

AKKA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date:	September 30, 2008 (Tuesday)	
Time:	9: 00 pm – 11: 00 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. Murali Minnah 8. Mr. Ramesh Gowda 9. Dr. T. Sethumadhava 10. Mrs. Sreeranjini Raja 11. Mr. Ramesh Bangalore 12. Dr. Shekar Sastry 13. Mr. V.Nanjundaram 14. Mrs. Vasanthi Gowda 15. Mr. Dayashankar Adappa 16. Dr. Prabhakara P. Rao 17. Mr. Srinath Bhalle 18. Mr. Anil Murthy 19. Mrs. Vanita Harish 20. Mr. Nanjangud Srikanta	21. Mr. Nataraj Kote 22. Dr. Narayanaswamy Nadig 23. Mrs. Usha Prasanna Kumar 24. Mr. Ramesh Muniswamy 25. Mr. Keerthi Pandit 26. Mr. M. Krishnamurthy 27. Mrs. Nagamani Viswanath 28. Mr. Jagannath Nayak 29. Mr. Vivek Belagodu 30. Mr. Bhavani Kumar 31. Mrs. Rekha Makam 32. Mr. Ramachandran Suresh 33. Mr. Ravi Dankanikote 34. Mr. Shivu Bhat 35. Mr. Vasu Chikkatur Murthy 36. Dr. Geetha Srinivas 37. Mrs. Yamuna Srinidhi 38. Mrs. Jayasheela Murthy 39. Mr. Janardhan Kamath 40. Dr. Ramakrishna
Guests:	Mr. M .Jayaram and Mr Shivamurthy Keelara (Conveners, WKC2008 Chicago)	

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. AKKA WKC 2008 Remarks by 3 Conveners & Account update
3. Sharing AKKA Members List with the AKKA Directors
4. AKKA Elections Process
5. AKKA WKC 2010

Secretary Shantharaj took a roll call of the people called in for the BOD meeting and declared there is a quorum and called the meeting to order.

President Ramesh Gowda thanked Shantharaj for his hard work behind the scene in getting logistics in place for this meeting – calling Directors, sending meeting notice, etc.

1. Welcome:

The President thanked all the Directors attending AKKA BOD meeting. He expressed that he is happy to see most of the directors have called in for the meeting. He said, “in fact, this was one of the main objectives for his team – that is to bring everyone together. He only hope all the Directors will continue to work together harmoniously like this to make AKKA even bigger, stronger and better.”

As always, the meeting started with a Prayer – prayer of **Harmony**. Dr. Kudur Murali, the past AKKA President started the prayer

President said “**Souhardathe - Harmony**– that’s the fundamental theme we have adopted during my term.” He thanked each one of you for making it possible.

Welcome New Member:

Since last BOD meeting in May, there were several new KK Presidents have become AKKA Directors. They are:

1. **Usha Prasanna Kumar** – Kannada Cultural Organization – Brindavana of NJ
2. **Rekha Makam** – Sampige Triangle Kannada Association of North Carolina
3. **Janardhan Kamath** – Kasturi Kannada Association of Celeveland
4. **Jayasheela Murthy** – Sangama of Pittsburgh
5. **Bhavani Kumar** – Kannada Koota of N.California

President welcomed the new directors to the AKKA Family and mentioned “currently, there are 32 Kannada Kootas as AKKA Charter Members”. Ramesh thanked Vice President Vasanthi Gowda for initiating contacts with some of the Charter Members.

The main goal for my team when we took in charge last year was to:

1. Increase the General Membership - almost doubled – thanked Mr.Madhu Rangaiah, the Chairman for the Membership Committee
2. Amend the Constitution – thanked Mr.Basavaraj Shivanna, the Chairman of By-law committee for leading this activity
3. Continue the Charity Activities carried out by the previous management under the leadership of Dr. Kudur Murali. We conducted Rsamanjari – thanked Mr.Nagashankar, the Chairman of Program Committee, SEF again raised another \$70K in Chicago for Shimogga Hospital, Distributed cloths, books & toys - Notebooks
4. Introduce AKKA Scholarships – Awarded 2 scholarships to 2 high school students during the AKKA WKC 2008
5. Organize the 5th AKAK WKC successfully learning from the previous WKCs

President said, “in addition to all these statistics, most importantly, we are united today than ever before and the attendance at today’s meeting proves it”.

President said “in the beginning, these goals seemed unattainable especially with a law-suit hanging over our head which caused division amongst ourselves. We were able to achieve the goals we set very successfully. For the success, the President credited his EC team, Committee Chairs, Trustees and most of all the Directors who trusted and supported his leadership.

2. AKKA WKC 2008 Remarks by 3 Conveners & Account update:

The President thanked the entire Vidyaranya Kannada Koota members lead by the 3 conveners **Mokshagundam Jayaram, Vasanthi Gowda and Shivamurthy Keelara** and also the VKK President **Jagannath Nayak** and the VKK EC for successfully hosting the AKKA WKC 2008. On behalf of AKKA, he thanked VKK and the 3 conveners for elevating AKKA's name to a higher level and requested the 3 conveners to share their thoughts on organizing this mega event.

Mrs. Vasanti Gowda:

- Thanked all AKKA Board of Directors for their support in making the conference so successful & memorable.

Mr. Mokshagundam Jayaram:

- Thanked all Board members and thanked Amarnath Gowda, Ramesh Gowda for their extended support in the success of conference. The lessons learned and best practices during the conference will be prepared to share with AKKA for future conferences.
- Mentioned success of "Rathayathra" and great responses from Karnataka in terms of Artists, funds and support.
- All the WKC 2008 bills be paid and accounts details will available to AKKA in 3 to 4 weeks. As of now, the funds available will pay-off the expenses to make it break-even
- Thanked all the AKKA members for their generous financial pledge support during general body meeting.

Mr. Shivamurthy Keelara:

- Thanked all India coordinators and mentioned Mr.Jagadish Rangaswamy and eSanje Nagaraj's for their help towards success of the conference.
- Special thanks to Amarnath Gowda , Ramesh Gowda, Ravi Dankani Kote, Dr. Kudur Murali and Samanth Laxman for their support to raise good sum of funds from India.
- Thanked all the board members for their support.

The President again thanked the 3 conveners and thanked Mr. M. Krishnamurthy, Chairman of AKKA India Coordinator Committee for coordinating the efforts to transfer AKKA rupee account balance to US dollars.

3. Sharing AKKA Members List with the AKKA Directors:

President said this kind of request to share the members list with the entire BOD never came up until now. In the past, such list only provided to the final contestants.

President made it clear related to some ideas/rumors floating around if we share the list and conduct the election by an independent agency, Dr. Renuka Ramappa will drop the lawsuit. He said we have not made any such negotiations with Dr. Renuka Ramappa.

President requested BOT Chair Amarnath Gowda and co-consular in the ongoing lawsuit to share his thoughts on the status of the lawsuit and what's the next step.

Amarnath Gowda gave a following update on the lawsuit:

1. He reminded the Board many members at the General Body meeting suggested Dr. Renuka Ramappa to withdraw the lawsuit.
2. To that, Dr. Renuka Ramappa expressed she too want to put an end to the lawsuit and she said she will consult all the parties involved in the lawsuit and would get back to us.
3. Instead of withdrawing the case, they filed a new papers in support for summary judgment on September 17, 2008 even after she said she is planning to withdraw the case. AKKA's attorney in Florida Chuck Lane indicated "simply, they are not going to go away"
4. Amarnath is confident that the lawsuit will be dismissed soon after the elections are announced and assured the Board not to worry on lawsuit.
5. He mentioned the money spent in fighting the lawsuit could have been used for the noble cause such as charity. He also mentioned that but for his Law office and his colleague attorney Joel Kauffman, the lawsuit expenses would have been at least 3 times what we have spent so far.
6. He said that the lawsuit must be withdrawn without any conditions from the plaintiffs. Any condition, if at all AKKA should ask the plaintiff to compensate all the expenses incurred by AKKA in defending this lawsuit.
7. He advised board members to not discuss AKKA lawsuit any further and focus on finalizing the election process and move forward with it.

President thanked Amarnath Gowda for explaining the Board on the status of the lawsuit and for the assurance that the lawsuit will be dismissed even if the plaintiffs do not withdraw the case.

Then the discussion was back on sharing the members list.

President said, "Since there is no history on this issue, we need to discuss this and come up with a workable solution. Again, the interest here is not to withhold any information but at the same time, we need to consider members' privacy as well as interest of AKKA organization. Certainly, we do not want members list in the hands of unscrupulous people outside of the Board which may pose the threat to the organization itself."

He reported EC members' opinion on this issue as follow:

- Release of the AKKA Members list to the BOD members as the AKKA Directors and KK Presidents are responsible people.
- AKKA should release its members list to Board of Directors, with a condition they should not misuse. You certainly can ask the recipient to declare that they will not use the list for commercial or marketing purposes.

EC was suggested if there is a BOD decision to share the list, and then following must be followed:

Board member who is interested in obtaining the list must make an e-mail request to the Secretary with the following conditions:

- I agree to take complete responsibility in maintaining the members' privacy and the list will not be shared with others.

- I agree that members' information provided to me will only be used for verification or for election purpose and not for any other personal or marketing reasons.
- I personally assume the complete responsibility of any legal issues which may arise due to breach of member's privacy or other related violations for which I am responsible for.

With this background from the President, he requested the Board to offer their opinion and they are summarized below:

1. Mr. Vasu Chikkatur suggested to seek the members if it's OK to release their information. President said it's not possible at this point given the time constrain we have.
2. Dr. T. Sethumadhava suggested to add to the condition mentioned earlier indicating "AKKA will not be responsible for any privacy issues resulting from sharing the members list to BOD"
3. To Dr. Ram Krishna's question on sharing the members list to BOD election contestants, President said that the list will be given to the contestants with condition stated above.
4. Jaganth Nayak requested to obtain the release consent from members and release the list excluding the opt-outs. It was agreed that's a good idea and President said it can only be implemented as we go forward.
5. Mr. Vasu Chikkatur Murthy questioned the board of directors the "purpose of seeking the members list by non contestants" . He insisted board to "do not disclose if it is not needed". Asked the board members requesting the list to present the valid purpose of the request other than election purpose. If it is required for election purposes, the election commission will provide the list with the above discussed "Confidentiality agreement". Also, suggested to create a secured website with appropriate controls and audit logging on access to authorized individuals.
6. Dr. Naryaswamy Nadig echoed the above thought and questioned "why do we need for such list".
7. Mr. Suresh Ramchandran, M. Krishnamurthy expressed sharing such list will help in finding out if their family or friends are members or not so that they can approach them to become members.
8. Mr. M. Krshinamurthy indicated not to waste any more time and pass a resolution "Share or Not share the list to the non-contesting board members; but list will be shared with the contestants for election purposes with the conditions" .

With respect to the members list sharing, the Board was put forth with the following question:

To share the members list with the conditions OR Do not share the list

Proposed Resolution:	Do not share the list
Proposed by:	Mr. Natarja Kote
Seconded by:	Mr. Ravi Dankanikote, Mr. Ben Kantharaj, Mr. Dayashankar Adapa, Mr. Vasu Chikkatur Murthy...and several others

There was no objections and resolution passed not to share the members list.

4. AKKA Election Process:

President said “we have been looking into this issue of conducting BOD & EC elections through an independent agency for over a year and in fact earlier this year, I requested Dr. Kudur Murali to look into this and contacted several local Govt. agencies, accounting firm and non-profit organizations. We didn’t get any positive response from the people/agencies we approached either from the cost perspective or willingness to help us out”

This issue was discussed with the Executive Committee and their opinion is summarized below:

- a. Board of Directors and AKKA executive elections should be conducted by an independent third party professional organization
- b. Obtain an estimate and depending on that have the contestants pay for partial or whole expense

President said pertaining to the elections we need to answer 3 questions:

Q1. Who is going to conduct the elections?

Internally by AKKA people or externally by an independent agency

Resolution: AKKA elections must be conducted by an independent agency
Proposed by: Dr. Kudur Murali
Seconded by: Mr Krshna Murthy, Dr. Rama Krishna, Mr. Dayashankar Adapa,
Mr. Ravi Dankanikote, Mr. Keerthi Pandit, Mr. Vasu Chikkatur
Murthy

There were no objections and the above resolution was passed.

Q2. How we are going to do it?

- Voting Online administered by the independent agency in a secured way
- Voting by post (snail mail) administered by an independent agency
- Voting by post (snail mail) and online by an independent agency

President mentioned that there are Pros & Cons of each of the option in terms of Cost factor, time factor, convenience factor, missing mail issues, delay in sending & receiving mails from Canada, etc.

Resolution: Voting by post (snail mail) and online by an independent agency
Proposed by: Mr. Keerthi Pandit
Seconded by: Mrs. Vasanti Gowda, Mrs. Sriranjani Raja

There were no objections and the above resolution was passed.

Q3. Who is going to bear the cost of conducting elec

Resolution: Cost of elections will be paid by AKKA
Proposed by: Mr. Ravi Dankanikote
Seconded by : Mrs. Rekha Makam, Mrs. Sriranjini Raja, Mrs. Nagamani Vishvanath, Dr. Rama Krishna

There were no objections and the above resolution was passed.

Other Resolutions passed related to the elections:

A. Resolution for number of Directors to be elected in the upcoming BOD election:

- As of September 30, 2008, there are 32 Charter Kannada Kootas and 20 Elected Directors
- According to the AKAK Constitution, a ratio 60:40 must be maintained between Charter Kannada Kootas & the Elected Directors
- So to satisfy the ratio, there must be 21 elected directors.
- 10 directors were elected in 2006 for 4 years. Hence we need to elect 11 Directors to the Board by the AKKA members.

Resolution: 11 Directors must be elected in the upcoming AKKA BOD election
Proposed by: Mr. Ramesh Gowda
Seconded by: Mr. Rekha Makam, Mr. Ramesh Muniswamy, Mr. Nanjunda Ram

No objections and the above resolution was passed with single voice.

B. Resolution for voting eligibility

Proposal: Members who have paid dues by September 30, 2008 are eligible to vote in the BOD election
Proposed by: Mr. Ben Kantharaj
Seconded by: Mr. Suresh Ramachandra, Mr. Nataraj Kote, Mrs. Vanitha Harish, Mrs. Rekha Makam

No objections and the above resolution was passed with single voice.

C. AKKA elections administration with third party

Proposal: AKKA President and Secretary will oversee in identifying the independent Agencies, getting quote as well as on the elections logistics such as finalizing election calendar of events, providing the members list, charter KK list, etc.
Proposed by: Mr. Ravi Dankanikote
Seconded by: Mr. Nanjunda Ram, Mrs. Nagamani Vishwanath, Mrs. Rekha Makam, Mr. Nataraj Kote, Mrs. Geetha Srinivas.

No objections and the above resolution was passed with single voice.

Miscellaneous discussions on the lawsuit:

- Mr. M.Krishnamurthy suggested to compromise with the plaintiffs and bring a closure to the lawsuit.
- Amarnath added "all options were openly offered during WKC2008 general body meeting". The parties agreed to withdraw and work with AKKA. Instead, they have filed a motion in court for summary judgment after the general body. All options are open for them to withdraw without any conditions. The ball is in their court.

- Mr. Vasu Chikkatur Murthy offered he will host for a mediation meeting in New York at his expense.
- Mr. Nataraj Kote also offered to host such a mediation meeting if required
- Mr. Ravi Dankanikote reminded he offered to host such a mediation meeting early 2007 in neutral place Washington DC on

5. AKKA WKC 2010:

President mentioned, “due to success of the AKKA WKC 2008, lots of people were asking where will be the next AKKA Conference.”

He reminded the Board, per the recently amended constitution, an MOU must be in place to before the conference is awarded. Like an Olympic event, certain standards and the expectations set by AKKA must be met by the host city. The MOU will describe such standards and the expectations for the conference.

President will appoint an ad-hoc Conference Committee to oversee this process and selecting venue for the AKKA WKC 2010.

Ramesh Bangalore, President of the Kannada Sangha of Toronto (KST) requested to share his thoughts with the BOD why Toronto is a good choice for AKKA WKC 2010.

AKKA President clarified if other Kannada Koota or group come forward to host AKKA WKC 2010, KST needs to bid for the conference along with others. He requested Ramesh Bangalore to share his thoughts with the BOD.

The summary from Ramesh Bangalore’s speech is given below:

- Thanked the BOD for the opportunity given to him to share his views on AKKA WKC 2010
- 2008 conference was not given to Toronto based on an assumption that there were some differences amongst the KST leaders
- He assured the Board that he has consulted with the KST senior leaders and they are all for hosting the 2010 conference
- He said, Toronto will be great venue for the conference as there is so much added tourists attractions for the attendees
- Toronto is located within driving distance from US and East Coast and Midwest cities.
- Other neighboring Kannada Kootas like Montreal, Ottawa will be joining KST for this event.
- Govt. of Canada will offer any kind of support to host this event in terms of sponsorships, Visa issues etc.
- He is involved in various Indian organizations in a leadership role and thus he will bring vast leadership experience in conducting the AKKA conference successfully.
- Ramesh Gowda thanked Ramesh Bangalore for sharing his thoughts with the BOD and suggested that he put together all these when submitting the bid.

The BOD meeting was adjourned as there were no roundtable items