



Annual General Meeting Minutes 2021

Date Saturday, 24 July 2021

Time 3:30 pm – 5.45 pm

Venue Via Zoom Video Conferencing

Attendees USMAA Management Committee (MC):
Falih Shums, Rizan Abdeen, Ruzna Shums, Seyad Azmaan, Zafar Issadeen, Faariq Furqan, Uzman Nazeem and Naushad Usoof

House represented by;

Fahmi Haniffa, Eddie Dole, Rizvie Mohideen, Nawaz Vilcassim, ,
Nazeem Yaqoob, Nizar Haniffa, Jainudeen Azoor, Yusuf Zarani,
Fayaz Zulfick, Zabid bin Hamid, Dilshard Siddeek, Raashed
Mohideen, Anas Sheriffdeen, Nizar Idroos, Omar Haniffa, Miqsan
Mohinudeen, Shakir Hashim, Arshad, Ahmad Jahfar, Ammar J,
Karam Ashraff, Jiffry Haniffa, Bilal M, Hathim Mowjood and Firaz
Muheed,

Sithy Marikar, Farah Dole, Nizra Haniffa, Fathaya Mohamed,
Warnesia Dole, Khadija Haniffa, Shazra Issadeen, Fatima
Abdullah, Mumtaz, Rushana Usoof, Minhaja Hashim, Safiya
Amanullah, Mariam Abdullah, Adhilah Haque and Fathima Fauzaan

Apologies: Imtiaz Mohamed and Ziada Tokhi

1. Welcome and Introductions

We had quorum of 48 people.

Falih Shums, the Chair for the AGM event, welcomed the members and informed them that the proceedings would be recorded and requested members to turn off their videos if needed.

The AGM was called to order at 3.35 p.m. and proceedings commenced with a recital of qiraath by Zacky Shums, followed by Talia Shums, who read out the translation.

2. Acceptance of minutes from the previous Annual General Meeting 2019/20 and the Special General Meeting 2019/20

Proposed resolution: *That the minutes of the 2019/20 Annual General Meeting be accepted.*



- Moved: Fahmi Haniffa
- Seconded: Reza Jamal

Proposed resolution: That the minutes of the 2019/20 Special General Meeting be accepted.

- Moved: Minhaja Hashim
- Seconded: Fahmi Haniffa

3. Business arising from the minutes

The Chair confirmed that all the action items detailed in the AGM and SGM minutes have been attended to and closed off.

4. President's address by Bro Falih Shums

Bro Falih commenced his address by thanking the MC. He reiterated that the MC comprised of family and friends without whose support none of the achievements of the last year would not have been possible. He thanked his Mentors/senior members and volunteers for all the assistance extended to ensure another successful year for USMAA.

He also requested the Members to forgive him for any shortcoming and if he had unintentionally hurt anyone. He concluded by re-iterating that all his actions were undertaken for the betterment of the Community.

5. Secretary's Report by Sis Ruzna Shums

Sis Ruzna commenced by outlining the subscription fee collection for the year which consisted of 92 membership payments. She then detailed all the events that the MC had hosted for the year. Despite the pandemic, the MC had hosted a total of 13 events for the year. In addition to the events, the MC had undertaken several charitable and general initiatives. Some of them included the following:

- Raising over \$5k to assist financially struggling international students and families in Australia
- Raising almost \$3k as part of Zakat al Fitr which was directed to four deserving projects in Muttur, Anuradhapura, Kandy and Digana, Sri Lanka
- Migrating USMAA's greatest asset, our membership details, and the Janaza plot details, from a basic excel spreadsheet to a world-renowned database management system (Salesforce)
- Launching three new initiatives: USMAA Matrimony Service, Mentorship Program and the New Migrant & International Student Assistance Program
- Adding six new pages to the USMAA website including the Trades page, Obituaries page, Complaints page, Charity page, Admin page and Constitutional Review page



- Circulating the newsletter every quarter
- Raising the issue of forced cremation in Sri Lanka, by writing to over 10 MPs including PM, Scott Morrison and visiting some MPs to urge them to raise this issue with the relevant branches of government to facilitate diplomatic discussions with the SL government
- Drafting process manuals for Accounting, Website maintenance and Communication
- Documenting strategic and operational policies to ensure consistency in decision making from one MC to the next
- Uploading 30 years of USMAA history/heritage (including AGM/SGM/MC minutes) to the website
- Writing to five Councils seeking a land on lease to build the USMAA Centre

Sis Ruzna also outlined the grants received by both USMAA and the Positive Aging Subcommittee for the forthcoming year.

In conclusion, sis Ruzna thanked the MC, their families, the volunteers and the Members for the efforts invested to ensure the year was a success.

Proposed resolution: That the Secretary's report for 2020/21 be accepted

- Moved: Sithy Marikar
- Seconded: Nawaz Vilcassim

6. Treasurer's Report by Bro Seyad Azman

Bro Azman informed the House that he had been working closely (meeting quarterly) with Reza Jamal ever since Yure Business Solutions had been appointed as the USMAA Auditor. Together they had undertaken the task of cleaning up the accounts and had put in place some good business processes so that future Treasurers can work to set methodologies and not have to reinvent the wheel every year.

Bro Azman noted the following points with regard to the financials:

- USMAA had received \$5,244 in membership subscriptions this year which was lower than last year
- He implored the Members to pay their subscriptions annually to ensure the sustainability of the organisation
- A new methodology has been adopted where each event is accounted for via a separate account to clearly show the income received and the related expenses for it
- Have cleared some legacy issues where certain items had been brought forward in the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss this year thereby clearing it and making it easier for future committees



Bro Azman informed that he had drafted a process manual for Accounting to ensure that future Treasurers can execute their job easily. The manual details all the steps to undertake from invoicing members to completing the end of year financials. The manual will remove the requirement for the Treasurer's position to be filled by someone with an accounting background as it details step by step all the tasks that need to be undertaken by the Treasurer.

He concluded that the recommendations outlined by the Auditor are acceptable and will be adopted in the future. He thanked bro Reza and the MC for all the support during this financial year. He also extended his appreciation to the Members who had paid their subscriptions on time.

Proposed resolution: That the Treasurer's report for 2020/21 be accepted

- Moved: Fahmi Haniffa
- Seconded: Nawaz Vilcassim

Following the presentation of the Audited Financials, the Chair invited the Auditor, Reza Jamal to voice his thoughts on the USMAA Audit.

Bro Reza suggested that the USMAA financials be completed on a cash basis and not on accrual basis for the following reasons:

- USMAA is a small organisation and cash basis will ensure simplicity
- A Treasurer with a non-Accounting background, will not need to be across the accruals concept to complete his job
- Bro Falih has confirmed to him that USMAA currently adopts the cash approach

Bro Reza also commented that the cash basis should be adopted only if no resolution regarding same had been passed by the House in previous years.

Bro Ritzvie Mohideen informed the House that:

- Since USMAA had to lodge their financials with ACNC, it was prudent to check if cash accounting was accepted
- ICV had recently moved away from Cash to Accruals to comply with ACNC requirements

Bro Yusuf Zarani confirmed that:

- He had checked the ACNC website and it allows for both cash and accrual-based accounting

Following this, bro Falih suggested that a resolution be passed to this effect.



Proposed resolution: That USMAA adopt the cash basis for preparing the USMAA financials

- Moved: Yusuf Zarani
- Seconded: Seyad Azman

7. Reports of other Subcommittees (SC)

The Chair informed the House that sis Ziada Tokhi had sent her apologies and had requested for the Education SC Report to be presented by the Chair.

Bro Falih read out the report submitted by the Education SC which:

- Thanked the MC for a commendable job especially in light of the current pandemic
- Detailed the zoom event organised by the SC in August 2020 titled "Panel Discussion Covid19: The Ground Situation"

The Chair of the Janaza SC (JSC), bro Eddie Dole, also thanked the MC, the volunteers and the JSC for the support extended during the pandemic. He informed that the JSC was the only body which had offered Janaza services in the South East during the lockdowns.

He extended his appreciation to the following:

- Bro Imtiaz Mohamed for his services behind the scene
- Bro Yusuf Hassan for supplying PPEs for the JSC to use during Ghusl and Kafan process which ensured their safety

The Chair of the Positive Aging SC (PAS), Sithy Marikar, thanked sis Ruzna Shums for the assistance extended to PAS and the Covid 19 Assistance Program.

Sis Sithy informed the House that PAS had conducted five events in total with the 27th Night recitals being the only hall-based event which had been attended by a respectable number of participants considering the short notice under which it was organised. Going forward, the PAS committed to organising this event as part of its calendar of events. PAS had also been successful in obtaining a \$2,000 grant aimed at providing coronavirus support for multicultural seniors. The funds had been used to distribute covid-related gift hampers to the USMAA Seniors.

The Chair of the Youth Subcommittee (YSC), bro Raashed Mohideen, outlined the following:

- The government restrictions surrounding the pandemic had prevented the YSC from hosting any in-person events



- The successful 'Virtual Escape Room' event conducted via zoom in Dec 2020 had included fun and mind-boggling activities which had been enjoyed by the 7 teams which participated. The top three teams had been awarded with Uber eats vouchers
- Some USMAA Youth had attended the Active Youth ifthar in May which was co-organised by the Board of Imaams
- The Futsal (for brothers) and Netball (for sisters) sports events that were being planned had to be shelved due to the snap lockdown being imposed
- The YSC meets every fortnight to discuss marketing strategies and upcoming events e.g. the Amazing Race

Bro Raashed concluded by thanking the MC for the support and advice extended to the YSC and maintained that they couldn't have asked for a better MC to work with.

8. Ratification of the following:

8.1 Community & Sri Lankan Affairs Advisory Group SC

Bro Falih informed the House that following the forced cremation issue in SL, the MC decided to establish the above committee to oversee such issues in the future for the following reasons:

- The time constraints faced by MC members who already had their hands full with the MC responsibilities
- The MC Members were young adults with a young family to raise
- The Seniors had the knowledge and experience needed to deal with these issues
- Several political events/issues had emerged which the MC did not have the time to address to the extent that was expected
- A few organisations had cropped up in the interim to tackle said issues and had self-appointed themselves as 'umbrella' organisations
- The MC had to rely heavily on some seniors like Dr Fahmi and bro Nazeem for advice on these issues

Bro Falih informed the House that currently the following were members of this new Subcommittee:

- Sithy Marikar
- Nazeem Yakoob
- Eddie Dole
- Fahmi Haniffa

Bro Falih invited Dr Fahmi Haniffa to share his thoughts on the matter.



Bro Fahmi H pointed out the following:

- USMAA was primarily established 30 years ago to focus on looking after the interest of Sri Lankans Muslims living in Australia
- However, USMAA's secondary purpose has been to look after the interest of the extended Muslim community living in SL
- USMAA has always been the Umbrella organisation for Sri Lankan Muslims
- USMAA, in the past, have taken the lead in matters relating to SL
- The current MC has done well in this regard but the passion to take up these issues still lies with the USMAA Seniors and this needs to be harnessed so that we take the initial steps and not follow other organisations
- Due to the hard work undertaken by USMAA, it is recognised today by the Federal and State Government bodies
- In recent times when certain SL issues arose, they were taken up by non-Muslim organisations
- When the forced cremation issue occurred, the first steps were taken by other organisations like The Melbourne Human Rights Forum (MHRF). MHRF was created specifically to address the forced cremation issue. Dr Fahmi was instrumental in its formation and assisted in organising the successful motor parade protest
- USMAA should have taken the lead on these initiatives if we have the time and passion to do so
- Sri Lankan issues do not arise often but when it does, they are generally on 'hard matters'
- Ideally it would have been good if the SL Community could have been invited for a consultation on this matter and advise that it is always more effective to collectively take action on any matter
- Going forward it will be the younger generation that will take up the MC positions and we cannot expect them to address issues pertaining to SL which they may not even be aware of
- Establishing this SC will ensure the younger generation who take up the mantle of MC will have an expert body to advise them on such matters
- This SC can work together with the MC to address these issues for the benefit of the Muslims in Australia and Sri Lanka

Sis Sithy agreed with the Dr Fahmi and stated:

- The MHRF had been established in a short period to address the forced cremation issue but had self-appointed themselves as the umbrella organisation despite the government officials recognising USMAA to be so
- Due to inaction by USMAA, sis Sithy had invited a non-Muslim organisation where Sithy is the Vice President (AAGSL) headed by Lionel Bopage to take a lead on this matter
- There were currently only four members in the SC and this was insufficient



- It is preferable to have another female member to join the SC

Bro Eddie proposed that bro Fahmi lead this SC considering his background and experience

Proposed resolution: That USMAA establish the Community and SL Affairs Advisory SC and Dr Fahmi Haniffa be the Chair

- Moved: Eddie Dole
- Seconded: Fayaz Zulfick

Bro Karam A commented that this is a novel idea and he suggested that a link with an Expression of Interest (EOI) be circulated to elicit more members to join.

Bro Falih confirmed that this had already been done and the four members were the only Members who had submitted their EOI

Bro Yusuf suggested the term and number of members for the SC to be decided to enable it to be incorporated to the Constitution.

Bro Nawaz V suggested that the Committee be limited to a handful to avoid confusion when too many are involved.

Bro Fahmi, as the newly appointed Chair, confirmed that SC will have five Members. It was decided that the tenure will be three years.

He invited bro Ritzvie Mohideen to join the SC which was accepted by bro Ritzvie M.

Proposed resolution: That Dr Ritzvie Mohideen be appointed as a member of the Community and SL Affairs Advisory SC.

- Moved: Fahmi Haniffa
- Seconded: Nawaz Vilcassim

8.2 Matrimonial Services SC

Bro Falih stated that the above SC had been created to manage the Matrimonial Service which was launched by USMAA this year on a trial basis. The Chair is Sis Nizra Haniffa and had one Committee Member, Sis Ruzna Shums.

Proposed resolution: That USMAA establish the Matrimony Service SC and Sis Nizra Haniffa to be the Chair



- Moved: Seyad Azman
- Seconded: Farah Dole

9. Annual funds allocation to the Youth SC and the Positive Aging SC (\$500 each)

The Chair informed that the practice has been to allocate \$500 to each of the above SCs from the Membership Subscriptions. However, since it has not been documented anywhere, he requested the House to move this resolution if there were no objections.

Proposed resolution: *That \$500 each be allocated from the USMAA Membership Subscriptions to the Youth SC and the Positive Aging SC*

- Moved: Sithy Marikar
- Seconded: Fahmi Haniffa

10. Positive Aging SC (PAS) bank account

The Chair informed the House that the PAS had operated in the past without a bank account often relying on the MC to execute their transactions using the USMAA main account. On the request of the Chair of the PAS, Sithy Marikar, a separate bank account has now been opened for the use of the PAS. Sis Sithy thanked Falih and Ruzna Shums for their assistance in getting this sorted as this request had been pending for the last 3 years.

Proposed resolution: *That the Positive Aging Subcommittee be permitted to open and operate a separate bank account.*

- Moved: Reza Jamal
- Seconded: Fayaz Zulfick

11. Appointment of the Auditor for 2021/22

Proposed resolution: *To authorise the Management Committee to appoint a new Auditor for the FY 2021/22*

- Moved: Yusuf Zarani
- Seconded: Nawaz Vilcassim

The Auditor for FY 2020/21, bro Reza Jamal from Yure Business Solutions, was initially accepted to be the Auditor for the forthcoming year. However, subsequently as he was nominated to the position of Vice President (during the elections for the MC), to ensure



there was no conflict of interest, the House decided to authorise the MC to appoint a new Auditor as finding a new Vice President was a more difficult task.

12. Election of the MC for 2021/22

The Chair handed over the proceedings to the Elections Officer, Ruzna Shums who confirmed that five nominations had been received for the positions in the MC. The nominees were as follows:

- Rizan Abdeen President
- Minhaja Hashim Secretary
- Anas Sheriffdeen Committee Members
- Zafar Issadeen Committee Members
- Sithy Marikar Committee Members

Since the number of nominations were less than the listed vacancies, the nominated persons were declared as elected. Since there were vacancies available, nominations were called from the floor for the following positions:

Vice President:

Nominee: Bro Reza Jamal

- Proposed by Fahmi Haniffa
- Seconded by Minhaja Hashim

Accepted by bro Reza Jamal

Treasurer:

Nominee: Karam Ashraff

- Proposed by Ritzvie Mohideen
- Seconded by Sithy Marikar.

Declined by bro Karam Ashraff.

Nominee: Anas Sheriffdeen

- Proposed by Minhaja Hashim
- Seconded by Fayaz Zulfick

It was decided to change bro Anas Sheriffdeen's initial nomination from the position of Committee Member to Treasurer.



Bro Falih reiterated that he and his wife, Ruzna Shums, had held two executive positions in the MC and this had not caused any issues.

Assistant Secretary:

Nominee: Firaz Muheed

- Proposed by Minhaja Hashim
- Seconded by Anas Sheriffdeen.

Declined by bro Firaz Muheed

The position is to remain vacant for the moment as no nominations were received from the floor.

Assistant Treasurer:

The position is to remain vacant for the moment as no nominations were received from the floor.

Editor:

The position is to remain vacant for the moment as no nominations were received from the floor.

Committee Members:

Nominee: Karam Ashraff

- Proposed by Sithy Marikar
- Seconded by Yusuf Zarani.

Declined by Br Karam Ashraff.

The position is to remain vacant for the moment as no nominations were received from the floor.

Proposed resolution: *To authorise the Management Committee to fill the vacancies in due course*

- Moved: Ritzvie Mohideen
- Seconded: Yusuf Zarani



No timeline was set for filling up the vacancies.

The new MC for FY 2021/22 are as follows

Nominee	Position	Proposed by	Seconded by
Rizan Abdeen	President	Falih Shums	Ruzna Shums
Reza Jamal	Vice President	Fahmi Haniffa	Minhaja Hashim
Minhaja Hashim	Secretary	Falih Shums	Ruzna Shums
Vacant	Assistant Secretary		
Anas Sheriffdeen	Treasurer	Minhaja Hashim	Fayaz Zulfick
Vacant	Assistant Treasurer		
Vacant	Editor		
Zafar Issadeen	Committee Member	Falih Shums	Ruzna Shums
Sithy Marikar	Committee Member	Ayoob Mohamed	Hanif Mohamed
Vacant	Committee Member		
Vacant	Committee Member		

13. Election of the new Trustees

The Elections Officer confirmed that three nominations had been received for the position of Trustee and since the number of vacancies was equal to the number of nominations, the nominees were declared as elected for the next three years.

Nominee	Position	Proposed by	Seconded by
Fahmi Haniffa	Trustee	Asadh Yusuf	Nawaz Vilcassim
Sithy Marikar	Trustee	Ayoob Mohamed	Hanif Mohamed
Eddie Dole	Trustee	Farah Dole	Mariam Dole

Sis Ruzna Shums congratulated the new MC and the Trustees and invited the newly elected President to address the forum.



14. Newly elected President's speech

Bro Rizan Abdeen commenced his speech by acknowledging that it was a great opportunity to take over as President of this organisation and thanked the Members for entrusting him with this privilege and vowed to do his best. His address covered the following:

- Thanked the outgoing MC for all the support and noted that it was a privilege to be part of such a great team
- Welcomed the newly elected MC and thanked them for stepping up to serve the community
- Looking forward to working with Trustees, Subcommittees and everyone
- Outlined his journey with USMAA which started in 2019, a year after migrating to Australia, when he unofficially was part of the Youth SC
- He joined the MC of 2019/20 as the Editor before being promoted to VP in the MC of 2020/21
- This will be his third consecutive year in the MC
- What drives him as a migrant is the fact that organisations like USMAA helps people to stay grounded to their SL roots
- He was keen for USMAA to maintain its current status as an important organisation that contributes to society
- He and his Committee were committed to contributing positively to the Society
- Their ultimate reward, being not personal glory but the satisfaction of serving Allah (swt) and the Community
- Main goal is to kick-start the event calendar as he had some ideas for same
- He will reach out to the Subcommittees for assistance and guidance on these new events
- He informed that the Grants Subcommittee (GSC) had been successful in getting a cash grant for certain specific events and he was keen to work with the GSC to ensure they are in compliance with the grant requirements so that it paves the way for more grants in the future

He concluded by thanking everyone who had supported him to get to this position specially Bro Falih and Sis Ruzna who had twisted his arm.

15. General Business

Bro Falih thanked bro Yusuf Zarani, Chair of the Grants Committee, for all the hard work done behind the scenes in obtaining the grants, especially the cash grant, and also for submitting the Acquittals.

The Chair opened the floor for any general business.



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Sis Sithy flagged the following:

- Historically USMAA has been non-political
- USMAA has invited dignitaries from all parties to assist us over the last 30 years
- The Labour party has always been helpful to USMAA with the Hall grants we receive being from Labour Councils
- Labour Party even met with USMAA on the forced cremation issue, MP Julian Hill raised the Palestine issue in parliament and former MP Alan Griffin accommodated the printing of USMAA newsletters when he was Sithy's boss
- Despite all the assistance received from the Labour Party, Sithy has not aligned USMAA with the Labour Party
- Liberal Party had not entertained at least a meeting when requested by Sithy via AAGSL to discuss the forced cremation issue
- Unfortunately, the MC of 2020/21 had aligned itself with Hon Jason Wood from the Liberal Party
- This was evident from the fact that USMAA had attended the ifthar hosted by We Care Victoria which is the social arm of the Assistant Minister Wood
- USMAA's name was prominent at the ifthar with Ranj Perera thanking USMAA several times during the event, USMAA's President, bro Falih delivering a speech and USMAA sponsoring the event
- Sithy can vouch that bro Falih's intentions were pure in aligning with Jason Wood, but this does not represent the Membership's voting patterns
- USMAA Members have historically been 85% Labour supporters, 10-12% for Greens and only 2% for Liberal party
- USMAA Members can attend events in their personal capacity but must not attend events in the official capacity representing USMAA as this could lead to party-alignments
- This is the reason sis Sithy had decided to join this year's MC to put a stop to such activities and guide the MC
- Julian Hill had an Eid lunch organised by Sithy but she had not used USMAA's name at the event
- USMAA can attend events where USMAA receives assistance like when Daniel Andrews invited sis Ruzna Shums to a round table to ascertain issuing facing the community
- USMAA can attend events of political parties but not sponsor the event

Bro Falih countered the allegations as follows:

- No USMAA banners were displayed at the ifthar
- The only thing that came close to a sponsorship was USMAA's donation of paper plates to the ifthar. The paper plates were gathering dust in the USMAA storage and ear-marked to be binned as USMAA had invested in ceramic dinner plates
- He will reimburse USMAA for the paper plates as it was his decision to donate instead of binning it



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- Some USMAA Members assisted We Care Victoria in organising the ifthar event as We Care is a non-muslim organisation and didn't have any experience organising one
- Bro Falih cannot prevent anyone from thanking USMAA even though USMAA is an organisation had not assisted in the event but several USMAA members had contributed in their personal capacity like sis Minhaja who had donated the Faluda
- Bro Falih had delivered the speech in his personal capacity with the expectation that his personal efforts would yield some benefit to USMAA as an organisation
- The reason USMAA forged a relationship with Hon Jason Wood was for the sole purpose of obtaining a Council land on lease to build the USMAA Centre
- Bro Falih has not received any personal favours from the Minister
- USMAA cannot decline invitations extended to them from political parties
- It was important for USMAA to maintain good relationships with all parties so that it becomes easier to approach them when there was an issue facing the Community
- USMAA should not be aligned to one single party and it is for this reason that we invited dignitaries from all political parties to attend the Eid dinner
- On Sithy's advice, invitations were extended to the Monash Mayor, MP Julian Hill, MP Claire O Neil and Dandenong Mayor for the Eid al Fitr dinner

Then bro Falih queried from sis Sithy and the House as to how USMAA can avoid being associated with political parties if attending one on their invitation could be construed as aligning USMAA with the said party.

Bro Ritzvie commented on the topic as follows:

- Mentioning names of organisations is a practice of all politicians irrespective of party and is practised by State and Federal governments
- USMAA cannot control who thanks or recognises them at an event as they write their own speeches
- When a political party hosts an event, USMAA can assist but ensure the event is not labelled as a joint event with USMAA. This will ensure that USMAA is not 'seen' as being aligned
- USMAA receives invitations for events from different organisations and it is customary for the President to attend the event representing USMAA

Bro Nazeem Yakoob pointed out the following:

- USMAA is a well-known organisation and cannot decline invitations extended to it
- USMAA should align itself to ALL political parties rather than not aligning at all
- This will ensure that we can solicit help and support from both the major parties
- We should participate in events we are invited to for the benefit of the Community
- USMAA should attend community events in the official capacity as it adds more weight that attending as an individual



Bro Fahmi Haniffa added to the discussion as follows:

- He agreed with the sentiments shared by bro Ritzvie and bro Nazeem
- USMAA has existed for 30 years and has not been 'seen' to be aligned to any party
- As a legal organisation, USMAA should keep in contact with all political parties
- If USMAA is invited and the invitation is halal, it is sunnah to accept the invitation and USMAA should represent the Community
- Since it is uncertain which party will be in power at any given time, USMAA should have equal relationship with all political parties
- When USMAA hosts an event, it would be advisable to invite only one dignitary from one party at a time and hence only one speech by same

Bro Naushad Usoof added to the discussion with the following:

- The We Care Ifthar was organised by non-Muslims to honour the fasting Muslims with a break-fast session
- USMAA did not sponsor the event but it was sponsored by We Care itself

Reza Jamal commented that as the incoming committee, they were keen to follow tradition and in light of this, he queried what USMAA's visual presence was at the We Care Ifthar i.e. was there a banner or any written information on the notice board.

Both bro Falih Shums and sis Sithy Marikar confirmed that no USMAA banner or written visual notice was displayed at this ifthar but only verbal acknowledgment of USMAA. This wrapped up the discussion.

16. Close of Proceedings

Bro Fahmi thanked bro Falih, sis Ruzna, bro Rizan and the MC for holding fort during these trying times. He especially thanked bro Falih for ensuring a succession plan to ensure the continuation of the organisation and for being ready and willing to accept advice on certain matters. He invited the new Committee to take over the organisation and assured that the entire community, both young and old, will extend their assistance to them.

As his closing remarks as the outgoing President, bro Falih urged the Members:

- to pay the subscriptions as the organisation cannot survive without it
- volunteer at least once a year as the MC cannot do it alone and
- not badmouth the organisation to anyone as it was a great organisation that you can reap so much of benefit and barakah from Allah

Bro Falih also requested the new President, bro Rizan, to consider hosting the next AGM both via a hall-based event and via zoom. Giving the option for Members to join in via zoom will encourage better participation. He also thanked the Youth for participating at the AGM and noted that it will be up to them to take the mantle on into the future.



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Bro Fayaz Zulfick requested the outgoing MC to continue to participate in USMAA events as he has noticed that in the previous years, once an MC has completed their tenure, they completely stop participating as if they are fed up. He concluded that it was important for past MCs to continue their journey with USMAA

Sis Sithy commended sis Ruzna for being extremely good at her job as the Secretary and also for being very helpful.

Bro Nazeem Yakoob made the following comments:

- Commended the MC for an impressive and excellent job
- Thanked the outgoing MC on behalf of the Community
- Advised the new MC to reach out to the previous MCs as they have the expertise to share. This will make it easier to move forward as they will not need to reinvent the wheel
- Encouraged the new MC to come up with novel ideas to make USMAA more meaningful and interesting to encourage the Members to come for events

Bro Ritzvie congratulated bro Falih, Sis Ruzna and the MC for a job well done and wished bro Rizan the best for the forthcoming year. He invited the Membership to join the ICV zoom meeting organised for 6.30pm today to discuss the Covid 19 Situation.

The meeting came to a close at 5:45 pm with the recital of qiraath by Talia Shums and the translation by Zacky Shums

17. Conclusion of AGM

Action Items

No	Action	Progress	Who
21/07/1	Appoint new auditor	New	President & the MC
21/07/2	Fill the vacancies in the MC	New	President & the MC

Acronyms Used

Name	Description
MC	Management Committee
USMAA	United Sri Lanka Muslim Association of Australia Inc.
AGM	Annual General Meeting
SGM	Special General Meeting
Bro	Brother



United Sri Lankan Muslim Association of Australia

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Sis	Sister
JSC	Janaza Subcommittee
SC	Subcommittee
PAS	Positive Aging Subcommitte
YSC	Youth Subcommittee
GSC	Grants Subcommittee