

MTA Board of Director Nominee – 2018



Lakshmi Venkataraman

Personal Profile:

- Resident of Montgomery county, MD since 2014.
- Active MTA and Greater Washington DC Tamil Sangam member from 2015.
- MTA volunteer for the past 3 years.
- Member of the Farmland elementary PTA, Rockville.
- Volunteered as a Room Parent in Farmland Elementary Rockville for the past 2 years.

Contribution to MTA:

- MTA volunteer teacher for Pre-Mazhalai (2015-16); and a Class teacher for Mazhalai (2016-17) and Nilai 1 (2017-18).
- Volunteered as event coordinator in MTA Mid-year events 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- Volunteered as event coordinator in MTA Annual day events 2016 and 2017.

Vision for MTA:

- Transform classroom session as an interactive and fun place to learn for the kids.
- Focus more on spoken Tamil and not just following the ATA book.
- Frequent engagement with teachers and parents for suggestions and feedback for new ideas and improvements.
- Simplify the syllabus in line and relevant to kids of new age.
- Collaborate with the Board members and PTA to achieve goals outlined.

Candidate Name: Madhusoothanan Venkadaswamy.

Personal Profile:

- Tamil Sangam of Greater Washington Inc. Member.
- Have been with MTA for the past four years.
- Affable, Good Team player and believe in Team work.
- Living in the Germantown/Gaithersburg Area for the past 16 years since 2002.

Individual contribution to MTA:

- Volunteered for the Mid-Year events during school year 2015 - 2018.
- Volunteered for the MTA Annual day Events 2015 - 2018.
- Organized Drawing competitions in Mid-Year Events.
- Volunteered mazhalai and Pre- mazhalai classes.

What value I bring to the board:

- Lack of resources in the class room will impact on Students and Teachers. Listen to the teacher's needs (Helpers/ Chalkboard/Projector etc...) and make sure their needs are met.
- Promote open communication and understanding between parents and MTA board. Act as Liaison between parents and MTA board to make sure Parents concerns are heard and Suggestions are honored.
- Work with teachers and Parents to identify any improvements/revision required on the curriculum.
- Work with MTA board to establish Tamil Library for MTA Students and Parents.
- Organize well the Mid-Year and Annual day Events to make sure kids can comfortably showcase their hard worked talent



Palanisamy “Samy” Payiran for Board of Director

Personal Profile:

- Living in Maryland since 2005.
- I served as Joint-Secretary for Physical Society at Annamalai University during my Master’s program.
- I served as a Board of Directors (2013-2015) for AIMS India Foundation, not-for-profit organization which helps in building infrastructure, providing funds to buy books for libraries, providing computers for education etc.
- I worked with AIMS India Foundation to fund one and half lakhs worth of Tamil books for Arachalur Government Higher Secondary School’s Library.
- Worked as co-facilitator to conduct fundraising event for AIMS India Foundation.
- Active member of Montgomery County Road Runners Club (MCRRC).

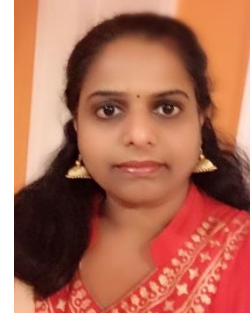
Individual contribution to MTA:

- MTA volunteer for the past 5 years.
- Volunteered as Assistant Teacher for Nilai 1 (2014-15), and Nilai 3B (2017-18)
- Volunteered many committees during last 5 years including but not limited to Food committee, Awards/Prize Distribution, Events Organization etc.,
- Implemented Google Classroom (For Nilai 3B in 2017-18) to digitize homework presentation, and use audio video deliverables.

What value you bring to the board:

- It is to make the learning environment interesting for the kids by introducing new concepts.
- Better relationship between teachers and parents.
- Improved communication with parents.
- Find a way to train the teachers to teach these kids as they are taught in their regular schools.
- Make the event management better.
- Introduce the grading system rather using conventional marking systems.

Priya Venkatraman for Board of Director



Personal Profile:

- Living in Maryland since 2006.
- Previously worked as an Executive Software Trainee for 2 years and 1 year as a Computer Science Teacher for senior grade students in Chennai.
- Worked as a Business office representative in a Dental Facility at Germantown, MD
- Parent volunteer at my children's MCPS school the past 6 Years.

Individual contribution to MTA:

- Volunteered for mid-year event at MTA.
- Volunteered at MTA as a parent assistant to the class teachers of my children.
- On many occasions, volunteered as a substitute teacher during the unavailability of classroom teachers.

What value you bring to the board:

- Our MTA curriculum is solely based on understanding the literature part, rather than being fun language learning for student's. As the result the students and parents are frustrated with the test and exam rather than relax and enjoy the learning process.
- I am interested in working with the school board team and administrators toward enhancing Maryland Tamil Academy. I wish to provide a real difference in these two years not only for students now in school, but also for many others who will follow.
- If elected to the Board, it is important to me that we encourage students to become the best that they can be with teachers who have the training and tools to be effective educators. I would like this great education to happen in safe environments, both structurally and emotionally.
- I believe the School Board has an incredible responsibility to make each student believe that the learning is fun and useful to them.
- I would also like to implement creative ideas to address the academic areas that seemed difficult for students.
- I would also concentrate on More spoken language workshops and fun assignments like interactive plays among the student's.
- Would like to work on ways for students to bring interest back to our school and not to lose existing students.
- Create workshops or student's easy fun assignments on Tamil authors, Poets, history of Tamil culture.
- With so many topics deserve attention. I believe that one of the most immediate issues facing is the Student and Parent stress with the exams, as the curriculum more focus on Tamil Literature rather than fitting to the current need of spoken language.

I thank Maryland Tamil Academy for giving this opportunity to nominate myself in the election.

**Sincerely,
Priya Venkatraman**

Shoba Venugopal for Board of Director

Personal Profile:

- Residing in Maryland since 2006.
- Involved in MTA for last 6 years, volunteering for various activities.
- Volunteered as a Chaperone for multiple MCPS field trips.
- Has extensive experience working with pre-school kids in a aftercare environment
- Help organized Clarksburg Tamil Community Meet & Greet event for 300 members of the community.



Individual contribution to MTA:

- Currently volunteering as an assistant teacher in Level 4B.
- Volunteered as an assistant teacher for Level 4B in 2017 / 2018.
- Volunteered as an assistant teacher for Level 3 in 2016 / 2017.
- Volunteered and led Prize distribution committee in 2015 annual day function.
- Volunteered and led Food committee in MTA's 2013 and 2014 annual day functions.
- Help organize MTA Mid-Year event games.

What value you bring to the board:

- Focus more on spoken Tamil by collaborating with both students and the parents while making it fun to learn.
- Work towards creating a better framework and process for teacher assignment to classrooms.
- Serve as a teacher representative and be a liaison between MTA board and teachers.
- Work with other board members, teachers and parents to bring harmony.
- Will work towards introducing new technology and educational tools in classrooms.

Johnson Sabariar



அனைவருக்கும் வணக்கம். உங்களை இந்த தேர்தல் சுயவிவரம் (profile) மூலமாக சந்திப்பதில் மட்டற்ற மகிழ்ச்சி. நான் அமெரிக்காவில் கடந்த 22 வருடங்களாக வசித்து வருகிறேன். நான் கடந்த 10 வருடமாக நம் பள்ளிக்கு அயராது தொண்டாற்றி வருகிறேன். 10 வருடங்களாக நமது தமிழ் பள்ளியில் ஆசிரியராக பணியாற்றிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறேன். மேலும் துணை முதலவர்/துணைத்தலைவராகவும் சேவை செய்து கொண்டிருக்கிறேன். இந்த பள்ளி உருவாக காரணமானவர்களில் நானும் ஒருவன். நான் நமது தமிழ் சங்கத்தில் [ஆயுட்க்கால](#) உறுப்பினர்களை சேர்க்கும் போது இரண்டாவதாக சேர்ந்திருக்கிறேன். தமிழ் சங்கம் மற்றும் பேரவை (FeTNA) விழாக்களில் நாடகம், ஓயிலாட்டம் மற்றும் பறை இசைக்கலைகள் பல நடத்தியிருக்கிறேன். தமிழ் பள்ளிக்கு **High School elective credit, Seal of Biliteracy** கிடைக்க அயராது பாடுபட்டதோடு மட்டுமல்லாமல் அதை தலைமை எடுத்து வெற்றியடைய செய்திருக்கிறேன். தமிழ் பள்ளிக்காக ஆரம்ப கால கட்டங்களில் என் சொந்த செலவில் ஆண்டு விழா நடத்த மண்டபம் மற்றும் ஒலி-ஒளி வசதிகளை செய்து கொடுத்திருக்கிறேன். MTA Bylaw, Guidelines, Non-profit certification, Website, Records management System அமைய பாடுபட்டிருக்கிறேன். இப்போது நடைபெற்றுக்கொண்டிருக்கும் MTA நிலை 10 வகுப்பு மாணாக்கர்களை தமிழ் பேசுவதோடு மட்டுமல்லாமல் அதனையும் தாண்டி அவர்கள் நம் போல் கவிதையும் கட்டுரையும் எழுதும் விதத்தில் சாதனை படைக்க வைத்திருக்கிறேன். நான் இந்த மாணாக்கர்களை சிறந்த முறையில் கல்வி கற்று தமிழின் பெருமையை இந்த உலகத்துக்கு எடுத்து செல்வதோடு மட்டுமல்லாமல் அதனை காக்கவும் வேண்டும் என்ற உயரிய எண்ணத்துடன் தான் (Vision) இந்த பள்ளி பொறுப்பை ஏற்றேன். என்னுடைய ஆசை எல்லாம் நம் தமிழர்கள் ஒற்றுமையாக இந்த அமைப்பை சிறப்பாக நடத்த வேண்டும் என்பது தான். அந்த ஒற்றுமை பல மாதங்களாக குலைந்து போயிருக்கிறது. அதை நாம் கண்டிப்பாக தடுத்தாக வேண்டும். நான் இந்த தேர்தலில் MTA தலைவர் பதவிக்கு போட்டியிடுகிறேன். நான் தலைவராக வந்தால் கீழ்க்கண்டவற்றை கொண்டு வந்து நமது பள்ளிக்கு மேலும் பெருமை சேர்க்கலாம் என்று இருக்கிறேன்.

- 1) **Make a strategy to bring back all the drop-out students**
- 2) **Make Tamil classes to be more productive and attractive to students.**
- 3) **Conduct Teacher training to better serve the students.**
- 4) **Comply with the County and State guidelines to preserve the High School elective credit, Seal of Biliteracy status.**
- 5) **Start Tamil Listening and Speaking session for the Students and parents(non-speaking).**
- 6) **Adhere to the Bylaw and add any amendments based on any need for better Tamil education**
- 7) **Standardize the education System and secure the sensitive data.**
- 8) **Facilitate the students to know about the real-life lessons, Tamil arts, Martial arts and Yoga.**
- 9) **Suggestion box to get inputs from parents and teachers for continuous improvement.**
- 10) **Establish a long-term goal for the Tamil school growth and affordable Tamil Education to all Kids**
- 11) **Provide Free Tamil education to the poor students (those parents make minimum wages).**
- 12) **Preserve the dignity of the non-profit status**
- 13) **Enhance the Tamil Library with more book collections.**
- 14) **Lead this non-profit organization with open and transparency way.**

Other Volunteer Experiences: 1) SJC Trichy Alumni USA Chapter, President (Aug 2013 – Present)
2) KingsView Village HOA, VP/Secretary (Aug 2005 – Feb 2015)
3) Germantown Toastmasters International, President (Jul 2017 – Present)
4) CATCA, President (2013 – Apr 2015)

To know more about my profile, please visit at: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/johnson-sabariar-78710174>

நன்றி! வணக்கம்!!!

Suresh Ramamoorthy for President



Personal Profile

- Co-led the volunteer and chief guest co-ordination committee for the 2018 OnePongal mega event organized by Greater Washington Tamil Sangam
- Lead member of Vendor and Fundraising committee for the 2018 OnePongal mega event organized by Greater Washington Tamil Sangam
- Conducted program in Clarksburg Balla Datta organization in 2016 & 2017
- Member of the Greater Washington Tamil Sangam Thendral Mullai magazine editorial board since 2014
- Served as a director in the board of Greater Washington Tamil Sangam in 2012 & 2013

Contribution to MTA

- Serving as a volunteer in MTA Tamil School since 2012 and currently volunteering as the Joint-Secretary
- Organized MTA Tamil Art and Literary Competitions (2017 & 2018)
- Organized the 2017 MTA Teachers training with retired Dean of Education department from Howard University
- Organized MTA Orientation day (2017) & Co-organized MTA Orientation day (2016)
- Promoted MTA kids participation in 8K Radio program
- Encouraged MTA students to create a promotional video exhibiting their creativity, in the OnePongal event, to promote Tamil traditional culture
- Coordinated with MCPS school facility management
- Facilitated creation and publication of 2016 & 2017 MTA Yearbook
- Led the MCPS Accreditation renewal for MTA (2016)
- Participated and represented MTA in American Tamil Academy (ATA) international conference for schools, and Valluvan Tamil Academy School Annual day in 2015

What value I bring to the MTA Board

As MTA President I will

- Lead the MTA board to be a cohesive unit that executes the vision for our MTA community with efficiency and enthusiasm
- Bring in expertise and positive influence from the greater Tamil diaspora to MTA to ensure that MTA thrives as a valuable community to the current and future generations of students
- Continue to implement and improve upon the best practices and procedures set forth by previous MTA board(s)
- Form an advisory team that comprises of past MTA leadership and community leaders to guide MTA for continued growth and success
- Create an initiative to involve higher level students in conducting school events, classes, and to increase the rate of Tamil speaking among the students
- Motivate students to achieve higher level of credentials in the Tamil Language
- Provide leadership and ensure that the needs and interests of the parents and students are represented and addressed
- Promote inter-school competitions/activities between MTA students and other Tamil schools in Greater Washington area

Vadivel Ramasamy for Vice-President



Personal Profile:

- Living in Maryland since the beginning of 2013.
- Student representative during school and college days.
- Good team player and always people around me finds me easy to collaborate with.

Individual contribution to MTA:

- Served as Board of Director of MTA for the year 2016-2018.
- Web Master of MTA WebSite, Facebook & Twitter Accounts.
- Worked with teachers to introduce MCPS like report cards for Level 4A students as a prototype.
- With the help of teachers and parents, introduced Google Classroom for classrooms 3B, 4A and 4B during school year 2017-2018.
- As a part of MTA attendance team, introduced google sheet-based attendance system at MTA.
- Part of MTA students' registration team for the past 2 years; contributed by setting up the PayPal payment system for the school year 2017-2018.
- Volunteered for documenting the MCPS Accreditation Application during school year 2016-2017.
- Assistant Teacher for the Mazhalai Class - 2013-2014 School Year.
- Main Teacher for the Mazhalai Class - 2014-2015 School Year.
- Volunteered all the MTA Mid-Year and Annual Day events since 2014.

What value you bring to the board:

- Will make sure, each and every board member has allocated to independent functional area to take care for making sure smooth operation of MTA as a non-profit organization and also as a school.
- Will create guideline documents for various functional and operational areas of MTA. This is very key as the members of the board keep changing and it is aiming to remove any dependency.
- Will reach out to the parents to identify their needs; and teachers to identify the challenges and mission then based on that will plan, create a roadmap.
- As we are handling smart kids from 21st century, I will work towards bringing simple, safe and cost-effective technologies for educating the kids in Tamil.
- With the help of parents and teachers who helped to experiment the Google Classroom and MCPS like report cards, we will try to roll it to more classrooms in the coming years.
- Based on the past experience and lessons learned as a board member, identify the areas needs changes and improvements and work on it.
- Identify a team to enhance the MTA website content and Digitization of MTA.

Vinoth Jagannathan for Secretary



Personal Profile:

- I have been a Germantown, Maryland resident since 2009.
- I have volunteered to Project Madurai, through which public domain Thamizh literary text have been digitized. I proofread the digital text version of Ponnaiyan Selvan.
- I'm an avid Thamizh reader, and am constantly adding books to my personal Thamizh library where I have around 150 books now.

Individual contribution to MTA:

- MTA volunteer for the past 5 years.
- Was class teacher for Mazhalai (2013-14), Nilai 1 (2014-15), and Nilai 3 (2017-18)
- Co-presented MTA annual day event in 2014.
- Implemented Google Classroom (For Nilai 3B in 2017-18) to digitize homework presentation, and use audio video deliverables.
- Achievement: When I was mazhalai level teacher, multiple parents had told me that their kids were eager to go to Thamizh school because they enjoyed going to Thamizh class. To me that is the ultimate goal of MTA, and that comment from a 5 yr old is the best award.

What value you bring to the board:

- I will strive to make MTA, and the 2 hours on Friday, a fun place and time that the children would want to go to.
- We are teaching the 21st century kids using the same approach that was used to teach us in the 20th century. I will make it a priority for the incoming board to evaluate our teaching method, and create a curriculum/ methodology that takes into account the following (for example)
 - Unlike their parents who are from Thamizh speaking regions, most of the children here think in English. So, we need to look at methods used to teach a second language and utilize them.
 - Include Thamizh arts (i.e. music and dance) as part of curriculum
 - Device project based learning goals, instead of lesson based ones
 - Focus more on spoken Thamizh.
- As an experienced design leader in the IT field, I will evangelize to create a digital platform for MTA, to make it more accessible and efficient for parents, students, as well as the governing body.
- I will focus on creating different committees, to manage curriculum, to reach out to community, to plan events, to administer policies, etc. While the board will be the face of MTA, we need to utilize the expertise of our parents' community to make MTA an exemplary organization that is an example for other schools/ organizations to follow.

Kokila Rajendran for Joint Secretary



Personal Profile:

- Resident of Montgomery county since 2002.
- Member of the Wilson Wims ES PTA, Clarksburg
- Chair and organizer of the International Night 2015 event at Wilson Wims ES, Clarksburg
- Active volunteer for Democratic Party candidate for Congress Aruna Miller.
- Organized community meet and greet to bring together Tamil families in the Clarksburg & Germantown area.
- Good organizing and interpersonal skills.

Individual contribution to MTA:

- Served as Board of Director of MTA between year 2016-2018.
- Assistant Teacher for the Mazhalai Class - 2013-2014 School Year.
- Assistant Teacher for the Mazhalai Class - 2014-2015 School Year.
- One of the MC for MTA 2012, 2013 and 2014 Annual Day Event.
- As a part of MTA attendance team, introduced google sheet based attendance system at MTA.
- Organized the Mazhalai, Level 1 and Level 2 class cultural dance events and practice for kids in 2013/14/15/16.
- Assisted MTA technology team in introducing Google Classroom as a pilot for select classes.
- Volunteered for the Mid-Year event during school year 2014 - 2015.
- Volunteered in revising the MTA By law and guidelines to improve the MTA organizational structure and introduce decentralized administration of MTA.
- PTA coordinator at MTA.

What value you bring to the board:

- I would like to work as a liaison between the board and parents. I believe a Parents Representative who is also a board member is very important to bring new ideas to the school.
- Work with parents and other board members and leverage technology to better organize student information, attendance, record keeping and communication.
- Work on programs to motivate parent to actively participate in teaching Tamil kids.
- Work with technology team to introduce Google Classroom for all classes in MTA.
- Work with teachers and parents to improve Tamil spoken skills across all students.
- Organize yearly outdoor events for students and parents to nurture social skills for students.
- Work with members, board and experts to bring new ideas to improve MTA bylaws and administrative guidelines to improve day-to-day operation of the organization.

Kamalabharathy Pachiyappan for Treasurer



Personal Profile:

- I am Kamalabharathy Pachiyappan. I am contesting for the position of 'Treasurer' of Maryland Tamil Academy.
- By profession, I am a data architect/data scientist with extensive finance domain experience.
- I am a passionate Tamil orator since childhood. I represented North Arcot District at state level events during my education days. I have a passion towards Tamil literature and enjoy reading Tamil novels and poetries by Mahakavi Bharthiyar, Bharathidasan and Vairamuthu.
- I served as the Joint Secretary and Secretary of AC Tech Anna University Tamil Sangam during college days.
- I was a founding member and Secretary of "Illumination Trust" NGO that focuses on improving education for rural students in Tamilnadu.

Individual contribution to MTA:

- I am a member of MTA for almost five years.
- I volunteered as a primary teacher for Nilai 3 and parent assistant for Mazhalai.
- I volunteered as a substitute teacher for Nilai 2 on many occasions.
- I served as a in food and event organization committee.

What value you bring to the board:

- As I have extensive treasury banking experience at leading financial institutions and have completed first two levels of Chartered Financial Analyst program, I believe I can use this financial knowledge to add value to MTA.
- **Learn with Fun** - My priority is to make Tamil learning a fun by introducing practical learning and encouraging students to do projects involving Tamil heritage, culture, food and history etc. Create focus groups for enhancing spoken Tamil, Tamil writing etc. So that the teachers can focus on a smaller group of kids.
- **Consistent Performance Measure** - I will work with board to bring a grade based performance measure that will be phased throughout the year by conducting periodic formative assessments instead of burdening kids with preparation for year-end exam and mid-year exam.
- **Delegation** - I will propose measure to empower and involve parents in school activities and committees. The aim is to delegate powers to committees formed with parents and members.
- **Discover New Knowledge** - I will strive to modify curriculum to encourage students to discover new words, write poems and stories on their own, as Bharathidasan rightly said –

“கைத்திறச் சித்திரங்கள், கணிதங்கள் வான நூற்கள்

*மெய்த்திற நூற்கள், சிற்பம், விஞ்ஞானம், காவியங்கள்
வெத்துள தமிழர் நூற்கள் வையத்தின் புதுமை என்னப்*

புத்தகசாலை எங்கும் புதுக்குநாள் எந்தநாளோ?”

To motivate kids, teachers can compile the writings and file a patent/copyright.

- **Be a Community Leader** – MTA needs to spread wings to serve Tamil community in Montgomery and Fredrick counties. Create MTA connections to provide a platform for members to communicate and support each other.

Improve mid-year events to encourage more participation from the kids.