



S E R E N D I B

A NEWSLETTER OF THE SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON D.C.
AND SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON, INC.

VOL. 2 NO. 7

Dec. 2003 – Feb. 2004

Message from the President

In closing the 2003/2004 year for the Sri Lanka Association of Washington, DC (SLAWDC) and its tax-exempt affiliate, Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc. (SLAGW), the Board of Directors and I wish to thank our members and the community for their wide support and participation in enriching the variety and quality of the Association's programs. As you leaf through the events of the last quarter, the sheer range of activity may seem overwhelming. Much of the credit belongs to your directors, officers and volunteers, who have given freely of their time and effort. Your Association also scored well in garnering honors for initiating and accomplishing the Land Mine Action Program for Sri Lanka. Montgomery County of Maryland, by proclamation, and the US State Department, in a special reception/ceremony, singled out SLAGW for national recognition in this regard. Our efforts to raise a then improbable \$10,000 for demining was begun on December 30, 2002. It was closed out on December 29, 2003 with a \$17,500 grant to Marshall Legacy Institute, the implementing organization for Mine Action in Sri Lanka. Our appeal for assistance raised over \$20,000 in donations, a first for us.

As mandated by the constitution and by-laws, President-elect Lasantha Dahanaike and I plan to serve another term in office with the newly elected Board on March 27, 2004. You can thus be assured of the continuity and relevance of our ambitious programming.

A misunderstanding has arisen over a statement in the membership enrollment form about the grant of automatic honorary membership in SLAWDC to Donors of Distinction (\$250 or more to SLAGW). The grant of honorary membership is not a right, but a Board-sanctioned privilege extended solely to non-resident Donors of Distinction at the discretion of the Board, on a case by case basis. The error in the membership form is regrettable, and will be rectified.

Nihal W. Goonewardene

New Project Launched to provide Computers for Schools in Sri Lanka

SLAGW Board of Directors has established a separate project fund to provide used computers to schools and rural e-learning institutions in Sri Lanka. The first two shipments, in two separate pallets containing 70 computers and peripherals, have been dispatched via Colombo Express, Inc. in December 2003 and February 2004. This donation of computers from the United Nations Secretariat in New York has been made possible through the good offices of Dr. Palitha Kohona, Chief of the Treaty Section at the UN Secretariat. These computers are in good working order and have been in use for no more than three years at the UN. Ambassador C. Mahendran, Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the UN, and his deputy, Ambassador Bob Jayasinghe, have provided vital assistance in coordinating and facilitating the handover of equipment from the UN to SLAGW.

President-elect Lasantha Dahanaike is the architect of this initiative, handling the logistics of this transfer through several trips to New York to coordinate the collection and trans-shipment of the equipment by the shipper. S' Thomas College, Mt. Lavinia has generously agreed to be the collection point and Colombo destination for equipment to be parceled out to designated schools in Sri Lanka. We are grateful to the Warden of S' Thomas, Dr. David Ponniah, for providing this vital service on our behalf to benefit educational opportunity across the island.

Another shipment of 75 to 200 computers, also from the UN Secretariat, will be shipped in March for wider distribution to island schools. We encourage alumni groups from the US to contact the President of SLAWDC/SLAGW to earmark equipment donations for schools of their choice by contributing funds to SLAGW, to defray shipping and handling from New York to the recipient schools of their choice. Additional sources for equipment donations are high on our list. Your suggestions and helpful leads will be most welcome to broaden this initiative.

Montgomery County of Maryland Honors Sri Lanka on UN Human Rights Day



Mr. Baltimore displays plastic casing of landmine to part of the rapt audience

Montgomery County Government singled out Sri Lanka and the valiant efforts of its people to eradicate the scourge of land mines from the North and East in honoring the Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc. (SLAGW) at the County's observance of United Nations Human Rights Day on Wednesday, December 10, 2003 at the historic Old Courthouse in Rockville, MD. County Executive Douglas Duncan and County Council President Steven Silverman issued a Proclamation to this effect.

Organized by President-elect Lasantha Dahanaike and co-workers at the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights, the 3:00 pm presentation at the Old Courthouse drew a gathering of 40, despite sleet and rough road conditions on a work day. Ambassador of Sri Lanka, Devinda R. Subasinghe and Director of the County Office of Human Rights, Ms. Odessa Shanon, opened the proceedings with a situation analysis of the problem and noted the growing international support for ridding Sri Lanka and other post-conflict environments of this silent scourge. Mr. Dahanaike followed in welcoming the gathering and highlighting SLAGW's De-mining Fund and the wide outpouring of generosity from a large number of members and friends of the Association, including most notably, employees from the County and colleagues from the Office of Human Rights - the event's co-sponsor with SLAGW. The County's proclamation was formally recited by an officer of the Duncan administration.

Mr. Perry Baltimore, President of the Marshall Legacy Institute, made the day's featured presentation to the stirring backdrop of a video depicting the horrors visited on ordinary people by millions of landmines lying dormant in former battlegrounds. He took the audience through the difficulties in locating individual mines in uncharted mine fields and demonstrated the

Proclamation
Montgomery County Maryland

WHEREAS Human Rights Day was designated by the United Nations in 1948 and is celebrated each year on December 10th to promote respect around the world and call attention to violations of human rights; and

WHEREAS recognition of equal and inalienable rights of all humanity is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace throughout the world; and

WHEREAS to commemorate the special day, the County and the Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington are sponsoring a free, cultural and informative presentation on the international human rights problem of land mines; and

WHEREAS it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations;

NOW THEREFORE DO WE Douglas M. Duncan as County Executive and Steven A. Silverman as County Council President hereby proclaim Wednesday, December 10, 2003 as

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

in Montgomery County. We urge all our residents to join with us in recognizing the important work that is being done in preserving and protecting human rights around the world.

Signed this 10th day of December in the year 2003

Douglas M. Duncan
County Executive

Steven A. Silverman
Council President

efficacy of using mine sniffing dogs, particularly German Shepherds. He outlined the program plans for Sri Lanka to the committed audience. The Q&A following the presentation was equally spirited.

Following the Vote of Thanks by SLAWDC/SLAGW President Nihal Goonewardene, a reception brought together members of the diverse audience to share concerns about the landmine problem in Sri Lanka.



Amb. Subasinghe with Mr. Dahanaike and County Officials.

Department of State Honors MLI, SLAGW and Mine Action Donors for Sri Lanka



Mr. Dahanaike, Mr. Goonewardene and Dr. Rudran stand guard over the \$120,000 check.

The principal representative of President Bush and Secretary of State Powell for Mine Action, Asst. Secretary of State Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr. conferred kudos on the Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) and private and corporate donors, with SLAGW heading the list, in honoring the de-mining activities in Sri Lanka.

Pictured below is a grouping of the significant donors, joined by Ambassador Subasinghe, who helped bring this problem to the attention of several large corporations with ties to Sri Lanka. Nearly 50 VIPs were present, including several former US Ambassadors to Sri Lanka and MLIs Founding Chairman, General Gordon Sullivan (Ret.), former chief of Staff of the US Army.

The donors raised a total of \$120,000, which was further supplemented by a \$300,000 grant from the State Department to endow the MLI program off to a sustainable long-term program in association with the Sri Lanka Army. The 6-pack of German Shepherds is expected to reach Colombo with their trainers in late February.

The honors heaped on SLAGW and our partner MLI is testimony to the pioneering efforts of Don and Billie McCoy and a host of our members and friends, chief among them Ranji and Rudy Rudran. The immediacy of the problem posed by land mines in the North and East helped us to raise an unprecedented sum in excess of \$20,000 from a large pool of donors, helped significantly by an anonymous Foundation gift of \$10,000.



Private donors present a \$120,000 check to the Marshall Legacy Institute for six mine detection dogs for Sri Lanka at the US Department of State on January 14, 2004. (Left to Right) Amb. Devinda Subasinghe; Assistant Secretary of State Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr.; Jack Gehring (Caterpillar); Nihal Goonewardene (Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington); Donald Y. McCoy; Raj Rajaratnam (Galleon Group); General Gordon R. Sullivan (MLI); Christine Smith (Georgetown University); Sima Narron (Chubb Corporation) and Coy Knobel (Office of Senator Mike Enzi, R-WY). Donors not in photo include Hilda Davis, Dr. Beall & Linnay Fowler and the Martin Trust Family Foundation.



Master of Ceremonies and fans



Guests from near and far



Mignone Fernando takes a turn

Mignone of Jetliners Fame Wow New Year's Eve Gala

The Crystal Ballroom of Hyatt Regency Bethesda came alive to the impromptu performance of Mignone Fernando, former lead vocalist for the famed Jetliners. Master of Ceremonies Chandru Mirchandani coaxed Mignone into taking a turn at the stage, and DJ Shawn obligingly backed her up. The crowd of 275 revelers were amazed at the range and versatility of her songs, getting her back for three encores in the course of the evening. The dance floor was packed to capacity from 10:30 pm to 2:30 am to usher in the New Year and make most of the music.

The ambiance of our usual New Year's Eve venue and the elegance of the partygoers found a ready match in the evening's program of dining and dancing. The SLAWDC Board members and the MC kept the pace alive by moving the dinner program and the President's welcome address on a steady clip. Chef Jack Stubbs of the Hyatt presented a sumptuous dinner fit for all comers, topped off by a range of desserts and a night long coffee service. The post midnight treat of kiributh and lunu miris, courtesy of the Hyatt, was a welcome break to indulge in a bit of traditional culture on this auspicious occasion.

The baila competition prizes were donated by Vice Patron, Dr. Padma Wijetilleke and past President, Dr. Hilarian Codippily.

Winners were:

1st Place: Ashan Balasooriya
Manoja Wimalakantha

2nd Place: Sanath De Soyza
Vindhya Usliyanage

The door prize of the round trip air ticket was donated by Upul's Travel Service. Ms. Nimalka Perera walked away with the door prize.

We thank the donors, volunteers, advertisers and guests for making this Gala yet another successful event. The final count of net proceeds exceeded \$ 2,900, one of the best returns enjoyed by SLAWDC to date.

56th Anniversary of Independence Observed



A gathering of 350 or more Americans and expatriates met in downtown Washington to mark the 56th Anniversary of Sri Lanka's Independence on February 4, 1948 from a succession of Portuguese, Dutch and English colonial domination. The event hosted by the Embassy of Sri Lanka was held at the Amphitheatre in the Ronald Reagan Building on Sunday, February 8. In a well-orchestrated 2-hour program of traditional observances, the address by Ambassador Devinda R. Subasinghe, was followed by an open forum and cultural program. The event's master of ceremonies, Minister-Information Ravinatha Aryasinha moved the agenda at a rapid but dignified pace.

Beginning with the national anthem sung by the children's choir representing Embassy families, the traditional lighting of the lamp signaled the opening of the event by the Ambassador, religious dignitaries and presidents of SLAWDC and Ranga Kala Kavaya. Representatives of major religions of Sri Lanka invoked their blessings on the people, the land and its leaders for an era of peace, prosperity and happiness. Rev. Uparatana, chief incumbent of the Wheaton Buddhist Center and monks from the Washington Vihara led off with their blessings, followed by Hindu prayers by a priest from the kovil at Lanham, Christian prayers by Dr. Greg Fernandopulle, and Muslim prayers by an Imam from GWU. The messages of felicitation marking the anniversary were read by embassy officers starting with the President's message in Sinhala, Prime Minister's in Tamil and the Foreign Minister's in English.

The Ambassador's remarks were in keeping with the four-point program he proposed to implement at the independence celebrations in 2003 at the same venue upon taking office that January. In effect, it turned out

to be a State of the Embassy address to the community, capturing the essence of the all-important bilateral relationship with the United States and steps taken during the year to promote and strengthen this vital compact. Eschewing generalities common in such addresses, the Ambassador dwelt on specific achievements with the Executive and Legislative branches of the US Government shedding much light on the high profile attention received from the Bush Administration and Congress for a lasting peace in Sri Lanka in addition to tangible financial assistance for reconstruction and economic resuscitation of the war battered economy. As clear manifestations of US support, the Ambassador cited the hands-on leadership provided by the US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage in events leading up to and during the Tokyo donor conference, which pledged \$4.5 billion in aid for economic development. The other major plank in the bilateral relationship, a free trade agreement with the United States, similar in scope to the 2003 US-Singapore agreement, was expected by the Ambassador to register renewed progress in the second quarter towards a final agreement within the year.

Among the major accomplishments cited by the Ambassador, the De-mining Program for the North and East of Sri Lanka took center stage. He described the pivotal role of SLAWDC and Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) in making it possible for the Embassy to encourage corporate donors with commercial interests in Sri Lanka to ante up substantial sums enabling MLI to dispatch six mine-sniffing dogs in February to Sri Lanka. An outpouring of interest from the community, friends of Sri Lanka and corporate donors enabled this effort to meet its target of \$120,000, which was further supplemented by a \$300,000 grant from the US State Department. He also singled out the catalytic roles of Donald and Billie McCoy in making a success of this initiative.

Citing other gains in improving the service culture at the embassy, the Ambassador singled out the customer friendly services provided by the staff through consular services and public outreach. All officers of the embassy were individually recognized in the process.

A lively open forum with the Ambassador elicited illuminating answers to half a dozen queries from the audience. This brief exchange was followed by a variety show of traditional songs, dances and other patriotic renditions to the great enjoyment of the assembly, bringing the day's celebration to a fitting end.

Associations Air Concerns at Embassy Forum

Ambassador Devinda Subasinghe and staff of the Sri Lanka Embassy met with the Board of Directors of SLAWDC and the Sri Lanka Ranga Kala Kavaya (RKK) to share information on how our community organizations can assist the embassy in fostering better relations with the growing community. The meeting at the Chancery on Saturday, January 24 was attended by the leadership of the two organizations led by Messrs. Nihal Goonewardene and Dias Amarawardena. All diplomatic officers of the Embassy were present and were eager participants as well.

A frank discussion of community concerns and the Embassy's service record ensued at the 2-hour panel discussion headed by the Ambassador and the two community leaders. The two-dozen others present participated freely in sharing views and suggestions to strengthen the Embassy's record of involvement in areas of concern to the diaspora, while improving its image of service to the community.

The Ambassador gave a detailed description of the goals he set out to accomplish upon taking office a year ago, and the progress made to date with particular reference to community relations, consular services and information dissemination to keep the community abreast of unfolding events and political and economic developments pertaining to the peace process. He also sought help from the two organizations for member lists to update the Embassy's database of expatriates, and the means to keep an open channel to the community.

Among the issues where all parties came together, the following are noteworthy:

- The Ambassador agreed to make a special effort with the Government of Sri Lanka to lift the burden of onerous visa fees for Sri Lankan-American retirees visiting their homeland for periods greater than one month. It was noted that most retirees, usually 60 or over, visit their homeland for extended periods and spend their savings or pensions while there. The burden of paying approx. \$400 for each additional month of stay per couple is too onerous a burden for expatriates on fixed incomes. While SLAWDC would like to see this visa fee eliminated in entirety for all Sri Lankan-Americans, prudence and the all-important national issue of pride in reciprocity was seen to be too big an obstacle to overcome. Limiting the privilege to retirees was seen to be a more equitable measure. Taking a leaf from the Indian playbook, it was suggested that Sri Lanka adopt some variation of the Indian Government's welcoming embrace of Non-resident Indians (NRI) through a series of enticements for NRIs to stay

connected, invested and loyal to India. It was understood that a better case could be made with powers that be in Colombo by highlighting our neighbor's policies towards its diaspora, while pressing for relaxation of visa fees for retired NRIs.

- There was ready consensus that Embassy staff was scarcely visible at community functions and small gatherings despite the Ambassador's participation in such events. In fact, it was noted that with the exception of the Ambassador and his deputy, Ambassador Janaka Nakkavita, other officers were hardly known to the community due to their isolation. The two presidents invited all officers of the Embassy to play a more visible and enriching role in the community's affairs, while extending a warm welcome to all Embassy staff at our two associations' events and informal gatherings. There was enthusiastic agreement from the Ambassador and others to rectify this perception of aloofness through greater engagement.
- It was noted that material on cultural traditions of Sri Lanka, its music and dances, and information on the land for dissemination to audiences in the national capital area were difficult to obtain through relevant ministries. The Embassy was asked to make a special effort to obtain videos, CDs and films from Sri Lanka to educate US and younger expatriate audiences in the area and beyond. The Ambassador agreed to contact the relevant ministries and the Tourist Board to inventory the availability of such media and information. RKK offered to defray costs if necessary to obtain such cultural aids.
- A final concern was about the lack of information sharing by Government leaders during their frequent visits to Washington. Unlike in the past when VIPs were available to brief the community on current developments in Sri Lanka, there has been no opportunity for the expatriate community to hear first-hand the nuances and highlights of the peace, reconciliation and economic development processes. This disconnect is particularly troubling to those living here when the major players in the drama are often available in Washington on official missions for the same purpose. Even matters central to the US-Sri Lanka bilateral relationship such as the pending free trade agreement are barely explained to the community by the VIPs during their official visits. SLAWDC offered to host events with two weeks' notice to educate our community on the issues shaping in Sri Lanka and in our bilateral relationship and requested the Ambassador to assist in scheduling suitable speakers. Ambassador Subasinghe readily agreed to do so.

The thirsty gathering was treated to Sri Lanka's finest tea and pledges of mutual cooperation before dispersal.

Scheduled Events/Dates

- **Nominations** for Board of Directors due no later than February 28, 2004.
- **Annual General Meeting** of the Sri Lanka Association of Washington, DC and Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington Inc. at Argyle Community Center on Saturday, March 27 2004 at 3:00 pm. Please call:
Ranji Rudran @ 301 460 3257
Ramani Napoli @ 301 871 2723
- **Sinhala & Tamil New Year Celebrations** on Sunday, April 18 from 10 am –3 pm at Sligo Creek Community Center, Dennis Avenue/Sligo Creek Parkway.

Holy Mass for Peace – Saturday, April 3

The annual Holy Mass for Peace in Sri Lanka will be held in the Crypt Church of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday, April 3 2004. The Rosary will be recited at 4:30 p.m. followed by Holy Mass at 5 pm.

If you need further information, please call:

Greg and Sulocha Fernandopulle
at 301-294-2915

Hilary and Sheila Codippily
at 301-530-7745

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Dear Friends,

I wish to enlist your help and support to honor the memory of **Mr. Anura Karunaratne**, a past president of SLAWDC, who passed away on Thursday, January 15. Many of you were present at the funeral services on Sunday, January 18th. More than 350 mourners assembled to give Anura a fitting farewell. More significantly the memorial tributes at the invitation of the family were delivered by three past presidents of the SLAWDC. In my absence, the immediate past president Hilarian Codippily stood in for me to deliver the Association's tribute to Anura.

The Board of Directors of SLAWDC/SLAGW has established the **Anura Karunaratne Memorial Fund** to receive donations from members and friends of SLAWDC and its tax-exempt affiliate, Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc. (SLAGW). Donors will receive a charitable tax deduction for their donations. The Memorial Fund will contribute exclusively to projects at the Cancer Hospital in Maharagama in Anura's memory. SLAWDC past President Dr. Greg Fernandopulle has been tasked to ascertain the priority needs at the hospital.

Nihal Goonewardene

Karunaratne Memorial Fund

The Karunaratne Memorial Fund has already received contributions topping \$1,360 from several past presidents, members and friends.

Past Presidents

Mr. M. Edward Peries
Mr. Jim Nanayakkara
Mr. Clement Abeyagoonewardene
Prof. Raj Barr
Dr. Hilarian Codippily
Mr. Sena Basnayake
Dr. Greg Fernandopulle
Dr. C.F. Amerasinghe

Members and Friends

Iroshana & Shayami Nanayakkara
SLAWDC
Heather Mattheisz
Ranjinee & Rasanayagam Rudran
Nihal & Chrystal Goonewardene
Richard & Sriyani Sedara
Mr. & Mrs. P. Suriyaarachchi
Pradipa Lenora
Mr. & Mrs. Jayakody

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**Funeral Service for Mr. Anura Karunaratne
January 18, 2003
Tribute by Dr. Hilarian Codippily**

Members of the Karunaratne family, members of the Clergy, and dear friends. At the request of our President of Sri Lanka Association of Washington D.C., Mr. Nihal Goonewardene, who is unable to be present here today, I have the honor to pay tribute to the late Mr. Anura Karunaratne who was one of the friendliest and well respected members of the Sri Lankan community in the Washington area. He was a man of many parts, a very versatile person – a member of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service, a World Bank staff member, President of the Sri Lanka Association of Washington D.C., an active supporter of the Washington Buddhist Vihara, and a successful entrepreneur with an office on K Street. Above all, he was a person of deep feeling and great compassion for his fellow human beings, who never lost his common touch with the community at large, an admirable family man, and a loving father. We mourn the loss today of the first of our past Presidents to pass away.

My association with Anura goes back to the time he was at the Accounting Department of the World Bank. Being in the Operations Department, I used to meet him on and off, but one thing I do remember was his high level of commitment and dedication to work. My next contact with him was when he was the President of the Sri Lanka Association of Washington D.C. from 1993 to 1995. He kept the Association going very effectively, with many activities such as the Sinhala and Tamil New Year celebrations, sports events, the Washington/New York Cricket match, and the annual

New Year’s Eve Dinner Dance. I later met him in another context - in connection with our frequent trips to Sri Lanka. I used to be a satisfied customer of his successful Travel Service on K Street. This again was another way in which he served the community very well.

More importantly, his deep affection for humanity, and his mission to help alleviate human suffering deserves a special mention. As some of us are aware, he used his own resources to improve the facilities at the Cancer Hospital in Maharagama, Sri Lanka – which is a noteworthy achievement by any standards. As a special tribute to this endeavor, the President of our Association has asked me to announce the proposal to set up the Anura Karunaratne Memorial Fund for the Cancer Hospital. This Fund is to be set up under the Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, which focuses entirely on charitable and educational activities. As you may be aware, it has Federal tax-exempt status, under the IRS Code 501 (c) (3), thus providing an incentive for contributions - which will be tax exempt. Mr. Nihal Goonewardene will be writing shortly to all our past Presidents and to the Membership on the establishment of the Anura Karunaratne Memorial Fund – as a fitting tribute to the great work he has done.

I would like to conclude by offering, on behalf of the Association, our deepest condolences to Rani, Nilan, Sharon and Himashi. Though Anura has passed away, our memories of him and of his outstanding work will remain in our hearts for a long time to come. Thank you, my dear friends.

Anura Karunaratne Memorial Fund

We welcome your contributions towards the Anura Karunaratne Memorial Fund. In the course of Anura’s long service to humanity, he actively helped the Cancer Hospital in Maharagama in addition to the American Cancer Society. On the strength of Anura’s commitment to alleviate suffering, particularly of cancer patients in Sri Lanka, his wife Rani and children Nilan, Sharon and Himashi have endorsed my proposal to direct donations from the Sri Lankan community to the Cancer Hospital in Maharagama through the Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc. Please respond by making a tax deductible contribution in memory of Anura’s admirable life of service.
Nihal Goonewardene

Name:

Address:

Please send donations payable to:

SLAGW
C/o, ISTI, Inc.
1820, North Fort Myer Drive, Suite # 600
Arlington, VA 22209

Tel:

E-mail:

Amount: \$

SLAWDC sets Guidelines for Selection of Team for Annual Cricket Encounter

The Board of Directors has unanimously adopted the following procedural guidelines for selection of teams to represent SLAWDC in the future at the Annual DC-Cricket Encounter. The following report was submitted by the Board-appointed committee was adopted by the Board on February 7, 2004. We wish to thank the committee for their effort and industry, and those members and cricket enthusiasts who provided thoughtful comments before the report was submitted.

Methodology and Purpose: A committee of the Board comprising Messrs. Mahil Abeywardena, Maxwell Amirthampillai, Lasantha Dahanaike, Iroshana Nanayakkara, Rajeeva Serasinghe and Nalaka Weragoda was unanimously mandated at the September 11, 2003 Board meeting to prepare draft procedures for selecting the SLAWDC cricket team for the annual DC-NY cricket encounter. Mr. Dahanaike was appointed to chair the committee and report back to the Board before Thanksgiving, a date later moved to the Board meeting on February 7, 2004.

The purpose of this tasked Committee is to revise and improve the current selection criteria in order to promote transparency and minimize subjectivity in selection of the team. Besides instituting good governance through this process, our stated goal of winning the annual encounter will be better served in this manner. The following criteria have taken into consideration the importance of maintaining the loyalty of our membership and their continued goodwill for the greater good and prosperity of our Association.

Players: In order to represent SLAWDC, participants must be current members of the Sri Lanka Association and be dues-paying members on or before June 30.

The Team Manager: The President will appoint the Team Manager at the first meeting of the Board elected for the current year. The Team Manager will be responsible for all the logistics involved in securing a field, transportation, accommodation, equipment, uniforms, communications, food and beverages. *The Team Manager will not be involved in the selection process.* However, the Team Manager is responsible for ensuring that the Selectors objectively follow the criteria established herein, regarding the selection process.

The Team Selectors: The President will appoint three Board Members to select the team. The selectors should have a good knowledge of the game of cricket. If they feel that they do not have enough knowledge they may seek outside expertise in order to execute their tasks. The Selectors will initially work independently within established criteria to select a pool of fourteen (14) players from the two practice sessions. Subsequently, the Selectors along with the Captain will work in unison during the seven-a-side practice game to select the final eleven (11) players to represent SLAWDC. The other three will be reserves.

The Team Captain: The President will appoint the Team Captain after consulting with the Team Manager and the Selectors after the first practice. The Captain will be guaranteed a place in the team and will have input in the selection of the final eleven players from the pool of fourteen finalists.

Practices: There will be two practice sessions to select a pool of fourteen (14) players who will eventually represent SLAWDC. Afterwards these fourteen will play a seven-a-side game against each other. The final eleven players will be selected after this game. Individual points from the two previous practices will be a part of final count. There is also a possibility of a full side game against a local team after the final eleven players are selected.

Points: The three Selectors will independently grade each player according to the following criteria and award the following points.

Attendance - 10 per practice/20 Points Max

Seniority as a Player

2 per year of representing SLAWDC/10 Points Max

Performance at the current year's 7a-side tournament

Best Batsman	10 Points Max
Best Bowler	10 Points Max
MVP	10 Points Max
Fitness	10 Points Max
Sportsmanship	5 Points Max
Enthusiasm	5 Points Max

*Senior's Bonus** 10 Points Max

*To encourage all our members to participate in our activities, ten bonus points will be awarded to any player over the age of forty.

Performance Criteria: Each player's best performance from each practice will be taken to give a player the maximum number of points.

- Batting - 10 Points Max. Metric = 2 points for every 5 runs. Deduct 2 points for each out
- Bowling - 10 Points Max. Metric = 2 points per wicket taken. 1 point per each over conceding less than 5 runs
- Fielding - 10 Points Max. Metric = 2 points per catch/2 points per run out. Deduct 2 points per missed catch
- Wicket Keeper - 20 Points Max. Metric = 2 points per catch/per stumping. Deduct 2 points per missed catch/stumping. Deduct 1 point per bye

Wicket Keeper:

Those interested in being the wicket keeper should state their desire to do so on the first day of practice. Selection of Wicket Keeper will be made without bowling and fielding performance criteria. However, batting criteria will be used. The Team Manager will make sure that each Wicket Keeper gets an equal amount of time behind the wicket during practices.

SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON D.C.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP January 1st to December 31st Year 2004

Regular membership (Individual)	\$20.00
Regular membership (Family w/ children under 18)	\$35.00
Associate membership (Temporary residents in the US for one year)	\$10.00
Sustaining Members – Life members paying dues – voluntary	\$25.00
Life Membership: Individual	\$200.00
Family	\$300.00

Please mail membership checks payable to:

The Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C.
P. O. Box 30295, Bethesda, MD 20824-0295

Address changes should be notified to the above SLAWDC address. The Board will not be responsible for lost mail unless address changes are notified by the member.

Tax deductible donations are accepted only by **Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc, (SLAGW)** an approved 501(c)(3) entity chartered by SLAWDC and governed by the same Board of Directors. All donors donating \$ 50 or more in a given fiscal year, February 1 – January 31, will be listed in a Honor Roll in the Annual Report.

Distinguished Donor Categories for SLAGW *:

Benefactor	\$ 250 +
Founding Donor	\$ 500 +
Sustaining Donor	\$ 1,000 +
Leadership Donor	\$ 5,000 +
Endowing Donor	\$ 10,000 +

* Honorary SLAWDC membership will be granted by Board resolution to honor non-resident Donors of Distinction for Benefactor or higher level of giving to charities supported by SLAGW, for durations specified at the discretion of the Board.

Please forward SLAGW donations to:

Sri Lanka Association of Greater Washington, Inc.
c/o ISTI
1820 North Fort Myer Drive
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22209
Tel: (703) 807-2080 Fax: (703) 807-1126 E-mail: nihalg@istiinc.com

FOR BOARD USE ONLY -
Please note for future
Membership card issue

Year:
Category:
Unit #:
Member # :
No. of Cards #:
Date Paid:
Check #:

APPLICATION FOR SLAWDC MEMBERSHIP - 2004

I/We wish to enroll as a member(s) of the Sri Lanka Association of Washington, D.C., subject to the approval of the Board of Directors and agree to abide by the constitution and by-laws of the Association.

Membership Information: New Membership Renewal Other

Mailing Preference: Postal Service E-Mail Fax

First Name of Member:

First Name of Spouse:.....

Last Name :.....

Address:

.....

Home Phone :..... **Home Fax:**.....

E-mail Address:.....

Children under 18 years

1. _____ *M* *F* *Date of Birth: Year* ____ *MO* ____ *Day* ____

2. _____ *M* *F* *Date of Birth: Year* ____ *MO* ____ *Day* ____

3. _____ *M* *F* *Date of Birth: Year* ____ *MO* ____ *Day* ____

4. _____ *M* *F* *Date of Birth: Year* ____ *MO* ____ *Day* ____

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER: _____ **DATE:** _____