

AKKA Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date:	March 01, 2008 (Saturday)
Time:	6:00 PM PST - 7:30 PM PST
Location:	Las Vegas & Conference Call
Attendees:	1 Mr. Amarnath Gowda 2 Dr. H.N. Viswamithra 3 Mr. Shantharaju Kempaiah 4 Dr. Kudur Murali 5. Mr. Ramesh Gowda 6. Dr.Chandra Sekar Narala
Guests:	Vasanthi Gowda as a Convener of the AKKA WKC 2008

Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Update on AKKA WKC 2008
3. Update on AKKA activities
4. BOT Chair Election
5. Pending Issues
6. Strategies to take AKKA to higher level
7. Policy guidelines to amend constitutional amendments

1. Welcome:

- Quorum for the meeting declared.
- Amarnath Gowda, the Chairman of the BOT welcomed the trustees and thanked Dr. ChandraSekar Reddy for hosting in-person meeting in Las Vegas.

2. Update on AKKA WKC 2008 (by Convener Vasanthi Gowda)

- a. WKC 2008 committee chair and co-chair meetings are scheduled and conducted monthly to review the progress and any issues.
- b. Approximately 1500 registrations completed. Hoping for big change during the March 15 week (i.e. Next deadline for the early-early bird discounted registrations.)
- c. US mail sent to the entire address list from the previous conventions and akka members with letter from WKC 2008, fundraiser letter and registrations form.
- d. Few KK were selected to send letters to KK members.
- e. Three prime time programs are distributed among three conveners for better coordination and handling
 - Friday : *Surya Dance school* – Musical drama with 30 artist from local St Louis KK for 90 minutes – Vasanti Gowda is coordinating
 - Saturday : *Kannadave Sathya* by C ASWAT orchestra – M. Jayram is coordinating
 - Sunday : *Star Night* with Guru Kiran – Shivamurthy Keelara is coordinating
- f. Karnataka Chamber of Commerce is interested in setting up booths in the WKC conventions.
- g. Advised to mobilize India Coordinating committee and publish this information as soon as possible.

- h. Contacted Vittal Murthy, the Principal Secretary of Kannada & Culture, Information & Tourism Department and provided a list of artists for the Govt. sponsorships.

3. Update on AKKA Activities:

Ramesh Gowda, the President of AKKA gave the Trustees on the AKKA activities and planned activities for AKKA.

AKKA activities:

AKKA Charter Members:

- New Charter Member: South Florida KK
- Came Back: Sangama Kannada Koota of St. Louis
- Working on: KKNC – had a meeting with their Trustees and explained why they have to be part of AKKA
- Working on Kannada Vrinda of Houston
- So, currently there are 27 Charter Kannada Kootas

Charity Activities:

- Totally, there are 3 projects underway
- SEF Hospital, Bangalore inauguration set for March 9, 2008 - Planning to send BOD about this
- Rasamanjari Program
 - Raised nearly \$50K (expenses around \$25K)
 - 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
- Cloths, Toys & Books Distribution – First shipment has reached India. Krishnamurthy is working on filling out the papers to clear customs

AKKA Scholarships:

- 2 scholarships to be awarded at the Chicago Conference
- Will form an ad-hoc committee involving new KK Directors to develop the criteria.

AKKA Calendar 2008:

- 4th year publication – Kannada Tourism Department (KSD) Principal Secretary Vittal Murthy
- The whole process started in Dec 2007 when I was in Bangalore
- KSD even announced in their Press Conference that they are going Global with the partnership of AKKA.
- The calendar design is being finalized.

Planned Activities:

Establish AKKA Office in Bangalore:

- We submitted a request letter to the then CM Kumaraswamy and I believe he has approved it
- We have sent another reminder letter to VM and I also spoke with him on this last December
- It's important to establish this office so that we can register AKKA office in Bangalore
- Open a bank account

AKKA Publicity:

- We have done a great job on this front in Karnataka and we have done pretty good job here as well, but we can do more.
- One way is getting Kannadigas in US & Canada involved in AKKA in addition to Kannada Kootas.
- Kannada Books Distribution with the help of Govt. Public Libraries
- Kannada Book Release – compilation of experiences here “Anisikagalu”
- During the conference – we want to play video on the main screen showing the AKKA activities, previous conferences, etc. The video will have an upbeat music, images and KK names, etc.

AKKA WKC 2010 Venue:

- EC advised me to contact KST if they are interested
- Didn't receive any response from KST
- Will open application to all KK to host the AKKA WKC 2010

AKKA's time at the conference:

- We have 30 minutes on Sunday evening for AKKA business
- Introduction of AKKA BOT, BOD & EC Members with upbeat music, etc.
- AKKA scholarships
- AKKA WKC 2010 Venue (hopefully)

4. BOT Chair Election & 5. Pending Issues:

Amarnath Gowda addressed Board about current situations about AKKA Lawsuit and pending issues with disciplinary action against AKKA trustee and directors lead him to continue as chairman of the board of trustees. Amarnath expressed that the AKKA now is in a great position to fight the lawsuit and he announced the Board that he wants to step down as a Chair of BOT and requested Trustees to elect a new Chair.

Kudur Murali requested Amarnath to continue as Chair as we don't want to change as we are in the middle of the AKKA WKC 2008 preparations and the lawsuit.

All other Trustees present at the meeting felt the same and requested to continue as a Chair

Amarnath reluctantly agreed to continue as a Chair only until the next executive committee in place.

Kudur Murali proposed the following resolution:

Amarnath will continue as a Chair of BOT until the next EC is in place.

Viswamithra seconded the proposal. The resolution passed without any objections.

6. Strategies to take AKKA to higher level:

- Kudur Murali mentioned stronger organization like AKKA should increase memberships and WKC's should give discounts to AKKA members.
- Conference MOU should be signed prior to awarding the conference
- Youth related activities must be emphasized at the conference and a separate youth conference must be organized.
- Proposed a plan to work with Govt. of Karnataka to sponsor artists to participate in AKKA Charity fundraising programs here in USA & Canada.
- Proposed a continuation of AKKA Newsletter.
- Discussed about involving AKKA with other NRI Kannada organization globally outside of North America and suggested to send invitations to Presidents of those Kannada organizations.

7. Policy guidelines to amend constitutional amendments:

- BOT suggested accelerating the AKKA constitution amendments efforts
- The amendments must address the deficiencies, ambiguities, of the current constitution and also specifically clarify the 60:40 ratios.
- Any members running for a BOD position, he or she must be a AKKA Life Member