



PRESS RELEASE

Nepalese Association of Florida Hosts Grand Dashain-Tihar Celebration and 33rd Annual General Meeting

October 11, 2025, | West Palm Beach, Florida

The Nepalese Association of Florida (NAF) successfully hosted its signature event — the 2025 Dashain-Tihar Celebration and 33rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) in West Palm Beach, drawing a record-breaking crowd of over 550 attendees. This unforgettable evening was filled with vibrant cultural performances, heartfelt community recognition, a transition of leadership, and an electrifying concert featuring top Nepali artists.

The event began with a powerful show of patriotism and cultural pride. Saesha Neupane and Aiden Shrestha beautifully performed the national anthems of Nepal on piano and the United States on saxophone respectively. They were joined by children from the South Florida Nepali community, who sang both anthems enthusiastically. Their performance set the tone for a night that honored heritage, unity, and community spirit.

NAF Treasurer Priti Bhandary officially welcomed the guests to the celebration. Audiences were then treated to a dynamic and colorful cultural showcase, coordinated by Ashma Bajracharya, featuring artists and performers from across Florida. The cultural segment featured diverse performances that represented the richness of Nepali music and dance, ranging from classical to contemporary styles. Cultural program volunteers included Geeta Neupane, Shanta Pradhan, Prajib Shakya, Sujana Tuladhar Kafley, Raksha Ojha, and Rachana Sedhai, whose dedication made the showcase a standout success. The entire evening was hosted with enthusiasm and charm by emcee Madhu Nepal, who kept the audience engaged and entertained.

The administrative session, led by outgoing NAF President Dr. Niraj Shrestha, was an opportunity to honor those who have significantly contributed to the organization and the broader community. Appreciation awards and tokens of love were presented to



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distinguished supporters and partners, including:

NEPA Wholesale – Bijay Shrestha and Nirmala Shrestha

ComplianceQuest – Atulya Risal and Punam Risal

Realtor - Santosh Sthapit

NAF also extended its gratitude to both past and present Adopt-a-Highway Coordinators for their service, including Ram S. Thapa (NAF Past President), Bimal Nepal (NAF Past President), Krishna Shrestha (NASEA Past President and community leader), and Dr. Amar Karki (President, INLS Florida Chapter). Additionally, recognition was given to Manoj Joshi, a committed volunteer actively involved in the Adopt-a-Highway program. Dr. Shrestha also acknowledged two other donors Ms. Suni Lama Ferriero from SunSure Insurance and Mr. Kashish Das Shrestha from The Nepali Spirit.

A proud moment came when Shailee Banskota announced the winners of the NAF Youth Scholarship. This year's recipients were Yuvani Bhandary and Alan Risal, recognized for their academic achievement and community involvement.

Following these acknowledgments, Dr. Netra Khanal conducted the swearing-in ceremony for NAF's new executive team. In his first address as President, Binod Basnet spoke about the organization's evolution into a truly community-driven body. He thanked the outgoing team for laying a strong foundation and shared his vision for expanding NAF's outreach and programs in the years ahead. He also expressed special thanks to outgoing President Dr. Niraj Shrestha for his leadership and service.

Dr. Shrestha gave his final speech as President, offering a sincere vote of thanks to the community, volunteers, and his executive team. His emotional farewell acknowledged the challenges and accomplishments of his term and the unwavering support of those who stood by him.





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The event then transitioned into a thrilling live concert featuring celebrated Nepali artists Asmita Adhikari and Mahesh Kafle. Their performances lit up the room, with the audience singing and dancing along to beloved hits. The concert brought people together in joyful celebration, wrapping up the night on a high note.

Earlier in the week, NAF also hosted a series of statewide sports tournaments, and winners were recognized during the AGM. The soccer tournament, coordinated by Laba Pyakurel with volunteer support from Bhisma Thapa, Prajib Shakya, and Leena Basnyet, saw Nepte from Tampa take the championship, with Deven Shrestha earning MVP honors. Florida Chautari was the runner-up.

In volleyball, coordinated by Chet Joshi and Deepak Bastola, the Orlando Volleyball Team took first place, with Tampa Bay Chapter as runner-up.

The tennis tournament was coordinated by Ram S. Thapa and Parbat Joshi. Winners included Dr. Adarsha Shrestha with Ashish Basistha as runner-up in the adult category, Gavin Sthapit with Sarvin Bhattarai as runner-up in the boys' division, and Isha Prasad with Jasmine Sthapit as runner-up in the girls' division.

The increasingly popular pickleball tournament was coordinated by Dr. Amar Karki, with support from Chet Joshi and Dr. Suraj Bajgain. Winners included Vikiran Kafle in men's singles, and the mixed doubles team of Dr. Rachana Sedhai and Dr. Manoj Bhattarai. Runners-up in that category were Krishna Shrestha and Sunita Shrestha. The men's doubles winners were Chet Joshi and Vikiran Kafle, with Dr. Amar B. Karki and Shankar Rajbhandari placing second.

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Behind the scenes, a dedicated team ensured the event ran smoothly. The venue was arranged by Shyam Giri, and the sound system was managed by Rijan Mulmi. The food coordination team, led by Prabesh Pandey, Suman Subedi, and Surya Baniya, worked in partnership with Zeera Indian Restaurant and Nepali entrepreneur Mrs. Sunita Shrestha to provide delicious meals. The registration desk was managed by Priti Bhandary, Shailee Banskota, Deepak Neupane, Suvem Sharma, and Sanvi Adhikari. Photography was handled by Saesha Neupane and Eva Basnet, who captured moments from the event that will be shared soon through NAF's digital platforms.

This year's Dashain-Tihar celebration and AGM were not only festive but also deeply meaningful. It reflected the growing strength of the Nepali American community in Florida and the important role NAF plays in preserving cultural identity, supporting youth, and building bridges between generations. With record participation, heartfelt leadership transitions, and a spirit of collaboration, the 2025 event marked yet another milestone in NAF's inspiring journey.

Cultural Program Performer:

Shubu Neupane, Subani Baniya, Merlin Neupane, Sophia Kafley, Sarana Kafley, Raagya Bhattarai, Rena Joshi, Reeva Joshi, Jasmin and Gavin Sthapit, Aahana Khatiwada and Resika Sapkota, Aavan Pradhan and Aveer Pradhan, Reyansh Neupane, Surendra Shrestha, Ameena Shrestha and Dr. Rajendra Shakya, Diya Maharjan, Krisha Dhakal, Januka Dhungel Khanal, Emma Adhikari, Deepika Regmi, Shreejana Khanal, Sanam Banjade, Jenisha Khanal
Additional national anthem singers besides the performers: Avan Shakya, Viraaj Shrestha, Reyaansh Paudel, Sarvin Bhattarai, Shivanshi Raymajhi, Mayara Guatam, Palasha Shakya, Raymond Sapkota, Avik Shah, Anika Shah, Kivani Shahi, Reyaansh Giri and Ashmi Basnet.



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