

AKKA EC Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2008

Meeting Date:	February 5, 2008 (Tuesday)
Time:	9: 00 pm – 10: 30 pm
Location:	Conference Call
Attendees:	1. Mr. Shantharaju Kempaiah 2. Mr. Ramesh Gowda 3. Dr. Shekar Sastry 4. Mrs. Vasanthi Gowda 5. Mr. Dayashankar Adappa 6. Mr. Prabhu Dev 7. Suresh Ramachandran 8. Mohan Cadaba
Guests:	None

Meeting Agenda:

1. AKKA WKC 2008 Update
2. 2010 AKKA WKC Venue
3. BOD & EC Elections 2008
4. Constitution Amendment Update
5. Update on AKKA Charity activities
6. AKKA Scholarships
7. St. Louis Kannada Koota rejoin AKKA
8. AKKA Media Partnership with Vijaya Karnataka
9. Miscellaneous topics

1. AKKA WKC 2008 Update

Vasanthi Gowda, one of the conference conveners updated the EC with the following on the AKKA WKC 2008 progress:

- Over 1300 Registrants so far
- Early-Early bird rate deadline extended to March 15, 2008
- Registration packet will be mailed shortly
- Working with Gurukiran & C Aswath
- Food contracts getting reviewed.
- AKKA discount rooms in Double Tree are sold out. Rooms are still available at Crowne Plaza hotel. Working on adding few more hotels
- Artist P3 visas are being processed through Law Offices of Amarnath Gowda.

2. 2010 AKKA WKC Venue

President gave a brief background on the 2010 AKKA WKC Venue Selction

- 2 Kannada Kootas competed to get the AKKA WKC 2008 – Kannada Sangha of Toronto and Vidyaranya Kannada Koota.
- The Conference Selection Committee (CSC) awarded VKK the AKKA WKC 2008 with an option to Toronto to host AKKA WKC in 2010.
- The CSC requested KST to acknowledge AKKA President that they are willing to do the conference by May 31, 2007.
- The KST President Padma Jangamakote requested to extend the deadline to August 31, 2007 as their General Body meeting scheduled in July 2007.
- In our EC meeting on May 24, 2007 EC agreed to extend it to August 31, 2007
- Since then we have not heard anything from them

The President requested the EC to advise what the next steps should be. The EC members suggested making a courtesy contact the KST President to check if they KST is ready to host the AKKA WKC 2010. If they are not interested, then open the applications to other Kannada Kootas including KST to host the AKKA WKC 2010

3. & 4. BOD & EC Elections and Constitution Amendment:

- It is that time of the year; we need to do 2 elections - BOD and EC. We thought we can conduct both elections before the AKKA WKC 2008
- It looks like the practical thing to do is just do the BOD elections in May/June and then do the EC elections after the conference.
- Before we do the BOD elections, we need to look at the Constitution to clarify the issue of 60:40 as it dictates how many Directors position needs to be filled.
- As this is one of the points that the current law suit against AKKA the plaintiffs alleging
- The AKKA By-law committee to look into this – not just this 60:40 issue but other areas as well – for example eligibility issue, etc and recommend amendments.
- AKKA attorney Joel Kauffman will review our By-law committee recommendations and present it the Board for their input
- After this, we will get ratification from the General Membership.
- It takes some time to carry out all these steps and hoping to ratify the amendments by April and then call for the BOD elections.
- Suresh suggested to hold the EC elections at the AKKA WKC 2008 so that the directors will have a chance to meet the candidates in person.

5. Update on AKKA Charity Activities:

The President mentioned that AKKA is carrying out 3 Charity projects

a. Rasamanjari:

- The Rasamanjari program was successful indeed considering it was decided in the last minute and with a preparation of just 2 months.

- The funds raised from the Rasamanjari is closed to \$50,000 and the AKKA Rasamanjari Team will work on the next steps of distributing these funds after deducting the expenses which is closed to \$25,000

b. Sankara Eye Foundation:

- Just last month, we gave the remaining \$30K to them which was part of the \$100K we promised to become partner in Bangalore Eye Hospital
- The Hospital is scheduled to be inaugurated on March 9th. He requested any of the EC members in Bangalore to attend this event.
- AKKA's name will be listed as one of the partners in the hospital's main lobby

c. Cloths, toys & books Drive:

- We collected boxes of stuff (cloths, toys & books) from various Kannada Kootas and the first shipment has been already sent to India by East-West Relocators at free of cost.
- M. Krishnamurthy, AKKA-India Coordination Committee Chair will be assisting in providing appropriate documents for the customs clearance.
- The distribution of these stuff will be through another local charity organization called Saphami Trust, Bangalore.

6. AKKA Scholarships:

- AKKA is planning to give 2 scholarships to 2 students – one male student and another for female student at the AKKA WKC 2008
- Need to determine the amount of each scholarship, draft the criteria for awarding these scholarships
- Will be seeking few Kannada Koota Presidents to be part of an ad-hoc committee to look into the whole process
- Suresh suggested awarding scholarships to the highest scorer in SAT exam. The EC agreed to have the ad-hoc committee to recommend on this

7. St. Louis Kannada:

- Ramesh thanked Vasanthi Gowda for contacting the President of Sangama Kannada Association of St. Louis and persuading them to come back to AKKA
- Now, in one of the past BOD meeting we passed a resolution that EC will review such situation when an AKKA Charter Kannada Koota wants to come back.
- President requested EC to approve their coming back to AKKA as St. Louis is close to Chicago; they can bring a good number of delegates from there.

Suresh proposed a resolution to accept the Sangama Kannada Association of St. Louis to AKKA.

Prabhu Dev seconded the resolution.

Resolution passed with new objection.

- On this note, Ramesh requested other EC members to contact other Charter KKs who are not participating in AKKA.
- Suresh agreed to contact Cleveland KK and Pittsburg KK to bring them back to AKKA and Prabhu agreed to work on KKNC of California.

8. AKKA Media Partnership with Vijaya Karnataka:

- Suresh Ramachandran met the Chief Editor of Vijaya Karnataka (VK) Mr. Vishweshwara Bhat and discussed a potential of making them as an AKKA Media Partner. VK wants AKKA to put them as a “Media Partner of AKKA” on the AKKA website.
- In turn, VK will publish colorful 4 pages special edition covering AKKA WKC 2008.
- The EC members thought it’s a good idea as VK has largest circulation of all papers in Karnataka. Moreover, VK has prominently displayed AKKA logo on their website.
- Suresh will talk to them in having an MOU spelling out the specifics of such agreement
- Prabhu mentioned Hridayanani News paper also approached him with similar type of partnership.
- AKKA will review the pros and cons of having such media partnerships and any impact on other news media people.
- Vasanthi Gowda wanted to make sure that there is no financial burden on the AKKA WKC 2008 from the visiting media people.
- Some EC members suggested that we need to give at least free registration and accommodation for prominent media personalities.

8. Miscellaneous Topics

- Prabhu mentioned he & Ramesh met the Director of Karnataka Govt. Public Libraries Mr. Rajendra Kumar in Dec 2007 in Bagalore. Mr. Kumar has agreed to give certain copies of about 50 plus Kannada books free of cost to distribute them to Kannada Kootas in USA provided AKKA bear the cost of shipping from India
- Ramesh suggested that we can use the container that AKKA WKC 2008 may be using to ship stuff from Karnataka
- **makeMy trip.com** willing to talk to AKKA WKC 2008 folks with a sponsorship potential.
- Mohan suggested that any programs from KKs to AKKA WKC 2008 must consent their KK President. Vsanthi said it’s a good idea to enforce it but it’s too late as they have already received many program entries. Definitely something to think about for future WKC
- Mohan Cadaba referred singers Roopa and Deepa for the conference. Vasanthi mentioned that she will have the Program/Music Committee to look into it.