

The 13th Annual Convention of the Uttaranchal Association of North America (UANA) was recently held at the Hospitality House, in Fredericksburg Virginia during the weekend of July 29th – 31st. It was a fun filled festive event, attended by over 300 UANA members, from across the eastern region of the United States, and included fabulous breakout sessions throughout the weekend.

Early bird registration started on the afternoon of Friday July 29th with a welcome dinner followed by some musical karaoke and dancing. It really ended up as a big hit as several members sang and danced to several classical Indian and American songs.

The following day started with a morning yoga session, presented by Acharya Girish Jha. It was very well received as several members requested a follow up session. A kids program that featured 'mehndi' and arts & crafts was a big hit among kids as well as parents. Later in the morning there were break out meetings by the board of directors as well as from the outreach committee. Several wonderful ideas came out of the outreach committee of where our organization can support projects in Uttarakhand. Details on the UANA Outreach Program and how you can support them are provided in the Projects page of the website. The morning sessions were followed up with a mix and mingle lunch break and the general body meeting.

The evening started early in the afternoon with the traditional Annual Cultural Program. The Cultural Program was a high energy event with an array of performances ranging from the classical (e.g., Bharat Natyam and bhajans) to contemporary Uttarakhandi and Bollywood medleys. In the true Pahari spirit, participants ranged from tiny tots to our senior members in the community. The convention finished out with a great evening of dinner and dancing which stretched out to the wee hours of the night. Overall the convention turned out to be very successful, in which members contributed in various ways to make this an immemorial event. We invite you to look at the pictures that reflect the high energy of the convention. A video of the convention is under development and will be soon available.