



## Hampton Roads Malayalee Association (HRMA)

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[www.hrmava.com](http://www.hrmava.com)

### HRMA ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

HRMA Executive Committee in 2019 formed multiple subcommittees and had various detailed discussions focused on giving back to the community.

**HRMA Newsletter:** In the interest of being connected with community. HRMA committee decided to publish newsletter thrice a year (September, January and May). HRMA wanted to recognize community contributions/achievements, awards, professional advancements and significant life events of Malayalee's in the Hampton roads area. Primary focus was to inspire and motivate the school aged children in the academics as well as in any area of talent by the citations in the newsletter.

**HRMA website:** HRMA website is annually updated with our financial audit report, current governing body and is accessible for all our members and nonmembers. For new Malayalee's, we have facilities in our website for subscriptions and requesting memberships online. Also we publish the details of sponsors in the HRMA website.

**HRMA Malayalam Classes:** HRMA conducts Malayalam classes teaching youth the basics of the language at Bayside Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach. This year the subcommittee Biju and Ajish along with help of six volunteers Linda, Bini, Snitha, Nisaraj, Rejith and Anjaly worked on improvising the curriculum to more structured way introducing learning aids like stories, poems read/write sessions, charts and projectors. Also increased the frequency of classes from once to twice a month. Our goal is to provide language tools for the children and help them develop their own sense of understanding of the language. The cost associated with holding classes will be solely covered by donations.

**HRMA Advertising /Sponsorship:** HRMA formed advertising /sponsorship Committee that included Aju Paul, Sajeev Sadanandan, Chanchal and Dennis. We created three tiers platinum, gold and silver sponsorships. For 2020 we partnered with Biriyani hub as our platinum and gold Sponsorship from common wealth & Fathom realty. Sponsors are always a big part of moving the association forward and for that we are thankful to all our sponsors.

**HRMA Account Audit:** HRMA Accounts were audited by Joby Varghese. The accounts audited were from 2018 and 2019. All receipts, documents, bank statements were provided by the treasurer to the auditor for a thorough audit. Treasurer Chanchal Rachel was the lead for collecting all necessary documents for the audit. HRMA 2018- 2019 audit was completed by July, 2019.



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**HRMA 2018-2020 Elections:** HRMA AGM held on nov 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018 decided to increase the term of Executive committee from one to two years and hence there won't be elections conducted this year. HRMA in 2018 formed an Election Committee with Rejith Raveendran, Nithin S Dharan and Sibichan Konathapally. Election committee created nomination forms and send email notifications to the community. The initial deadline 14 Dec, 2018 was extended to Dec22nd, 2018 due to less nominations by the initial deadline. Elections were held on Jan 5th, 2019 by using secret ballot at the Silver Bells Christmas New-year Celebration where annual general body was present. The following people were elected as 2019 HRMA Executive Committee:

- President: Joy Kannarkat
- Vice President: Aju Paul
- Treasurer: Chanchal Rachel
- Secretary: Sajeew Sadanandan
- Board of Directors: Ajish Paulose, Dennis Devassia, Biju Nair, Smrithi Jyothish, Valsan Ajith
- Ex-Officio Member: George Thomas

And on the course we had a vacancy due to an executive member moving out of Hampton road area along with overwhelming responses received for the Onam event, the existing committee in accordance with governing bylaws decided to expand its strength by adding two more committee members. In the process we added Latha S Nair on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and Sreejith Chandran, Abdul Jabbar on Dec 2019 as Board of Directors. I would like to welcome the new members here.

### HRMA hosted three major events in 2019/20:

- **HRMA Annual Picnic:** Picnic was held at Great Neck Park in Virginia Beach. It was great fun with a lot of activities
- **HRMA Onam Celebrations:** Onam event was held at Bayside Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, VA. We had around 240 guests at the event and it was the highest amount of people we had at a single event. This year Onam was celebrated in unique way where Ona Sadya preparation became a community event. HRMA appreciated all supported volunteers with a token of appreciation.
- **Silver Bells Celebration:** We have out grown the old venue, so we had to find a new venue "international Church" to celebrate Christmas and New Year celebration.

HRMA had a very productive year so far and the Executive Committee was able to find a perfect venue for hosting the cultural programs. Moreover, people are showing interest in performing at our events



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and lot of volunteers are coming forward to help the association. All HRMA events were evaluated in detail by the executive committee at various committee meetings.

HAMPTON ROADS MALAYALEE ASSOCIATION