



## Hampton Roads Malayalee Association (HRMA)

[hrma@hrmava.com](mailto:hrma@hrmava.com)

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

### **HRMA ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018**

HRMA Executive Committee in 2017 formed multiple subcommittees and had various detailed discussions to start Website, Malayalam Classes and to conduct fundraising.

- ❖ **HRMA's Logo & Website:** Logo and Website was outsourced to a company called Hardsoft in Kerala, India and the lead for the effort was Xavier Konathapally. Executive Committee wanted a logo that featured Kerala as well as Hampton Roads. All CM's gave their inputs and we were able to create a unique logo for the association. To take the website idea forward, HRMA formed a subcommittee with Xavier Konathapally, Rejith Raveendran, Snitha Krishnan, Joby Varghese and Ceril Chummar. \$499 was paid for creating the both logo and website for HRMA. Website was completed as of 16 March, 2018 and it will be maintained and updated by Rejith Raveendran.
- ❖ **HRMA Malayalam Classes:** HRMA formed a Malayalam Classes Subcommittee with Nisaraj Dharmarajan, Rejith Raveendran, Snitha Krishnan and Jikku Abraham. They were able to come up with a structured curriculum and sufficient materials for the classes with the help of 6 volunteers. Volunteers for Malayalam Classes were Linda, Neena, Lekshmi, Bini, Arathy and Anjaly. Malayalam Classes started in OCT 2017 and it consist of curriculum based on teaching youth the basics of the language. Malayalam classes will be held once a month at Bayside Presbyterian Church at Virginia Beach. 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 was able to raise \$235 in donations from various members of our community.
- ❖ **HRMA Fundraising/Advertising:** HRMA formed a fundraising/advertising Committee to include Nisaraj Dharmarajan, Iype Philip, and Jikku Abraham. HRMA had a handful of sponsors in the year 2017. Sponsorship is a big part of moving the association forward and for that we are thankful to all our sponsors. Below are list of our 2017 Fundraisers & Sponsors:
  - **Coastal Spice:** Mr. Surag Gopi and his crew were very helpful in providing wonderful food for our events. They provided us discounted rates for food at Christmas/New Year Celebrations and Onam Celebrations. They also sponsored



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burger sliders for Annual Picnic and provided one of their employees (\$60 paid by HRMA) to help us grill at the annual picnic.

- **Raffle Tickets:** Raffle ticket prizes sponsored by Coastal Spice were tested out as a fundraiser at the HRMA Annual Picnic and it was a success. Coastal Spice provided HRMA with 10-15 Coastal Spice Gift Cards which could be used at their restaurant. Half of the collected money from raffle tickets was given back to Coastal Spice as a token of appreciation from HRMA. Gift cards were also sponsored by Coastal Spice at Onam Celebrations.
- **Brahmani Asian-Indian Market:** The owner Rishit sponsored 200 Besan Ladoos for the Christmas/New Year Celebrations.
- **Commonwealth Insurance Agency:** Mr. Deepak Satheesh donated \$250 for the Onam Celebrations. His company provides quotes from over 20 insurance agencies to assist you in finding better services and rates.
- **Kari Ross:** Kari is a realtor at Berkshire Hathaway Home Services. Kari donated \$100 for the Onam Celebrations
- **Leslie Herring:** Leslie is a mortgage loan officer at Advance Financial Group which is a division of Towne Bank. Leslie donated \$100 for the Onam Celebrations.
- **AIHR Business Relations:** HRMA representative Xavier Konathapally and Joby Varghese attended the AIHR business luncheon for community networking and for finding possible sponsorships.
- **Auctioning:** Deck the Halls Celebration decorations were auctioned out as a fundraising attempt and to avoid keeping items for the next year. It was a success and we were able to auction out most of decorations items at the event.
- ❖ **HRMA Account Audit:** HRMA Accounts were audited by Chanchal Rachel. The accounts audited were from 2016 and 2017. All receipts, documents, bank statements were provided by the treasurer to the auditor for a thorough audit. Treasurer Joby



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Varghese was the lead for collecting all necessary documents for the audit. HRMA 2016-2017 Audit was completed as of 8 Jan, 2018.

- ❖ **HRMA 2018 Elections:** HRMA formed an Election Committee with Joby Varghese, Ceril Chummar and Snitha Krishnan. HRMA wanted to welcome new committee members to the association and planned to hold the elections at Deck the Halls Celebration. Election committee created nomination forms and send email notifications to the community. The initial deadline 10 Dec, 2017 was extended to 6 Jan, 2018 due to only receiving 3 nominations by the initial deadline. All nominations received were acknowledged by HRMA Election Committee and there were two nominations for the post of Treasurer. Elections were held on 3 Feb, 2018 by using secret ballot at the Deck the Halls Celebration where annual general body was present. The following people were elected as 2018 HRMA Executive Committee:

- **President:** George Thomas
- **Vice President:** Jikku Abraham
- **Treasurer:** Chanchal Rachel
- **Secretary:** Nisaraj Dharmarajan
- **Board of Directors:** Rejith Raveendran, Anu Thomas, Aju Paul, Nithin Dharan, Dennis Devassia, Sajeev Sadhanandan
- **Ex-Officio Member:** Xavier Konathapally

- ❖ **HRMA hosted 3 Major Events in 2017 and 1 Event in 2018:**

- **HRMA Christmas/New Year Celebrations:** Event was held at Bayside Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, VA. The event was a success and we had over 150 guests at the event. The food was completely outsourced to Coastal Spice for the event. The new venue had a stage and it was a major advantage for the people performing cultural programs at the event.



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- **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:** Event was held at Bayside Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, VA. Executive Committee decided to post flyers at various locations and send usual email and FB notifications. We had around 200 guests at the event and it was the highest amount of people we had at a single event. The food was completely prepared by of Coastal Spice for the event, except for ada pradhaman prepared by CM's.
- **Deck the Halls Celebration:** Event was held at Bayside Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, VA. Elections were held using secret ballots at the starting of the event and results were announced in the middle of the cultural programs. Duration for the cultural programs was around 3 hours and we had around 160 people at the 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 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. 2017 ended with preparation for Deck the Halls Celebration and 2018 started off with a newly elected Executive Committee. 2016-2017 Executive committee have officially turned over all their duties and responsibilities to the newly elected committee on 17 March, 2018.