



Malayalee Engineers' Association, Houston

# New Year, New Start 2018

Newsletter, 22 May 2018

Volume 1, Issue 1

## Special points of interest:

- 2018 Board and transition from 2017 board members
- Events conducted and upcoming events
- Scholarship program updates
- Fund Raising options

## Inside this issue:

Message from the President	1
MEA Board of Directors 2018	1
Scholarship program coordinators	3
Spring Picnic and GBM	3
Arts & Chess Competition	4
Upcoming Events	5
Winners of MEA Scholarships and Donations	6
MEA LinkedIn Group	7
Volunteering at EcoBot challenge	7

## Message from the President

“Connecting people and Making a Difference” at a personal and professional level, has been the core of MEA’s purpose throughout its existence. Over the years we have evolved as a team, both in terms of our goals and means of achieving those goals. MEA has been making significant impact in the lives of many talented students through our scholarship program. Cultural, sports and technical events help build connections between our members.

The new Board of Directors of 2018 have planned several programs and events keeping our key goals in mind. We already have conducted *Annual Spring Picnic* and *Children’s*

*Art/Chess Competitions* with overwhelming response and participation. There are many more events and programs for kids and adults in planning. Our organization’s strength lies on our membership base and the voluntary work and cooperation we receive from every one of our members and their families. I request you to join or renew your MEA membership.

Regardless of your background or experience, there are several ways in which you can help make a difference in MEA, such as helping in various scholarship related activities starting from receipt of applications to evaluations, back-

ground verification and selection. In addition, you can also help in organizing events, programs at various levels. Please reach out to the MEA Board at [meahouston@gmail.com](mailto:meahouston@gmail.com) with your specific interest and suggestions.

I personally request your support, participation and active engagement in all MEA programs. With your generous help we are sure to have a very productive year ahead of us. We look forward to hear from you.

**Naveen T Kochoth**

President, MEA Houston

## MEA Board of Directors for 2018

Following are the Board of Directors for 2018.

**President:**

Naveen Kochoth

**Secretary:**

Subin Balakrishnan

**Treasurer:**

Ramadas K

**Communications:**

Anjali Narayan

Shimsy Anna Varkey

**Community Outreach and Events:**

Beena Harish

Vijay Kayath

Remasankar S Nair



## Know your Board Members



**Naveen Kochoth, President** is a Cybersecurity professional and works with Wipro. He graduated from Govt. Engg College, Kannur and his home town in Kerala is Kannur. His wife Shimna Naveen is an engineer and she is from Bangalore.



**Subin C Balakrishnan, Secretary** is an IT professional; He is employed at Capgemini, Houston. He has his degree from CUSAT; He hails from Palakkad; His wife Shyja is also an engineer at Capgemini Houston.



**Ramadas K** is the **Treasurer**. He received his degree from NCERC, Pampady, Thrissur. He works for GenPact LLC, Houston. His hometown in Kerala is Shoranur. His wife Biji Ramadas is an engineer and works for Chevron.



**Anjali Narayan, Director** shares the MEA Communications responsibilities with Shimsy Anna. She has her degree from KVG College of Engg and masters from Manipal Institute of Technology; She works for LEAM Drilling Systems, Conroe. She is from Kannur. Her husband Abhijit Baburaj is a former Director of MEA 2016.



**Shimsy Anna, Director**, shares communications responsibilities with Anjali. She received her degree from AAM College of Engg., Tamil Nadu. Her husband Ajay is a Marine Technical advisor at Shell Trading, Houston.



**Beena Harish, Director**, is a continuing member of the 2017 BoD and will share responsibilities with other directors. She graduated from NSSCE, Palakkad and works for Harris County. Beena is from Ottappalam and is married to Harish Pillai, a former director of MEA.



**Remasankar, Director**, will share responsibilities related to event planning and organizing, membership drive and community outreach with other directors. He is employed at IBS Software, Houston. He graduated from Birla Institute of Technology, Pilani. He and wife Dr. Heera hail from Kollam.



**Ravi Nair, Director**, will help in event planning and organizing and community outreach. He is employed at Exxon Mobil. He graduated from GEC, Thrissur and is a native of Kottayam. Ravi is married to Dr. Jaya Nair; they live in The Woodlands.



**Vijay Kayath, Director**, will share responsibilities with other directors including liaising between the BOD and the Scholarship Program Committee. He is a retired engineer; previously worked at Excel Engg. Inc., Houston. He graduated from GEC, Thrissur. He had served as Secretary and SPC of MEA in the past. Wife: Sudha.

New Year, New Start

## Our Scholarship Program Coordinators

**Ramesh Raghavan,** a long-time member of MEA has been in-



involved with MEA's scholarship program in various capacities. Most recently he was the Additional Scholarship Program Coordinator (ASPC) assisting Mr. Rajendran Raghavan. Ramesh will serve as the SPC in 2018. He is a Naval Architect from CUSAT and did his graduate studies at University of New Orleans. He works as a consultant. He hails from Thiruvananthapuram

**Jolly James** is a long-time member of MEA and



has graciously volunteered to be the ASPC, assisting Ramesh Raghavan. Jolly James is a facility engineer with Chevron. He holds a graduate degree in Ocean Engineering from Texas A&M University and an undergraduate degree from CUSAT. He is a past chairperson of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers' Texas section.

**Sibi Kuruvilla:** Senior members of MEA will fondly

remember Sibi for his passion and dedication to all MEA activi-



ties in the past, especially his efforts in streamlining MEA's Scholarship Program and making applicants' background verification a key element of the selection process. .

Sibi works for Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems in Washington, DC. He graduated from CET, Trivandrum and did graduate studies at N. Carolina State University.

*we had*

*a fabulously*

*successful Spring*

*Picnic and General*

*Body Meeting on*

*March 24*

## Spring Picnic and GBM on 24 March 2018



With the onset of Spring and the cooperation of Mother Nature, we had a fabulously successful Spring Picnic on March 24. MEA 2018 board of directors wishes to thank each one of you who attended the picnic. We had an impressive turn out of about 90 people. The team had arranged several games for kids and adults alike, such as includ-

ing treasure hunt for kids, Tug of War for men and women. The attraction of the Tug of War was the finale between

men and women. Ladies team clearly came out in flying colors at the end. Hurray!

A photography contest for picnic participants was introduced this year. Candid pictures depicting the fun nature of the picnic were invited to be entered in the contest. The jury consisted of Anoop Nair, Cuckoo Joy

and Ranjith Nair. Mr. Mathew Roy sanitized the pictures such that contestant identities were removed before sending them to jurors. Thank you for your time and efforts towards this.

The contestant whose pics won **1st and 3rd** prize (of \$75 and \$25) wishes to remain anonymous and donate the prize money to MEA scholarship fund. **2nd** prize (of \$50) winner— **Melvin Mathew**



We also had a General Body Meeting (GBM) chaired by Mr. Rajesh Kavilveedu, MEA President for 2017 who introduced the nominees for the posts of directors for 2018. The nominees were approved by the members who attended the meeting. Rajesh also presented a summary of the financial status of the organization and the funds available for the Scholarships.

The financial health of the organization remains robust. Based on the donations from MEA members, well-wishers and corporate matching funds, MEA is funding ten new scholarships this year.

The outgoing Scholarship Program Coordinator, Mr. Rajendran Raghavan announced that ten students were selected by the Selection Committee for this

year's scholarships. Please see page 7 for the list of this year's scholarship winners. Mr. Ramesh Raghavan will take over the responsibilities of SPC. Mr. Jolly Jacob was appointed as the Additional SPC and Mr. Sibi Kuruvilla will fill the vacant spot for the Mentoring Program Coordinator (MPC).

MEA wanted to do something special for our kids. Arts/Chess Competition was exclusively for kids

## Arts & Chess Competition - 13 May 2018

With a strong desire to do something for our kids, MEA BoD planned and conducted an Art and Chess Competition for kids between the ages of 3 –17 Yrs. We had an impressive participation of about 40 kids for the event. For painting and drawing, the competition was conducted for 3 age categories with separate themes. For Chess, 3 rounds of games were conducted under Swiss format and the final winner was decided after a tie breaker game. The Chess

competition was directed by a seasoned coach **Gilberto Guadiana**.

The drawing/painting submissions are under evaluation and winners will be announced shortly. Chess completion winners:

Ivan Jose—Overall winner

Vivaan Vijay—Special recognition.

We want to thank **Aloha (Mind Math, Reading & Writing)** Sugar Land, for providing the venue for the competitions.

We thank all the participants and their parents for the overwhelming response



New Year, New Start



Many interesting events are planned throughout the year. We request your support

## Upcoming Events

Several events are being considered for the remainder of 2018, after getting feedback from MEA members and families. Decisions are made based on the extent of participation and help from MEA volunteers to organize and execute the events, children's school closing /summer vacation time, availability of venues and Houston area cultural programs already announced by other organizations

- An **Overnight Tent Camping** has been planned on Saturday, 26 May at Stephen F Austin State Park. We are in the last stages of

preparations. Get ready for a fun filled adventure.

- **MEA Cultural Night** is on **September 22, 2018**. Please Save the Date

Other events under consideration

- **MEA Badminton Tournament** - Planned in August 2018. Stay tuned for further communication
- **EcoBot Challenge preparation and introduction to Robotics** - To be started soon
- **'Tech Talk'** or semi-

nars

- **Annual Banquet** for MEA members

We request your full support and participation.

New Year, New Start

## Winners of MEA Scholarships- 2017

1. Abhishek, T	Computer Science	College of Engineering, Trivandrum
2. Vishnu, M G	Mechanical Engg	Govt. Engg College, Barton Hills, Trivandrum
3. Robin Babu	Computer Science	College of Engineering, Trivandrum
4. Ajay Duth	Computer Science	College of Engineering, Trivandrum
5. Sarath K P	Elect Eng & Electro	National Institute of Technology, Calicut
6. Minnu Saji *	Electronics & Comm.	National Institute of Technology, Calicut
7. Shamna, S	Civil Engg	TKM College of Engg., Kollam
8. Anandu G Kumar	Mechanical Engg	TKM College of Engg., Kollam
9. Nadir Salam M	Chemical Eng	National Institute of Technology, Calicut
10. Arjun, V	Mechanical Engg	College of Engineering, Trivandrum

\* Winner of Prafulla Memorial Scholarship 2017

MEA makes a  
significant difference  
in the lives of many  
Engineering Students.  
Be a part of it

## Donations to MEA Scholarship Fund

### MEA Scholarship Fund:

Donations to support MEA's scholarship program are accepted throughout the year. We are a tax-exempt organization under IRS Code Section 501(c)3. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent laws in USA allow. You may send your donation check made payable to MEA Houston Scholarship Fund to: **Malayalee Engineers' Association, 8303 S.W. Freeway, Suite # 335, Houston, Texas 77074.** You

can also donate online using the Donation Form on our website.



New Year, New Start

## MEA LinkedIn Group



MEA has embarked on several initiatives to enable

connect, collaboration and flow of information seamlessly among our members. In addition to several off-work events that we conduct, MEA wants to help connect our members at a professional level as well.

With that objective in mind, we have consolidated the existing MEA LinkedIn

groups and started adding members to this group. Eventually this group will help facilitate the objectives mentioned above.

MEA members and potential members are encouraged to join the LinkedIn group and start connecting to other members in the group.

### How to connect:

[Malayalee Engineers' Association\(MEA\) Houston](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12067356) (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12067356>)

Visit MEA Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/meahouston](http://www.facebook.com/meahouston) for frequent updates on MEA activities

e-mail: [meahouston@gmail.com](mailto:meahouston@gmail.com)

MEA

LinkedIn group

will enable connects

between members at

a professional

level

## Volunteering at All-Earth EcoBot Challenge® - 2019

The 2018 All-Earth EcoBot Challenge® was held on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at Reliant Center, Houston. The All-Earth EcoBot Challenge®, organized by Education Foundation of Harris County (EFHC), is an innovative engineering competition for 5th through 8th graders. In this challenge, 4-person student teams designed, built and programmed autonomous robots, to accomplish missions. As part of the competition, school children also learned how to build these robots.

Although MEA children could not take part in this year's competition, we will lay the ground work for next year's competition and prepare and train interested children. The April 21st



event had several teams with 4 children in each team covering various schools and organizations. The event, which has evolved from a modest participation of 25 teams in 2009, was a huge success with over 2000 attendees. MEA con-

gratulates EFHC on a job well done!

MEA strongly supports educational activities such as robotic challenge for children. We will continue to promote EcoBot Challenge and urge our members to volunteer for next year's competition and encourage their children to participate in the 2019 competition. Details of the EcoBot Challenge 2019 will be available in October-November 2018 and MEA will share it with its members.



# MEA Membership

To all of you who have registered and paid membership fees so far, we extend a warm welcome and “Thank You!” If you have not renewed your MEA membership for 2018, please do so online at the MEA web page <http://meahouston.org/join/renew> . For those of you, who still prefer to pay their membership dues by check, please use the form below.

## MEA 2018 - Membership Registration Form to Join or Renew Membership

Please fill the form below and mail to Malayalee Engineers’ Association, C/O Ramadas Kandoth, 225 Fluor Daniel Dr., Apt 8110

**Sugar Land, TX 77479.** Include your annual membership fee of \$50 in the form of check, made payable to MEA Houston.

*Privacy statement: All your personal details will remain private with us. We however, publish the name of member, name of employer (or state self-employed / retired) and alma mater of our paid memberships on our website. If you would like to keep this information private too, please do mention it in the comment field below.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Engineering College: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Town in Kerala: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

MEA activities in which you can volunteer to help MEA Houston:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Comments:

Annual membership begins on March 1, 2018 and expires on February 28, 2019 coinciding with MEA’s financial year. Membership of those who joined or renewed membership during January and February 2018 will expire on the 28th of February, 2019.





## Malayalee Engineer's Association, Houston

8303 S.W. Freeway,  
Suite # 335  
Houston, Texas 77074

### Phone Inquiries:

President : 612-803-1873  
Treasurer : 925-487-2008

The **Malayalee Engineers' Association (MEA)** of Houston, TX is a professional, non profit, non political, and secular organization of engineering graduates of Malayalee origin.

The organization provides a forum to professionally and socially interact, engage in charitable activities and find ways to promote organizational growth. Through its scholarship initiative, MEA provides financial assistance and mentoring to economically backward and academically brilliant undergraduate engineering students in India.

MEA is a registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.

---

WEARE ON THE WEB

WWW.MEAHOUSTON.ORG

---

## Editorial policy

MEA Newsletter presents a great opportunity to the MEA member families and children to showcase their creative talents. It also helps us in making the newsletter more interesting and exciting. Please email your submissions to

[meahouston@gmail.com](mailto:meahouston@gmail.com).

### Your contributions can be:

News of general interest to our members and families: This may include announcements of achievements of MEA members, their spouses and children; new initiatives; Stories, essays, poems, paintings and drawings;

News on new projects that may benefit our Engineers' community, conferences, job vacancies.

### Letters to the Editor:

Responses (<400 words) to material published in the Newsletter.

Submissions shall be in English or Malayalam prepared in Microsoft Word or .pdf formats. Pictures and illustrations should be in as high resolution as possible to allow for proper downscaling and submitted as separate files in JPG or JPEG format.

Articles and stories shall be non-political and non-religious in nature. MEA

Director Board reserves the right to edit all submissions for content, language and style and to reject submissions without assigning reasons.

### -MEA Director Board