

Dear Members,

First and foremost, our committee would like to express our sincere thanks for being elected to office for the years 2024 and 2025. Manuel Fernandes-Vice President, Iggy Francis-Secretary, Ninette Dsouza-Treasurer, Manuel Noronha-Web Master, and I as your President are here to serve you.

We are in the process of planning some activities and to this end would like to share the annual calendar of events. Please note that exact dates will be announced later as we organize venues and other logistics.

1. Sponsorship of IACA mass at the Basilica in DC. Any member choosing to offer a mass at the Basilica is free to contact the president of IACA, Gabe Francis, and make their own arrangements. My committee is prepared to assist the member make this connection. I am personally sponsoring a mass on Saturday, June 1st.
2. The Annual summer picnic will be held on Sunday, June 23rd. at Cabin John picnic shelter (thanks to Roque's early booking). This year we plan to showcase our association's celebration of "World Goa Day" and will therefore theme our picnic to coincide with this widely celebrated event and coordinate with the World Goa Day forum.
3. In solidarity with IACA, you are all encouraged to attend the annual pilgrimage to the shrine of our Lady of Valankanni at the Basilica in DC which is annually held in September.
4. Sometime in October we are planning on having Sonia perform again. This time around we hope to garner a larger crowd by keeping you well informed in advance of her performance.
5. Feast of St. Francis Xavier, our signature event will be held on Sunday, December 8th. This year some of our members will be traveling to Goa for the Exposition.
6. NY Eve GOA Ball on Tuesday, December 31st. We plan to bring back this exciting event so we can all ring in the new year with family and friends.

Your executive committee will strive to generate enthusiasm and belonging in our young members and to nurture them to take the helms of the association going forward. To this end, we plan to appoint a Youth outreach officer reporting to the board with broad leeway to frame his or her vision for our youth.

It is the committee's desire to increase our membership as there are so many Goans who are not aware of our association and would like to join given the outreach. Here again, we plan to appoint a membership extension officer reporting to the board.

We need to co-opt the above to help drive our membership numbers and carry the torch in 2026 and beyond. We are planning a marginal increase in membership fees which will be effective from January 2025. The present \$15 per family is not sustainable in the

inflationary world we live in today. Members will be advised in good time of this increase and may choose to vote down the measure at this year's AGM. We plan to be open and transparent in all our executive decisions.

As we plan ahead, I would encourage you to express any grievances, ideas directly to me at president.goanassociation@gmail.com.

I can assure you that I will direct all your messages to my committee for consideration. I urge you all to support your association as we are in this together.

Finally, I would like to thank the outgoing committee for a smooth transition and the handover of a favorable bank balance of 11K after all expenses. We need to build on this reserve and create a buffer for future unforeseen contingencies.

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Rabbie Godinho

President, GOA Association of DC/MD/VA

<https://goanassociation-dmv.org/>