



Veerashaiva Samaja of North America



Rejuvenating Local VSNA Chapters

A report submitted to Central VSNA

- By -

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Revision History

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Executive Summary

During the month of September 2006 Central VSNA conducted a Boot Camp to look into all aspects of Central VSNA and to make central VSNA more effective. One of the projects identified was to rejuvenate local chapters. As part of the project – “Rejuvenate Local VSNA Chapters”, a survey was conducted by the project team consisting of Dr. S. Chandramauli, Vice President and Mr. Channu Kambalyal, Member, Board of Directors. A list of questions was sent out to all the nineteen (19) local chapter presidents to assess the functioning of each local chapter.

The survey indicated that there are about 1200 Veerashaiva families in North America and about 570 families actively participate in functions organized by local chapters. It was found that few chapters are functioning very well and few chapters need guidance and assistance in getting organized. Almost all chapters expressed interest in setting up their web-site and/or sharing the space in www.vsna.org. Central VSNA has already created a start-up page for all chapters to start contributing their information.

In order to rejuvenate local chapters, it is recommended that the central VSNA carryout the following:

1. Continue to encourage all chapters to contribute to their allocated pages
2. Proactively interact with local chapters in person and over phone
3. Interact with central VSNA members directly via email besides communicating through local chapter presidents.

Following guidelines are suggested for all local chapters:

1. The local chapter should have a minimum of 3 executive members namely, President, Vice-President and Secretary
2. The local chapter should have at least 3 programs or functions namely Basava Jayanthi, Shivaratri and one outdoor picnic
3. The local chapter should perform at least one *Dasoha* (charity work) in a year. The Charity may include food service, clothing or toys to the needy people or organizations such as Goodwill and Salvation Army.
4. All chapters should publish their activities with information about their activities, photos and videos on the pages already created for them by Central VSNA on its web site.

The local chapters namely - California-North, Chicago, Detroit, New England, New York and Toronto chapters are organized very well and are capable of assisting other chapters as well as assist the Central VSNA. The chapters that need assistance and guidance are – Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and West Virginia chapters.

Based on discussion with local chapters, 2 new local chapters namely, Houston and Pennsylvania chapters are suggested. Due to large population and distance considerations the formation of local chapters for New Jersey, Upstate New York and Vancouver may be initiated.

1. Introduction

During the month of September 2006 Central VSNA conducted a Boot Camp to look into all aspects of Central VSNA and how to make it more effective. One of the projects identified was to rejuvenate local chapters. As part of the project – “Rejuvenate Local VSNA Chapters”, a survey was conducted by project team consisting of Dr. S. Chandramauli, Vice President and Mr. Channu Kambalyal, Member, Board of Directors. A list of questions listed below was sent out to all the nineteen (19) local chapter presidents. The list of questions that was sent to the local chapter presidents was as follows:

1. Name of the local VSNA Chapter and area (major cities/state/part of the state) covered
2. A rough estimate on number of Veerashaivas in the region covered by your chapter.
3. Average number of members attending the functions
4. List of festivals/functions your chapter celebrates every year
5. List of religious activities (like reciting vachanas, speeches, songs, prayers, etc) carried out during each functions listed above
6. List of other non-religious social activities like summer picnics, kannada classes carried out by your chapter
7. Structure of the local chapter (list positions like President, Secretary, etc if any)
8. Membership fees collected per family and individual members
9. Does your chapter use Central VSNA – Tax Id for Income Tax deduction purposes?
10. If your local chapter does not use the Central VSNA – Tax Id, do you have a separate Tax-Id
11. Does your local chapter have a web-site or in the process of making one. If yes, name the link to the site
12. How do you reach out to new-comers (like university students and relocated Veerashaivas) and past members?
13. List any point that you think may help in rejuvenating your chapter and/or other chapters as well

Responses from local chapters were very encouraging. The responses collected from local chapters are listed in Appendix. Following sections summarize the findings from the survey with details such as - how each chapter is functioning and what help they need from central VSNA.

Lastly, few recommendations are made for Central VSNA to make their presence felt in local chapters and a few new chapters are proposed to help VSNA activities in North America.

2. Local VSNA Chapter Activities and Recommendations

The survey conducted with help of local chapter presidents and members provided good amount of information to make an assessment of how local chapters are functioning and what central VSNA can do to rejuvenate the local chapters. Data collected indicated that there are:

1. An estimated 1200 Veerashaiva families in North America
2. About 570 families actively participate in local VSNA chapters

Following sections briefly summarize the activities of local chapters and their feedback for central VSNA to help rejuvenate the local chapters. Suggestions, if any, specific to the chapter is also included.

2.1. *Alabama*

Alabama VSNA chapter is relatively a small group. In spite of having only about 5 families in the state they still meet regularly and conduct functions during the main functions of Basava Jayanthi and Shivarathri. Office bearers consist of President only. Few suggestions for Alabama chapter are as follows:

1. Always have a minimum of 3 office bearers namely President, Vice-President and Secretary even if the strength is small.
2. All office bearers should actively look for new-comers especially students in Universities located in the state.
3. Initiate volunteer (Dasoha) activity even if in a small way
4. Use the web-site of Central VSNA to publish the activities.

The local chapter suggested central VSNA the following:

1. The local chapter feels there is no communication with local chapter from central VSNA and no one has attended the national VSNA convention. Central VSNA office bearers should take more interest in communicating over phone or in person.
2. Central VSNA should ensure that the quarterly newsletters are sent to the chapter president.

2.2. *California – North*

North California VSNA chapter seems to be the largest local chapter with about 80 families out of 200 resident families regularly attending the meetings. The chapter meets regularly on Basava Jayanthi, Shivarathri and Deepavali. The chapter actively works with Shankara Eye Foundation in Shivamoga District of Karnataka. The chapter also has a Public Relations Officer to help with marketing and fund collection for charity. The chapter has the following points for central VSNA:

1. There are no updates on central VSNA site
2. There is a big communication gap with central VSNA

3. Human interaction is missing with Central VSNA
4. Web site should support audio and video
5. Central VSNA should become a platform to recognize achievers
6. Welcome package should contain detailed contact information of members and office-bearers
7. Directory should be online with at least the names and phone number
8. Youth should be connected via central VSNA
9. Is there a vision statement for central VSNA?

Besides addressing the above points suggested by the chapter, central VSNA should do the following:

- California-North chapter has their own web-site. Central VSNA should work with this chapter to help build a more dynamic web-site for central VSNA. It may be a good idea to merge the 2 sites so that all VSNA members can benefit from the contributions of this chapter.

Based on the survey of 2 other chapters in California State, it looks like more interaction between the chapters in the state of California is required.

This chapter being one of the larger chapters needs better representation in Central VSNA.

2.3. California-South

South California covers major cities of Los Angeles and San Diego. The region has about 65 families of which only 16 families meet regularly. The chapter celebrates all major festivals. Unique thing about the local chapter is that they have “*sat-sanga*” and have movie shows related to “*Sharanas*”. The members go on cruise almost every year. The chapter performs “*Dasoha*” by donating non-perishable items to charitable organizations. The chapter would like central VSNA to do the following:

1. Central VSNA office-bearers should personally visit local chapters
2. There should be frequent communication with central VSNA
3. Startup-Kit has not been received by members of central VSNA

2.4. California-Central

California-Central VSNA chapter is called “Basava-Balaga”. It was started in 2004. It covers major California cities around Fresno. Besides 8 Veerashaivas families live in the region, 3 Brahmin families attend “Basava Balaga” functions regularly.

This chapter would like the following to happen:

1. There is need for co-ordination of VSNA chapters within the State of California
2. The chapter would like to have space on central VSNA web-site

2.5. Chicago

VSNA-Chicago covers the states of Illinois and Wisconsin. However, regular members are usually from Chicago-land area and Milwaukee. Out of an estimated 50 families in the region about 32 families regularly attend the local chapter functions. The chapter celebrates all major festivals. During the month of January 2008, the chapter came up with a new web site - <http://vsna.org/chicago/> . The local chapter needs to do the following:

1. Local chapter should perform Dasoha or any charitable work
2. Should assist other chapters in creating web-site central VSNA

Chicago-VSNA would like the following from Central-VSNA:

1. Publish Festival Timings on www.vsna.org
2. Central VSNA should communicate directly via email with all members besides communicating through the local chapter presidents.

2.6. Detroit

Detroit-VSNA is one of the very well organized chapters. They have their own web-site www.vsmi.org that has program schedule for the year. The chapter covers the State of Michigan. Out of 50 families residing in the region about 30 families regularly attend the functions. Besides celebrating main religious festivals, the chapter actively participates in Food-Bank. Following are the suggestions for Detroit – VSNA:

1. The www.vsmi.org should be merged with the central VSNA web-site (www.vsna.org) for better visibility to all viewers of world.
2. The chapter should assist the central VSNA in building a better and dynamic web-site
3. The chapter should also assist all the other chapters to build their site as well.

2.7. Washington-DC and Virginia

VSNA chapter of Washington-DC and Virginia is also called “Basava Samithi”. The local chapter has 15 active families out of 56 families residing in the area. Key aspects of this chapter are:

1. Every function is started with “*Linga Puja*”
2. Local chapter publishes a quarterly news letter called “*Basava-Vani*”
3. The chapter has a Dinner & Theater program in May almost every year
4. The chapter organizes trips to New York and Atlantic City
5. The chapter has a youth member in the executive body of the local chapter
6. During Diwali the chapter performs “*Dandiya*” and “*Gharba*” dances of North India

Following are the suggestions for the local chapter:

1. The chapter should communicate and encourage all families residing in the region to participate in the programs
2. The chapter should work closely with Central – VSNA to contribute to the quarterly newsletter of VSNA. It will provide greater visibility to the activities of local chapter and motivate other chapters.

2.8. Florida

Florida-VSNA chapter has about 20 regular families out of 45 families residing in the state. The chapter celebrates most of the major festivals. Key points about this chapter are:

1. The Florida chapter has its own web-site - www.flvsna.org
2. The members of Florida chapter plan to acquire land and building in Orlando as a permanent place for VSNA and the local chapter would like Central-VSNA to invest in the land.

2.9. Georgia

Georgia VSNA is an active chapter with about 10 regular families out of 40 families residing in the state. The chapter meets regularly every month and on Shivaratri. The members conduct “*Linga Puja*” and meditation. They also perform *Dasoha* in the form of donation to “*Mathas*”.

It was found that Georgia chapter office-bearers are not in touch with central VSNA. They should pro-actively communicate with Central VSNA.

2.10. New England

The New England VSNA chapter is one of the most well organized and very active chapters. The New England chapter covers the North-Eastern states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont. It is estimated that there are 120 Veerashaivas families in the region and about 80 families actively participate in the functions. They celebrate all the main festivals like Ugaadi, Shivaratri, Basava Jayanthi, Ganesh Chaturthi, and Dessara. During the time of Dessara festival, they also conduct Dasoha.

Key aspects of the chapter are:

- The local chapter has about 50 copies of Video CDs on Basaveshwara and cartoon shows to illustrate the achievements of Basaveshwara
- The executive body has a Coordinator and Board of Directors to manage all events.
- The chapter has a well maintained web site – www.vsne.org

The local chapter would like the central VSNA to do the following for local chapters:

1. Central VSNA should communicate more often with local chapters
2. Central VSNA should provide space for web site for local chapters

3. Central VSNA should cover Liability Insurance for local chapter functions
4. Central VSNA should have a library of resources such as Audio, Video and Hard Copies of literature on Veerashaivism. The list of such resources should be listed on web site.

Since the New England chapter is a very active organization it is recommended that it play a pro-active role to help central VSNA and other local chapters. The local chapter should carry-out the following:

1. The local chapter should pro-actively contact central VSNA for all its needs
2. The local chapter should help central VSNA to build the central VSNA web site by combining www.vsne.org and www.vsna.org.
3. The local chapter should work with neighboring VSNA chapters to assist them in getting better organized.

2.11. New York

New York VSNA chapter covers the states of New York and New Jersey. There are about 200 families in the region and about 80 to 100 families attend the functions regularly. This chapter is one of the oldest chapters with individuals who are highly knowledgeable in religious philosophy in general and Basavanna's Thatva in particular. These senior "Sharanas" offer various services to local chapter members. The services offered described on the chapter web-site. The services are available to all Veerashaivas in US and Canada upon request. The chapter conducts functions on all major festivals. Key aspects of the chapter are:

1. "Linga Puja" is conducted in all functions
2. Annual picnic is organized in summer
3. Besides President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, there is an executive body consisting of 6 elected members and all past presidents
4. The chapter has its own Tax Id as this chapter was created prior to formation of central VSNA
5. The organization has their web-site <http://www.vsna.org/newyork/newYork.html>.

New York chapter may carry-out the following:

1. The chapter should pro-actively work with Central VSNA and other neighboring chapters in the region.
2. The chapter has a solid team of senior Sharanas. The chapter should utilize their help to mobilize Veerashaivas in the regions of Pennsylvania and Delaware to form their own chapters.

2.12. North Carolina

North Carolina chapter covers major cities - Raleigh, Charlotte, West Salem and Greensboro. Out of 60 Veerashaiva families 20 families regularly attend the VSNA functions. North Carolina chapter had the following comments about central VSNA:

1. There is no communication from Central VSNA
2. Central VSNA should visit local chapters

While the central VSNA will attempt to actively pursue the above two points, North Carolina chapter should pro-actively communicate with central VSNA office bearers. The chapter should use www.vsna.org to publish the activities of the local chapter.

2.13. Maryland

Maryland VSNA chapter covers Baltimore and other major towns of Maryland. There are about 98 families in the region and 40 families actively participate in the functions regularly held at JSS Mission in Gaithersburg. This chapter is quite active and well organized, it has lot to contribute to the Central VSNA as well other chapters. The chapter should proactively communicate with Central VSNA office bearers and publish the activities on the www.vsna.org web site.

2.14. Ohio

Ohio VSNA chapter covers major cities of Columbus, Cleveland and Cincinnati. There are about 30 families in the region out of which 15 families regularly attend the functions. The members of the local chapter always perform “*Linga Puja*” in every meeting and they meet on 1st Sunday of every month. The local chapter would like the following from Central VSNA:

- Central VSNA should provide publications for kids (hard copies by mail and soft copies on the web)

It is recommended that the local chapter publish their activities on the central VSNA web site. This will motivate other chapters.

2.15. Pittsburg

Pittsburg VSNA chapter is one of the very active local chapters. However this chapter covers only the city of Pittsburg located in Pennsylvania State. There are about 23 Veerashaiva families in the city and about 22 families regularly attend the functions. Besides having regular functions during major festivals, the chapter performs charity (“*Dasoha*”) to need families. The local chapter would like the following from Central VSNA:

- Central VSNA should make the site interesting by providing audio/video/DVD online

It is recommended that the local chapter actively participate in building the site by publishing their activities on www.vsna.org.

2.16. Tennessee

Tennessee State has about 12 Veerashaiva members who are members of central VSNA. However the local chapter has become inactive with no regular meetings or activities.

Central VSNA should immediately get in touch with local Veerashaivas and encourage them to organize themselves with new office bearers and to get started with regular functions.

2.17. Texas

Texas VSNA chapter covers the cities of Dallas, Fortworth, Abilene, Austin, Houston, and Beaumont. There are about 35 families in the region and about 10 families regularly attend the functions. The chapter conducts regular functions on all major festivals. During the functions, members provide explanation and description of literature and the significance of each festival primarily for youth community. Vachana recital and prayers by the community members and kids are done. The chapter has 2 outings one during spring and other during fall season. The chapter has a web-site - <http://www.vsna-tx.org/blog>. Texas chapter would like the following:

1. The chapter needs more information on Veerashaivas kit provided by central VSNA
2. Indulge everyone especially young Veerashaivas, simple literature, workbooks, monthly worksheets, etc for kids.
3. Hold quarterly workshops to discuss experiences and thoughts (*Anubahava-Mantapa*).

2.18. Toronto

Toronto VSNA chapter is the only chapter in the entire country of Canada. There are about 100 families in Toronto and neighboring cities and about 45 families regularly attend the VSNA programs. The chapter conducts *Vachanotsava* every 6 weeks, besides meeting during Shivaratri, Basava Jayanthi, and Varshikotsava for Annual General Body meeting. During the functions - Vachanas, religious songs, and discussion of religious leaders, kids workshop (teach children Vachanas and religion by one/ two ladies) are conducted. The chapter has 4 Executive Committee Members and 2 Youth Members besides a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Toronto VSNA has the tax id from Canada. The chapter would like the following:

- Central VSNA to provide space in www.vsna.org.

Once central VSNA provides space for all local chapters, this chapter being large and very active one should publish their activities on the web-site. It will motivate all the other local chapters in US.

2.19. West Virginia

West Virginia VSNA chapter is relatively a small organization with only 7 families. However all the chapter members meet regularly and recite Vachanas. Adult members discuss about Veerashaivism.

The chapter is managed by a President only. The local chapter feels they are totally out of touch with Central VSNA. In order to get better organized the chapter should always have a minimum of 3 executive members namely President, Vice-President

and Secretary. The executive members should proactively get in touch with Central VSNA and also make use of Central VSNA web-site.

3. Recommendations for Central VSNA

Based on the survey conducted and the feedback from the local chapters, following are the recommendations.

3.1. *Web-Site Improvements*

Central VSNA has already initiated improving the central web-site and also provided a start-up page for all local chapters. Central VSNA should continue to get feedback from the community and encourage all local chapters to contribute to the site with detailed information of the activities of all local chapters.

The web site should also contain information regarding dates of important festivals and suggested dates for functions for the local chapters. The site should publish all training material for local chapter's office bearers.

The best way to get the web-site improvements is to form a Web-Site Committee that can take necessary steps to improve the site and report the progress to the executive body.

3.2. *Interaction with Local Chapters*

Many local chapters have expressed the opinion that there is no communication from Central VSNA. In order to overcome this thought-process, Central VSNA elected members should pro-actively communicate over phone.

Besides phone calls a personal visit to the local chapters during one of the programs might boost the image of the central VSNA and also develop better interaction of local chapters with Central VSNA.

3.3. *Interaction with Members*

Currently the Central VSNA tries to communicate with local chapters through chapter presidents. There are many central VSNA members who may not be in the close vicinity of local chapter or may not always attend local chapter functions. To avoid alienating such members central VSNA should communicate directly with all members via email. Central VSNA can then encourage them to participate in local chapter functions.

3.4. New Local Chapters Suggested

3.4.1. Huston VSNA chapter

Texas VSNA chapter suggested that there are quite many Veerashaivas in and around Houston and recommended that another chapter be opened in Houston.

3.4.2. Pennsylvania VSNA Chapter

Surprisingly a large state such as Pennsylvania does not have a VSNA chapter of its own. When enquired with Pittsburg VSNA chapter if it represents the state of Pennsylvania, they indicated that the Pittsburg chapter is represented by the Veerashaivas of the city of Pittsburg. Central VSNA should explore the possibility of forming a chapter for Pennsylvania State.

3.4.3. New Jersey VSNA Chapter

Currently the New Jersey Veerashaivas are part of New York chapter. Since the states of New Jersey and New York have larger populations and area, central VSNA may consider forming a separate chapter for New Jersey and New York City in consultation with the New York chapter.

3.4.4. Upstate New York VSNA Chapter

Just as chapter for New Jersey State, it may be appropriate to consider forming a chapter to cover the region of Upstate New York State.

3.4.5. Vancouver (Canada) VSNA Chapter

Canada being a vast country, central VSNA and Toronto chapter should work together to form a new VSNA chapter in Vancouver.

4. General Recommendation for all Local VSNA Chapters

Survey of all local chapters has provided wealth of information about the functioning of the local chapters. The functioning of the local chapters, the enthusiasm and organizational capabilities of local chapters vary widely and largely depend on the initiation of few active “Veerashaiva” members. In order to rejuvenate local chapters following are the suggestions chapters that are not very active:

1. The local chapter must have a minimum of 3 executive members namely, President, Vice-President and Secretary
2. The local chapter should have at least 3 programs or functions namely Basava Jayanthi, Shivaratri and one outdoor picnic

3. The local chapter should perform at least one *Dasoha* (charity work) in a year. The Charity may include food service to the needy people, money, clothing or toys to organizations such as Goodwill, Salvation Army, Red-Cross, etc.,.
4. All chapters should publish their activities with information, photos and videos on central VSNA web site.

5. Grouping of Chapters Based on Performance

The data collected from all local chapters has shown that the functioning of the chapter vary considerably. Some local chapters conduct their business very well while some need assistance and guidance from other chapters and central VSNA.

Based on the data collected an attempt has been to group the chapters into 3 categories namely “exemplary”, “average” and “chapters that need assistance”. This will enable central VSNA to focus on improving the chapters that need assistance. The members of local chapters that are “exemplary” and “average” should assist the “chapters that need assistance”.

Chapters that are exemplary and should assist other chapters are:

- California-North, Chicago, Detroit, New England, New York and Toronto (Canada)

Chapters that are functioning average and can improve to the next level are:

- California-South, California-Central, DC & Virginia, Florida, North Carolina, Maryland, Ohio, Pittsburg, Texas

Chapters that need / seek assistance and guidance are:

- Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and West Virginia

6. Appendix – Survey of Local VSNA Chapters

S. No	VSNA-Chapter Name	Major Cities, Area Covered	Appx # of Veerashaiva Families	Average # of Regular Families	List of Functions Celebrated	Religious Activities	Non-Religious Activities	Structure of Chapter	Membership Fee	Use Central VSNA tax Id?	Has own Web Site?	Comments about Central VSNA and how it can help?
1	Alabama	Alabama	5	4	Shivaratri, Basava Jayanthi, Ganesh Chaturthi	Vachana, Bhajans	Nil	President	\$0.00	Yes	Nil	There is no communication with us. Not received news letters and no one has attended convention
2	California-North	San Francisco, Sacramento, bay Area	200	80	Shivaratri, Basava Jayanthi, Deepavali		Picnic, Dasoha, Shankara Eye Foundation in Shivamoga	President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations	\$50.00	Yes	www.vsna.net	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are no updates on central VSNA site 2. There is a big communication gap with central VSNA 3. Human interaction is missing with Central VSNA 4. Web site should support audio, video and DVDs 5. Central VSNA should become a platform to recognize achievers 6. Welcome package should contain detailed contact info 7. Directory should be online with at least the names and phone number 8. Youth should be connected via central VSNA 9. What is the vision statement?
3	California-South	Los Angeles, San Diego	65	16	Shivaratri, Basava Jayanthi, Ganesh Chaturthi, Deepavali	Vachana, Bhajans, Sat-sanga, Movies related to Lingayat Saints, Kayaka	Cruise, Summer Picnic, Donate non-perishables to charitable organizations	President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer	\$20.00	Yes	Ventral VSNA Site	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Central VSNA should personally visit local chapters; 2. There should be frequent communication; 3. Start-Kit not received by members
4	California-Central - Basava Balaga started in 2004	Fresno	8	11	3 Brahmin also attend, Meet every month & on Basava Jayanthi	Vachanas; Religious talks	Nil	President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer	\$0.00	Yes	Nil	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is no coordination within California chapters 2. Need space for web-site
5	Chicago	Illinois, Milwaukee, Peoria	50	32	Sankranthi, Shivaratri, Basava Jayanthi, Ganesh Chaturthi, Deepavali	Vachana, Bhajans, Skits, Talks.	Summer Picnic	President, Vice-President, Treasurer	\$50.00	Yes	http://vsna.org/chicago/	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Post Festival Timings on vsna.org 2. Central office bearers should visit local chapters 3. Central members should communicate with members directly as well as through chapter president

6	Detroit	Michigan	50	30	Shivaratri, Basava Jayanthi, Ganesh Chaturthi, Deepavali	Vachanas, Discuss about Festivals, Status of VSNA	Picnic, Food Bank	President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer	\$25.00	Yes	www.vsmi.org	No Comments
7	DC & Virginia	Basava Samithi, DC & Virginia	56	15	Shivaratri, Ugaadi, Basava Jayanthi, Ganesh Habba, Deepavali	Start every function with group Linga Puja with the explanation of the meaning by one of the chapter members, discuss the significance of the festival being celebrated or discuss on any other topic of interest; Few members practice and sing the group songs during the events, for Diwali we try to do Dhandia and Gharba.	Picnic, Holiday Party - Dinner theatre for the families in May, trip to New York or Atlantic City; Publish quarterly newsletter called Basava Wani which includes articles on religion, culture and any announcements from the chapter members, and mailed out to all the members of the chapter. Also it is mailed out to other chapter presidents in order to keep the communication between the chapters and also to the President of Central VSNA to let them know the activities happening at the local chapter	President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Two Executive Committee Members and a youth Executive Committee Member	\$25.00	Yes	Nil	Not Sure. President tried calling the families individually to encourage them to attend the functions, but not successful.
8	Florida	Florida	40	20	Basava Jayanthi, General (Sep/Oct and Jan/Feb in Jacksonville and Tampa	Vachanas, Discussions, Mangalarathi, Puja for Children	Picnic, Donations to local charities	President, Vice-President, Secretary	\$35.00	Yes	www.flvsna.org	1. Waiting for Starter-Kit for 2 years 2. Would like Central VSNA to invest in land & building in Orlando
9	Georgia	Atlanta	40	10	Shivaratri Meet Every Month	Linga Puja Meditation	Dasoha	President Vice-President Secretary Treasurer	\$35	Yes		Info provided by BOD Member – Ravindra Patil of GA

10	New England	Vermont Massachusetts Rhode Island Maine Connecticut	120	80	Use Evite, very active group, Ugaadi, Shivaratri, Basava Jayanthi, Ganesh & Dessara together, Dasoha Day	Vachanas, Prayers, Lectures, Dances, Cartoon show on Basava - Have 50 copies	Picnic, Dasoha Day	President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Coordinator, BOD for Event Based Organizations	\$0.00	Yes	www.vsne.org	1. No communication from Central VSNA 2. Space required for web site 3. Need Liability Insurance 4. Need a library – Hard Copies, Audio and Video
11	New York	New York; New Jersey	200	100	Ugadi / Shivaratri, Basava Jayanthi, Dasara / Deepavali (3 functions every year)	Predominantly focused towards children and youth. Every function we do Linga Pooja, skits & dramas focused on religion, culture and history; religious songs; Vachana recital; invite any religious dignitaries such as Sri.Siddeshwar Mahaswamiji from Bijapur.	One summer picnic in June/July every year involving competitions in painting & Linga making .	President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary and an Executive Body (of 6 elected members)	\$35.00	No. Have own Tax Id	http://www.vsnanewyork.org/newyork/newyork.html	VSNY/NJ is one of the oldest and strongest chapter; We are happy to offer any kind of help/service to central VSNA if requested; We have some of the oldest and founding members of VSNA; These are the individuals who are highly knowledgeable in religious philosophy in general and Basavanna's Thatva in particular. For various services we offer to our members are described in our web site. This could be offered to members of other chapter and central VVSNA also.
12	North Carolina	Raleigh, West Salem, Charlotte, Greensboro	60	20	Shivaratri, Basava Jayanthi, Ganesh Chaturthi, Deepavali	Vachanas, Puja, Entertainment, Discussions	Picnic	President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Groups formed for every function in club house	\$20.00	Yes	Nil	1. No communication from Central VSNA 2. Central VSNA should visit local chapters
13	Maryland	Baltimore, Maryland Towns	98	40	Meet in JSS-Mission Gaithersburg, Celebrate Sankranti, Ugaadi, Ganesh Chaturthi, Basava Jayanthi, Shivaratri, Deepavali	Vachanas, Songs	Picnic	President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer	\$20.00	Yes	Nil	1. We are losing focus; 2. There is no communication; 3. Veerashaiva values not understood
14	Ohio	Columbus (20), Cleveland (5), Cincinnati (5)	30	15	Shivaratri, Basava Jayanthi, Every 1st Sunday of the month	Linga Puja done in every meeting	Picnic	President, Secretary, Treasurer	\$25.00	Yes	Nil	1. Central VSNA should provide publications for kids (hard copies and on web)
15	Pittsburg	Pittsburg only	23	22	Shivaratri, Basava Jayanthi, Ganesh Chaturthi, Deepavali	Vachanas, Prayers, Prizes, Recognition and Certificates for Children	Charity/ Money provided for needy families	President (host-based)	\$20.00	Yes	Nil	1. No idea about Central VSNA 2. No other VSNA in Pennsylvania 3. Make the site interesting by providing audio/video/DVD online
16	Tennessee	Tennessee	12	0	Nil	Nil	Nil	President	No info	Yes	Nil	Info provided by Sajjan Shiva of TN

17	Texas	Dallas-Forth worth, Abilene, Austin, Houston, and Beaumont	35	10	Maha Shivaratri, Basava Jayanthi, Ganesh Chaturthi, Deepavali	Explanation and description of literature and history around each festival primarily for our youth community. - Vachana recital and prayers by the community members and kids.	Spring Picnic, Fall Outing	President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer	\$65.00	Yes	http://vsna-tx.org/blog/	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need more information on Veerashaiva kit. 2. Indulge everyone especially young Veerashaivas, simple literature, workbooks, monthly worksheets, etc for kids.(Please refer to a sample of a worksheet attached to this email). 3. Hold quarterly workshops to discuss experiences and thoughts (Anubahava Mantapa).
18	Toronto (Canada)		100	45	Shiva Ratri, Basava Jayanthi, Varshikotsava(AGM) & Vachanotsava every 6 weeks	Vachanas, religious songs, and discussion of religious leaders, Kids workshop (teach children Vachanas and religion by one/ two ladies)	Nil	President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, 4 EC members and 2 youth members	\$30.00	No. We have CAN Tax Id	Nil	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Looking for help with web-site from Central VSNA
19	West Virginia	West Virginia	7	7		Vachanas, Speeches by Adults	Nil	President	\$0.00	Yes	Nil	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No communication from Central VSNA. We are totally out of touch. 2.Voice communication is better than emails
	Total		1199	507								