

AKKA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting Minutes

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| Meeting Date: | September 06, 2007 (Thursday) | |
| Time: | 9: 00 pm – 10: 30 pm | |
| Location: | Conference Call | |
| Attendees: (total 26) | Mr. Amarnath Gowda Mr. Shantharaju Kempaiah Mrs. Nagamani Mr. Ramesh Gowda Mrs. Vasanthi Gowda Mr. Ramesh Bangalore Mr. Datta Ajampur Dr. H.N. Viswamithra Dr. Kudur Murali Mr. Prabhu Dev Mr. Ravi Dankanikote Mr. Dayashankar Adappa Mr. Srinath Bhalle Dr. Shekar Sastry Mr. Harish Hiremath | Mr. Shamaiah Setty Mr. M.Krishnamurthy Dr. Sethumadhava Mr. Murali Iyer Mr. Ramesh Muniswamy Mr. Raj Shashi Mr. Ben Kantharaju Mr. V.Nanjundaram Mr. Keerthi Pandit Mrs. Geetha Srinivas Mr. Swamy Narayana |
| Guests: | None | |

Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. AKKA Charity event - "Rasamanjari 2007"
3. Update on Charity Collection Drive
4. AKKA WKC 2006 Accounts
5. Sankara Eye Hospital, Bangalore
6. Update on AKKA WKC 2008 by Convener Vasanthi Gowda
7. AKKA Publication
8. New AKKA Committee

1. Welcome:

The meeting started with a prayer from Dr. Kudur Murali, a prayer of Harmony.

Ramesh emphasized **Souhardathe - Harmony**– the fundamental theme he has adopted during his term and said it has been working very well so far and he wants to keep it that way.

President welcomed new Director from Toronto Kannada Koota Mr. Ramesh Bangalore. He also welcomed Mr. Raj Shashi of Karnataka Cultural Organization - Brindavana of New Jersey for rejoining AKKA.

With respect to Brindavana rejoining AKKA, some directors expressed concern in accepting Charter Kannada Kootas who have withdrawn support to AKKA in difficult times and come back to AKKA when things are going fine. The Directors also wanted to know why the Charter Kannada Kootas leave and come back whenever they feel like

and there should be a process in place to accept back Charter Kannada Kootas who temporarily withdrawn support to AKKA or don't have any representation to AKKA. Since there is no process in place currently to handle these types of situations, the Board agreed Brindavana to rejoin AKKA and in future any Charter Kannada Kootas wants to come back to AKKA, it must be referred to the AKKA Executive Committee (EC) and EC will make a decision to accept back or not.

With the above in mind, the Board passed the following resolution:

Any rejoin of Charter Kannada Kootas to AKKA, the Charter Kannada Koota President or its representative must be present their intention to the AKKA Executive Committee (EC) and EC will make a final decision.

Proposed by: Ben Kantaraju

Secoded by: Vasanti Gowda

Resolution passed with no objections.

2. AKKA Charity Event – Rasamanjari 2007

AKKA's objective in addition to promoting Kannada language and culture, in North America, is to undertake charitable work to help the needy people of Karnataka. In 2005, AKKA organized Manoranjani program across USA under a theme "Educate Children of Karnataka" and raised over \$70K and helped 13 primary schools to improve school building, provide school uniforms, book, etc.

Similarly, AKKA is planning to do a "Rasamanjari" program this year under the leadership of AKKA Cultural Secretary Nagashankar. Here are the details of the Rasamanjari program:

Theme: Anaatha Makkalige AKKA la Aashraya

Fundraising Target: \$150,000 - \$200,000

When: One month – Mid-October to Mid-November

Where: in about 10 Kannada Kootas

Tentative cities - DC, New York, New Jersey, Detroit, Chicago, California South, California North, Seattle, Florida, Atlanta, Boston, Houston

Sanjay Rao, Ravi Dankanikote, Mahesh Srinivas (Toronto), M.Krishnamurthy and other AKKA Directors are working hard in making this event a huge success.

Ramesh urged every AKKA Directors to raise minimum \$1,000 - through their own contribution or getting sponsorship

In addition to this Ravi Dankanikote & Sanjay Rao are approaching some big sponsors in India – Deepam Silks, Ganjam Nagappa Jewlers, Prathibha Jewlers, etc.

2. AKKA Charity Event – Rasamanjari 2007 (Cont'd)

Invited Artists for Rasamanjari program:

3 categories:

Comedians: Richard Louis & Mysore Anand
Singers: L.N. Sastry & Supriya Acharya
Actors: Anu Prabhakar & Sunil Rao

Law office of Amarnath Gowda is helping us out in filing necessary visa papers for the artists.

With respect to the Rsamanjari Program, following resolution was passed:

To kick start the AKKA Charitable activity “ Rasamanjari” program, the Board authorizes AKKA Operating account to pay seed money up to \$30,000 to AKKA Charity account to towards artists travel and Visa arrangements.AKKA Charity account must pay back the seed money back to AKKA Operating account at the conclusion of the Rasamanjari program.

*Proposed by: Sri.Krishnamurthy
Secoded by: Ms. Vasanti Gowda and Harish Hiremath
Resolution passed with single voice.*

3. Update on Collection Drive:

We initiated this drive back in March of this year. We have collected over 400 boxes of cloths, children books and toys from 6 cities across USA

1. Colorado Kannada Koota – Thanks Dr. Prabhakar Rao
2. Abhimana Kannada Sangha, Louisville, Kentucky – Thanks Keerthi Pandit
3. Friends of Columbus, Ohio – Lokesh Bangalore (friend of Keerthi Pandit)
4. Richmond Kannada Sangha – Srinath Bhalle & Manjula Reddy
5. Mallige Kannada Balaga, Charleston, WV – Vanitha Harish
6. Pampa Kannada Koota of Michigan – Dayashankar & Shantharaj

Ramesh thanked the participated Kannada Koota Presidents who took leadership in organizing this drive and said the pictures related to this drive will be posted on the AKKA website shortly.

All boxes have arrived in Michigan, thanks to Yellowfreight Trucking Company who helped us in shipping these boxes from various cities to Michigan at a reasonable rate.

These boxes will be picked up by East-West Relocators Company to be shipped to Karnataka free of cost.

This year, it was like an experimental thing and we will do it more aggressively next year with all Kannada Kootas participating in such charity drive.

4. AKKA WKC 2006 Accounts:

As we all know, AKKA WKC 2006 event was a huge success attendance –wise, program-wise, monetary-wise. The conference has given a big boost to both AKKA and Kaveri organizations. Once again, AKKA wants to thank the Conveners Ravi Dankanikote, Suresh Ramachandran, Treasurer Harish Hiremath and of course all the Kaveri members and AKKA Directors including previous AKKA Executive Committee under the presidency of Dr. Kudur Murali and BOT chair Amarnath Gowda

Part 1: - AKKA WKC 2006 Accounts (by Harish Hiremath)

AKKA WKC 2006 Treasurer (also an AKKA Treasurer) presented the accounts to the Board. Here is the summary.

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Revenue: | \$1,061,307.40 |
| Expense: | \$ 870,329.26 |
| ===== | |
| Net Income: | \$ 190,978.14 |
| ===== | |

Please note that the reported number includes both US & India Rupee accounts. Harish mentioned that he presented the accounts in the Kaveri special General Body Meeting held on August 25, 2007 and it was approved without any objections.

The detailed accounts and the audited report are posted on the AKKA website.

Part 2: - Distribution of the surplus funds (by Ramesh Gowda)

Per Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) between AKKA & Kaveri, the surplus will be shared 50-50. Accordingly, AKKA & Kaveri organizations will receive **\$95,489** each

AKKA's objective is to bring Kannadigas of North America together with the help of Kannada Kootas. Obviously AKKA could not have done by itself without the support of Kaveri and its members. With this in mind, a decision was made in the last BOD meeting (June 14, 2007) that AKKA will thank Kaveri by taking the following steps:

- AKKA will pay the expenses of DVD production & distribution – up to \$20,000 (actually it came to about **\$18,000**) Thanks to Doddana Rajashekar of Kaveri for coordinating the editing, producing and distributing DVDs (about 1500 or so) including the publicity materials – About AKKA, AKKA WKC 2008 Flyer, etc.
- AKKA also gave **\$10,000** to Kaveri towards annual sponsorship of **Vasanthosthava** an annual event to be conducted by Kaveri under AKKA's name.

So, the net amount AKKA has received from WKC 2006 is: **\$67,489**

Ramesh thanked Kaveri President Swamy Narayana and his Executive Committee , Ravi D, Suresh, Harish for coordinating this plan and getting by Kaveri General body in a very friendly and cordial way.

5. Sankara Eye Hospital - Bangalore:

AKKA has pledged \$100,000 to Sankara Eye Foundation (SEF) towards Sankara Eye Hospital in Bangalore as part of SEF's *Vision 20/20 Project* (eradicate blindness by the year 2020) with an understanding a matching contribution of another \$100,000 from B.V. Jagadeesh of California. This will make AKKA as one of the partners of the Hospital.

So far, AKKA has raised \$70K (mainly during the AKK WKC 2006) and B.V.Jagadeesh has already contributed \$100K.

So, AKKA needs to donate another \$30K to become a partner in the Hospital. When I say partner, a section of the hospital will bear a name of AKKA

Ramesh requested the Board to approve this amount of \$30K to fulfill our obligation.

With respect to this, the following resolution was passed:

To fulfill partnership commitment between AKKA and SEF to build an Eye Hospital in Bangalore, AKKA agrees to pay the remainder of commitment around \$30,000.00

Proposed by: Sri.Krishnamurthy

Seconded by: Dr.Kudur Murali

Resolution passed with no objections.

6. AKKA WKC 2008 Update

Vasanthi Gowda, one of the 3 conference conveners presented to the Board following update on the progress of the AKKA WKC 2008 event.

- More than thirty (30) committees have been formed with chairs, co-chairs and committee members.
- Agreement signed with Rosemont Convention Center (RCC), Chicago area's premiere facility for large conventions and Trade shows.
- Contract signed with two hotels conveniently located across RCC.
- Catering contract for RCC under review.
- Registration arrangements are in final stages. Contract has been received from C- Vent. Registration will commence very shortly.
- All Committee Chairs meeting was held on August 19th. In addition, Committee Chairs & Co-Chairs visited RCC on August 25th.
- AKKA WKC 2008 Bank account has been opened.
- AKKAWKC2008 postal address is in place.
- Principal Secretary of Kannada Culture, Information & Tourism Mr. Vittal Murthy met some of the WKC 2006 Committee Chairs on September 3, 2007 and offered various suggestions for the AKKA WKC 2008 team including AKKA youth exchange program.

Vasanthi & Ramesh requested all the Directors to get involved in various conference committees. Ramesh mentioned that the next Board meeting will be dedicated to getting inputs from the Directors for the conference and the other 2 Conveners – Mokshagundam Jayaram and Shivamurthy Keelara will be invited for the BOD meeting.

7. AKKA Publication

In the last BOD meeting I mentioned we want to collaborate with B.V. Nagarj of Toronto who happens to be Chairman of AKKA Newsletter Committee in bringing a colorful publication (monthly/quarterly) for kannadaigas of North America.

In the last BOD meeting, there was a mention of “Amerikannada” started by Harihareshwara. Ramesh clarified that the current Nagarj’s publication “KannadaAmerica” has no connection to “Amerikannada”. Also, some directors mentioned that if the name can be changed to “AKKA Vahini”

Ramesh will be talking to B.V. Nagarj to discuss in detail how we can work this out logistics and the economics of such publication.

Murali Iyer suggested that this logistics of the publication must be “process-centric” and not the “person-centric” and to define the purpose & goals of such publication.

The following resolution was passed:

We propose AKKA president to discuss further with BV Nagaraj to explore the possibility of AKKA publication.

*Proposed by: Sri.Prabu Dev
Secoded by: Dr.Viswamithra
Resolution passed with single voice.*

8. New AKKA Committee:

Ramesh mentioned that he was approached by many Kannadiga Cricketers in this country that AKKA should sponsor a Cricket tournament. This will not only publicizes AKKA organization but also get many young Kannadigas get involved in AKKA.

Keepin this in mind, Ramesh mentioned formation of a new AKKA Committee – **Sports Committee** to organize sports activities (Cricket, Badminton, Volleyball, Carom, etc..) across the country. , He appointed Madhesha Basavaraj of Virginia as a Chairman of the “AKKA Sports Committee”.

The following resolution was passed:

Appointment of new committee, we propose appointment of new committee” Sports” and named “Madesh Basavaraju “to plan and execute activities.

*Proposed by: Dr.Viswa Mitra
Secoded by: Ms. Vasanti Gowda
Resolution passed with single voice.*