

# ANNUAL REPORT

**2016-2017**

(February 1, 2016 to January 31, 2017)

**SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON, D.C.**

A Non-Profit Organization founded in 1975

P.O. Box 30295

Bethesda, MD 20824

AND

Its affiliate

**SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON, INC.**

An Approved Federal Tax Exempt Organization

P.O. Box 30295

Bethesda, MD 20824

**SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION  
OF WASHINGTON DC**



*Patron*

**His Excellency Prasad Kariyawasam**  
The Ambassador for Sri Lanka  
to the United States of America

*Vice Patrons*

**Dr. Raj Barr**  
**Lasantha Dahanaikie**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Rashika Weerasena**  
*President*

**Sandra Ismail**  
*President-Elect*

**Shiyana Gunasekara**  
*Secretary*

**Shenaz Dave**  
*Asst. Secretary*

**Gayani Vithanage**  
*Treasurer-SLAWDC*

**Theja Lowe**  
*Treasurer-SLAGW*

**DIRECTORS**

**Rohan Abeysinghe**  
**Upul Abeywarna**  
**Ramesh Herath**  
**Viraj Kularatna**  
**Ajith Pushpakumara**

A Non-Profit Organization  
founded in 1975

Address:  
P. O. Box 30295  
Bethesda MD 20824

SLAWDC@slawdc.org  
<http://www.slawdc.org>

March 12, 2017

Dear Members:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to invite you to the Association's 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting on Sunday March 26, 2017, for the formal closure of activities for the year ending 2016.

It has been an honor to have served as your president during the past year. Though it was an unexpected outcome at the last Annual General Meeting, with more than half the slate of Board Members being unknown to me, I am proud to say that we carried out the mission of this association to the best we could.

It was disheartening to say the least that both SLAWDC and SLAGW were considered defunct entities by the Government of the District of Columbia (DC) and the State of Maryland (MD) respectively for failure to file past annual reports. We revived SLAWDC in April 2017 and SLAGW in December 2017 by filing Annual Reports going back to 2008 and 2009 respectively.

This year, we held the new year celebrations and the Sri Lanka Day in partnership with other organizations in the DC metro area, in order to bring in more community involvement. We achieved a "first" in the history of SLAWDC, by having a sitting congressman attend one of our events – the Sri Lanka Day – and showcasing the unity and the strength of the Sri Lankan community.

SLAWDC ended its financial year with a healthy bank balance of \$8,662.87

My sincere thanks to our very dedicated Board, and their spouses, who made it possible to achieve our goals. The support I have received from past presidents, leaders of other community organizations, and all of you, have made this job easier and most fulfilling. My profound gratitude to you all and to our Patron, Ambassador Kariyawasam, Vice Patrons Dr, Barr and Mr. Dahanaikie, Past Presidents and the Advisory Board members for their guidance and support.

I look forward to your continued support in the coming year!

Sincerely,

Rashika Weerasena  
President

**SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION  
OF WASHINGTON DC**



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His Excellency Prasad Kariyawasam  
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March 12, 2017

**NOTICE OF THE 42<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Association of Washington DC., and its tax-exempt affiliate, the Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc., will be held on Sunday, March 26, 2017 commencing at 2:30 P.M. at 2275 Research Blvd Suite 110, Rockville, MD 20850

**AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the Agenda and the Notice to convene the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association.
2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association held on March 20, 2016.
3. Adoption of the Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts of the Association for the year ending January 31, 2017.
4. President's Address
5. Election of the Honorary Auditor
6. Election of the vacant positions for 2017/2018. Members may nominate candidates from the floor at this meeting in accordance with the procedures of Article VII (B) of the constitution
7. Any other business
8. Adjournment

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Shiyana Gunasekera  
Secretary

**To:** The Board of Directors, Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C.

**From:** Chair, Elections Committee

**Subject:** Election Committee Report – Nomination for the election of the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting on March 26, 2017

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The undersigned members of the Election Committee received the following nominations for the election of the Board of Directors, postmarked by February 27, 2017.

The Committee verified that the under-noted candidates, proposes and seconders have satisfied the provisions in the Article III (b) and Article III (g) of its By-laws.

**Proposer**

**Secunder**

**President:** Rashika Weerasena (Second year of two-year term)

**President-elect:** Sandra Ismail (Second year of two-year term)

**Secretary:** Shiyana Gunasekara (Second year of two-year term)

**Asst. Secretary:** Yohan Perera      Shiyana Gunasekera      Upul Abeywarne

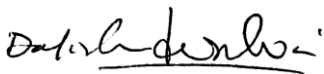
**Treasurer (SLAWDC):** Gayani Vithanage (Second year of two-year term)

**Treasurer (SLAWGW):** Theja Lowe (Second year of two-year term)

**Directors:**

Upul Abeywarne	Rashika Weerasena	Gayani Vithanage
Rohan Abeysinghe	Upul Abeywarne	Gayani Vithanage
Ramesh Herath	Suraj Navaratne	Rashika Weerasena
Hafsa Miskin	Upul Abeywarne	Naveen Weerasena
Lanka Devi Mudannayake	Rashika Weerasena	Gayani Vvithanage
Uditha Poddalgoda	Ramesh Herath	Suraj Navaratne

Submitted by



.....  
Dakshi De Silva  
Chairman Elections Committee

**MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON, D.C., (SLAWDC) AND  
THE SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON, INC. (SLAGW)  
HELD ON SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2016**

The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Association of Washington D.C. (SLAWDC) and its tax Exempt affiliate, Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc. (SLAWGW) was held on Sunday, March 20th, 2016 at the River Road Unitarian Church, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, Maryland with President Kamini Wikramaratna as the Chair. Associated with the President in conducting the meeting was Secretary, Gayani Vithanage.

With a quorum of 33 out of the 83 Members, the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting called to order at 3:40pm.

Mrs. Wikramaratna welcomed everyone to the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Association Of Washington D.C. (SLAWDC) and the Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc. (SLAGW).

**Adoption of the Agenda and the Notice convening the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association**

The Agenda and the Notice convening the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting was adopted as in order:

Proposed by Mr. Lasantha Dhanaika and seconded by Mrs. Anjalika Silva.

**Adoption of the Minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association held on March 22, 2015**

The Minutes were proposed by Mr. Suraj Navaratna and seconded by Mr. Indika Attanayaka.

**Adoption of the Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts of the Association for the year  
Ending January 31, 2016**

The Statement of Accounts were proposed by Mrs. Gothami Gunasekara and seconded by Mr. Bernard Wickramanayake.

**President Speech**

Mrs. Kamini Wikramaratna welcomed everyone who came to the AGM and stated that last year was a successful year and she couldn't have achieved what she did without the support of the members and the Board of Directors. Mrs. Wikramaratna also stated that last year's Avurudu was a successful event. She stated that the highlight of the year was the "meet and greet" she had with the Past Presidents Of SLAWDC and the Ambassador. One thing she observed at the event was the friendships and unity for each other and she was very proud to be a part of that legacy. Mrs. Wikramaratna said, last year was a very successful year celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SLAWDC. She also mentioned the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance, was a successful event as this had been the first time a SLAWDC event was sold out within one week of the event. She mentioned she was able to double the finances. Mrs. Wikramaratna said it was very enjoyable year until the very last two months, where there had been disagreements with her Board that couldn't be resolved. Mrs. Wikramaratna stated that it is for the best of SLAWDC that she and Board resign and a new Board takes over. She thanked Lasantha Dhanaika for mediating between her and the Board of Directors, and for coming to an agreement to resign immediately. Mrs. Wikramaratna called upon the Election Commission to conduct the election of the Board of Directors for 2016 for SLAWDC and for SLAGW.

**Vote of Thanks**

Dr. Raj Barr started his speech stating that 40<sup>th</sup> year is an important year, and that in life it's called the "midlife crisis," which SLAWDC happened to go through. He also said in a positive note that he has seen the Board of Directors act exceptionally well together. He stated it was a pleasure getting to know the Board and also stated that each member fulfilled his or her slot. He said it's time to reset, as the family has come to disagreements. He stated he thought the Association was dead and he was impressed that the Board pulled Through with the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, which was a sold out event for the first time. He said achievements of the past board should be celebrated and thought it would be futile to reconstitute the Board, but left it up to the membership. Dr. Barr concluded his speech stating that this is just a vote of thanks.

### **Election Proceedings for Board of Directors–**

Chair Elections committee Mr. Dakshi De Silva and committee member Mr. Roy Braine took over the proceedings of the elections. Mr. De Silva Explained to the membership that a President-elect will be first elected who will immediately take the position of the President and that a second President-elect will be elected as the President-elect.

President---Elect:

Mrs. Rashika Weerasena

Proposed by: Mrs. Sandra Ismail

Seconded by: Mr. Suraj Navaratne

Mrs. Kamini Wickramaratne

Proposed by Mrs. Cherubim

Seconded by: Mrs. Salgado

As there was a debate on the eligibility of the re-election of Mrs. Wickramaratne, Mr. Lasantha Dahanaike as the mediator addressed the membership and stated that he got involved in the 48 hours prior to the Annual General Meeting as he thought it would be in the best interest of the Association to do so. He stated that the agreement was for the Board to resign and none of the issues be brought up at the AGM in order to prevent any unnecessary disagreements.

Mr. De Silva as Chair elections committee announced that Mrs. Wickramaratne was ineligible to stand for re-election as per Article 7 (viii) of the constitution that states “an outgoing President shall not be eligible to be a candidate for a position on the board for one year after he ceases to be President.”

Ms. Shenaz Dave

Proposed by: Mr. Rohan Abeysinghe

Seconded by: Mr. Bernard Wickramanayake

Ms. Shenaz Dave withdrew her name in support of the candidature of Mrs. Rashika Weerasena

Chairman Elections committee announced Ms. Rashika Weerasena (uncontested) as President-elect and immediately after as President for the year 2016.

President Elect

Mrs. Sandy Ismail

Proposed Mr. Suraj Navaratna

Seconded Dr. Raj Barr

President Elect

Ms. Shenaz Dave

Proposed Mr. Rohan Abeysinghe

Seconded Mr. Bernard Wickramanayake

Ms. Shenaz Dave withdrew her name in support of Ms. Sandy Ismail

Chairman Elections committee announced Ms. Sandy Ismail (uncontested) as President-elect for the Year 2016.

Secretary

Ms. Gayani Vithanage

Proposed Mrs. Sandy Ismail

Second Mrs. Rashika Weerasena

Ms. Gayani Vithanage withdrew her name

Secretary

Ms. Shiyana Gunasekara

Proposed Mrs. Kamini Wikramaratna

Second Ms. Gothami Gunasekara

Chairman Elections committee announced Ms. Shiyana Gunasekara as Secretary for the year 2016.

Assistant Secretary

Ms. Shenaz Dave

Proposed by Mr. Rohan Abeysinghe

Seconded by Mr. Suraj Navaratna

Treasurer SLAWDC

Ms. Gayani Vithanage

Proposed by Mrs. Sandy Ismail

Seconded by Mrs. Rashika Weerasena

Treasurer SLAWDC – Mr. Harsha Gunawardana (not present, nomination received by Chair – elections committee)

Proposed – Mrs. Kamini Wickramaratna

Seconded – Mr. Roy Braine

A secret ballot was conducted and by a vote of 22 to 11, Ms. Gayani Vithanage was announced as the Treasurer SLAWDC by Chair Elections committee.

Treasurer SLAWGW

Ms. Theja Lowe

Proposed by Mrs. Sandra Ismail

Seconded by Ms. Shenaz Dave

Director Mr. Upul Abeywarna

Proposed by Mrs. Kamini Wickramaratne

Seconded by Ms. Gayani Vithanage

Director Mr. Ramesh Herath

Proposed by Mrs. Sandra Ismail

Seconded by Mr. Suraj Navaratna

Director Mr. Rohan Abeysinghe

Proposed by Ms. Shenaz Dave

Seconded by Mr. Bernard Wickramanayake

Director Mr. Ajith Pushpakumara  
Proposed by Ms. Sandra Ismail  
Seconded by Mr. Rohan Abeysinghe

Director – Mr. Viraj Kularatna  
Proposed – Ms. Shenaz Dave  
Seconded – Ms. Anjalika Silva

Director -Mr. Harsha Budhudasa  
Proposed – Ms. Kamini Wickramaratna  
Seconded – Mr. Shane Ismail

Director – Mr. Indika Athanayake  
Proposed – Mr. Rohan Abeysinghe  
Seconded – Mr. Suraj Navaratna

Mr. Indika Athanayake withdrew his name as there were two additional nominations for the position of Director.

Since there were six members nominated, the membership present requested that the vote be taken via a show of hands for the rest of the nominees. Chair Elections committee agreed to a vote by show of hands after the general membership present unanimously voted in favor.

Chair Elections committee then asked that all candidates step outside to start on the voting.

Chair elections committee suggested that the voting be to vote out the candidate that is to be eliminated. Chair offered to give a brief biography for each of the candidates when their names were announced.

Mr. Abeywarna– served on the Board for a while. Worked on the IT and communications components along with being the webmaster. Also assisted with sports. He is a very able and willing Director.

Mr. Herath – current IT and webmaster for the association. New website was created by Ramesh

Mr. Abeysinghe– served for 4 years. Active member in the community and the committee

Mr. Pushpakumara – Has served in the Board for 6 years. And is very active during events

Mr. Kularatna – Official photographer and is in-charge of creative work

Mr. Buddhadasa – life member

The question was asked why we couldn't have 6 Directors and it was explained that the constitution will need to be changed in order to accommodate that and also there will not be a majority if there is a vote from a 12-member Board vs. 11-member Board.

Harsha Buddhadasa, walked back in to the room to explain that he will not have the time to devote to the work of the Board and that he is withdrawing his name.

Chair concluded the voting and thanked the Members for being present and for their support. He welcomed and congratulated the President who he said he has worked with in the past. He also congratulated the new Board and asked the new President to preside the meeting. He stated he was happy that a full slate was elected after a few years and invited the new president and the Board to take control of the rest of the proceedings. The incoming President invited the new Board to take their seats.



### **President's speech**

President Rashika Weerasena opened her comments mentioning that she had not come with a prepared speech as the election to the Board was unexpected; she continued to address the membership:

Past Presidents, outgoing committee, current members, Family and friends,

Thank you for being here and I am honored and humbled to be elected as president SLAWDC, the oldest Sri Lankan organization in the Washington DC area. As we saw today, we do have conflicts and issues and I am hoping we can work through all of these together and make the organization much stronger going forward. I hope all of you - immediate past President, all past Presidents, the past Board and the membership - will support me with these efforts. Let's try and build the association together. Perhaps, going back to some of the same events as a start and with your feedback on how/what we need to do, we can look at other areas. Thanks again for being here and I welcome the new Board and I hope to work together in the coming year.

### **Appointment of the Honorary Auditor**

Since the Honorary Auditor Mr. Suraj Navaratne was appointed last year for a two-year term, he was nominated to continue for the second year.

### **Any other Business**

Strategic planning exercise.: Ms. Anjalika Silva reminded the Board and the members that the 2-year strategic plan needs to be implemented with about 4-5 trusts. A standard operating procedure manual needs to be created to keep the office bearers informed of their duties. Ms. Silva volunteered to assist with this project.

Regulatory Requirements: Dr. Raj Barr mentioned that the state of MD and Federal laws need to be addressed. He mentioned that we have been operating the non-profit foundation without the proper guidelines being followed. Ex: Not having a SLAWGW treasurer in the past year. Dr. Barr urged that we look in to these urgently and offered to assist us if needed.

Mr. Dakshi De Silva thanked Mr. Lasantha Dahanaike for mediating with the Board at a critical time. He urged that the Board work together and to think outside the Box and rethink the needs of the community. Ms. Shenaz Dave took the opportunity to thank Mr. Dakshi De Silva for his support in the past year.

Mr. Lasantha Dahanaike asked that the Board introduce themselves. Biographies of Board members can be found at [www.slawdc.org](http://www.slawdc.org)

The secretary moved to adjourn the meeting.

# SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON, DC (SLAWDC)

## ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1, 2016 to JANUARY 31, 2017

The Board of Directors is pleased to present the following Annual Report of the Association

### Patron and Vice Patrons

**Patron:** Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the United States Hon. Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam

**Vice Patrons:** Dr. Raj Barr and Mr. Lasantha Dahanaike

### Sustaining Members

The following are recognized by the Board as Sustaining Members, who continue to pay annual dues, without regard to their Honorary or Life member status are:

Mr. and Mrs. Dakshi De Silva  
Mr. and Mrs. Prasanth Cherubim  
Dr. and Mrs. Greg Fernandopulle  
Mr. Sujana Umagiliya

### Life Members

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ABEYGOONEWARDENE, Mr. Clement & Mrs. Anastasia	KARUNARATNE, Mr. Shantha and Mrs. Saman
ABEYWICKRAMA, Ms. Bernie	KURUPPU, Mr. Terry & Mrs. Ranjini
AMERASINGHE, Dr. Ranjan & Mrs. Wimla	LENORA, Mr. & Mrs. Nihal
BADDELIYANAGE, Mr. Don & Mrs. Mangala	LOOS, Ms. Janine
BADDELIYANAGE, Mr. & Mrs. R.	MAHMOOTH, Mr. Rizmy & Mrs. Shannaleen
BARR-KUMAR, Dr. Raj & Mrs. Deepika	MCCOY, Ms. Billie
BASNAYAKE, Mr. Sena & Mrs. Nelum	MIRCHANDANI, Mr. Chandru & Mrs. Yolette
BUDDHADASA, Mr. Harsha	MOTHA, Dr. Guy & Mrs. Cecilia
CHERUBIM, Mr. Prasanth & Mrs. Chami	MUSHIN, Mr. Mohamed & Mrs. Sithy
CODIPPILY, Dr. Hilarian & Mrs. Sheila	NANAYAKKARA, Mr. Iroshana & Mrs. Shayami
DAHANAIKE, Mr. Lasantha & Mrs. Chathurika	NANAYAKKARA, Mrs. Badhra
DE FONSEKA, Dr. & Mrs. Kamal	NAVARATNE, Mr. Suraj & Mrs. Ruwani
DE SILVA, Mr. Dakshi & Mrs. Romanie	PADMAKUMARA, Mr. Hiru
DE ZOYSA, Ms. Rani	PERERA, Ms.-Therese
DON, Mr. Milroy	PERERA, Mr. Alex
FERNANDO, Mr. Vijitha & Mrs. Sarla	PERERA, Mr. Srilal & Mrs. Yaeko
FERNANDOPULLE, Dr. Greg & Mrs. Sulocha	PERIES, Mr. Edward
FONSEKA, Mr. Lalin & Mrs. Ranmalee	PERIES, Mr. Kumar
GOONEWARDENE, Mr. Nihal & Mrs. Crystal	PANDUWAWELA, Mr. Steve and Mrs. Dinesha
GUNASEKERA, Mr. Ronald	PILAPITIYA, Mr. Tissa & Mrs. Lakshi
HAPANGAMA, Mr. Ratna & Mrs. Anoma	RAJAKUMARAN, Mr. Basil & Mrs. Devika
HERATH, Mr. Saliya	RANASINGHE, Mr. Bandula & Mrs. Geetha
	RANGANATHAN, Mr. & Mrs. A.

RUDRAN, Dr. Rudy & Mrs. Ranji  
SALGADO, Mrs. Surangani  
SALGADO, Mr. & Mrs. Ranil  
SAMARASINGHE, Drs. Stanley & Vidya  
SENANAYAKE, Ms. Shantini  
SOURJAH, Ms. Sandra  
STORK, Mr. Ralph Ainslie  
TANTULA, Mr. Kosala & Mrs. Ruki  
UMAGILIYA, Mr. Sujana  
VITHANAGE, Ms. Charmini  
WEERASENA, Mr. Naveen and Mrs. Rashika  
WIJETILLEKE, Drs. Lakdasa & Padma

## **Members**

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Abeyesinghe Rohan	Lowe Theja
Abeywarna Upul	Moses Mr. Sundaram and Mrs. Evan
Attanayake Indika	Nedimala Mr. Edward & Mrs Loretta
Bastiampillai Harisha and Joseph	Nissanka Gothami
Dave Shenaz	Perera Mr. Dhanika and Mrs. Sharon
De Silva Sujith	Pushpakumara, Ajith
Goonewardana Harsha	Sadeghi, Kamalaseeli
Gunasekara Shiyana	Silva, Mr. Sathy and Mrs. Anjalika
Herath Ramesh	Vithanage, Gayani
Ismail Mr. Shane and Mrs. Sandra	Wickramanayake, Mr. Bernard and Mrs. Hayacinth
Jayaweera Wimal	Wickramaratne, Kamini
Kularatna Viraj	

## **Membership**

The Association is proud to announce a membership of 30 single and family dues paying members in addition to the 93 life members (7 of whom are also sustaining members).

## **Finances**

SLAWDC ended its financial year with a healthy balance of \$8,662.87.

## **Annual General Meeting**

The following members were elected to serve on the Board for 2016/2017 at the Annual General Meeting held on March 20, 2016

**President:** Rashika Weerasena **President Elect:** Sandra Ismail  
**Secretary:** Shiyana Gunasekara **Asst. Secretary:** Shenaz Dev  
**Treasurer (SLAWDC):** Gayani Vithanage **Treasurer (SLAGW):** Theja Lowe

**Directors:**

Upul Abeywarna, Rohan Abeysinghe, Ramesh Herath, Viraj Kularatne, Ajith Pushpakumara

**Election of Honorary Auditor for 2016/2017**

Since the Honorary Auditor Mr. Suraj Navaratne was appointed last year for a two-year term, he was nominated to continue for the second year

**Board Meetings**

The Board had five regular meetings and two working meetings during the year. Ms. Shenaz Dev sent in her resignation as at the AGM to be held on 2017 and conveyed that she will not be continuing her second year on the Board. Mr. Viraj Kularatne informed the Board that he will not be available to serve on the Board in 2017 once his term is up for re-election.

**WWW.SLAWDC.org**

The SLAWDC website continued to keep the community informed of SLAWDC activities as well as other events by keeping the community calendar updated. The community was also encouraged to advertise their businesses under “Community Businesses” for a nominal fee of \$150 per year. We received one banner from Baily Tea that is currently advertised on the site.

**Serendib**

The redesigned newsletter continued to include community news in addition to that of SLAWDC. The community was encouraged to send in articles to be included in the newsletter as well as advertisements. We received one half a page advertisement from Banana Leaf for the December edition.

## EVENTS HELD DURING THE YEAR

(Photographs can be found on the SLAWDC website at [www.slawdc.org](http://www.slawdc.org))

### Sinhala and Tamil New Year Celebrations

Over 150 Sri Lankans from the Washington DC metro area attended the Aluth Avurudu celebrations organized by the Sri Lanka Association of Washington D.C. The event was attended by clergy from the DC, Wheaton and Mahamewna Buddhist temples. Mrs. Rita Roberts conducted the Hindu religious prayer followed by Mr. Ed Pieiris who conducted the Christian prayer and Mr. Naseer Aziz who conducted the Islamic prayer. Miss Rosheli Abeywarne and Master Shenuka Navaratne greeted the Chief Guest Dr. and Mrs. Keerawella with “bulath hurulu”.

The selection of little Avurudu Kumaryana and Kumari was the most celebrated event of the day followed by many other traditional games for kids and adults to enjoy including breaking the candy pot blindfolded and the Tug-O'-War. The special Avurudu treats of Kavun, Kokis, Kiribath and other sweetmeats and “Ceylon” tea provided by Baily Tea were enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

### Washington DC metro area Joint Flood relief effort

SLAWDC was a major partner in the combined flood relief program organized by the The Sri Lanka America Friendship Foundation (SAFF) with the support of Kala Lanka Foundation (KLF). While SAFF was instrumental in leading the efforts of collecting goods that were shipped to Sri Lanka and then distributed, SLAWDC handled the communications for this effort. SLAWDC also assisted with the collection of goods and more importantly collaborated with Keells Super in Sri Lanka to have a dedicated radio button when ordering food so that the goods ordered for SLAWDC were distributed to the local contact who then delivered them to those affected by the floods in Kegalle District.

The screenshot shows the Keells Super website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and a shopping cart summary showing 1 item for Rs. 810.00 (USD 5.91). Below the search bar, there are navigation tabs for various product categories: Household, Liquor, Grocery, Bakery, Beverages, Frozen Food, Chilled, Vegetables, Meat, Fish, Homeware, and Fruits. The main content area features a large graphic with the text "Select your Delivery City or Pickup Location" and a map of Sri Lanka. To the right of the graphic, there is a "Select Delivery Type" section with three radio button options: "Donate essentials to flood victims" (which is selected and highlighted with a yellow circle), "Home Delivery (Within Delivery Grid)", and "Pick Up (Only from our Outlets)". Below this, there is a section titled "Please select the collection centre. Prices of some perishable items will depend on the delivery branch." which contains a dropdown menu. The dropdown menu is also highlighted with a yellow circle and shows the following options: "--select--", "Collection centre of Rotary Club of Colombo Fort", and "Sri Lanka Association of Washington, DC - No 7b, Saman Mawatha, Nawala". At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with various links and logos, including Visa and Mastercard.

### **Sri Lanka Day 2016**

“Sri Lanka Day 2016” held on September 10, 2016 saw a record number of attendees and participants from the community and we welcomed a sitting congressman for the first time at one of our community events. Rep. John Delaney from Congressional District 6 in MD graced the occasion thanks to the tireless efforts of SLAWDC past President and Advisory Board Member Ms. Anjalika Silva.

Sri Lanka Day was a true community event with Kala Lanka Foundation, Ranga Kala Kavaya, Sri Lanka American Friendship Foundation and Educate Lanka Foundation supporting us in organizing the event. The support given by the Sri Lankan Embassy led by H.E Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam, Patron of SALWDC was much appreciated. The structure of establishing sub committees, as announced in the first newsletter saw it working to the fullest capacity. Our thanks go out to the community volunteers Messrs. Nazir Azeez, Iroshana Nanayakkara, and Saliya Herath along with representatives of the other organizations, Mr. Upali Perera, Mrs. Lanka Mudannayake, Mr. Manjula Dissanayake and Mr. Rohan Abeysinghe. A heartfelt thankyou is also due to SLAWDC life member Mr. Ravi Baddeliyanage who filled in as the day’s official photographer with very short notice.

### **Halloween Costume Party**

Our final event for the year, the Halloween Costume Party held on Saturday October 29 entertained close to one hundred guests, adults and kids alike in a spooky atmosphere to the music of DJ Dinesh. The support shown by our past Presidents, family and friends is much appreciated in making the event a success.

We wish to thank the generosity of the following donors for their contributions, which made this event a success:

Mr. Prasanth Cherubim \$250  
Dr. Raj Barr \$100  
Mr. Lasantha Dahanaike \$50

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS SUPPORTED BY SLAWDC**

SLAWDC Board members supported many of the community events held throughout the year by way of participation. However, officially, as an entity, SLAWDC supported the following events during the calendar year 2016.

- ***Yugmasara*** featuring Visharada Amarasiri Peiris and Visharada Deepika Priyadarshani Peiris; organized by the Sri Lanka America Friendship Foundation
- ***Priya Suriyasena Live in Concert*** – organized by the Kala Lanka Foundation
- ***Annual Fundraising Dinner Party*** organized by the Sri Lanka Ranga Kala Kavaya

- **Reception to welcome the children participating in “Project Common Bond”** organized by the Sri Lanka Ranga Kala Kavaya
- **Religious ceremony in memory of Late Pandit W.D. Amaradeva**
- Events organized by the Embassy of Sri Lanka
  - **Interactive Dialogue on diaspora issues** with Dr. Darini Rajasingham Senanyake
  - First ever **Sri Lankan tea festival** to be held in the Washington DC metropolitan area
  - Fellowship to explore and promote the work of **Lanka Corps**
- Receptions at the Hon. Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Mr. Prasad Kariyawasm’s residence in honor of:
  - The visits made by Hon. Speaker of the Sri Lankan parliament, Mr. Karu Jayasuriya and the Hon. Foreign Minister, Mr. Mangala Samaraweera
  - Farewell to Mr. Bandula Somasiri, Trade attaché and the welcome of Ms. Upekkha Samaratunga, his successor
- Golden Jubilee festival to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Washington Buddhist Vihara in Washington DC
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the Ordainment of Ven. Uparathana thero, the chief

## **Acknowledgements**

We thank -

Our Patron, Ambassador Hon. Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam;

Vice Patrons, Dr. Raj Barr and Mr. Lasantha Dahanaike;

Advisory Board comprising of, Attorney Sena Basnayake, Mrs. Sheila Codippily; Mrs. Loretta Nedimala; Mr. Ed Peries and Mrs. Anjalika Silva;

Our Honorary Auditor, Mr. Suraj Navaratne;

Our Past Presidents;

Clergy of the Washington Buddhist Vihara, Wheaton Temple and Mahamewna Meditation center;

Our good friends of Sri Lanka Ranga Kala Kavaya, Kala Lanka Foundation, Sri Lanka America Friendship foundation, Lak Mithuro and the Educate Lanka Foundation

Our spouses and families; and

Our advertisers, sponsors and well-wishers.

**Conclusion**

It is with much appreciation and gratitude that I take this opportunity to thank the rest of the Board for their hard work and dedication throughout the past year, and I wish to thank members of this Association who have volunteered their personal time to help this Association grow.

I also take this opportunity to encourage new membership and urge participation in all activities carried out by the Association.

We look forward to your continued support in the future.

For and behalf of the Board of Directors,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shiyana Gunasekara', written in a cursive style.

Shiyana Gunasekara  
Secretary



Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C		
Balance Sheet		
As of January 31, 2017		
	1/31/2017	1/31/2016
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash at Bank	8,662.87	7,020.61
A/R	515.00	977.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>9,177.87</b>	<b>7,997.61</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>		
Beginning Balance	6,772.45	3,772.46
Net Surplus/Expense	1,240.62	2,999.99
Ending Balance	8,013.07	6,772.45
Payables-2016	260.00	
Payables-2015		320.36
Payable to SLAGW	904.80	904.80
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>9,177.87</b>	<b>7,997.61</b>



Suraj Navaratne  
Hon. Auditor



Gayani Vithanage  
Treasurer

Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C		
Income and Expenditures		
For the Period ending January 31, 2017		
	1/31/2017	1/31/2016
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Fees	1,380.00	930.00
Dinner Dance 2013		100.00
40th Anniversary		2,841.70
Halloween	545.26	
Sri Lanka Day	108.75	
Advertisement Revenue	30.00	
Other	61.00	
Bank Interest income	84.54	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,209.55</b>	<b>3,871.70</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
SL/Tamil NY	(757.93)	(419.21)
Refund of duplicate membership	(25.00)	
Annual General Meeting		(180.00)
Lockbox Charges	(106.00)	(102.00)
Website		(60.06)
SLAWDC- filing fee	(80.00)	
Other		(110.44)
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>(968.93)</b>	<b>(871.71)</b>
<b>Operation Surplus/Expense</b>	<b>1,240.62</b>	<b>2,999.99</b>



Suraj Navaratne  
Hon. Auditor



Gayani Vithanage  
Treasurer

# ANNUAL REPORT

**2016-2017**

(February 1, 2016 to January 31, 2017)

**SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON, INC.**

An Approved Federal Tax Exempt Organization

An Affiliate Of

**SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON, D.C.**

A Non-Profit Organization founded in 1975

P.O. Box 30295

Bethesda, MD 20824

**SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION  
OF WASHINGTON DC**



*Patron*

**His Excellency Prasad Kariyawasam  
The Ambassador for Sri Lanka  
to the United States of America**

*Vice Patrons*

**Dr. Raj Barr  
Mr, Lasantha Dahanaike**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Rashika Weerasena  
President**

**Sandra Ismail  
President-Elect**

**Shiayana Gunasekara  
Secretary**

**Shenaz Dave  
Asst. Secretary**

**Gayani Vithanage  
Treasurer-SLAWDC**

**Theja Lowe  
Treasurer-SLAGW**

**DIRECTORS**

**Rohan Abeysinghe  
Upul Abeywarna  
Ramesh Herath  
Viraj Kularatna  
Ajith Pushpakumara**

**A Non-Profit Organization  
founded in 1975**

**Address:  
P. O. Box 30295  
Bethesda MD 20824**

**SLAWDC@slawdc.org  
<http://www.slawdc.org>**

March 1, 2017

Dear Members:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to invite you to the Association's 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting on Sunday March 26, 2017, for the formal closure of activities for the year ending 2016.

It has been an honor to have served as your president during the past year. Though it was an unexpected outcome at the last Annual General Meeting with more than half the slate of Board Members being unknown to me, I am proud to say that we carried out the mission of this association to the best we could.

It was disheartening to see that SLAGW was considered a defunct entity by the State of Maryland (MD) for failure to file past annual reports since 2009. We revived SLAGW in December 2017 by filing the necessary Annual Reports.

This year, given that we only had approximately five weeks to do charitable work since the revival, we were unable to carry out any fundraisers during the year. We did, however have one donation of \$770 out of which \$500 was sent to the benefit of one of SLAGW's oldest benefactors, the Deaf and Blind school in Ratmalana, Sri Lanka.

SLAGW ended its financial year with a healthy bank balance of \$1666.09

My sincere thanks to our very dedicated Board, and their spouses, who made it possible to achieve our goals. The support I have received from past presidents, leaders of other community organizations, and all of you, have made this job easier and most fulfilling. My profound gratitude to you all and to our Patron Ambassador Kariyawasam, Vice Patrons Dr, Barr and Mr. Dahanaike, Past Presidents and the Advisory Board members for their guidance and support.

I look forward to your continued support in the coming year!

Sincerely,

Rashika Weerasena  
President

# **SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON, INC. (SLAGW)**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1, 2016 to JANUARY 31, 2017**

The Board of Directors are pleased to present the following Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc. (SLAGW).

### **Governance**

The Board of Directors of the Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C. (SLAWDC), duly elected at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on March 21, 2016, provides the overall guidance, stewardship and management to SLAGW. As the affiliate organization of SLAWDC, responsible for its humanitarian, charitable and educational activities, SLAGW receives support from the parent organization in carrying out the mandate granted by its members. The Board held five meetings during the course of the year.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The following members were elected to serve on the Board for 2016/2017 at the Annual General Meeting held on March 21, 2016

**President:** Rashika Weerasena **President Elect:** Sandra Ismail  
**Secretary:** Shiyana Gunasekara **Asst. Secretary:** Shenaz Dev  
**Treasurer (SLAWDC):** Gayani Vithanage **Treasurer (SLAGW):** Theja Lowe

### **Directors:**

Upul Abeywarna, Rohan Abeyesinghe, Ramesh Herath, Viraj Kularatne, Ajith Pushpakumara

### **Election of Honorary Auditor for 2016/2017**

Since the Honorary Auditor Mr. Suraj Navaratne was appointed last year for a two-year term, he was nominated to continue for the second year.

### **Board Meetings**

The Board had five regular meetings and two working meetings during the year. Ms. Shenaz Dev sent in her resignation as at the AGM to be held on 2017 and conveyed that she will not be continuing her second year on the Board. Mr. Viraj Kularatne informed the Board that he will not be available to serve on the Board in 2017 once his term is up for re-election.

### **WWW.SLAWDC.org**

The SLAWDC website continued to keep the community informed of SLAWDC/SLAGW activities as well as other events by keeping the community calendar updated. The community was also encouraged to advertise their businesses under "Community Businesses" for a nominal fee of \$150 per year. We received one banner from Baily Tea that is currently advertised on the site.

## **Serendib**

The redesigned newsletter continued to include community news in addition to that of SLAWDC/SLAGW. The community was encouraged to send in articles to be included in the news-letter as well as advertisements. We received one half a page advertisement from Banana Leaf for the December edition.

## **Finances**

SLAGW total funds collected for the period ending January 31, 2016 is \$770. The total distribution of funds for the period from February 1, 2016 thru January 31, 2017 was \$500. The Balance as of January 31, 2016 is \$1666.09

<b>SLAGW APPROVED CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>
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### **Ceylon School of The Deaf & Blind, Ratmalana (Donated \$500.00 in 2016)**

Founded in 1912, Ceylon School of The Deaf & Blind is a residential institution, catering to impaired children in 3 schools, irrespective of race or religion. The school provides free board and education to the children most of whom come from very poor backgrounds and the largest expense is food as the children are served 3 main meals and evening tea each day, where the emphasis is on wholesome nutritious food. After an absence of a few years, the SLAGW Board made contact with the school and donated \$500.00

### **HelpAge (No Donation/Pledges in 2016)**

Helpage is an organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life of all senior citizens in Sri Lanka, irrespective of religion, caste or race. They have two decades of experience working with vulnerable senior citizens and providing health and eye care, training of volunteers for voluntary home care, youth education on understanding the needs of Elders. These housing projects are built with the objective of becoming self-sustaining communities. The Elders who attend Day Centers follow a program designed according to their specific needs which includes suitable daily exercise routine, recreation, income generation activities, religious activities, provision of medical services and advice etc., HelpAge also assists these organizations to register with the National Secretariat for Elders' as Senior Citizens Committees.

<http://www.helpagesl.org/>. <http://www.helpagesl.org/>

### **NEST, Hendela (No Donation/Pledges in 2016)**

NEST is an organization that offers rehabilitation and support services to people diagnosed with long-term illnesses such as AIDS, victims of drug abuse, mental illness, etc. Two main goals of NEST are: 1) to steer people away from prolonged institutionalization by bringing them in to the halfway home surrounded with peace, calm and tranquility and medications when deemed necessary. They are then taught life-skills, and reunited with family and the community; 2) to take a firm stand on denouncing stigmatization, as it plays a major role in the recovery process, and enhancing the quality of life.

**Manrosa Home Of Love, Dankotuwa (No donations/Pledges in 2016)**

Manrosa home of love is a home that accommodates female elders selected from among the poorest of the poor in society, who have been left destitute for various reasons. The home does not receive government or international funding and the local community brings in donations of dry rations and alms. The home does not discriminate against race, community or religion.

**Richmond Fellowship (No Donations/pledges in 2016)**

Richmond Fellowship is a registered NGO under the Voluntary Social Services Act in Sri Lanka that offers skilled care to those who are mentally and emotionally disturbed and who require rehabilitation and then re-integrate with family and the community. RFL provides accommodation for a total of thirty males and females for an ideal period of 6 to 12 months with some exceptions and is linked to similar organizations offering a global network of therapeutic communities. <http://www.richmondfellowshiplanka.org/about.html>

**Conclusion**

The officers and members of the Board of Directors have worked tirelessly with much personal sacrifice during this past year and it is with much gratitude that I take this opportunity to thank the Board for their hard work and dedication.

I would like to thank the members who have made donations and supported SLAGW throughout the past year.

I also take this opportunity to encourage the membership to take advantage of our tax-exempt status and to keep us in mind when making your annual charitable contributions.

For and behalf of the Board of Directors,




Shiyana Gunasekara  
Secretary

**Operating Statement**  
in US\$ for year ending January 31, 2017

	2017	2016
Revenue		
Contributions received to general fund	770.00	
Contributions received towards specific charities		
Interest Income	4.62	132.13
Total Revenue	<u>774.62</u>	<u>132.13</u>
Expenses		
Disbursements to the Deaf and Blind School in Ratmalana	(500.00)	
Bank Charges	(40.00)	
Total Expenses	<u>(540.00)</u>	<u>-</u>
Increase in Net Assets	234.62	132.13
Net Assets at the beginning of year	2,336.27	2,204.14
Net Assets at End of Year	2,570.89	2,336.27

  
Theja Lowe  
Treasurer - SLAGW

Date : 03/12/2017

  
Suraj Navaratne  
Hon. Auditor

Date : 03/12/2017

**Balance Sheet**  
in US\$ for year ending January 31, 2017

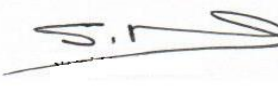
	2017	2016
<b>Assets</b>		
Current Assets		
Cash Deposits	1,666.09	1431.47
Pledges Receivable SLAGW	904.80	904.8
Long Term Assets		
Total Assets	<u>2,570.89</u>	<u>2336.27</u>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Liabilities - Current		
Total Liabilities		
The Barr-Kumarkulasinghe Endowment	1,000.00	1,000.00
Anura Karunaratne Fund	0	0
General Fund	1,570.89	1336.27
Net Assets	<u>2,570.89</u>	<u>2336.27</u>
Total Assets and Liabilities	2,570.89	2,336.27

**CASHFLOW STATEMENT**  
in US\$ for year ending January 31, 2017

	2017	2016
Beginning Cash Balances	1431.47	1299.34
Cash flow from Operations		
Donation Received	770.00	
Grants	(500.00)	
Net cash flow from operations	270.00	
Net Bank Income (Loss)	(35.38)	132.13
Ending Cash Balance	<u>1,666.09</u>	<u>1431.47</u>

  
Theja Lowe  
Treasurer SLAGW

Date : 03/12/2017

  
Suraj Navaratne  
Hon. Auditor

Date : 03/12/2017