

## **Secretary's Annual report, GAMA-2014**

Respected GAMA president Thomas Eapen, Executive committee members & beloved members of Greater Atlanta Malayalee Association.

On behalf of the Executive committee I wish you all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. Before I present my report I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve you as secretary during the 2014 term of our 33 year old journey in GAMA. I specially want to thank the executive committee members of GAMA-2014, a group of very disciplined individuals who brought variety of talents to GAMA and stood as the contributors and backbone for the success of our tenure.

We started our tenure where our former president Anu Sukumar and team left off, with our first executive committee meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> 2013 at this high school where our current team was formed with Thomas K. Eapen (President), Joseph Elakkatt (Vice President), Mathew Abraham (Secretary), Shajeev Padmanivas (Joint Secretary), Shybi Thomas (Treasurer). Sports committee comprised of Yaser Abdul, Jeboy Thomas & Binoy Varghese (Food/Sports). Cultural committee comprised of Manu Govind, Manoj Thomas & Shivakumar S.G, and Food committee comprised of George Karivelil & Suja Joseph. In addition Joseph Elakkatt filled in with food committee and Shajeev Padmanivas with sports

I want to give you a report of the activities.

Our GAMA 2014 inaugural program, a signature presentation involving dance and music teams around Atlanta- "Vismayam 2014" was conducted on March 22nd at Berkmar High School. The event included a surprise flash mob for the first time in GAMA, choreographed by Movina Nagarajan. Chief Guest of the function was Honorable General

David Poythress and Consul Rajinder Singh at Atlanta Indian Consulate graced the occasion with his keynote address. Proud and humbled to say everyone enjoyed it fully and those who couldn't make it really missed it

The triumphant GAMA Picnic was conducted on May 17th at Sweet Water Park in Lawrenceville. This event began with authentic Kerala style breakfast continued with bbq, variety games for all ages and concluded with tug o war.

A Fund Raising/Charity event by GAMA, ULLASA THIRAMALA was conducted on June 1<sup>st</sup> at Mountain View High School in Lawrenceville. The program turned out a great success, and in fact your support made it the MEGA Show of the year 2014. It has been decided to give 30 percent of its proceeds to charity.

Onam with GAMA was conducted on August 30th at this Mountain View High School in Lawrenceville, This program "OnaVismayam2014" was a huge success. We are happy to say that we had over 560 attendees including lot of new young faces for the traditional Ona Sadya in banana leaf and for the celebration. We are really humbled to see many of you volunteered to help out without which we couldn't serve lunch timely – We specially thank the volunteers and (126) performers who made this event a memorable one.

Along with the cultural events, sports committee also did an outstanding job. Basketball tournament for GAMA ever rolling trophy was conducted on August 9th at Best Friend Park in Norcross. In this en-thrilled and challenged competition, team 'SACC-Attack' Sports won the trophy

Tennis tournament was conducted on October 25th at Grayson Community Tennis Courts in Loganville. Congratulation to Rajeev

Kunnummal & Raghu Pani for winning GAMA Ever Rolling Trophy in 2014

We are absolutely exhilarated and delighted to say that our sports committee staged a debut cricket- T10 KNOCKOUT tournament on NOVEMBER 1ST & 2ND at Ocee Park in Alpharetta. We had twenty teams participated in the event, in spite of the inclement weather. After some nail biting games Samprasoft Willow Raiders won the trophy.

GAMA Volleyball tournament was conducted on NOV 22nd at the gym of St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Lawrenceville. We want to thank you for the overwhelming support and participation we received from you all. Congratulations to Alpharetta One led by Yaser Abdul who won this year's championship.

And finally we are here for our Christmas & New Year Celebration.

In order to successfully accomplish all above said activities, our executive committee was fully in action, met 22nd times for Executive committee meetings and I want to thank each of our team members on your behalf in finding time and volunteering in every phase of the cultural & sports activities. Can we give them a round of applause?

We were keen in bringing news and updates from Indian consulate to all our members.

GAMA executive members were privileged to be invited and participated in a private reception to NK Premachandran, current MP and former minister for Water Resources in the government of Kerala on November 17<sup>th</sup>. This reception was hosted by former GAMA president Antony Thaliyath.

GAMA has an informative website and Facebook page which is maintained by Thomas Eapen and Shajeev Padmanivas. Thank you both for the efforts and finding time to do it.

Of course we faced some administrative difficulties due to operating limitations or existing guidelines. We established a subcommittee including four of past presidents Antony Thaliath, Abraham Augusthy, Biju Thuruthumalil, Anu Sukumar and our current president. Recommendations after a meeting with them has been sent out for your review to accommodate changes needed wherever applicable in the form of either resolutions or operating guidelines.

Before I conclude, I want to thank all our members (this year we had 296 family and 20 individual membership. Also I think all of our Sponsors and advertisers, without their financial support we would have been zero.

“GAMA 2014 striving to be MORE than We have ever been”. We have not been perfect but we did our level best.

I humbly present this report to you our members, the supreme authority for approval.

Secretary-2014

Mathew Abraham