

## **Message from Board of Directors – One of the Successful Year 2018**

Conventional wisdom is BOD just helps Executive Committee in GATS events and oversees by-laws. Definitely this year BOD wanted to change that perspective, BOD boldly took on below initiatives at year beginning and could able to execute it successfully most of them. This would not have been possible without so many general body members who helped us along the way to make it reality! Board would like to thank every individual who made the difference and appreciate their continued to support Sangam.

### **IRS Guidelines and Audit Committee**

GATS BOD unanimously decided to form an IRS guidelines committee based on June 2018 recommendations from the Finance Audit Committee for a few questionable transactions. The overarching goal of this one-time committee was to review 2017 financial transactions and work with an external CPA firm to confirm that GATS is in compliance with IRS guidelines (IRS Guidelines Publication 4221 PC (Rev-3-2018)).

The committee reviewed all 2017 transactions recorded by GATS, LTS, MTS, and ATS and also randomly selected a few transactions to perform a thorough audit. The treasurers of each of the above-mentioned entity provided requested documents are highly commendable and BOD appreciated their dedication and time. The whole audit was delayed as 2017 EC operations did not provide the requested documents in time. The following were the findings from the review of 2017 transactions

- Missing Tax entry for so many receipts.
- Payment to the individual, rather than paying to the restaurant directly.
- Conflict of interest issue.
- Missing 1099.

The committee has contacted the CPA firms Krishnan & Co and DIIP CPA to review our findings, but they are not comfortable in doing so since they didn't file our taxes for 2017. They recommended a full external audit and educate everyone in GATS / All schools with the IRS Governance document and do the necessary amendment for the 2017 Tax filing.

To overcome the financial reporting challenges and based on IRS recommendations, IRS committee has come up with guidelines document as per the IRS Guidelines to be in compliance with every financial transaction.

BOD sincerely appreciates Subbu Sukumar and Geetha Basker for their time and dedication to be part of IRS Adhoc committee and Finance Adhoc committee.

BOD sincerely appreciates and thanks the following for their guidance and advice in the GATS IRS Guidelines documents,

- Attorney Chandler Sharma
- Krishnan and Company - CPA
- DPJJ – CPA
- Ram Sriram, Financial advisor
- Abdul Jabbar, Ex-chairman
- Periasamy Selvaraj, Ex-chairman
- K.R Sundara Ragavan , Ex-chairman
- Siva Kolunthu, Ex-chairman
- Thangamani Paulchamy, Ex-chairman

### **ATMC /GATS-GVHCP MEDICAL CLINIC- MOU**

Congratulations to Doctors! and Nurses! who came forward to serve the Tamil community as ATMC (Atlanta Tamil Medical clinic) under GATS umbrella, as per Georgia Volunteer Health Care Program (GVHCP) and DPH Guidelines. ATMC is structured as GATS affiliated, like Tamil Schools, operated by Doctors, Nurses, and Youth Eligibility Specialists.

Also, Congrats to GATS BOD / EC and volunteers who helped in the medical clinic and worked with us to support a great initiative making heartfelt impact in many of our visiting parents' life!

GATS signed an MOU with Doctors/Nurses. Only approved Doctors, Nurses, and GATS youth volunteers can operate the clinic as they are under compliance by HIPPA Privacy act. The legal recommendation (GATS legal Attorney, Chandler Sharma) is to run Medical Clinic as a separate unit with a different name under

GATS in order to take special coverage and effectively handle of liabilities. Atlanta Tamil Medical clinic is affiliated with GATS.

The benefits of volunteering in medical clinic include continuing education credits, relationship building in our community and more importantly saving lives. Let the Doctors and Nurses do the volunteerism and encourage youth leaders in the medical fields. The clinic will not use any allocated GATS funds for running their operations. They shall be self-sufficient. Inflow patients are rising continuously from Tamil Nadu, South India, North India, Caucasians, African-Americans & Koreans as well but everyone was very thankful, and their blessings are priceless! The clinic is growing stronger and stronger with more than 15 practitioners such as Cardiology, Neurology, OB/GYN, Pediatric, Oncology, Sleep, Diabetes, Dental, etc. 5 Nurses such as Registered Nurses, Assistant Nursing, Prescription Assistant and 12 GATS youth Volunteers

Please come forward to donate for the Medical clinic.

### **GATS BY LAW AMENDMENT**

BOD would like to thank all the Board members, EC members, and Bylaw committee members for the support of successful execution of the Bylaw amendments. On top of that, Board would like to appreciate full support from General Body to make this bylaw amendment as approved during our Deepavali event. This is not possible without all your support and dedication to come to the event in person and exercising your right to Vote!

### **GCC - GATS Community Center**

BOD would like to thank all the GCC committee members for their continuous volunteerism and dedication towards finding the good property for GATS. GCC committee did find great property this year and recommended to the board, and then board also signed the contract to move forward with the property. As board communicated before, even though GATS did not have enough funds to buy the property, board wanted to sincerely try and make it happen through various fundraising options, finally board cancelled the contract with lack of additional funding. Board tried their level best and hopefully GCC committee will find another great property. Congrats to GCC committee members for the success in the coming years.

**Thanks for the trust and giving opportunity to serve larger GATS community!  
Board wishes all the best to incoming teams and please continue to give your  
enormous support! Thank You!**