

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009**

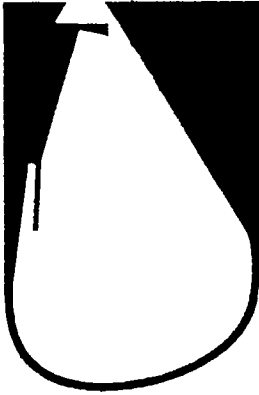
(February 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009)

SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON D.C.  
A Non-Profit Organization Founded in 1975  
P.O. Box 30295  
Bethesda, MD 20824-0295

AND  
its affiliate

SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF  
GREATER WASHINGTON, INC.  
An Approved Federal Tax Exempt Organization  
P.O. Box 30295  
Bethesda, MD 20824-0295

**SRI LANKA  
ASSOCIATION  
OF WASHINGTON DC**



Patron

.....  
His Excellency  
Jaliya Wickramasuriya  
The Ambassador for Sri Lanka  
to the United States of America

Vice Patrons

Mr. Prasanth Cherubim  
Mr. Clement Abeygunawardena

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dakshi De Silva  
President

Rajeeva Serasinghe  
Acting President-Elect

Sandra Sourjah  
Secretary

Marlon Perera  
Asst. Secretary

Alex Perera  
Treasurer

Kamal Dorabawila  
Treasurer SLAGW

DIRECTORS

Sandra Ismail  
Suraj Navaratne  
Lahiru Devinda  
Nalaka Weragoda  
Roy Braine

Gayanga Opatha  
Honorary Auditor

A Non-Profit Organization  
founded in 1975

Address:  
P. O. Box 30295  
Bethesda MD 20824-0295

E-mail: SLAWDC.COM

www.slawdc.com

March 10, 2009

**NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C. and its tax exempt affiliate, the Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc., will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2009 commencing at 11:30 a.m. at the Argyle Park Activity Center, 1030 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20901 starting with a 'Social Hour' at 10:30 a.m..

**AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the Agenda and the Notice convening the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association.
2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association held on March 2, 2008.
3. Adoption of the Annual Report and the Statement of Account of the Association for the year ending January 31, 2008.
4. Address by our Patron H.E. Jaliya Wickramasuriya.
5. Election of the Board of Directors for 2009-2010. Members may also nominate candidates from the floor at this meeting in accordance with procedures of Article VII (B) of the Constitution.
6. Election of the Honorary Auditor for 2009/2010.
7. Any other business.
8. Adjournment.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

*Sandra Sourjah*

Secretary

**To:** The Board Directors, Sri Lanka Association of Washington DC  
**From:** Election Committee  
**Subject:** Election Committee Report – Nominations for the election of Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting on March 28, 2009

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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 28, 2009,

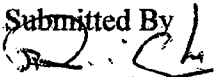
The Committee verified that the under noted candidates, proposes and sconders have satisfied the provisions in the article III (b) and Article III (g) of its by-Laws

	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
<b>President:</b>	Dakshi De Silva	(Retained two-year position as office bearer 2008/2009)
<b>President Elect:</b>	TBD	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Sandra Sourjah	Dakshi De Silva Romanie De Silva
<b>Asst: Secretary</b>	Sandra Ismail	Lasantha Dahanaike Anjalika Silva
<b>Treasurer – Sri Lanka Association of Washington DC</b>	Alex Perera	(Retained two-year position as office bearer 2008/2009)
<b>Treasurer – Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington Inc:</b>	TBD	


<b>Directors</b>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Lahiru Devinda	Iroshana Nanayakkara	Sumith Wijegunawardena
Roy Braine	Sandra Sourjah	Marlon Perera
Lasitha Gunawardena	Gayanga Opatha	Dakshi De Silva

TBD

TBD

Submitted By  
  
Bandula Ramasinghe  
Chairman, Elections committee

  
Dhanika Perera  
Member, Committee

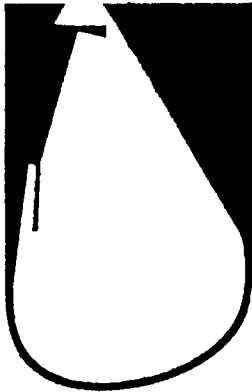
  
Terrance Kuruppi  
Member, Committee

**THE SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF  
WASHINGTON, D.C., (SLAWDC)**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1, 2008 TO  
JANUARY 31, 2009**

**SRI LANKA  
ASSOCIATION  
OF WASHINGTON DC**



Patron

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**His Excellency  
Jaliya Wickramasuriya  
The Ambassador for Sri Lanka  
to the United States of America**

**Vice Patrons**

**Mr. Prasanth Cherubim  
Mr. Clement  
Abeygunawardena**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Dakshi De Silva  
President**

**Rajeeva Serasinghe  
Acting President-Elect**

**Sandra Sourjah  
Secretary**

**Marlon Perera  
Asst. Secretary**

**Alex Perera  
Treasurer**

**Kamal Dorabawila  
Treasurer SLAGW**

**DIRECTORS  
Sandra Ismail  
Suraj Navaratne  
Lahiru Devinda  
Nalaka Weragoda  
Roy Braine**

**Gayanga Opatha  
Honorary Auditor**

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March 10, 2009

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to invite you to the Association's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2009 for the formal closure to our term of office and to extend a warm welcome to the newly elected Board.

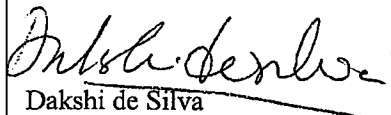
It has been an honor and privilege to have served you as president through the past year. As you know, it was a challenging mid term with 3 members of the Board stepping down after I took over office. We had the President elect, the Secretary and directors resign their terms prematurely due to personal commitments. However, they were replaced by excellent individuals who helped stabilize the Board and move forward with our plans to serve our community at large.

This year we held a few events in partnership with other organizations in the community. The main reason for the joint efforts was to pool our resources and reduce operating costs. Due to inflation, the operating costs of our annual programs have increased over the years. We had to look into ways of cutting cost instead of increasing membership fees. We have continued to use email to communicate with our membership; we have significantly saved by emailing the Newsletters and Annual Report this year. These reductions have contributed SLAWDC end its financial year with a healthy bank balance of \$7,618. Therefore, the Board members elected to transfer \$2,000 to SLAGW to continue with our charitable work.

My sincere thanks to our very dedicated Board, and their spouses who made it possible to achieve our goals, especially, in organizing our Annual New year's Eve Dinner Dance which was a great success. I thank the past Presidents, Leaders of other community organizations and members for your continued support which made my job easy and satisfying. My profound gratitude to all of you and to our Patron H.E The Ambassador Jaliya Wickramasuriya, Vice Patrons Mr. Prasanth Cherubim and Clement Abeygunawardena, the Advisory Board members, and the immediate Past President Lasantha Dahanaikie for their guidance and support.

I wish the new Board every success to carry our mandate.

Sincerely,

  
Dakshi de Silva  
President

**THE SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON, D.C., (SLAWDC)**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1, 2008 TO JANUARY 31, 2009**

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 Hon. Mr. Jaliya Wickremasuriya

**Vice Patrons:** Mr. Prasanth Cherubim and Mr. Clement Abeygunawardena

**Honorary Members:**

Mr. Clement Abeygunawardena

**Non-resident Honorary Members:**

Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Jr.

**Sustaining Members:**

The following are recognized by the Board as Sustaining Members, who continue to pay annual dues regardless of their Honorary or Life member status:

Dr. & Mrs. Raj & Deepika Barr-Kumar  
Dr. & Mrs. Hilarian & Sheila Codippily  
Mr. Edward Peries

**Life Members:**

Abeywickrama, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth  
Baddeliyanage, Mr. & Mrs. Don  
Barr-Kumar, Dr. & Mrs. Raj  
Codippily, Dr. & Mrs. Hilarian  
De Fonseka, Dr. & Mrs. Kamal  
De Zoysa, Ms. Rani  
Fernandopulle, Dr. & Mrs. Greg  
Fonseka, Mr. & Mrs. Lalin  
Gunasekera, Mr. Ronald  
Herath, Mr. Saliya  
Kuruppu, Mr. & Mrs. Terry  
Loos, Ms. Janine  
Mushin, Mr. & Mrs. Mohamed

Amerasinghe, Dr. & Mrs. Ranjan  
Baddeliyanage, Mr. & Mrs. Ravi.  
Basnayake, Mr. & Mrs. Sena  
Dahanaike, Mr. Lasantha  
De Silva, Mr. & Mrs. Dakshi  
Don, Mr. Milroy  
Fernando, Mr. & Mrs. Vijitha  
Goonewardene, Mr. & Mrs. Nihal  
Hapangama, Mr. & Mrs. Ratna  
Karunaratne, Mr. & Mrs. S.  
Lenora, Mr. & Mrs. Nihal  
Mccoy, Ms. Billie  
Nanayakkara, Mr. & Mrs. Jim

Nanayakkara, Mr. & Mrs. Iroshana  
Perera, Mr. & Mrs. Cecil  
Peries, Mr. & Mrs. Edward  
Rajakumaran, Mr. & Mrs. Basil  
Ranganathan, Mr. & Mrs. A.  
Salgado, Dr. & Mrs. Ranjith  
Samarasinghe, Dr & Dr.. Stanley  
Stork, Mr. Ralph Ainsley  
Vithanage, Ms. Charmini  
Wiratunga, Mr. & Mrs. Ranjith

Perera, Mr. Alex  
Perera, Mr. & Mrs. Srilal  
Peries, Mr. Kumar  
Ranasinghe, Mr. & Mrs. Bandula  
Rudran, Dr. Rudy & Mrs. Ranji  
Salgado, Mr. & Mrs. Ranil  
Senanayake, Ms. Shantini  
Tantula, Mr. & Mrs. Kosala  
Wijetilleke, Drs. Lakdasa

### **Membership**

The Association announces a membership of 79 single and family dues paying members in addition to the 79 life members and two Honorary Members.

### **Finance**

SLAWDC ended its financial year with a healthy balance of \$7,618.00.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The following were the office bearers to serve on the Board for 2008/2009 at the Annual General Meeting held on March 2, 2008

President:	Dakshi de Silva	President Elect:	Rashika Padmakumara
Secretary:	Sugath Karunaratne	Asst. Secretary:	Marlon Perera
Treasurer:	Alex Perera	Treasurer:	Kamal Dorabawila
(SLAWDC)		(SLAGW)	
Directors:	Sandy Ismail Rajeeva Seneviratne Lahiru Devinda Nalaka Weragoda Gadaffi Ismail		

### **Honorary Auditor for 2008/2009**

Mr. Gayanga Opatha continued to serve as Honorary Auditor of the Association for 2008/2009.

### **Board Meetings**

The Board had 7 regular meetings during the year 2008.

The following office bearers stepped down prematurely due to personal reasons.

President Elect:	Rashika Padmakumara
Secretary:	Sugath Karunaratne
Director:	Gadaffi Ismail

The above offices were succeeded by the following persons.

Acting President Elect: Rajeeva Seneviratne (August 2008)  
Secretary: Sandra Sourjah (September 2008)  
Director: Roy Braine (October 2008)

### **WWW.SLAWDC.COM**

The SLAWDC Website continued to keep the community informed of SLAWDC activities as well as events by other organizations. We used the services of Mr. Upul Abeywarna who continued to assist us with managing the website.

### **SLAWDC Newsletter – Serendib**

The newsletter continued to include community news in addition to SLAWDC news on a quarterly basis. The newsletter was distributed via electronic mail to our members.

## **EVENTS HELD DURING THE YEAR**

(Photographs can be found on the SLAWDC website at [www.slawdc.com](http://www.slawdc.com))

Ms. Rashika Padmakumara resigned from post of President Elect.

Mr. Sugath Karunaratne resigned from post of Secretary.

Mr. Gaddaffi Ismail resigned from post of Director.

### **Sinhala and Tamil New Year Celebrations – April 13, 2008**

The annual Sinhala–Hindu New Year celebration organized by the Sri Lanka-Washington Association was held on 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2008 at the Rockville Community Centre in Maryland.

The day's proceedings commenced with the lighting of the traditional oil lamp, followed by religious observances conducted by the venerable *theras* of the Wheaton Buddhist Temple. Messages were also presented by Mrs. Renganathan Mr. Codippily and Mr. Naseer Azeez on behalf of the Hindu, Christian and Islamic faiths respectively. The Welcome Address was presented by the President of the Association, Mr. Dakshi de Silva, and the gathering was then addressed by the Chief Guest, His Excellency Mr. Bernard Goonetilleke.

The official segment of the proceedings being concluded, the program continued with entertainment provided by the talented performers of the *Ranga Kala Kavaya*. The spotlight was then turned on the little girls and boys enthusiastically vying for the title of *Avurudhu Kumari* and *Kumaraya*, in their traditional outfits. With the crowning of the *Kumari* and *Kumaraya*,



guests were invited to partake of a tantalizing spread of *kiribath* and sweetmeats generously provided by members of the Association.

Celebrations continued well into the afternoon with fun and games. Both adults and kids were kept entertained with a variety of games such as musical chairs, lime and spoon race, sack race, breaking the pot and tug-o' war. The day's events were concluded with a raffle draw to select the winner of a food hamper by Past President Mr. Lasantha Dahanaike. Proceeds of the raffle are to be applied towards future projects undertaken by the Association.

### **Cricket Tournament 2008**

This year the team to represent Washington DC against New York was selected based on a mini cricket tournament. In the past the selection was based on a point system from players who attended practice sessions. This year instead of the point system the cricket committee decided to have a mini-cricket tournament with the winning team representing Washington DC to play against New York. Applications were called beginning of July with the tournament scheduled on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Two teams "DC winners" and "Royal" submitted their applications and it was decided to play a best of three matches. After a hard fought final "DC winners" emerged victorious thus earning the right to represent Washington DC vs. New York.

The match against New York was played in Denville New Jersey in conjunction with the annual "Sri Lanka Day" organized by the Sri Lanka Association of New York. The New York Sri Lankan Association were gracious hosts and made sure that the Washingtonians were well looked after. The game itself was a hard fought contest with New York emerging winners in the end. Rasan Amitha from the Washington DC team was adjudged the best bowler for his outstanding performance.

### **Continental Cricket Club Bags a Trophy**

Continental Cricket Club (CCC) won the Washington Cricket League's Division II Lincoln Conference Championship beating YoungBloods CC by 41 runs. CCC also ended the season as runners up in the Division 2 Championship losing to Boyd's CC on run-rate in a rain affected game. Overall, the team did well under the leadership of Ruwinda Ranasinghe to qualify to play in Division I next year.

Rasan Amitha did exceptionally well capturing 35 wickets (Average 9.09), bagging the trophy for most wickets in Division II. He also made a significant contribution with the bat making 306 runs at an average of 30.06. Vice Captain Don Milroy topped the batting averages at 39.22 with an aggregate of 353 runs and took 22 wickets at an average 13.68 a piece. Others who chipped in with good performances were Ruwinda Ranasinghe (Aggregate of 373 runs), Harshan Yakeem (Aggregate of 235 runs) and the ever reliable Sameera Wickramasuriya (19 wickets).

### **Children's Christmas Party**

The annual Children's Christmas party was held together with the Sri Lankan American Catholic Association of Metropolitan Washington (SLACAMW) during its Christmas celebrations held on December 13, 2008 at The Holy Emanuel Church in Gaithersburg.

### **New Year's Eve Dinner Dance**

This year the New Year's Eve Dinner Dance was held at the Tyson's Corner Marriott Hotel, VA. Around 225 including members and friends of the Sri Lankan community attended this grand occasion to usher in the New Year. We were happy to have many guests from out-of-state including Delaware, Philadelphia and New York. As always the evening of fun and entertainment in the spirit of welcoming a new year was thoroughly enjoyed by the young and old present at the event.

DJ PK Williams provided continuous music with guest performances by Fahmy Nazick and Dinesha Fernando. President Dakshi de Silva welcomed the guests when the ballroom opened at 8:30pm and the Ambassador for Sri Lanka and the Board of Directors were invited to light the traditional oil lamp at dawn followed by a traditional Sinhala breakfast.

<b>COMMUNITY EVENTS SUPPORTED BY SLAWDC</b>
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### **Farewell to His Excellency Bernard Goonetilleke and Mrs. Maria Goonetilleke – May 2, 2008**

The Sri Lankan Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Bernard Goonetilleke and his gracious wife Mrs. Maria Goonetilleke were honored at a glittering farewell dinner by the Sri Lankan-American community in the Greater Washington area on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008, at the Golden Bull Grand Café in Gaithersburg, MD. Two hundred and fifteen guests attended a sit-down dinner/dance organized by the five main Sri Lankan community organizations in the area; the Sri Lanka Association of Washington D.C., Ranga Kala Kavaya, Friends of Sri Lanka in the US, Coalition of Sri Lankan Americans and the Sri Lankan Catholic Association of the Greater Washington area.

### **Shramadana at the Buddhist Temple**

On October 11<sup>th</sup> several of the SLAWDC members including Dakshi, Rajeeva & Lahiru participated in cleaning up the Wheaton Buddhist Temple after the Katina Pinkama. The activities included, dismantling the tents, moving all outdoor chairs and tables and cleaning up the garden. SLAWDC members were among many other volunteers who contributed to the shramadana. SLAWDC members also contributed to the Katina by donating paper plates and plastic cutlery.

On October 26<sup>th</sup> a few of our members participated in decorating the Washington DC Buddhist temple for the Katina Pinkama. We helped hoist the Buddhist flags in the front yard.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

The SLAWDC has a bank of Volunteers for help with translations.

### **Acknowledgements**

We thank –

Our Patron, Ambassador, Hon, Mr. Jaliya Wickremasuriya;

Vice Patrons, Mr. Prasanth Cherubim and Mr. Clement Abeygunawardena;

Advisory Board – Mr. Kosala Tantula, Mr. Prasanth Cherubim and Mr. Sena Basnayake;

Our Honorary Auditor, Mr. Gayanga Opatha;

Clergy of the Washington Buddhist Vihara and the Wheaton Temple;

Our good friends of Sri Lanka Ranga Kala Kavaya, Sri Lanka Catholic Association, Educate Lanka and the Coalition of Sri Lankan Americans;

Our spouses and families;

Our counterparts in the Sri Lanka Association of New York;


### **Conclusion:**

It was a great pleasure presenting the Annual Report for the year ending 2008 on behalf of the Association and wish to apologize if I have missed out on any details of events that took place prior to my assuming office.

It's been a wonderful experience working with the Board in the capacity of Secretary since September 2008. Working with the team on my first project "The Annual New Year's Eve Dance" has been a joy especially when hard labor is appreciated by the membership and the Sri Lankan community at large by way of participation at these events.

We look forward to serving you better and your continued support in the future too.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors SLAWDC.



Sandra Sourjah  
Secretary

**THE SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON, D.C., (SLAWDC)**  
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Ranganathan, Mr. & Mrs. A.  
Salgado, Dr. & Mrs. Ranjith  
Samarasinghe, Dr & Dr.. Stanley  
Stork, Mr. Ralph Ainsley  
Vithanage, Ms. Charmini  
Wiratunga, Mr. & Mrs. Ranjith

Amerasinghe, Dr. & Mrs. Ranjan  
Baddeliyanage, Mr. & Mrs. Ravi.  
Basnayake, Mr. & Mrs. Sena  
Dahanaike, Mr. Lasantha  
De Silva, Mr. & Mrs. Dakshi  
Don, Mr. Milroy  
Fernando, Mr. & Mrs. Vijitha  
Goonewardene, Mr. & Mrs. Nihal  
Hapangama, Mr. & Mrs. Ratna  
Karunaratne, Mr. & Mrs. S.  
Lenora, Mr. & Mrs. Nihal  
Mccoy, Ms. Billie  
Nanayakkara, Mr. & Mrs. Jim  
Perera, Mr. Alex  
Perera, Mr. & Mrs. Srilal  
Peries, Mr. Kumar  
Ranasinghe, Mr. & Mrs. Bandula  
Rudran, Dr. Rudy & Mrs. Ranji  
Salgado, Mr. & Mrs. Ranil  
Senanayake, Ms. Shantini  
Tantula, Mr. & Mrs. Kosala  
Wijetilleke, Drs. Lakdasa

## Regular Member List

Abeygunawardena, Mr. & Mrs. Clement  
Amirthampillai, Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell  
Cabral, Mr. & Mrs. Anil  
Cherubiam, Mr. & Mrs. Prasanth  
De Silva, Mr. & Mrs. Chanaka  
Fernando, Mr. & Mrs. Rohan  
Fine, Mr. Steven  
Hettige, Mr. Kanchana  
Gunawardena, Mr. Lasitha  
Ismail, Mr. & Mrs. Shane  
Karunaratne, Mr. Sugath  
Mirchandani, Mr. & Mrs. Chandru  
Napoli, Mr. & Mrs. Nick  
Opatha, Mr. & Mrs. Gayanga  
Padmakumara, Ms. Rashika  
Pathmanathan, Mr. & Mrs. Gajan  
Perera Mr. & Mrs. Lester  
Perera, Mr. Prasanna  
Ponnamperuma, Mr. & Mrs. Dhanu  
Ruminski, Mr. & Mrs. Mark  
Seneviratne, Mr. & Mrs. Neil  
Sorbello, Mr. & Mrs. Eleanor  
Weerasuriya, Mr. & Mrs. Para  
Wickramanayake, Mr. & Mrs. Bernard  
Wijeratne, Mrs. Soma

Amarasingham, Mr. & Mrs. Saha  
Braine, Mr. Roy  
Chanmugam, Mr. & Mrs. Jayarajan  
Devinda, Mr. Lahiru  
Dorabawila, Mr. & Mrs. Kamal  
Fernando, Mr. & Mrs. Eustace  
Herath, Mr. & Mrs. Piyatilleke  
Gnanasekaran, Mr. & Mrs. Jayaraman  
Guruswami, Mr. Damitran  
Jurianz, Ms. Patricia  
Kuruppu, Ms. Sunithi  
Moses, Mr. & Mrs. Sunder  
Navaratne, Mr. & Mrs. Suraj  
Padmakumara, Mr. Hiru  
Pandithakoralage, Mr. Charaka  
Peiris, Mr. & Mrs. Lal  
Perera, Mr. & Mrs. Dhanika  
Pilapitiya, Mr. & Mrs. Tissa  
Ratne, Ms. Mithra  
Senadhira, Mr & Mrs. Imalka  
Silva, Mr. & Mrs. Sathy  
Sourjah, Ms. Sandra  
Weragoda, Mr. Nalaka  
Wijegunawardena Mr. & Mrs. Sumith



**Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C.**  
**Statements of Income & Expenditure**  
For the Period ending January 31st, 2009

	2009	2008
<b>INCOME</b>		
Membership Fees	\$ 2,446.20	\$ 2,900.00
New Year Celebration	\$ 926.79	\$ (826.19)
<b>ADJUSTMENTS</b>		
	\$ 3,372.99	\$ 2,073.81
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
General Expenditures	(726.96)	(498.64)
Annual General Meeting	(267.32)	(190.00)
Sinhala/Tamil New Year	(310.66)	(396.70)
Cricket	(262.60)	(692.63)
Newsletter	(200.00)	\$ (444.28)
Christmas Party Expenses	\$ (611.56)	
	(\$2,379.10)	(\$2,222.25)
<b>Operating Surplus</b>	\$993.89	(\$148.44)
<b>Transfers from SLAGW</b>		
Total Transfers	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Transfers to SLAGW</b>		
Total Transfers	(\$2,260.00)	\$0.00
<b>NET Surplus</b>	<b>(\$1,266.11)</b>	<b>(\$148.44)</b>

FN 1

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**FN1:** Retained earnings for the year ended January 31, 2008 was reduced by \$1,100 in order to recognize an expense related to the New Year Celebration that was not discovered until the subsequent period.

**MINUTES OF THE 33<sup>RD</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 2, 2008**

The 33<sup>rd</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 2, 2008 commencing at 3:00 p.m., at the Meadowbrook Community Center, Chevy Chase, Maryland with the President Lasantha Dahanaike in the Chair. Associated with the President in conducting the meeting was Secretary, Mrs. Rashika Padmakumara. With the required quorum the meeting started exactly at 3.00 p.m.

The President Mr. Lasantha Dahanaike welcomed everyone to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of The Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C., (SLAWDC) and The Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc., (SLAGW).

Before adopting the Agenda the President requested that the membership observe two minutes silence in remembrance of our honorary member and 15<sup>th</sup> President of the SLAWDC (2000/2001) Mrs. Padma Liyanapathirana, who passed away on February 15, 2008.

The President stated that Mrs. Liyanapathirana was a strong supporter of the Association until the very end. He said that Mrs. Liyanapathirana called him regularly throughout his tenure to get regular updates of the Association and to give him words of advice and encouragement. The President stated that he offered her an invitation to be the guest of honour to the 2008 New Year's Eve Dinner Dance. However, Mrs. Liyanapathirana insisted on paying for her ticket as always and ultimately supported the Association by bringing in guests from out of town to fill up two tables. The President said that he was glad that he was able to recognize her at the dance, which was the last time most of us saw Padma before her passing away.

The President then invited Mrs Anjalika Silva, and Dr. Hilarian Codippily the 14<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Presidents respectively of the Association to speak a few words in memory of Mrs. Padma Liyanapathirana.

Dr. Codippily thanked the President for the opportunity given to him to speak on late Mrs. Padma Liyanapathirana. He mentioned three aspects of her personality. 1) Service to American Society. 2) Service to the expatriate community. 3) Her contribution to the Association. Dr. Codippily went on to explain the above as:

1) Service to American Society – Dr. Codippily stated that Mrs. Liyanapathirana had arrived in the US in 1968 as a Montessori teacher to meet a certain demand – educating very young children. She set up her own school and was a great disciplinarian. She once told the parents



of a young naughty boy that he is a 'spoilt brat' which shocked the parents. The hallmark of her teaching career was to discipline kids. She performed a great duty to the country at large.

2) Expatriate Community –Illness didn't debar her from any event. She was present at every Sri Lankan event. He went on to mention that he doesn't know how she did it but that she did. She was at the last New Year's Eve Dinner Dance, was at the zoo in July for the Sri Lanka event and was at the Buddhist temple for most of the events during last year.

3) Sri Lanka Association – As Past President and successor to Anjalika Silva and predecessor to Dr. Codippily) Mrs. Liyanapathirana attended all meetings and events carrying the Association in her car! She had all her meeting material including scotch tape always in the car – and was practically running the Association from the car. She had everything at the tip of her finger. She was very helpful to Dr. Codippily at the time of inductions and would tell him how to do things especially the nitty-gritty including how to obtain park permits, book the halls, keys to the place, how to open the hall and the returning of the keys. He said he learnt a lot from her and he had the opportunity to visit her and bring her to his home and keep her for a while before she breathed her last. May she attain Nirvana!

Mrs. Anjalika Silva during her speech said Mrs. Liyanapathirana was a mentor of the Board and Members. She endorsed every word that Dr. Codippily mentioned about Padma. Anjalika said Mrs. Liyanapathirana was a pioneer of the Sri Lankan community in this area. She came here in the '60s and that Mrs. Silva came in the '80s and it was Padma's introductions that got us into getting to know people. She not only moulded our community but even the Washington community at large and ran a school of her own. She moulded the lives of many young people who had gone on to do bigger things and lead better lives. Padma had so much kindness to offer, not only to the Association but also to individuals. If anyone was in trouble she was there. She was a lady who was genuinely concerned about everyone and made sure we had food to eat even at the meetings. As a close friend she spent time with us and the cat. When we went on vacation, Padma would baby sit our cat and slept the night at the house because the cat was lonely. She was always helpful to friends and animals.

During Mr. Prasanth Cherubim's Presidency the Association honoured Mrs. Liyanapathirana with a Hon. Life membership in recognition of her unrelenting support and awarded her a plaque. It was a unanimous decision of the Board. She was very proud of it and shared this with many others and she knew Padma hung it on the wall.

If she was alive she would have been honoured to hear what we had to say about her. Just like every one of us she came in to this world from an infinite world and as she went away she left behind indelible foot prints in all our lives. She had a large heart and her passing away left a huge gaping hole in the community. Mrs. Silva wished her all the best of everything wherever she goes next...and peace through her journey to Nirvana!

### **1. Adoption of the Agenda and the Notice convening the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association**

President requested that the following changes be made to the agenda.

1. Remove item #2 which is the address by our Patron H.E. Bernard Goonethileke, because the Ambassador had to be at the Smithsonian Institute on official business.
2. Add the following to Item #4 – “discussion of changes to the by laws”
3. Add Item #7 - Address by the incoming President

The Agenda was adopted as proposed by Dr. Greg Fernandopulle and seconded by - Dr. Hilarian Codippily.

**2. Adoption of the Meeting minutes of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General meeting of the Association held on Sunday, March 2, 2008**

Dr. H. Codippily informed that he had a correction to a proposal of his which was interpreted incorrectly. (see Item 6 Paragraph 14 of the Minutes of the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting). He had an amendment to paragraph 14. Dr. Codippily readout the following revised version and gave the note to Secretary, Rashika Padmakumara.

*“Dr. Codippily stated that similar problems had occurred in the past in the Sri Lanka Catholic Assn., and therefore they developed a project proposal format which was used as a tool for the disbursement of funds. He stated that the format included items such as project justification; cost structure; method of financing; and long-term sustainability. Continuing, he stated that if proposals that were submitted did not answer all the questions, they were rejected by the Board. He further stated that unless very strict guidelines are adhered to, the Board should reject such proposals.”*

Dr. Codippily requested that the revised paragraph be substituted to the existing paragraph.

As there was no further corrections the Minutes were adopted as proposed by Mr. Prasanth Cherubim and seconded by Mrs. Sheila Codippily.

**3. Adoption of the Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts of the Association for the year ending January 31, 2008**

Dr. Codippily commended the President, the Secretary & the Board for producing such an exemplary annual report and the labour involved in maintaining and producing the documentation.

The Annual Report was adopted as proposed by Dr. Fernandopulle and seconded by Mrs. Romanie De Silva

**4. Suggested changes to the by-laws of SLAGW per the AGM held on March 25, 2007**

Proposed amendment to Article V (f) and Article VI (d) of the SLAWDC By-Laws: Director Mr. Kamal Dorabawila worked on the above amendments since it was brought up by a member at the last AGM. Mr. Kamal Dorabawila, Treasurer SLAGW presented the amendment as per request by Mr. Codippily.

He said that basically the intention was to institute controls on expenditure and to give the President the authority to approve or sign off on mundane Association activities costing less than \$200.00 and that the total expense authorized by the President shall not exceed the cumulative sum of \$2000.00 in any fiscal year.

The next level was at Board level where sums exceeding \$200.00 should be approved by the majority of the Board. It can be either \$40,000 or \$80,000 cumulative in any fiscal year.

Any expenses over \$80,000 should be put to the membership at an Annual General Meeting or at a SGM. The membership should be provided with sufficient information to make a decision and not allow things get out of hand.

Mrs. Sheila Codippily inquired if the above applies to both SLAWDC and SLAGW

Mr. Kamal Dorabawila replied "yes, since there are separate accounts maintained for both accounts." Dr. Codippily said it would be useful to mention this on the amendment and Mr. Dorabawila informed it is already in there.

Prasanth Cherubim mentioned that the sum of \$200 was too low even to cover a deposit even for a hall for the AGM or a larger event, and therefore the amount should be more generous than that. Once the budget for the event is approved by the Board, the President should be able to authorize payments up to \$500.

Director Mr. Dhanusha Ponnampereuma expressed that with his past experience as treasurer he understands the frustrations over the delays in the counter signing process and suggested that without requiring a counter signature, in order to make the process easier and quicker, approval should be made possible via an e-mail from the President or the Board. He stated that when the cap is over the amount, counter signing becomes tougher, so an approval from the Board should be made sufficient to avoid going back and forth.

Increasing the limit to \$500 was agreed. The following was proposed by Dr. Codippily.

Mrs. Codippily questioned if this change will be an amendment or attachment to the amendment? It was agreed to put it in as an amendment and then make it a by law and at a later time, to clean up the wording and change the by laws.

These changes are for both SALWDC and SLAGW.

RE: Article 6 – The President raised the point about the number of directors on the Board to be changed to 5 directors.

The above two items were proposed for adoption by Dr. Ranjan Amarasinghe.

Mr. Ponnampereuma stated that deposits to the bank will have to be made within 14 days. The President added to that by saying that once the treasurer gets it, it should be deposited within 14 days.

Prasanth Cherubim cleared up the wording to read as "14 days from receipt by treasurer"

There were no objections and all were in favour.

Dr. Codippily proposed the adoption of the above two items and Mr. Ponnampereuma seconded it.

## **5. President's Address**

Vice Patrons; Dr. Hilarian Codippily, Mr. Prasanth Cherubim, Past Presidents; Mr. Clement Abeygunawardena, Mr. Prasanth Cherubim, Dr. Hilarian Codippily, Dr. Ranjan Amarasinghe, Dr. Greg Fernandopulle, Mrs. Anjalika Silva and fellow Members:

It has been a privilege to have served on this Board in various capacities during the last seven years. It has been a long run. Stormy at times, especially in 2005, but the experience has been phenomenal and the friendships I have built, I know are for life. Now I look forward to, as Dr. Fernandopulle said so movingly, to join the elite "Past President's Club". I hope I have served you the members well, and to your expectations during the last two years. I know that the Community as a whole has given high praises to this Board. One of my main goals during my tenure was to bring different groups in our Community together under one umbrella which I believe was accomplished. The Sri Lanka Day event that brought all of us together was a proud accomplishment for me personally and to this Board. This event was very successful and people have requested us to have it every year. I believe that realistically we could do this event every other year when we host the New York Cricket Team.

Two years ago when I took over this position I promised that we would vote on all matters and the majority would prevail. I also said that democracy works best not when the majority rules, but when the majority rules with the consent of the minority. Unfortunately over the years I have accepted that we Sri Lankans who believe in democracy, right to vote and free elections, unfortunately do not adhere to the other important element for democracy to prosper and matters to progress. The critical element needed for democracy to flourish is when you are in the minority, after a fair election, to be able to put your differences aside and join the majority and work toward the good of the people or the organization we represent. Unfortunately we don't see this happening from our own parliament in Sri Jayawardhanapura to many other organizations formed by Sri Lankans around the world. I'm not saying this to be negative, but I want to state for the record that we need to learn to put our differences aside and work together once the arguments are over and a fair vote is taken. Just like the majority should learn to work with the consent of the minority, the minority also should learn to put their differences aside and support the majority's efforts to move forward and complete the tasks at hand.

During my tenure we had only two items that were contentious and the full Board did not agree upon.

1) The Children's Christmas Party – if we should have this event or not?

## 2) Cricket Team Selection – How to fairly select the team to represent SLAWDC?

I m bringing these two items out today for discussion at the AGM to the membership so that they can make suggestions and solutions so that the new Board will not have to deal with it again.

The question is should the Children's Christmas Party be an SLAWDC sponsored event now that the newly formed Catholic Association has a huge successful Christmas Party during the same time?

As for Cricket, the difference between DC and NY is that to play for DC one had to be a member of the Association but NY does not have that requirement. The questions before the membership are: Do we continue the way we have in the past or do we allow non-members to represent SLAWDC? How do we choose the best players in the DC area to represent DC at this game? Are we playing this game to 'win' or to just 'participate'?

The President opened it to the forum to discuss the above items.

Mr. Prasanth Cherubim asked what problems the Board faced in continuing the Children's Christmas Party.

The President stated that \$200 is needed at a minimum for the hall rental and it takes a lot of time and effort on part of the Board to organize this event, especially since most of the available directors are so involved with the planning of the New Year's Dance during this time period. The President further stated that this event is attended mostly by non members (95%), and since the Catholic Association is already having a Christmas Party around the same time period, the suggestion is to join hands with them and have one event.

Mrs. Anjalika Silva agreed that we are subsidizing non members while they have so many other Christmas events in the community where children can be taken to and enjoy. She said she doesn't see why we cannot join with the Catholic Association without duplicating our efforts on a separate Children's Christmas Party.

Mrs. Managala Baddeliyanage disagreed. She said the Children's Christmas Party is not a religious event but held in the spirit of the holidays irrespective of the religion. She stated that the only way for non-Catholics to come and enjoy and take pictures with Santa is the SLAWDC party. She also mentioned that the Catholic Association charges for their event.

Mrs. Devika Wimalkantha said it is a great idea to have it combined. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus. It is one country and doesn't have to be any one religion. It is the spirit of Christmas that is celebrated.

Director Sandra Ismail mentioned that the Sinhala New year and Sri Lanka Day have events for kids free of charge. Ms. Ismail stated that she had carried out a survey where all the members who had small children were contacted. She stated that only two families had preferred a separate party and all others had agreed that they would be happy to attend a

