



Serving community since 1976

ANNUAL REPORT

2014- 2015

Members of the Executive Committee

President- Naradha Kodituwakku

Vice President- Anura Ferdinand

Secretary - Beatrice Silva

Treasurer - Damayanthi Kumarage (Resigned) New Treasurer: Samanmali Gabadage

Past Executive/Past President- Roshan Fernando

Directors

Cultural Affairs- Suwini Wijayawickrama

Director of Communications and Technology- Nadeeshani Senanayake

Membership- Samanmali Gabadage

Sports- Nirosh Kannangara

Community Outreach- Nirmalie Silva

Youth- Lankesh DeSilva

Regional Chairs

Central- Revon Gabriel

West- Ashoka Vidyaratna

East- Chaminda Wijesinghe

South- Lahiru Herath

Memberships

70 memberships were purchased this year with a total revenue of \$1260. We clearly noticed that there is a lot of room for people for membership growth, as there are still vast groups out there that we can get memberships from.

Is membership relevant: We tested out at the Christmas Party a one price for all strategy. The end result was an increase of more than \$500 in ticket sales. Total membership revenue fell by \$200 over last year. There was a net gain overall.

Finances

We finish the year with \$5161.82 in the account. There are revenues still to be realized and the net amount in the bank statement should be 5405.82

Events organized by the SLCAO

Christmas Party 2014

Loss of \$284, which was an improvement over the years by over \$1584 dollars. New initiatives to raise funds for this event included a calendar and continuation of the TV raffle.

Highlights of the event included children's carols, band, first ever kid's band and visit from Santa.

Kids band was a great addition as it gave a platform for children in the community to showcase their talents and improve leadership and performance skills.

New Year 2015

In January 2015 we held an emergency EC meeting to share news about the New Year venue. The Hellenic banquet hall had increased their cost significantly per person to hold the event. We looked at number of venues and presented to the EC and the unanimous decision was to conduct the New Year event at St. Elias Banquet Hall. The value that was offered by the St. Elias was significant. They allowed self-catering. They offered service, plates and forks, chafing dishes, clean-up crew and most importantly a beautiful venue. This years event was marking event of the year and SLCAO received a lot of praise and compliments for the exciting cultural showcase, new venue, excellent decorations, cuisine and overall organization of the event bringing it to the next level.

SLCAO Dansala 2015

An inaugural event that brought new faces and a huge crowd of over 150 community members on a very rainy day. We had the help of the generous community and the volunteers in making this event a success. A 5 item menu was served and we were able to get the participation of all three temples to a SLCAO event in a very long time. This was a uniting event and it was an event that was needed to cater to another segment of the community. I would like to thank all the volunteers and the generous contributors including the Sri Lanka High Commission.

Leather Cricket Clinic and Match- June 13th 2015

This was an inaugural event that was done to extend the reach of SLCAO. The involvement of the youth from the community was great to see. We had 24 players and it brought energy and involvement of new youth in to our community as well as allowed more senior members of the community a chance to try leather cricket in a harmonious and open environment.

SLCAO Annual Sports Meet and Picnic- July 2015

Sports Meet once again had the involvement of the young kids and it was great opportunity to see our young kids in display. Turnout was low and we will need to re-visit at how we do the Sports Meet. It was evident that change is required to this event.

SLCAO Annual Tri City Cricket and Sports Festival-August 2015

Tri-city cricket was a two city affair for the second year in a row. We had a team from Toronto confirmed until the last week and due to an unforeseen circumstance the Toronto team had to back out. We had the involvement of two Ottawa teams and the Montreal team this year. Our Ottawa team brought the Tri City cup home this year! This year's team was captained by Ranmal Perera who did a tremendous job. I would like to thank all for their hard work. We also had a volley ball tournament, kids leather match and a net ball tournament to round out the events.

SLCAO Tropical Night Boat Cruise-August 2015

We had many new faces show up to this event as this was an inaugural event done to involve the youth in the community. With the Parliament of Canada as the back drop, the event was enjoyed by many and was great to see the participation of the youth.

Initiatives 2015

- 1) Continuation of registration process of the SLCAO as a not for profit organization. We worked on the constitution to make it in line with the act. There is still some room to refine the constitution, and I would like to thank the help of Mahinda Piyasiri, Padmini Hapuarachchi ,members of the EC and most importantly Rajendra Alwis for their valuable time and feedback. This must not stop now, the new committee has the capacity to continue with registering as a not for profit organization.
- 2) Rogers Daytime TV and CHIN Radio to bring SLCAO into the mainstream and bring positive exposure of the organization in the city of Ottawa. CBC Radio had shown interest in the South Asian Community and has met SLCAO three times over the year.
- 3) Member benefits

My vision when I started this year was to make the association appeal to the youth more and to focus more on the kids. I always said that that we will always have fun at events and we cannot forget our kids. They are our future and we need to give them a platform to perform. Be it in a cultural form or in a sports form. We increased their involvement this with initiatives such as Kids Band, Leather Cricket and the Boat Cruise. I urge our future leadership to focus on the kids. Otherwise we will not have tri-city in the future. We will not have a band in the future. We must do all we can to focus on the youth and kids of the community to sustain the name and culture of Sri Lanka in to the future.

I want to thank all who has helped me over the past year for the amazing help. There are people I owe and I mentioned that to many and I will forever be grateful for your assistance.

Thanks,

Naradha Kodituwakku, President 2014-2015