

# ANNUAL REPORT

**2017-2018**

(February 1, 2017 to January 31, 2018)

**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*

Mrs. Priyanga Wickramasinghe  
*Chargé D'affaires* of the Embassy of  
Sri Lanka to the United States of  
America

*Vice Patrons*

Dr. Raj Barr  
Mr. Lasantha Dahanaike

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Rashika Weerasena  
*President*

Ramesh Herath  
*President-Elect*

Shiyana Gunasekara  
*Secretary*

Yohan Perera  
*Asst. Secretary*

Gayani Vithanage  
*Treasurer-SLAWDC*

Theja Lowe  
*Treasurer-SLAGW*

**DIRECTORS**

Rohan Abeysinghe  
Upul Abeywarna  
Hafsa Miskin  
Lanka Devi Mudannayake  
Uditha Poddalgoda

A Non-Profit Organization  
founded in 1975

Address:  
P. O. Box 30295  
Bethesda MD 20824

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

March 09, 2018

Dear Members:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to invite you to the Association's 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting on Sunday March 25, 2018, for the formal closure of activities for the year ending 2017.

With both the entities finally back in business, we were able to confidently work on enhancing the image of the Association and work collaboratively with the other Associations to increase participation at our events. The support and feedback we received after the second consecutive Sri Lanka Day, and the sold-out Holiday Dinner Dance are evidence that we've been successful at achieving our goals. SLAWDC ended its financial year with a healthy bank balance of \$8,334.84

As you remember, during my speech last year I mentioned that it is important for us to get the millennials involved in the work of the Association. As a first step towards this, we were able to re-launch the young professionals network and encourage a few of them join the association as members. In fact, we have a few of them being nominated to join the Board of SLAWDC this coming year.

The overwhelming support I received this past year (and the past two years) from the past Presidents, Ambassador Mr. Kariyawasam, Charge'd Affairs Ms. Priyanga Wickremasinghe, Ministers along with the staff at the Embassy of Sri Lanka, leaders of the other Associations and all of you members, have made my job seem effortless and fulfilling.

My sincere thanks to our very dedicated Board, and their spouses, who made it possible to achieve our goals this year. We worked together as one cohesive unit in ensuring that the mission of the Association was fulfilled. My profound gratitude to you all and to our Patron, Vice Patrons, past Presidents and the Advisory Board members for their guidance and support.

I wish the new Board all success in carrying out their duties in the coming year!

Sincerely,

Rashika Weerasena  
President

**SRI LANKA  
ASSOCIATION  
OF WASHINGTON DC**



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Mrs. Priyanga Wickramasinghe  
*Chargé D'affaires* of the Embassy  
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*Vice*

*Patrons*

Dr. Raj Barr  
Mr. Lasantha Dahanaike

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March 09, 2018

**NOTICE OF THE 43<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the 43<sup>rd</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 25, 2018 commencing at 2:30 P.M. at Meadowbrook local park, 7901 Meadowbrook Ln, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

**AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the Agenda and the Notice to convene the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association.
2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association held on March 26, 2017.
3. Adoption of the Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts of the Association for the year ending January 31, 2018.
4. President's Address
5. Election of the Honorary Auditor
6. Election of office bearers for 2018/2019. Members may nominate candidates from the floor at this meeting in accordance with the procedures of Article VII (B) of the constitution
7. Address by the Patron, Chargé D'affaires of the Embassy of Sri Lanka
8. Vote of Thanks
9. Any other business
10. Adjournment

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors,



Shiyana Gunasekara  
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 25, 2018

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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 20, 2018.

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.

	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Secunder</b>
<b>President:</b> Ramesh Herath - Automatic Succession		
<b>President-elect:</b> Theja Lowe	Ramesh Herath	Uditha Poddalgoda
<b>Secretary:</b> Yohan Perera	Ramesh Herath	Suraj Navaratne
<b>Asst. Secretary:</b> Enoch Jayasundara	Ramesh Herath	Gayani Vithanage
<b>Treasurer</b> <b>(SLAWDC):</b> Nishantha Kasturiratne	Ramesh Herath	Uditha Poddalgoda
<b>Treasurer</b> <b>(SLAWGW):</b> Norevana Fernando	Suraj Navaratne	Rashika Weerasena
<b>Directors:</b>		
Gayani Vithanage	Ramesh Herath	Naveen Weerasena
Uditha Poddalgoda	Suraj Navaratne	Gayani Vithanage
Lanka Mudannayake	Ramesh Herath	Rashika Weerasena
Vacant	-	-
Vacant	-	-

Submitted by

*Dakshi De Silva* 02/26/18  
.....  
Dakshi De Silva  
Chairman Elections Committee

**MINUTES OF THE 42<sup>nd</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 26, 2017**

The 42<sup>nd</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. (SLAGW) was held on Sunday, March 26th, 2017 at 2275 Research Blvd., Rockville, Maryland with President Rashika Weerasena as the Chair. Associated with the President in conducting the meeting was Secretary Shiyana Gunasekara.

With a quorum of 44 members, including proxies, out of 127 Members, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting called to order at 2:16pm.

Mrs. Weerasena welcomed everyone to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C. (SLAWDC) and the Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc. (SLAGW).

She made two amendments to the agenda: Adding the Ambassadors address to the agenda after the election of those to vacant positions; and after the address, a vote of thanks. These amendments were proposed by Dr. Greg Fernandopulle and seconded by Mr. Harisha Bastiampillai.

**Adoption of the Agenda and the Notice convening the 42<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association**

The Agenda and the Notice convening the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting was adopted as in order: Proposed by Dr. Raj Barr and seconded by Mr. Roy Braine.

**Adoption of the Minutes of the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association held on March 20, 2016**

The Minutes were proposed by Ms. Anjalika Silva and seconded by Mrs. Sulocha Fernandopulle.

**Adoption of the Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts of the Association for the year ending January 31, 2017**

The Statement of Accounts were proposed by Mr. Gregory Fernandopulle and seconded by Mr. Dakshi De Silva.

## **President's Address**

Mrs. Rashika Weerasena welcomed everyone who came to the 42<sup>nd</sup> AGM and started her remarks by thanking her Board of Directors, the Patron and Vice Patrons, the Advisory Board, and past Presidents for their support last year. She noted that the biggest accomplishment of the organization was reviving SLAWDC and SLAGW. She mentioned that even though SLAGW was revived only in December, the charitable arm was able to make a \$500 donation to the Deaf and Blind School in Ratmalana. She also mentioned that in regards to SLAWDC, the activities were conducted in collaboration with other organizations and making them true community activities.

She mentioned that there's hope that the organization's "mid-life crisis," which Dr. Raj Barr referenced last year, is now over. She went on to say that we, as an organization, must refocus on the younger generation and see how we could get the millennials involved in our work. She believes that the younger generation is more interested in charitable causes and research shows that they are considered "civic leaders" and that might be a way to interest them in our work. She concluded her speech by reiterating that we should recalibrate our strategy on the future of the association around the millennials.

## **Election of Honorary Auditor**

Mrs. Sandy Ismail proposed Mr. Roy Braine and Mr. Dakshi De Silva seconded him.

## **Election of the vacant positions for 2017/2018**

Election Committee Chair Mr. Dakshi De Silva and member Mr. Saliya Herath, ran the election of the vacant positions.

The submissions for vacant positions via mail were received by the Elections Committee for all of the positions that were vacant for the year 2017/2018. The only exception was for the post of President-elect as Mrs. Sandy Ismail announced her resignation during the AGM citing personal reasons.

The elections committee requested nominations from the floor for the positions of President Elect with Mr. Ramesh Herath being proposed by Rashika Weerasena and seconded by Ms. Gayani Vithanage. With no other nominees for the post, Chair Mr. Dakshi De Silva confirmed Mr. Ramesh Herath as the President elect.

Mr. Yohan Perera was proposed by Ms. Shiyana Gunasekara and seconded by Mr. Upul Abeywarna for the post of Assistant Secretary due to the resignation of Ms. Shenaz Dev.

The following Directors were nominated for the year 2017/2018:

Mr. Upul Abeywarna was proposed by Mrs. Rashika Weerasena and seconded by Ms. Gayani Vithanage;

Mr. Rohan Abeysinghe was proposed by Mr. Upul Abeywarna and seconded by Ms. Gayani Vithanage;

Mrs. Hafsa Miskin was proposed by Mr. Upul Abeywarna and seconded by Mr. Naveen Weerasena;

Mrs. Lanka Mudannayake was proposed by Mrs. Rashika Weerasena and seconded by Ms. Gayani Vithanage; and

Mr. Uditha Poddalgoda was proposed by Mr. Ramesh Herath and seconded by Mr. Suraj Navaratna.

No other members from the floor entered the contest for the Assistant Secretary or the Director positions. Elections committee Chair Mr. Dakshi De Silva confirmed all of the proposed members as current members of SLAWDC and announced that all of the proposed members are elected to their respective positions.

### **Patron's Address: Ambassador Prasad Kariyawasam**

This is the first time Ambassador Kariyawasam has been able to attend an AGM as the Patron. He discussed how different this organization's leadership is today compared to 1975, when the Board at that time was entirely male, with the majority of the current Board being female. He also mentioned how much the membership and overall community has changed over the years.

He spoke about the history of U.S. and Sri Lanka relations as well as the role of Sri Lankan-American organizations. The Ambassador described the Indian-American community as a model for the Sri Lankan-American community to emulate. Indian-Americans do not go to the Indian Embassy to accomplish their political agendas, he said. They have organized themselves in a manner that has garnered clout among U.S. representatives and other political leaders. He continued to say we must assess what the benefits of being a part of this organization are. For the younger generation, simple camaraderie might not be enough to sustain membership. For the older generations, we need to ensure we are giving to both communities while also ensuring we are "multicultural enough." He said we need more people to approach SLAWDC, and that will happen once we have monetary and political clout. He mentioned the organization has taken "baby steps," in that we had Congressman Delaney attend our Sri Lanka Day event last year; however, the Indian community will do far more and have several elected officials at all of their events. He suggested possibly rewriting the Constitution to better reflect the current status of the organization. He

brought up the example of our local culinary reputation. He said we still do not have a reputable restaurant for U.S. government officials to visit if they want to learn more about Sri Lanka and our community. He implied that these are all components of the need for greater visibility.

SLAWDC should aim to have more people wanting to take up the leadership posts. Our membership, he suggested, must be in the hundreds and the AGM should reflect the kind of interest the Embassy has seen for the National day event. He said there is not enough competition for the leadership positions in SLAWDC, and we should aspire to have more eagerness from the membership to be more involved and invested.

The Ambassador, alluding to his imminent post change, welcomed members to his home to brainstorm ideas to increase our political visibility and overall capacity of an organization now and for the next ten years. Ambassador Kariyawasam concluded by recognizing all of the past Presidents for their work for the community and encouraging the membership to take the extra mile in doing more to make the organization one that benefits both the U.S. and Sri Lanka.

### **Vote of Thanks**

Dr. Raj Barr, the Vice Patron, gave a vote of thanks to last year's Board of Directors for "resetting the life" of SLAWDC and SLAGW. He described some of the encounters of racial prejudice he had as a student in Kansas, during the time of the Iranian hostage crises when there was a peaked fear for the unknown. He concluded by sharing his appreciation for the community we have built here

### **Any Other Business**

Mrs. Anjalika Silva spoke to the membership about how Sri Lankan-Americans can leave our footprint in our communities. She spoke about how we should support the Green Card lottery and those who come to the US through that program. We could do this via counseling and guidance for newcomers to the country. Counseling could include resume reviews. She continued to say how right now, we are not visible and need to earn that visibility. She said the only way we can do that by making connections with the local elected officials. Ms. Jamie Raskin is a newly elected official who wants to get to know our younger members, and meeting with her could be an opportunity for us. She said, we might be a small community but we are a high quality one and we are not pushing our impact enough. She also suggested alongside the comments of the Ambassador that we might want to change our Constitution to allow us to have a bigger impact.

Mr. Lasantha Dahanaike, one of our Vice Patrons, piggybacked off of the previous comments by Ms. Anjalika Silva and the Ambassador. He noted that SLAWDC could not be political according to the Constitution. The Ambassador interjected and clarified that SLAWDC should be politically active, but remain apolitical. Mr. Dahanaike announced a motion to create a working committee on the Constitution, who could then eventually meet with the Ambassador. He believed that if a working committee were not appointed now, there would not be any action on this discussion until the next AGM.

Mr. Roy Braine joined the conversation saying we cannot push any single US candidate because we don't have the resources. He also recommended creating a committee that would look at the Constitution and re-work it to allow us to get involved with politicians and merge our intentions. He reminded us, however, that there isn't much time in the year to do all of this.

Dr. Fernandopulle, as a founding member and past president, thanked the president for the wonderful meeting and thanked the ambassador for his suggestions and being a good teacher. He suggested that someone like Senator Van Hollen could come and give us some insights on what it is to be an apolitical community-oriented group.

Mr. Dakshi De Silva said that we should leverage whatever we can with whoever is in power. We should look at the models of other communities such as those of the Indians and Nepalis. Once we can get a model down, then we can see if that model is workable with our Constitution. Ideally, he said, we can get officials to do what we need to get done both in Sri Lanka and in the U.S.

The Ambassador again chimed in and recognized that all members and leadership are volunteers but mentioned that there might be a part-time executive secretary that will be paid from dues such as with the Sri Lanka Foundation in California.

Mr. Roy Braine proposed Mr. Lasantha Dahanaike to take the lead on the working committee on the Constitution. Mrs. Sandy Ismail seconded.

Mr. Harisha Bastiampillai, however, noted that the working committee must be designated by the Board itself and cannot be proposed by the membership. He mentioned that the committee would need to work parallel to the Board. The president sought clarification from Mr. Bastiampillai on whether the working committee members had to be appointed at the AGM or if the leader can form the committee at a later date. Mr. Bastianpiallai confirmed that the leader could form his committee.

Dr. Barr continued to note that Sri Lankans could make their mark by excelling in their careers in an individual capacity.

Mr. Dakshi De Silva noted that we should not forget the large constituents in the state of VA as we have a tendency to focus only on MD.

Mr. De Silva wrapped up the memberships' comments on any other business by noting that we have to ensure better attendance for all of our events.

With that final note, Dr. Barr proposed adjournment, while Mr. Roy Braine seconded the motion.

**SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON, DC (SLAWDC)**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1, 2017 to JANUARY 31, 2018**

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

**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 statuses are:

Mr. and Mrs. Prasanth Cherubim  
Dr. and Mrs. Greg Fernandopulle  
Mr. Ed Pieris  
Mr. Kumar Pieris

**Life Members**

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

Abeyasinghe, Rohan  
Abeywarna, Upul & Dilini  
Amirthampillai, Mawell & Josephine  
Bastiampillai, Harisha  
Braine, Roy & Shannon  
Britto, Gavin  
Ekanayake, Pri  
Gunathilaka, Thimindu

Mudannayake, Lanka & Rohan  
Munasinghe, Sudath & Sherine  
Napoli, Nick & Ramani  
Nedimala, Edward & Loretta  
Perera, Dhanika & Sharon  
Perera, Shiranee  
Perera, Yohan  
Poddalgoda, Uditha & Lihini

Gunarathna, Deepika & Asika  
Gunasekara, Shiyana  
Hettipola, Sharmaine  
Herath, Ramesh & Thanugee  
Ismail, Shane & Sandra  
Lowe, Theja  
Mack, Trevor & Dimuthu  
Amath, Shahan & Hafsa  
Moses, Sundaram & Evan

Pushpakumara, Ajith  
Sahabandu, Mallika and Linus  
Samaranayake, Senaka & Nora  
Seneviratne, George  
Silva, Sathy & Anjalika  
Subasinghe, Dilshan  
Vithanage, Gayani  
Wickaremasinghe, Deshika  
Wijeyawickrema, Kesaaraa

### **Membership**

The Association is proud to announce a membership of 52 single and family dues paying members in addition to the 93 life members (6 of whom are also sustaining members).

### **Finances**

SLAWDC ended its financial year with a healthy balance of \$8,334.84.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The following members were elected to serve on the Board for 2017/2018 at the Annual General Meeting held on March 26, 2017.

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

**President-elect:** Ramesh Herath

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

**Asst. Secretary:** Yohan Perera

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

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

**Directors:**

Upul Abeywarne; Rohan Abeysinghe; Hafsa Miskin; Lanka Devi Mudannayake; Uditha Poddalgoda

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

Mr. Roy Braine was appointed for a two-year term, proposed by Mrs. Sandra Ismail and seconded by Dr. Raj Barr.

**Board Meetings**

The Board had five official meetings, one Ad-hoc special meeting and multiple weekly planning meetings leading up Day and the Holiday Dinner Dance events.

**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.

**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 full-page advertisement from Upul travels DC for the June 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**

Despite the heavy rains, over 100 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 Wheaton and Mahamewna Buddhist temples. Mr. Shan Vengadasubramaniam conducted the Hindu religious prayer followed by Mr. Ed Pieiris who conducted the Christian prayer. Ms. Hafsa Miskin played the Islamic prayer in the absence of having a community leader present at this year's event. Miss Neha Dahanaike and Master Parami Mudannayake greeted the Chief Guest H.E Prasad Kariyawasam with "bulath hurulu".

The selection of little Avurudu Kumaraya 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, coconut scraping, and the Tug-O'-War. The special Avurudu treats of Kavun, Kokis, Kiribath and other sweetmeats and "Ceylon" tea provided by Bailey Tea were enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

We wish to thank Ms. Upekkha Samaratinga, Minister Commercial at the Embassy of Sri Lanka, for her generous contribution of \$100 towards the event.

### **Washington DC metro area Flood relief effort**

SLAWDC collaborated with Arpico Super Center 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.

### **Welcome event for the Delegation from Educate Lanka Foundation**

On July 17, 2017, SLAWDC'S Young Professional Network along with some of our Association's members welcomed four Educate Lanka scholars. These exceptional students were in the US to take part in the Global Citizens Institute summer program where they spent time with American students in the greater DC area.

We wish to thank Educate Lanka Foundation Founder Mr. Manjula Dissanayake for giving us the opportunity to host these future leaders of Sri Lanka and SLAWDC member, Ms. Sharon Perera for providing us with the space to host the event at the beautiful Homer Building rooftop in downtown DC.

### **Sri Lanka Young Professionals Happy Hour**

The Young Professionals Networks hosted a happy hour at Bar Deco in Washington DC's Chinatown on Tuesday, November 28th. The event saw over thirty Sri Lankan-American young professionals and friends in the DC metro area, many of whom were meeting for the first time. The Young Professionals Network also welcomed successful entrepreneurs Mr.

Prad Perera and Mr. Dasarath Kiridena to add more seasoned experience to the crowd's mix. We look forward to hosting many more in 2018.

### **Sri Lanka Day 2017**

“Sri Lanka Day 2017” held on September 16, 2017 saw a record number of attendees and participants from the community for the second consecutive year.

Sri Lanka Day was a true community event with Kala Lanka Foundation, Ranga Kala Kavaya, America Sri Lanka Friendship Foundation (Ape Kattiya), Sri Lanka American Friendship Foundation and Educate Lanka Foundation supporting us in organizing the event. The support given by the Sri Lankan Embassy is 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. Shane Ismail, Nalinda Mawilmada, and Timmy Gunathilaka, Sandy Ismail and Nimmi Perera, along with representatives of the other organizations, Mr. Upali Perera, Mrs. Ramani Arambewela, Mr. Manjula Dissanayake, Mr. Indika Attanayake, and Mr. Rohan Abeysinghe. A heartfelt thankyou is also due to our Spouses and significant others of the SLAWDC Board members who volunteered their time to make the event a success. We wish to thank the principal Sponsor, Upul Travels DC for their generous donation of \$650 towards the operating expenses of the event and the Diplomatic Corp of the Embassy of Sri Lanka for their donation of \$400 towards the trophies presented.

We wish to thank the following Sri Lanka Embassy officials for the \$400 donation:  
Dr. Keerawella, Deputy Chief of Mission - \$100  
Mr. Thushara Rodrigo, Minister Administration - \$200  
Ms. Dammika Kandamarachchi, Minister Consular - \$100

We also wish to thank Ms. Nimmi Perera for the generous donation towards the raffle draw.

### **Children's Christmas Party and the Holiday Dinner Dance**

Our final event for the year, the SOLD-OUT Children's Christmas party and the Holiday Dinner Dance held on Saturday December 16 entertained 110 guests, the maximum allowable at the location. Adults and kids alike enjoyed the merry atmosphere where the event commenced with the arrival of the gift bearing Santa who spent some quality time with the kids. Ms. Anjalika Silva conducted the Christmas carols and afterwards the Front Page Band provided the music for everyone's enjoyment. We wish to thank Ms. Anjalika Silva and Mr. Ravi Baddeliyanage for volunteering to make the Children's Christmas event an extra special one for the kids. The support shown by our past Presidents, family and friends is much appreciated in making the event a success.

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

- Foliage Plant Displays: \$350

- Well Wisher: \$350
- Ceylon Auto traders: \$100
- Mr. Harisha Bastiampillai: \$100
- Advertisers as listed in the souvenir.

<b>COMMUNITY EVENTS SUPPORTED BY SLAWDC</b>
---

SLAWDC Board members supported many of the community events held throughout the year by way of participation. However, as an entity SLAWDC officially supported the following events during the calendar year 2017.

- ***Chathu Madura Gee*** featuring Visharada Sanath Nandasiri, Visharada Malkanthi Nandasiri, Visharada Dayarathna Ranathunga and Visharada Amara Ranathunga; organized by the Sri Lanka Ranga Kala Kavaya
- ***Umaria Sinhawansa and Dushyanth Weeraman Live in Concert*** – organized by the Kala Lanka Foundation
- ***Chat & Music*** organized by the America Sri Lanka Friendship Foundation (Ape Kattiya)
- Events organized by the Embassy of Sri Lanka
  - ***Independence Day official Celebrations at the Embassy of Sri Lanka***
  - ***Independence Day Reception***
- Receptions at the Hon. Ambassador from Sri Lanka, Mr. Prasad Kariyawasm's residence in honor of:
  - The visit made by then-Hon. Finance Minister, Mr. Ravi Karunanayake
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Educate Lanka Foundation and the welcoming of the delegates attending the Global Citizens Institute Summer Program in Massachusetts
  - Farewell to Ambassador, H.E. Prasad Kariyawasam. SLAWDC presented the Ambassador with a personalized token of appreciation.

### **Acknowledgements**

We thank -

Our Patron, Ambassador Hon. Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam for his support during his tenure, and the Chargé D'affaires, Diplomatic Corps and the staff of the Embassy of Sri Lanka;

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

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

Our Honorary Auditor, Mr. Roy Braine;

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, America Sri Lanka Friendship Foundation (Ape Kattiya) Sri Lanka America Friendship foundation, 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.

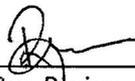
I also take this opportunity to encourage new membership and urge participation in all activities carried out by the Association. We look forward to your continued support in the future.

For and on Behalf of the Board of Directors,

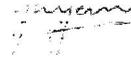


Shiyana Gunasekara  
Secretary

Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C		
Income and Expenditures		
For the Period ending January 31, 2018		
	1/31/2018	1/31/2017
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Membership Fees	1,130.00	1,380.00
Holiday Dinner Dance 2017	1,333.01	
Halloween		545.26
Sri Lanka Day	\$378.79	108.75
Newsletter Advertisement Revenue	100.00	30.00
Other	\$ 515.00	61.00
Bank Interest income		84.54
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,456.80</b>	<b>2,209.55</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
SL/Tamil NY	(\$184.94)	(757.93)
Refund of duplicate membership		(25.00)
Annual General Meeting	\$ (175.00)	
Lockbox Charges	\$ (106.00)	(106.00)
Website	\$ (183.98)	
SLAWDC- filing fee		(80.00)
Other	\$ (200.31)	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>(850.23)</b>	<b>(968.93)</b>
<b>Operation Surplus/Expense</b>	<b>\$ 2,606.57</b>	<b>1,240.62</b>



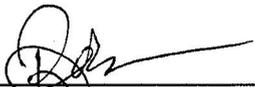
Roy Braine  
Hon. Auditor

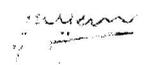


Gayani Vithanage  
Treasurer

**Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As of January 31, 2018**

<u>Assets</u>		
	1/31/2018	1/31/2017
Cash at Bank (unadjusted)	8,334.64	8,582.87
		80.00
Payable 2016 adjustment		
Cash at Bank (adjusted)	8,334.64	8,662.87
A/R		515.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>8,334.64</b>	<b>9,177.87</b>
<u>Liabilities &amp; Equity</u>		
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Payables 2016		260.00
Payable to SLAGW		904.80
Transfers to SLAGW	(2,204.80)	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>(2,284.80)</b>	<b>1,164.80</b>
<u>Equity</u>		
Beginning Equity Balance	8,013.07	6,772.45
Net Surplus/Expense	2,606.57	1,240.62
<b>Ending Equity Balance</b>	<b>10,619.64</b>	<b>8,013.07</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>8,334.84</b>	<b>9,177.87</b>

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Roy Braine  
 Hon. Auditor

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gayani Vithanage  
 Treasurer

# ANNUAL REPORT

**2017-2018**

(February 1, 2017 to January 31, 2018)

**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 GREATER WASHINGTON,  
INC.



An Approved 501.C.3 Federal Tax  
Exempt Organization founded in 2001  
by Sri Lanka Association of  
Washington, D.C

*Patron*

Mrs. Priyanga Wickramasinghe  
*Chargé D'affaires* of the Embassy  
of Sri Lanka to the United States of  
America

*Vice Patrons*

Dr. Raj Barr  
Mr. Lasantha Dahanaike

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rashika Weerasena  
*President*

Ramesh Herath  
*President-Elect*

Shiyana Gunasekara  
*Secretary*

Yohan Perera  
*Asst. Secretary*

Gayani Vithanage  
*Treasurer-SLAWDC*

Theja Lowe  
*Treasurer-SLAGW*

DIRECTORS

Rohan Abeyasinghe  
Upul Abeywarna  
Hafsa Miskin  
Lanka Devi Mudannayake  
Uditha Poddalgoda

A Non-Profit Organization  
founded in 1975

Address:  
P. O. Box 30295  
Bethesda MD 20824

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

March 9, 2018

Dear Members:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to invite you to the Association's 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting on Sunday March 25, 2018, for the formal closure of activities for the year ending 2017.

This year, we were able to raise \$700 in funds for the flood victims in Sri Lanka by way of donations from the community. We worked with charitable organizations in Sri Lanka, namely: LEDS, Sri Lanka Unites and Sri Sumedha International meditation center to disburse goods to children effected by the floods. In addition, we also raised \$300 in funds to donate to the Deaf and Blind School in Ratmalana.

SLAGW ended its financial year with a healthy bank balance of \$3124.88

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 our Patron, Vice Patrons, Past Presidents and the Advisory Board members for their guidance and support.

I wish the new Board, all success in carrying out their duties in the coming year!

Sincerely,

Rashika Weerasena  
President

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON, INC. (SLAGW)</b> <b>ANNUAL REPORT</b> <b>FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1, 2017 to JANUARY 31, 2018</b></p>
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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 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on March 26, 2017, 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 2017/2018 at the Annual General Meeting held on March 26, 2017

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

**President-elect:** Ramesh Herath

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

**Asst. Secretary:** Yohan Perera

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

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

**Directors:**

Upul Abeywarne; Rohan Abeysinghe; Hafsa Miskin; Lanka Devi Mudannayake; Uditha Poddalgoda

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

Since the Honorary Auditor Mr. Roy Braine was appointed for a two-year term.

**Board Meetings**

The Board had five regular meetings and one Ad-hoc special meeting during the year.

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

The SLAWDC website continued to keep the community informed of SLAWDC and 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.

### **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 full-page advertisement from Upul travels DC for the June edition.

### **Finances**

SLAGW total funds collected for the period ending January 31, 2018 is \$3458.79. The total distribution of funds for the period from February 1, 2017 thru January 31, 2018 was \$2000. The Balance as of January 31, 2018 is \$3124.88.

<b>SLAGW APPROVED CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>
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### **Ceylon School of The Deaf & Blind, Ratmalana (Donated \$300.00 in 2017)**

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.

- Mr. Nihal Gunawardena, past president SLAWDC made a \$300.00 contribution towards the school.

### **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, Hendala (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>

### **Flood Relief in Sri Lanka (Donated \$1700)**

The Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington (SLAGW) extensively reviewed severable local Sri Lankan charity organizations and selected three charities to receive our donations to assist flood-affected children in purchasing new school supplies.

Our partnerships:

**LEADS:** Our partnership with LEADS provided approximately 50 students from three schools in Balathsinhala and Baduraliya with books, uniforms and shoes.

**SRI SUMEDHA INTERNATIONAL MEDITATION CENTER:** Our efforts alongside Sri Sumedha supported the rebuilding of the Music Department at the Kalawana National School in the Ratnapura District, where more than 450 students had been affected.

**SRI LANKA UNITES:** We collaborated with Sri Lanka Unites to take school supplies such as school bags, uniforms, stationary, books, and water bottles to approximately 30 children in Ratnapura and the southern districts.

The following individuals made donations towards specific flood relief efforts carried out by SLAGW:

- Mr. Nihal Gunwardena: \$500
- Ms. Pubudu Ranasinghe: \$50
- Ms. Rashika Weerasena: \$150

In addition, SLAWDC pledged \$1000 in funds towards the projects.

There was also an additional \$50 donation made by Ms. Rashika Weerasena to the general fund of SLAGW.

**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,

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

Shiyana Gunasekara  
Secretary



**Sri Lanka Association of Washington DC, and its affiliate, Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington Inc.**

**FORM OF APPOINTMENT OF PROXY**

**PART I**

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Full name)

Of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

Being a member of the Sri Lanka Association of Washington, DC, hereby appoint,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Full name of proxy)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of proxy)

being a member of SLAWDC, as my proxy to represent me and vote on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2017 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

**PART II**

I, the undersigned, hereby direct my proxy to vote for me and on my behalf as stated below:

To elect, as President-elect, \_\_\_\_\_

To elect, as Secretary, \_\_\_\_\_

To elect, as Assistant Secretary, \_\_\_\_\_

To elect, as Treasurer (SLAWDC), \_\_\_\_\_

To elect, as Treasurer (SLAGW), \_\_\_\_\_

To elect, as Director, \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

---

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of member -----

Date -----

## **Instructions for completing the Proxy form**

Please fill in Part I (the top portion) of the form with the following:

- member's name
- member's address
- name of the Proxy and
- address of the Proxy.

If the member wishes to cast his/her vote on any of the nominees listed on the slate (given in the annual report) or any other nominees, and/or any other matter, please fill in Part II (the bottom portion) and write out the name of the nominee.

All those voting by proxy (i.e. filling out Part II), MUST send in their duly filled proxies to the Chairman, elections committee at least three days prior (No later than Thursday, March 22, 2018) to the Annual General Meeting.

Those who are not voting by proxy, and filling out ONLY Part I of the form, may send in their proxies by the start of the Annual General Meeting.