



PRAVASI

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With your camaraderie, passion and support I successfully reach the culmination of my term as your President, towards the final month. I am truly humbled and privileged to have served as a president for the *historic year 2017-18* that marked the 50th year of *India association of St. Louis*. On behalf of the *IAS Board*, please accept my greetings and gratitude for making the **Golden Jubilee- a year to reminisce!**

Just to quickly take you through the exciting journey this year, that brought old and new members and various communities together. The year kick-started with the successful **Republic day event** on January 28th with chief guests *Anantharama Balachandran*, VP, ICCG Inc. and *Shamed Dogan*, the State Representative for Ballwin, Fenton and Ellisville. On February 15th, *Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri* invited IAS to offer a glimpse of India's culture to over 100 scouts at the *International Fair Night*.

IAS was instrumental in bringing solidarity among 300 participants from several communities & organizations at the **prayer and day time vigil** on March 4th in lieu of Kansas bar shooting of an Indian. A meticulous brainstorm session where *Senator Mccaskill & Congresswoman Ann Wagner* condemned such crimes and pledged to stand with the community was covered by local media -*Fox2, NPR and St. Louis Post Dispatch*. A need assessment community survey was rolled out by IAS with the help of moderators *Ila Tailor & Uma Segal*.

IAS also teamed up with Mehlville High School for their *Global Coffee House International Fair* celebrations on March 15th. In April, *Kim Hudson & Jasmine Huda* with Fox 2 news invited IAS to shoot two segments on Sari & Rangoli. The segments were praised for bringing the Indian heritage to the forefront.

The Annual **Spring festival** was celebrated on April 23rd with zeal by more than 400 members, visitors from other communities & 100 participants. Mela with over 20 vendors was inaugurated by *Girdhar Sharma*, President MGC. Patriotic fervor gripped close to 500 attendees at the **Independence Day Mela** on August 16th with the unfurling of the tricolor and cultural festivities that included car rally, youth award and competitions. Congresswoman *Ann Wagner*, Missouri State Senator *Jill Schupp*, Missouri Supreme Court judge *George W. Draper*, Circuit court judge *Judy P. Draper* graced the occasion with support from *Sreenu Dandamudi*, Commissioner at Administrative Hearing Commission.

IAS joined hands with Soorya performing Arts for the *hurricane disaster relief fundraiser* on October 8th. Various individuals were helped in their time of need during the course of the year by IAS board. To ensure that all our members are aware of the many events & resources available, IAS Facebook page was made active and hashtag *#lastlouis* popularized. In moving with time, Square was introduced for credit card payment.

The highlight of the year was the **Golden Jubilee & Diwali** grand celebration on November 4th that saw a record presence of about 175 participants and 600 attendees. The celebration capped a landmark year which with the help of several longtime members attributed the renewed interest and growth of IAS. Governor of Missouri, *Eric Greitens* venerated IAS with a proclamation marking the 50th Anniversary event. Chief guest St. Louis County executive, *Steven Stenger* applauded IAS on its Golden Jubilee and proclaimed Diwali event of IAS as "**India day and Indian Culture Recognition Day**" in the county. Souvenir "*Varadhi*" (the bridge) was released at the event. Special guest *Anil Suri*, vice

consul, on behalf of Consul General of India, Chicago *Neeta Bhushan* congratulated IAS for playing a major role in bringing the Indian community together and in promoting and preserving Indian culture and heritage through various activities and programs. On this grand occasion IAS recognized its past presidents present and honored twelve St. Louis based eminent Gurus in the field of dance & music making this an event to remember.

We will end this extraordinary year with the annual **New Year's Eve** event on December 31st. We look forward to bring in the New Year 2018 with you all there!

It has indeed been an honor for me to serve the organization and the community. I am grateful to my family and friends for standing by me through this journey. Heartfelt thanks to the diligent board and conscientious volunteers for their time and effort towards helping make every event an extraordinary feat.

Thank you one and all for making this historic year a gargantuan success!

Sincerely,

Shailee Saran Varanasi

President, India Association of St. Louis



INCOME 1-1 to 11-21-17	
Booths	\$ 1,450
Souvenir	\$ 2,000
Membership	\$ 2,905
5 Year Membership	\$ 450
Life Membership	\$ 1,800
Non-Member	\$ 884
Total	\$9,489

EXPENSES 1-1 to 11-21-17	
New year	\$ 217.45
Republic Day	\$ 175.17
Spring Festival	\$ 683.06
Independence day	\$ 1,380.96
Diwali (Golden Jubilee)	\$ 8,769.51
Printing	\$ 21.13
P.O. Box	\$ 190
State Registration	\$ 10.50
India Post	\$ 175
Web design	\$ 137.85
TOTAL	\$ 11,760.63

India Association of St. Louis Election for Board **Nomination form**

Nominations are solicited for a 3 year term from 3 members to join IAS Board. As per the bylaws, the nominee must be an active member of IAS for a minimum of 3 continuous years. Nominator as well as Seconder must be members of IAS. Nomination form must be completely filled and should be sent separately for each individual.

I hereby nominate the person below to serve as an IAS board member for a three year term (2018-2020).

Name of the proposed nominee _____ Phone _____

Signature of the proposed nominee _____

Nomination proposed by _____ Phone _____

Signature _____

Seconded by _____ Phone _____

Signature _____ Date _____

**Mail to Attn: Election Officer
India Association of St. Louis
PO Box 6282, St. Louis MO 63006**

Completely filled nomination form must be received with original signatures of nominee, proposing nominator and seconding IAS members in the mailbox by January 5, 2018.

Thanks for the services of

Vijaya Kumar Buddhiraju, Shailee Saran Varanasi and Venkat Pulumati

Incomplete or illegible nominations will not be accepted.
