Dallas-Fort Worth Maharashtra Mandal
डॅलस-फोर्टवर्थ महाराष्ट्र मंडळ
2024-25
President – Shamli Asanare |Secretary – Rahul Padalikar |Treasurer – Santosh Deshmukh
Co-Treasurer – Rashmi Thopte |Webmaster – Sachin Funde
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39th Annual General Body Meeting – Minutes of Meeting

Venue: Collin College Conference
2200 W University Dr, McKinney, TX 75071
Date and Time: Saturday, 28th June 2025, 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM

- At 2:30 PM President Shamli Asanare called to start the 39th General Body Meeting of Dallas Fort Worth Maharashtra Mandal and took a roll call. 50+ members were present at 2:45 PM. As the quorum of 50 was met, the proceedings of GBM started immediately.
- President, Shamli Asanare welcomed all the members to the 39th GBM and walked through the agenda of the meeting. He also informed that GBM is the last program of 2024-25 mandal year.
- She informed that this year the total membership has reached 1085 members. All the members applauded these statistics. Shamli thanked the EC for their support and help throughout the year.

Following were the key slides of the presentation

- Recognition of the Sponsors
- Mandal Highlights

(a) Achieved a membership milestone of 1,085 Member
(b) $48,700 Annual Sponsorship – highest in mandal's history
(c) Successfully hosted BMM Texas Maitri Melawa with over 1,500 attendees
(d) Launched Short Film Festival & introduced commercial advertisements
(e) Diwali pahat had highest ever attendance of 1,450+ participants
(f) Organized 2-day camping event with CPR training
(g) Effectively implemented QuickBooks
(h) Conducted a total of 12 programs, 6 initiative-based webinars/meets, 2 Manaswini activities and 4 youth outreach drives

Shamli presented 2024-25 Program Overview

1. New Events

- 2-day camping
- Short Film Festival
- BMM Maitri Melawa

2. Shamli presented details of BMM Maitri Melawa

- Maitri melawa was a 2-day celebration with 1500+ attendees
- $71K in sponsorships and $47K in donations
- Apart from the entertainment programs, there were social initiatives like Physicians' networking, Real estate conference, BConnect, रेशीमगाठी, उत्तररंग

- Maitri melawa provided a huge platform to local talent & audience with events like शिव महानाट्य--with 125+ local talent, Closing ceremony--with 100+ local talent, नृत्यकथा -- 8 local teams, लघुनाट्य -- 7 local teams, Youth Programs, Bollywood Jeopardy and गौरवयात्रा
- There were also programs by Houston Maharashtra Mandal, San Antonio Maharashtra Mandal & Stand-up comedy by Omi Vaidya

3. Maitri Melawa donations and Sponsorship details

- A slide was presented that showed members who watched all the events spent $278 per person for the entire year.
- There were plenty of free events to get full value of the membership fees

(a) Shivjayanti
(b) Dandiya
(c) Manaswini
(d) Student Felicitation

4. Rashmi Thopte presented Youth Outreach Initiatives & Manaswini Initiatives. Youth outreach team this year conducted Back to School Supply Drive, Clothing drive, Peanut butter drive & Gratitude for Military heroes and their families. Under Manaswini Initiatives, Dr. Gauri Bhat conducted a webinar on the topic of "Understand your finances" and a health walk was arranged as a celebration of women's day.
5. Sachin Funde presented details about DFWMM's Health & Wellness initiatives. Under this initiative mandal did 4 events this year. An informative webinar by Dr. Vanita Bagdure on the topic of "Obesity and complications", a webinar by Dr. Sulochana Gawande about "Revealing the secrets of cancer", a webinar by Vaijayanti Apte about Ayurvedic solution to chronic diseases & Physicians' Networking event by Dr. Surendra Barshikar.
6. Sachin Funde presented Website updates. Mandal engaged MicroTek Systems to carry out website security updates and upgraded to the latest Drupal version. There were also other enhancements like Sponsor logo placements, order/SKU report, User Cart Data issue, mandatory information during membership purchase & URL redirect enhancements.
7. Shamli then presented an informative video about DFWMM's Overview of the year.

<u>This was followed by updates from Board of Trustees (BOT)</u>

- The section was presented by BOT members: Dilip Rane, Atul Choudhary, Pulkeshi Jape, Anup Shahpurkar, and Shamli Asanare.
- As the chairperson, Pulkeshi expressed his gratitude towards EC for all the co-operation during the year 2024-25. He expressed that BOT had open and transparent engagement with EC throughout the year & this should be maintained with the incoming EC / BOT team.
- Dilip Rane provided an update about his meeting with Houston Maharashtra Mandal leaders about their Vastu Project. BOT did some initial research on real estate and what it takes to build our own facility by talking to Houston Maharashtra Mandal on their "Vastu" project. However, there is also a need to explore alternative vehicles or approaches for utilizing these long-term funds—beyond just real estate options.

8. After this Maiboli Shala updates were presented by Vaishnavi Apte. Vaishnavi mentioned that there were 196 students in the past fiscal year with 27 teachers. Apart from the education, students also participated in social activities like cultural activity during Ganesh Chaturthi and Dasara celebration. The school actively participated in Maitri Melawa & Sankranti. Shala's 2024-25 balance was $4,201.52 with a cumulative balance of $7,116.02. Vaishnavi announced that she is stepping down after 17 years of service, making way for Rashmi Desai to be the next leader of the shala. Vaishnavi was also key in driving Marathi language credit to be introduced in high schools.
9. Plano Marathi Shala updates were presented by Varshada. This chapter had 213 students with 36 teachers in the last fiscal year. Shala operated in a hybrid mode with in-person and online classes every alternate Friday. Shala conducted a writing challenge in which over 80 students took part for 40 days and 36 students won prizes. This was well appreciated by all the parents and teachers. Like Maiboli shala, Plano Marathi Shala also conducted several cultural activities throughout the fiscal year. Varshada announced that Ajay and herself are stepping down for the next fiscal year and Anjali & Rashmi Thopte are taking the reins.

10. After this mandal's treasurer Santosh Deshmukh presented Financial Details

- Santosh mentioned utilizing QuickBooks was helpful in managing financial accounting and treasury operations efficiently. Santosh thanked Sonali Shinde and Swapnil Kale for their recommendations and help.
- This year mandal initiated and implemented India Sponsorship program.
- Santosh presented a slide showing details of financial position as of fiscal year 2023-24 and 2024-25. The slide showed that the mandal's finances were closing marginally higher than the previous fiscal year.
- Santosh presented a back-to-back comparison of balance sheets with maitri melawa and without maitri melawa. However, there were questions about the tally of the numbers on this slide by community members Sachin Murkute and Nikhil Potbhare. The numbers didn't seem to add up but Santosh answered that this slide is only a snapshot of mandal's checking account and following slides have more information about holistic view of the finances.
- Nikhil Potbhare asked if there was a bifurcation of event specific expenses with details about capital expenditures. Santosh answered as Yes and showed the details that were on following slides. Nikhil congratulated Santosh for his command of the numbers and attention to detail.
- Santosh then presented the P&L for 2024-25. This view has details about each event. Santosh explained that this year mandal intentionally kept the ticket prices low and that caused most of the events to a loss.
- Anup asked Santosh to explain Other Income. Santosh mentioned this was income from selling vendor stalls & other initiatives like T-shirt sales, etc.
- Santosh mentioned that the Bank Advisor suggested that the $100K CD has better interest rates. So instead of current CDs of $150K and $30K, mandal should look into getting two CDs of $100K each (by adding more funds this fiscal year).
- BOT took an action item as the current CDs are maturing on Sept 5th.
- Santosh also mentioned that due to some misunderstanding of the bankers, last fiscal year the interest on the existing CDs was deposited in the checking account and the CDs were renewed at their face values again. The interest is kept intact, and the next EC should consider reinvesting the same.

- Santosh presented a pie-chart view of the melawa expenses & revenue. The ticket sales contributed 58% of the total revenue whereas sponsorship was 25% and donations were 16% of the total revenue. On the other hand, Venue expenses were 43% of the total expenses followed by AV & Stage to be 21% and Food to be 17% of the total expenses.
  - A community member asked why Pie-chart wasn't showing a section for Programming although the chart legend showed it. Santosh answered that the expense was small as compared to other expenses on the chart that it wasn't visible.
- Community member Sachin Murkute raised that BMM's contribution could have been mentioned as an additional line item instead of counting into Revenue.
- Santosh's due diligence in maintaining the finances was appreciated by EC, BOT and community members. Rashmi Thopte's contributions as co-treasurer were duly recognized as well.

Next section "Proposals" was led by BOT members - Pulkeshi Jape, Dilip Rane, Atul Choudhary, Anup Shahpurkar.

Proposal # 1: Submitted by Rahul Padalikar

Amendment to Article III, Section 4 – Eligibility for Board of Trustees (BOT)
Add the following clause:
(g) A candidate must have completed either two full-year terms as a committee-at-large member or one full-year term as an Executive Committee (EC) member of DFWMM to be eligible for a BOT position.

- The proposal was tabled for voting by BOT in front of the GBM Community member
- Padma Tai asked what the existing criteria for the application was
- The existing criteria have 6 clauses (A to F). A complete list wasn't discussed but the two criteria that were mentioned are 5 years DFWMM membership in good standing & No conflicts.
- Community member Harish Nehete asked what the challenge with the current by-laws was.
- Rahul Padalikar explained the rational as EC is looking up at BOT for advice and it is important for the BOT member to understand the working of CAL and EC. Pulkeshi also supported it.
- **The proposal was approved unanimously.**

Proposal #2 - Submitted by Barin Kulkarni Proposal to Review and Revise Membership Fees

Proposal # 4 - Submitted by Shrirang Golhar Proposal to Increase Family Membership Dues by 10%

Both proposals were discussed together. Proposal 4 recommends an amendment to Appendix 2 of the current 2023–24 DFWMM Constitution to increase family membership dues by 10% to better support the operational and program costs of the Mandal.

- BOT recommended that a detailed study of options to change the membership structures should be done. BOT also recommended that the bylaws should be reviewed to see if we can introduce a change to provide BOT the ability to review the expenses periodically and make a membership dues changes recommendation.
- BOT didn't table Proposal #2 and Proposal #4 for voting.

- Community member Harish Nehete asked if not tabling this would mean lost revenue for the current EC. Pulkeshi responded that the current membership revenue is ~ 50K and proposed raise is 10% which means lost revenue is ~5K. So, it wouldn't have a huge impact.
- Community member Padma Tai expressed that there should be data-driven decisions. BOT member Dilip Rane agreed and confirmed that.
- Community member Sujit Sathe expressed that issues like yearly renewal, ticketed event on top of annual membership & feasibility of Lifetime membership tier should be researched
- Community member Satish Thopte shared a concern raised by some Marathi Shala parents regarding the mandatory DFWMM membership requirement for enrolling their children. Some Marathi Shala parents do not participate or attend broader DFWMM events and may have additional burden in case of increase in Membership fees. This feedback is being shared for collective reflection as we continue building inclusive and community-friendly policies. So, we should carefully reconsider any increment in the membership fees.
- Community member Rahul Chougule suggested that mandal should explore options enabling Auto Renewal & should introduce longer term membership tiers like 3- or 5-years membership offered at a discount.
- Community member Manohar Lele suggested that mandal should focus on adding more members. BOT member Anup Shahpurkar answered that mandal is already adding more members every year & every member should spread a word about the mandal in the community.
- Community member Abhijit Sohoni suggested that a comparative study of no. of the members & cost of the events should be carried out.

Proposal #3 - Submitted by Shrirang Golhar Proposal to Provisionally Expand the Executive Committee (EC) to Seven Members

- BOT didn't table this proposal for further discussion.
- BOT mentioned that the previous ECs were able to handle the work with 5-member committee. If there is a need to distribute the work, members of CAL should be considered, but there is no need to add more "voting" members to EC.
- BOT also mentioned that adding 2 more members to EC will need additional work to define the roles and responsibilities of these members and by-laws should be changed too
- Community member Sachin Deshpande provided rationale in absence of Shrirang Golhar
- Community member Harish Nehete asked if the person who filed a proposal should be present at GBM. BOT confirmed that it was not mandatory.

Community member Shubhada Deshpande asked BOT that she had filed a written complaint on 18th Dec 2024 and there was no response from BO

- BOT chair Pulkeshi and BOT member Atul Choudhari said that BOT discussed the issue with Shubhada for 45 mins
- Shubhada confirmed it but mentioned that BOT said they will look into it.
- Pulkeshi replied that BOT said that they had said that they would come back to Shubhada if there was anything to report but there was nothing to report.
- Shubhada expressed that it should have been communicated.

Pulkeshi announced new Executive Committee for year 2025-26.

- President: Shrirang Golhar
- Secretary: Anand Kerhalkar
- Treasurer: Sachin Funde
- Co-Treasurer: Sachin Deshpande
- Webmaster: Ravindra Khokrale

Pulkeshi announced new BOT for year 2025-26.

- Atul Choudhari, Dilip Rane, Satish Thopte, Shamli Asanare & Shrirang Golhar

11. Pulkeshi and Anup who were stepping down from BOT expressed gratitude towards the EC, BOT and the entire community.
12. Rising EC member Sachin Deshpande mentioned that he is already serving as BMM Representative. He expressed that there are many talented members in the community and someone else should be nominated as a BMM rep since he is taking up Co-treasurer position.
13. BOT member Dilip Rane led the audience saying prayers.
14. At 5:02 PM Shamli announced that GBM was concluded.

Sl No	Action	Owner
1	BOT to review the suggestion on DFWMM Membership fees increase and do a data driven analysis against the increase in cost of living and come back with findings to the community.	BOT