

UNITED SRI LANKAN MUSLIM ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Minutes of Annual General Meeting – June 2002

Minutes of the 11th USMAA Inc. Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 22nd June 2002 at Mulgrave Community Center, Mulgrave.

1. **Call to Order and Recital of Prayers:** The meeting was called to order at 7.30 PM by the president, Fahmi Haniffa. Prayers were recited by Jenö Azöör
2. **Address by the Outgoing President:** Fahmi welcomed the large gathering and thanked all members for their attendance, and made the following announcements:
 - His message that was circulated among members on the 15th of June, has received positive feedback.
 - It is important that all members take part in USMAA activities and be more committed and supportive, in order to be able to organise and have a good balance in social as well as multicultural activities in future.
 - During the past year the main focus of the committee was “Internal”, i.e. focus on Membership and existing members. The Outgoing Committee has taken every effort to personally be in contact with their group members in order to keep members informed of ongoing USMAA activities, and this effort has resulted in increased number of attendance and sponsorship at all USMAA events held during the past year.
 - USMAA needs a strong team. Youth should play an active role in future and parents should give their support and encourage their participation in such activities.
 - Fahmi thanked his Committee of Management for good teamwork and thanked the General Membership for their ongoing support.
3. **Adoption of the Agenda:** The Agenda set out for the AGM was accepted.
4. **Apologies:** Nizra & Nizar Haniffa; Fathaya & Deen Mohamed; Emrana & Almaaz Alavi; Fareeha & Mohamed Haseeb; Ikram Mohinudeen
5. **Confirmation of Minutes of the 2001 AGM:** Was accepted. Proposed by Sithy Marikkar and Seconded by Imtiaz Mohamed.
6. **Business arising from minutes: Changes to last year’s AGM minutes as under:**
 - 8). **Treasurer’s Annual financial Report:** Imtiaz said non-members should have door charges at each event.

9(b). Building Fund: Sithy said that the Building Fund did not continue. It was stopped because they were unable to carry out their proposals.
 - 6). **Business arising from minutes:** Fahmi said that the amendment made to the constitution, that member’s children over the age of 18 were to be charged the full membership fee, has been implemented now. Children 18 and above, should fill out separate membership forms and pay membership fees
 - 10). **Any other business:** Sithy inquired if a sub-committee was formed to look into Sri Lankan affairs. Fahmi said that the main committee at the first committee meeting appointed a sub-committee (Rapid Response Group), but there were no emergencies in Sri Lanka, during the past year.
7. **Secretary’s Annual Report:** The Secretary’s Annual Report was circulated to members before the meeting commenced. During the meeting, Shimla highlighted the main activities that took place during the past year. The report was accepted by the house.
8. **Treasurer’s Annual Financial Report:** Copies of the Treasurer’s Report and the Auditor’s report were distributed to the members before the AGM commenced. The Treasurer’s report was presented by

Mahroof, the Auditor of USMAA as the Treasurer Nizar Haniffa (Tota) was unable to attend the AGM. Mahroof addressed the following items of the Financial Report:

- USMAA income and expenditure broke even
- USMAA was much too small to register for GST
- Subscription was collected from 40% of the members
- It is very important to get Public Liability Insurance
- Most of the programs run by USMAA are run at low cost level
- Finally, he urged members to pay up their increased subscriptions in order to help USMAA function efficiently.

9. **Report from the Janaza Sub-Committee:** Eddie Dole, a member of the Janaaza Sub-Committee, presented their Janaza Committee report. He said that the main activities of the committee were highlighted in the Secretary's report. He mentioned that a well wisher who appreciates the work of the Janaza committee has donated a sum of \$1000.00. This has increased the Janaaza Fund balance to \$6648.89.

The purchase of a third plot has now been differed since there is no urgency. Eddie requested members to support all USMAA activities with their manpower and expertise.

10. **Any Other Business:**

(a) **Membership Fees:** Fahmi sought ratification from the house to increase the membership fees and charging a membership fee of \$20 from children above the age of 18. There were no objections from the floor.

(b) **HNB Account:** Fahmi also suggested that the two Trustees of USMAA could be the signatories for the Hatton National Bank account in Sri Lanka. There were no objections to this suggestion. Rizvi said that the Trustees would not be able to sign without the approval of the executive committee.

Bawa inquired if we really need the HNB bank account in Sri Lanka, as it is much easier to manage the transfer of funds from this end as and when it is required. Fahmi said that it could be useful in future and therefore the committee should do some research to see how optimum use of this account can be made.

Nisthar said although it is easy to withdraw such an account, it can be hard to re-establish it. Therefore it is important to evaluate the cost of transferring money from this end before making a decision. Fahmi said that we should ask HNB to send a six monthly statement to evaluate this further, and afterwards the new committee could make a decision about the HNB account.

(c) **USMAA website:** Fahmi announced that the Committee has approved the establishment of a website for USMAA. Mohamed Shaffie (our web master) is currently working on it and USMAA will pay a fee of \$16 a month.

(d) **Volunteer Awards:** Sithy and Jiffry suggested that when making nominations for volunteer awards, USMAA should ascertain the members opinion. Fahmi announced that during the past year volunteer awards were given to non-committee members. Rizvi also mentioned that people who were given awards in the past were not re-nominated.

(e) **Public Liability Insurance (PLI):** Chota inquired if members will bring food or if there be catering in all future events, although the cost of catering is high. Mahroof informed that if USMAA is not covered by PLI, it cannot function as an association and therefore no matter what the cost, PLI has to be obtained.

11. **Election of office bearers**

The following members were elected as office bearers for 2002/2003:

President: Mohamed Mohideen

Vice President: Ahamad Vajahudeen

Proposed by: Fahmi Haniffa
Seconded by: Shimla Zackariya

Proposed by: Fahmi Haniffa
Seconded by: Eddie Dole

Secretary: Rifka Naufal
Proposed by: Fahmi Haniffa
Seconded by: Shimla Zackariya

Treasurer: Mohamed Dilham
Proposed by: Fahmi Haniffa
Seconded by: Mohamed Mohideen

Committee Members:

Mohamed Shaffie
Proposed by: Fahmi Haniffa
Seconded by: Mohamed Mohideen

Shyama Fuad
Proposed by: Fahmi Haniffa
Seconded by: Mohamed Mohideen

Pam Ashroff
Proposed by: Farah Dole
Seconded by: Purleen Dole

Eddie Dole
Proposed by: Fahmi Haniffa
Seconded by: Shimla Zackariya

The following appointments were announced by the new President:

Public Officer: Fahmi Haniffa
Auditor: Noor Maharroof
Editor: Fahmi Haniffa

12. Address by President Elect

After the election, the new president Mohamed Mohideen, thanked the members for placing confidence in him to take up this position, and thanked the outgoing committee for consolidating things. He said that "USMAA is 11 years old ...and it needs members participation. USMAA should be united and therefore we need to think as one; that is the key factor. This year the focus is youth. Youth is the future. Therefore parents should encourage their sons and daughters to participate in USMAA activities".

Regarding the PLI issue, he quoted that " USMAA will not have food unless it is covered by insurance". He also invited members to put down their names in forms provided, if they are interested in participating in events organised by USMAA. Finally, he said that "USMAA should work in unity to achieve its main objectives and we should also consolidate our role in USMAA with other organisations". Once again he urged members to participate.

13. Vote of Thanks

Shyama Fuad proposed the vote of thanks on behalf of the USMAA general membership. She thanked the outgoing committee of management for their good work, and all those families who helped organise various events conducted by USMAA. She also thanked the families who voluntarily cooked dinner for the AGM and thanked all the attendees for their support.

The meeting closed at approx. 9.30 PM with a recital of a dua by Eddie Dole.

Shimla Zackariya
Secretary, USMAA Inc.
22nd June 2002