

AKKA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date:	March 13, 2008 (Thursday)	
Time:	9: 00 pm – 10: 30 pm	
Location:	Conference Call	
Attendees:	1. Mr. Amarnath Gowda 2. Mr. Ben Kantharaju 3. Dr. H.N. Viswamithra 4. Mr. Shantharaju Kempaiah 5. Dr. Kudur Murali 6. Mr. Madhu Rangaiah 7. Mr. Prabhu Dev 8. Mr. Ramesh Gowda 9. Mr. Raj Siddaraju 10. Mr. Ravi Dankanikote 11. Mr. Shamaiah Setty 12. Dr. Shekar Sastry 13. Mr. V.Nanjundaram 14. Mrs. Vasanthi Gowda 15. Mr. Dayashankar Adappa 16..Mr. Harish Hiremath 17. Mr..Nataraj Kote 18. Dr. T. Sethumadhava 19. Dr. Prabhakara P. Rao 20. Mr. Anil Murthy 21. Mr. Krishnamoorthy Ullur 22. Mr. Srinath Bhalke 23. Mr. Ramesh Muniswamy 24. Mr. Keerthi Pandit 25..Mr. Shivu Bhat 26. Mrs. Nagamani Viswanath 27. Mr. M. Krishnamurthy 28. Mr. Mohan Cadaba 29. Mr. Jagannath Nayak 30. Mr. Nanjangud Srikanta 31. Mrs. Sreeranjini Raja Absentee proxy 32. Mr. Ramesh Bangalore 33. Mr. Suresh Ramachandran 34. Mrs. Vanita Harish 35. Dr. M.N.S.Swamy	
Guests:	AKKA WKC 2008 Conveners - Shivamurthy Keelara & Mokshagundam Jayaram	

Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome new Directors
2. Update on AKKA WKC 2008 by Conveners
3. AKKA Charity Activities
4. Update from AKKA Board of Trustees Meeting
5. Update on AKKA Lawsuit
6. AKKA WKC 2010 Venue
7. Update on AKKA Constitution Amendment efforts

As always, the meeting started with a prayer emphasizing **Souhardathe - Harmony**

Ramesh emphasized **Souhardathe - Harmony**– the fundamental theme adopted during his term and thanked directors for their support.

1. Welcome New Directors:

Ramesh mentioned since our last BOD meeting in November 2007, there are few changes in some Kannada Koota Presidents and some new Kannada Kootas joined AKKA.

New Charter Kannada Koota from South Florida has joined AKKA. Nandi Kannada Koota of South Florida. He welcomed President **Smt. Sreeranjini Raja** to the Board.

He welcomed the new Presidents from the following Charter Members:

- Missouri Sate Sangama Kannada Association of St.Louis came back to AKKA after a brief absence - President **Sri. Nanjangud Srikanta**

- Vidyaranya Kannada Koota President **Sri. Jagannath Nayak**
- Kaveri Kannada Association President **Sri. Shivu Bhat**
- Mysore Mallige Kannada Koota of Midwest President **Sri. Raj Siddaraju**
- Triveni Kannada Association of Delaware valley President **Sri. Vivek Belagodu**
- Nashville Kannada Koota president **Sri. Krishnamoorthi Ullur**

Ramesh mentioned that there are now **27 Charter Kannada Kootas**, that is **4 more** than we had when he took the charge. He thanked some of the AKKA Directors who worked behind the scene to make this all possible. He also mentioned that he and other Directors are working on bringing back other Charter Kannada Kootas to AKKA.

2. Update of the AKKA WKC 2008

He mentioned It is just more than 5 months left for the big event and people in Chicago are working very hard.

He Thanked Vasanthi Gowdare, Shivamurthy Keelara avare, Jayaram avare for their leadership in energizing and motivating 30 or more Conference Committees with more than 200 committee members.

The conveners updated the Board with the progress on the AKKA WKC 2008

Update from Shivamurthy Keelara:

- Requested for encouraging people for early bird registration.
- 1700 registrants so far
- Prime time programs for WKC 2008 are Friday. Saturday and Sunday (9 – 11 PM)
- Programs from P Rajasekar ; folk songs is included
- Saturday Star night with Guru Kiran, Punith Rajkumar, Shivraj Kumar, Upendra and Nandita
- Sunday programs with theme “Kannadve Satya”

Update from Jayram:

- Five Dramas including a drama from Nagabaran from Karnataka.
- Dances include classical and folk dances from local artists, India Artists and charter member artists. Also included, few orphanage dances
- Sudha Murthi from Infosys foundations funding for a dance from a blind school.
- Talent Shows arranged; Math Wizard
- Govt of India sponsoring Yaksha Gana group
- Doolu Kunitha (Drum Dance)
- Puppet show
- Radio Show
- AKKA Idol
- Charity program
- Renowned Chandrasekar Kambara agreed for literary activities
- Women forum , dances, women health
- Youth band and dances
- Planning on Rata yatra – processions.

Update from Vasanthi Gowda:

- Just two days remains for early bird registrations.
- CME -80 registration
- Audio Video planning in progress
- Rosemont center planning is finalized.
- Karnataka History display in Kannada and English

- Decorations committee is working on a highway theme with Karnataka cities included
- March 31 is the deadline for souvenir articles

3. AKKA Charity Activities:

Totally, there are 3 projects underway. The overall strategy is to use one year for the Conference and other year for the Charity activities.

- **Project 1 - SEF Hospital**, Bangalore just got inaugurated last Sunday. AKKA-India Coordination Committee Chair Sri. M. Krishnamurthy attended the inauguration ceremony in Bangalore. Thanked previous AKKA Charitable Foundation Chair M.Jayaram, Past President Dr. Kudur Murali and his EC also the AKKA WKV 2006 Team for this endeavor
- **Project 2 - Rasamanjari Program**
 - Conducted the fundraising event in 8 cities under a theme “**Anaatha Makkalige AKKA la Aashraya**”
 - We Raised nearly \$50K (expenses around \$25K) thanks to the entire Rasamanjari Team and the Kannada Koota Presidents.
 - The Rasamanjari Team will work on the next steps to distribute the funds
 - One of the highlights of this is participation of Houston Kannada Vrinda – no participation since 2000

Thanked the Rasamanjari team lead by Nagashankar, Chair of AKKA Cultural Committee and all Kannada Koota Presidents who organized the event.

- **Project 3 - Cloths, Toys & Books Collection Drive.** We collected stuff from
 - Pampa Kannada Koota, MI
 - Colorado Kannada Koota, CO
 - Mallige Kannada Balaga of Charleston, WV
 - Abhimana Kannada Sangha, KY
 - Richmond Kannada Sangha, VA
 - Columbus Kannadigas.OH

The shipment has reached India. Krishnamurthy is working on filling out the papers to clear customs. Thanks to East-West relocators who shipped these goods free of charge.

- **Proposed Project – Kannada Literacy Project**
 - Association name
 - To Assess the literacy level and to teach Kannada to non-Kannada speaking people
 - They will be developing Cards of Kannada vocabulary (reusable)
 - Their work is funded by Tata Foundation
 - Tata has funded other languages
 - Matching Contribution from Tata Foundation
 - More information will be provided to see how AKKA can help this project

4. Update from AKKA BOT Meeting:

We had a in-person BOT meeting in Las Vegas on March 1, 2008. One of the Trustee Dr. Chardrashekar is from Las Vagas and he was gracious enough to host the meeting and we thank him for that.

We did not conduct an election in time to elect the Chair of the BOT due to AKKA lawsuit and related pending issues. Amarnath Gowda didn't want to continue as a BOT Chair. However, the Trustees felt and insisted that he continue as a Chair of the BOT. AG, reluctantly agreed to do so with a condition that he will serve up and until the end of 2008 year.

Ramesh thanked Amarnath Gowda for accepting to continue as a BOT Chair and he mentioned AKKA is certainly fortunate to have him as a part of AKKA. He has lead AKKA organization through some of the most difficult situations. We truly appreciate your contributions to AKKA.

One of the goals of the meeting was to appraise the Trustees on the current activities of AKKA and develop strategies to take AKKA to next level.

Here is the summary of the outcome of the BOT meeting:

1. AKKA should emphasize in raise the membership base
2. Emphasize youth related activities by conducting an AKKA Youth Conference.
3. Work with government of Karnataka to sponsor artists to participate in AKKA Charity activities.
4. AKKA Newsletter Publication
5. Invite Kannadigas to WKC 2008 from other Kannada organization of outside North America like Singapore, Dubai, UK, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, etc.
6. Speed up the Constitutional amendment efforts
7. Register AKKA as a non-profit organization in India to accept charitable donations.
8. Increase AKKA Publicity activities through media partnership

5. Update from AKKA Lawsuit:

Ramesh mentioned that the current law suit is going on for more than a year and has not seen any light and we are operating "business as usual" and not affected bit on what we planned to do.

He requested Amarnath Gowda to give the board an update on the current status of the Lawsuit.

Update from Amarnath Gowda:

- They dropped charges on election irregularities and sticking to the BOD composition 60:40 issues.
- AKKA attorney Joe Kauffman and Chuck is working on the lawsuit
- In addition to the 3 plaintiff, 2 more added (Keshava Babu and Jayaswamy)
- Comments from BOD
 - Dr.Viswamitra requested BOD to work on AKKA activities rather than the lawsuit.
 - Jagannath Nayak wanted a clarification if the current lawsuit a class action law suit. To which Amarnath said no.
 - Kudur Murali commented" Money and time is wasted, instead of using for better activities". AKKA is in the better position than ever in its history.
 - Dayashankar Adappa asked Harish Hiremath if could talk to the plaintiffs to drop charges and to which Harish mentioned he has no contact with them for quite some time
 - Sreeranjini wanted to know if there enough efforts made to resolve the issue without pursuing the lawsuit. Murali & Amarnath mentioned several Directors approached Dr. Renuka Ramappa & Rajjur and they were not willing to compromise.
 - Ramesh mentioned indemnity Insurance could not be subscribed due pending lawsuit.

6. AKKA WKC 2008 Venue:

Some of you may recall, 2 Kannada Kootas wanted to host the AKKA WKC 2008 – KST and VKK. The Conference Selection Committee awarded VKK the 2008 Conference and awarded 2010 Conference to KST with a condition that KST must accept to do the 2010 conference by writing to the AKKA President by May 31, 2007. The then KST President Padma Jangamakote requested to extend the deadline to August 31, 2007 as their GB is in July. The AKKA EC extended to do. Since then we didn't received any communication from them.

I refer this to the AKKA EC in Feb 5th, 2008 meeting to advise me. EC asked me to send one more reminder to the current KST President to see if they are still willing to host the 2010 conference, if not open the bid to all Kks.

Since I didn't receive anything from the KST president, we will be opening the bid to all Kks.

7. Update on AKKA Constitution Amendment efforts:

- During November 29, 2007 BOD meeting I mentioned that the AKKA By-law committee will be looking into AKKA Constitution to make amendments to clarify ambiguities exist the current constitution and to accommodate the growing needs of the AKKA organization.
- The By-law committee took a comprehensive look at the constitution and made few changes and added few articles. The committee will work with attorney Joel Kaufman to finalize the proposed amendments.
- Once this is done, it will be sent to the BOD for feedback.
- After that, we will be mailing it to the General AKKA members to ratify it.
- We need to ratify soon so that the BOD election can be completed before the conference.

8. Miscellaneous:

AKKA Scholarships:

- 2 scholarships to be awarded at the Chicago Conference
- Ramesh will be forming an ad-hoc committee involving KK presidents to develop the criteria

AKKA Calendar 2008:

- The AKKA 2008 calendar in collaboration with Kannada Tourism Department
- The whole process started in December of 2007 and there is a significance delay due to having no government in place.
- They will be mailed out to BOD & members..