

VSNA BOD Meetings Minutes

Date: Sunday, January 11, 2015

Attendees:

Elected BOD Members: Channu Kambalyal, Mamatha Hirannaiah, Leena K. Paul, Irappa Arabhavi, B.S. Nanjundappa, Neetha Dhananjaya, Nayantara Swamy, Yuvaraj Patil

Nominated BOD Members: Vijay Kumar Ex-President, Renuka Puttappa (CA-N), Kishore Channabasavaiah (IL), Suraj Kurtakoti (CT), Girish Budibetta (FL), Mahesh Rajaghatta (GA), Savitha Shivananda (MD), Sanjeev Mungaravadi (MI), N. B. Patil (NE), Shiva Patil (NJ), Ashwini Koratagere (NC), Rashmi Naikar (OH), Sudha Swaminathan (PA), K. P. Channabasappa (TN), Jagadeesh Halyal (TX-S), Raj Galagali (VA)

Invitees: Nagabhushana Malakkla (AC-Chair Nominee), Dada Patil (BOR-Chair Nominee)

Meeting Notes:

1. Roll Call by Leena Paul- Quorum for Jan 11th, 2014 meeting met. Summary of attendance: Eight BOD elected members, Past President, 15 Chapter Presidents, Two non-voting BOR members
2. Introduction by President, Channu Kambalyal
3. Introductions by all attendees on their contributions to VSNA, expectations of Central VSNA, and future contributions.

Everyone spoke very eloquently on their contributions and expectations from Central VSNA. Channu thanked all for the feedback and directed all to read the Two Year Agenda and its contents which has been drafted after feedback from many and over several years. Many of the points mentioned by individuals will be added to the agenda. Here is a summary:

- 1) Channu Kambalyal (President): Main purpose is to improve the functioning of VSNA.
- 2) Mamatha Hirannaiah (Vice President): Vision: one united organization
- 3) Leena Paul (Secretary): One united organization; and work for the betterment of our youth
- 4) Irappa Arabhavi (Treasurer): Will support in fund raising and membership;
- 5) Vijay Kumar (Past President): Knowledge transfer; will work with team with any support needed
- 6) B.S Nanjundappa (BOD): Knowledge transfer based on prior VSNA knowledge in BOD and BOR
- 7) Neetha Dhananjaya (BOD): VSNA as an united organization; include the younger generation
- 8) Nayantara Swamy (BOD): Improve compliancy in procedures of VSNA; part of the By-Law committee
- 9) Yuvraj Patil (BOD): VSNA to facilitate for community to live sharana samskruthi and principles
- 10) Renuka Puttappa (N.CA): need more experience
- 11) Kishore Channabasavaiah (IL and WI): unified VSNA organization from tasks to formal structure
- 12) Suraj Kurtakoti (CT): Need more interactions, guidance and support from Central VSNA for local chapters.
- 13) Girish Budibetta (FL): Improve efficiency of BOD meetings; meetings to end on time; provide help to local chapters
- 14) Mahesh Rajaghatta (GA): improve efficiency on BOD meetings; VSNA as a unified organization; increase youth involvement and participation; improve bond between Central and local chapters
- 15) Savitha Shivananda (MD): Unified VSNA organization, improve efficiency
- 16) Sanjeev Mungaravadi (MI): need to focus on youth and youth activities; need guidance from Central VSNA
- 17) N.B. Patil (NE): Central VSNA as a role model for chapters in following Basava principles, help local chapters, improve inter chapter communications; increase youth involvement
- 18) Shiva Patil (NY): need for improved communication between Central VSNA and VSNA community
- 19) Ashwini Koratagere (NC): need more interactions between Central and local chapters; want to get involved in youth activities
- 20) Rashmi Naikar (OH): Need better visibility, influence (mission statement needs improvement), and engagement from Central VSNA; provide means to attract youth
- 21) Sudha Swaminathan (Pittsburg): Unified VSNA organization; help in youth involvement
- 22) K.P.Channabasappa (TN): Improve organization skills to become a united VSNA; recruit members, increase funding; explain Basava philosophies to youth
- 23) Raj Galagali (DC and VA): Improve transparency of work being done by Central VSNA, incorporate feedback from chapter members
- 24) Jagadeesh Halyal (TX-South): Allocate more time for Swamijis during conventions
- 25) Nagabhushana Malakkla (Advisory Committee-back up): Work together as a team to take VSNA to a higher level
- 26) Dada Patil (BOR chair-back up): Focus: increase funds for scholarship; increase youth participation

4. Brief walk through the [DRAFT 2015-16 – Two-Year Agenda](#) by Channu Kambalyal:
 - a. Purpose: The goal is to capture all ideas in one document and plan so that every member is given the opportunity to actively contribute towards building the organization to fulfill its mission - “preserve, protect and promote the philosophy of Basava and his contemporaries”.
 - b. Channu reiterated the difference between work groups and committees. The VSNA committees are Election committee, By-Laws committee, and Award committee. The purpose of work groups are for members to discuss issues and provide possible solutions. This document is a live document that will be and can be changed after discussions with in the work groups. **Edited LP-2/15: Clarification asked for by Nayantara Swamy: Channu clarified in 2/8/15 call that committees are approved by the board, and work groups are assigned. Channu will clarify in the Agenda document.**
 - c. Several members are tentatively assigned. Any BOD, BOR or non-elected members are welcome to become part of the work groups or change to different work-groups based on their interest. Please send an email to Channu at president@vsna.org or officers@vsna.org
 - d. The work group leads are expected to conduct their meetings and summarize their findings in the next BOD meeting. All proposals need to be approved by the BOD in BOD meetings.
 - e. Action plan: To improve communication:
 - i. Please send chapter email list to Leena Paul
 - ii. Send your chapter quarterly updates Newsletter group – newsletter@vsnao.org.
 - f. Membership drive: Analysis on annual membership drive on our website. Congratulations to FL and MI chapters have contributed maximum number of annual memberships.
 - g. Conference line will be made available for work groups to use for their communication.
 - h. There were questions raised on getting ideas from everyone in the BOD (per Nayantara Swamy and Yuvaraj Patil), but it was decided that based on the interest of time (per Mahesh Rajaghatta, Channu Kambalyal), we move forward with the assigned work group members. Mahesh said that we need a transformation in the way we function at VSNA, we need to come back with solutions, not issues. Nominees to send their suggestions directly to president to update the agenda.
5. Membership status of chapter presidents
 - a. According to the By-Laws, only regular annual members (\$35) and Life-members have voting rights. Channu urged all chapter presidents to either become life members or pay membership; or nominate a VSNA paid member from their chapter to represent for voting purposes. BOD meeting invites will be sent to all chapter presidents as a standard practice.
 - b. A list of all presidents is on the website, www.vsna.org, and in the [DRAFT – 2015-16 Two Year Agenda](#) Contains status of membership by chapter presidents.
6. Convention Update:
 - a. Upon NY chapter’s not being able to do the convention in 2015, Georgia, Pittsburg, Connecticut, New England, and Detroit were requested to consider Convention 2015.
 - b. As of 1/11/2015, there are two options:
 - i. Plan A: New England chapter to host the 2015 convention—decision to be made by 1/17/2015
 - ii. Plan B: Convention 2015 to be co-hosted by North Eastern states (NY, NJ, PA, OH, NE and CT). Convention Committee would consist of Local Chapters Leads (for local activities) and Central VSNA Leads (for activities that can be performed remotely).
7. Approval of Convention Seed money:
 - a. Based on current investments, according on past treasurer, Mr. B.S. Nanjundappa, the available funds are *approximately* \$20,000 for convention 2015.
 - b. Proposal: To release \$10,000 as seed money for Convention 2015 site--Proposed by Nayantara Swamy, seconded by Yuvaraj Patil. No objections were raised. Approved unanimously.
8. Appointment of Election & Bylaw Committee Members have been nominated by President. 3 Bylaw Committee Members are past VSNA Presidents, Election Committee Members are past Central VSNA Officers. They will begin work on election of 2 vacant BOD positions. **Edited LP-2/8/15: The President stated that VSNA was seeking nominations. Nayantara Swamy commented that the Bylaw committee was not called for at this time since the Task Group had presented their recommendations for Bylaw revision (but would present their finding) to the BOD. Now BOD (would then) needs to deliberate on the (findings) recommendations, and decide the next steps. Channu indicated that the task group of 2014 already presented their recommendations to the 2014 BOD. Since there was no conclusion by the BOD of 2014, and the term of the task group ended, the recommendations will be carried forward, and with help of new Bylaw Committee of 2015-2016, present the recommendations and**

modifications if any in a step-by-step manner to assist the new BOD to come to an understanding in informal discussions and pass as many changes as possible in the formal BOD meetings. Several members - Yuvaraj, Mahesh and Nanjundappa agreed with the approach.

9. Closing and next meeting: Channu thanked all who attended and provided feedback. Next meeting on Sunday, February 8, 2015 at 12 pm EST. Meeting minutes from December and January will be presented in February meeting.