



மில்வாக்கி மாநகர தமிழ்ச்சங்கம்

Greater Milwaukee Tamil Sangam

Annual General Body Meeting 2025

Minutes of Meeting

Prepared by: *Vinothkumar Arputharaj*

Date: October 4, 2025

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Venue: New Berlin Public Library, New Berlin, WI

Attendees:

- GMTS Board Members
- GMTS Members and Sponsors

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the Greater Milwaukee Tamil Sangam (GMTS) commenced with a welcome note by GMTS President Mr. Thangaraj Manoharan, thanking all members and sponsors for their continued support and participation throughout the year.

2. Membership Updates

- New members were added following the Summer Picnic held at Konkel Park.
 - The Family Membership fee has been **increased to \$90**, effective October 2025, considering inflation, higher procurement costs, and increased vendor service charges (food, facility rentals, etc.).
 - **Single Membership** fees remain unchanged.
 - Members suggested clearly communicating **member benefits**, including **free event entry** for Deepavali / Christmas / Milad-Un-Nabi celebrations, along with food, snacks, goodies, and the annual GMTS calendar.
 - Discussion held regarding the introduction of **GMTS Identity Cards** to enable member discounts at partner businesses.
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3. Sponsorship Updates

- GMTS welcomed **six new sponsors** during the 2025 year.
 - Successful event-specific sponsorships contributed to the financial stability of the organization.
 - Suggestions were made to **further promote event-based sponsorships** to help manage operational costs.
 - A target has been set to **raise over \$20,000 through sponsorships** in the upcoming year.
 - No increase in sponsorship costs for the **2025–2026** period.
 - GMTS will continue to strengthen sponsor engagement and visibility across events and community platforms.
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4. Key Initiatives and Achievements

- **Annual event planning** was initiated early in the year, resulting in well-organized events with strong participation.
 - **Tamil Chaaral**, the new **GMTS Quarterly Magazine**, was launched to showcase member achievements, community stories, and Tamil cultural highlights.
 - The Board is pursuing initiatives for **a formal meeting with the Governor of Wisconsin** to recognize the Tamil community and officially launch *Tamil Chaaral*.
 - GMTS received an official **Proclamation from the Governor of Wisconsin** commemorating **20 years of GMTS service** to the Tamil community.
 - GMTS is collaborating with local **school districts** to introduce **Tamil language greetings** in school lobbies, promoting Tamil visibility in educational spaces.
 - The new **GMTS website** now includes features for **optional recurring membership renewals**, which will be enabled in upcoming cycles.
 - The Board is currently **finalizing the 2026 event calendar** to maintain consistent community engagement.
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5. Financial Summary

- Treasurer **Ayyappan Ganesan** presented the **Financial Summary** covering **Q4 2024 through Q3 2025**.
 - Financial reports indicate steady growth through increased sponsorships and membership renewals.
 - GMTS plans to discontinue its **WildApricot subscription** by the **end of 2025**, transitioning all membership management to the **new website**.
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6. Review of Previous AGM Action Items

- The board reviewed action items from the previous year's AGM.
 - Progress was noted on digital transformation, membership engagement, and sponsor retention.
 - Remaining items related to venue management and event logistics are being actively addressed.
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7. Challenges and Action Items

Venue Management:

- The Board discussed **complaints from certain venues** regarding space usage and children running in restricted areas.
 - A few **venue cancellations** occurred due to these issues.
 - **Action:** GMTS Board Members will **explore alternative venue options** to ensure smooth event operations and improved member experience in future events.
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8. Closing Remarks

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by GMTS Secretary Vinothkumar Arputharaj and appreciation to all members, sponsors, and volunteers for their contributions throughout 2025.

The Board reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing member engagement, promoting Tamil culture, and ensuring financial sustainability through transparent operations and community collaboration.

Meeting Adjourned at: 4:00 PM

Minutes Prepared by: *Vinothkumar Arputharaj, Secretary, GMTS*

Approved by: *GMTS Board*