



# **Kerala Association of Washington**

## **2023 Annual Report**

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# ABOUT THIS REPORT

The 2023 annual report for the Kerala Association of Washington (KAW) has been prepared on behalf of the executive committee (EC) by Secretary, Divya Gopalakrishnan, for review in the General Body on 24th Feb 2024.

The Annual General Body (AGB) report serves to provide a comprehensive overview of the KAW's activities, achievements, and learnings in the past year and includes initiatives organized under KAW Charity.

Please contact KAW Secretary at [secretary@kaow.org](mailto:secretary@kaow.org) in case of any questions or feedback.

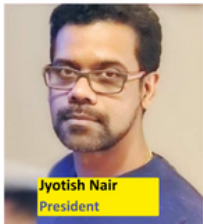
Notes:

The \$ figures mentioned in this report have been approximated. Exact numbers for each project/ event are available in the Financial Report 2023 section - Page 22 - 26.

KAW Charity is a non-profit community organization under Washington State law, with Tax Exempt 501 (c) (3) status under the Internal Revenue Code by the IRS.

[Link to KAW Bylaws](#)

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2023



**Jyotish Nair**  
President



**Divya Gopalakrishnan**  
Secretary



**Biju Mathew**  
Treasurer



**Seema Anil**  
Vice President



**Sujith Vishwanathan**  
Joint Secretary



**Ajith Jose**  
Joint Treasurer



**Harihar Sankaranarayana Pillai**  
EC Member



**Mathew Raju**  
EC Member



**Sheen Thomas**  
EC Member



**Shilpa Saseendran**  
EC Member



**Mamta Satheesh**  
EC Member



**Santhosh Nair**  
Ex-Officio



**Pournami Varma**  
Youth EC Member



**Shweta Narayanan**  
Youth EC Member

Following the general body meeting on Feb 25th, 2023, the 2023-24 EC team assumed office on March 1st, 2023. Immediately after, EC formed its vision for the year: "We will strive to unite and empower Malayalees by providing a platform for sharing ideas, showcasing traditional values and talents, and fostering young leaders within the community, all while promoting a spirit of fun and camaraderie".

After taking charge, EC organized an inaugural event and shared our plan for the year with the community. EC worked as a single unit and delivered multiple events committed to our community, including a focus of sharing exposure to our culture.

This was another exciting year for KAW with 681 members. We organized 25 events, including new initiatives, involved multiple volunteers, grew our WhatsApp community to 700+ members, organized fund raisers for KAW Charity, and had another record year for Aksharakalari. The EC took deliberate measures to maximize participation across the community in all our events, provide various platforms for members to show-case their skills in arts and sports, and bring opportunities for social interaction.

Thank you to our multiple sponsors whose support was instrumental in delivering a successful year, and to our community members for their unwavering support. The details of all the events conducted by this EC is shared in this report.



# 2023 - 24 SPONSORS

## Premier Partners



## Gold Sponsor

Apna Bazar

## Silver Sponsor



Sweet Saradha Arts  
DO WHAT YOU LOVE & LOVE WHAT YOU DO

## Event Sponsors and Partners



# Thank You for the Support!!

# 2023 - 24 EVENTS

## Mar

- Snehasayahnam
- Evening with Prof.Muthukad

## Apr

- Snehasayahnam
- Evening with Prof.Muthukad

## May

- Mothers Day
  - Gift making
  - Mindfulness session
  - Dance Challenge
- High on Music
- Youth Club - Bonding Event

## Jun

- Aksharakalari പഠനോത്സവം
- Father's day Hike
- Cricket Tournament - Mens

## Jul

- Cricket Tournament - Womens
- Cricket Tournament - Mens

## Aug

- KAW Annual Picnic
- Cricket Tournament - Mens

## Sep

- Onam Celebrations & Cultural Events
- പ്രവേശനോത്സവം (Malayalam School 2023 - 2024 Admissions)

## Oct

- Soccer Tournament - Mens
- Aksharakalari Kerala Day Art Competition
- Youth Club - College Prep
- MS Give Poker Tournament

## Nov

- Kalopasana
- Volleyball
- Throwball (Women)
- Poker Tournament
- Cards Tournament

## Dec

- Snehasayahnam
- Evening with Prof.Muthukad

## Jan

- Christmas & New Year Celebration
- Youth Club - Winter Clothing Drive
- Cards Tournament

## Feb

- Annual General Body

# COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL EVENTS

## SNEHA SAYAHNAM

Sneha Sayahnam was the first event that KAW EC organized, on 25th March at Kenmore City Hall, after taking charge.

Intended as an evening for fun and socializing, EC organized many activities such as Henna by our Youth volunteers Devika, Sharon and Anwitha, Face Painting, multiple games led by our EMCees Santhosh and Reshmi, and a grand finale with dance and music led by our own DJ Mithun.

EC also announced our vision and plans for 2023-24 during the event. The event was led by Harihar Shankar and Mamta Satheesh, and supported by the entire EC.



## KAW SUMMER PICNIC

KAW Picnic was organized on August 5th, 2023 at Crossroads Park in Bellevue. With more than 70+ families joining the Picnic, it was a great event for the community to socialize, play games and enjoy delicious food items from our Thattukadas.

We had 7 Thattukadas offering more than 30 items with various different options for our members. EC organized multiple games and activities for Kids and Adults including Face Painting, Balloons, Lemon and Spoon Race, and Vadom Vali.

This initiative was led by Sujith Viswanathan, Mathew Raju, and Ajith Jose and supported by entire EC.





# ONAM CELEBRATIONS 2023

KAW Grand Onam Celebrations was conducted on September 9th, 2023 at Auburn High School. The Chief Guest for this years Onam was Dr. M.R. Rajagopal, Founder Chairman of Pallium India. Dr. Rajagopal talked about the importance of palliative care and how the society can involve in this great cause. He was appreciative of the support our community has provided to Pallium. Other guests included FOMAA General Secretary, Sri. Ojus John and KAW Premier Partner Smt. Ambili Sukesan.



KAW Malayalam School Teachers decorated the Performing Arts Center Lobby with a beautiful Pookkalam.

Sadya was catered from Malabar Caterers. We served more than 1000 Sadyas. The Sadya was coordinated by a group of more than 40 volunteers led by Sri. Ojus John. We had many youth volunteers serving Sadya this year. It was encouraging to see them whole-heartedly participate and serve the community.

Cultural programs were performed at Auburn PAC. With 50+ programs, there were 200+ participants from our community showcasing various talents. Six enthusiastic EMcees, most making their debut, took the audience on an amazing journey through the packed program line-up. We distributed trophies for Cricket and for participants of Poem Recitation Competition by Malayalam Mission.



KAW Onam 2023 Pookkalam Contest was held during Onam through our FB Community Page. Smt. Vineetha Parammel won the contest and received Pamela Crawford basket & a cluster of 5 evergreen & perennial plants which loves Pacific NW as the prize from Bhumi Gardens.

# KALOPASANA

In an effort to promote and spread awareness about India's traditional art forms, KAW EC organized Kalopasana - a tribute to our cultural heritage and arts from Kerala and all over India. As part of Kerala Day Celebrations, this event was a true testament to our cultural heritage, offering a captivating blend of rhythm, melody, and grace. The event was conducted on Nov 18th, 2023 at Mt. Si. High School, Snoqualmie.

The event was inaugurated by EC and Event Sponsors.

With more than 40 participants, 7 different art forms were represented across 27 programs including Mohiniyattam, Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Battu-Nritya, Carnatic Music, Hindustani Music, and Instrumental Music. First one its kind, the program was enjoyed thoroughly by both participants and audience.

KAW EC also organized a Grand Inaugural dance featuring Chenda, Mohiniyattam, Kerala Nadanam, Kalari, and Theyyam providing audience a visual treat. The stage was also decorated to go along with the theme of Kerala Day.

Kalopasana was led by Smt. Shilpa Saseendran and Smt. Divya Gopalakrishnan, with support from entire EC.





## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

KAW Christmas and New Year Celebrations occurred on Jan 20, 2024 at Mt. Si. High School, Snoqualmie. The program was inaugurated by 2023 EC members and our Premier Patron Ambili Sukesan.

230+ participants performed across 40 programs as part of the cultural performances. Our EMCees kept the audience engaged throughout the event. Sports Awards for Soccer, Volleyball, Throwball, Cards and Prizes for Malayalam School Arts Competition were distributed during the event.

The Election Office comprising of Sri. Santhosh Pillai, Smt. Sandhya Ramabhadran, and Sri. Pramod Manjali announced the KAW Executive Committee for 2024-25 during the event.

The Christmas & New Year Celebrations were led by Shilpa Saseendran with support from Ajith Jose, Biju Mathew and rest of EC.



# SPORTS & GAMES

We organized multiple sports and games events this year and attracted many members to participate, with events such as Cricket hitting record number of teams this year. Overall, we organized 10 events this year :

- Men's and Women's Cricket
- Volleyball
- Throwball
- Soccer
- Card Games including Poker, Rummy , 28 and 56

In addition, we also organized a Family Hike as part of Father' Day. The sports committee was led by Sri. Sujith Viswanathan and Sr. Sheen Thomas, supported by Sri. Biju Mathew and Sri. Ajith Jose.

## FATHER'S DAY HIKING



We celebrated Father's Day on June 17th, 2023 , by organizing a Family Hike to Rattle Snake Ledge. Community members joined this hike organized by Ajith Jose.

## CRICKET TOURNAMENT - MENS AND WOMENS

KAW Men's and Women's Cricket tournaments were held during summer across multiple parks in Redmond.

A record high 14 teams participated in Men's Cricket Tournament. After fierce competitions, Pulikkoottam Kings were crowned this years champions, defeating with Pulikkoottam Tuskers who finished as Runner-Up.

2 teams participated in Women's Cricket tournament. Team Machani were the 2023 Champions, and Pulikkoottam finished as Runner-up.



## SOCCER TOURNAMENT



The KAW Soccer tournament was conducted in September and October 2023 in Perrigo Park.

Among 5 teams that participated in the tournament, Chempada Tigers emerged as Champions, and Team Thattikoottu as Runner-Up.

## VOLLEYBALL & THROWBALL TOURNAMENT

KAW Volleyball and Women's Throwball Tournaments were held on Nov 9th, 2023 at Academy Sports Center, Lynwood.

Kavalachattambis won the Volleyball Tournament and Pathirakallans were Runner-Up.

Team Emeralds won the Women's Throwball Championship and Blackhawks were Runner-Up.





## CARD GAMES

Card Games were conducted in December and January across 4 categories - Rummy, Poker, 56, and 28 at Sammamish Bluff Condominiums.



We thank all our referees and other volunteers who supported the smooth conduct of all the sports and games events, and all participants for exhibiting sportsmanship and providing us some nail-biting games.

# ONLINE EVENTS

## MOTHER'S DAY



KAW EC celebrated Mothers Day with 2 virtual events and a contest in 2023

- Gift Making Workshop for Kids where they learnt to make a beautiful gift for their Moms
- Mindfulness Session: Here and Now that covered common mindfulness practices
- Mom and Kid Dance Challenge

EC members Smt. Seema Anil, Smt. Mamta Satheesh and Smt. Divya Gopalakrishnan led these events.



## YOUTH CLUB



### KAW Youth Club Bonding Event

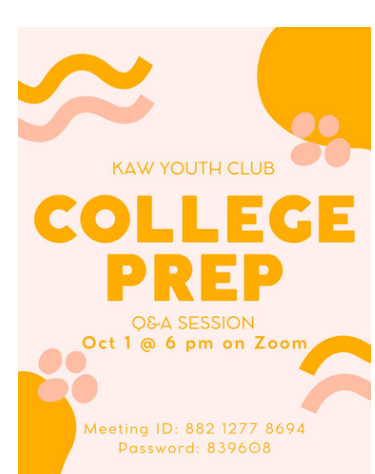
Monday, May 22 @ 5:30 pm  
on Zoom

Join us for fun games and activities!



KAW Youth EC members organized two events for Youth Club in 2023:

- Youth Club Bonding Event for an evening of fun
- College Prep Event that was well attended by both Parents and Kids as EC members Pournami and Swetha navigated their personal journey of college admissions and covered the complex process.



# KAW CHARITY & EDUCATION

## MALAYALAM SCHOOL - AKSHARA KALARI

KAW Malayalam School - Akshara Kalari continued to serve our community by providing free Malayalam Classes to members. Registered with the Malayalam Mission initiative of Kerala Government. Students are admitted to different levels in the program based on age and proficiency. The academic year for the school is from Sept - June. The school operates under the Malayalam school board led by the Principal - Smt. Latha Santhosh, Vice Principal - Smt. Vineetha Parammel, Community Members - Smt. Reshma Rajesh, Smt. Jayashree Narayanan, and 2023 EC Members - Smt. Shilpa Saseendran and Shri. Harihar Sankaranarayana Pillai. The 2023-24 academic year is run by 60+ volunteers with 270+ students.

On June 10, 2023 Aksharakalari organized its Annual Day - Padanolsavam. Sri. K.R. Ananthkrishnan, Retd. Assistant Educational Officer and Smt. Sumangala Kamalamma, Retd. High School Teacher and Teacher Trainer, were Chief Guests at the event. Over 200 students from all the classes participated and presented their learning skills through stories, poems, and drama. The event was a huge success, and it was gratifying to see the students get a chance to share what they learnt with their family and friends. Teacher and Volunteer Appreciation and Gifts were distributed during the event.

In August, the previous community members, Principal and Vice-Principal were renominated to the board as per the nomination process mentioned in the KAW bylaws ARTICLE XI, SECTION VI.

Praveshanolsavam 2023-24 was conducted online on Sept 25th, 2023 with a detailed presentation on the syllabus, expectations from students, guidelines, and Q&A sessions. Textbooks from Malayalam Mission were distributed to all students and teachers. The classes started in September.





## EVENING WITH SRI. GOPINATH MUTHUKAD

On March 30, 2023, KAW Charity held an event for KAW members and families for an evening with Sri. Gopinath Muthukad, world-famous magician and founder for Different Arts Center. Muthukad Sir shared many anecdotes from his life and stories especially with our kids to promote hardwork, kindness and service mentality.

He also inaugurated ticket sales for “High On Music”, a charity fund-raiser.



## HIGH ON MUSIC

KAW Charity organized “High on Music”, a musical extravaganza featuring Vidhu Pratap, Jyotsna Radhakrishnan, Arya Dhayal, and Sachin Warriar, a fund raiser to benefit Different Arts Center, Snehakoodu Abhayamandiram and other KAW initiatives, on May 14, 2023 at Kane Hall.

While intended as a fund raiser, the event ended up as a loss due to lack of ticket sales, resulting in KAW Charity not raising any funds through this event to support the initiatives.



## KAW PICNIC RAFFLE

During KAW Picnic, KAW EC organized a raffle as a fund raiser for KAW Charity. The winners won tickets to a music show featuring the famous band - “Thaikoodam Bridge”. Many members who attended picnic participated in the raffle donating to KAW CHarity.

## MICROSOFT POKER TOURNAMENT

On behalf of KAW, our friends at Microsoft under the leadership of KAW EC President Jyothish Nair along with KAW EC Treasurer Biju Mathew organized the Microsoft Poker Tournament.

We raised \$3.0K from the event. Prizes worth \$1300 were distributed

The funds will be distributed to the beneficiary Snehakoodu Abhayamandiram. Snehakoodu Abhayamandiram in Kottayam provides shelter to old age mothers and fathers who need compassion, love, and support

## WINTER CLOTH DRIVE

KAW EC Youth members organized a winter cloth drive on behalf of KAW Charity supporting KidVantage in Issaquah. KidVantage helps children have what they need to grow, play, learn and thrive by providing essential care, safety, and health goods for children who are experiencing the stresses of economic insecurity, systemic inequities, or family disruption.

Multiple bags of cloths, books and shoes were collected over a course of 2 weeks and donated to KidVantage.



# 2024-25 EC

The Election Office comprising of Santhosh Pillai, Sandhya Ramabhadran, and Pramod Manjali was appointed to conduct a smooth and fair election process for electing the office bearers of KAW for the year 2024-25.

The EO successfully executed their tasks by inviting nominations for all advertised posts, verifying individual eligibility, and ensuring the nominee's willingness to serve KAW for 2024 - 25. The election process was conducted as per the KAW Election process defined in ARTICLE X in the Kerala Association of Washington bylaw.

Here are the names and positions of EC 2024-25:



**President: Shibu Baby**

**Vice President: Remya Rajan Nair**

**Secretary: Rishiraj Rajan**

**Treasurer: Santhosh P. Narayanan**

**Joint Secretary: Nithin Thampi**

**Joint Treasurer: Rajesh Narayanan**

**Executive Committee Member: Aneesh Divakarakurup**

**Executive Committee Member: Nithin Madhavanpillai**

**Executive Committee Member: Reshmi Namboothiry**

**Executive Committee Member: Seema Suraj**

**Executive Committee Member: Subin Sankar**

**Executive Committee Youth Member: Veena Vijay**

**Executive Committee Youth Member: Vineeth Rajesh**

**Ex-Officio : Jyothish Nair**

On behalf of the EC 2023, I wish you all the very best for 2024-25 and assure a smooth transition of activities from the current committee.

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23

# Financial Report

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# FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Financial Report is prepared and submitted by Biju Mathew, Treasurer, Kerala Association of Washington.

An independent audit of all our financial accounts and transactions was conducted by KAW Member Sri. Pramod Manjali. We would like to thank Sri. Pramod for all his efforts in ensuring that our accounts are in order before we hand over the responsibilities to the next committee.

The financial reports are shared as a separate document.



# CLOSING REMARKS

2023-24 was a great year for KAW EC. EC was able to bring our vision and ideas to reality, We want to extend our gratitude to our community, sponsors, well-wishers, and volunteers for all the support and help through the year. Through the year we saw interest from our community to participate and enjoy programs that promote our culture and tradition. The feedback and response to events like Kalopasana was heartening. We recommend new KAW EC to organize such events of interest for the community. We also recommend organizing events that provide avenues for socializing, attracting new members, and providing opportunities for members to participate and volunteer across KAW events.

Thank You again for all the support. Good Luck to the new EC for another successful year.

**Divya Gopalakrishnan**  
**Secretary, Kerala Association of Washington**

**From the bottom of the heart**

**Thank you!**

# 2023 Annual Report

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PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY

**DIVYA GOPALAKRIAHNAN**  
SECRETARY, KERALA ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON

