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- Women's Retreat Ahead
- Youth Share Their Perspectives
- Unity Conference Update

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Leuva Connection is published by Garavi Gujarat Publications (USA) Inc on behalf of the Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA.

Designed & Printed in the United Kingdom by Garavi Gujarat Press, a division of the Asian Media Group Garavi Gujarat Publications (USA) Inc.

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President's Letter



Jai Shree Krishna,

I am humbled and honored to serve you as your president. I hope everyone had a great Navaratri and Diwali Celebration this year.

As we start our new year, our new team of board members went straight to work. All committees have been formed with goals established to plan an exciting year for you. We held a Unity Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. While there, we secured the venue for next year's Annual Conference. The Senior Citizen Cruise is set to sail on April 5, Women's retreat is scheduled for May 4, and the Youth committee is finalizing their event as we speak.

I want to reminisce about the LPS of USA Convention held in July in Atlanta. We had a great turnout of more than 2,000 attendees. It was a weekend packed with fellowship, good food and special events.

The major highlights were the youth events, especially those held for older teenagers and young adults. Our youth committee leaders organized a special session to discuss matrimonial values and expectations. Also, the field trip to the Coca-Cola factory was a success with more than 200 youth from all age groups participating in the tour.

I was pleased to see the great response by our senior members at the bhajan session.

One of my goals as your president is to improve our vendor partner relationships. We have made progress on strengthening the financial aspect for the Samaj, and I expect even more achievements on this throughout the year.

As I stated in my inaugural letter to our membership in the summer, we will focus on two important issues during LPS of USA town halls – excessive spending on weddings and displaying more respectful behavior at funerals.

As part of my leadership platform during my 2017-18, another goal is to start a mentorship program for our youth. We have not taken much action on that, but I will keep all members informed on any progress.

Thank you for allowing me to be your president. Again, I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve our Samaj.

Sincerely,
Deepak 'Dean' Patel (Gaam - Kantali)
President, LPS of USA

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Jai Sia Ram

Dear Valued Members,

Welcome to the 2017 Fall issue of Leuva Connection! Team LC is excited to bring you this issue with coverage of communities and members of Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA.

Congratulations to the new board members who have eagerly started working toward planning this year's events. Please take some time to get to know the layout of our magazine. You will notice five main coverages:

- ▶ Unity conference held in Little Rock, Arkansas
- ▶ Senior Citizen Cruise set to sail on April 5, 2018, from Tampa
- ▶ Women's retreat scheduled to start on May 4, 2018, in Punta Cana
- ▶ Coverage of Young adults' session held in Atlanta, Georgia, at the National Convention along with all-age youth activities and seminars
- ▶ Excellent articles written by many Leuva youths, including Shanee Patel, Neal Patel, Saajan Patel and Miraj Patel.

We look forward to your feedback on this issue as well as suggestions for the next issue that will be delivered to you.

Email us! We thank those who shared their stories and 'Team Leuva Connection' for their hard work and dedication on this issue.

Respectfully,

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Youth Give Thumbs Up to Coca-Cola Tour



OUR 2017 LPS of USA National Convention was held in Atlanta, Georgia, in July of this year. One of the activities we held for our Leuva Youth, was a tour at the World of Coca-Cola in the heart of Atlanta. Our LPS of USA Youth Committee coordinated this event with the help of the local convention team of volunteers. With more than 200 youth in attendance, we must say all of our youth enjoyed themselves and they did not want to leave the factory. While we were there, all youth got a small presentation of the history of Coca-Cola, and they got to taste the many different flavors of Coke from all around the world. Of course, the flavor station that had the biggest line was for Thumbs Up, from our Motherland of India.

Saajan B. Patel
LPS of USA Youth Officer - West
Houston, Texas
Gaam: Puna

One-of-a-Kind Experience

I ATTENDED the LPS convention in Atlanta, Georgia, with my parents, Bimal and Nayna Patel (Afva). This convention was a one-of-a-kind experience, from meeting new individuals who are the same age as me to learning more about the culture we're building together. During the general youth session, we had guest speakers talking about reaching goals to further our success in keeping our traditions alive. I believe this is a very important concept for us youth as we are the generation to continue our culture. Additionally, this convention was a great opportunity to meet new family and friends. Thank you, LPS of USA!

Jaynisha Patel
Pearsall, Texas
Gaam: Afva



'Powerful' and Fun Youth Events

MY FAMILY and I attended our first LPS convention this year as it was in our hometown of Atlanta, Georgia. My kids are 10, 9 and 7 years old, and they enjoyed the youth events.

My 10-year-old, Laila, was especially moved by the youth general session, which was packed. Someone brought us extra chairs to sit, which was very kind. The talks were short (3 minutes each), to the point and delivered very well. The topics included respecting elders, substance abuse, education and behavior. They were presented by their youth peers, although much older than them, who were all dressed in suits and well groomed. This sort of role modeling is very important to me as a parent, and I appreciate it.

The topics discussed were things I talk to my kids about already, so their interest was immediately piqued upon hearing key words such as 'education,' 'college,' 'respecting elders,' and 'drugs.' They were able to understand and follow along. Laila even turned to me at one point and said, 'Mommy, these speeches are powerful!' while clapping as loud as she could after each topic.

I especially liked the discussion about every single person in that packed ballroom being privileged and not on their own merit, but because of the hard work and sacrifices of the parents and grandparents before them. So, now it is the youth's responsibility to do something with that privilege and go further and carry on for the future.

They talked about the importance of giving back to the com-



munity on a local level and also about not giving their parents and others a reason to talk badly about them. Basically, live each day to show the generations before us that we can do something with the privileges that were so generously given to each and every one of us. It was an excellent talk and reiterated what I, as well as many other parents, talk to our kids about regularly. It just makes more of an impact on the kids when it comes from youth peers they look up to.

The carnival games and crafts were a hit, and it was a great way for the kids to connect with other little kids their ages. The highlight of the convention for my kids was, of course, the private Jay Sean concert. I appreciate the organizers separating the little kids from the older ones so the little kids could enjoy the concert without any trouble seeing or participating. The stage was set up in the middle of the ballroom. The little kids were on one side of the stage with the parents standing behind them, and the bigger kids were on the other side of the stage. My kids talked about that night for several days: 'We got to go to our first ever concert! We were right by the stage! Jay Sean gave me a high five!' Thank you for that.

My kids had a very positive experience through all the youth events, and as new lifetime members we look forward to taking them to youth events through LPS in the future.

Sajani, Paresh, Laila, Bella and Falan Patel

Gaam: Puna (Khumbaria)

Peer: Sisodra (Arak)



Leuva Youth Will Create Lasting Legacy



Dr. Chhaya Patel

HARI OM! I am a pediatric anesthesiologist at Emory University Hospital where I teach the next generations of young doctors and medical students about the miracles of medicine so that they, too, can share in the excitement of the profession.

As a Leuva physician, it was an immense privilege and honor to motivate and inspire the youth at the Leuva Patidar Samaj National Convention in Atlanta about my journey in medicine. We are indebted to

Girishbhai and the youth committee for working tirelessly to organize and develop forum and activities that were entertaining and educational. Leuva Patidar youth, often overlooked, truly represent one of the many hidden successes of our community as they are the gateway for the passage of our cultural values.

The youth represented a large percentage of the attendees and a majority of the convention resources were devoted to the youth, providing plenty of opportunity to learn about our samaj and network with others.

I came away impressed with the energy and enthusiasm of the future generation of Leuvas who were determined to build on the success of the past generation.

Many shared their dreams of making the world a better place through love and service of mankind. I witnessed characteristics of hard work and commitment necessary to be successful in all facets of life. I met hopeful artists, news anchors, inventors, musicians, athletes and prominent leaders of tomorrow who will leave a lasting legacy and make our Leuva Patidar community proud.

I also had the opportunity to meet many of the motivated LPS scholarship recipients who were grateful for the opportunity to fulfill their lifelong dreams and looked forward to giving back to the community. These bright inspirational individuals have the potential to make a difference in the samaj and the world.

I truly believe this new generation of leaders will take the samaj to unprecedented levels of growth and participation. I saw a glimpse of the future and it is very bright. Rest assured, we are in good hands.

By Chhaya Patel, MD
Emory University Hospital

“I saw a glimpse of the future and it is very bright.”

I AM a student at Johnson & Wales University in Miami, Florida. I had the honor and privilege to attend and speak at the Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA youth general session at the national convention in Atlanta, Georgia. This year, our youth committee planned something quite unique. Our very own Leuva members spoke on real-life issues which affect us all as a community. Culture and heritage are and will always be important. However, other topics such as education, health, career, community service and behavior are just as important. We are evolving as a community. It is important that we respect our roots, but also positively adapt to the American culture. This year's youth general session proves we are taking the initiatives to go above and beyond to sculpt the next leaders of this world. Our samaj's biggest power is the Leuva youth, and collectively, it is our responsibility to guide each other to the right path. Thank you, LPS of USA for a great experience. I truly commend the hard work done by the youth committee.



Miraj Patel

Miraj Patel
Houston, Texas
Gaam: Dhaman



Youth Perspectives

AFTER attending numerous LPS conventions in cities such as Nashville, Orlando and now Atlanta, I would have to say that each convention has made me more involved in the LPS community. With each LPS convention, my circle of friends has grown exponentially and has led to multiple connections across the United States. These connections may be a key asset to helping me become successful in the near future.

Avie Desai
 Lenoir City, Tennessee
 Gaam: Digas



AS MY first time attending the LPS convention, it was a great experience to be around our community. It was fascinating to learn about our culture and values and how important they are to our Leuva Samaj. The overall experience of the convention was very enjoyable. The youth seminar was an inspiring event. It was a subtle way of letting us know about our values and traditions that run deep. Learning about other people's experiences at the seminar was extremely motivating. Another great element was when we got to socialize with people from different gaams and states. It's a great way for people to really learn who they are and where they are from.

Rima Patel
 Bristol, Virginia
 Gaam: Afva

I HAD a great time getting to catch up with friends and family at LPS. It was an opportunity for me to meet new people from all parts of the country, and to learn what it means to be Leuva.

Jason Patel
 Lenoir City, Tennessee
 Gaam: Digas

THIS was my first time attending the LPS convention. It was an awesome experience to meet family members and new people from our Samaj. It was great to see a whole community come together under one roof.

Vinesh Patel
 Rayville, Louisiana
 Gaam: Shamalfalia




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Leuva Patidar Samaj Foundation Inc.

The Leuva Patidar Samaj Foundation began in 2000, and over the last 17 years has given hundreds of thousands of dollars to students who have gone on to become very productive in their careers. Over the past four years alone we have given more than \$160,000 of scholarships to students from all across the country.

I was elected president of the foundation late 2016. Previously, I served as president of LPS of USA in 2009. Our board of trustees has a strong commitment to help grow our foundation funds along with growing the number of scholarship students while maintaining integrity in the award process.

During the LPS of USA National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, the Leuva Patidar Samaj Foundation was given a great opportunity to address attendees, and we had many people commit to help increase our scholarship fund. We would like to continue to build on this momentum. We will have a presentation at each of the LPS of USA regionals across the country. We encourage each of you to be involved in helping our youth by donating to the foundation or to encourage our youth to apply for a Leuva Foundation Scholarship.



Suraj Patel, a recipient of an LPS Foundation scholarship, tells how he benefited as a college student during the LPS convention's youth event.



The Leuva Patidar Samaj Foundation, in conjunction with The Jaydev & Purnima Patel Family Foundation, is glad to accept the generous donation which will increase our annual scholarship awards to \$80,000. We highly encourage our Leuva community to spread the word and find those who could be in need of these financial resources.

Each college-bound aspirant must fill out and submit the application by June 15,

2018.

The LPS Foundation application form can be downloaded from our website www.lpsofusa.com.

Once we receive applications, we conduct a thorough review, which includes an independent third-party company that evaluates all facets of the applications. This helps ensure we award scholarships based on the student's application.

Thank you,
D.V. Patel

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7. Mahendra Patel
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9. Nagindas Patel
10. Suraj Patel - Treasurer
11. Naresh Patel

LPS Scholarship Recipients for 2017

1. Akash Patel, Orlando, Florida (Ninit)
2. Riken Nathu , Apopka, Florida (Baben)
3. Anuj Kuber, Marietta, Georgia (Puna)
4. Jaynisha Patel, Pearsall, Texas (Afva)
5. Elena Patel, Kennesaw, Georgia (Ambheti)
6. Janki Patel, Tucker, Georgia (Nagod)
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14. Raj Bhula, Gatlinburg , Tennessee (Bodla)
15. Dipam Ishver, Medford, Oregon (Vacharwad)
16. Avie Desai, Knoxville, Tennessee (Digas)
17. Heliben Patel, Guin, Alabama (Gunesvel)
18. Krupali Patel, Birmingham, Alabama (Kumbharia)
19. Zinal Patel, Birmingham, Alabama (Kumbharia)
20. Neil Patel, Greenville, Mississippi (Bardoli)

Leuva youth in the spotlight

THROUGHOUT my high school career, I always wanted to go out of my comfort zone and do something that I would carry with me for the rest of my life. Traveling and going on trips has always interested me, and I wanted to do something spontaneous before I moved on to college. During a class my junior year, a few of my friends

ing so many people laughing constantly despite the small amount they had is what motivates me everyday to take a step back and think about what actually matters in my life. Leaving the small country I called home for a week was one of the hardest things I had to do, and I miss it everyday. No

matter the scenario, I challenge everyone to go out of his or her comfort zone because trust me, it was worth it.

Shanee Patel
Columbus, Ohio
Gaam: Varaad



mentioned going a mission trip with Village Mountain Mission to the Dominican Republic. At first, I was hesitant about this mission trip, considering I would be in a completely different country and unable to communicate with my family. But over a short time span, my friends easily persuaded me, and I am glad they did.

The seven days spent in this country was the most inspirational and eye-opening trip. When we landed, I instantly fell in love with the country and the culture and people filling it. Everyone that lives there has the biggest hearts and the happiest smiles. When we got to the site where we were building the house, everyone on the street came by to help wherever they could. Without work gloves or proper shoes, they still managed to provide a lot of help to our team.

At the work site I also met someone I constantly called my “mejor amigo.” The family whom we were building a house for had a 5-year-old son named David, and he was one of the happiest people I have ever met. Words cannot describe how caring and kind he was at such a young age. He was constantly running around singing and dancing with a smile on his face.

Seeing him happy despite the situation his family was in is truly inspirational. Until this trip, I never realized how grateful I truly am to have a roof over my head. See-



How to Choose a Life Partner

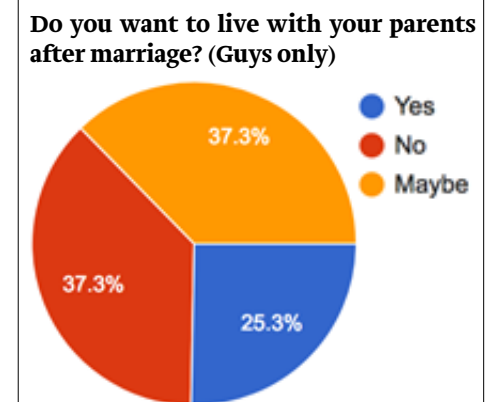
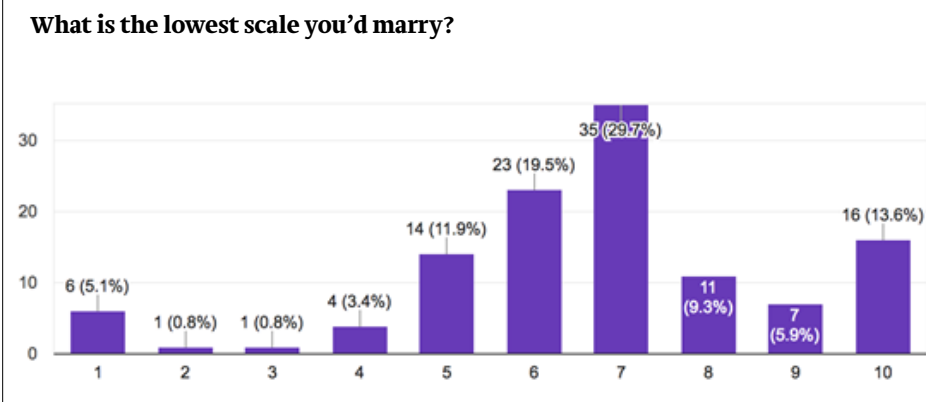
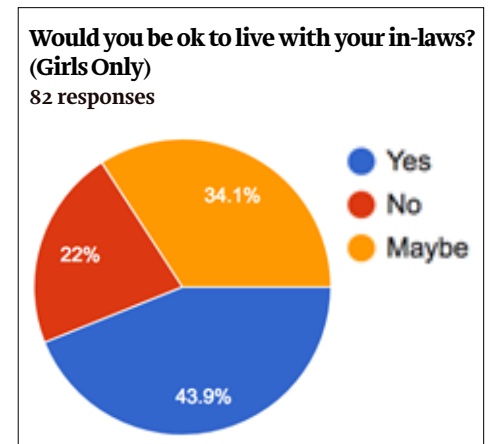
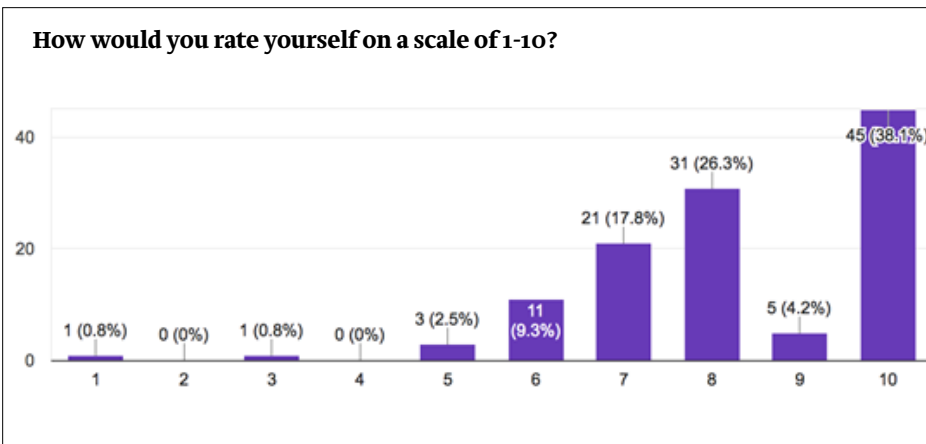
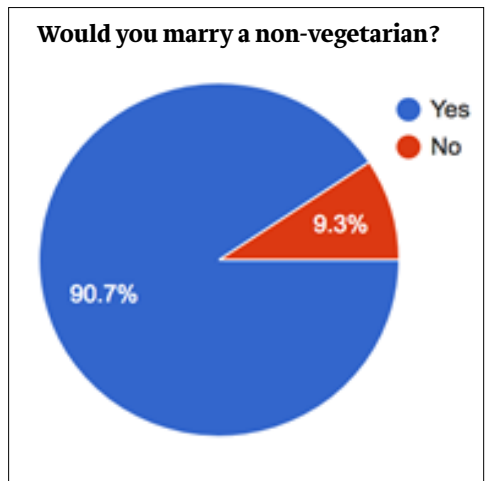
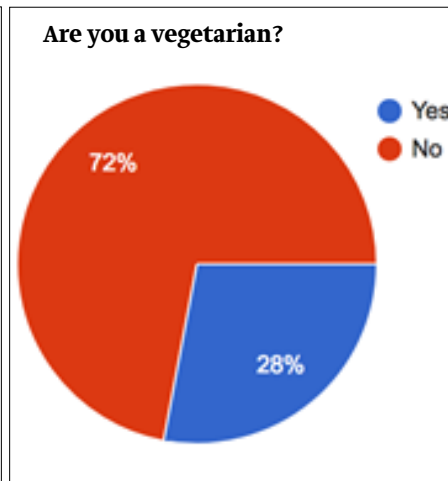
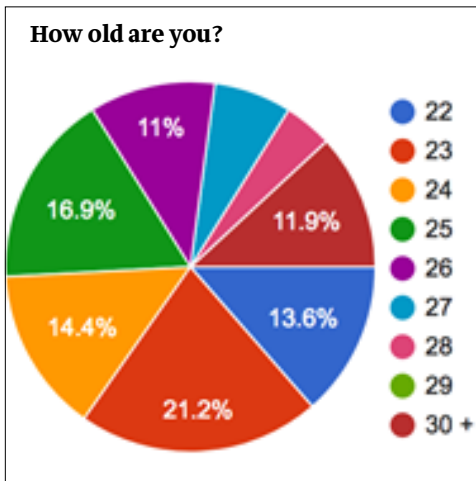
LIKE every year, our youth team's number-one goal this year was to make sure our youth who are in attendance make at least one new friend by the end of the convention. During our planning conference calls the youth team entertained an idea to do a matrimonial session brought by our board mem-

ber, Lina Patel of Cincinnati, Ohio (Chikhli).

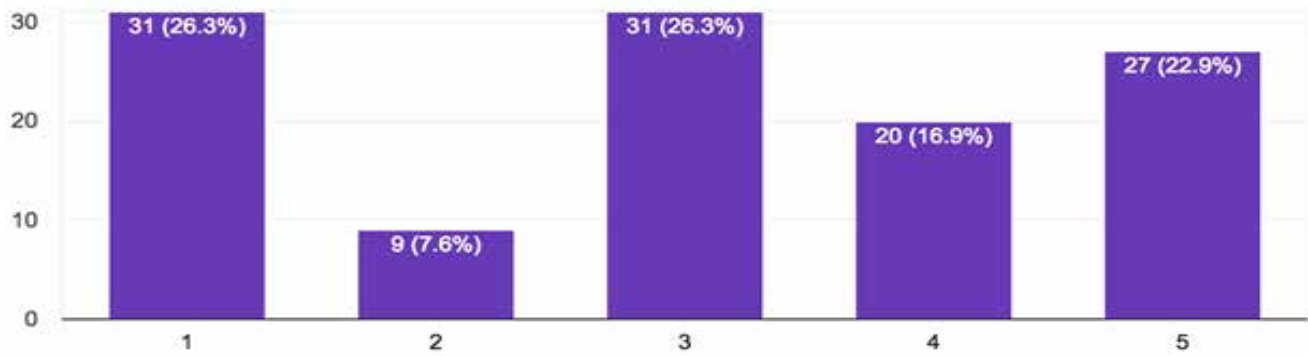
Her idea was to create an exclusive registration-only matrimony networking session for youth 22 years and older in search of a life partner. After discussing the idea, many remained skeptical about the success of such a session. It was up to the youth

team to create a setting in which fellow youth would feel comfortable.

The event was very successful. We had more than 120 attendees. We started the event with an online live survey to get the demographics of our audience. Here are the results:



How important is it for you to marry someone who is a Leuva?



Volunteers at the Matrimonial Workshop included, from left, Harikrishna "HK" Patel, Alex Patel and Sital Patel



Sweta and Bhavnesh Patel shared their story of how they went through the process of choosing each other as a life partner. Pictured are, from left, Bhavnesh, Lina Patel, session leader, Sweta and Aemish Patel, seminar volunteer.



More than 120 young people turned out for the How to Choose a Life Partner session.



Mukesh Mowji, past president of LPS of USA, discusses "decision making" with the young people attending the life partner seminar.





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| 4 | Sun, 4/8/18 | At Sea | -- | -- |
| 5 | Mon, 4/9/18 | Tampa, United States | 8:00 am | -- |

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Contacts:

Lina Patel, Cincinnati (513-257-6700) Email: linapatel@fuse.net

Sanjay Patel, Dallas (214-923-3448) Email: bhamiya@yahoo.com

Sital Patel, Tampa (937-367-30920) (For hotel accommodations, Airport pick-ups, Ground transportation while in Tampa)

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Senior Bhajan



Personal responsibility and accountability ensure the future of LPS of USA culture and heritage

RESPONSIBILITY is defined as the state or fact of having a duty to deal with something or of having control over someone. It is further defined as something for which one is responsible.

Accountability is defined as the state or fact of being responsible, answerable or accountable for something within one's power, control or management.

Why did I decide to write an article about these two words? I felt it was important that someone within our community take the initiative to discuss something most of us in leadership are afraid to discuss openly.

Over the last six years, I have attended many meetings for our LPS of USA samaj. More importantly, I have attended six of the most recent super regional and national conferences for our samaj. During my time spent at the conferences, I have observed many of our youth participate in our samaj-sponsored events. Our youth are the true reason that LPS of USA exists. Our goals are to continue to preserve our LPS



culture and heritage for our children and ensure the future of our samaj.

While at our events, we have all observed some questionable actions of some of our youth at our LPS events and this has often been discussed by the leaders at the conferences. Many times, these issues have been debated and discussed from the stage by those in leadership. On most occasions it has been discussed during our open forum with volunteer leaders of the organization.

Let's discuss the issue regarding youth and their abuse

of alcohol during an LPS of USA event. Over the last six years, the LPS of USA has often been blamed by some of our membership for providing our youth with a venue where alcohol is often abused. For this reason, it has often been said LPS of USA should not host any events for the youth.

Let's analyze this and think this through. Our LPS of USA events typically last for two to three days, depending on whether it's a super regional or national conference. That means our youth spend the remaining 362-363 days a year with their parents and not with the samaj organization. This brings me back to my two key words – responsibility and accountability.

Who is responsible and accountable for the actions of their children? Is it the LPS of USA samaj or the parents of the children?

Alcohol abuse is not only a significant problem within our LPS community but a major problem for all our fellow Americans. Oftentimes, we as parents do not

discuss this problem with our children. We expect them to know how to conduct themselves during these type of large community events.

It is high time that we all take care of our personal responsibility and begin to be accountable for our children. Parents, if you have not discussed issues such as alcohol use and abuse with your children, then you should take a proactive approach to talk about this and many other issues.

We each have a personal responsibility to teach our children our LPS of USA values, culture and heritage. We should ensure that we keep our kids safe. I personally am often disappointed when individuals often blame the LPS organization for the actions of a few young people when the true responsibility for their actions lie with us as parents.

Jay (Jimmy) Patel, CHO
President - JAM Hospitality
LPS of USA Treasurer
AAHOA 2015 Chairman

Unity Conference prepares for the year

On Oct. 13, at the request of our president, a Unity Conference was held in Little Rock, Arkansas. The goal of the conference was to unite the current board as



they plan for the year. At the invitation of our current president, all past presidents were invited. Of the ones that could attend were asked to speak, moderate or be

a part of a panel. The hope was to bring a vast number of years of leadership experience to mentor the current board.

Some of the many topics discussed were:

- Strength of unity
- Trust
- Member perception of LPS of USA
- Personal egos in our association
- Positives of our association
- Wish list of our association
- Priorities of our association.

We further broke up to groups to discuss
Alcohol in our society
Accountability of board members

Consequences for board members
Functions of a board member
Communication plan for board members
Five-year strategic plan
As one can see many items were discussed and I want to thank my fellow past presidents who were involved for taking time to give back. I also commend Deepakbhai and his team for being visionary in hosting this event. We wish them all the best in the upcoming year.

Jai Shri Krishna,
Sunil Patel
Kharvasa
Past President

Free Health Check Ups



Dr. Bharat "Barry" Patel (Sevni), left, a doctor of pharmacology from Marietta, Georgia, and Dr. Jayprakash Patel (Vadhvania), an internal medicine specialist from Pelham, Alabama, organized and oversaw a two-day health screening during the LPS of USA 2017 convention and trade show at the Georgia International Convention Center in Atlanta.

Dr. Bharat "Barry" Patel and Dr. Jayprakash Patel pose with the volunteer team of health care professionals who tested convention goers at the health and medical camp's free screenings.

ABOUT 400 convention goers stopped by the first 'health and medical camp' held at an LPS of USA convention.

Dr. Bharat 'Barry' Patel (Sevni), left, a doctor of pharmacology from Marietta, Georgia, and Dr. Jayprakash Patel (Vadhvania), an internal medicine specialist from Pelham, Alabama, organized and oversaw a two-day health screening during the LPS of USA 2017 convention and trade show at the Georgia International Convention Center in Atlanta.

The 'health and medical camp' al-

lowed people to have their blood pressure checked, undergo a full cholesterol panel and get their teeth examined.

Although the screenings alerted some folks to hypertension, high cholesterol and risky blood-sugar readings, Dr. Jayprakash said the event's overarching goal was to raise awareness of the health issues that face the Asian Indian community.

Asian Indians are four times more likely to be diagnosed with heart disease and one of every five will become diabetic. 'In our community, a lot of people are in deni-

al' about their health risks, he said. If they do acknowledge an issue, too many believe they can manage a cure on their own.

The physician said more than 40 percent of Asian Indians in the U.S. will 'suffer a coronary event' when they are between the ages of 40 to 50. 'We have the highest prevalence of any ethnic group,' he said. If heart disease takes hold, it advances quickly in Asian Indians.

'We just want people to know there is help available, but they must be willing to get help,' said Dr. Bharat.

Morning Stretches



Every morning during the LPS of USA Convention in July, men and women would gather for a yoga session or a choreographed workout.

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Women's Hard Work Benefits Others



On behalf of the entire LPS of USA Women's Committee, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all who attended the women's convention in Atlanta, Georgia, in July 2017.

Attendees painted beautiful peacocks and oms during the interactive activity, showcasing great enthusiasm and creativity. These paintings were later auctioned off at the trade show. Thank you, Sima Patel for hand stenciling all the paintings.

The Atlanta volunteers did an excellent job with their welcoming performance, trade show opening and tireless effort throughout the event. Their hard work helped us sell more than \$1,000 worth of paintings. The money raised was donated to charities in the Atlanta area.

We greatly appreciate you for taking the time and effort to participate. We look forward to an even more successful event in the future!

Prity Patel
 LPS of USA Women's Officer
 – West Bakersfield, California
Gaam: Timba



Bavaji Charities Inc.

BAVAJI Charities Inc. is a non-profit organization that focuses on community service in education, health and natural disaster work. The organization has opened a newly built Jai Ambe Hospital in the village of Chaparda in Visavadar Tehsil of Junagadh district in Gujarat, India.

The hospital has 180 beds and provides free health care to needy people living within 400 kilometers or about 250 miles of the facility.

Types of health care provided include general medicine, general surgery, pediatric services, emergency services, ophthalmology, gynecology, orthopedic and special treatments.

Vipin Bavaji is founder of Bavaji Charities. He had volunteered on the boards of directors of LPS of USA for 14 years and with AAHOA for nine years. He ended those tenures, he said, to focus on charity work. 'Now I want to touch the real,' he said in explaining his desire to bring free health care and other aid to the poor in India.



At the Bavaji Charities Inc. exhibit at the LPS of USA 2017 convention and trade show on July 28 in Atlanta are, from left, Jayesh Patel of Pigeon Forge, Tennessee; Rajan Patel of Irving, Texas; Vipin Bavaji, founder of Bavaji Charities; and Naresh Patel of Irvin, Texas.

Samaj Saves Lives



Bhupen Patel, founder of Samaj Saves Lives, with fellow supporters of organ donation, Dimpal Patel (Sevni), second from right, and Reena Patel (Chikhli), at the charity's exhibit at the LPS of USA 2017 convention.

SAMAJ Saves Lives is a database that connects members of the Leuva community in need of an organ transplant with prospective donors.

Community members can sign up as donors while those on the waiting list can let their needs be known.

Bhupen Patel's mother-in-law died while awaiting a kidney transplant, and he created the database to better connect matching donors within the community.

Most people do not realize that when someone dies, their family members can specifically name a person or people on a waiting list who can receive their loved one's organs.

Tiny Smiling Faces

ARUN 'Andy' Patel is a hotelier in upstate New York and founder of Tiny Smiling Faces, which funds improvements for poorly supported public schools in villages throughout India.

The campaign is a designated nonprofit under the Dalubhai Gopalbhai Patel Fund Inc., an organization Arun named after his father, a physics professor from Kuched, a village near the cities of Navsari and Surat in Gujarat, India.

Arun founded the non-profit in 2012 after visiting his home village and discovering the deteriorating condition of the school building as well as the quality of education the village children were receiving.

Tiny Smiling Faces now sponsors schools in 23 villages. It uses funds to improve the buildings, buy supplies and provide free breakfast to students each school day.



Arun "Andy" Patel, a hotelier in upstate New York and founder of Tiny Smiling Faces, with his wife, Kalpana, and niece, Bhumi Patel, at the charity's exhibit during the LPS of USA convention.

પ્રેસિડેન્ટનો પત્ર



જય શ્રી કૃષ્ણ

હું આપ સૌના પ્રેસિડન્ટ તરીકે સેવા આપવાની તક મળી તે બદલ ગૌરવ અને વિનમ્રતાની લાગણી અનુભવી રહ્યો છું. મને આશા છે કે આ વર્ષે બધાની નવરાત્રિ અને દિવાળી આનંદ-ઉલ્લાસભરી રહી હશે.

આપણા નવા વર્ષનો આરંભ થયો છે ત્યારે આપણી બોર્ડ મેમ્બર્સની નવી ટીમ સક્રિય બની ગઈ છે. આપ સૌને માટે નવું વર્ષ ઉત્તેજનાપૂર્ણ બની રહે તેવું આયોજન કરવાના ધ્યેય નક્કી કરાયા છે. આપણી યુનિટી કોન્ફરન્સ લિટલ રોક, આર્કન્સાસમાં યોજાઈ ગઈ. આવતા વર્ષની વાર્ષિક કોન્ફરન્સ માટેનું સ્થળ એ વખતે જ નક્કી કરાયું હતું. સિનિયર સીટીઝન્સ માટે કુઝની સફર 5 એપ્રિલનાં રોજ આયોજિત કરાઈ છે તો મહિલાઓ માટેની રીટ્રીટ 4 મેનાં રોજ યોજવામાં આવી છે. આપણે આ સંવાદ કરી રહ્યા છીએ તે દરમિયાન પણ યુથ કમીટી તેમના ઈવેન્ટના આયોજનને આખરી ઓપ આપી રહી છે.

હું એટલાન્ટામાં જુલાઈમાં યોજાયેલા એલપીએસની યુએસએ કન્વેન્શનનાં સંસ્મરણો

તાજ કરવા માંગુ છું. એ સંમેલનમાં 2,000થી વધુ સભ્યો હાજરી હતી, જે નોંધપાત્ર રહી. એ વિકેન્ડ ઉત્કટ સ્નેહભર્યા મિત્રમિલાપ, સ્વાદિષ્ટ ભોજન અને યાદગાર ઈવેન્ટ્સથી ભરપુર રહ્યો હતો.

સંમેલનનું મુખ્ય આકર્ષણ યુવા સભ્યો માટેની ઈવેન્ટ્સ રહી હતી, તેમાં પણ ખાસ કરીને મોટા તરુણો અને નવલોહિયા યુવા પેઢી માટેના કાર્યક્રમો વિશિષ્ટ હતા. આપણી યુથ કમીટીનાં આગેવાનોએ લગ્નજીવનના મૂલ્યો અને અપેક્ષાઓ અંગેની ચર્ચા માટે ખાસ સત્રનું પણ આયોજન કર્યું હતું. કોકા કોલા ફેક્ટરીની ફીલ્ડ ટ્રીપ ખૂબજ સફળ રહી હતી, 200થી વધુ યુવાઓએ તેમાં ભાગ લીધો હતો.

ભજનના કાર્યક્રમમાં સિનિયર સભ્યોની મોટી હાજરી જોઈ મને ખૂબજ આનંદ થયો હતો.

તમારા પ્રેસિડન્ટ તરીકેનાં મારા અનેક ધ્યેયમાંથી એક આપણા વિકેતાઓ સાથે ભાગીદારી સંબંધોમાં સુધારાનો છે. સમાજનું નાણાંકિય પાસું અમે મજબૂત બનાવી રહ્યાં છીએ અને આ મોરચે સમગ્ર વર્ષ દરમિયાન વધુ સફળતાઓ હાંસલ કરવાની મારી

ધારણા છે.

મે ઉનાળામાં આપણા સભ્યોને મારા પહેલા પત્રમાં જણાવ્યું હતું તે મુજબ અમે એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએ ટાઉનહોલનાં કાર્યક્રમોમાં બે મહત્વની સમસ્યાઓ - લગ્ન પ્રસંગે થતાં અતિશય ખર્ચ અને અંતિમ વિધિ પ્રસંગે વધુ સંયમપૂર્વકનું વર્તન દાખવવા ઉપર અમે ખાસ ધ્યાન આપીશું.

2017-18માં મારા નેતૃત્વના ગાળાના એક ભાગરૂપે, એક વધુ ધ્યેય આપણાં યુવાનો માટે માર્ગદર્શન પ્રોગ્રામ શરૂ કરવાનો છે. અમે આ દિશામાં હજી ખાસ કંઈ કર્યું નથી પણ, આ મોરચે કોઈપણ પ્રગતિ અંગે તમામ સભ્યોને જાણકારી આપતો રહીશ.

ફરી, આપ સૌનો પ્રેસિડેન્ટ બનવાની મને તક આપી તે બદલ હું આપનો આભાર માનું છું. ફરી હું આપણા સમાજની સેવા કરવાની તક બદલ નમ્રતા અને કૃતજ્ઞતાની લાગણી અનુભવી રહ્યો છું.

આપનો વિશ્વાસુ, દિપક “ડીન” પટેલ
(ગામ -કંટાળી)
પ્રેસિડેન્ટ, એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએ



વાલીઓને પત્ર

એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએની સંસ્કૃતિ અને વારસાનું ભાવિની ખાતરી આપે છે અંગત જવાબદારી અને જવાબદેયતા

જવાબદારીની વ્યાખ્યા કોઈક કાર્ય પાર પાડવાની ફરજની સ્થિતિ અથવા તો કોઈક ઉપર કાબુ ધરાવવા તરીકે કરવામાં આપી છે.

જવાબદેયતાની વ્યાખ્યા કોઈની સત્તા, નિયંત્રણ અથવા તો તાબામાં હોય તેવી બાબતો પ્રત્યેની જવાબદારી, જવાબદેયતા અથવા જવાબ આપવાની ફરજની સ્થિતિ તરીકે કરવામાં આવી છે.

મે આ બે શબ્દો પર લેખ લખવાનો નિર્ણય શા માટે કર્યો? મને લાગ્યું કે આપણાં સમાજમાં આપણાંમાંથી મોટા ભાગનાં લોકો જે બાબતે નિખાલસતાથી ખુલ્લી ચર્ચા કરતાં ડરે છે એ વિષય ઉપર ચર્ચા કરવાની પહેલ કોઈક લે તે ખૂબજ મહત્વનું છે.

છેલ્લા છ વર્ષથી, મે યુએસએનાં એલપીએસ સમાજની ઘણી બેઠકોમાં હાજરી આપી છે. ખાસ કરીને મે આપણાં સમાજની તાજેતરમાં મળેલી છ સુપર રીજનરલ તથા નેશનલ કોન્ફરન્સમાં ભાગ લીધો હતો. કોન્ફરન્સમાં હાજરી આપતી વખતે મેં જોયું છે કે, આપણા સમાજ દ્વારા આયોજિત સમારંભોમાં યુવા પેઢી મોટી સંખ્યામાં હાજરી આપે છે. આપણી યુવા પેઢી તો એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએનાં અસ્તિત્વ મુખ્ય પાયો છે. આપણા ધ્યેય આપણા બાળકો માટે એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએની સંસ્કૃતિ તથા વારસો જાળવી રાખવો અને એ રીતે આપણા સમાજનું ભાવિ સુરક્ષિત કરવાના છે.

આપણા પ્રસંગોમાં આપણે બધાએ જોયું છે કે

આપણા યુવાનોમાંથી કેટલાકના વર્તન સામે પ્રશ્નાર્થ ઉભા થતા હતા અને તે વિષે ઘણી વખત કોન્ફરન્સમાં અગ્રણીઓએ તે વિષે ચર્ચા પણ કરી છે. કેટલીક વાર તો સંમેલનના મંચ ઉપરથી આવી બાબતોની ચર્ચા થઈ છે, વિચાર-વિમર્શ થયા છે. મોટા ભાગના પ્રસંગોએ સંસ્થાના વોલિન્ટિયર અગ્રણીઓ વચ્ચે પણ ઓપન ફોરમમાં એ વિષે ચર્ચાઓ થઈ છે.

આવો, આપણે એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએનાં ઈવેન્ટ્સ વખતે યુવા પેઢીની સમસ્યાઓ તથા શરાબના વધુ પડતા સેવનની ચર્ચા કરીએ. છેલ્લા છ વર્ષમાં આપણા જ કેટલાક સભ્યોએ, એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએ સામે યુવા પેઢીને શરાબના વધુ પડતા સેવન માટેની તકો આપી હોવાનો આક્ષેપ કર્યો છે. આ કારણોસર જ, એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએ દ્વારા યુવાનો માટે કોઈ ઈવેન્ટ્સ જ યોજવી જોઈએ નહીં તેવું પણ લોકો કહે છે.

ચાલો આનું વિશ્લેષણ કરીએ અને તે અંગે વિચારીએ. આપણા એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએનાં ઉત્સવો - તે સુપર રીજનલ હોય કે પછી નેશનલ કોન્ફરન્સ, તેના આધારે મોટાભાગે બે થી ત્રણ દિવસનાં હોય છે એટલે કે આપણાં યુવાનો 362 - 363 દિવસ તેમનાં માતાપિતા સાથે વિતાવે છે સમાજની સંસ્થા સાથે નહીં. આના કારણે, મારે મારા બે મુખ્ય શબ્દો - જવાબદારી અને જવાબદેયતા ઉપર પાછું આવવું પડે છે.

બાળકોની પ્રવૃત્તિ માટે કોણ જવાબદાર અને જવાબદેય છે? એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએ સમાજ કે

બાળકોનાં માતા-પિતા અને વાલીઓ?

શરાબનું દૂષણ ફક્ત આપણા એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએના સમાજ માટે નોંધપાત્ર સમસ્યા નથી, એ આપણા તમામ અમેરિકન લોકો માટે મોટી સમસ્યા છે. આપણે વાલી તરીકે લગભગ ક્યારેય આપણાં બાળકો સાથે આ સમસ્યા અંગે વાત કરતા નથી. આપણે એવી અપેક્ષા રાખીએ છીએ કે આવા વિશાળ સામાજિક પ્રસંગોએ કેવી રીતે વર્તવું તેની તેમને ખબર હોવી જોઈએ.

હવે સમય પાકી ગયો છે કે આપણે બધાએ બાળકો પ્રત્યે જવાબદારી લેતા થવું જોઈએ. વાલીઓ, તમે બાળકો સાથે શરાબનાં સેવન અને વધુ પડતા સેવનના દૂષણ વિષે હજી સુધી ચર્ચા કરી ના હોય તો તમારે હવે આ તેમજ એવા અન્ય મુદ્દાઓ વિષે સક્રિય અભિગમ અપનાવવો જોઈએ.

આપણાં દરેકની જવાબદારી છે કે આપણે એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએનાં મૂલ્યો, સંસ્કૃતિ અને વારસા વિષે બાળકોને શીખવીએ. આપણે બાળકોને સલામત રાખવાની ખાતરી કરવી જોઈએ. યુવા પેઢીના વર્તન અંગેની ખરી જવાબદારી આપણી છે ત્યારે કેટલાક લોકો આ બાબતે એલપીએસ સંસ્થાને જવાબદાર ગણાવે ત્યારે હું ખેદની લાગણી અનુભવું છું.

જય (જીમી) પટેલ, સીએચઓ

પ્રેસિડન્ટ - જેએએમ હોસ્પિટાલીટી યુએસએની એલપીએસનાં ખજાનચી આહોઆ 2015નાં ચેરમેન

વર્ષની તૈયારીઓ માટે યુનિટી કોન્ફરન્સ

આપણાં પ્રેસિડન્ટની વિનંતીને માન આપીને 13 ઓક્ટોબરે લિટલ રોક, આર્કન્સાસમાં યુનિટી કોન્ફરન્સ યોજાઈ હતી. કોન્ફરન્સનું ધ્યેય આખા વર્ષના કાર્યક્રમોની યોજના બનાવી શકે તે માટે વર્તમાન બોર્ડના મિલનનું હતું. પ્રેસિડન્ટે તમામ ભૂતપૂર્વ પ્રેસિડન્ટ્સને પણ આમંત્રણ આપ્યું હતું, જે લોકો હાજર રહ્યા હતા. તેમને પેનલમાં સામેલ થવા, સંબોધન કરવા પણ વિનંતી કરાઈ હતી. એ વિષેનો ખ્યાલ એવો હતો કે વર્ષોના અનુભવી લોકોના અનુભવના નિયોડનો લાભ હાલના બોર્ડને મળે.

ઘણાં મુદ્દાઓની ચર્ચા કરવામાં આવી હતી



જેમાંના મુખ્ય મુદ્દા નીચે મુજબ છે:

એકતા મજબૂત કરવી

વિશ્વાસ સ્થાપિત કરવો

એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએનાં સભ્યોમાં સંસ્થાની છાપનો અંદાજ આપણી સંસ્થામાં વ્યક્તિગત અહમ આપણી સંસ્થાની સકારાત્મકતાઓ આપણી સંસ્થાની ઈચ્છાઓની યાદી આપણી સંસ્થાની પ્રાથમિકતાઓ

અમે ગુપ્ત બનાવી નીચે મુજબના

મુદ્દાઓની ચર્ચા કરી હતી

આપણાં સમાજમા શરાબનું સેવન

બોર્ડનાં સભ્યોની જવાબદારી

બોર્ડનાં સભ્યો માટેની અસરો

બોર્ડનાં સભ્યોનાં કાર્યો

બોર્ડના સભ્યો માટે કોમ્યુનિકેશન યોજના

પાંચવર્ષની વ્યૂહાત્મક યોજના

ઘણી બધી બાબતોની ચર્ચા કરવામાં આવી હતી અને હું મારા સાથી ભૂતપૂર્વ પ્રેસિડન્ટ્સનો ચર્ચાઓમાં ભાગ લેવા માટે સમય કાઢી અમને અમૂલ્ય માર્ગદર્શન આપવા બદલ આભાર વ્યક્ત કરવા માંગું છું. આવી ઈવેન્ટના આયોજનની વિશિષ્ટ દ્રષ્ટિ બદલ દીપકભાઈ અને તેમની ટીમનો પણ આભાર માનું છું. અમે તેમને આગામી વર્ષ માટે શુભકામનાઓ પાઠવીએ છીએ.

જય શ્રી કિષ્ના,

સુનિલ પટેલ

પાર્વાસા

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લેઉવા પાટીદાર સમાજ ફાઉન્ડેશન ઈન્કો

લેઉવા પાટીદાર સમાજ ફાઉન્ડેશનનો આરંભ 2000માં કરાયો અને છેલ્લા 17 વર્ષથી હજારો વિદ્યાર્થીઓને તેમની કારકિર્દી આગળ ધપાવવા માટે હજારો ડોલરની સ્કોલરશિપ્સ અપાઈ છે. ફક્ત છેલ્લા ચાર વર્ષમાં જ સમગ્ર દેશમાં આપણે વિદ્યાર્થીઓને 160,000 ડોલર કરતાં વધુની સ્કોલરશિપ્સ આપી છે.

હું ગત 2016માં ફાઉન્ડેશનનાં પ્રેસિડન્ટ તરીકે ચૂંટાયો હતો. આ અગાઉ, 2009માં એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએનાં પ્રેસિડન્ટ તરીકે સેવાઓ આપી હતી. અમારું બોર્ડ ઓફ ટ્રસ્ટીઝ સ્કોલરશિપ્સ આપવાની પ્રક્રિયામાં પ્રમાણિકતા જાળવી સ્કોલરશિપ મેળવનારા વિદ્યાર્થીઓની સંખ્યામાં વધારો કરવા સાથે ફાઉન્ડેશનના ઈંડમાં વધારો કરવા પ્રતિબદ્ધ છે.

એટલાન્ટા જ્યોર્જિયામાં એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએના રાષ્ટ્રીય સંમેલન વખતે લેઉવા પાટીદાર સમાજ ફાઉન્ડેશનને હાજર રહેલા સભ્યોને સંબોધનની સુંદર તક મળી હતી અને અમારા સ્કોલરશિપ્સ ઈંડમાં વધારો કરવામાં મદદ કરનારા ઘણાં લોકો પણ અમને મળ્યાં હતાં. આ ગતિ વધુ વેગિલી બનાવવાનું અમને ગમશે. અમે સમગ્ર દેશમાં એલપીએસ ઓફ યુએસએના રીજનલ સંમેલનો પણ એક પ્રોજેક્ટેશન કરીશું. આપણી યુવા પેઢીને મદદ કરવા ફાઉન્ડેશનમાં ડોનેશન આપવા કે



એલપીએસ ફાઉન્ડેશન સ્કોલરશિપ મેળવનાર સુરજ પટેલ જણે છે કેવીરીતે તેમણે એલપીએસ કન્વેન્શનનાં યુવા ઉત્સવ દરમિયાન કોલેજ વિદ્યાર્થી તરીકે લાભ લીધો હતો.

રહેશે. એલપીએસ ફાઉન્ડેશન એપ્લીકેશન ફોર્મ આપણી વેબસાઇટ www.lpsofusa.com પરથી ડાઉનલોડ કરી શકાશે.

અમને અરજીઓ મળે પછી તેની ઘનિષ્ઠ સમીક્ષા કરાશે, જે કામગીરીમાં સ્વતંત્ર, ત્રાહિત પક્ષકાર કંપનીનો સમાવેશ થાય છે. અરજીઓનાં તમામ પાસાઓનું મૂલ્યાંકન કરે છે. એનાથી અમને વિદ્યાર્થીઓની અરજીનાં આધારે સ્કોલરશિપ એવોર્ડ નક્કી કરવામાં મદદ મળે છે.

તમારો આભાર
ડી.વી.પટેલ



સમાજની યુવા પેઢીને લેઉવા ફાઉન્ડેશન સ્કોલરશિપ માટે અરજી કરવા પ્રોત્સાહિત કરવામાં સામે થવા અમારું આપ સૌને આમંત્રણ છે.

જયદેવ અને પૂર્ણામાં પટેલ ફેમિલી ફાઉન્ડેશન સાથેના સહયોગમાં લેઉવા પાટીદાર સમાજ ફાઉન્ડેશન ઉદાર હાથે મળેલું ડોનેશન સહર્ષ સ્વીકારે છે, તેનાથી વાર્ષિક સ્કોલરશિપ એવોર્ડ વધીને 80,000 ડોલરની થશે. આવી નાણાક્રિય મદદની જેમને જરૂર હોય તેવા લોકોને શોધી કાઢવા, આ બાબત પ્રચાર કરવા અમે સૌને પ્રોત્સાહિત કરીએ છીએ.

કોલેજમાં જનારા તમામ ઉમેદવારોએ 15 જુન, 2018 સુધીમાં અરજીપત્રક ભરીને આપી દેવાના

ટ્રસ્ટીઓનું એલપીએસ સ્કોલરશિપ ફાઉન્ડેશન બોર્ડ

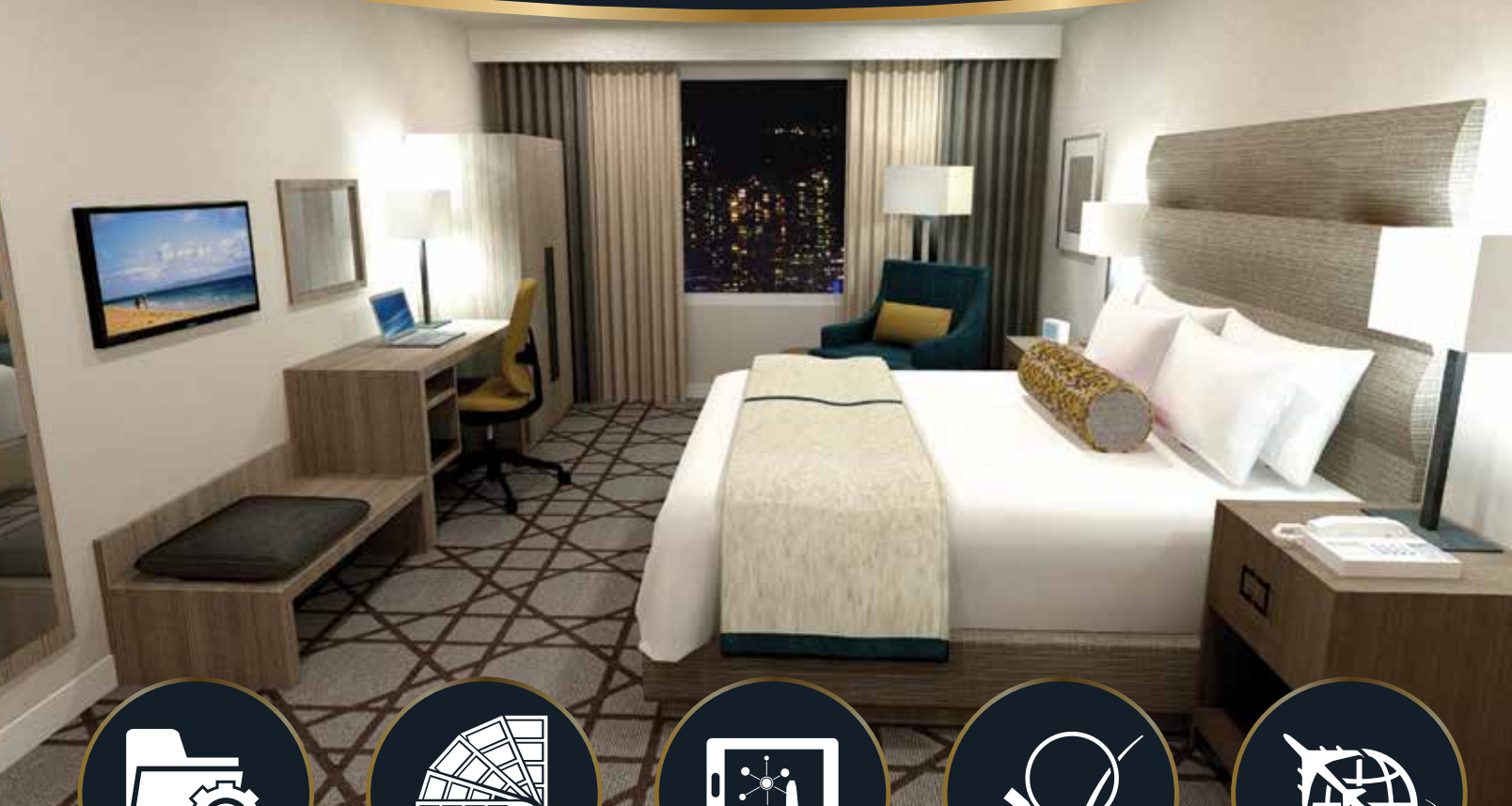
1. ડી.વી. પટેલ- પ્રેસિડન્ટ
2. ભરત પટેલ
3. સી.એમ. પટેલ
4. સમીર પટેલ
5. સુનિલ પટેલ
6. દીપક પટેલ
7. મહેન્દ્ર પટેલ
8. સંજય પટેલ
9. નગિનદાસ પટેલ
10. સુરજ પટેલ- ખજાનચી
11. નરેશ પટેલ

2017ની એલપીએસ સ્કોલરશિપના લાભાર્થીઓ

1. આકાશ પટેલ, ઓહાઈઓ, ફ્લોરીડા
2. રિકેન નાથુ, એપોપ્કા, ફ્લોરીડા
3. અનુજ કુબેર, મેરિએટ્ટા, જ્યોર્જિયા
4. જયનિશા પટેલ, પીયર્સાલ, ટેક્સાસ
5. એલિના પટેલ, કેમ્પીસો, જ્યોર્જિયા
6. જાનકી પટેલ, ટુકર, જ્યોર્જિયા
7. પિનલ ઈશ્વર, હેન્ડરસનવિલે, ટેનેસી
8. એશની પટેલ, પિકરટોન, ઓહાઈઓ
9. નિષી પટેલ, મેની, લુઇસિયાના
10. અમી ઈશ્વર, ગલ્ડ બ્રિજ, ફ્લોરીડા
11. સોહિની પટેલ, મોરિસટાઉન, ટેનેસી
12. અજય પટેલ, ક્લોવિસ, કેલિફોર્નિયા
13. પુષ્ટી લેઉવા, કેમ્પેન્સ, ટેક્સાસ
14. રાજ ભુલા, ગેટલિનબર્ગ, ટેનેસી
15. દીપમ ઈશ્વર, મેડફોર્ડ ઓરેગોન
16. એવિ દેસાઈ, નોક્સવિલે, ટેનેસી
17. હેલિબેન પટેલ, ગ્વીન, અલબામા
18. કૃપાલી પટેલ, બરમિંગહામ, અલબામા
19. ઝિનલ પટેલ, બરમિંગહામ, અલબામા
20. નીલ પટેલ, ગ્રીનવિલે, મિસીસીપ્પી

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