

Resignation Letter – President of G.O.A. Velda J.M. Abreu

When I accepted the role of President in 2013 I was very excited to lead this organization into a bright future. I envisioned a broader programming of events that were inclusive of all ages, help those in need, and provide a spiritual pathway for all Goans seeking a deeper relationship with God.

To date, we have created a rainbow of events for the community that achieve most of what I had hoped for, and, in addition, creating a vibrant brand for the G.O.A. that is second to none around the world. I continue to receive accolades from other associations worldwide, and pleas for assistance in helping our sister organizations become more like us.

This is primarily due to a committed team that works with passion behind the scenes bringing our programming to life. Currently, we continue to receive new member applications, and our social media presence is stronger than ever, with weekly engaging content.

As the leader of this Association, I rely entirely on my team to make progressive leaps into the future. And as a team, we have identified that the associations operating capital is in a short fall, year after year, even though we are bringing in new members. The primary reason for this is that most of our members do not pay an annual fee, and as some of the members move to become patron members, the annual operating revenue derived primarily from membership fees continues to decline.

We have explored sponsorship opportunities at many levels. Sponsors need value returned, and base this value on membership demographics. We are constantly in a position of defense of our demographic reach, which is primarily an organization with members above 65. The sponsors that we have approached are not interested in promoting their brands to this age group, making this route of potential funding not possible.

As a united committee, originally, we agreed to propose that all members must pay a fee in order to ensure continuation of our plans into 2015 and beyond. The existing fees established in the constitution reflect a different period in time, and we agreed that as we are all passionate about the association, changes needed to be made in the short term to secure future success, and have a viable organization for the next generation to take over.

Although we made this decision as a team, a member of the Executive Team chose to canvas against our united decision and did not provide us the opportunity to at the very least, bring forth our reasoning for this proposal. This is reflective of a team that is not united.

As I look forward to many things I would like to achieve, I envision more changes in the future that we would propose to progress our association. And I assume that this example today, of short sightedness will be repeated.

In consideration of the events today, and the frustration that the committee encounters with a constant pairing of ideas, to the 'rules' of the constitution, I am resigning effective immediately as President of the Goan Overseas Association.

I offer to be available for a transition, until the end of this year, when our final New Year's Eve event will happen, however, I will not be holding further Executive Committee meetings.

Thank You.