

Greetings from the 2012 MEA Board Of Directors

After last year's tremendous success, we have a tough act to follow. We thank the 2011 team as well as all members, patrons, friends and well wishers for supporting MEA in all its endeavors throughout the years. We solicit your support and active participation in all MEA 2012 activities. Help us make 2012 another memorable year for the organization.

Events for the Year 2012:

- Spring Picnic & GBM
- MEA Talent Fest
- 2012 Scholarship Fundraiser Gala
- MEA Cultural Nite
- Christmas Dinner

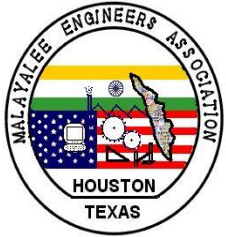


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MEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS for 2012

Events: Gayathri Rao & Poornima Ajayan	President: Sudhir Nair	Treasurer: Swarup John
Communications: Ansu Abraham	President Elect: Hari Nair	Secretary: Siby Paul



Prafulla Pillai Scholarship Ceremony



The Prafulla Pillai Scholarship ceremony took place on 24th January, 2012 at the CETAA HALL, College of Engineering Trivandrum. 'Prafulla Memorial Scholarship ' is presented as a merit-cum-means scholarship to a lady engineering student from Kerala in honor of Mrs. Prafulla Pillai (1967 Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering, Trivandrum), who was a beloved member of MEA Houston.

Scholarships were awarded to several students. Kavya, a student of IIT Madras was the recipient of the Prafulla Pillai Scholarship. Mr. Nallina Pillai, husband of Prafulla Pillai and also an alumni of CET, addressed the gathering and gave the audience more information about MEA and its activities.

2011 MEA Scholarships for 4 students of Trivandrum Engineering College were awarded by Mr. Satish Babu, Chairman of IEEE, Kerala Chapter.

Thankam Aunty's inspirational contributions to MEA and the scholarship program continue even after she is no more with us.



MEA ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

Looking back at 2011

We would like to express our gratitude to the 2011 MEA BOD and to all members, friends and family for their dedicated efforts to make 2011 a most successful year. We request your continued cooperation and support throughout 2012 as well.

The highlight of 2011 was **Musical Night – Raga Sandhya-2011** with two leading Kerala artists, G. Venugopal and Gayatri, well known playback singers from Kerala. This was the largest fund raising events in MEA's 15 years of history. The Event led by chair person Reji Joseph was a great success. Congratulations to the 2011 MEA Board for their immensely successful and trendsetting year.

In October 2011, all who attended the Annual MEA Cultural Meet with Onam Sadya and Onam Cultural program enjoyed the functions greatly.

2011 was drawn to a close with a **GBM and Christmas dinner & cultural program** on 11th December 2012. It also confirmed the selection of 7 active directors for 2012.

Annual scholarships for sixteen new engineering students were awarded in March 2012 in addition to 11 students of 2010 & 10 students of 2009. To date MEA has supported over 91 students for their entire engineering college life of 4 years. Totally this year MEA disbursed \$27,500 for its scholarship of which \$5500 was due for 2010.

MEA expresses its gratitude to all the members, donors and partner organizations whose contributions have made the scholarship program a big success.

Looking Ahead to 2012

We start 2012 MEA events with our picnic on March 24 at Eldridge Park, Sugarland. On our picnic menu is Appam, Curry and Payasam. A General Body meeting is planned at 10 am. Fun Sports and Recreational activities for the whole family are on the agenda. Please join us at the picnic and help us kickoff the year.

An MEA Talent Fest is planned for May 5. It is still not too late to register in various events such as singing, poetry, chess, math Olympiad, painting, essay writing, dancing etc. Compete and encourage talent in our community by taking part in the MEA Talent Fest.

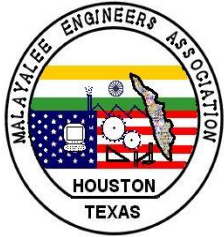
The annual scholarship fund raiser event this year will be a gala dinner toward the end of summer. We request the help of all members to make this gala a success.

The annual MEA Cultural Nite for the year 2012 will be organized in October.

MEA Dallas has invited our members on November 3rd for a camping trip they are organizing. This is a great chance to network with MEA members in the Dallas area. More information will be provided later.

The annual MEA Christmas Dinner is scheduled tentatively for December 1st.

More information on each of these events will be provided closer to each event. We request all members to actively participate in various MEA events.

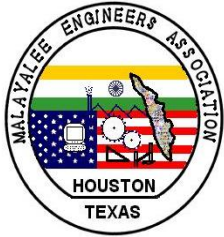


MEA SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDS 2011- 2012

Sixteen engineering students in Kerala have been selected to receive the MEA scholarship. Their details are listed below. The students have been selected after a detailed review of their applications using the MEA scholarship award guidelines and a thorough background information check.

List of Scholarship Recipients – 2012

Sl. No	Student	College	Branch
1	Ajesh A. Babu	College of Engineering, Trivandrum	Computer Science & Engineering
2	Ajith VS	TKM College of Engineering, Kollam	Electrical & Electronics Engineering
3	Ariya A. Babu	MA College of Engineering, Kothamangalam	Electronics & Communication Engineering
4	Ashna Joe Cyriac	College of Engineering, Trivandrum	Electrical & Electronics Engineering
5	Aswin A	TKM College of Engineering, Kollam	Electronics & Communication Engineering
6	Basil George	NIT, Calicut	Mechanical Engineering
7	Dani Jose	MA College of Engineering, Kothamangalam	Civil Engineering
8	Deljo David	Govt. Engineering College, Thrissur	Electronics & Communication Engineering
9	Digil MD	Govt. Engineering College, Thrissur	Mechanical Engineering
10	Dileep Kumar MD	College of Engineering, Trivandrum	Mechanical Engineering
11	Harikrishnan K	Govt. Engineering College, Thrissur	Mechanical Engineering
12	Harikrishnan KG	College of Engineering, Trivandrum	Civil Engineering
13	Kavya Sabu	IIT, Madras	Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering
14	Nivedhya Raj PK	Govt. Engineering College, Thrissur	Electrical & Electronics Engineering
15	Shiny Rajan	Govt. Engineering College, Thrissur	Electronics & Communication Engineering
16	Tipson Joseph	TKM College of Engineering, Kollam	Electrical & Electronics Engineering



MEA 2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The MEA committee for 2012 took over the responsibilities from the office bearers of 2011 MEA committee in January. The board of directors of MEA 2012 constitutes of:

President:	Sudhir Nair
President Elect:	Hari Nair
Secretary:	Siby Paul
Treasurer:	Swarup John
Events:	Gayathri Rao & Poornima Ajayan
Communications:	Ansu Abraham

MEA Spring Picnic

The MEA Spring family picnic and General Body Meeting (GBM) is planned for March 24 at Eldridge Park in Sugarland at 10 am.

An Easter Egg Hunt for kids and various outdoor games and sports activities are on the agenda.

We invite all to join in a game of Cricket as well as other sports activities.



MEA Scholarship Fundraiser - 2012

The annual scholarship fund raiser event, this year is a Gala Dinner at the Shahnai Banquet Hall. Dress up in all your finery and Join us for a fun evening of dinner and dancing with DJ. More details will be announced later.

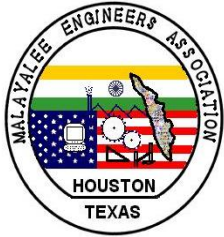
MEA Talent Fest

The MEA Talent Fest is on May 5. This is an opportunity for all to showcase their talent and compete in categories like Singing & Dancing (classical and cinematic), Math Olympiad, Essay Writing, Poetry, Painting, Chess. Please send in your registration entries from the mea website before March 30. Events without sufficient entries will be cancelled.

MEA Cultural Nite - 2012

The annual MEA Cultural Nite for the year 2012 will be organized in October and more details will be announced later.





MEA Kerala Initiative

The 'Art of Giving' is catching on - Report by Nallina Pillai



With the number of MEA scholars reaching close to 100, it seems that MEA's efforts of popularizing "giving" to the right cause is catching on. Several MEA alumni scholars, who immensely benefited from the program, came to MEA Houston with their interest to participate in the scholarship plan from a giving angle rather than the receiving. This is a great moment of relief and joy to the several members, who always put the program on the forefront of their duty.

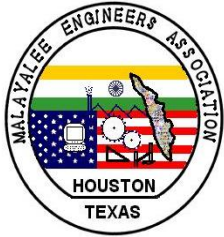
Vijay Kayath who founded and has been involved with the scholarship program for many years is investigating and nourishing this fantastic opportunity along with discussions with few other MEA members and the board.

He writes: " Realizing this as a good opportunity to continue the chain of charity, MEA Houston is partnering with our well-wishers and MEA Scholars' alumni to set up a charitable society in Kerala. This society will be a channel to receive and distribute contributions from former MEA Scholars to needy students in Kerala and to utilize the intellectual resources of the growing number of MEA Scholars Alumni.

Because MEA Scholars are scattered all over India and many of them do not know each other, it is difficult for them to establish and run an organization in the formative years. For this reason, MEA Houston members are stepping in to facilitate its formation and registration.

After considering a few different approaches, it was decided to pursue a concept which seems to have the best probability of success. In this concept, the Society in Kerala will be set up by individual well-wishers of MEA Houston and MEA Scholars.

These individuals may be professors or ex-professors in engineering colleges, retired engineers, professionals in industrial concerns etc. They and some MEA scholars will constitute the executive committee of the Society; MEA Houston may have a representative in the executive committee in the initial few years.



Malayalee Engineers' Association Houston, Texas.

VARTHAKAL

www.meahouston.org

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MEA Kerala Initiative

The Society established in Kerala will be an independent and possibly a charitable organization in India and will not attempt to be a part of MEA Houston and nor will it fund or have any control of MEA Houston.

While MEA Houston will not have any tangible benefits, this partnership with the Society may gain us the goodwill and cooperation of some young engineers, educators and even ordinary people sympathetic to helping needy students.

In future, the Society will be self-sustaining. It will fund its activities from membership dues just as we are doing at MEA Houston. We hope that this Society will grow over the years and MEA Scholars, other Scholarship holders and engineers in general will participate in it, in increasing numbers, and continue the chain of charity.

The Society will have its own rules and criteria to dispose of the donations it collects. MEA Houston can propose to the Society names of deserving students whom we are unable to award scholarships. But it will be up to the Society to accept or reject MEA Houston's recommendations.

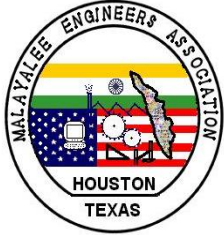
The Memorandum of Application and Bylaws required to register the Society have been drafted and are under review to ensure that they pass scrutiny by the Registrar of Societies in Kerala. The goal is to register the Society by end of August, 2012."

This effort is being led by MEA member Vijay Kayath with assistance from Sibi Kuruvilla and Nalina Pillai. You may contact Vijay at 281-242-5936 for further information. He can also be reached by email at vkayath@gmail.com

Let us wish Vijay all success in his efforts and assure him that MEA Houston is behind spreading charity always! Please interact with Vijay and provide any support you can to tap this great opportunity.

Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another.

GILBERT K. CHESTERTON



MEA 2012 Membership Drive

The success of MEA depends on its members. Members are encouraged to renew their memberships for the year 2012. The annual membership fee is currently 35 USD only.

Payments can be made with check or cash to the treasurer. MEA also provides the opportunity to make membership payments online at www.meahouston.org using Paypal or bring your checks to the picnic where our treasurer will accept it.

Please spread the word and encourage your friends to join MEA and help the organization grow.

Corporate Donation Matching

Donations to MEA are tax exempt under 501 (c) (3) and many major corporations will match employee donations and even services to MEA. Members are requested to check with their employers if such a scheme is available within the company which can supplement their contributions to MEA.

For 2011, such corporate matching of donations contributed over \$3000 USD to the scholarship funds. These contributions match scholarship commitments from our members.

Corporate Sponsors in 2011

Microsoft
GE
Chevron
SBM

Advertising in MEA Website & Newsletter

The MEA website and newsletter offer a tremendous opportunity for local businesses based in Houston to advertise and reach out to a large community.

The advertising fee is fixed at 50 USD per year providing advertisement space on the MEA website, the quarterly newsletter and also at the various annual events and picnics hosted by MEA. In addition to providing advertisement benefits to the businesses, this will also provide valuable contributions to the scholarship fund.

If you are interested in advertising options through MEA, please email meahouston@yahoo.com for more information.

Call for Articles

Writers in MEA family: Please send in articles (technical, non-technical, humorous notes), stories, notices about important events, announcements etc. We will publish them in the next issue. The newsletter presents a great opportunity to the MEA member families and children to showcase their literary talents. It also helps us in making the newsletter more interesting and exciting.

Please email your articles to meahouston@yahoo.com.