



Hampton Roads Malayalee Association (HRMA)

hrma@hrmava.com

www.hrmava.com

HRMA ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

HRMA was at a standstill for about two years by 2015 and the initiative to reform the association was taken by a group of volunteers. Committee members had various discussions for registering the association as a non-profit and for creating a basic structure for HRMA.

- ❖ **Restarting Activities:** HRMA send out an official email to the community by end of 2015 asking for potential volunteers to take the association forward. The following people responded: Snitha Krishnan, Rejith Raveendran, Iype Philip, Xavier Konathapally, Joby Varghese, Jikku Abraham, Nisaraj Dharmarajan and Ceril Chummar. HRMA committee was formed with all 8 people that responded and started having discussions to restart activities.
- ❖ **Executive Committee:** HRMA Committee Members agreed that it was time to create a structure for the association. We held elections with submitting secret ballots through hrmalluadmin@gmail.com and following people were elected as the executive committee:
 - **President:** Xavier Konathapally
 - **Vice President:** Snitha Krishnan
 - **Secretary:** Jikku Abraham
 - **Treasurer:** Joby Varghese
 - **Board of Directors:** Iype Philip, Nisaraj Dharmarajan, Ceril Chummar, and Rejith Raveendran
- ❖ **Non-Profit Org:** HRMA was registered as a non-profit organization in the state of Virginia. It allows HRMA to transparently conduct financial transactions and to focus more on serving the community.
- ❖ **HRMA Bank Account:** HRMA opened a bank account at Chartway FCU to make transactions easier. Xavier Konathapally and Joby Varghese took initiative in starting the bank account and both were given equal access to the account.
- ❖ **Cultural Programs Coordinator:** With restarting of the events, there was a need for program coordinator that could manage all the cultural programs. Snitha Krishnan came



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forward and took initiative in coordinating cultural programs and arranging performances in the right order for the events. The performers were given a deadline to submit brief description of their programs which will help dictate the time duration for the event.

- ❖ **HRMA Bylaws:** HRMA committee members actively took part in discussions and held five committee meetings to create Bylaws for the association. HRMA Bylaws was intended as a way to provide a set guidance to all its General Body.
- ❖ **Malayalam Movies:** HRMA started advertising Malayalam Movies in Norfolk via our official email and send out event invites through HRMA Facebook page. The initiative to bring Malayalam movies to Norfolk was carried out by Anil Manmadhan and Giles Gandhi. They individually coordinated with distributors to arrange for Malayalam movies to be showcased at Cinemark 18 Theater in Norfolk. HRMA is only affiliated with advertising and the association does not have any capital gain from the movies.
- ❖ **HRMA Annual Memberships:** HRMA introduced membership opportunities to anyone that wishes to join our organization. Being members at HRMA allows a person to enjoy benefits such as discounted rates for all HRMA events. Moreover, Executive Committee wanted all our members to be actively involved with HRMA.
 - Membership application was created and shared via email to the community.
 - Membership categories were family \$50 & Single \$30.
- ❖ **HRMA Cricket Team:** HRMA was successful in creating a Cricket team called Kerala Kombans. The lead for the initiative was Nisaraj Dharmarajan. Kerala Kombans have about 30 players on and off the field actively taking part in tennis ball cricket league at Chesapeake Temple Grounds. Kerala Kombans is led by Captain: Nisaraj Dharmarajan and Vice-Captain: Sarat Chandran. Sarat Chandran was later replaced as Vice-Captain by Nelson Xavier after couple of tournaments.
- ❖ **HRMA Food & Fund Drive:** HRMA conducted a food and fund drive for the Food bank of southeastern Virginia and was able to raise \$200 in donations via online. Additionally HRMA collected variety foods from various locations in Hampton Roads which equaled to 219lbs. Food that HRMA provided would feed around 182 meals to people that need it the most.



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- ❖ **Community Relations:** HRMA Representatives Rejith Raveendran and Jikku Abraham attended the business luncheon at AIHR. It was a networking platform for HRMA to meet major businesses representatives in the Hampton Roads area. HRMA also took part in the Sister City program called Christmas in Kochi. Rejith Raveendran took lead to help Sister City with arranging the hall with PA system and coordinated with performers to showcase cultural programs at the event. Additionally, HRMA Executive Members performed Christmas carol songs in Malayalam for the crowd. The cultural program by our community was the highlight of the event and it was very much appreciated by the Sister City community.
- ❖ **HRMA hosted Three Major Events:**
 - **HRMA Christmas/New Year Celebrations:** Event was held at Good Shepherd Church in Norfolk, VA. It was a success and we had around 150 guests at the event. The food was completely prepared by CM's with the supervision of Iype Philip.
 - **HRMA Annual Picnic:** Picnic was a success and it was held at Great Neck Park in Virginia Beach. It was great fun with a lot of activities planned to make it an enjoyable picnic.
 - **HRMA Onam Celebrations:** Event was held at Good Shepherd Church in Norfolk, VA. We had around 160 guests at the event. The food was completely prepared by CM's at Nisaraj's residence with the exception of sponsored cabbage thoran by Coastal Spice. HRMA Accounts and Annual Reports were presented to the General Body at the event. Cultural programs duration was about 2.5 hours.

All HRMA events were completely evaluated by the Executive Committee at various meetings. Feedback survey created by Rejith Raveendran was send out after the Onam event to the community to help improve our events. Executive Committee came to the conclusion that it was time to find a new venue since the cultural programs needed a stage and a bigger hall to fit all our guests. Committee members were also asked to find potential sponsorships for HRMA. For HRMA, 2016 ended with preparations for upcoming 2017 Christmas/New Year Celebrations.