

AKKA Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting Minutes

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| Meeting Date: | Jan 20, 2009 (Tuesday) |
| Time: | 9: 00 PM – 10: 30 PM |
| Location: | Conference Call |
| Attendees: | Amarnath Gowda, Kudur Murali, Ramesh Gowda, Shantharaju Kempaiah, Dr. Halekote Viswamithra, Dr. Chandrasekhar Reddy |
| Guests: | None |

Agenda:

1. **Report by the President**
2. **Pending Issues**
3. **Miscellaneous Issues**

Mr. Amarnath Gowda, the Chairman of the BOT welcomed the trustees with New Year wishes with a mention “It’s a historic day” we all witnessed son of an immigrant, colored person taking an oath as president of America. He discussed the role of AKKA trustees keeping AKKA’s growth in coming years. He requested Mr. Ramesh Gowda to brief the BOT with the AKKA activities.

1. AKKA President’s Summary:

Mr. Ramesh Gowda thanked Mr. Amarnath Gowdare, the Chairman of BOT and all the Trustees for dialing in for the meeting. He thanked the Secretary Shantharaju Kempaiah for setting up the meeting.

Ramesh thanked each of the Trustees for their support and advice given him and his team for last 2 years. He said. “When we took in charge of AKKA office back in 2007 with a dark cloud of lawsuit hanging over us, we were not sure how much could accomplish and where AKKA was heading”. He thanked all for believing in us and for the encouragement given to us. He briefed the trustees with the following AKKA activities carried out during 2007-08 period:

Overall:

- Our administration main objective was to build a compassionate organization bringing harmony in AKKA amongst Board of Directors and Charter Member Kootas. We were very successful in achieving so and we worked as one team in accomplishing many things for the organization. Even though there were some differences amongst the Directors, we were able to bring them together and work for the common cause.
- We increased participation AKKA Charter Kannada Kootas. When we took in charge, there were only 23 Charter Kannada Kootas were participating in AKKA activities. We increased to 32 Charter Kannada Kootas.

- We also brought in discipline to BOD meetings calling meetings only when needed and running meetings effectively.
- We always looking for ways to work smarter not simply harder.

Charity Activities:

We focused on 3 charitable projects during past 2 years

- SEF Hospital, Bangalore was inaugurated in March 2008. We fulfilled our obligation of \$100K towards this hospital to become an official partner in the Bangalore Hospital. Thanks to the previous AKKA Executive Committee under the leadership of Dr. Kudur Murali and his Charitable Foundation Committee member lead by Mr. Mokshagundam Jayaram for their effort in raising as much as \$70K at the AKKA WKC 2006 in Baltimore.
- Rasamanjari Program with a theme – “Anatha Makkalige Akkala Ashraya”
 - Raised nearly \$50K conducting events in 8 cities across US. We put together this event in such a record time of less than 3 months. Thanks to Cultural Committee Chair Mr. Nagashankar and the entire Rasamanjari Team
 - One of the highlights of this is participation of Houston Kannada Vrinda – who had participated in AKKA activities since 2000
 - After expenses, we have over \$20,000 left to distribute to the orphanages. This fund has been transferred to AKKA India account in Bangalore and the funds will be distributed shortly.
- Conducted Cloths, Toys & Books collection drive with the help of several charter Kannada Kootas.

AKKA Scholarships:

- 2 scholarships \$1,000 each were awarded at the Chicago Conference to 2 high school students.
- We set up 2 ad-hoc committees (Scholarship committee to develop process, criteria, etc & judging committee to evaluate the essay and credentials).
- The members of these 2 committees are Kannada Koota Presidents.

AKKA Calendar:

- We continued the tradition of publishing AKKA calendars 5th year in a row in 2008 with the help of Kannada Tourism Department. We outsourced the mailing of these calendars to a third party in Chicago. This was cost-effective and efficient.

AKKA Publicity Video:

- On the occasion of AKKA's 10th anniversary and for the first time in AKKA's history, we produced a 10 minute publicity video highlighting the achievements of AKKA and I am sure most of you saw this video at the conference.

- We worked with Govt. Public Libraries in bringing 3,000 books from India to Chicago and distributed them to the attendees. Again, we cleverly worked with the Library to ship them along with the conference consignments. This is an example for working smarter mentioned earlier - finding a ways to do things cost-effectively.

AKKA Constitution Amendment:

- With the help of AKKA By-Law committee headed by Mr. Basavaraju Shivanna, we made significant amendments to the AKKA Constitution. We developed a very good process to address this challenging task. I want to thank Attorney Joel Kaufmann for his input and review of the amendments. Of course, even though we made quite a bit changes, we still need to make certain changes to remove ambiguities. The process we have now in place will be very useful in making any future amendments easily.

Membership Subscription:

- During last 2 years, we doubled the membership base – thanks to Mr. Madhu Rangaiah the chairman of the Membership Committee and his team.
- We also made significant progress in cleaning up the membership database with missing information. We still have some work to do there.

Elections:

- For the first time in AKKA, we used an independent agency “Election Trust” based in Seattle, WA to conduct BOD and EC elections.
- I worked with them very closely to develop a process and they executed the election in a very professional manner.
- The cost worked out reasonably well – about \$5,200 for both elections. It would have costed about \$4,000 even if we had to conduct ourselves and of course not to mention the tedious task of ballot counting.
- So, I recommend them for the next elections as they already know the process.

AKKA WKC 20008

- The AKKA Conference in Chicago was a huge success with nearly 4,000 people attending. He thanked the 3 conveners – Mr. Mokshagundam Jayaram, Mr. Shivamurthy Keelara & Mrs. Vasanthi Gowda for leading this effort along with the host VKK.
- Some of the successes are:
 - Food quality and logistics was flawless
 - The prime time entertainment were a huge hit with about 3,000 people in presence each night

- Fundraising in India was huge hit - over Rs 1 crore raised
- Distributed 3,000 Kannada books donated by Dept. of Public Library of Karnataka
- First time a CM of Karnataka attended an AKKA conference.

There were some areas of the conference, we certainly can make improvements. He said, some of these issues will be addressed in the new MOU we will have in place before awarding the conference with AKKA managing some of the key decisions for the conference.

- The AKKA WKC accounts are being finalized.
- We have requested RBI to approve the transfer of Rs.48 Lakhs to US.
- Due to weak Rupees, we lost about \$15K of the funds from the funds we collected in India.

AKKA Account Status:

- While executing AKKA activities, we effectively managed the AKKA funds very effectively. Currently, we have about \$54K in operating account and \$25K in Charity account – we have already set aside \$20K from the Rasamanjari account in AKKA India account.

AKKA WKC 2010 Venue:

- New Jersey, Toronto and KKNC have shown interest in hosting the AKKA WKC 2010. I will leave it up to the next administration to form a Conference Committee to evaluate the applications.

Division in AKKA?:

- I am sure you have heard or read about a rumor that AKKA will be splitting – engineered by Mr. M.Krishnamurthy.
- Krishnamurthy has resigned his AKKA membership and his Director position. In his press release he is claiming to form another organization and some of the current AKKA Life members have joined him.
- Some of the AKKA Directors and members have brought to my attention and to the BOT Chair to take disciplinary action against these members working against AKKA.
- I request the BOT to look into this.

Power Transition:

- Today, January 20, 2009 is an historical day for the people of this country and around the world as well a first African-American officially became the President of USA.

- I want to propose to make January 20th as the power transition for AKKA office bearers as well.
- With that in mind, later today, I will be transitioning my power to the new AKKA President and his team as I have received the final result from the Election Trust.

In Conclusion:

- Overall, we feel very good about the things we accomplished and the progress we made considering the distraction of AKKA Lawsuit and divided AKKA BOD. We were able to bring them all on the table and able to work with some challenging tasks.
- As AKKA is growing, there are many challenges and opportunities. I will be working with the next administration to work on things we had in plan but couldn't accomplish.
- Once again thanks to all the Trustees, Executive Committee members, elected directors, Kannada Kota Presidents/ reps, various Committees for their help and support for last 2 years to make AKKA better and stronger.

2. Pending Issues:

Chairman Mr. Amarnath Gowda thanked Mr. Ramesh Gowda for his detailed report on AKKA activities for the period 2007-08. He briefed the trustees on pending issues concerning the disciplinary actions against Dr. Renuka Ramappa, Mr. Seetha V Ramaiah and Mr. Sharanabasava Rajur for taking AKKA to court. He said AKKA trustees took extraordinary step by issuing notices to the aforementioned. As you all know, all along, we took legal advice and acted according to the direction of AKKA's attorney. In the interest of AKKA Amarnath Gowda and Dr. Kudur Murali travelled to Tampa and met Dr. Renuka Ramappa to convince her to drop the lawsuit. Eventually, Dr. Renuka Ramappa, Mr. Seetha V Ramaiah, and Mr. Sharanabasava Rajur withdraw the lawsuit. Based on the above information, Amarnath Gowda proposed the trustees to drop the pending actions against these 3 members and sought the trustees for their approval:

Resolution:

“Drop all pending disciplinary actions against Dr. Renuka Ramappa, Mr. Seetha V Ramaiah , and Mr. Sharanabasava Rajur, as all three have unconditionally withdrawn their lawsuit against AKKA”

Proposed By: Ramesh Gowda
Seconded By: Dr. Viswamithra

The resolution was passed without any objection.

3. Miscellaneous items

Amarnath briefed on miscellaneous items:

- That concerning Mr. M. Krishnamurthy's recent anti AKKA activities including false allegations on AKKA and its office bearers, ridiculing newly elected BODs, and working against the mission and objectives of AKKA were reviewed in detail and board of trustees considered issuing a notice to him.
- Further, Mr. M Krishnamurthy not only went to the press but also circulated mass emails against AKKA organization. The news article circulated in this mass e-mail listed the following AKKA members:
 - Mr. Suresh Ramachandran
 - Dr. Keshava Babu
 - Dr. Renuka Ramappa
 - Mr. Sharanabasava Rajur
 - Dr. Rama Krishna
 - Mrs. Uma Jayaswamy
 - Mr. Valisha Sastry
- As of this date, AKKA has received communication from Mr. M.Krishnamurthy that he has resigned his AKKA board membership and AKKA life membership. Mr. Suresh Ramachandran has resigned his AKKA life membership as well. We do not have any communication from others members listed above.
- Mr. Amarnath Gowda presented these facts to board of trustees to discuss and decide each one listed in detail separately.
- Trustees after a detail review, recommended and approved the following 3 resolutions:
 - Expel Mr. M. Krishnamurthy.
 - Contact Mr. Suresh Ramachandran to clarify the issues detailed in his resignation as an AKKA member
 - Contact other concerned parties mentioned above to get their clarification about the news article

Resolution Regarding Mr. M. Krishnamurthy:

"Expel Mr. M. Krishnamurthy from AKKA organization for his anti-AKKA activities including:

- 1. Attempting to bring down AKKA organization*
- 2. Insulting newly elected AKKA Directors*
- 3. Questioning the intentions of the AKKA members*
- 4. Attempting to divide and form a parallel organization.*

Proposed By: Dr. Kudur Murali

Seconded By: Mr. Ramesh Gowda

Resolution passed without any objection.

Action Item:

- Notify Mr. M. Krishnamurthy about Expulsion and remind him not to use the AKKA name or Logo directly or in-directly in any media including email, press statements, television, or in public. Should Mr. M. Krishnamurthy not follow these conditions, AKKA will retain the right to take any and all legal actions against him.

Resolution Regarding Mr. Suresh Ramachandran:

“Clarify from Mr. Suresh Ramachandran the claim of Mr. M. Krishnamurthy attempting to divide and form a parallel organization”.

Proposed By: Dr. Kudur Murali

Seconded By: Dr. Viswamithra

Resolution passed without objection.

Action Items

- Contact Mr. Suresh Ramachandran for his clarification.

Resolution for all other AKKA members listed above as part of M.Krishnamurthy’s team in forming a parallel organization to AKKA

“Contact other concerned parties to get their clarification about the news article.”

Proposed By: Dr. Kudur Murali

Seconded By: Dr. Chandrasekhar Reddy

Resolution passed without objection.

Action Items

- Contact the members for clarification.

Wrap-up:

- Mr. Amarnath Gowda thanked all outgoing board directors and the entire Executive (EC) for their dedicated services to AKKA. In particular, he thanked Mr. Ramesh Gowda for his leadership and the wonderful job he did in ruining the AKKA organization for 2 years.
- The BOT congratulated the newly elected BODs and the newly elected EC under the leadership of Mr. Ravi Dankanikote.
- On behalf of the outgoing EC, Ramesh Gowda thanked the BOT Chair Mr. Amarnath Gowda and all the trustees for their extended support.

With no other open issues, meeting was adjourned.