

PLEASE HELP IN THE TEMPLE'S EXPANSION PROJECT WITH YOUR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS. YOU CAN DONATE AT THE TEMPLE'S FRONT OFFICE OR ON THE TEMPLE'S WEBSITE www.srilakshmi.org. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE, AND ARE MUCH NEEDED.

Dear Members of the NEHTI Community,

As the Temple embarks into its next phase of growth with the completion of Phase I of the Temple Expansion plan, the NEHTI Board of Trustees is pleased to announce a new Membership drive to bring all eligible community members into the Membership of the Temple.

The Temple Expansion plans are expected to significantly scale up our religious, cultural and social functions of the Temple. This is, therefore, a time of great need for the Temple to have more direct participation by members of the community for sustaining the centrality of the Temple for future generations of NEHTI community.

Over the course of the past year, the Board has worked to streamline the process of Membership in the Temple, cognizant of the need to both increase applications and to minimize the time to decision on the applications. It is the hope and expectation of the Board that a more streamlined and transparent process would encourage more community members to commit themselves to the continuing realization of the mission of the Temple.

Membership of NEHTI is a privilege and a shared responsibility to support the Temple in its mission to serve the needs of the Hindu community in the region. The responsibilities of the Membership of the Temple are enshrined in its Bye Laws, which can be reviewed on the Temple's website.

The Secretary of the Board of Trustees requests that community members may kindly submit the enclosed Board-approved new Membership Application Form (MAF) to the Temple Secretary (this form is also available online on the Temple's website and also can be requested at the Temple's front desk),

Once a completed MAF is received by the Secretary, along with a valid check for the stipulated Membership fee amount, the Temple will undertake the following steps:

a) Within 30 days, the Form will be scrutinized and validated by the Secretary, and communication sent to the applicant via email on the validity or otherwise of the application. In case of an application deemed invalid, the applicant will also be notified of the reasons of the invalidity.

b) In case of invalid applications, the applicant may choose to submit a fresh, rectified application for renewed consideration.

c) In case of a valid application, the Secretary will forward the applications received to the Board at its following scheduled Mandatory meeting, with the Secretary's comments and recommendations to the Board of Trustees for their consideration.

d) The Board would process the applications under three categories:

- (i) Approved
- (ii) Not Approved
- (iii) Further Consideration required (including requesting a meeting with the Applicant)

e) In case of a “Further Consideration Required” decision, the applicant will be contacted via email for further clarifications on the applications and/or for scheduling meeting with the designated Trustees. On the completion of the meeting, and receipt of clarifications, the Secretary will re-present an updated MAF on behalf of the applicant for fresh consideration by the Board

f) In case of either “Approved” or “Not Approved decision, the applicant will be informed within 7 days of the Board decision, and the membership application fee will either be encashed by the Temple or returned to the applicant on their registered address immediately thereafter.

As referenced in the Temple Bye-Laws, Membership in NEHTI is open to any person of Hindu faith who satisfies all of the following requirements:

- a) A legal permanent resident of North America
- b) Eighteen years or older at the time of application
- c) Subscribes to and abides by the provisions of these By-laws
- d) Complies with payment of membership dues and other stipulations of NEHTI

Applicants can opt for two kinds of Memberships:

Life Membership: with a one time Fee of \$ 2000 or four consecutive quarterly fees of \$ 500 each

Annual Membership: Annual Fee of \$ 250, which can be paid quarterly per the schedule indicated in the MAF.

The MAF also contains details of additional requirements & considerations the NEHTI Board will take into account while reviewing applications for approval.

The Board welcomes all eligible members of the NEHTI community to apply for Memberships, including all past applicants whose applications could not be approved by NEHTI in the past.

Please direct any queries regarding your new membership application to the Secretary to the Board of Trustees of NEHTI at secretary@srilakshmi.org

Thank you.

May the Blessings of Sri Lakshmi always be with you and your family.

Sincerely,

Hariharan S Murthy
Secretary, NEHTI