

TEGSA THANKSGIVING EVENT – OCTOBER 6, 2023 – WRITE UP BY MELANIE LAWRENCE

On Oct 6, 2023, my husband Joe & I attended the TEGSA Thanksgiving event as “new members”. After waiting anxiously for **several years** to become members of TEGSA (Toronto East-end Goans Association), we finally got the opportunity to become members – not on the first try of the so-called “Luck draw” (which I thought was a joke) drawn from the many applications received, but on the second try for the “not so lucky” ones!

Excited to attend this event, I called around to find out the dress code or any other relevant information we may need to make a good impression. The cost of \$30.00 pp or \$60.00 per couple was very reasonable in this day and age, considering this included dinner. My one puzzlement was “bring your own water bottle”. Distributing 1 bottle of water to each person surely was not going to break the bank. No doubt the committee must have their reasons for this request, but I found it very strange and unnecessary!

The event was held at a Community Center in Scarborough. Like most Community Centers, the hall was plain and very “sad” looking. A little more effort to decorate the tables with a Thanksgiving theme would have been nice, especially some plastic reusable tablecloths from the Dollar store or Party City in Fall colours. The hall which is normally used for Shuffleboard, made it extremely slippery and I was surprised nothing was done to tone it down. TEGSA after all was hosting a Seniors event, with Seniors wanting to dance on a very dangerous floor.

The music and sound system could have been better, but all the same everyone seemed to be having a good time and the dance floor was always full.

The dinner, although was a bit late, probably due to unavoidable circumstances, was very tasty and portions very reasonable..... and you could go for seconds. A few snacks like chips and nuts to munch pre-dinner would have been nice.

The guests were very friendly and made all the new members very welcomed.

2 games of BINGO were played. I was requested to call out BINGO numbers for the second game. Although I am very familiar with the game and having called out BINGO numbers for several types of events, this was a new experience for me. Let me explain why – I’ve never called out BINGO with so many people surrounding me (which was very intimidating). All the quirky or humorous words I wanted to say wouldn’t come out as I felt I was being monitored by a panel of judges! Bingo prizes was all Cash, which was very welcomed by all.

Going forward, my husband & I will attend as many events as we possibly can and enjoy ourselves no matter what. Every committee faces challenges and must bear the brunt of criticism, but if the criticism is constructive and not judgmental, it is all good. My 2 cents would be to charge a few dollars more and provide water and table snacks at these events and mop the floor so it’s not waiting for an accident to happen.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the President, Vice-President and all the committee members for the effort and persistence they put in to bring these events to the Scarborough seniors. Keep up the good work.

Melanie (Mel) Lawrence