



மில்வாக்கி மாநகர தமிழ்ச்சங்கம்

Greater Milwaukee Tamil Sangam

Annual General Body Meeting 2024

Minutes of Meeting

Prepared by: *Jayanthi Periasamy*

Date: November 17, 2024

Time: 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Location: New Berlin Public Library (In-person meeting)

Total Attendees: 45

Attendees – GMTS Board of Directors

- Senthil Nagappan (President)
- Thangaraj Manoharan (Vice President)
- Poorani Bharathi (Joint Secretary)
- Srikanth Sriraman (Treasurer)
- Karthikeshwari Somasundaram (Joint Treasurer)
- Ayyappan Ganesan
- Jayanthi Periasamy
- Radhakrishnan Avuladhanavendran
- Senthil Ramachandran
- Vinothkumar Arputharaj

Agenda & Proceedings

1:50 PM – Welcome Address – *Senthil Nagappan*

1:50 PM – *Tamilthaai Vazhthu* and U.S. National Anthem

1:55 PM – Presentation commenced – *Senthil Nagappan*

3:40 PM – Vote of Thanks – *Poorani Bharathi*

3:45 PM – Tea & Snacks

3:55 PM – Meeting concluded and participants dispersed

Key Discussions & Action Items

1. Volunteer Hours Match

- Certain companies (e.g., GE, JCI) provide volunteer hours match.
- Limit: maximum of two members per company can claim.
- **Action Item:** Form a team to explore this option further.

2. Website Reimagination

- Discussion points:
 - Microsoft NGO grant utilization.
 - Azure vs. Wild Apricot feature comparison.
 - Option to post job opportunities and internships.
- **Action Item:** Further evaluation required for suitable implementation.

3. GMTS Membership ID

- Discussed digitalizing membership IDs.
- Possible future use: shopping discounts from sponsors.

4. Tamil Language in Community Schools

- Initiative: GMTS board to ensure Tamil greetings (“Nal Varavu”) are displayed where missing.
- Raghu suggested GMTS print multi-language “Welcome” materials and distribute to schools.

5. Emergency Helpline

- Proposal to establish an emergency helpline for members.
- Suggestions:
 - Form a committee.
 - Allocate minimal funds; raise additional funds with member approval.
 - Add provision in by-laws.

6. Group Insurance

- Raghu clarified GMTS cannot provide group insurance since there are no employees.
- Suggestions:
 - Organize awareness sessions on life insurance.

7. Financial & Informational Sessions

- Hari recommended additional sessions on 401K and financial planning.

8. WI State Grant for NGO

- Asokan suggested connecting with Minnesota Tamil Sangam, which already secured this grant.

9. Employee Donation Match

- Some employers offer donation matching (e.g., \$100 employee donation matched with \$100 from company).
- **Action Item:** Board to explore this further.

Concerns Raised

1. **Last Year's Minutes** – Not published or discussed.
 - **Action Item:** Publish on website and review in next General Body Meeting.
2. **Youth Wing** – Established but underutilized; Hunger Task Force initiative stalled.
3. **By-laws** – Up-to-date by-laws not posted on the website despite repeated General Body Meeting discussions.
4. **Pongal 2024** – Concerns raised about participant selection process; non-members also included.
5. **Kids Event with NAAAP (Glendale School)** – GMTS had supported this event but discontinued in recent years.
 - **Suggestion:** Clearly distinguish between GMTS-hosted and GMTS-supported events.

6. **Data Privacy** – Reports of spam/canvassing messages suggest possible data leakage.

- **Action Item:** Board to strengthen member data protection.

7. **Financial Review** – Issues raised:

- Lack of sponsor fund details.
 - Insufficient clarity on past-to-present financial status.
 - Difficulty in understanding presentation slides.
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Closing

The meeting ended with Vote of Thanks by *Poorani* at 3:40 PM. Tea and snacks followed, and participants dispersed by 3:55 PM.

Meeting Adjourned.