටක් ඇති වේ. ලබන්නා වූ අසිරිමත් තත්ත්ව කාලයක් 2017 අලුත් අවුරුද්දත් අපි අපේ ජීවිතයේ අලුත්ම ආරම්භයක් කරා පෙරටම ගෙනයමු. ආදි සිංගර සාමාජිකයින් සෑමවන් උදාවන්නාවූ අලුත් අවුරුද්ද වාසනාවන්ත වේවා කියා පතමි.

**මංගල වේලාරක්ක**

ආදි සිංගර් සාමාජිකයින්ගේ සමාජය විසින් සංවිධානය කරණ ලද 2016 එක්දින විනෝද වැඩ සටහන සාර්ථකවූවා යයි මම අදහස් කරමි. 2016 ඔක්තෝබර් 01 වෙනි දින ලෝක වැඩිහිටි දිනයයි. මෙම විනෝද වැඩ සටහන පැවැත්වූයේ ඔක්තෝබර් 02 වෙනි දිනයේ දීය. ඒ අනුව මට හැගෙන්නේ ලෝක වැඩිහිටි දිනයට සමගාමීව මෙම වැඩ සටහන පැවති බවකි. කෙසේ වුවද මෙවැනි වැඩ සටහන් වලින් සිදුවන්නේ අපගේ සමීප සම්බන්ධතාවයන් සහෝදරත්වයන් වෙන් නොවී දිගින් දිගටම පවත්වාගෙන යාමකි.

මෙම විනෝද වැඩ සටහනට මට සම්බන්ධ වන්නට හැකි වූයේ ඉතාම කෙටි වේලාවක් පමණකි. මට වෙනත් සමාජ වැඩ සටහනකට යාමට තිබූ නිසාය. අවසන් වන තෙක් රු.දී සිව්මට නොහැකි වීම සම්බන්ධව මම කණගාටු වෙමි. අප මෙවැනි වැඩ සටහන් සඳහා සම්බන්ධ වීමට නිතරම උත්සාහ කළ යුතුය වැටුපක් හෝ වෙනත් ලාභයක් අපේක්ෂා නොකර ඉතාම වෙහෙස මහන්සිව සංවිධායක මණ්ඩලය විසින් පිලියෙල කරණ වැඩ සටහන් වලින් සංවිධායක මණ්ඩලයද තාප්තිමත් නොවූහොත් නැවත වැඩ සටහන් සඳහා යොමුවීමේදී දෙවරක් තෙවරක් සිතිමට ඉඩ ඇත.

මෙහිසා සියළුම ආදි සිංගර් සාමාජිකයින් අපේ ඉදිරිපත් වීම මැදිහත් වීම සඳහා හැකි උපරිම ලෙස දායක වෙමු. අපේ සම්බන්ධතාවය ගොඩ නගමු. සංවිධායක මණ්ඩලයට තව තවත් සමාජික වැඩ සටහන් සඳහා කටයුතු කිරීමට ශක්තිය තිරෝගි සුවය වේවා කියා පතමි.

**මංගල වේලාරත්න**

**NEXT NEWSLETTER**

We propose to release the next Newsletter in May 2017. Please therefore send in your articles for publication to reach the Editor by 20th April 2017. Post or e-mail your articles to:-



5. Mr. G.C. Wasalathanthri,  
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