SAILING CATAMARAN

VOLUME 07 ISSUE 01

JULY



Leos of Sri Lanka & Maldives
INSPIRING LIVES

Greetings from Catamarans

President's Message

LEO Rajinda Yehan



I hope you are all doing well. It is an absolute honor and a privilege to step into the role of President for the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran for the Leoistic Year 2026/2027. I am incredibly proud to lead a team that is so vibrant, driven, and genuinely committed to making a difference through purposeful service and ethical leadership.

As we begin this new chapter together, our goal is to dedicate this year to impactful community work, strong leadership development, and unforgettable fellowship. We will focus on designing initiatives that address genuine community needs, while simultaneously fostering an environment where every single member feels supported and empowered to unlock their full potential.

To me, real leadership is about uplifting those around you. I encourage each of you to treat this year as a personal challenge to step outside your comfort zone, try new things, and contribute in ways both big and small.

Thank you for placing your trust in me. I promise to dedicate my absolute best to honoring our club's legacy and values. I have no doubt that with our collective creativity, teamwork, and passion, we will accomplish extraordinary things.

Let's work together to make 2026/2027 an unforgettable and remarkable year of Leoism!

Vice President's Message

LEO Sheshani Fernando

As I pen this message, I am filled with incredible pride and deep gratitude for the phenomenal progress our club has achieved over the past year. Under the outstanding guidance of our immediate Past President and the energetic executive committee, the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran has reached fantastic milestones. Their passion, innovation, and relentless drive for excellence have not only elevated our club's reputation but have also left a lasting mark on the growth of Leoism across Sri Lanka.

This past year has truly showcased the heart of our club defined by unwavering dedication, seamless teamwork, and a collective drive to uplift our community.

As we celebrate these milestones, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the senior leaders whose wisdom and leadership have shaped our path our esteemed Past Presidents. Their continuous support and foundational vision are the reasons we enjoy such success today.

It brings me immense joy to congratulate my friend on being elected as President for the 2026/27 term. Knowing their inspiring vision and deep dedication, I have total confidence that they and the new team will guide our club to even greater heights.

In my role as Vice President, I am fully committed to cultivating an environment rooted in growth, discipline, and integrity. I am equally dedicated to mentoring our upcoming leaders, ensuring they have the guidance, tools, and support necessary to thrive.

Here's to another fantastic year ahead, filled with purposeful service, strong leadership, and shared achievements!



Vice President's Message

LEO Renidu Silva

Dear Leo Family,

As we step into a brand-new Leoistic year, I am deeply honored to serve as the Vice President of the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran for the 2026/2027 term. It is a true privilege to be part of a club that has consistently demonstrated such passion, creativity, and a powerful commitment to community service.

This year opens up an exciting new chapter. One filled with endless opportunities to grow, serve, and lead. Alongside our energetic executive committee, I am thrilled to support initiatives that not only bring positive change to our communities but also inspire our members to unlock their full potential.

In my role, I am dedicated to standing firmly beside our President and fellow board members to drive forward a clear, collective vision. One that welcomes fresh ideas, fosters unity, and strengthens our identity as changemakers. Whether through impactful service projects, inter-club collaborations, or district-level engagement, I am fully confident that we will rise to every occasion with heart and purpose.

I invite each and every member to take an active role, share your unique ideas, and be part of something greater than yourself. Let's uplift one another and make this year a truly defining moment in our Leo journey!



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ROARING WORDS with



Leo Lion
Chanuka Wijeweera
District President 306 D3

What inspired you to take on the role of District President, and what does leadership in the Leo movement mean to you?

Having served as a Leo for the past eight years, I have been privileged to experience the movement from different perspectives, learning invaluable lessons through both successes and challenges. During this journey, I have identified areas where our district can grow, evolve, and create a greater impact. Those experiences inspired me to step forward and take on the responsibility of District President not merely as a position, but as an opportunity to serve, transform, and leave a meaningful legacy.



To me, leadership in the Leo movement is about inspiring people rather than directing them. It is about creating future leaders, empowering young individuals to realize their potential, and providing them with opportunities to develop personally and professionally. A true leader builds trust, unites diverse individuals under a common vision, and serves with humility, integrity, and purpose. Leadership is not measured by the title one holds, but by the positive impact one leaves on the lives of others.

Leos of SriLanka & Maldives

What are the main goals and priorities you hope to achieve during your term?

My foremost priority is strengthening the administrative excellence of the district, as effective administration forms the foundation of every successful organization. Alongside this, I aim to enhance the quality of our membership by focusing on engagement, leadership development, and long-term retention rather than simply increasing numbers



Another key priority is fostering stronger unity, collaboration, and mutual respect among our Leo Clubs, creating a district that functions as one family working towards a common purpose. I also hope to introduce innovative initiatives that elevate the Leo brand and strengthen public recognition of our movement.

Knowledge enhancement is another area I strongly believe in. I intend to provide members with greater awareness of Leoism, leadership, and service so they fully understand the value and opportunities within this movement. Furthermore, as we embrace an increasingly digital world, I aim to leverage technology to improve district operations, communication, member engagement, and public relations, ensuring that our movement continues to evolve with the changing times.

How do you plan to support and empower individual Leo Clubs within the district?

Every Leo Club has unique strengths, challenges, and aspirations. My approach is to understand these individual needs and provide the guidance and resources necessary for each club to thrive



I plan to establish a culture where communication is open, support is accessible, and every club feels valued regardless of its size or experience. Through leadership development programmes, mentorship initiatives, regular club visits, and continuous engagement, I hope to equip members with the confidence and skills needed to excel.

Beyond providing guidance, I believe empowerment comes from trust. I want every club to have the freedom to innovate, implement meaningful projects, and develop leaders while knowing that the district stands beside them at every step. My vision is to build stronger clubs that are capable of inspiring stronger communities.

What challenges do you see Leos facing today, and how do you think we can overcome them?



Today's Leos face numerous challenges that extend beyond the movement itself. Financial constraints often limit participation in projects and events, while the demands of higher education, professional careers, and personal responsibilities contribute significantly to stress and burnout. Maintaining a healthy balance between service and personal commitments has become increasingly difficult.



To overcome these challenges, we must create a supportive and understanding environment where members feel encouraged rather than pressured. We should promote flexibility, effective planning, and teamwork while introducing sustainable fundraising initiatives and partnerships to reduce financial burdens.

Most importantly, we must remember that Leoism should never become another source of stress. Instead, it should be a platform that inspires, supports, and develops individuals. By prioritizing member well-being, recognizing contributions, and building a culture of appreciation, we can ensure that Leos remain motivated to serve with passion and purpose.



Can you share a memorable experience from your Leo journey that shaped the leader you are today?

The defining moments of my Leo journey were not my victories but my failures. Every setback, every disappointment, and every obstacle became a lesson that strengthened my character and refined my leadership

There were moments when things did not go according to plan, when hard work did not produce immediate success, and when criticism outweighed appreciation. However, those experiences taught me resilience, patience, humility, and the importance of continuous self-improvement.



Looking back, I am grateful for every challenge I encountered because they shaped the person and leader I am today. Success may build confidence, but failure builds character. It is through overcoming adversity that I learned to lead with empathy, determination, and unwavering commitment

How do you see the Leo movement contributing to the broader mission of Lions Clubs International?



I strongly believe that Leoism is one of the greatest and most impactful initiatives introduced by the Lions movement. It serves as the foundation for developing future leaders who embrace the values of service, integrity, compassion, and community engagement from a young age

The Leo movement not only supports the humanitarian mission of Lions Clubs International through meaningful service but also ensures the sustainability of that mission by preparing the next generation of dedicated leaders. Many Lions today began their journey as Leos, carrying forward the same spirit of service into lifelong leadership

By nurturing young leaders, encouraging innovation, embracing diversity, and strengthening community partnerships, the Leo movement plays an essential role in advancing the global vision of Lions Clubs International and ensuring its continued relevance for generations to come



How do you balance your personal, professional, and Leo life while carrying such a big responsibility?

Balancing multiple responsibilities requires discipline, effective planning, and a clear understanding of priorities. I firmly believe that time management is one of the most valuable leadership skills anyone can develop.

I maintain a structured schedule that allows me to dedicate quality time to my personal life, professional commitments, and Leo responsibilities without compromising any of them. More importantly, I understand that leadership is never an individual effort. I believe in building capable teams, delegating responsibilities effectively, and trusting people to deliver.

Above all, I remind myself that maintaining balance is not about doing everything alone it is about working together, supporting one another, and ensuring that every responsibility is carried with commitment, excellence, and purpose.

What advice would you give to young Leos who aspire to take up leadership positions in the future?

Leadership is a journey filled with both victories and setbacks. There will be moments when you succeed and moments when you fail, but neither defines who you are. What truly matters is your willingness to rise every time life knocks you down.



I maintain a structured schedule that allows me to dedicate quality time to my personal life, professional commitments, and Leo responsibilities without compromising any of them. More importantly, I understand that leadership is never an individual effort. I believe in building capable teams, delegating responsibilities effectively, and trusting people to deliver

Be willing to serve before you seek to lead. Continue learning, remain humble, embrace constructive criticism, and always place the interests of your team above your own. Leadership is not about being the most powerful person in the room it is about empowering others to achieve their very best.

Leo in the Spotlight

Leo Suranga Wijayapura

Tell us a little about yourself. Who are you beyond the Leo vest ?



I'm Suranga Wijayapura, currently pursuing my Bachelor's degree in Automotive Engineering at ICBT Bambalapitiya. I studied at St. Nicholas' International College, Negombo, where I enjoyed both academics and extracurricular activities. I have an elder sister and a younger brother. During my school years, i was actively involved in swimming, basketball and chess and i also had the opportunity to captain my house during our annual sports meet. Beyond Leoism, I'm someone who enjoys learning, taking on challenges, and working with others to make a positive impact.



What inspired you to join the Leo Club, and what has kept you motivated to stay?

I was inspired to join the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran after seeing the incredible service Leos provided to society. I also had many good friends in the club, which encouraged me to become a part of it. After joining, what has kept me motivated is the opportunity to serve the community, help people in need, and take part in meaningful projects that create a positive difference.

Which Leo project or memory has had the biggest impact on you, and why?



The project that had the biggest impact on me was ***EDURISE***. One of the most memorable moments was donating a smart board to a school. Seeing the excitement on the children's faces and how engaged they became during lessons made me realize now even a single contribution can improve someone's earning experience. That moment reminded me why community service is so meaningful.



What is one skill or lesson you've gained through Leoism that has changed you as a person?

One of the greatest lessons I've gained through Leoism is leadership. It has taught me how to lead by example, work effectively with a team, and take responsibility. Leoism has also improved my communication skills, helping me become more confident, approachable, and friendly when interacting with people from different backgrounds.

If you could share one message or piece of advice with fellow Leos, what would it be?



Always remember that even the smallest act of kindness can make a big difference in someone's life. Take every opportunity to serve with passion, work as a team, and never underestimate the impact you can create. Enjoy the journey, build lasting friendships, and continue leaving a positive mark on your community.

Ridin' the Waves

RECAP OF THE CATAMARAN SERVICE

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The Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran commenced its journey with a heartfelt Ashirwada Pooja, seeking divine blessings for a successful and meaningful year ahead. In the spirit of unity and inclusivity, members visited both a temple and a church, offering prayers for guidance, wisdom, strength, and prosperity in all our future endeavors. This spiritual initiative served as a beautiful reminder that faith, gratitude, and togetherness are the cornerstones of meaningful service. As we begin a new chapter, we hope these blessings will inspire us to lead with compassion, embrace every challenge with confidence, and continue making a positive impact in our community through our service and fellowship.

DG Carnival











The District Governor Welcome Event, "DG Carnival," was organised to warmly welcome and honour the District Governor while bringing together Leos from across the district in a vibrant and celebratory atmosphere. The event provided an excellent opportunity for our Leo Club to come together with our Mother Club, strengthening the bond, fellowship, and spirit of unity between both clubs. Through engaging activities, entertainment, and meaningful interactions, members were able to build stronger connections while celebrating the leadership and presence of the District Governor. The event successfully created a memorable experience filled with enthusiasm, camaraderie, and togetherness, reflecting the vibrant spirit and strong sense of fellowship within the Leo movement.

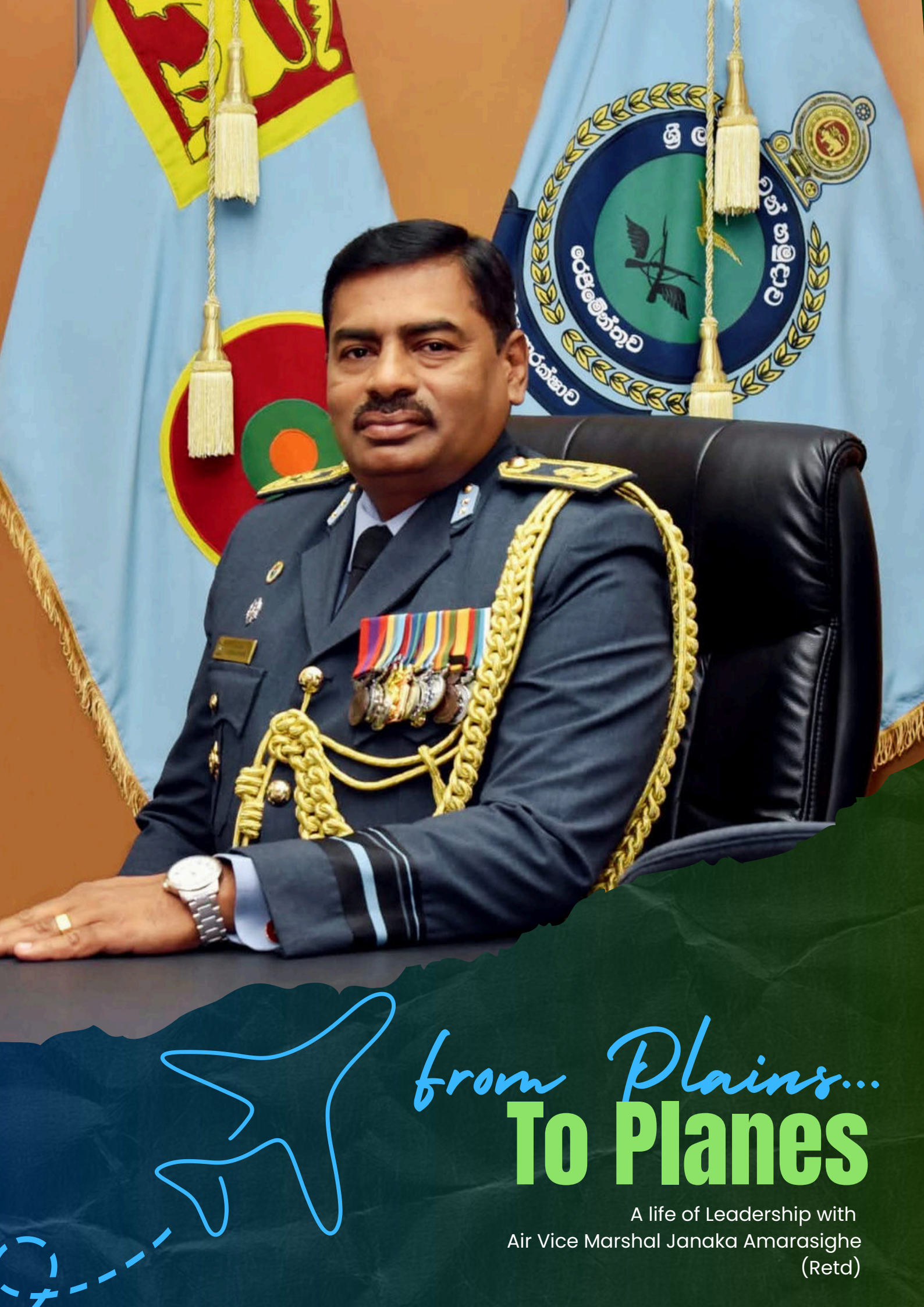
COMPASS







Compass: Navigating the Future was a leadership seminar organized by the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran to inspire and equip Leos with the skills and mindset needed for effective leadership. Held on 26th July 2026 at the Maris Stella OBA Center, the seminar featured distinguished speakers Leo Lion Chanuka Wijewera, Lion Paul De Silva PMJF PMAF, and Leo Rachika Sovis FLM, who shared valuable insights on leadership, personal development, and service. The event provided participants with fresh perspectives, practical knowledge, and the motivation to lead with confidence while embracing the spirit of “Lead the Way. Serve the World.”



from Plains... To Planes

A life of Leadership with
Air Vice Marshal Janaka Amarasighe
(Retd)

AVM Janaka Amarasinghe, born on 20 September 1967, joined the Sri Lanka Air Force in 1986 as an Officer Cadet and was commissioned as a Pilot Officer in 1988. Throughout his distinguished career, he held numerous key appointments and commanded several major SLAF establishments, while playing significant roles in military operations and national security. We had the privilege of speaking with him about his early life, college experiences, leadership journey, military career, sporting achievements, challenges, and his inspiring message to the youth of Sri Lanka.



"Growing up in the hills of the Central Province and studying at St. Anthony's, what inspired your leap 'from the plains to the planes' of the Air Force?"

Thank you for taking me through this interview. The Air Force, yes, definitely. Aircrafts rarely operated in the Hill Country compared to the flat coastal regions of the South. As a result, I developed a strong curiosity about aviation while attending St. Anthony's College. Wanting to understand how planes fly and to explore them firsthand. There I was inspired to join the Sri Lanka Air Force.



"Specializing in Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) leaves zero margin for error. What did this intense experience teach you about personal discipline?"

Explosive Ordnance Disposal is a vast and highly specialised field, with very few engineers possessing expertise in this area. When handling explosives, there is no room for shortcuts or mistakes, as any error can cost not only my life but also the lives of others. Therefore, every action must be carefully calculated, and safety procedures must be followed to the highest possible standard.

Discipline is essential in this field. My military background played a significant role in developing the discipline required for Explosive Ordnance Disposal, particularly when handling unexploded explosive devices from aircraft. The process of disarming or demolishing such devices requires extreme caution and precision.

In this field, discipline must be applied one hundred per cent. A single mistake can have fatal consequences, which is why precision, patience, and strict adherence to safety procedures are absolutely essential.



"From commanding operations in Mankulam to securing Ratmalana Air Base, what is your secret to keeping a team focused and motivated under extreme stakes?"

Thank you very much for that question, as it leads to various aspects of leadership. Leadership is about inspiring people to follow you, whether they are your subordinates, superiors, or peers. Leaders exist in every field, but in military leadership, this responsibility reaches an entirely different level. A military leader must motivate people to make the ultimate sacrifice for a cause, while being willing to make that same sacrifice themselves.

To keep a team focused, a leader must understand that true leadership is not simply about authority or rank. It is about inspiring and motivating people to believe in you and the cause you represent. When people choose to follow you, regardless of whether they are senior or junior to you, that is when true leadership is established.



“You transitioned from commanding military establishments to safeguarding the Central Bank. How did you adapt your strategic leadership to a civilian environment?“

It was a challenging task, Generally, I follow three F’s. three letters of F’s. That is firm, fair, and friendly. I am a believer on being a very firm guy. I'm very firm, a fair guy, and a friendly guy. In the military, I always put firm in the front. Being a firm leader was and is my first identity. Then comes fairness to everyone. And Friendly came in the last. But when it came for the civilian setup, I had to totally change it over to the other side, where I have to adapt to put Friendly in front. And then fair and then firm.

So, this is the strategy that I adopted during my transition from a military career to the day to day civilian environment. I hope you got my point.

"Long before navigating these major career transitions, your leadership journey was shaped on the playing field. What did playing competitive rugby for Kandy and the Air Force teach you about putting team success before personal glory?"

Rugby played a significant role in shaping my life and career. During my college days, I played rugby from Under-13 up to Under-15 and captained the team in 1986. We had a very successful season, winning almost every match, as there were no formal league competitions during that era. In my final year of school, I also had the opportunity to play for a club in Kandy before joining the Air Force.



After completing my training, I continued my rugby career and played for the Air Force. In 1993, we competed against six clubs and emerged victorious. However, beyond the achievements and victories, rugby taught me the importance of discipline, teamwork and maintaining physical fitness. I believe that the fitness I developed through sports during my college years has continued to benefit me throughout my career in the Air Force. Even today, I remain fit because of the foundation that sport gave me. Staying physically active and maintaining fitness through sports is of paramount importance, and rugby played a major role in shaping both my character and my career.



"As Chairman of Rugby, Kabaddi, and Weightlifting, you led very different athletes. How did you identify and nurture such diverse talents?"

Sports has always been one of my main areas of interest. When I took over the rugby team during a difficult period, I realised that a significant attitudinal change was necessary. I identified and removed individuals who were creating problems within the team, changed the coaching staff and gave leadership responsibilities to genuine players who were passionate about the sport. This change in attitude and atmosphere helped transform the team, and today, the Air Force is enjoying a winning streak.

Kabaddi was a sport I had never played or even been familiar with before. Since it had some similarities to rugby and martial arts, I first had to learn the game myself before finding the right coach. I also identified certain negative influences within the team and took steps to address them. At the same time, I recognised the potential of one particular player who was considering leaving the team. I motivated him to stay, and his decision made a significant difference to the team's performance.



In weightlifting, i could say that, the Air Force weightlifting team is the number one weightlifters. There was nothing much that I had to do other than motivating them to perform much more better. Weightlifting, of course, I have done at college, and YMCA in Kandy. It was well known to me, but kabaddi and rugby were new. I think I was able to elevate Air Force sports arena to a certain level.

"As President of the National Rifle Association, you promoted precision shooting. How can young leaders apply that level of focus to achieve their own targets?"

Oh, that's a good question, of course. Shooting is very much involved with the Air Force. And so are shooting competitions. When i was elected to take the National Rifle Association presidency, I continued one year in that. And I heard many competitions getting ignored.

Then, politician Namal Rajapakse and Yoshitha also joined which gave a big boost to the Rifle Association. Whereas it was made a national event annually, and we had an annual national competition event which I introduced and continued.

So I'm really happy about what happened during that year, and it really gave me a lot of opportunities to lead the national arena into the field.



"As a leader who has excelled in combat, sports, and civil service, what is your ultimate message for the upcoming, growing generation of Leos?"

I do appreciate your enthusiastic way of doing things and learning from others. That is the main thing that even I said today, I learned from anyone, even from y'all, I learned a lot today. For this time being, the way that y'all have prepared for the interview is amazing.

So, what I tell is, preparation will make you perfect, and you all have done that correctly, which I really admire. So, learning through others, and getting yourself prepared for anything, whether it is a very short work, or for a long term, whatever the work that you're going to do, is the best thing that you can do.

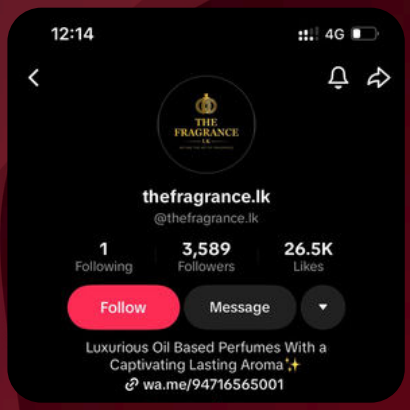
So, always learn from others, learn from everyone and pre-plan and prepare for any work that you are going to get involved in is the message that I want to share with young Leos and the youth of Sri Lanka

Merchant of the Pride

featuring

LEO RASHEEN TUWAN

IM RASHEEN
AGENCY
YOUR BRAND. OUR STRATEGY. REAL RESULTS.











In today's digital era, social media has become a powerful platform for businesses to connect with their audiences and build their identity. IM RASHEEN, founded by Leo Rasheen Tuwan, is a creative agency specializing in social media management, content creation, and professional videography. From platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, and other digital channels, IM RASHEEN helps brands enhance their one presence, create engaging content, and effectively communicate their stories. With a passion for creativity and a vision for digital excellence, Leo Rasheen Tuwan continues to provide innovative solutions that help businesses grow and stand out in the ever-changing world of social media.

Roars of the Visionary Pride

FROM THE HEART OF THE MOTHER CLUB

Lion Nilesh Alston MJF
MAF



Lion Anura Logeswaran
MAF



Message From the Lions Club President

My Dear Leos,

It is with immense pride and heartfelt joy that I share this message with the remarkable members of the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran.

Since its inception, our club has been a shining example of what young leaders can accomplish when united by a common purpose. Your dedication to service, commitment to excellence, and unwavering passion for making a difference have earned the admiration of many. Every project you undertake and every life you touch reflects the true spirit of Leoism.

As your Club Advisor, I have had the privilege of witnessing your growth, not only as volunteers but as compassionate leaders, innovative thinkers, and responsible citizens. Each challenge you have faced has strengthened your character, and every success has proven that age is never a barrier to creating meaningful change.

Today, as I also have the honour of serving as the President of the Lions Club of Negombo Catamaran, I am even more confident that the bond between our Lions and Leos will continue to grow stronger. Together, we will build a legacy of service, mentorship, and leadership that inspires generations to come.

I extend my sincere appreciation to every member, the Board of Directors, past leaders, and all those who have supported this incredible journey. Your collective efforts have made the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran a symbol of excellence and a source of pride for our community.

As you turn the pages of this edition of ***Sailing Catamaran***, may you also reflect on the countless lives you have touched and the limitless opportunities that lie ahead. Continue to dream boldly, lead with integrity, and serve with humility. Remember that true leadership is measured not by titles, but by the positive impact we make in the lives of others.

I wish the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran continued success in every endeavour. May your passion never fade, your friendships grow stronger, and your commitment to service continue to light the way for others. Keep sailing towards greater horizons, and never stop making the world a better place.



Message From the Lions Club Secretary

VANAKKAM
Greetings to you all my dear leos, and Leo lions!

It is an absolute honor and a privilege to writing this, not just as the Secretary of your sponsoring Lions Club, but as someone who looks at this newsletter and sees the absolute future of our community.

When we look at the name of our club, 'Catamaran' we aren't just looking at a traditional vessel. A catamaran is built with unique stability, designed to balance against rough waves, and engineered to sail forward with incredible speed. In our Lionistic family, the Lions and the Leos are the two hulls of that very catamaran. Together, we balance each other. But make no mistake: you, the Leos, are the sail that catches the wind of change.

The Power of Being a Leo; Leadership, Experience, Opportunity. These aren't just words on a banner; they are the blueprint of your youth. Right now, the world doesn't just need followers; it needs innovators. It needs people who look at a problem in Negombo and say, 'We aren't going to wait for someone else to fix this. We are going to fix it ourselves.' Every project you undertake, whether it is helping a school, cleaning a beach, or feeding a family, sets off a ripple effect. Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed Leos. You have the energy, the creativity, and the digital savvy to take service to heights my generation could only dream of."

Overcoming the Waves "There will be days when organizing a project feels overwhelming.There will be times when attendance is low, or resources are tight. In those moments, I want you to remember why you joined this movement True leadership isn't tested when the sea is calm. It is tested when the waves are high. When things get difficult, look to your left and your right. You are a team. Lean on each other.

And remember, the Lions Club of Negombo Catamaran is always sailing right beside you, ready to support, guide, and lift you up. Your success is our greatest pride."

A Call to Action So, my dear Leos, as we move forward into this new guiding year, I challenge you: **Think bigger** than you did yesterday. **Serve harder** than you ever have before. **Lead with empathy**, and let your actions speak for your character.

Leave your footprint so deeply in this community that others can't help but follow your path. You have the fire, you have the talent, and you have the platform. Now, go out there and make it happen. Thank you, and may your journey ahead be extraordinary!



Roars of the District





Leos of SriLanka & Maldives
INSPIRING LIVES

PHOENIX





Phoenix, the Club Officers' Workshop organized by Leo District 306 D3, was a dynamic leadership development initiative designed to prepare club officers for a successful Leoistic year. The workshop brought together officers from across the district for a series of engaging and informative sessions led by experienced district leaders and resource persons. Covering essential aspects of club administration, leadership, project planning, membership development, financial management, reporting, and effective communication, the programme equipped participants with the practical knowledge and skills needed to excel in their respective roles. Interactive activities, group discussions, and networking opportunities further encouraged collaboration, the exchange of ideas, and the strengthening of friendships among clubs. Phoenix served as a platform to inspire, educate, and empower officers, ensuring they returned to their clubs with renewed confidence, fresh perspectives, and a shared commitment to delivering meaningful service and exemplary leadership throughout the year.

Roars of the Multiple District



Leos of Sri Lanka & Maldives
INSPIRING LIVES

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The Leos of Sri Lanka & Maldives began their 2026/27 Leo year with a spiritually uplifting Bodhi Pooja blessing ceremony under the theme Namaskara. Held on Saturday, July 11, 2026 at the iconic Gangaramaya Temple in Colombo, the event brought together Leo members and well-wishers in a serene Buddhist setting. Starting at 9:00 AM, the ceremony created a meaningful atmosphere of reflection and unity, invoking blessings for the year ahead. The gathering not only marked the official commencement of the new Leo term but also highlighted the organization's commitment to service, inspiration, and community spirit across Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

LEO DISTRICT EXECUTIVES WORKSHOP

Marking a significant milestone in the Leo calendar, the Leo District Executives Workshop 2026/27 was successfully held on Saturday, July 11, 2026, at the Royal College Union Skills Center. Beginning at 11:00 AM, the program brought together district executives for a day of leadership development, vision building, and collaborative engagement. The workshop emphasized the importance of stepping into leadership with purpose, strengthening organizational vision, and elevating impact across communities. With inspiring sessions and meaningful discussions, the event set a strong foundation for the Leo year ahead, reinforcing the collective commitment to service and positive change.



Roars across the World





Leos of SriLanka & Maldives
INSPIRING LIVES

LIONS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

HONG KONG



Lions Clubs International ushered in a new era of leadership with the election of Mark S. Lyon of Brookfield, Connecticut, USA, as International President for the 2026–2027 term during the 108th International Convention in Hong Kong. A Lion since 1996, President Lyon brings decades of leadership experience and professional expertise, having served in numerous key roles within Lions International. Guided by the theme "Rooted in Service," he calls upon Lions and Leos worldwide to lead with unity, compassion, and purpose while continuing to create meaningful change in their communities. His election reinforces the organisation's enduring commitment to service and global impact.

Creative Collective

The Weight of Words

THE DREAM BY THE SHORE

We walked where waves touched soft, warm sand,
Your laughter sweet, your gentle hand.
The sunset held us in its glow,
A fleeting peace I long to know.

Your eyes met mine, the world stood still,
A quiet promise, an untold will.
We kissed, the sea forgot its sound,
A moment pure, where love was found.

But morning came, the dream was gone,
The shore, the kiss, the setting sun.
Yet still you stay within my heart,
A dream of us, though worlds apart.

If dreams could show what words can't say,
I'd find the courage to speak one day.
To close the space, to heal the divide,
And walk again, with you by my side.

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තනිව නැඟිටියි සටන් බිම මැද ,
නමුත් මගේ අරමුණ තනිව ජය ගැනීම නොව,
ඔප්පු කරමි පැරදුණු උන් සියල්ල රණශූරයන් බව,

අහස දෙබෑ කල මගේ රන් අසිපත,
බියගුලු සිතිවිලි බිඳලමි නුඹ ලඟ සන්තක,
තියුණු කර ගනිවු සියලු අසිපත් නුඹ ලඟ සන්තක

STANDING STILL

He doesn't smoke for taste or flame,
but to hold together what remains,
to steady the wreckage of a life
between hands that
no longer trust themselves.

He smokes to leave without leaving,
to hide behind a curtain of ash,
calling it escape with practiced lips
while his feet stay rooted in pain.

A cigarette is not fire but permission,
to burn the guilt he never named,
the grief, the hate, the quiet shame
that settles deep and learns his breath.

He stands still while undoing himself,
watching smoke rise like answered prayers—
because nothing ever changes,
and somehow, that feels familiar.

Editors Note

Leo Angelo Abeykoon

As we reach the final pages of our maiden voyage aboard Sailing Catamaran, we pause to reflect on a journey defined by passion, service, and shared purpose.

This inaugural edition has been more than a newsletter—it has been a vessel carrying stories of leadership, friendship, and the moments that continue to shape our legacy. Every page has celebrated the spirit of those who inspire change and remind us why we sail together.

While this chapter draws to a close, the voyage is only just beginning. Every horizon reached reveals another waiting to be explored, reminding us that growth is found not only in the destinations we celebrate, but also in the courage to continue the journey.

Thank you for joining us on this unforgettable expedition. Until we meet again, may your sails be filled with purpose, your hearts with courage, and your eyes always fixed on new horizons.

Fair winds and following seas.



Leos of Sri Lanka & Maldives
INSPIRING LIVES

Hands on Deck

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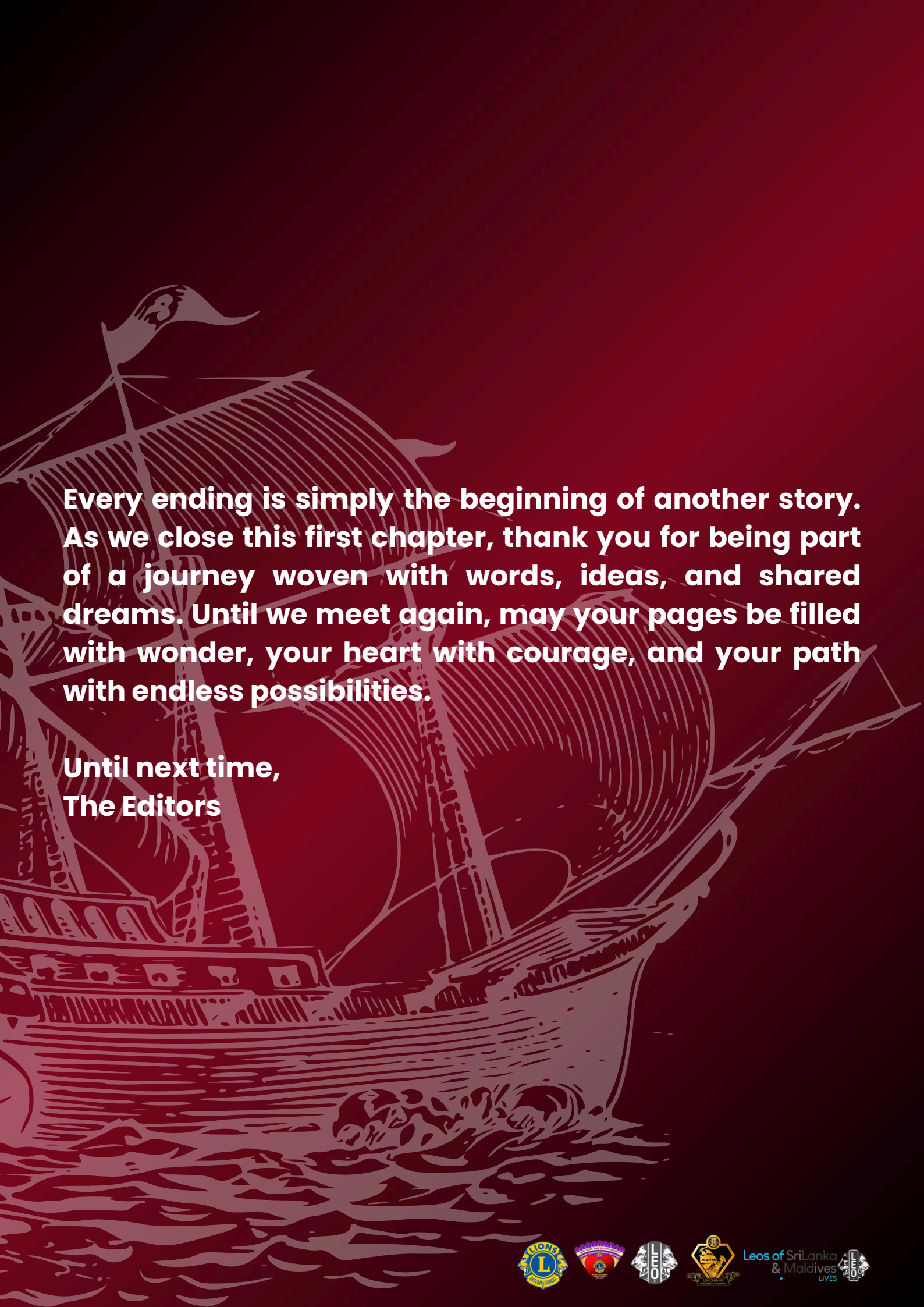

Every ending is simply the beginning of another story. As we close this first chapter, thank you for being part of a journey woven with words, ideas, and shared dreams. Until we meet again, may your pages be filled with wonder, your heart with courage, and your path with endless possibilities.

Until next time,
The Editors

Leos of SriLanka & Maldives

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