



State Banks' Staff Union

(Chennai Circle)

Com.R.SRIDHAR, Vice-president (HQ)



Com.R.Sridhar, the Enterprising Personality of our Union has laid down his office of Vice-President (HQ) consequent upon his retirement from Bank's Service on 31/03/2022 after a meritorious service of 38 years and 8 months in State Bank of India.

Com.Sridhar was appointed as Clerk in our Bank on 21/07/1983 at Arkonam Branch. When he joined the Bank, Chennai Circle was in the midst of severe industrial unrest. Our Union was fighting the onslaughts unleashed on our members by the then Circle Management with a sole aim to crush the union in Chennai Circle. Mass deployment of staff was implemented unilaterally under the guise of surplus staff strength and vindictive actions were initiated against our activists. Suspension of employees increased, charge sheets mounted and wage cuts were imposed. It was in such a context, the Central Committee decided to convene an Extraordinary General Council on 16/09/1984 where a unanimous decision was taken to serve strike notice for indefinite strike. Significantly, during September 1984, Com.Sridhar was transferred to Overseas Branch, where highly spirited and unionized atmosphere prevailed. Being a part of collective struggle has given him the opportunity to understand the plight of the Bank employees. Probably, such experiences have helped him to transcend the individuality to serve the union at a later period.

He entered into trade union activities as a Committee Member in 1994. He followed a pretty simple rule – **Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.** He created an enterprising environment and developed camaraderie with all the members. Between 1998 and 2002, he served as Unit Secretary of the prestigious Overseas Branch where he had gained rich experience in organizing trade union activities.



In 2002, he was appointed as Senior Assistant under Career Progression Scheme and was transferred to Chennai Main Branch which was during the material time, headed by Deputy General Manager. He was working in the premises department, taking care of the maintenance of the heritage building. It was really a marathon task. For his contribution and best performance, he was recognized as 'BEST AWARD STAFF' along with 6 others nominated in the Circle. He was also deputed to Staff College, Hyderabad to undergo training for one week. He actively involved in Unit Committee, assisting in/looking after the unit affairs diligently. As a representative, he kept his demeanor energetic and upbeat.



In July 2007, he was transferred to Centralized Pension Processing Cell. Initially, the CPPC was located in the Chennai Main Branch Building. It was subsequently shifted to its present location in 2009. Com.Sridhar was elected as Unit Secretary of CPPC in 2010. He played a vital catalytic role in addressing the grievances of the pensioners. His concerted and collaborative efforts in resolving the issues of pensioners received wide accolade. Besides, there were many HR issues that warranted focussed attention. His deft handling of the day to day unit affairs prevented the unrest at local level many a times.



We all possess an inner leader within us. We have intrinsic power to lead. It will flow out at the right opportune time. In 2014, such an opportunity fell upon Com.Sridhar. He was inducted into the Central Committee as Assistant General Secretary of Zone-XXII, the largest Zone which comprised of more than 750 members. He had a brief spell as Organizing Secretary In February 2017. Consequent upon the merger of Associate Banks, our leaders formed teams of office-bearers to visit the Branches of Associate Banks for membership enrolment. In fact, there were misgivings in the minds of the employees about the Career Progression Scheme. We distributed printed booklets containing our service conditions to dispel the misgivings and diffuse the unique characteristics of our Union amongst employees of Associate Banks. Com. Sridhar played a commendable role in membership drive exercise.



Over a period, he grew into a strong, ethical, inspirational person and later he became the Vice-President of Chennai Sub-office in July, 2017. Departmental Enquiry is one area where everybody is reluctant to enter. We have to defend our members who face disciplinary action and ensure that justice is rendered. Com. Sridhar unhesitatingly took up the role of Defence Representative and displayed his readiness to learn and excel in the field of disciplinary proceedings.



In June 2019, he was transferred to LCPC and was entrusted the position of Deputy General Secretary of Chennai-II Sub-Office. He was nominated to Central Committee of our National Organisation, NCBE. As quoted by Hendry David Thoreau, if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams and endeavours to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours. Exactly after one year, in June 2020 he was elevated to the position of President of our Union and became the Vice-President of All India State Bank of India Staff Federation. He got his transfer to CPPC once again in October, 2020.



In view of the retirements of seniors in quick succession, a conscious decision was taken by the Central Committee to identify the next person to adorn the position of President. It was accordingly decided that after a period of one year, Com. G.Janakiraman, Vice-President (HQ) would replace Com.R.Sridhar.



Com.Sridhar in his role as member of Federation Executive earned the good will and became popular by sheer comradeship. Many times, he enthused the Federation Executive members by singing songs of their choice. In fact, he is popularly known as 'SINGER SRIDHAR'. As a Singer he served music and as a leader, he served the noble purpose. As another jewel in his crown Com.R.Sridhar has composed the lyrics and music for our SBSU theme song which was introduced in our 38th General Council.



Com.Sridhar and Com.Janakiraman combine along with the undersigned formed a "TRIO" and attended all the meetings of Federation Executive and the Conferences of other Circles. The great thing about being a unionist is that it's all about collective wisdom and team work. So all the achievements are a joint effort. Com.Sridhar was of great assistance in preparing the agenda for the meetings with Management. Communication plays an important role in awareness raisings and campaigns. Com.Sridhar contributed tremendously in the area of social networking and communication.



In July 2021, as per the decision of the Central Committee, Com.Sridhar reverted to the position of Vice-President (HQ). However, owing to the election of the undersigned as Senior Vice-President of AISBISF, he was nominated to the Federation Executive as Vice-President.



In spite of the challenges of physical meeting restrictions of the pandemic, the women of our union successfully conducted the International Women's Day synchronizing with the felicitation functions





of Com.R.Sridhar and Com.S.Michael Raj at GRT Convention Centre at T.Nagar, Chennai on 13th March, 2022. To put it in the words of Christy Hoffman, General Secretary UNI Global Union, "without a union voice, women face discrimination in countless ways, big and small. And the right to organize – without fear – is central to women's equality". Effective leaders inspire, persuade and encourage others to become future leaders. Com.Sridhar encouraged our sister comrades to engage in union activities and become the part of the strength and brains of the union.

Com.Sridhar was honoured and felicitated in that function in a grand and fitting manner. Com.S.K.Bandlish, General Secretary, AISBISF and Shri R.Radhakrishna, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India Chennai Circle, participated and felicitated. On the same day at 4.00 pm, in the presence of the trio, SBSU(CC) COM.D.VENUGOPAL REDDY TRADE UNION TRAINING INSTITUTE was inaugurated by Com.S.K.Bandlish, General Secretary of our Federation.

Com.Sridhar is a graduate in Zoology and completed CAIIB Part-I in 1989 and Part-II in 1996. With requisite qualification, he could have become an officer in our Bank. But having been acquainted with leaders of our Union at Overseas Branch and Chennai Main Branch, he had a passion and commitment towards the union. The greatest rewards come when you give of yourself. It is about bettering the lives of others and making a positive difference. He has great love for music and is a very good singer.

Com.Sridhar's father late ShriK.V.Ramanujam retired from our Bank as Chief Manager. His wife Smt.Nandhini Sridhar is a homemaker. He is blessed with a son Shri S.Raghul who has done his B.E in Mechanical Engineering and is currently working for Zoho Corporation.

Com.Sridhar has set an example to be followed by the youngsters in future. We gratefully acknowledge his services and wish him a happy and active retired life. Truly, he has proved his versatility in all the assignments in the union.

LONG LIVE! Com. R.SRIDHAR LONG LIVE!!

Comradely yours

G. Kripakaran

General Secretary
SBSU - Chennai Circle

