



Malayalee Engineers' Association
Houston, Texas.

www.meahouston.org

Volume 16, Issue 1

January 2011

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

MEA would like to thank all its members, patrons, friends and well wishers for supporting MEA in all its endeavors throughout the years. We humbly request all members to remain actively involved with MEA and make 2011 another memorable year for the organization.

The Year in Review:

- Spring & Fall Picnics & GBMs;
- MEA Cultural Nite;
- 10 Scholarship awards;
- Scholarship Fundraiser



Newsletter Contents:

- MEA Fall picnic & scholarship fundraiser news;
- Meet the new 2011 Committee;
- 2011 Scholarship Award updates;
- 2011 Membership drive;
- Outlook 2011

President: Krishnakumar Valiyatodi
Communications: Harish Pillai

MEA BOD for 2010
Secretary: Sanjay Poduval

Treasurer: Abraham John
Events: Sudhir Padmanabhan



2010: The Year in Review

The 2010-BOD would like to express our gratitude to all friends and family for their dedicated efforts in making 2010 another successful year for MEA. It was a great honor to share the journey with you all and we hope you had a wonderful year with us!

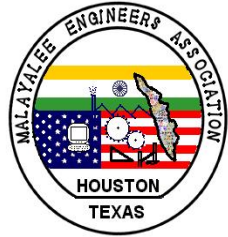
Our spring and Fall Picnics were well attended and proved to be great fun for the entire family. On the food front, we had "barbeque", "kappa & mean". Members' enjoyed several games and other usual events. We also had General Body Meetings where amendments to by-laws were made and the new scholarship coordinator (Soorya Suresh) was elected.

The annual MEA Cultural Evening was a grand success, showcasing the many talents in the MEA family. The event was attended by close to 300 people with over 100 participants showcasing their talents.

The MEA website now provides the facility for online membership payments and scholarship donations. A newly added 'Events Calendar' also provides updates on planned events for the whole year.

The MEA Scholarship Program, completed the first decade since its inception. Ten scholarships were awarded for the year 2010. The MEA scholarship selection criteria and guidelines are now a source of guidance and inspiration for other organizations that have similar goals. MEA expresses its gratitude to all the members, donors and partner organizations whose contributions have made the scholarship program a big success.

In a refreshing development, some of the large Global Corporations have also started supporting the noble cause of MEA scholarship awards. Companies such as General Electric, Microsoft, Chevron Texaco, SBM Atlantia etc matched employee donations (in some cases up to 50% of the donations) thus adding significantly to the scholarship funds. Dallas based MEANT has also graciously increased the number of scholarships to two which is awarded through the MEA scholarship program.



STATUS UPDATE: MEA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS: 2010-11

At this stage, Eight (8) 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. The remaining students will be selected shortly once the application verifications are complete.

List of Scholarship Recipients – 2010 – 2011

S. No	Student	College
1	Gilson Varghese	School of Engineering, CUSAT
2	Abhijith M V	Model Engr College, CUSAT
3	Madhusoodanan S	NSS College of Engineering, Palakkad
4	Prajwal T S	TKM College of Engg, Kollam
5	Sreeraj Sreedharan	TKM College of Engg, Kollam
6	Akhil V P	Govt Engg College, Barton Hill, TVM
7	Shibin T V	NIT, Calicut
8	Snubin T	TKM College of Engg, Kollam
9	Jishnudev T M	College of Engg, TVM
10	Emmanuel Bristow Kubalio	College of Engg, TVM



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MEA Spring Picnic - 2010

The MEA Spring family picnic and General Body Meeting was held at Bayland Park on Saturday, April 10th. We had on site BBQ and outdoor games and sports activities. In spite of the weather playing spoilsport, the event was a big success, with close to 100 MEA Family members and guests attending the event. It was a great outing for the adults and children as well.

MEA Cultural Nite - 2010

MEA Promotional Nite 2010 was successfully held on May 8th at the Stafford Civic Center (Old) and exceeded all expectations. Close to 300 members and guests attended the function and the event consisted of 30 programs with over 100 performers showcasing their talents.

MEA Scholarship Fundraiser - 2010

MEA organized a scholarship fundraiser dinner event on Dec 5th which was again a grand success. The event was attended by over 60 members and a total of approximately 6000 USD was collected through ticket sales, individual donations, auctions etc. The event also featured a 'ganamela' performance by the renowned music group 'Nadabrahma'.

MEA Fall Picnic - 2010

The MEA Fall family picnic and General Body Meeting was held at Cullen Park on Saturday, Oct 3rd. The event was a big success, with close to 70 MEA Family members and guests attending the event. It was a great outing for the adults and children as well with games and other fun activities.

MEA extends its sincere gratitude to all the members and volunteers who made these annual events a grand success in 2010.

MEA 2011 BOD

The MEA committee for 2011 was elected at the Fall picnic at Cullen Park. The elected office bearers for 2011 are:

- Srijit Puthen
- Joseph Mathew
- Reji Joseph
- Basil Theekumpurath
- Abraham John (Continuance till April 2011)
- Sanjay Poduval (Continuance from April 2011)

A meeting will be organized at the earliest opportunity to hand over the responsibilities to the new committee.

In addition, Soorya Suresh was elected as the new scholarship coordinator during the Spring picnic in April.



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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.

Corporate Donation Matching

Donations to MEA are tax exempt under 501 (c) (3) and many major corporations will match employee donations 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 2010, such corporate matching of donations contributed approximately 3000 USD to the scholarship funds which directly corresponds to about 1.5 additional scholarships.

MEA 2011 Membership Drive

The success of MEA depends on its members. Members are encouraged to renew their memberships for the year 2011. The annual membership fee has been revised to 35 USD. 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.

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

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.