



Veerashaiva Samaja of North America



VSNA Joint BOD-BOR Meeting Minutes: Date: Sunday Jan 21, 2018 - 9 to 10:30AM PT

Meeting Minutes by Savitha Mandi

Agenda:

1. Savitha Mandi: Roll Call

BOD: Laxmi Hiremath, Leena Paul, Karuna Hiremath, Savitha Mandi, Channu Kambalyal, Dayanand Paramane, Dayanand Tumkur, Nandish Dhananjaya, Narendra Hadimani, Nayantara Swamy, M.D Patil, Raj Galagali, Sandeep Hattarki, Srishail Hadmani Sudha Nagabhushan, ,

BOR: Dada Patil, Irappa Arabhavi, Jayashree Jagadeesh, Rohini Mensinkai, Shylendra Kumar, Uma Sajjan, Yuvraj Patil,

2. VSNA Condolence – 1 minute silence was observed in honor of:

- Dr. Madhukar Jiginni – Southern California Chapter
- Dr. Payasada Kotrappa – MD Chapter
- Dr. H Sundaresh – Ohio Chapter

3 Yuvaraj Patil : Prayer (Vachana)

4 Irappa Arabhavi : Life member address update:

Since Mr. Irappa became Central VSNA Treasurer and took on the Life Membership list from Mr. Najundappa, he continued the effort to update the Life members list as part of the BOR project. As of 2016, there are a total of 264 Life members out of which only 30% has been updated (60). Updates to the list has been challenging due to invalid email ids (42), missing contact information (105), no responses (73) etc.

BOR is now transitioning this over to the current Treasurer, Karuna Hiremath for ongoing updates and maintenance. BOR suggested that a committee or current VSNA officers take on the responsibility of maintaining this list and on a rolling basis as the new officers are elected and take charge, to transition this role to the new team. Mr. Dada Patil, BOR Chair has sent the list to Karuna Hiremath.

VSNA Regular membership list also needs to be updated and requires every Chapter President's active support to ensure the chapter membership lists are updated and current. This was also requested to be updated and maintained by BOD officers.

All VSNA members' mailing list - group email (contains 1420 email ids) and mass communication emails and announcements are sent by Central VSNA Secretary, Savitha Mandi.

On behalf of BOR, Mr. Shylendra suggested the list be centralized and maintained by providing access to Life members so they can directly update their information. However as this will take time, privacy needs to be considered so we need to assess the right tool/technology to implement. In the mean time, current BOD should take on the responsibility of maintaining it.

Mrs. Nayantara suggested that Treasurer be a part of this for oversight team as Treasurer collects membership fees and can update paid members list. Dada Patil requested all Chapter Presidents to help with this as their local chapter members' information should be updated.

5. Yuvaraj Patil : Future convention:

On Behalf of BOR, Mr. Yuvraj Patil proposed a solution for future conventions and to address the challenge of hosting annual VSNA conventions. BOR's unanimous recommendation is to change the frequency of the convention from every year to every other year(from annual to biennial). BOR recommends the BOD to review the attached proposal document and put the proposal for voting at the upcoming BOD meeting.

Mr. Raj Galagali asked if BOR had collected any data or metrics to propose the biennial hosting versus the annual or if it was a hypotheses. Mr. Yuvraj said there was no specific data or metrics collected. Jayashree Jagadeesh mentioned that many other organizations such as AKKA, NAVIKA, Vokkalingara Sangha, Telugu Association who have large number of attendees and meet every other year only. These are very well attended and successful. Narendra Hadimani liked the idea and asked Chapter Presidents to be polled. Both Channu and Laxmi mentioned that since many years, this topic has been discussed many times in the past but repeatedly come back with a decision to continue every year, so we meet as families and members every year and the concern is if we change the 40 year tradition, we will miss out on keeping our growing youth and children engaged and connected with the community each year. BOD should review Pros and Cons and vote.

In summary:

- BOR recommends BOD to make an amendment to the bylaws to change the language from annual to biennial
- Annual General body Meeting (AGM) can be done via teleconference and other online meeting tools

- Changes are to be effective after the committed conventions waiting to happen
- BOD needs to review and vote on the proposal
- Secretary needs to share the proposal to the BOD members ahead of the meeting
- Secretary needs to put the motion as proposed for voting by BOD members
- Motion for the BOD meeting
 - VSNA Convention needs to be biennial convention instead of annual convention
 - Proposed amendment to bylaws: Annual needs to be read as biennial

6 BOD suggestions/approval for new projects-2018

BOR asked for BOD suggestions on what projects BOD has for BOR to work on in 2018. Nayantara mentioned that as the agenda item was not clear, on the expectation and mentioned approvals, BOD thought that BOR already had a list and would come with it requesting BOD to review. However as it is not the case, BOD requested time to think of service projects for BOR that will help the growing VSNA community and its members that make relevant and meaningful difference.

Raj Galagali requested BOR look into “How VSNA including convention activities can successfully convey our core principles for future generation of youth”

7 BOD Items requiring BOR attention.(BOR members were left out in some decision making process. Both BOR & BOD should work together to clear any misunderstanding).

BOR wants clarity on what projects BOD wants BOR’s attention as there is some misunderstanding with the following 3 projects.

Examples:

- a. Last year there was question on the decision of the Award committee and the guidelines and criteria applied by the Awards Committee. Mr. Shylendra said when BOR requested the details be shared, the nomination form was shared but the guidelines and decision criteria was not shared or provided by the Awards committee. So BOR proposed to review and update the guidelines for VSNA Awards. President Laxmi, mentioned the award committee followed the guidelines, proposed the names and the BOD met and approved the award recipients per policy, a month before the July 2017 convention and that the guidelines were good “AS IS” and didn’t necessitate updates.
- b. Dada said he was not happy the way Financial Committee was set up by BOD. Shylendra mentioned that the committee was set up without seeking input from BOR and members are away from US so questioned how they can effectively oversee what happens here. Karuna and Nayana expressed that the committee was set up per the recommendation of BOR. The financial committee is actively engaged and investment returns are very good. Karuna will present the report next month. As the Financial

committee is operational in nature, BOR wants a committee to be set up to oversee the operational committee.

- c. There is confusion on the Matrimonial website project as BOR said that was handed over to BOD 2 years ago. However Laxmi mentioned that Uma Sajjan has been updating and is being contacted even today and she is interested in continuing to help. Mrs. Uma Sajjan mentioned that the website is down and she has been unable to update or maintain the information. Mr. Irappa asked the status of the vendor who was paid to maintain this site. Channu responded that it was an offshore vendor and they didn't maintain it nor did they transition the site support so, as of now cannot be accessed.

This is a separate website to our VSNA.org website which is also having issues and has been hacked. Laxmi mentioned youth have taken up the task to create a new website and it is in progress. Recommendation from team is to look for professional website developers/hosting service providers to maintain and create a new and allocate funds each year for website maintenance. BOR is handing this over to BOD. Laxmi mentioned that Mr. Ayya has offered to donate/sponsor the website.

8 Dayanand Tumkur: Detroit Convention – update:

Detroit chapter has been working hard on planning the convention. Registration will start Jan 31st and the poster/website will be sent to Central VSNA and requested to be sent to all members. All Chapter presidents need to support and forward the convention messages to their members. Mr. Dayanand thanked the Chicago chapter President, Mr. Nandish who has offered help and support. As well as Dr. Jagadeesh from MD chapter who will support the Jeopardy competition.

A whatsapp group with all Chapter presidents will be created. 1st phase will be completed by Jan 31st(website, registration and paypal setup) and the 2nd phase of Food and entertainment/guest list will start soon. Mr. Dayanand requested BOD and the Treasurer that the seed money be released as soon as possible. Mr. Raj Galagali asked if the Theme for the convention has been selected. Mr Dayanand said it is “ARIVE GURU”. Mr. Yuvraj Patil asked if guests have been identified and was told that it is in progress. Mrs. Jayashree Jagadeesh asked if packages have been planned to which the response was yes and the details are on the website. Mr. Dada Patil suggested that Sharana relevant names be chosen instead of Gold/Silver packages. Mr Dayanand said that convention committee considered it and chose to go with these. Mr. Dada Patil asked if committees have been formed and response was yes. Dada also asked why convention matters are not being reported to BOD and BOR for decision making. Example – Dates of July convention was planned without consulting BOD/BOR. Both Channu and Karuna mentioned that Convention chair has been sharing information every BOD meeting and that BOR chair is also part of those meetings. BOD expressed that Convention Chair has done very good planning and Detroit team is working hard & have done excellent so far. Engaging and communicating to BOD/BOR for

planning is not necessary and is an unnecessary overhead for the Convention chair. Everyone complimented Dayanand for a job well done who will continue to provide updates each month.

9 Open floor discussion:

Both BOD and BOR members agreed there are items that require attention such as getting a new website created as well as matrimonial website and updating members list. All these are now with BOD. Srishail Hadimani suggested that both BOD and BOR should come up with their own project list and should review and select the important ones and work on it. Mrs. Jagadeesh agreed that BOR wants to help and work on projects that brings value and helps the community. As closing comments, Mrs Nayantara appreciated BOR for pointing out items that require attention but also said BOR has many senior members of the organization and need BOR to bring in ideas and suggestions on service projects that will help and contribute to the community and society members.

10 Dada: Closing Note:

Mr. Dada Patil said BOR will also discuss and propose a list of projects for 2018. Thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Savitha Mandi : Announced Next BOD meeting will be scheduled for Feb 11th.



VSNA BOD Meeting Minutes: Date: Sunday Feb 11th, 2018 - 9 to 10:30AM PT

Meeting Minutes by Leena Paul

1. Leena Paul: Roll Call

BOD: Laxmi Hiremath, Leena Paul, Karuna Hiremath, Prabhakara Chippadi, Raj Galagali, Srishail Hadmani

Chapter Presidents: Sudha Nagabhushana, Dayanand Paramane, Nandish Dhananjaya, Asha Gaddi, Vidya Rao, Nagarathna Totada, Narendra Hadimani, Sulochana Guggari, Prashanth (for Harsha Gurukar), Sandeep Hattarki, Arun Mahadevappa,

Youth: Manisha Virupannavar

BOR: Dada Patil
Dayanand Tumkur

2. Srishail Hadmani: Prayer (Vachana)

3. Laxmi Hiremath: Approval of Agenda

Proposed by Leena Paul

Seconded by Nandish Dhananjaya

4. Laxmi Hiremath: Approval of January Meeting minutes

Proposed by Dayanand Paramane

Seconded by Karuna Hiremath

5. New Chapter Presidents introduction:

Asha Gaddi: CT Chapter President: An active member of CT, 35 families attend the functions- celebrate Basava Jayanthi, Picnic, Shivarathri, Dasoha; and monthly Vachana Amrutha.

Nagarathna Totada: GA Chapter President: 30 active families, meet every month for Vachana discussions, and celebrate Basava Jayanthi and Picnic.

6. Dayanand Tumkur: Detroit Convention – update:

Detroit chapter has been working hard on planning the convention. Committees are working very well. Registration is open. Convention flyer will be sent on Shivarathri—he requested the chapter presidents to forward the invitation along. Registration is available in USD along with Canadian, Indian, Australian and UK currencies. Early Bird registration is \$99, sponsorships: Patron (\$1K), Silver Patron (\$2.5K), and Gold Patron (\$5K). Details are on the convention web page.

Leena requested a general presentation to be sent to all Chapter Presidents- Dayanand said that he would send it by Shivarathri. Many chapters have invited Dayanand to their functions to come to present.

Dayanand thanked Dada Patil for registering as a Patron and Karuna Hiremath as a Silver Patron. He requested BOD and the Treasurer that the seed money be released as soon as possible.

Karuna Hiremath said that the interests for 2017 are \$20,038. Dada Patil and Leena Paul clarified that 90% of that amount needs to be released to the Detroit Chapter.

Raj Galagali asked about the status of key note speakers and dignitaries. Dayanand has talked with many, but will have more confirmations by the next meeting.

6a. Laxmi Hiremath: 2017 Convention Souvenir in progress

Once Souvenir is complete, then the accounts will be closed.

7. Nandish Dhananjaya: 2019 VSNA Convention at Chicago: Update

Chicago Chapter met on Jan 28th to plan for 2019 Convention. All members are in favor of the convention. Executive committee is in place. Venue is being finalized currently.

Dates: July 5th and 6th, 2019

Nandish invited all to attend the convention the 2019 VSNA Convention in Chicago. Chicago chapter will be inviting during the Detroit Convention. They will keep low profile till the Detroit Convention is complete to provide further updates.

8. Raj Galagali: Intent to host the 2020 VSNA Convention by VA&DC Chapter

Raj shared that the first three VSNA conventions were in VA (1978), and the past convention in VA was in 1998. During the Shivarathri function, a unanimous decision was made to host the 2020 convention in VA&DC. The new chapter president will soon communicate with the Central VSNA.

Laxmi mentioned that Toronto Chapter is resistant to do a convention in 2020 at this time. She will communicate with Toronto Chapter President to confirm back, if any changes; else VA has the green light to host the convention in 2020.

9. Karuna Hiremath: Treasurer Report

Karuna Hiremath stated that although the by-laws states that 90% from capital gains and interest be released as seed money towards the hosting chapter, it should be actually be 90% of the dividends and interests. This has to be corrected in the by-laws as an action item.

The interest and dividends earned in 2017 were \$20,038. Proposal: 90% of the interests and dividends income earned of \$18,034.20 be released to Detroit Chapter as the seed money towards 2018 VSNA Convention in Detroit. Proposed by Raj Galagali, and seconded by Nandish Dhananjaya.

Accounts for Dec 31st 2017:

Convention Trust Fund :	\$408,486.23
Trust Fund 1:	\$250,855.66
PNC Checking Account:	\$6,422.41
PNC Savings Account	\$4,231.09
Cert of Deposit @ PNC	\$1,646.93

Total as of 12/31/2017 \$671,642.32

Raj Galagali: What is the objective of Trust Fund 1? Karuna explained that it looks like the Trust fund 1 is for non-convention activities. She has asked past three treasures and has not got a clear answer.

She will come back in the next meeting after further discussions. Raj suggested combining both the trust funds to be able to provide more for the future conventions. This would help smaller chapters to host conventions. We need to think how we can leverage our available funds.

Dada reminded that it is obligation to return the seed money for funds to continue to grow. He also clarified that Trust Fund 1 are funds to be used for other non-convention related activities, either by putting a Basava statue or dasoha etc. He will take upon coming up with ideas for use of Trust Fund 1 as the next project for BOR to work on.

Annual membership: As per the proposal, the membership dues were reduced to \$10/family for 2017 and 2018. In 2016, we raised \$1,760 (58 X \$35= \$1,760) and in 2017, we raised \$1,530 (153 X \$10= \$1,530). In 2017, 6 chapters paid -FL, MD, CT, OH, Detroit, Chicago. There were three life members from Detroit and one from Chicago in 2017. She requested all chapters to send their annual dues. Also, she requested for individual chapter statements to be sent by beginning of March.

Leena suggested all chapter presidents to become Life Members or atleast pay their own annual dues and collect from the chapter members towards membership dues.

10. Laxmi Hiremath, BOD members: Response for BOR January Joint Meeting

BOR's term is for four years, and come up with imaginative ideas to grow VSNA.

Laxmi summarized BOR's suggestion of doing convention every other year. Mr. Raj Galagali had asked if BOR had collected any data or metrics to propose the biennial hosting versus the annual or if it was a hypotheses. Mr. Yuvraj said there was no specific data or metrics collected. Jayashree Jagadeesh mentioned that many other organizations such as AKKA, NAVIKA, Vokkalingara Sangha, Telugu Association who have large number of attendees and meet every other year only. If we were to do a convention every other year, even the larger chapters would get an opportunity once every 20 years, which is a life time for many. We have been around for 40 years, and we have had a convention every year. Moreover, we have conventions for next three years set up already. Chapters are more enthusiastically coming forward to host conventions now.

Laxmi also mentioned that another issue that many have observed is that the meeting minutes from BOR is mainly update from BOD meeting, nothing on the creative plans and ideas in BOR.

Tumkur Dayanand mentioned that AKKA and NAVIKA are both part of the same one Kannada community. Hosting every other year allows for committee members to take a break in between and attend the other convention. Although VSNA conventions are at a national level, the attendees are mainly regional. If we host conventions every year, the members can decide to attend every other year if they want to. Raj supported Dayanand.

Suggestions for BOR:

-Prabhakara suggested BOR to take up the project of coming up with ideas for increasing the attendance.

-Leena suggested for a youth convention every fourth or fifth year.

-Raj Galagali suggested if BOR can enforce the vision of a ten year plan to host conventions. He also sees smaller chapters host conventions in the future.

-Prabhakara suggested BOR to come up with a template for conventions, especially for the smaller chapters.

Dada Patil: The ideas presented are representative for all seven members, not just one member.

BOR is not for hosting conventions every other year. It has been hard for chapters to host in the last four years. We say that the youth convention was successful; we had only 200 people attend. As it was not hosted by Dallas chapter, no one took responsibility and many Dallas chapter members did not attend the convention. Youth we have are in college—it is extremely hard for them to take time to plan. GA chapter was supposed to host, but we could not enforce them. We had many difficulties; hence it was suggested conventions to be held every other year.

Secondly, each convention costs about \$100-\$150K. What is the return on investment? Speakers are given three minutes and are being rushed. We should try to host 2 or 3 day convention with more focus on Basava philosophy.

Thirdly, we have the same few donors who donate each year. Fund raising is becoming very hard. Can we do anything better moving forward? Srishail Hadimani supported and said that we should deliberate more on this point.

Dada Patil challenged saying that the seven member team is working on coming up with creative ideas, and not to state that they haven't done anything. They are doing their best. Even in Laxmi's terms nothing much happened. We cannot enforce anyone—for example, we cannot collect membership from 300-400 members from N.CA.

Laxmi: What do we get from coming to a convention? It has to come from one's heart to contribute towards VSNA. Yes, we cannot enforce in not-for-profit organizations. We have to go an extra mile. For example, Nandish D matched funds raised for Red Cross; BOD came up with \$3000 towards the family affected by the hurricane; and many other examples.

A suggestion came up to contact all Life Members. Leena has sent chapter presidents notes to update their Life member's contacts. She thanked the chapters who has already sent them, and requests the others to do the same. The next project would be to reach out to our founders to create a webpage on our VSNA founders consisting of them and all past presidents.

Dada Patil challenged that there are BOD members who don't attend the meetings. Laxmi said that yes, the BOD members have a duty to attend these meetings. If they cannot, they should give their position to someone who can attend.

Dayanand suggested that we need to think to rejuvenating VSNA, instead of moving conventions to every other year.

12. Leena Paul thanked one. Next BOD Meeting on March 11th

13. Leena Paul: Closing: Happy Shivarathri



Veerashaiva Samaja of North America



VSNA BOD Meeting Minutes: Date: Sunday March 11th, 2018 - 9 to 10:30AM PT

Meeting Minutes by Savitha Mandi

1. Savitha Mandi: Roll Call

BOD: Laxmi Hiremath, Leena Paul, Karuna Hiremath, Savitha Mandi, Raj Galagali, Srishail Hadmani, Nayanatara Swamy, Channu K

Chapter Presidents: Sudha Nagabhushana, Dayanand Paramane, Shilpa Harsha, Nandish Dhananjaya, Vidya Rao, Narendra Hadimani, Sulochana Guggari, Sandeep Hattarki, Veeresh, Ashutosh(for Mahesh Kumar)

Youth: Bilva Chandra, Trishul N

BOR: Dada Patil

Guests: Dayanand Tumkur, Sajjan Shiva, Rathna Ullagadi

2. Srishail Hadmani: Prayer (Vachana)

ಎರೆದಡೆ ನನೆಯದು ; ಮರೆದಡೆ ಬಾಡದು.
ಹುರುಳಿಲ್ಲ, ಹುರುಳಿಲ್ಲ, ಲಿಂಗಾರ್ಚನೆ.
ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವಾ,
ಜಂಗಮಕ್ಕರೆದಡೆ ಸ್ವಾವರ ನನೆಯಿತ್ತು.

Water it, it does not sprout. Forget it, it does not wither.

No use, no use worshipping the Linga.

Koodalasangamadeva, If you water the jangama sthavaara gets sprouted.

ಲಿಂಗಪೂಜೆಯ ಸಾರ್ಥಕತೆ ಜಂಗಮಸೇವೆಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಲಿಂಗಕ್ಕೆ ನಿರಂತರವಾಗಿ ನಿರಯರೆದರೆ (ಅಭಿಷೇಕ ಮಾಡಿದರೂ) ಅದೇನು ನೆನದು ಮೃದುವಾಗುವದಿಲ್ಲ. ಒಂದುವೇಳೆ ಎರೆಯುವದನ್ನು ಮರೆತರೆ ಅದು ಬಾಡುವದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗೆ ಹೊರಗಿನ, ಉಪಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಪೂಜೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹುರುಳಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದು ವ್ಯರ್ಥ. ಅದು ಸಾರ್ಥಕವಾಗಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಜಂಗಮಕ್ಕರೆಯಬೇಕು. "ಜಂಗಮಕ್ಕರೆದರೆ ಸ್ವಾವರ ನನೆಯಿತ್ತು". ಜನಹಿತ ಕಾರ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತನ್ನನ್ನು ತಾನು ತೊಡಗಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಅಂದರೆ ಭಕ್ತನು ದಾಸೂಹಮುಖೀಯಾಗಿ ಜೀವನ ಸಾಗಿಸಬೇಕು.

In this vachana Basaveshwara emphasizes on the selfless social service is the service to God. Doing Linga puja without total devotion or dedication is meaningless, if you pour the water on the linga it will not sprout or if you forget it will not wither, on the contrary if one dedicates himself in selflessly serving the community in the true spirit of "Dasoha", the god will be pleased.

3. Laxmi Hiremath: Approval of Agenda

Proposed by Dayanand Paramane

Seconded by Savitha Mandi

4. Laxmi Hiremath: Approval of Feb Meeting minutes

Proposed by Raj Galagali

Seconded by Srishail Hadimani

5. **Dada Patil – Concern with tone of Mr. Doddamani’s email sent to all groups (mass email)**
Mr. Doddamani’s email response to proposal from BOR to BOD to consider hosting VSNA convention alternate year is threatening and VSNA organization should not tolerate such tone and threat of email messages. Dada requested Laxmi to respond to Mr. Doddamani condemning such emails. BOD agreed that mass emails should not be sent by anyone except the President or Secretary of Central VSNA
6. **Youth Trishul Nagenalli: Website [VSNA.ORG](https://vsnaorg.herokuapp.com) update - 15 minutes(<https://vsnaorg.herokuapp.com>) - will be accessible on 3/11/2018**
Trishul along with the help of Yamir Raj and Laxmi Hiremath, has made very good progress on the new website. A sample proof and layout was shared with all attendees via the link. All attendees acknowledged very good progress made and encouraged the youth. As the proposal was to host in the cloud (PaaS) suggestion was to focus on secured services offered for hosting the website. Mr. Raj Galagali requested additional features be made available for local chapters to be able to dynamically update and stream chapter events live, Karuna requested the ability to update addresses if members move, and Leena requested the feature to support new members to be able to register, pay and become members of VSNA. These features will be added to the list of “To Dos” and prioritized once all the contents of existing site is moved to the new website. Channu will help Trishul with the files and documents to be transferred. The new website will be inaugurated during the Detroit Convention.
7. **Dayanand Tumkur: Chair, Detroit Convention 2018 Status update – 15 minutes**
Mr. Dayanand thanked all the chapter presidents who presented the Detroit convention slides at their Shivarathri chapter event. Convention committee is working on the badges and logos. The Edwards Convention Center venue has accommodations with 800 rooms and many conference rooms so the 2018 Convention will be “All under one roof”. The program committee is finalizing the list. Guests, Invitees and Entertainment will be finalized in April and announced on the website. Mrs. Nayanatara requested that BOD/BOR meetings be held in the afternoon of 29th 1 to 3pm. From 1 to 2pm it will be a parallel meeting for each BOD and BOR. And then from 2pm to 3pm, it will be a joint BOD/BOR meeting. Mr. Srishail requested a rough draft of programs be shared. Mr. Dada Patil recommended all BOD and BOR members to register as soon as possible and encourage others to register and attend. Mr. Dayanand will travel to India in April and have a better update on guest list and invitees in the next BOD meeting. Convention theme is “Arive Guru”. The 90% of Dividend and Interest earned (about \$20,000) has been released in the first week of March as seed money to Detroit chapter. Dayanand acknowledged the receipt.
8. **Karuna Hiremath: Treasurer Update – 10 minutes**
Karuna thanked all the Chapter Presidents who have sent their financial statements. As per the questions on details on different accounts that were set up in the past and their purpose, she has been unable to get a response from past treasurers, so is still waiting to hear back. She requested all Chapter treasurers to send in the central dues on time.
9. **Chapter Presidents: Update Mahashivaratri Celebration - 20 minutes**
Ten Chapter presidents in attendance namely:
 - Nandish Dhananjaya(Chicago),
 - Sudha Nagabhushana(Central CA),
 - Shilpa Harsha(Northern CA),
 - Dayanand Paramane(Southern CA),
 - Narendra Hadimani(Detroit),
 - Vidya Rao(Florida),
 - Veeresh(New England),

- Sandeep Hattarki(Ohio),
- Sulochana Guggari(MD), and
- Ashutosh(VA) – all provided updates of their chapter events of Shivarathri celebration and pooje which was very successful and attended by members and youth with devotion and enthusiasm.

10. **Dada Patil: BOR Status – 5 minutes**

Dada Patil proposed that BOR will be taking up a project on identifying a list of services that VSNA can provide to its members. These services to members can either be free or for a nominal fee and will be offered year round or at the convention. In order to identify the services required, he requested Chapter presidents' help to send the demographic data on age group of chapter members such as: Younger than 20 years, 21 to 40 years, 41 to 60 years and over 60 years. Email requests will be sent out by Secretary, Savitha Mandi and responses will be collected by Savitha and Dada Patil.

11. **Mrs. Nayantara Swamy & Mr. Sajjan Shiva: Guidelines for Chapter Events - 5 minutes each** (postponed to next BOD meeting in April, due to music, as someone on this call placed us on HOLD and took another call)!!

ATTENDEES, Let us all ensure the following conference call meeting etiquette please:

- **To mute our phones when not speaking to avoid background noise**
- **Not take other calls and put this call on hold as there will be music causing this to be discontinued and adjourned.**

12. **Srishail Hadimani: VIRC Update – 5 minutes** (postponed to April BOD meeting)

13. **Savitha Mandi: Schedule April BOD Meeting – 1 minute:** Next BOD meeting will be on April 8th

14. **Savitha Mandi: Thank you note and closure – 2 minutes**



VSNA BOD Meeting Minutes: Date: Sunday April 8th, 2018 - 9 to 10:30AM PT

Agenda Items:

1. Savitha Mandi: Roll Call – 3 minutes
2. Srishail Hadimani – Vachana/Prayer – 3 minutes
3. Laxmi Hiremath: Approval of Agenda – 1 minute
4. Laxmi Hiremath – Approval of Meeting minutes – 3 minutes
5. Thej Kartal: Election procedures and rules – 20 minutes

*** following items were postponed due to meeting going overtime (exceeded 2.5 hours)

6. Sajjan Shiva & Nayantara Swamy: Guidelines for Chapter Events - 10 minutes each
7. Dayanand Tumkur: Detroit Convention Status – 15 minutes
8. Srishail Hadimani: VIRC Update – 5 minutes
9. Dada Patil: BOR Status – 5 minutes
10. Savitha Mandi: Free conference call plan options – 2 minutes
11. Savitha Mandi: Schedule May BOD Meeting – 1 minute
12. Savitha Mandi: Thank you note and closure – 2 minutes

Meeting Minutes by Savitha Mandi

1. Savitha Mandi: Roll Call

BOD: Laxmi Hiremath, Leena Paul, Savitha Mandi, Raj Galagali, Srishail Hadimani, Nayanatara Swamy, Prabhakara Chippadi, M.D Patil, Channu Kambalyal

Chapter Presidents: Sudha Nagabhushana, Nandish Dhananjaya, Arun Mahadevappa, Vidya Rao, Narendra Hadimani, Sulochana Guggari, Sandeep Hattarki, Mamatha Hirannaiah, Nagarathna T, Harish Hiremath, Prashanth, Asha Gaddi, Veeresh, Vivek (W.VA)

Youth: Bilva Chandra, Anuj Kambalyal

Election Committee: Thej Kartal, Latha Mallikarjuna

BOR: Dada Patil, Irappa Arabhavi, Shylendra Kumar, Yuvraj Patil,

Guests: Dayanand Tumkur, Sunita Kore, Sajjan Shiva

2. Srishail Hadmani: Prayer (Vachana)

Allama Prabhu vachana -

3. Laxmi Hiremath: Approval of Agenda – 1 minute

Vidya – is the Election letter included in the agenda?

Laxmi - Item #5 is included and Thej will present it

Srishail – Requested that for agenda items - the EC update and then Detroit Convention update should be prioritized due to importance

BOR and Dada Patil agreed due to Election grievances and issues that need to be resolved

Nayanatara – EC should address the grievance letter first before the ballot

Propose – Arun M

Second – Channu K

4. Laxmi Hiremath: Approval of March Meeting Minutes - 3 minutes

Nayana – March meeting minutes - Item #5 – Need to clarify and should read as “BOD condemned the tone and threat of the email from Mr. Doddamani and President Laxmi requested that no mass emails should be sent out....

Propose – Raj Galagali

Second – Leena P

5. Thej Kartal: Election Procedures & Rules – 20 minutes

President update – EC and officers have met many times. Everyone should note that Savitha Mandi – recused herself from all meetings related to Election and she will also be hearing today for the 1st time as the rest of you

Thej – Hope everyone had a chance to go over the guidelines. We had multiple meetings with officers except Savitha Mandi.

We have sent the sample ballot also. I will spend the first 5 mins to go over the general guidelines and last 15 mins will be for Q&A. Until then please allow me to present my case:

- 1st time in the last 21 years, we are having elections in this format. Previously used to be 4 members slate and was announced for officers, then BOD and BOR were self nominated and filled the positions
- One more point to note - nowhere in the bylaw it states what should be pre established date - when and no specific guideline on election dues. And no set guidelines – so for the last 2 months I’ve been working and putting together the basic guideline, so BOD and BOR members should put together details on dates and membership dues clearly for next time
- What is most encouraging this time, is people showing lot of interest to serve VSNA. We are in the fork right now – almost 3 sets of officers and youth members too showing interest to serve

If you go thru general guidelines 1/1/2017 - 3 things are important –

- **First** - eligibility to vote, voting members and method of voting

Ensuring eligibility of contestants – in order to serve – duration is 1 year in this case election held for 2019-2020 so Jan 1st 2019, whoever has paid by 31st of Dec previous year 2018, is eligible.

So Karuna, treasurer has gone through all payments and verified, and I -Thej and Karuna have put together the list based on fees collected.

- **Second** - Eligibility to vote – who can vote. There is no clear definition – life member, annual member and youth member –

Officers are working on putting together the life members and unique email ids to cast votes – this is underway and will be done by Mid April.

2nd annual membership – whoever has paid \$10 – to central VSNA will be on voter's list

- **Third** - Youth membership – above 18 years is eligible to vote

Will compile the lists- schedule election date – and announce 3 months prior to election date

Thej – If family has 4 members – pay \$10 to central VSNA. Unique id has to be established per family. In order to give everyone a fair chance – EC and officers(except Savitha Mandi) came up with established key dates and life members, annual membership due dates etc. voters list will be published by May 10th and voting ends May 19th

Prepared a sample ballot list for – President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Youth President.

Concept of slate is nowhere mentioned in the Bylaw. Slate is only recommended. I recommend campaigning – legally each candidate should campaign for votes. Glad to have BOR and BOD's help as we need to establish a pre established Election date and collect all the membership dues

Vidya – For 2019 term of office, Election is in 2018 – term of office for which year? so membership should be by 31st of 2017

Thej – Bylaw mentions eligibility to serve.

Nayana – I beg to differ – Kiran Babbaladi – sent the letter to EC and officers and that letter was not acknowledged and responded to and he is our chapter member, so I sent a letter of treason. So can you tell me why it was not responded to?

Thej – It was in the past and if it was a mistake then, we should be not repeating mistakes now.

Nayana - So are you saying somebody made a mistake for the last 10 years?

Then last 10 years EC has made a mistake. Then if you thought those guidelines were wrong then you should've said so to BOD to correct them.

In the absence of set guidelines – if previous guidelines were followed and the criteria and guidelines had to be changed from previous process, then it should come to the BOD as the BOD is the only one who can change it.

Nandish – Thej you need to stay calm and answer the question and not shut down people. Question is for the health of the organization.

Thej - In bylaw it says in order to serve not for nomination

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Srishail – So you are saying that no less than 1 year of life member can serve the organization. How can you expect to serve? Feb 13th Election notification was sent out, so election process started and EC process has started per rules of election.

Thej - That it is not mentioned in the bylaw.

Nayana – This is upto the Board to decide to say what is correct and not.

EC has done what it should, now it is up to the BOD quoting– eligibility Article 6 of section 2 – election terms and only Life Members.

Members of VSNA should be a life member of VSNA atleast 1 year. Member is in good standing with active Life Membership, minimum of 1 year.

Nayana - If EC or anyone has ambiguity, then has to be clarified and only BOD can change it, so should have been addressed before Election and EC process started.

In the absence, that this didn't happen, then previous practice of 1 year membership for 1 year is applied. Else other members could also have applied as per Article 5 section 11. EC will conduct elections per by law

Nayana – bylaws are not guidelines. When there is ambiguity, need to practice and interpret, that the previous precedence which is normal. All BOD, BOR and officers have followed. So now, you are saying that criteria is not being followed is not right and is not fair. You cannot change that but only the board can change that. Can you tell when each of the members have paid?

Dayanand Tumkur – is there a bylaw where there is any condition for nomination?

Srishail Hadmani – read out the bylaw

Nayana – Eligibility in order to serve as BOD – the candidate shall be 1 year shall be Life Member for good standing for 1 year

Article 5 section 3 – eligibility – page number 2

Article 6 section 2 page 5 term of officers – only Life Members for atleast for 1 year.

Dayanand T– all these are to serve not for nomination. 1 year membership in good standing – that is the eligibility...

Srishail – if you are not eligible for nomination then how can you serve?

Thej – key here is, in the bylaw it clearly says it is to serve and not for nomination.

Srishail – Election notification – sent out Feb 13th – don't manipulate the voters after process started

Thej – May 31st – 3 months before -

Nayana – Thej has said EC rationale, they don't have the right to change. Now BOD needs to decide and change or what guidelines to be changed or followed what has been done in the past year. So if changed, then it will be for next future election. Because the Election process has started, we cannot change.

Shylendra: Thej – On behalf of BOR, we thank you for doing a great job. It is tremendous work. I have 3 points.

Point 1 = EC criteria for candidate eligibility – nominated by themselves or someone else

Point 2 – What are you going to do?

Point 3 – What is the Election process, who will vote? And how to vote?

EC did whatever they can do, now BOD has to decide and now either change or not. If BOD needs BOR to help, we can.

Example: on Eligibility to vote – if you have to be 21 years to vote, then you cannot file a nomination, saying you will be 21 and cannot file for next year

Narendra – It is not mentioned anywhere that the candidate cannot file for nomination without 1 year LM. But to serve it is written as 1 year required.

Harish Hiremath – Everybody- please think of the purpose of serving rather than duration of membership

Nayana – In 2014 Kiran Babaladi stood, the guideline was quoted and Jan 2nd paid date, so ineligible and he had to withdraw. When list was published – 2 members had only paid 2 months prior to elections. So election was conducted again. Jan 1st was deadline of election year as it is 1 year.

Dayanand T – we are talking VSNA bylaws- please follow the bylaw and get clear interpretation by attorney. There is mention of serving and no mention for nomination. Something has happened in the past, don't bring it here as we now have the new bylaw.

Dada Patil – BOR chair – obviously – no clear indication – we clearly told 1 year for nomination. Now BOD has to decide what to do – 1 year to serve

Change the by law if old. Don't talk about attorney as we are all adults we need to resolve here.

Thej – one clear understanding. We say bylaw and also mention guideline. There is not many to serve EC and only Latha and I have worked.

No set election guidelines. It clearly says in the bylaw to serve. Based on that we went by it and you people can set the clear rules going forward.

Shylendra – if change it, then change. It is like for Drivers License – you have to be 16 yrs, you can apply only after eligible and not when you are 15.5 years

Shrishail – If you are not eligible how can you serve?

Thej – by the time you apply for next election, you have paid by Dec 2017 = it is eligible to serve.

Nayana – candidate should be a member in good standing. Tell us which candidates became members when.

Dayanand T –there is no mention in bylaw about nominations but only to serve

Mamatha H – Thanks to Thej – obviously there is a difference. Wouldn't it be prudent to take a vote on it? Shouldn't we take a vote on this?

Nayana – before we take a vote, we need to make a point, we need the board to decide. Election committee can recommend but cannot change –

Prabhakara - Follow the bylaw and go with it. Resolution – eligibility should be 1 year.
Sajjan – I have heard the discussion and Thej has reviewed the bylaw that was put together and effective 1/1/2017 – it says in order to serve and not for nomination

Prabhakara - candidate versus serving (to serve is 1 year)

Raj Galagali – Point of contention – Dec 31 2017 – whether Life Member or not, it is how you interpret the bylaw – LM as of Dec 31st so EC has reviewed and recommended so now BOD needs to approve whether we follow precedence or ask the attorney

Nayana – Make a resolution then

Thej and Latha – will be invalid resolution as there is no quorum for EC and we should not rush to judgement

Nayana – we have thought about it for a while, so need to make a resolution as it is time sensitive and EC has no say in this.

Nandish – We reviewed the ballot – for some BOD members - it mentions they are already elected because of vacat positions. How can you announce this before the elections are over?
Nayana - There are many issues, so we can address one at a time. Mamatha are you ready to make a resolution?

President Laxmi – you cannot pass resolution as EC doesn't have the 3rd person

Prabhakara – Laxmi aware – if you want to postpone that is fine, you cannot say EC 3rd person as EC doesn't decide. They can only recommend.

Savitha – EC has made the recommendation. Today there is BOD as well as many others on the call today. So I suggest we take this offline to decide and then vote.

Nayana – No, no we are all here today, I am making a proposal today, we have the quorum, so we need to take the resolution and vote today

Nayana – go ahead - The BOD instructs the EC to uphold the requirement of Life Member paid one year prior to Jan 1st of the election year for all candidates. For this election held in 2018, the candidate should have paid their LM dues before Jan 1st of 2017.

Enforce the requirement of LM of 1 year for each candidate.

Second - Mamatha

Third - Srishail

Nayana – can you put it to vote – go by roll call

Harish Hiremath – you guys are making it complicated than should be

Dayanand T – LM of 1 year, then it should be paid 2017 to 2018 which makes it 1 year.

Nayana- please take a roll call and vote.

Dayanand T – objection that candidate is making the resolution.

Savitha – we should open it to others who want to pass the resolution

Thej – based on bylaw we have come up with the guideline.

Srishaail – we cannot talk when resolution is being made.

Thej – contestants cannot make a resolution

Sudha Nagabhushan – according to my understanding – If members paid their dues by Dec 31st 2017, then they are considered members for 1 year.

Dada Patil - there are a lot of issues, if everyone agrees then we can decide

Dayanand T - resolution is made by candidate so it is not right

Shylendra – let BOD members make a resolution

Raj Galagali – yes it should not be a member on the ballot

Mamatha - please move forward –

The Board of Directors shall entrust the EC to determine the candidate eligibility as follows:

The candidate is deemed eligible if they have paid their Life Membership dues one year prior to the Jan 1st of election year. i.e., for current election of 2018, the candidate should have paid their dues by Jan 1st 2017

Mamatha – Propose

Prabhakara – Second

Votes:

NO – 3,

YES -15

Abstain – 2

No response - 2

Laxmi – The resolution has been declared PASSED with 15 approvers

Hiresh Hiremath – I want to convey something very important – Thej has done good work and worked very hard and Dayanand T has been working very hard for the 2018 convention as Chairperson. We need to take unity of the organization and not make it personal. We need to maintain the unity of the Samaja

Prabhakara- we need to talk the differences openly and discuss and not break the organization

Nandish – there are current issues on ballot – for the EC to consider and not be offended

Nayana – can we talk point by point about the ballot?

Nandish - Eligibility to vote: Article 2 section 5c.

VSNA membership fees is due atleast 3 months prior to the EC voting date. So 3 months prior to election voting date was May 31st – so before Feb 28th. (Treasurer to send the list)

Nayana – deadline cannot be pre poned as it has gone out to the mass

Srishaail – the day of election announcement is the membership – we cannot prepone and say now

Sudha – don't agree to the resolution as the candidate is already on the ballot and will affect the candidate

Thej – list came by Treasurer

Nayana – cannot go back and say fees due by Feb 28th instead push it to June 31st.

Prabhakara – Message can be corrected. No problem. Uphold the bylaw

Thej – we discussed all these and we thought it would be appropriate to hold Election on Aug 10th as bylaw says 3 months prior to election voting date.

Hiresh Hiremath – question – Chapter members send check and president will wait till collecting all these and send one bundle. What is the date? when they give to chapter president or on date the president sends to treasurer?.

Thej – going forward – method of payment – wire transfer – common sense approach to election date and back date to 3 months

Arun Mahadevappa – Pittsburgh – due date mentioned as March 31st so we sent the checks to central VSNA.

Nayana – are they ready to conduct elections by May 31st and you will hear uproar from all members

Laxmi – if you all agree I can go back to EC and decide

Leena – Payment due date is March 31st, Checks should be received by April 10th

Thej – Guidelines need to be made formally. I worked very hard along with Latha – I need more people and more time for EC. BOD needs to come up with the people to help EC. Otherwise it will be a rush and not a fair election as I cannot evaluate everything well.

Laxmi – I propose - Shiva Maganahalli as 3rd member of EC, and Dr Nagabushana Malakkala will help the EC.

Dada – one BOR member needs to be on it

Many members responded - But Bylaw says no BOD and no BOR on EC, as it is an independent group and is conflict of interest.

Dada – as Conflict of interest is mentioned –I want to say that Thej's wife is elected but there is a conflict of interest here (as he is in EC)

Nandish – Also, a BOD member is already elected when they are not a member of the local chapter and not even contributed to the chapter, but started a parallel organization, but then you are already saying that person is elected. This is not for the good of the organization.

Prabhakara – Please mention that it is only sample ballot and not put real people's names.

Shylendra - Qualification of candidate. Thej's response cannot be that it was the list from Treasurer. EC's responsibility is to check the candidate eligibility and if not enough information then ask and should check with officers and BOD. Going forward all these can be considered. It has not happened before so we always depended on the Treasurer.

Srishail – Candidate should be in good standing at local chapter.

Harish Hiremath – how will you know they are in good standing with local chapter? So all should give details of what all they've done and what they want to do. Thej has done so much but you are all blaming EC for everything. Then no one will volunteer and come forward to serve as EC.

Nayana – 3 BOD and 2 BOR positions are already elected and BOD has to decide to extend the nomination deadlines if more people have to come forward. We are putting cart before the horse. You have come for us to approve the sample ballot. We are not approving it. Also candidates mailing address should not be mentioned but only their chapter names should be listed

Harish Hiremath – The tone being used is not good to the EC. We need to tone down.

Thej – Let us not post mortem everything and Nit pick. Nayanatara avare, you can continue talk forever, I am not going to talk and will rest my case.

Nandish – Everything will need to start from fresh. We need to let the EC decide and recommend

Nayana – are we correcting the ballot?

Laxmi - please let the EC do their job. There is no slate and voting is on each open position.

Nayana – EC recommended slates but is not listed that way on the ballot.

Raj Galagali – EC has decided on the ballot the way it is and please don't make it complicated.

Thej – There was no election all these years and came up with their own people so it was slates.

Harish Hiremath – election is bringing unnecessary issues – please resolve by allowing people to withdraw – to avoid any election

Dada Patil – someone to take leadership and gather with candidates and decide on withdraws.

Shylendra – definitely second what Harish – extend withdrawal dates, EC should announce extension and come to an agreement to avoid an election.

Laxmi – will go back to candidates and talk to them. And you may hear from EC and officers.

Thej – we need to meet once more.

Nayana – the board requests to extend the nominations and withdrawals.

Savitha - As meeting has exceeded time limit and is beyond 2.5 hours, all other agenda items (6 through 10) are postponed to the next BOD meeting. Which is May 13th but due to Mother's day, members suggest to reschedule to May 20th.
We will meet next on May 20th. We will end now. Thanks everyone



VSNA BOD Meeting Minutes: Date: Sunday April 8th, 2018 - 9 to 10:30AM PT

Agenda Items:

1. Savitha Mandi: Roll Call – 3 minutes
2. Srishail Hadimani – Vachana/Prayer – 3 minutes
3. Laxmi Hiremath: Approval of Agenda – 1 minute
4. Laxmi Hiremath – Approval of Meeting minutes – 3 minutes
5. Thej Kartal: Election procedures and rules – 20 minutes

*** following items were postponed due to meeting going overtime (exceeded 2.5 hours)

6. Sajjan Shiva & Nayantara Swamy: Guidelines for Chapter Events - 10 minutes each
7. Dayanand Tumkur: Detroit Convention Status – 15 minutes
8. Srishail Hadimani: VIRC Update – 5 minutes
9. Dada Patil: BOR Status – 5 minutes
10. Savitha Mandi: Free conference call plan options – 2 minutes
11. Savitha Mandi: Schedule May BOD Meeting – 1 minute
12. Savitha Mandi: Thank you note and closure – 2 minutes

Meeting Minutes by Savitha Mandi

1. Savitha Mandi: Roll Call

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2. Srishail Hadmani: Prayer (Vachana)

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3. Laxmi Hiremath: Approval of Agenda – 1 minute

Vidya – is the Election Grievance letter included in the agenda?

Laxmi - Item #5 is included and Thej will present it

Srishail – Requested that for agenda items - the EC update and then Detroit Convention update should be prioritized due to importance

BOR and Dada Patil agreed due to Election grievances and issues that need to be resolved

Nayanatara – EC should address the grievance letter first before the ballot

Resolution Proposed by – Arun M : Agenda to address the Election Grievance letter and Election procedures first, followed by the sample ballot.

Seconded – Channu K

Voted: approved unanimously.

4. **Laxmi Hiremath: Approval of March Meeting Minutes - 3 minutes**

Nayana – March meeting minutes - Item #5 – Need to clarify and should read as “BOD condemned the tone and threat of the email from Mr. Doddamani and President Laxmi requested that no mass emails should be sent out....

Resolution Proposed – by Raj Galagali : to approve the minutes as amended.

Seconded by – Leena P

Voted: Approved unanimously

5. **Thej Kartal: Election Procedures & Rules – 20 minutes**

President update – EC and officers have met many times. Everyone should note that Savitha Mandi – recused herself from all meetings related to Election and she will also be hearing today for the 1st time as the rest of you

Thej – Hope everyone had a chance to go over the guidelines. We had multiple meetings with officers except Savitha Mandi.

We have sent the sample ballot also. I will spend the first 5 mins to go over the general guidelines and last 15 mins will be for Q&A. Until then please allow me to present my case:

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- **Third** - Youth membership – above 18 years is eligible to vote

Will compile the lists- schedule election date – and announce 3 months prior to election date

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Vidya – For 2019 term of office, Election is in 2018 – term of office for which year? so membership should be by 1st of 2017

Thej – Bylaw mentions eligibility to serve.

Nayana – I beg to differ – Kiran Babbaladi sent the to EC and officers, requesting EC to ensure that the eligibility guidelines that were applied to him be applied to all candidates. That letter was not acknowledged or responded to by either the officers or the EC. He is our chapter member, so I sent a Letter of Grievance to the EC and BOD with supporting documents. So can you tell me why it was not responded to?

Thej – It was in the past and if it was a mistake then, we should be not repeating mistakes now.

Nayana - So are you saying somebody made a mistake for the last 10 years?

Then last 10 years EC has made a mistake? So if you thought those guidelines were wrong then you should've said so, and asked BOD to correct them.

In the absence of set guidelines – previously followed guidelines need to be followed. If there is a perception of ambiguity regarding guidelines, then the previously set precedent comes into effect. A "Precedent" is defined as- a previous practice / decision that serves as an authority for deciding later issues."

If the criteria and guidelines had to be changed from previous process, then it should come to the BOD, as the BOD is the only one who can change it.

Nandish – Thej you need to stay calm and answer the question and not shut down people. Question is for the health of the organization.

Thej - In bylaw it says in order to serve not for nomination

Srishail – So you are saying that no less than 1 year of life member can serve the organization. How can you expect to serve? Feb 13th Election notification was sent out, so election process started and EC process has started per rules of election.

Thej - That it is not mentioned in the bylaw.

Nayana – Bylaw states the fiscal year for Samaja is Jan 1 to Dec1, The term of office is Jan1 to Dec 1, and the Annual membership is also Jan 1 to Dec 1. Guidelines are not in the Bylaws. This is up to the Board to decide what is correct interpretation.

EC has done what it did, now it is up to the BOD .

Officers Eligibility Article 6 of section 2 – election & term of office.

Member is in good standing with active Life Membership, minimum of 1 year.

Nayana - If EC or anyone has ambiguity, then it has to be clarified and only BOD can do it, so should have been addressed by the EC before the election process started.

If the relaxed guidelines were made public then many other members could also have applied as candidates who paid a month ago.

Article V:EC will conduct elections per “accepted norms and practices”.

Tej-?

Nayana – bylaws are not guidelines. When there is ambiguity in the Bylaws, we follow the previous precedent set. That is the norm.. The previous EC, and even you in the current EC, have used and enforced the same eligibility guidelines for election. You have seen email documentation of candidates rejected as ineligible by you, using the same criteria. All the current BOD, BOR and officers present here, have met the same eligibility criteria.. Should not the candidates for President meet the same eligibility criteria as BOD and BOR members, if not higher criteria?

So now, you are saying that criteria is not being followed by you this time. This is not right and is not fair.

You cannot change the eligibility criteria only the Board can change that.

Can you tell when each of the candidates has paid their Life Membership dues?

Dayanand Tumkur – is there a bylaw where there is any condition for nomination?

Srishail Hadmani – read out the bylaw

Nayana – “Eligibility: In order to serve as elected Director (i) the Candidate shall be 21years of age (ii) the CANDIDATE shall be Life Member of the Corporation in good standing for no less than 1 year (iii) The CANDIDATE shall have demonstrated active interest and participation in the activities of the VSNA.....”

The status of all the people on the ballot is that of “CANDIDATE”.

The requirement is for the candidate, not the already elected person.

In Article 5 section 3 – BOD eligibility – page number 2

In Article 6 section 2, page 5, OFFICERS – Election and term of office: only Life Member of VSNA shall be eligible to serve as an officer. He/she should be a life Member of VSNA for at least for 1 year.

Dayanand T– all these are to serve not for nomination. 1 year membership in good standing – that is the eligibility...

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Thej – key here is, in the bylaw it clearly says it is to serve and not for nomination.

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Narendra – It is not mentioned anywhere that the candidate cannot file for nomination without 1 year LM. But to serve it is written as 1 year required.

Harish Hiremath – Everybody- please think of the purpose of serving rather than duration of membership

Nayana – In 2014 Kiran Babaladi stood for election, the guideline was quoted – he needed to have met his Life Member criteria as of Jan 1st of election year. His check was Jan 2nd 2013 paid date, so EC deemed him ineligible, and he had to withdraw. Then EC list of elected BOD was published. BOD discovered 2 members already declared elected by EC, had only paid Life Membership dues only 2 months prior to elections. BOD subsequently removed them from the ‘elected list’, and another election was conducted to fill those seats. Eligibility requirement to be met by Jan 1st of election year. This is on record.

Dayanand T – we are talking VSNA bylaws- please follow the bylaw and get clear interpretation by attorney. There is mention of serving and no mention for nomination. Something has happened in the past, don't bring it here as we now have the new bylaw.

Dada Patil – BOR chair – obviously – no clear indication – we clearly told 1 year for nomination. Now BOD has to decide what to do – 1 year to serve
Change the by law if old. Don't talk about attorney as we are all adults we need to resolve here.

Thej – one clear understanding. We say bylaw and also mention guideline. There is not many to serve EC and only Latha and I have worked.
No set election guidelines. It clearly says in the bylaw to serve. Based on that we went by it and you people can set the clear rules going forward.

Shylendra – if change it, then change. It is like for Drivers License – you have to be 16 yrs, you can apply only after eligible and not when you are 15.5 years

Shrishail – If you are not eligible how can you serve?

Thej – by the time you apply for next election, you have paid by Dec 2017 = it is eligible to serve.

Nayana – Please read the full sentence. It would be incorrect to interpret only part of a sentence. It refers to the Candidate's eligibility requirement. Bylaw reads –“ in order to serve the candidate should be a Life member of the Corporation in good standing for no less than 1 year”.

Tell us which candidates became members & when.

Dayanand T –there is no mention in bylaw about nominations but only to serve

Mamatha H – Thanks to Thej – obviously there is a difference. Wouldn't it be prudent to take a vote on it? Shouldn't we take a vote on this?

Nayana – before we take a vote, we need to make a point, we need the board to decide. Election committee can recommend but cannot make changes to rules .

Prabhakara - Follow the bylaw and go with it. Resolution – eligibility should be 1 year.

Sajjan – I have heard the discussion and Thej has reviewed the bylaw that was put together and effective 1/1/2017 – it says in order to serve and not for nomination

Prabhakara - candidate versus serving (to serve is 1 year)

Raj Galagali – Point of contention – Dec 31 2017 – whether Life Member or not, it is how you interpret the bylaw – LM as of Dec 31st so EC has reviewed and recommended so now BOD needs to approve whether we follow precedence or ask the attorney

Nayana – Make a resolution then

Thej and Latha – will be invalid resolution as there is no quorum for EC and we should not rush to judgement

Nayana – we have debated for over 2hours, so the BOD needs to make a resolution as it is time sensitive, and EC has no vote in this.

Nandish – We reviewed the ballot – for some BOD members - it mentions they are already elected because of vacant positions. How can you announce this before the elections are over?

Nayana - There are many issues, so we can address one at a time. Mamatha are you ready to make a resolution?

President Laxmi – you cannot pass resolution as EC doesn't have the 3rd person

Prabhakara – Laxmi aware – if you want to postpone that is fine, you cannot say EC 3rd person as EC doesn't decide. They can only recommend.

Savitha – EC has made the recommendation. Today there is BOD as well as many others on the call today. So I suggest we take this offline to decide and then vote.

Nayana – No, we are all here today, we are making a proposal today, we have the quorum, so we need to take the resolution and vote today

Nayana – The BOD instructs the EC to uphold the requirement of Life Member paid one year prior to Jan 1st of the election year for all candidates. For this election held in 2018, the candidate should have paid their LM dues before Jan 1st of 2017.

Second - Mamatha

Third - Srishail

Nayana – can you put it to vote – go by roll call

Harish Hiremath – you guys are making it complicated than should be

Dayanand T – LM of 1 year, then it should be paid 2017 to 2018 which makes it 1 year.

Nayana- please take a roll call and vote.

Dayanand T – objection that candidate is making the resolution.

Savitha – we should open it to others who want to pass the resolution

Thej – based on bylaw we have come up with the guideline.

Srishail – we cannot talk when resolution is being made.

Thej – contestants cannot make a resolution

Sudha Nagabhushan – according to my understanding – If members paid their dues by Dec 31st 2017, then they are considered members for 1 year.

Dada Patil - there are a lot of issues, if everyone agrees then we can decide

Dayanand T - resolution is made by candidate so it is not right

Shylendra – let BOD members make a resolution

Raj Galagali – yes it should not be a member on the ballot

Mamatha - please move forward –

Resolution by Mamatha Hirannah:

The Board of Directors shall entrust the EC to determine the candidate eligibility as follows:
The candidate is deemed eligible if they have paid their Life Membership dues one year prior to the Jan 1st of election year. i.e., for current election of 2018, the candidate should have paid their dues by Jan 1st 2017

Mamatha – Proposes

Prabhakara – Second

Votes:

NO – 3,

YES -15

Abstain – 2

No response - 2

Laxmi – The resolution has been declared PASSED with 15 approvers

Hiresh Hiremath – I want to convey something very important – Thej has done good work and worked very hard and Dayanand T has been working very hard for the 2018 convention as Chairperson. We need to take unity of the organization and not make it personal. We need to maintain the unity of the Samaja

Prabhakara- we need to talk the differences openly and discuss and not break the organization

Nandish – there are current issues on ballot – for the EC to consider and not be offended

Nayana – can we talk point by point about the ballot?

Nandish - Eligibility to vote: Article 2 section 5c.

VSNA membership fees is due atleast 3 months prior to the EC voting date. So 3 months prior to election voting date was May 31st – so before Feb 28th. (Treasurer to send the list)

Nayana – deadline cannot be pre poned as it has gone out to the masses.

Prishail – the day of election announcement is the membership – we cannot prepone and say now

Sudha – don't agree to the resolution as the candidate is already on the ballot and will affect the candidate

Thej – list came by Treasurer

Nayana – cannot go back on your own announcement of March 31st deadline, and now say fees were due by Feb 28th. It is not fair to penalize the members for your error in calculation. Instead, if voting is pushed to after June 31st we would be in compliant with the bylaw requirement of 3month gap, and keep the date already announced to the general membership.

Prabhakara – Message can be corrected. No problem. Uphold the bylaw

Thej – we discussed all these and we thought it would be appropriate to hold Election on Aug 10th as bylaw says 3 months prior to election voting date.

Hiresh Hiremath – question – Chapter members send check and president will wait till collecting all these and send one bundle. What is the date? when they give to chapter president or on date the president sends to treasurer?.

Thej – going forward – method of payment – wire transfer – common sense approach to election date and back date to 3 months

Arun Mahadevappa – Pittsburgh – due date mentioned as March 31st so we sent the checks to central VSNA.

Nayana – If you prepone the Annual membership deadline now, to Feb 28 after announcing March 31, there will be uproar from all members

Laxmi – if you all agree I can go back to EC and decide

Leena – Payment due date is March 31st, Checks should be received by April 10th

Thej – Guidelines need to be made formally. I worked very hard along with Latha – I need more people and more time for EC. BOD needs to come up with the people to help EC. Otherwise it will be a rush and not a fair election as I cannot evaluate everything well.

Laxmi – I propose - Shiva Maganahalli as 3rd member of EC, and Dr Nagabushana Malakkala will help the EC.

Dada – one BOR member needs to be on it

Many members responded - But Bylaw says no BOD and no BOR on EC, as it is an independent group and is conflict of interest.

Dada – as Conflict of interest is mentioned –I want to say that Thej’s wife is candidate for BOD but there is a conflict of interest here (as he is in EC)

Nandish – Also, a BOD member is already elected when they are not a member of the local chapter and not even contributed to the chapter, but started a parallel organization, but then you are already saying that person is elected. This is not for the good of the organization.

Prabhakara – Please mention that it is only sample ballot and not put real people’s names.

Shylendra - Qualification of candidate. Thej’s response cannot be that it was the list from Treasurer. EC’s responsibility is to check the candidate eligibility and if not enough information then ask and should check with officers and BOD. Going forward all these can be considered. It has not happened before so we always depended on the Treasurer.

Srishail – Candidate should be in good standing at local chapter.

Harish Hiremath – how will you know they are in good standing with local chapter? So all should give details of what all they’ve done and what they want to do. Thej has done so much but you are all blaming EC for everything. Then no one will volunteer and come forward to serve as EC.

Nayana – 3 BOD and 2 BOR positions are already elected and BOD has to decide to extend the nomination deadlines if more people have to come forward. We are putting cart before the horse. You have come for us to approve the sample ballot. We are not approving it. Also candidates mailing address should not be mentioned but only their chapter names should be listed

Harish Hiremath – The tone being used is not good to the EC. We need to tone down.

Thej – Let us not post mortem everything and Nit pick. Nayanatara avare, you can continue talk forever, I am not going to talk and will rest my case.

Nandish – Everything will need to start from fresh. We need to let the EC decide and recommend

Nayana – are we correcting the ballot?

Laxmi - please let the EC do their job. There is no slate and voting is on each open position.

Nayana – EC recommended slates but is not listed that way on the ballot.

Raj Galagali – EC has decided on the ballot the way it is and please don't make it complicated.

Thej – There was no election all these years and came up with their own people so it was slates.

Harish Hiremath – election is bringing unnecessary issues – please resolve by allowing people to withdraw – to avoid any election

Dada Patil – someone to take leadership and gather with candidates and decide on withdrawals.

Shylendra – definitely second what Harish – extend withdrawal dates, EC should announce extension and come to an agreement to avoid an election.

Laxmi – will go back to candidates and talk to them. And you may hear from EC and officers.

Thej – we need to meet once more.

Nayana – the board requests to extend the nominations and withdrawals.

Savitha - As meeting has exceeded time limit and is beyond 2.5 hours, all other agenda items (6 through 10) are postponed to the next BOD meeting. Which is May 13th but due to Mother's day, members suggest to reschedule to May 20th.
We will meet next on May 20th. We will end now. Thanks everyone



Veerashaiva Samaja of North America



VSNA BOD Meeting Minutes: Date: Sunday May 20th, 2018 - 9 to 10:30AM PT

PLEASE NOTE: this is a new conference call number

Dial-in Number: (712) 451-0154 Access Code: 300150#

Agenda:

1. Savitha Mandi: Roll Call - 3 minutes
2. Srishail Hadimani: Vachana Prayer - 3 minutes
3. Laxmi Hiremath: Approval of Agenda – 2 minutes
4. Laxmi Hiremath: Approval of April Meeting Minutes - 6 minutes
5. Dayanand Tumkur: Detroit Convention Status – 20 minutes
6. Laxmi Hiremath: Approval of Awards Committee & Election Committee – 3 minutes
7. Dada Patil (BOR Chair): Presentation of VSNA 2018 Election guidelines - 20 minutes
8. Savitha Mandi: Schedule June BOD Meeting – 1 minute
9. Savitha Mandi: Thank you note and closure – 2 minutes

Meeting Minutes by Savitha Mandi

1. Savitha Mandi: Roll Call

BOD: Laxmi Hiremath, Leena Paul, Savitha Mandi, Srishail Hadimani, Nayanatara Swamy, M.D Patil, Channu Kambalyal

Chapter Presidents: Nandish Dhananjaya, Arun Mahadevappa, Narendra Hadimani, Sulochana Guggari, Asha Gaddi, Veeresh, Dilp Shivanna(for Shivashankar-Alabama)

BOR: Dada Patil, Shylendra Kumar, Uma Sajjan, Rohini Mensinkai, Jayashree Jagadeesh, Irappa Arabhavi

Guests: Dayanand Tumkur, Anu Burji,

2. Laxmi Hiremath: Prayer (Vachana)

Vachanadalli Naamaamrutha Thumbi –

ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಮಾಮೃತ ತುಂಬಿ.

ನಯನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮೂರುತಿ ತುಂಬಿ,

ಮನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಮ್ಮ ನೆನಪು ತುಂಬಿ;

ಕಿವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಕೀರುತಿ ತುಂಬಿ;

ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವ,

ನಿಮ್ಮ ಚರಣಕಮಲದೊಳಗಾನು ತುಂಬಿ!

3. Laxmi Hiremath: Approval of Agenda – 1 minute

Move item #6 of Awards Committee approval to item #4 on agenda. – approved by all.

Election Committee topic will be deferred till Dada Patil's presentation.

6. **Laxmi Hiremath: Approval of Awards Committee & Election Committee – 3 minutes**

The awards committee comprises of Vijay Aivalli, Anu Burji and Suma Basanth.

Shylendra : Last year convention's joint meeting, it was brought up that there were mistakes made in the award process.

So can you share what those mistakes were and what has been done to avoid the same mistakes by the awards committee?

Laxmi – The criteria have been now revised by the 3 Awards committee members and there are will be no sitting BOD/BOR members who can nominate themselves.

Anu: The Awards committee met briefly and discussed the criteria and last time the mistake was we were not aware of the committee member as they were not actively participating and the board was not aware either. It was an honest oversight and mistake which will be avoided by this criteria. Awards committee will check and validate this time and will submit to the BOD for approvals.

Tumkur Dayanand – Asked for atleast 3 weeks lead time if plaques for Awards have to be ordered and made.

Channu – Central VSNA Awards plaques will be handled by central VSNA and the Detroit chapter need not worry as order will be placed at the same vendor in NJ where we've got plaques made for the past 2 years

Nayanatara – Laxmi avare – are you coming for approval of Awards committee as mentioned in agenda item? BOD has not seen the names or the criteria as it has not been sent out to BOD.

Shylendra – the awards committee and criteria need to be approved by BOD and Laxmi avare, you are already announcing before approval and you are already sending to chapter presidents? This is going in the wrong direction.

Laxmi - Vijay Aivalli and Suma are already on the committee, and Vijay requested someone from the East Coast for the 3rd person and so he asked Suma Basanth.

As for the criteria, Leena worked with Vijay Aivalli which was sent to all the chapter presidents asking for nominations.

Leena – Can we take a vote on approving the Awards Committee of:
Vijay Aivalli, Anuradha Burji and Suma Basanth
Proposed by Leena, Seconded by Channu

ACTION ITEM – Awards Criteria to be sent to BOD and BOR Chair with 3 days time to respond and collect feedback.

Nayantara – Chapter Presidents are asking for clarifications as it has mentioned atleast one nomination... is it in each category or overall? We are not sure as we have not seen the criteria.

4. **Laxmi Hiremath: Approval of April Meeting Minutes - 3 minutes**

Savitha - April meeting minutes is 10 pages long and we also have Nayantara's amendments. Do we have to review line by line on the clarification of her part of paraphrasing and adding context?

Nayanatara – actually I've already sent it to all BOD, and BOR chair as they were all present, so hope they've reviewed it.

Shylendra – There are incomplete sentences and repetitions.

Narendara Hadimani – One person cannot make amendments or corrections only to their portions, it should be revised for everyone.

Arun M – If 3rd person reviews the first version, we cannot make out so the amended version is better.

Savitha – I’ve used the same approach as I’ve been writing meeting minutes since the past 1 year. This meeting minute is also the same and will not be treated as something special just because this may be used as evidence.

Dayanand- Savitha aware, please save all versions of minutes and recordings

Dada – Dayanand aware, please focus on convention developments as you are the convention chair and please be aloof on BOD-BOR topics.

Shylendra- versions of minutes and recordings should be made available only to BOD and not to everyone.

Laxmi – Nayana aware, we cannot approve the meeting minutes as you’ve made revisions only to your sections. We will keep both versions separately.

Dayanand – Everyone needs access to meeting minutes and cannot be heldback only for your review.

Savitha clarified – Meeting minutes once approved by BOD will be made available on website for all to view.

5. Dayanand Tumkur: Detroit Convention Status – 20 minutes

Dayanand - So far there are 260 registrations so about 40 to 50 short. Last week I went to Chicago chapter Basava Jayanthi event and met lot of people. It was very nice gathering and we got some more registrations.

I wanted to go to Ohio and Toronto chapter celebrations as well, but their chapter event was already conducted. We want to drive registrations with Ohio and Toronto chapter members. I request all chapter presidents, BOD and BOR members to register and campaign for registration drive and help with publicity. We are looking for atleast 50 to 60 more families to register from group of Presidents, BOD and BOR members.

Chicago chapter had questions on venue – so both convention venue and hotel are all under same roof.

I request chapter presidents to send their chapter donations to the convention. Entertainers are being finalized. The highlight of this convention is the “Basava Meravanige”. Everyone is requested to participate. We are coordinating with Marathi Mandal for Dhols. Kannada Koota is also promoting and Sulekha is also advertising on website which is good.

Nandish Dhananjya - Dayanand aware, thank you for coming to Chicago and our chapter event. Members were very happy. There are couple of questions:

1- Were you able to get an update on the extra bedding from hotel?

2- When is the Basava Meravanige? – Is it Saturday morning?

Dayanand – yes we have booked the hotel for 350 nights. Already I heard 250 nights are booked so remaining 100 are left. So we will check with hotel for Friday night if extra bed is charged or can they give double bed.

Nandish – yes that will help, also the extra bed is not very expensive they will charge \$10 or so.

Dada Patil –I have two points:

1. Is the tour be youth only tour or can adults join as well? Don’t have the information.

Dayanand – website has the information on the tour. It is for youth, but if adults are interested they can join. We are collecting the numbers to arrange for transportation so if more adults are interested we can arrange accordingly.

2. During convention, for June meeting there is BOD and BOR meetings separate meetings from 1-2pm and then joint meeting from 2-3pm. But I suggest we make joint meeting from 1 to 3pm. And if BOD agrees, let BOD and BOR have their separate meetings in June before coming to convention.

Laxmi – Dayanand aware, so far you and your team have worked hard and posters you’ve made are good. But please make them for youth also and engage your chapter youth committee and Youth President, Bilva, to energize the youth participation and attendance.

Also all chapter presidents present today, please send in your generous donations to support the convention.

Sulachana Guggari – when we ask members to donate, they ask why do we need to give when others didn't give to our convention?

Savitha clarified – that all chapters must donate to support conventions each year. Some chapters donate anywhere from \$250-\$1000 depending on small or large chapter membership.

Arun M – From Pittsburgh chapter, when we meet on June 2nd, we will ask members and they normally donate to convention. We will send check to VSNA 2018 Convention fund.

Srishail - Dayanand aware, how many registrations so far? And what is the goal? (Dayanand repeated the numbers again and said If registrations cannot meet goal, they will start inviting others. Ex: Milwaukee Kannada Koota is interested to attend our VSNA.

Srishail - Are others allowed to attend our VSNA convention?.

Dayanand and Channu mentioned that anybody who wants to attend and are interested in Basava Philosophy must be allowed to attend. They are also required to pay for registration.

7.Dada Patil (BOR Chair): Presentation of VSNA 2018 Election guidelines - 20 minutes

Dada Patil - Election guidelines has been sent out to everyone. Hope you all have read. One mistake is on page 6 of 6 ... where it is mentioned as VSNA ByLaw recommends, (which is not right) so I will correct it. We can review each item by item and BOD can discuss and approve.

Nayanantara – On section 2.4, regarding family vote for 1 email id, and else 1 member gets 1 vote only, please can you officially clarify and send out an email as there can be 4 valid email ids in a family.

Shylendra - Nayanantara aware, let us go by one item at a time and not jump to sections.

The Election Committee should be appointed and approved first. BOR was to form an EC.

Laxmi – 1.1 – Regarding Latha Mallikarjuna – she was attending and participated with Thej. Only because of elections in Aug and she had commitments, she withdrew.

Shylendra – this recommendation is from directly contacting and talking to candidates, not 3rd person information. Mr. Chandra moui mentioned that he had not received any emails and has not participated in any discussions with Thej or Latha.

Savitha – on behalf of all attendees as names were not familiar, asked BOR to give introductions of the recommended EC members

Shylendara - Dr. Vishweshwaraiah Hanumappa, originally is from NY/NJ and is currently residing in Colorado. He has knowledge of VSNA organization and members. Dr Palegar is in FL and was President of Central VSNA before. So BOD should discuss and approve these candidates.

Nayanantara – BOR is recommending these people after deliberating, so I don't question and second guess.

Laxmi – I want to ask the BOD members if the original EC can be dissolved midway during the election process that has already started?

Channu – Laxmi aware- as there is only 1 active EC member now, yes BOD can make the change to EC.

Leena – I recommend to keep Thej and eliminate others as he's been through the EC process from the beginning.

Uma Sajjan – But there is a conflict of interest with Thej's wife standing for Election.

Leena – but as soon as the conflict was mentioned, the following day, she withdrew and sat down.

Dada – Withdrawals cannot happen as it has to be sent out and deadline was over.

Shylendra – All these are being suggested by BOR, for BOD to discuss and approve. Can we open this up to other BOD members to speak?

Shrishail – Did the EC not know that there was conflict of interest?

Channu – ok that is a different question. Let us focus and now ask BOD if they are OK with new EC members.

Laxmi – let us give time to BOD to review and not rush this as a proposal. There are few BOD members not present and they sent email due to their children's graduation events and not to make resolutions.

Nayanatara – There is a quorum today and you cannot say BOD cannot vote. We need to vote and make decisions.

Nandish – As BOD member, if I cannot attend, I cannot send an email and say donot pass resulation! We cannot hold up but need to move forward.

Channu – I propose : BOD to dissolve the current Election Committee and add 3 new members to Election Committee as recommended by BOR as listed below:

- 1) Mr. Shiva Maganahalli - Northern CA chapter (nominated for President)
- 2) Dr. Vishweshwariah Hanumappa – Colorado (former NY/NJ chapter)
- 3) Dr. Somashekhar Palegar (ex President from FL chapter)

Proposed by Channu – Seconded by Arun Mahadevappa.

Savitha - We need to take a vote on this, to pass resolution.

Veeresh - You are asking for vote, but before that, can you please introduced them to us so we get to know them.

Nayanatara – Voting is already in progress, so we cannot interrupt.

Shylendra - repeated the introduction of recommended EC members.

Voting Results - The resolution was passed with 10 YES votes, 1 Abstain and 0 NO votes.

Due to meeting overtime, for review of rest of the BOR recommendations on Election guidelines, Channu suggested that the entire BOR recommendations be sent to the new EC for them to review and they should come back to BOD for approval.

Shylendra – suggested that if BOD has any comments to send to BOR chair and depending on the number of comments, BOR will either have another joint meeting or send out the final recommendations. The new Election Committee should also be present in the next meeting.

Savitha will send out the email to all BOD, Chapter Presidents and BOR requesting any suggestions or changes to EC guidelines to be sent to Dada Patil's personal email by the due date of June 2nd.

8. Savitha Mandi: Schedule June BOD Meeting – 1 minute – Next meeting is on June 10th

9. Savitha Mandi: Thank you note and closure – 2 minutes

BOD-BOR Joint Meeting

Special joint meeting held on July 29, 2018 12:00pm EST
At the request of new 2018 Election Committee

Meeting started at 12:00 PM EST and ended around 1:40 PM EST

Attendees

BOR

- Dada Patil (Meeting Chair)
- Irappa Arabhavi
- Jayashree Jagadeesh
- Shylendra Kumar
- Rohini Mensinkai
- Uma Sajjan
- Yuvaraj Patil

BOD

- Laxmi Hiremath
- Leena Paul
- Savitha Mandi
- Karuna Hiremath
- Channu Kambalyal
- Prabhakara Chippidi
- Raj Galagali
- Shrishail Hadimani

Chapter Presidents

- Nandish Dhananjaya (IL)
- Vidya Rao (FL)
- Narendra Hadimani (MI)
- Sandeep Hattarki (OH)
- Shivakumar Jolad (MD)
- Naveen (PA)

Election Committee

- Dr. Somashekar Palegar (Chair)
- Dr. Visweshwaraiah
- Dr. Rajiv Kumar (not present)

Agenda

Election committee would like to restart the election process.

Election committee chair Dr Palegar on behalf of the new Election committee, requested this joint meeting to seek approval of BOD and BOR to restart the election process instead of continuing from the point where the process has stopped.

Minutes

Joint meeting Chair MR. Dada Patil, restated the agenda and made the following opening statement.

“Welcome everyone. On behalf of BOD, BOR, & Chapter presidents, I thank Dr. Palegar, Dr. Visweshwaraiah, and Dr. Rajiv Kumar for volunteering to be EC Members in such a difficult time. This meeting is called between EC members and all the elected members of VSNA to discuss one thing only. To begin I would like to brief everyone on all of the events that took place so far regarding the 2018 VSNA Elections.

1. Nominations were called in Feb. 2018 for 10 BOD positions (4 Officers + 6 BOD), 4 BOR positions and 1 youth president position.
2. In the April BOD meeting, all the contestants' names were announced. There were 12 contestants for 4 Officer Positions, 2 for the youth president position, 3 for the 6 BOD positions, and 2 for the 4 BOR positions.

In the same meeting 3 BOD and 2 BOR candidates met the criteria and announced as elected

3. In the same meeting, there was a discussion about eligibility criteria which was debated & voted on. The following resolution was passed with overwhelming majority: “Life members who have paid their membership dues before 1/1/2017 are eligible to run in the 2018 VSNA election”

4. Then there was an email from the president and a letter from Dayand Tumkur's lawyer.

BOD-BOR Joint Meeting

Special joint meeting held on July 29, 2018 12:00pm EST
At the request of new 2018 Election Committee

5. BOR called a joint meeting to sort out things. In the joint meeting, BOD members upheld the previous resolution; in the same meeting, BOD unanimously passed another resolution asking BOR to oversee and present a guideline for the election.

6. In the meantime, the new election committee was formed.

7. In the June BOD meeting the election guideline was presented and approved with minor corrections. At the same meeting there was a proposal to restart the election all over again which was rejected by the members.

BOR contacted and updated all the information to the newly formed EC members. The election committee had their own meeting and sent an email saying that they want to restart the election process instead of resuming it. BOR has not recommended to restart the election and informed the EC that doing so requires BOD approval.

We would like Dr. Palegar to explain why the election needs to be restarted.”

Palegar presented the following to justify why EC wants to restart the election process.

- There were lots issues in the way previous EC handled the process and the new EC would like not to inherit those. All 3 members of the new EC strongly believe in starting fresh.
- They are hoping to start next month (August) and conclude by end of Oct, 2018
- They have received the list of voters and still working on some that are missing current email address.
- They have list of about 312 to 314 life members list and confident that at least 300 will be updated before voting process.

Visweshwaraiah added, update of Life Members list and annual members list (that was provided by VANA officers) in in works and good shape.

Palegar, EC would like to set the dates as follows:

1. August 20, 2018 last date for nominations
2. August 31, 2018 last date for withdrawal

Prabhakara, questioned if the EC has already assumed that BOD has approved their request as the EC is presenting the dates and deadlines.

Dada Patil, reminded EC that the BOD must approve their request to restart by passing a resolution before they announce and execute their plans for the election process.

Laxmi Hiremath, made a statement saying the BOD has approved the restart process.

Many BOD members, said “that is not true”

Yuvarj Patil, Reiterated the discussions and resolutions passed in the previous BOD and joint meetings about the election process.

Dada Patil, requested the attendees to discuss and deliberate so that based on the consensus a resolution can be passed at this meeting.

EC and all attendees were given an opportunity to express their opinion about the “restart process”.

BOD-BOR Joint Meeting

Special joint meeting held on July 29, 2018 12:00pm EST
At the request of new 2018 Election Committee

All the board members and EC members discussed about the candidates eligibility for 2018 elections and agreed that as per the BOD resolution, Life members who have paid membership dues before 1/1/2017 are eligible to contest in 2018 VSNA election. There was a discussion about the voter's eligibility and EC should follow the BOD approved guidelines.

At the end it was agreed to present the following motions.

Resolution 1 Part-A: Proposed by Prabhakar Chippidi and Seconded by Raj Galgali

Sample ballot as published by previous EC has erroneously recorded "elected", the correct wording should be "qualified". Due to this correction, 3/6 BODs and 2/3 BORs need to recontest.

Resolution 1 Part-B: Proposed by Channu Kamblyal and Seconded by Prabhakar Chippidi

EC would follow established election guidelines by the BOD and honor all BOD's resolutions related to the 2018 elections process. EC would reopen nominations for all positions and publish new dates for the elections process.

Total 21 members in attendance.

- 17-YES for both Part-A and Part-B of the motion
Prabhakar Chippidi, Shrishail Hadimani, Channu Kamblyal, Raj Galgali, Narendra Hadimani, Nadeesha Dhanjaya, Sandeep Hattaraki, Naveen, Vidya Rao, Leena Paul, Savitha Mandi, Shivakumar Jolad, Jayashree Jagadeesh, Irappa Arabhavi, Uma Sajjan, Shylendra Kumar and Yuvaraj Patil
- 1-absent during voting, Rohini Mensinkai
- 1-abstained, Dada Patil
- 2- NO, Karuna Hiremath and Laxmi Hiremath

Dada Patil, declared the resolution approved with 17 yes votes and adjourned the meeting by thanking all attendees and EC members.

Action Item for EC : Publish new election dates asap.

****End of meeting minutes****



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Roll Call: Uma Sajjan

Officers: Leena Paul

Ex-Officer: Channu Kambalyal

BOD Members: Mahesh Rajghat (for Mamatha Hirannaiah), Nayantara Swamy, Prabhakara Chippadi, Raj Galagali, Shrishail Hadimani. M.D.Patil

BOR Members: Dada Patil, Shylendar Kumar, Jayashree Jagadeesh, Rohini Menashinkai, Uma Sajjan, Yuvaraj Patil, Irappa Arabhavi.

Chapter Presidents:

Dayanand Paramane, Nandish Dhananjaya, Asha Gaddi, Vidya Rao, Nagarathna Totada,

Narendra Hadimani, Veereshappa Rudramuni, Mahesh Kumar, Naveen Kumar (For Arun Mahadevappa), Sulochana Guggari.

Vachana by Yuvaraj Patil

Meeting Agenda

1. Approval of meeting agenda – Dada Patil
2. Approval of April 29th and July 29th Minutes of meeting
3. Election Committee Letter – Dada Patil
4. Violation of BOD resolutions by the president

Approval of meeting agenda

Proposed by Raj Galgali

Seconded by Mahesh Kumar

Approval of Joint meeting minutes

April 29th meeting:

Nayanathara Pg.4: Suggested an amendment to page 4

“ In the past, the candidates who are not life members by the beginning of election year were disqualified. In the original bylaws there was no requirement for life membership for nomination or to serve in the executive committee”

Nayantara Swamy amended meeting of the minutes

Seconded by Vidya Rao



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All in favor– Yes

July 29th meeting –

Proposed by Yuvaraj Patil

Seconded by Prabhakar Chippadi

All in favor –Yes

Opening Statement by BOR chair – Dada Patil

I thank each & every member for attending this Joint Meeting.

- a. I as a BOR chair with the help of dedicated BOR members, followed all the rules and worked on election-related matters as asked by the BOD
- b. For the record, BOR never campaigned to take this responsibility. It was assigned by the BOD & all voted in favor including the officers.
- c. Some emails suggest that there is a fight between BOR & BOD , which is not true.
- d. BOR & Majority of BOD are on the same page which is reflected in all the meeting minutes. As a BOR chair, I never voted for or against on any resolutions & none of the BOR members are contesting so far.
- e. I have attached both JT. Meeting resolutions, guide lines & letter from Dr.Pallegar.
- f. VSNA is a democratic organization. All the matter should be handled in a democratic way. BOD is an elected body & BOR respect the decisions made by the majority.
- g. Please don't get influenced by any one, but express your own thoughts

Discussion On Election Letter

Leena Paul: BOD approved the EC (that was suggested by BOR) to move forward, so let's do the same. Why influence them? We trusted them in doing their job.

- any question/suggestion in regards to election was to be sent to EC directly- this was clearly communicated

-On the previous call, a suggestion was made for BOR Chair and President to have a call with the EC- was that done?

-EC has not been invited to this meeting. We already had a meeting with EC, BOD and BOR.

Without EC, who are we going to talk to? Let EC do it's job, let the voters decide who they want to elect.

The current BOD and a few BOR members have just four months left before we transition off- let's work with EC to make it happen smoothly.



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Dada Patil: I called Dr. Pallegar about the EC decision to convince EC to follow the resolutions passed by BOD. But Dr. Pallegar said it is unnecessary to go through the same discussion again, this is EC's Final decision. I got a text message. Therefore EC was not invited for this meeting

Concerns raised from several BOD members including BOR Chair: Emails were circulated with members who are not on Board. The emails concerning the election issues or other matters should only be sent to members of BOD, BOR and chapter presidents unless addressed to general body

Prabhakar- When new EC committee was formed the committee was made aware of all the past problems, new resolution passed by BOD and interpretation of By Laws. Dr. Pallegar agreed on behalf of EC committee that they will follow the guidelines and conduct fair election. Later on EC committee made their own decision without consulting BOR chair, who is appointed to oversee the election, but instead consulted with president of VSNA. President neither enforced EC to follow the resolution passed by BOD nor referred them to BOR chair. Additionally, president ignored to call for joint meeting to resolve the issues related to EC decisions.

Nandish –Seconded prabhakar's input, and reiterated that President failed to respect resolutions passed by BOD

Yuvaraj– Reiterated that the guidelines were clearly explained to EC and they agreed to follow these guidelines. Despite this, EC made their own decision not to follow the resolutions passed by BOR or BOD – a violation by EC and no respect to BOR or BOD. Therefore EC credibility is in question. If the EC is not committed and have no intention to follow the guidelines, they should resign or EC should be dissolved.

Channu - We should move fast as there is not much time to debate. We should make decision today if possible. When the joint meeting is called whether it is president or BOR chair, everybody should attend the meeting. Officers not attending the meeting and sending a conflicting email is the violation of Bylaws.

Prabhakar – Due to ambiguity in the Bylaws, clarification was needed. BOD authorized BOR to interpret the Bylaws and the BOR's interpretation was discussed in depth during the past joint meeting and the resolution was passed to clarify the Bylaw. In this case, resolution becomes a guideline that must be followed by EC. Despite agreeing to follow the resolution, EC later decided not to follow the guidelines making things difficult. This indicates no cooperation from EC and therefore BOD has lost trust in EC and their capacity to conduct free and fair elections.

Patil MD: We should respect each and everyone and it is disappointing that it has gone too far. New EC interpreted the Bylaws differently and we should consider going back and convince them to follow the guidelines.

Yuvraj - Redirected the meeting to the point. BOD and BOR has spent a lot of time in coming with the guidelines which BOD approved. But EC ignored the guidelines, is it because President



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wanted to favor a candidate? Since EC is not doing their duties, the present EC should be discomissioned and new EC should be formed

Nandish – It should be noted that EC did not consult the BOR chair who is responsible for election issues

Raj galgali - We need to move forward and should appoint new election committee. Nayanthara – EC violated the BOD directions and guidelines, We should not go back to convince EC , who already took action and sent nomination letter to VSNA members.

Leena – Resolution was passed to clarify the Bylaws and therefore Bylaws should be amended. Can we make another effort to convince EC to follow the resolution passed by BOD

Irappa- Reiterated that BOR and BOD passed the resolution to interpret the By Law in a meaningful way. The resolution was put to vote and the BOD and BOR overwhelmingly passed the resolution. If new EC were to follow the guidelines there would have been no problems. But this adhoc committee interpreted the Bylaws their own way, which is wrong.

Jayashree – EC has lost trust, even if we convince them there is no gaurentte that EC will follow the guidelines. All the other adhoc committees, such as award committee, finance committee follow the guidelines. If all the adhoc committees have their own way and ignore the guidelines, the organization will not function

Leena – how practical is to get new EC to conduct the election within December

Prabhakar- raised concern about the recruiting new members for EC in short time,

Dada Patil – I am not suggesting dissolve or not. As a backup, I diligently worked on finding new members who have agreed to follow the guidelines and conduct the fair elections. I will suggest 3 names, but it is up to BOD to approve or not. I stay neutral in this regard

All members agreed for the following new resolution should be put to vote

New Resolution: The existing adhoc EC which was appointed by BOD has failed to follow the estbllished guidelines/resolutions in general. This is demonstrated by action and captured in email. As a result of these actions the board has lost confidence in the appointed EC and hence proposed a resolution to dissolve the existing adhoc EC and request the board to form new committee to conduct free and fair elections.

Channu ; proposed the resolution

Mahesh: seconded it

Resolution – 22 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain

Resolution to dissolve the existing EC and form new EC was passed with majority vote



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Dada Patil- Talked to Shekar Guddimath, Arun Sonth, and Basavaraj Mudenur and all three people are aware of the past issues with election and EC, and are willing to follow guidelines and conduct elections

Channu – It is better that president, BOD, BOR should talk to three proposed candidates for EC within a week, possibly next Sunday

Raj – It is important to know the competency of the EC to conduct elections, and also should have served central VSNA as a Board member, so that they will know the logistics of the organization.

Dada – Basavaraj Mudenur- Past VSNA secretary New England chapter; Arun Sonth, Pittsburg chapter and Shekar Gaddimath – Past Virginia chapter president.

Prabahakar and Leena –BOR chair should inform old EC about the new resolution and thank them for their services. BOR chair and president, BOD officers should talk to prospective 3 EC members

Yuvraj –President is in conflict of interest, therefore VP should be in charge of the EC and for future communications about elections.

Leena: Are the proposed EC members are Life members

Dada Patil -- 2 life members, Basavaraj Mudenur and Arun Sonth and Shekar is regular member

As per VSNA bylaw regular member can serve as EC member.

Nayanathara: Propose and approve the new EC members

Yuvaj– proposed three new EC members

Naveen –seconded

18 - Yes, 0 - no, 3 – abstain, 3- absent (logged off)

Proposal to appoint new 3 EC members was passed with majority votes

Action item 1: Dada Patil to inform current EC are excused from the responsibility

Action item 2: Email to secretary and officers - New committee is formed and invitation has been sent to new committee and invite BOD and BOR for upcoming joint meeting

Action item 3: Contact newly elected EC members and ask them to come next Sunday and talk to BOD and BOR. Also share the guidelines and resolution with new EC prior to meeting

Nayanthara - Nomination letter sent by old EC should be recalled which was sent in error



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Violation of BOD resolution by president

Dada patil – After BOD authorized BOR chair to look after the election matter, as per the VSNA guidelines, if there are any complaints from BOD, or from VSNA members, BOR chair has right to call the joint meeting. I don't understand why president keeps cancelling the meeting and makes conflicting comments. Asked Leena Paul about her thoughts

Leena – We should move on and try to resolve the issues

Mahesh – There are some differences of opinions. BOD officers are senior members and have done some good things and let us give them another opportunity. The Bylaws have some gaps and can be interpreted in various ways. They have another four months and let us allow them to finish their term successfully. We should make sure that the Leadership that we bring in have long-term goals. Overall let us not make it personal and move forward.

Shylendra- If we decide to move on and let them finish rest of the term, what will we do if the president interferes again and violates the guidelines. Warning the president not to do such things is one option to move forward. Since there are more volunteers who are willing to serve the organization and they are all competent and good candidates, we should let the membership decide who the next president and officers should be. We should not let the president decide who the next VSNA president should be.

Prabhakar: We should recognize the violations of the president. To nullify the resolution passed by BOD is a serious violation. Vetoing the BOD resolution and directing the secretary to send the nomination letter to general body is another example of violation. We are democratic organization and we should go with majority and honor the resolution passed by BOD. If we over see these violation committed by the president, we will set a bad example for the future presidents or the officers. Because of these things, I have to say take some action

Shreshail: Prabhakar summarized the problem very well and I agree with Prabhakar. I would like to add two more points. 1. We are seeing a pattern for the past six months- president agreeing in the BOD meeting for the resolutions passed and then sends nullifying statement. 2. President is suppose to be a spokes person for the Board, and should represent BOD and BOR, but here president sends conflicting messages. The present has lost the faith, trust and the confidence of the board and hence it calls for a disciplinary action.

Yuvraj- fully echo Prabhakar, She is setting a presidency for the next generation of presidents to come. Since the beginning, her dictatorial behavior is evident and failed to engage BOD or BOR when it came to financial matter or EC matters. She keeps turning the clock back which has slowed us down working on other projects, since we are stuck working on election –related matters. To move on, she has to get a message that she cannot keep doing such things. VP should be put in charge for all the future communications with regards to election and EC



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Leena – Even though things have happened, as Mahesh said we should move on.

Prabhakar – Even if we move on, We have to mention these things in the minutes of the meeting and the future presidents will refer to these incidents. Even if we don't replace the president, we have to recognize this in order to prevent these mistakes from happening in the future.

Nandhish – agree with Prabhakar and respect Leena's concerns. President should have passed on the letter to the BOR chair as BOD mandated. Executive actions should not be taken by the president. Secretary and treasurer are only listening to the president. Authorize VP or BOR chair to be responsible for all future communications to the board and the general body. So that we don't have the cycle repeating.

Irappa- Causing lot of confusions because of multiple conflicting communications. Secretary sent an email about nominations for elections even after BOR chair requested not to send. Later she explained that president authorized to do so. How do we resolve these communication gaps as a board. As per discussions we have to pass a resolution and vote on it.

Leena- We should make sure that all the election matters should go through Dada Patil and Dada Patil can send email to all BOD and BOR reiterating this.

Nayanathar- Echo prabhakar, We should note that President sent a lawyer letter to the board. Board overwhelmingly handed over the responsibility to BOR chair to conduct elections, implying that they had no confidence in the president. She continues to override the majority Board decisions (BOD and BOR) and continues to violate those resolutions. Despite BOR chairs request, she authorized secretary to send letter for nomination. She vetoed the decisions and she gave the authority of veto to the adhoc committee. For the health of the Samaja we should make a formal motion of no confidence.

Shylendra – Emails floating around that BOD and BOR are not in agreement that is not true. This is wrong. We should move forward with majority and take action

Dada - Emails with lawyer letter and other matters were forwarded to many non-board members despite having told not to send information to all. This is not correct

Prabhakar - If we ignore president's bad choices, the cycle will continue and we will be back to the same discussion. To avoid this we should authorize vice president to handle all the communication

Nayanthara – There are records to prove that BOD and BOR are unanimous in their decision and stand together in support of resolutions.

Leena – Since all three officers are not in the meeting we should give them a benefit of doubt and should talk to them.

Prabhakar – Given the scenario we have three options

1. Ask them to resign and VP take over



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2. Document that the president violated the resolutions passed by BOD, and a BOR chair and couple of BOD should discuss with the president and other officers and explain that these wrong doings should not be repeated moving forward
3. Keep the officers in place, but VP take all the responsibilities and let the BOD know about this

Leena – Like the 3rd option in the worst case scenario. The best option is second. Channu is the best person to spearhead the whole thing and call the meeting between BOR chair and officer, clarify the matter.

Yuvraj, shyendra and Nayanathara – all voicing the same

Narendra – how are we going to communicate to members that email about nomination sent by secretary is an error? How will we take control of all the communication with regards to all election matters?

Dada Patil – Give responsibility to BOR to communicate election related matters

Shyendra and others –the right thing to do is to formulate letter and ask secretary to send email

Leena – Clarification, EC sent strong letter and asked president to send it and president asked secretary to send the letter to all the members

Conditional resolutions –

Option-1. Ex-president, VP, and BOR chair are going to work with the president to resolve communication and guidelines violation issues. If this option doesn't succeed within a week go to option 2.

Option-2: Due to the erratic behavior of the president, board has lost confidence in the president. As a disciplinary action, the board would like to limit the president's involvement. President would be excluded from the following.

1. Excluded from general body communication
2. Excluded from the election process and communication
3. Excluded from financial decisions

The vice-president is going to be in charge from now till the end of the term.

Prabhakar- proposed the resolution

Irappa Arabhavi – seconded

16- yes, 0 – no, 3 – abstain, 5 – absent

Above resolution passed by majority votes



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Action item - Channu to send an email to officers and BOR chair to set up a meeting on Tuesday, 28th August evening to address and resolve communication and guideline violation issues.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM