

Final Message from the Nomination & Election Committee (NEC) and the Election Appeals Committee (EAC): Election Results

Dear Members

We had earlier reported a tie for the 5th place in the Board of Trustees election held on November 20, 2022 between Mithilesh Kumar and Rethish Nair Rajendran. After deliberation with the contestants and the Board of Trustees the EAC has arrived at the following path forward.

Mithilesh Kumar will be nominated to the Board of Governors for a term of three years and Rethish Nair will be designated to the Board of Trustees for a term of three years.

On behalf of the EAC and the NEC we wish both the elected members all the very best in their term in office.

The following members were earlier reported as elected to the Board of Trustees.

Mona Patel

Suryakant Kale

Siva Bandaru

Ragavan Vellayappan

Mrs. Rita Ajmera and Mr. Ved Shravah were elected unopposed to the BOG and BOD respectively. We again wish all the elected members all the very best in their term in office.

There's never a shortage of surprises during the elections and this year was no different. This is the first time in our memory we had a tie for the final spot that required us to do something different. This is a learning experience for all of us as election officials that behooves us to think of possibilities when issuing guidelines. Personally, it was a humbling experience.

We thank the Board of Trustees and Board of Governors for giving us the opportunity to serve the temple.

With this final announcement the NEC stands dissolved.

May God Bless us All.

Nomination & Election Committee (NEC)

Mr. Kirthi Nagarajan, Chairman (518) 285-9794

Mrs. Janaki Krishnamoorthy (518) 281-9917

Mr. Purushotham Bangalore (518) 321-4704

Election Appeals Committee

Mr. Prakash Joshi

Mr. Veerabhadra Bheemineni

Mr. Gurinder Garcha

Dear Members

After counting the in-person ballots and the absentee ballots the following members are elected to the Board of Trustees.

Mona Patel

Suryakant Kale

Siva Bandaru

Ragavan Vellayappan

There was tie for the 5th position between Mithilesh Kumar and Rethish Nair Rajendran.

Based on this unique outcome of the election, both Mithilesh Kumar and Rethish have discussed and agreed on a path forward that the Election Appeals Committee will take to the Board of Trustees for a decision.

The NEC Congratulates the contestants elected to the Board of Trustees and wish them all the best in their desire to serve the Hindu Temple Society and the community at large.

The NEC also wishes the contestants tied for the 5th spot the very best outcome.

We again wish Mrs. Rita Ajmera and Mr. Ved Shrivah that were elected to the BOG and BOD respectively the very best during the term in office.

BOG nominees for the HTS elected unopposed:

Rita Ajmera

BOD Nominees for the HCC elected unopposed:

Ved Shrivah

We thank the Board of Trustees and Board of Governors for giving us the opportunity to serve the temple. May God Bless us All.

NEC

Nomination & Election Committee (NEC)

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Mr. Gurinder Garcha

Message #6 from the Nomination & Election Committee (NEC): Absentee Ballot Information

Dear Members

You should all have received the absentee ballots by now. Some of you have already mailed us back the ballots. Approximately 40% of the absentee ballots are still outstanding. Please make sure you return the ballots in the stamped envelope that was enclosed. Any unsolicited ballots received will not be counted towards the election.

Please read the following points carefully.

- 1) All those with absentee ballots outstanding were sent an email reminder.
- 2) You can choose to drop the envelope in the ballot box on election day in person, provided the ballot is in the return envelope, sealed and signed in the back. **The ballots will be invalidated unless the return envelope with the unique identifier is used.**
- 3) Please make sure that your choices are properly marked, and you make no more than 5 choices. Any overlap or any more than 5 choices will invalidate the ballot.
- 4) The NEC will be collecting the returned envelopes every few days from the PO Box. These envelopes will be cross referenced with the unique identification number. We will be sending another email reminder this week.
- 5) All envelopes will be opened the day of the election during counting to maintain confidentiality.
- 6) If you have requested an absentee ballot, you will not be provided a ballot on election day barring special circumstances.

Following are some important dates and deadlines:

- Date by which absentee ballot should be received by NEC: **November 13, 2022**
- Election Date: **November 20, 2022 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the NEC members. May God bless us all!

Nomination & Election Committee (NEC)

Mr. Kirthi Nagarajan, Chairman (518) 285-9794

Mr. Purushotham Bangalore (518) 321-4704

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If your name does not appear on the member list and you believe you are a qualified member to vote, please contact the Membership Secretary – Smita Jain at 518-445-5678, manojandsmita@gmail.com

Candidate Statements

As promised, attached are the candidate statements for the upcoming BOT elections in the order they were received by the NEC. We are yet to receive a few statements and will publish them when we receive it.

[Mithilesh Kumar](#)

[Siva Bandaru](#)

[Mona Patel](#)

[Suryakant Kale](#)

Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: Mithilesh Kumar

I have been living in Albany Capital Region for last 17 years with my wife. I have three grown up children living and working in different cities of USA. Before coming to USA, I lived in Jamshedpur, India, working for Tata Motors for 32 years, starting after college as Graduate Trainee and leaving as a Senior Manager – an executive level position.

While living in Capital region, I have been working for OGS, Design and Construction for 9 years and then ITS as Project Manager for last 8 years. While working for State govt, I have been actively associated with our union PEF (Public Employees Federation) in various capacities like Shop steward, Executive Board member and held positions in various union committees like Statewide IT Committee, Labor Management Committee and Treasurer of Indo American Committee.

I have been an Annual Member of temple for past many years and last year I became a Life member.

For last few years, I have been very actively involved with Temple and HCC activities. For last three years. I have organized volunteer activity raising funds from shoppers in Crossgate Mall for Regional Food Bank on behalf of Our Temple during their Annual program called “Holiday Hunger Appeal”. Last year I raised funds to make Our Temple one of the sponsors for this program to bring some glory to our temple among American People while helping the poor and needy.

I have been taking part in many volunteer activities within our temple complex for last one year, likegardening, clean-up of complex, Assembly of benches, Prasad Preparation etc. Currently I have also been organizing the Senior Meet in HCC every month. I have also taken part in Yoga activity of HCC.

I have been also contributing a modest amount, commensurate with my income, on temple and HCC initiatives. I am among the Gold Sponsors for the HCC Basement project.

While working back in India, I was actively involved with professional bodies like Indian Institution of Foundrymen (IIF), Indian Institution of Plant Engineers (IPE), Jamshedpur Management Association, Voluntary Blood Donors Association (VBDA) etc. I was elected as State Level General Secretary for 3 years for IPE.

I am confident that if elected, my organizing ability and commitment to social cause will make significant contribution towards the betterment of temple, HCC and our community at large.

Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: Siva Bandaru

Namaste!

My name is Siva Bandaru. I live in Niskayuna, and I have been volunteering at the temple for several years.

I have introduced and led very special and unique religious events in our temple. All these were performed for the 1st time in the temple's history and resulted in extreme devotee satisfaction and raised significant donations. I've listed some of them below:



1. Shahasra Lingarchana - a special puja for Bhagavan Shiva with 1116 Pruthvi (made out of clay) Lingas which was performed as a special event during Shivaratri.
2. Kubera Pasupata Homama - a unique and special homa to Bhagavan Maha Shiva which was performed as a special event during Shivaratri.
3. Maha Lingarchana - a special puja for Bhagavan Shiva with 356 Pruthvi (made out of clay) Lingas which was performed as a special event during Kartheeka Masam.
4. Dasa Sahasra Bilvarchana – a puja to Bhagavan Shiva with 10,000 Bilva Patras, during Kartheeka Masam.
5. Sri Vishnu Vidya- a very unique and distinct offering to Bhagavan Vishnu & Maa Lakshmi during Shravana Masam.
6. Samoohika Lalitha Sahasra Nama Parayana- 108 devotees chanting Lalitha Sahashranamam followed by homam. Performed during Dasara as a special event.
7. During the COVID 19 pandemic time in the year 2020, organized Samoohika parayana events for Hanuman Chalisa, Aditya Hridayam and other stotrams via WhatsApp group and coordinated to perform the associated homas.

As a firm believer of Sanatana Dharma, I do Veda Parayana, and I will continue to offer my services to the temple and continue to serve the community with my religious knowledge.

Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: Mona Patel

I, Mona S Patel, have been an active member of our temple community for past 28 years. My in-laws, Bharti & Hasmukh Patel were dedicated members/volunteers of the temple since 1980's.

Having watched & learnt from them, I try my best to follow their footsteps.

During my first term, I had the honor of volunteering as the Religious chair. It was a huge undertaking which was accomplished with the help & support of the fellow board members. I enjoyed planning & organizing the religious events. I had the privilege of working with all the priests & countless volunteers.

As my first term comes to an end, I'd like to thank everyone who were there to support & help me. I couldn't have done it without all of you.

If I am appointed for the second term, I would like to continue serving the temple & help finish the projects that we started.

Albany Hindu Temple BOT Nominee: Suryakant Kale



Namaste!

I'm Suryakant Kale (Surya). My wife Vaishali and I have been living in capitol district area for well over 15 years and have been active members of Hindu Temple Society. Our passion for Hindu culture and traditions results in dedicated countless number of hours at the temple and the cultural center. I'm one of the members of the team that started Ganesh Mahotsav at the temple in 2008 and continue to coordinate Ganapati Navratri celebrations every year since then. I have provided volunteer services for several HTS programs and events including the brunch program and various religious celebrations such as Diwali, Shivratri, Devi Navratris etc.

I also made significant contributions to Facilities Management of the cultural center and the temple. During my past tenure as the BOT, I served the board as Religious Chair and Vice President and worked diligently to meet the religious needs of our community. Our community has diverse cultures, I will work towards respecting and celebrating that diversity, if elected to BOT.

I will continue to be a volunteer for our beloved HTS whether elected or not.

If your name does not appear on the member list and you believe you are a qualified member to vote, please contact the Membership Secretary – Smita Jain at 518-445-5678, manojandsmita@gmail.com

Message #5 from the Nomination & Election Committee (NEC)

Dear Members

The deadline for withdrawing nomination and requesting absentee ballots is now over. One BOG candidate and one BOT candidate withdrew their nominations. We now have 7 eligible candidates for the BOT. Elections will be held for the 5 open BOT seats.

Congratulations are due to Rita Ajmera and Ved Shrivah that got elected to the BOG and BOD respectively, unopposed. We wish them the very best during the term in office.

BOG nominees for the HTS elected unopposed:

Rita Ajmera

BOD Nominees for the HCC elected unopposed:

Ved Shrivah

The seven candidates contesting for the BOT in a random order are shown below.

Mithilesh Kumar

Siva Bandaru

Vishvesh Obla

Mona Patel

Reteish Nair Rajendran

Ragavan Vellayappan

Suryakant Kale

For the second year in a row the requests for absentee ballots have been substantial. Absentee ballots will be mailed as soon as possible.

The package sent to you will have the ballot and **one** stamped, self-addressed envelope. Each request even if they are from the same household will be sent a package separately.

Please read the following points carefully.

- 1) An email confirmation will be sent out as soon as the ballots are mailed. Similarly, an email will be sent in approximately 10 days to those from whom we have not received the ballots back.
- 2) Each return envelope has a **unique identifier** specific to the package that will be mailed. It is important that you return the ballots only in the envelope provided with the unique identifier. **Any ballots mailed in a different envelope will be disqualified.** Sign across the seal before mailing the envelope.
- 3) All members are requested to return the ballots by mail promptly.
- 4) You can choose to drop the envelope in the ballot box on election day in person, provided the ballot is in the return envelope, sealed and signed in the back. **The ballots will be invalidated unless the return envelope with the unique identifier is used.**
- 5) Please make sure that your choices are properly marked, and you make no more than 5 choices. Any overlap or any more than 5 choices will invalidate the ballot.

- 6) If you have not received the absentee ballot package before the 5th of November, please send the NEC a note. The NEC will decide on the path forward.
- 7) The NEC will be collecting the returned envelopes every few days from the PO Box. These envelopes will be cross referenced with the unique identification number.
- 8) All envelopes will be opened the day of the election during counting to maintain confidentiality.
- 9) If you have requested an absentee ballot, you will not be provided a ballot on election day barring special circumstances.

We ask all the BOT nominees to send us a one-page synopsis by October 30th to be published in the e-bulletin and the website. This synopsis should explain why the General Body members should elect them. The NEC will publish all synopses received by October 30th. Any synopses received after the 30th will result in them getting published at a later date.

Following are some important dates and deadlines:

- Absentee ballots to be mailed by the NEC: **October 26, 2022**
- Suggested date for absentee ballots to be mailed back to the NEC: **October 30, 2022**
- Date by which absentee ballot should be received by NEC: **November 13, 2022**
- Election Date: **November 20, 2022 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the NEC members. May God bless us all!

Nomination & Election Committee (NEC)

Mr. Kirthi Nagarajan, Chairman (518) 285-9794

Mr. Purushotham Bangalore (518) 321-4704

Mrs. Janaki Krishnamoorthy (518) 281-9917

If your name does not appear on the member list and you believe you are a qualified member to vote, please contact the Membership Secretary – Smita Jain at 518-445-5678, manojandsmita@gmail.com

Message #4 from the Nomination & Election Committee (NEC)

Dear Devotees,

As of the end of the day October 15th, the NEC received eight qualified nominations for BOT for the five vacancies, (HTS), two qualified nominations for BOG (HTS) for three vacancies and one qualified nomination for BOD (HCC) for one vacancy. We received nominations both via email and in person. No nominations were mailed to the PO Box address.

The contestants for BOT* for the HTS are:

Mithilesh Kumar
Mona Patel
Ragavan Vellayappan
Reteish Nair Rajendran
Siva Bandaru
Suryakant Kale
Ved Shravah
Vishvesh Obla

The Nominees for BOG* for the HTS are:

Manoj Jain
Rita Ajmera

Nominees for BOD for the HCC are:

Ved Shravah

The candidates have until October 21, 2022, to withdraw their nominations. We will have elections for BOT pending withdrawals.

A few important things to note.

- 1) There is still time to request absentee ballots if you are not able to vote in person on election day. Please indicate the number of absentee ballots requested (1 or 2), and ensure the name, telephone number and address are legible.
- 2) The membership list is posted in the link below. Please resolve any membership issues you may have ahead of the election day.

<https://www.hindutemplealbany.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/HTS-Lifemembers-Certified-List-1.pdf>

<https://www.hindutemplealbany.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/HTS-Annual-Members-for-2022-Certified-List-1.pdf>

- 3) Past NEC messages are posted in the temple website for your reference at the link below.

<https://www.hindutemplealbany.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2022-NEC-Message.pdf>

Following are some important dates and deadlines:

- Date by which candidates can withdraw their nomination: **October 21, 2022**
- Date by which request for an absentee ballot³ should be received by NEC: **October 22, 2022**. [https:// www.hindutemplealbany.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/absentee-Ballot-Request-form.pdf](https://www.hindutemplealbany.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/absentee-Ballot-Request-form.pdf)

- Absentee ballots to be mailed by the NEC: **October 24, 2022**
- Suggested date for absentee ballots to be mailed back to the NEC: **October 30, 2022**
- Date by which absentee ballot should be received by NEC: **November 13, 2022**
- Election Date: **November 20, 2022 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the NEC members. May God bless us all!

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If your name does not appear on the member list and you believe you are a qualified member to vote, please contact the Membership Secretary – Smita Jain at 518-445-5678, manojandsmita@gmail.com

³The form for absentee ballot request will be available on Temple Website and a link is provided in the above message.

Message #3 from the Nomination & Election Committee (NEC)

Dear Devotees,

To date the NEC has received 6 nominations for the BOT and none for the BOG and the BOD. There is still time for eligible members to file their nominations.

A NEC member will be present in the temple on October 15, 2022 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm for any eligible member to file their nomination in person. The membership list was also posted recently on the temple website. **Also, Devotees that pay their membership dues before October 15, 2022 will be eligible to participate in the election process.**

BOT (Board of Trustees): Five for a term of Three Years each

BOD (Board of Directors of HCC): One for a term of three years each

BOG (Board of Governors): Three for a term of three years each

You can email the nomination form to the NEC at HTSNEC2022@gmail.com before the deadline of October 15, 2022. In the event of an election, it is important that you bring a photo ID to enable you to cast your vote. In the absence of a photo ID, the NEC may ask two voters with photo IDs to certify your identity.

Following are some important dates and deadlines:

- Last date to be a member on the certified member list: **October 15, 2022** (a preliminary list is already posted on the temple website)²
- Date NEC will accept nominations in person at the DVD desk: **October 15, 2022 between 6:30pm-8:30pm**
- Date by which nomination should be received by NEC: **October 15, 2022** Download link for nomination form: <https://www.hindutemplealbany.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2022-nomination-form.pdf>
- Date by which candidates can withdraw their nomination: **October 21, 2022**
- Date by which request for an absentee ballot³ should be received by NEC: **October 22, 2022**. <https://www.hindutemplealbany.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/absentee-Ballot-Request-form.pdf>
- Absentee ballots to be mailed by the NEC: **October 24, 2022**
- Suggested date for absentee ballots to be mailed back to the NEC: **October 30, 2022**
- Date by which absentee ballot should be received by NEC: **November 13, 2022**
- Election Date: **November 20, 2022 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the NEC members. May God bless us all!

Nomination & Election Committee (NEC)

Mr. Kirthi Nagarajan, Chairman (518) 285-9794

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¹ Nomination forms are available on the temple website.

² If your name does not appear on the member list and you believe you are a qualified member to vote, please contact the Membership Secretary – Smita Jain at 518-445-5678, manojandsmita@gmail.com

³ Absentee ballot request form will be available on Temple Website as well.

Message #2 from the Nomination & Election Committee (NEC)

Dear Devotees:

We are pleased to announce the following vacancies.

BOT (Board of Trustees): Five for a term of Three Years each

BOD (Board of Directors of HCC): One for a term of three years each

BOG (Board of Governors): Three for a term of three years each

Elections will be held to fill the vacancies based on the number of nominations received. We are looking for patrons who are interested in filling these vacancies and contributing to the temple and HCC management. The rules for the elections as well the election nomination form and absentee ballot request form are attached for your convenience. Please feel free to share this information with other temple members. It is in the interest of the members to participate in the election process since BOTs and BOGs play a vital role in governing the affairs of the temple and BODs in the governing of HCC. You can email the nomination form to the NEC at HTSNEC2022@gmail.com before the deadline of October 15, 2022. In the event of an election, it is important that you bring a photo ID to enable you to cast your vote. In the absence of a photo ID, the NEC may ask two voters with photo IDs to certify your identity.

Following are some important dates and deadlines:

- Suggested due date for candidates to mail nomination¹: **October 03, 2022**
- Date certified member list is available by: **October 07, 2022** (a preliminary list will be posted on the temple website by the end of September)²
- Date NEC will accept nominations in person at the DVD desk: **October 15, 2022 between 7pm-9pm**
- Date by which nomination should be received by NEC: **October 15, 2022**. Download link for nomination form is <https://www.hindutemplealbany.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2022-nomination-form.pdf>
- Date by which candidates can withdraw their nomination: **October 21, 2022**
- Date by which request for an absentee ballot³ should be received by NEC: **October 22, 2022**. <https://www.hindutemplealbany.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/absentee-Ballot-Request-form.pdf>
- Absentee ballots to be mailed by the NEC: **October 24, 2022**
- Suggested date for absentee ballots to be mailed back to the NEC: **October 30, 2022**
- Date by which absentee ballot should be received by NEC: **November 13, 2022**
- Election Date: **November 20, 2022 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the NEC members. May God bless us all!

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¹ Nomination forms are available on the temple website.

²If your name does not appear on the member list and you believe you are a qualified member to vote, please contact the Membership Secretary – Smita Jain at 518-445-5678, manojandsmita@gmail.com

³Absentee ballot request form will be available on Temple Website as well.

2022 Temple Election for the Hindu Temple Society (HTS), Board of Trustees (BOT) & Board of Governors (BOG), and Hindu Cultural Center (HCC) Board of Directors (BOD)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2022 from 1:00 - 3:00PM

Message #1 from the Nomination & Election Committee (NEC)

Dear Devotees,

I hope all of you had an enjoyable summer this year. With the Covid pandemic easing a little bit, life is getting back to normalcy. We wish this serves well for our community locally and the world at large. As noted in the e-bulletin, the elections will be held on November 20th this year and we will follow the process similar to the 2021 election for the BOT, BOD and the BOG. In the event there is significant change, we will reach out to you by a special communication.

Election documents will be available soon on the temple website at www.albanyhindutemple.org. Please feel free to share this information with other devotees and temple members. It is in the interest of the members to participate in the election process since BOTs and BOGs play a vital role in governing the affairs of the temple and BODs in the governing of HCC. Through this election, temple members will elect BOTs, BOGs and BODs.

We seek nominations for each of the boards and you can email the scanned nomination form with signatures to Kirthivasan Nagarajan at HTSNEC2022@gmail.com. You can also submit your nomination form in the main temple in person to a NEC member on the following dates mentioned below. Please note that nominations dropped in the Hundi will not be accepted. In the event of an election, it is important that you bring photo ID to enable you to cast your vote. In the absence of a photo ID, the NEC may ask two voters with photo IDs to certify your identity.

Following are some important dates and deadlines:

- Suggested due date for candidates to mail nomination¹: **October 03, 2022**
- Date certified member list is available by: **October 07, 2022** (a preliminary list will be posted on the temple website by the end of September)²
- Date NEC will accept nominations in person at the DVD desk: **October 15, 2022 between 7pm-9pm**
- Date by which nomination should be received by NEC: **October 15, 2022**
- Date by which candidates can withdraw their nomination: **October 21, 2022**
- Date by which request for an absentee ballot³ should be received by NEC: **October 22, 2022**
- Absentee ballots to be mailed by the NEC: **October 24, 2022**
- Suggested date for absentee ballots to be mailed back to the NEC: **October 30, 2022**
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¹ Nomination forms are available on the temple website.

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³ Absentee ballot request form will be available on Temple Website as well.