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Association of Kannada Kootas of America (AKKA)

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[www.akkaonline.org](http://www.akkaonline.org)

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Dear friends:

With the enthusiastic support and encouragement of more than 4000 plus Kannadigas, AKKA WKC 2006 in Baltimore hosted by Kaveri Kannada Association was a grand success. We are sure; all of you thoroughly enjoyed three days of extravaganza and hospitality of Kaveri members.

It is now the turn of Vidyaranya Kannada Koota of Illinois (VKK) who has been selected to host the next Conference in 2008. VKK, one of the oldest and vibrant Kannada Kootas will host the 5<sup>th</sup> AKKA World Kannada Conference in Chicago. All of you are well aware of the fact that Chicago is the third largest city in USA and was recently selected to be America's choice of host city to compete for the 2016 Olympics. Sight seeing places include Sears Tower, Navy Pier, Magnificent mile shopping center, Lake Michigan cruise, Science & Industrial Museum, Art Museum (where Swami Vivekananda gave his famous speech in the Parliament of Religions in 1883), Planetarium, Field Museum, world Champion Chicago bulls, Chicago Bears, White Sox and Cubs beautiful stadiums, and a whole lot of other interesting places and shopping centers. Add to this some of the most magnificent Hindu temples in North America. We urge you to make attending the Conference a family vacation and spend a few days in this magnificent city.

VKK has started making preparations for this grand event in right earnest. The Conference will be held on **Friday August 29, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>** with Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup> being holiday for the Labor Day. The Conference will be held in Rosemont Convention Center just a few minutes from O'Hare airport. Rosemont Convention Center is one of the prestigious convention centers in the country and is ideal for our type of Conference. Some of the hotels which are right across the convention center are connected with a sky bridge to walk to convention center. The convention center allows Indian food to be prepared on site and that is a big advantage when additional delegates have to be served in the last minute.

Just like in previous AKKA Conferences, we are inviting high profile artists, authors, etc. from Karnataka to entertain and enlighten the attendees. We will also have Youth Forum, Business Forum, Women's Forum, Continuing Medical Education (CME), etc. Of course, you will all relish authentic and sumptuous Karnataka food.

We will update you with the details of the Conference preparations in the coming months. As always early bird registrants will get a discount and this information will be published on the [www.akkaonline.org](http://www.akkaonline.org) shortly. We look forward to your continued support and encouragement. Every effort will be made to make this Conference very innovative and enjoyable so that you can carry back lots of unforgettable experiences. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Ramesh Gowda**  
AKKA President

**Mokshagundam Jayaram**  
AKKA WKC 2008 Convener

**Vasanthi Gowda,**  
AKKA WKC 2008 Convener

**Shivamurthy Keelara**  
AKKA WKC 2008 Convener