

Central VSNA BOD meeting minutes: January 19th 2020

This meeting was conducted as a conference call. Agenda and other call details are as below.

Date: January 19th 2020 @ 12 pm EST

Dial-in Number: (605) 472-5297

Access Code: 988106 #

- **Roll Call - Jayashree Jagadeesh: The following VSNA officers and BOD members attended the meeting.**

VSNA officers: Srishail Hadimani, Rajendra Galagali, Shiva Patil, and Jayashree Jagadeesh

BOD members: Sheela Niral, Uma Hukkeri ,
Siddaramanna Tumkur, Kalpana, Indira Reddy, Asha Gaddi, Shivu Vibhuti,
Girish Budibetta, Prabhakar Chippadi, Shashidhar Kallur, Tumbesh,
Mahesh Patil, Rohini Menasinakai, Manisha Virupannavar, Vijay Aivalli,
Chayapathi, Vandana Katti, Shobha

BOR chair: Shylendra,

Convention team: Rashmi Bannikodu, Jagan Gowdar

- **Prayer and welcome:** Jayashree welcomed all the attendees by thanking them for their attendance.

Prayer: Srishail narrated a beautiful vachana by Sharana Shanmukha Swamy.

HAaa haraviya mEle majjige tumbi irisidarEnu, Heppagaballude Ayya,

Sammishradindallade, Angada mEle lingadhAraNavAdaDenu,

SamarasavAgaballude Ayya? ShivagnanavilladE, Akhandeshwara.

Milk cannot curdle just by keeping a pot of buttermilk on the milk container.

But the milk becomes yogurt only when you mix it. Similarly, one cannot adjust by

Oneness with Linga can't be achieved just by wearing linga on the body without

ShivagnAna or inner awareness.

Very simple Vachana with very meaningful simile!!

- **Approval of Agenda:**

Proposed by: Vijay Aivalli, Seconded by: Siddaramanna Tumkur.

- **Approval of November and December BOD meeting minutes:**

Proposed by: Prabhakar Chippadi, Seconded by: Sheela Niral

- **Introduction of New Board members :**

Srishail thanked the service of the following chapter presidents who ended their

term -- Mahesh Kumar (DC & VA), Rathna Ullagaddin (North CA),

Nagarathna Totada (Georgia), Vasanth Kalale (North Carolina)

Welcomed the new presidents--Roopa Guddimath, Shivu Vibhuthi,

Chayapathi and Tumbesh Halanur.

- **Convention - 2020, VSNA - DC & VA Chapter updates – Raj Galgali :**

Three things to convey in this meeting--

1. Update: Volunteers working very hard. All the information has been detailed in the previous news letter has. Plan is to Personally go visit as many chapters to invite and seek inputs as well. All the presidents have received a spreadsheet to update the information of their chapter events.

2. Procure approval of the BOD for-potential guest list as below

Gururaj Karjagi—get the list of all the details. Align all the speakers to align with the theme of the convention.

3. Requested the chapters to send their sponsorships. Pick up registration packages and do Dasoha for convention's success. Then he Opened for Q&A

Shylendra: suggested to avoid any one who is involved in politics.

Raj: Invited a local Yoga renowned instructor who is a physician Dr. Dilip Sarkar.

Prabhakar, Indira, Shivu Vibhuti and other members suggested to refine the guest list with more research and give the m some guidelines.

Raj: We have requested the guests to provide the synopsis of their speech ahead of time. Requested the attending members if they know of any potential speakers.

3. Youth contacts: News letter for Jan will come but it seems no news letter has reached the youth so far. However, convention youth coordinators are unable to reach out to youth. Requested the chapter presidents/parents to help establish contact with their respective chapter youth.

Raj also clarified Mahesh Patil's query--: The VSNA web domain was transferred to them last week and their internal target is to launch by February 1st so that everyone can register and use that as a tool to communicate.

- **VSNA Website & Subdomains and implementation plan - Raj Galagali :**
Concept is to consolidate all the websites under one domain, Maintain consistency in the look and feel, ensure uniformity and to avail information across all the chapters. Have a parent domain like VSNA.org and subdomains for the chapters who still have control and maintain under their subdomain. Received Proposal from a company called "Inqude"— Proposed cost: Initially \$10,000 to migrate, set up to meet the needs of all the chapters, after which \$10 per hour to maintain the website which is optional.
Shivu: Need to understand, get the details, any prevailing problems and find out the solutions.

Raj Proposed to set up a team of 4-6 member to work on the web related issues and assess the feasibility of setting up a common portal for all the chapters through central VSNA. Shivu Vibhuti and Uma Hukkeri agreed to join the team

Indira: key is to make the site secure

Jayashree summarized the action items from Raj's presentation:

Sponsorships to the convention, suggest potential speakers who are not on the list
Chapter Presidents/parents find avenues to get their youth involved in the
Convention activities, form a working committee for the website task.

BOD unanimously approved the potential speaker list provided by the 2020 Convention team.

- **Treasurer updates - Shiva Patil :**

Excellent investment return this year. Current value- \$715,284.

Gain of \$96,000 in convention trust fund. \$17,502 in the flood relief account, day to day operating account: \$13000. Thinking of moving \$10,000 into investment funds and keep only \$3,000 in daily operationl account.

Received seed money refund of \$15, 600 from Chicago chapter.

Also received annual membership dues from Northern CA \$300, Southern CA Uma Hukkeri-one life member \$90 for VSNA diaries. Sid Tumkur \$35.

Srishail: Next meeting we will update about the flood

Shylendra: Need to set some guidelines and set some amount given as seed money every year because of the fluctuating return on the investment funds. Take it as an action item in the next meeting.

Chayapathi: will there be any help from central VSNA if the chapter wants to buy some land for the chapter. Unable to provide a definite answer.

Shylendra: Has the pledge money made during MD convention collected?

Shiva: Will share that info. Don't have the exact amount but bulk of it yet remains to be collected. Some Pledged donors are backing out.

- **VSNA Bylaws 2020 Approval from the BOD – Srishail :**

Thanks to all the chapter presidents, BOD for sending the feedback, suggestions which have been incorporated by the bylaw committee. New document has been shared with the board. Now we seek the board's permission and approval to send it to the annual & life members for voting.

Indira Reddy, Girish Budibetta: A decision was made to keep the organization as a religious and not as charitable association.

Srishail: Ultimately general membership has the right to choose. Today we are only requesting the board to approve to release it to the general membership for voting.

Girish: Can we go through each section and when we complete, incorporate the the changes and then vote on the entire bylaw.

Srishail: In the interest of time we can't go section by section. Decision made during the December meeting was to share the side by side documents, which has been provided.

Shylendra: Let us take vote on the proposal whether to send the proposed updated bylaws to the general body –Yes or No.

Raj: Just to clarify, we are not approving this bylaw. We are only agreeing to put it in front of the General membership.

Shylendra: we have more than 20 members here and if majority of you agree, let us send it to the general body if not, we will go back to the drawing board.

Raj proposed the following resolution and everyone agreed to vote on that.

The proposed resolution is for presenting the entire bylaw document in front of life and annual members for voting on the proposed bylaw changes as presented in the document.

Voting results: yes—13- (Srishail, Shiva, Siddaramanna, Shivu Vibhuti, Chayapathi, Rohini, Vandana, Raj, Prabhakara, Shashidhar, Jayashree, Uma Hukkeri, Shobha).

No-6- (Sheela, Girish, Mahesh, Kalpana, Indira, Youth-Manisha),

Abstain--2 (Asha, Tumbesh)

The resolution was passed by majority votes.

- **Youth Chapter Plans, vision, and updates, Manisha V :**
Working on updating the directory to Raj uncle for convention team. Nobody has received the news letters. Outside of the convention, we are working on a couple of items which we will present at the convention.
- **BOR Updates - Shylendra,**
First meeting today after last year's closing. Mentorship document that has been finalized will be published. We will discuss on the new projects—will update in the next meeting. As decided just now, we are getting involved in the convention fundraising activities. Will add that to the task list.

Off the agenda discussions:-

Shylendra: Finalize on the central VSNA annual membership amount. Couple of Years ago, we had \$10 as the test drive. Not sure of the outcome. Need to discuss.
Prabhakara: Need to discuss this and also put a number on the amount of convention seed money.

It was also decided that annual membership of \$25 to be collected and sent to VSNA treasurer before March 30th 2020, to gain eligibility to vote. Only these paid members will be eligible to vote in any of the central VSNA related issues.

- Jayashree thanked all the members for attending this meeting and for their co-operation in finalizing the key issues. Invited everyone to attend the meeting in February.

Disclaimer:- "The meeting minutes were recorded for information purposes only. Please review and check for the accuracy of your statement/s before the approval of the minutes in the meeting. No response is considered as in agreement or approval. This document is created for information purposes only and does not stand for legal scrutiny or actions against any individual or the organization"

Central VSNA BOD meeting minutes: February 16th 2020

This meeting was conducted as a conference call. Agenda and other call details are as below.

Date: February 16th 2020 @ 12 pm EST

Dial-in Number: (605) 472-5297

Access Code: 988106 #

- **Roll Call - Jayashree Jagadeesh: The following VSNA officers and BOD members attended the meeting.**

VSNA officers: Srishail Hadimani, Rajendra Galagali, Shiva Patil, and Jayashree Jagadeesh

BOD members: Uma Hukkeri, Vandana Katti, Kalpana Sheela Niral, Girish Budibetta, Prabhakar Chippadi, Shashidhar Kallur, Mahesh Patil, Rohini Menasinkai, Shankar Sanikop, Tumbesh Tej Kartal, Chayapathi, Shobha, Manisha, Harish Hiremath

BOR chair: Shylendra Kumar,

- **Prayer and welcome:** Jayashree and Srishail welcomed all the attendees and Jayashree requested Srishail to enlighten everyone with a prayer. Allam aprabhu's vachana along the same line as last week's-- about Guru Karunya.
KanDuda hiDiyalollade, KaaNadudanarasi hiDidihenendoDe
Sikkadamba BaLalikeyu noaDa, KanDudane kandu, Gurupaadava
hiDidalli KaaNabaaradudu KaaNabahudu Guheshwara
Simple yet very meaningful. God can be experienced in two ways. One whom you can see and the other unseen. It is difficult to see God because divinity doesn't exist in a particular form or shape. It can only be felt through experience / inner feelings.
Look at my grief caused by my failure, to grasp the unseen, while refusing to see the seen. If only one accepts the already seen that is the linga in your palm and surrender to Guru's feet, you may be able to see the unseen. Akka mahadevi conveys the same message through her vachana-- Tanu, mana bhaava shoonya can be achieved through Tanu, mana Bhaava shuchi, meaning we have to get rid off

“self” and “pride” by surrendering to Guru’s feet. Then only one can embark on the spiritual journey with a devotion, dedication and commitment.

Jayashree thanked Srishail for an excellent narration of Allama Prabhu’s Vachana. His beautiful explanation will take us one step closer towards understanding the divinity.

- **Approval of Agenda:** Ammended to add 10 minutes to discuss about youth involvement and moved BOR update to be the 1st item on the agenda.
Proposed by: Raj Galagali, **Seconded by:** Rohini Menasinakai.
- **Approval of January BOD meeting minutes:**
Proposed by: Prabhakara Chippadi, **Seconded by:** Chayapathi.
- **BOR update: By Shylendra Kumar:- Below 4 tasks taken up by BOR**
 - a) As many of you know most of the BOR members are involved in updating the bylaws.
 - b) Mentorship program. Document shared by Yuvaraj Patil who is leading that program. Main aim is to provide mentorship to youth by other VSNA members to help them get involved, ultimately motivating them to take some leadership role/s. Currently Dada Patil and Yuvaraj Patil are each mentoring one youth.
Recommendation by BOR has been shared so that we can discuss and vote for approval for implementation in our next meeting.
 - c) **Convention seed money to 2020 convention:-** BOD sought recommendation from BOR to decide on the amount to be given as seed money for 2020 convention. The reason being, the current bylaw states that 90-% of the earnings be given as seed money to the hosting chapter but doesn’t address the issue if there is loss instead of the earnings. Last year the convention trust fund experienced all losses when the Chicago chapter hosted the convention. Therefore, \$15,600, the average of the past 9 years was decided as the seed money to 2019 convention.
After a great discussion, **BOR’s recommendation for 2020 convention is \$20,000 plus the inflation** regardless of the investment returns. Shylendra also added that the seed money is to

cover the cash flow and not a donation to the chapter. The hosting chapter has to return the seed money plus any surplus they make.

The second option would be to give 10% of the total budget which again can vary from convention to convention depending on their location. It is not covered if the chapter experiences losses but luckily, so far the chapters have given back the seed money.

Many Concerns from Girish, Mahesh and others –for this option- budget can be variable by locality, depends on the budget proposal- can eat into the principle. Michigan got \$18,034, Chicago got \$15,600, --Not consistent with locality. We should adopt some uniformity like average amount or such.

Shylendra: Rational for \$20,000 was looking at the past 10 years earnings and to avoid tying seed money to earnings.

Chayapathi and Tumbesh:- Requested some background information of this seed money, Convention trust fund, growth etc. Decided to take this out of this meeting to discuss further.

d) Collection of money from the pledges made during the convention held at Maryland in 2016 and collecting annual memberships.

Shylendra collected the information from Veerappa the 2016 treasurer. Pledge amount was \$52,363 of which \$39,203 has been collected. If BOD agrees, BOR is willing to pursue to collect the uncollected pledge amount however need consent on how to proceed.

- **Convention - 2020, VSNA - DC & VA Chapter updates – Raj Galgali:**
A quick update: Kiran convention treasurer was also on the call

Raj: We have 3 confirmed speakers-His Holiness Sri Siddeshwara swamiji, His Holiness Sri JSS swamiji and Dr. Gururaj Karajagi. Also working on 2/3 more guests. Received regret from Smt. Sudha Murthy. Still trying to see if she can free her schedule and accept the invitation.

Content for the web site is ready, got access to the domain. Will launch the site in the next 2-3 days.

Outreach program: Requested the chapter presidents to share their chapter's calendar of events. Our volunteers are reaching out in person to seek input and share the details.

Seed money: As per the treasurer's report, this year's investment returns are around \$60,000. The bylaw states, 90% of the returns to be given as seed money to convention hosting chapter. We do understand that 90% of the returns is a significant amount. At the same time our team may not accept the 10 year average or \$20,000 as suggested by BOR. I will abstain from voting process. Among many organizations, VSNA is the only association that hosts conventions annually that puts a lot of pressure.

Also as for returning the seed money, it is a mixed bag. Some chapters have returned all, some partially and others none at all. The fundraising should be the task of all the chapters not just the hosting chapter. Requested the BOD and the central VSNA to take ownership and help the convention. Also mentioned that they need the seed money to pay for the hotel etc, which are currently being funded by their personal money.

Raj presented the draft budget. Shared the screen via Zoom.

Depending on the previous attendance in the comparable region, they are expecting 600-800 guests to attend 2020 convention. Unsubsidized cost estimation per person is \$350. Three day convention would entail 3 dinners, 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches and snacks and coffee. This is all tentative plan/budget and willing to alter depending on the funding situation. Looked at 38 properties and closed on Hilton at Tyson's corner. Applied for state tax exemption probably will save approximately \$15,000. The high level draft budget approximates to \$287,000 for 800 guests. We will refine as we go along and make concrete decision.

Chayapathi: wanted to know the typical attendance at the past conventions. Between 400 and 500 people attended the Detroit and Chicago chapters.

Girish: very encouraged on increasing the registration amount. Slowly should raise the registration to match the costs incurred. People can afford to pay. No need to spend a lot of time to cover

someone else's cost. Girish opinionated that the seed money should at least start at \$20, 000. Extra earnings be added to the principle to cover when there are less or no market gains.

Raj: We were expecting minimum \$28,000. However will accept whatever the BOD decides.

Shylendra: Suggested to consider eliminating Thursday dinner, not only from the budget point but also from the uncertainty of the number of people attending considering it is a working day.

Raj: That is already in the plan and the presented model was developed with 200, 300 and 400 attendees scenario. Thursday dinner and Sunday breakfast is still under consideration.

Shylendra: suggested Keep some reserve funds.

Shiva and Uma Hukkeri : Reminded of their chapter meetings And requested the slides to share with their members.

Jayashree: Thanked Raj for sharing the detailed budget and the nuances, pros and cons of the seed money related issues.

Encouraged all the chapter presidents to support the convention.

Shylendra reminded of the need for seed money to the hosting chapter. After discussion **Recommendation was made to give \$15,000 as seed money now as the first installment to the 2020 VSNA convention hosting chapter DC &VA. Jayashree made the motion. This was unanimously agreed by the BOD. Proposed by Harish Hiremath and seconded by Sheela Niral. Treasurer -Shiva Patil was directed to send the check to the 2020 convention team.**

- **Update on the Flood relief: Srishail Hadimani:**

Srishail thanked all the chapter presidents for their efforts and contributions to the flood relief fund. As discussed and decided in the previous meetings, have done due diligence and recommending a project under the VSNA banner. Have explored a few options and the two that chosen are—A school in **KankanawaDi**. The roof is completely damaged and the walls need to be replaced. Second one is in **Savadi**. The villagers requested to build a community hall where they can seek shelter if such a disaster occurs again. Both these places are located on the banks of Krishna river and had completely submerged. Village panchayath agrees to give the land

and take care of the maintenance. Takes about 3-4 months for construction and the cost for both the projects is estimated at Rs.14 lakhs. Both these buildings will have VSNA name on them. Seeking board's opinion and opened for Q&A.

Sheela: Who will over see the project

Srishail: "Basava Gnana Gurukula" is the overseeing organization and the Engineer-is Nadakatti who will be our contact. The funds collected by all the chapters amounted to \$17,502. The board agreed to round it up to \$20,000 by pulling \$2498 from the central VSNA day to day operating funds.

Jayashree: New England was considering contributing to the flood relief. We may have to contact them. Shiva is already in touch with them and they will decide soon. Briefly discussed on the corporate matching contributions by the corporates.

It was proposed to release \$20,000 to "Basava Gnana Gurukula, a charitable 84G registered organization" in JhamakhanDi, Bagalkot district.

Proposed by Chayapathi, seconded by Uma Hukkeri. This motion was passed unanimously.

- **Treasurer's report: Shiva Patil**

Shiva presented a detailed snapshot of all the fund balances including two savings, one money market, the convention trust fund and the account that holds the annual membership account. Shiva also pointed out the excellent investment gains this year because of the stock market performance. All these funds are invested and market being volatile the exact number varies from day to day. Shiva can furnish the full details if needed.

Shiva was authorized by the board to send two checks. First one the seed money check of \$15,000 to the 2020 convention hosting chapter DC&VA. Second one to Basava Gnana Gurukula for the flood relief activity.

Srishail and Shylendra: Reminded the email from Indira and Manisha seeking clarification on the refunds made by party B for the amount they received for their legal expense for responding to the VSNA president.

Shiva: Confirmed that the payment was received long ago.

Jayashree: Confirmed that it was discussed in November BOD meeting and has been noted in the meeting minutes. They probably did not attend the meeting and didn't bother to check the minutes before sending that email.

Shiva reminded the chapter presidents to send their financial statements for filing taxes and to send their central VSNA annual membership to be received before March 30th so that the members gain eligibility to vote in the bylaw/election etc.

- **VSNA Bylaws-2020 updates: Srishail**

As the bylaw changes were approved the draft to put it for general member's voting. We initiated the election process. However the platform we chose had limitations and therefore we were forced to stop the election process. We have identified e-ballot.com that is very secure. The bylaw committee will send the educational tools to all the members. They also have put together the documents to address and clarify to questions. This is being reviewed by the bylaw committee and will be shared soon. Will hold the conference call and will notify the voting process and the date/s.

Girish: Can the document be shared first with BOD before it is sent out to the general membership?

Srishail: It will be available to everyone to all the voting members. He also requested everyone to refrain from sending mass emails and maintain the image of the organization since a collective decision was made by majority voting after a long discussion. Let us respect that decision.

Shylendra clarified Girish's concern that sending out at the same time will eliminate one more step and everyone will have the opportunity to participate at the same time. Will honor the majority voting.

- **Youth chapter plans, vision and updates: Manisha**

Manisha probably exited the meeting and was not available for any update.

Chayapathi: As a young president of Georgia, wanted to know if there are any tools or something from central VSNA to connect the children to help connect to their religion.

Prabhakara: there is an appetite since they have their own WhatsApp etc which is on and off, but need some guidelines.

A long discussion regarding the resources available through the youth leaders etc, was discussed. Lot of progress was made a couple of years but not much is going on in the recent past year.

Chayapathi: Wanted to connect the youth of all VSNA chapters and learn from each other. Unfortunately, the youth leader was not available to answer any of these questions.

Srishail: Mentioned about the Chapter rejuvenation committee headed by Indira Reddy. Invited him to join the meeting to discuss this issue. Everyone agreed it is a challenge but working on the solution. We can work on creating a group and try our best. Decision was made to continue the discussion in next meeting.

- **Thank you note and Schedule March BOD meeting –**

Jayashree thanked all the members for their attendance and valued input. Glad that we had a very good discussion and very happy that we have one more passionate young veerashaiva Chayapathy from Georgia chapter joining the BOD. Let us keep the momentum going and let us meet in March.

SharaNu SharaNArthigalu,

Jayashree Jagadeesh
Secretary, Central VSNA

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Central VSNA BOD meeting minutes: March 22nd 2020

This meeting was conducted as a conference call. Agenda and other call details are as below.

Date: March 22, 2020 @ 12 pm EST

Dial-in Number: (605) 472-5297

Access Code: 988106 #

- **Roll Call - Jayashree Jagadeesh: The following VSNA officers and BOD members attended the meeting.**

VSNA officers: Srishail Hadimani, Rajendra Galagali, Shiva Patil, and Jayashree Jagadeesh

BOD members: Uma Hukkeri, Vandana Katti, Kalpana Sheela Niral, Girish Budibetta, Prabhakar Chippadi, Shashidhar Kallur, Mahesh Patil, Rohini Menasinkai, Shankar Sanikop, Chayapathi, Manisha, Indira Reddy, Siddaramanna Tumkur Shobha, Priyanka, Vijay Aivalli, Roopa Guddimath, Shivu Vibhuti

Kansas City chapter: Satish Kavi, Basavaraj, Praveen Angadi, Praveen Hiremath, Prabhushankar

BOR chair: Shylendra Kumar,

- **Prayer and welcome:** Jayashree and Srishail welcomed all the attendees and Jayashree requested Srishail to enlighten everyone with a prayer.

Among all the philosophers, Allama holds a unique position. According to Allama—only two materials—one is a group of elements and the other is an individual element.

Nelada bombeya maaDi, Jalada baNNavanu uDisi,

Halavu pariashramdi uliva Gejjeyanu katti,

Vaayu analanada sanchakke, araLeleya singaarava maadi,

Aadisuva yantra vaahaka nu yaru?

Bayala kambakke tandu, sayaveMdu parava kaTTidaDe

sayavadvaya vayittu yeneMbenu, Guheshwara

Who is the engineer who designed this doll with clay and dressed it with colorful fabric of water, tied to it jingle of tinkling bells in various states of life, provided air and water, adorned it with decorated leaves. When this form of life is tied to a formless pillar, there is no room for one and two.

This body made up of clay, has been decorated with watercolor then added sensory organs along with air and set body temperature. This person's achievements like education, positions will fade away like the wilting leaves of the garland tied in front of the door. Then he goes on to ask who is playing inside this body? Meaning the one who is playing in this body is not the body but someone else. When this body comes out of all the emotional bondage, he realizes his true existence. That means, there is no difference between "Jeevatma" and "Paramatma"—that is knowing the true self or "Saakshatkara"

- **Approval of Agenda:** Ammended agenda to move Kansas chapter formation as 1st item, youth update to move as 2nd item for today's meeting and to discuss about Corona pandemic after the convention update.

Proposed by: Sidramanna, **Seconded by:** Manisha

- **Approval of February BOD meeting minutes:**

Proposed by: Rohini, **Seconded by:** Prabhakara

A motion was made by Manisha to take up youth chapter activities as the 1st agenda item in the all the future meetings and the motion was seconded by Indira Reddy. This request was approved.

Srishaail: Introduced Satish Kavi and his team and welcomed the Basava Group of Kansas city to put the already submitted proposal to join the central VSNA as a Kansas city Chapter.

Satish Kavi: Introduced his team Basavaraj, Prabhushankar, Praveen Angadi and Praveen Hiremath.

This chapter was started about 12 years ago as a small group but has 18 families now. After a brief discussion regarding the name, they agreed to call their chapter as VSNA chapter of Kansas city.

A proposal to include the "VSNA chapter of Kansas city" under the central VSNA umbrella was proposed by: Shiva Patil

Seconded by: Prabhakara Chappidi. This proposal was

unanimously approved. Congratulations Kansas City VSNA!!

- **Convention 2020-- updates – Raj Galgali and his team:**

Considering the COVID-19 situation with a lot of discussion we are requesting this board to approve the cancellation of this year's 2020 convention. Our volunteers have worked very hard.

However we believe this is the right thing to do in the current environment. Some data points to facilitate the decision:

Cancellation incurs sunk costs--\$3000 as of now and may incur another \$1000-\$2000 which can be used if decided to host next year.—and expected costs—majorly hotel costs. A payment of \$10,000-made already. The contract also has the “Act of GOD.” Clause that can be evoked, but we need an attorney to do this. We have also announced to refund the entire amount to all registered members if asked, with an option of getting the same benefit next year irrespective of the price change if we host the convention next year. However, we need to discuss with our members regarding this possibility that has not happened yet.

Prabhakara: Any attempts to reach out to the hotel on your own?

Raj: Yes. They feel that the current state advisory regarding the social gathering is only up to May end and the Hilton policy does not permit them to cancel the July meetings.

Our concerns also are:_ need time to practice for programs, Majority of our attendees are seniors, international and local travel issues. Members may choose not to attend etc.

Suggetsions: to postpone to next year. Apparently they are trying this tool and are in discussion with their attorney. But might act as a double edge sword, with recession, it might work out cheaper.

Manisha: No need for an attorney, the committee should go and meet the hotel and discuss the issues.

Raj: As per the hotel contract, the potential penalty as of today will be up to \$64,106. **Manisha:** The situation is not in our control. If we can postpone, all the youth can have the convention.

Sanikop: First thing is to cancel the current contract within the penalty date of April 1st after which the penalty if not cancelled will increase further. Trying very hard to minimize the penalty with many members' involvement.

Shylendra: Three points:- 1.we need a proposal to cancel 2020 convention. 2. Approve VA chapter to host 2021 convention and 3. Approval to use attorney with a cap on the amount.

With a lot of deliberation and member input, the BOD proposed a resolution to cancel the convention and hire an attorney with a cap of \$2000.

Sanikop: Proposed a resolution to cancel the 2020 VSNA convention to be hosted by DC &VA chapter.

Manisha: Seconded the resolution. Unanimously agreed.

Proposal: The BOD authorizes the current convention committee together with the officers and any interested EC members to work to minimize or nullify the liabilities in the best interest of VSNA. Additionally, the board authorizes the above committee to hire an attorney and spend up to a maximum of \$2000 if required.

Proposed by Siddaramanna Tumkur. Seconded by: Prabhakara
The board unanimously approved the above proposal.

- **Youth chapter plans, Vision and updates:**

Srishail: some perspective: As discussed in the last meeting, it has been an agenda item on several meetings even prior to the 2019 convention. Based on the facts on the table and the efforts made by the committee, I have summarized and sent the report to the BOD, not to hurt anyone's ego or feelings. In the right spirit and the betterment of the organization, setting aside any opinions, let us hear from the youth leader

Manisha: spent time creating a memo directing the youth that I was planning to present in the convention. Now the convention is going to be cancelled, I am planning to host a retreat. Planning on ways to support our nation with COVID-19. Sent the youth directory to the convention youth who I must add is not a youth. Youth directory is evolving. I am available for any questions or collaboration via my email.

Siddaramanna from Pennsylvania East chapter: We have quite a few youth interested in joining the youth group. How can they join?

Chayapathi from Georgia : Similarly we have a number of

youth interested to establish contact with others. Are there monthly meetings or WhatsApp groups?

Manisha: There is a face book page they can join. Access my email.

Chayapathi: Requested to send the link so that he can distribute.

Siddaramanna: Any face book page activities, monthly meetings?

Manisha agreed to send the link. There are no monthly meetings but she can start. Also mentioned that there are about 90 members on the face book page.

Shivu: California central has its own exec committee and there are about 20 members. Is there a criteria or guidelines to join.

Manisha: Nothing like that but anyone can join. It is not my responsibility to make them join.

members: were of the opinion that the youth president needs to motivate the youth to join and make the group grow bigger. Many chapter presidents offered their help. Shylendra suggested to forget the past and think about moving forward with the help of the multiple chapter presidents' willingness to get involved. Seek help from Jayashree to communicate via emails.

A suggestion was made to write a cover letter/a motivational email with the youth chapter activities and asking them to join.

This can be circulated via chapter president' to their youth.

Manisha: If all of you are done with talking in my agenda time slot I can talk now. This is another reason why youth don't want to get involved. You constantly talk over us. I agree I want suggestions and opinions. As I said earlier, my contact/email is at your disposal and I am always available. I don't appreciate everything that has been said, I don't appreciate the e-mail that has been sent out, If there was an issue, it should have been brought to me one on one. I will take all your suggestions into consideration, I will send out a letter, will make a power point of the youth committee and will send it to the chapter presidents.

A discussion regarding the email etiquette was discussed at length. Members offered various suggestions on improving smooth functioning and for the betterment of the organization.

Shylendra: If any issue needs to be resolved, bring it to the attention of the individuals and try to address it directly. If not resolved, then bring it to the attention of the board.

Members also requested that these meetings should be limited to the organizational matters and each individual need to be mature and responsible. All are volunteers and should not be spending time at the cost of sacrificing their own commitments.

- **2021 convention proposed to be hosted by New England chapter – Shobha Amaresh:**

2021 convention team has decided on their theme and wanted to present it to the BOD today and obtain approval. But due to the possibility of cancellation and postponing the 2020 convention, not sure if it is appropriate to make the proposal.

Shylendra: If NE is not hosting in 2021, there is no need to get the approval until we hear from the 2020 convention committee's decision.

- **Treasurer's report: Shiva Patil**

Convention trust fund money –pledged during the MD convention. Unable to collect \$5000 from the entire pledge amount that was to come from 2 individuals. We can close that enquiry. Three new life members have joined this year. Received \$895 towards VSNA diary collection. Received the check of \$2500 from New England chapter towards the flood relief.

The treasurer was asked to send the investment reports before every meeting. He said he will send quarterly report. Answering to Siddaramanna's query-the account is managed by a portfolio manager. Additionally there is an advisory committee that makes suggestions to move the funds around.

Annual membership collection: A few chapters have sent in their collection. However, many have asked for the postponement since many chapters' meetings scheduled for February and March have been cancelled/postponed. Shiva also agreed to share the account information so that the chapters can electronically transfer their central VSNA membership dues.

Annual membership collection be extended until the end of June

Proposed by: Girish Budibetta

Seconded by: Siddaramanna

Unanimously approved. BOD should prepare the adjustment to meet the election requirement.

Indira Reddy: requested to celebrate Basava Jayanthi from central VSNA to keep the spirit going.

Srishail: Requested everyone to follow the local and CDC guidelines. Safety and the security of our members is very important. We will look into scheduling Anubhava Goshti during that time and will be communicated from time to time.

Manisha: I apologize if I offended anybody. I am sure everyone knows it is all out of frustration. I look forward to the next youth president who and what he/she will do if this is how the adults are promoting the youth. Hope the next VSNA president whoever it is, will make a list of what "Not to do".

- **Thank you note and Schedule April BOD meeting –**

Jayashree thanked all the members for their attendance and valued input.

SharaNu SharaNArthigalu,

Jayashree Jagadeesh
Secretary, Central VSNA

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Central VSNA BOD meeting minutes: April 19th, 2020

This meeting was conducted as a zoom meeting. Agenda and other call details are as below.

Date: April 19th, 2020 @ 12 pm EST

Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 414 460 7930

Password: 123456

- **Roll Call - Jayashree Jagadeesh: The following VSNA officers and BOD members attended the meeting.**
VSNA officers: Srishail Hadimani, Rajendra Galagali, Shiva Patil, and Jayashree Jagadeesh
BOD members: Uma Hukkeri, Vandana Katti, Kalpana Sheela Niral, Girish Budibetta, Prabhakar Chippadi, Shashidhar Kallur, Rohini Menasinkai, Shankar Sanikop, Chayapathi, Manisha, Indira Reddy, Shobha, Vijay Aivalli, Roopa Guddimath, Shivu Vibhuti
Kansas City chapter: Sateesh Kavi, Prabhushankar
BOR chair: Shylendra Kumar,
By-law committee chair: Channu Kambalyal
- **Prayer and welcome:** Jayashree and Srishail welcomed all the attendees and Jayashree requested Srishail to enlighten everyone with a prayer.
Srishail: Welcomed everyone with Basava Jayanthi greetings.
Separate documents for the vachana and explanation are attached
- **Approval of Agenda:**
Proposed by: Sateesh **Seconded by:** Prabhakara
- **Approval of March BOD meeting minutes:**
Shiva Patil clarified Indira's question regarding sharing the financial documents quarterly and not monthly.
Proposed by: Raj Galagali, **Seconded by:** Chayapathi

- **Youth chapter updates: Manisha**

Sent invitations to all the chapter presidents to share so that more youth can join the face book group. The annual convention being cancelled, planning on youth building event in Oct/Nov hoping the travel within the US eases. Given the COVID context Planning virtual social hour events to pursue conversations to share others views and collaborate with each other. Mobilizing donations to help CDC and related COVID needs.

Srishail: Thanked Manisha for sending the motivational letter inviting the youth to all the chapter presidents. Hope this effort acts as a precursor to establish the national youth directory.

Manisha: Already have an ongoing directory, requested the chapter presidents to send the names so she can populate the list. Also answered eligibility question of Chayapathi and Shobha. As per bylaw, 18 to 29 years is the age range but can be extended to High-school age kids. She also elucidated Sateesh's concern of many youth not having the face book account by providing the alternate, instagram account which she will share.

- **Convention 2020-- updates – Raj Galgali and his team:**

First part: “Agreed upon central VSNA guidance” was to hire an attorney to spend up to \$2500 but the theme was to minimize the liability to VSNA. Have consulted 5 attorneys-- all pro bono basis. Latest outcome: Virginia has lockdown till June 10th. However, the existing contract will let us go free if this lockdown extends till the convention date. Under the current moratorium, \$6400 is the penalty if we commit to conduct convention at their venue next year. We are optimistic that relaxation with limited number or no mass gatherings might enable us to re-negotiate the penalty.

Second part: Make an official announcement on the web and will communicate to all the registrants, guests, that the convention stands cancelled for this year.

Shylendra: Want to know the status on VA hosting the convention next year.

Raj: The Virginia chapter has not yet passed any resolution pending the lockdown and penalty situation. Hoping to make a fact based assessment in a month or so.

- **Project updates : Srishail: 1. North Karnataka flood relief funds**

Thanked BOD for approving the disbursements of funds collected to KankaNawadi and Savadi projects. Due to the lockdown, not much has happened but the work will resume when once everything returns to normalcy.

2. VSNA Diary : Published 700 diaries. Shipped to all the chapters and a few individuals. Received donations from a few chapters and reminded other presidents to send in their collection to Shiva Patil.

3. Bylaws update : Bylaw committee chair Channu Kamblyal

As all of you know, the bylaw committee submitted the proposed bylaws and the comparative chart sometime last year.

Ultimately BOD has approved and sent it for voting. However the process had to be interrupted due to technical flaw in the tools used. Members discussed again and the recommendation was to send the comparison documents with 2 weeks time to review and send the comments. Incorporate the feedback and put for subsequent voting.

Highlights of major changes: 1. Changes to address the current Election process and eligibility concerns.

2. Elected BOD: Option for each chapter to elect their BOD member instead of nominating the president as default.

This enables the president to focus solely on chapter related and elected BOD to focus on central related issues.

Rest of the changes are mostly cosmetic to remove redundancies.

Indira: As an organization, it is necessary to Provide a DIP marked document.

Channu: There is always room for improvement. Need to move one step at a time. Bylaw committee has spent more than a year now. A clear comparative document with justification will be sent. People can vote yes or no. We just need to abide the outcome.

Srishail: Thanked Channu and the rest of the bylaw committee for completing this “much needed” task.

Explained that the new chart has article by article comparison, proposed changes with a comments section with the reason for that change. Almost 55-60 pages prepared by this committee

will be shared. We can have a conference call if any questions need to be answered and Put it through the voting process.

Srishail also made an announcement about the **Global Basava Jayanthi Celebration** and invited all the chapters to participate in the event. Informed everyone about the participation from Basava Samithi of Australasia, Bahrain, Qatar, Dubai, Poland, United Kingdom etc. Questions/suggestions regarding sending the Programs in the Pre-recorded form discussed. Also announced that many Swamijis and dignitaries will also participate.

Jayashree: Thanked Srishail for organizing this mega event in response to a request to arrange some celebration considering the COVID lockdown. May be this is a slow and steady process which Basava started and the world is uniting.

- **Treasurer's report: Shiva Patil**

Acknowledged receiving dues from some chapters as requested earlier and appealed to the others to send ASAP. Received financial balance sheet from a few chapters which we need to compile for the tax filing. Extended date to file is August 15th.

Thanked and welcomed the **Three new life members** -- Santosh Nalawadi, Chayapathi Gangadharappa and Prabhu Vijay.

VSNA DIARY dues received from many chapters--\$760,

Shiva also presented the various account details investments and account balances. Mainly three accounts_ Daily Money market account, Convention trust fund and VSNA trust fund-that has the membership dues collected kept in a separate account.

Flood relief fund -collection__\$20,000—working on the process to send this amount to the projects approved in the last meeting.

He added that we have lost close to 20% due to the volatility of the current investment market.

- **BOR Youth mentorship and other active projects: Shylendra**

Three meetings ago BOR had submitted two projects—

1. Convention Seed money and 2. Youth mentorship discussion, for which a document was submitted for your review and feed back. BOR would appreciate hearing the decision and guidance from BOD. Additionally a new project related to youth was

submitted by Dada Patil on behalf of BOR. Either the BOD or the youth president can take the lead and suggest us if this is something worth exploring further. The topic is regarding the sharana vani equivalent but with relevance to the youth. Many speeches are in Kannada and the message may not reach them. They can select the pertinent topic and the speaker of their choice. Can also consider contributing articles to the newsletter.

Two projects concluded: Bylaws that Channu presented today-- involved many BOR members. **Convention trust fund initiative** that took place in Maryland. Shiva Patil presented the final numbers in the last meeting and that project is closed. Another project on which a slow progress is being made is looking at the membership fee activity. Finally if approved by BOD we can explore the option of hosting the convention alternative years instead of every year.

Prabhakara: All these projects can be discussed and need to allocate 10-15 min time in the next meeting. **Srishail** agreed to take the youth mentorship in the next meeting. The concept of hosting conventions alternative years has been floating for the last few years. **Jayashree:** We may need to take a survey and see how people respond. **Shylendra:** BOR will be happy to conduct the survey and present the results if BOD approves that task.

Raj: Survey is a great way to feel the pulse of the community which has not been done until now. At least it helps us to get the input from the majority. He also suggested to prepare an experience based document to support both pros and cons of each scenario and share that with people. **Indira:** Need to look into ways of conducting cost-effective convention. **Shylendra:** It depends on how we define cost-effectiveness. The actual per individual cost comes to around \$350 without being subsidized, schools are not convenient etc. **Manisha:** As suggested by Indira auntie, we might look into conducting youth led conventions. **Jayashree:** It is worth considering one year regular convention and the other cost effective youth led convention. In the interest of time, we all agreed to continue the discussion later

Shylendra advised to refer to the youth eligibility specifics in both the old and newly proposed bylaws.

- **Open Topics for discussion - Chapter Presidents:**

Uma Hukkeri: We have received the invitation to participate in the Global Basava Jayanthi celebration organized by the Global Basava Foundation. Wanted to know if VSNA is part of this foundation. **Srishail:** Clarified that Global Basava Foundation is a federation and is a collective voice of all the Basava organizations around the world. VSNA is just supporting the celebration.

Prabhakara: Is this something that BOR can explore whether VSNA needs to be part of this federation or do we stay as we are now.

Srishail : It is a good point to pursue further. I can collect all the information and send it to Shylendra to discuss in BOR and send recommendations. **Uma:** Do we need to pay any membership to Global Basava Foundation. **Srishail:** No. He commended the activities virtual meetings conducted by various VSNA chapters. Suggested to listen to Shoonya sampadane by Jolada Raashi Doddannavar. Volunteered to share that series.

Shiva Patil: Requested if any one in the community is affected by COVID 19 and offered help if needed. Same was echoed by **Srishail**.

- **Thank you note and Schedule May BOD meeting –**

Jayashree thanked all the members for attending the meeting and for their valuable suggestions and--

Wishing everyone with “Basava Jayanthi Shubhashayagalu”

SharaNu SharaNArthigalu,
Jayashree Jagadeesh
Secretary, Central VSNA

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Central VSNA BOD meeting minutes May 17th, 2020

This meeting was conducted as a zoom meeting. Agenda and other call details are as below.

Date: May 17th, 2020 @ 12 pm EST

Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 414 460 7930

Password: 123456

- **Roll Call - Jayashree Jagadeesh: The following VSNA officers and BOD members attended the meeting.**
VSNA officers: Srishail Hadimani, Rajendra Galagali, Shiva Patil, and Jayashree Jagadeesh
BOD members: Uma Hukkeri, Vandana Katti, Kalpana Kavitha, Roopa Guddimath, Girish Budibetta, Rohini Menasinkai, Chayapathi, Manisha, Indira Reddy, Shobha, Sateesh Kavi, Priyanka
BOR chair: Shylendra Kumar.
- **Prayer and welcome:** Jayashree and Srishail welcomed all the attendees and Jayashree requested Srishail to enlighten everyone with a prayer. (Separate document for the prayer attached)
- **Approval of Agenda:**
Proposed by: Girish Budibetta **Seconded by:** Chayapathi
- **Approval of April BOD meeting minutes:**
Proposed by: Uma Hukkeri, **Seconded by:** Roopa Guddimath
- **Convention 2020-- updates – Raj Galgali**
Still working with Hilton authorities. The current lockdown in VA is until May 31st. It has to be extended till July 2nd to walk away with no penalty. Trying to get a letter from VA Governor. We are optimistic that we should be able to get away with no penalty. Raj also clarified the questions regarding the cancelation of the 2020 convention and the communications sent to all the chapter presidents, registrants, guests and on the convention website. He said he will resend it if the chapter presidents have not received. Answering to Shobha's question regarding their intent to host 2021 convention, his answer was-- the Virginia chapter has not

yet passed any resolution pending the dependency on the penalty. Hoping to make an assessment and decide by next BOD meeting.

- **Project updates : Srishail Hadimani: Gobal Basava Jayanthi**

Thanked all the chapters and the members for their active participation in supporting the recent “Global Basava Jayanthi celebration”. It was a great success and has received tremendous applause from the global attendees as well as the media. Over 140,000 viewers have watched this program on various platforms. It was also streamed on two Indian news channels.

Profusely thanked all the chapter presidents for putting their program together and sending in their videos with 2 days’ notice. Special thanks to Shivu Vibhuti, Chayapathi and Trishul Nagenalli for their technical help. Thanks to Raj Galagali and Jayashree jagadeesh for anchoring the program under tremendous Pressure.

Local virtual events: Thanked all the chapter presidents for actively conducting the virtual events- Basava Jayanthi by local chapters, involving and educating the members taking advantage of the lockdown. Some of the highlights are -guest speaker series by Southern California, “Shoonya Sampadane”, “Vachana vana”, “Vachanamruta” by Connecticut chapter, “Vachana Surabhi” from Northern California. Chapter. Applaud the efforts by presidents and the members going above and beyond their call of duty in providing a virtual platform where we can learn from each other. Thanked everyone for upholding the mission statement—preserve, promote and propagate the Basava and the contemporary sharana’s teachings to the world.

“Sharana Vani” program: Coming along very well. Yesterday we listened to an eloquent speech by Padmashri Ibrahim Sutar. Audience number reached ever high of 985 from 11 countries on this global platform “Anubhaava Goshti”. He also offered all the needed help to chapters in coordinating/conducting the events. Many members expressed their appreciation for these events.

2. VSNA Diary : Printed 700 diaries. Shipped to all the chapters and a few individuals. We have received donations from a few chapters. Reminded others to send in their collection to Shiva Patil.

Diaries were provided free to life members. Cost incurred in bringing out these diaries was \$2239 including shipping and handling. Due to COVID lockdown understandably a few chapters are unable to distribute the diaries leading to a shortfall of \$340.

Tej Kartal : Commended the undertaking of these diaries. Vachana on each page is very meaningful. He has been using it on a daily basis. A great tool to understand/reiterate Sharana principles.

- **Treasurer's report: Shiva Patil**

VSNA DIARY: Total expenditure: \$2239.03. Updated dues received from many chapters--\$1940.00. We are just short of \$300. Request the BOD to approve that amount so that he can reimburse that amount.

Chayapathi : Quickly took on the Dasoha patha to donate \$300 to cover the short fall. He requested to bring out the diary next year also. **Shiva** thanked Chayapathi on behalf of the entire board, VSNA and personally as well.

Srishail and Jayashree also thanked chayapthi for his generosity. Srishail put in a few thoughts on covering the charges may be through advertisements. Jayashree suggested to charge \$5 for life members also. Option of bringing out a virtual version also was floated.

Shylendra: Brought out a good point that the annual members also pay their central VSNA dues. Instead of charging the life members or annual members, the diary should be given free and should be mailed to individuals instead of relying on the chapter presidents to distribute. In the grand scheme it justifies the membership benefit from Central VSNA. Many members joined their voice to this.

Srishail also added that this diary received appreciation from many leaders outside the USA including the Prime Minister Mr. Modi. Some of the members wanted to know if the amount \$10 last year and \$25 this year has any governance over the membership numbers.

Shiva: Not a big difference but this year not much has happened because of the lockdown but certainly has not made a big difference last year.

Suggestion was to include another \$5/\$10 to that amount to cover the diary costs.

Shylendra: It has always been a challenge to collect the central VSNA dues. It is collected at the chapter level and many don't know that they should pay and many don't even know that they are paying since it is collected cumulatively with their chapter dues. Needs a thorough discussion to put a system in place. It has been on the agenda a couple of times but never got through.

Shiva: Being a chapter president a couple times, I feel it is the chapter's responsibility. In NJ at least we collect a cumulative amount and send the central dues from it.

Chayapathi: It seems Atlanta has never paid any central dues so far and it becomes difficult to go ask \$25 now. We can just send \$1 from the \$75 we collect for each member for now and increase slowly. Some questions regarding \$10 in the last couple of years and vs \$25 now were clarified.

Srishail: No doubt this issue needs a longer discussion on how to proceed further. This year \$25 is set and the due date for collection has been extended till June 30th.

Sateesh: Expressed concerns that Kansas chapter having formed newly, they were unable to open the bank account because of the lockdown. They will discuss with their members and come up with a solution and pay their dues before the deadline.

- **BOR Youth mentorship and other projects update: Shylendra**

In March a proposal was presented highlighting its contents regarding youth mentorship --a BOR project. This program is geared to provide the skills to take up leadership and gain a better understanding of the activities of the organization at various levels. Similar to an internship. Summarized the details that are provided in the attached document. He expressed this not to become project on paper. Lots of Q and A are in place. Sure this doc is not perfect, but with the BOD blessings it can be taken further, however we can make it better with the inputs from 22 attendees here.

Indira: Who can be a mentor? A request can be made to interested mentors irrespective of their past or present positions in the office. Can any non officer mentor?

Raj: Only people who are experienced and held the office can mentor because the experience comes by serving. Every interested mentor may not have attended meetings, conventions etc. As a teacher, one needs to have some qualifications.

Shylendra:: requested suggestions on how to take this further?

Jayashree: First step is to start with a committee that can have some responsibility to oversee the qualifications, and follow the criteria in the guidelines etc.

Shylendra: Agreed and requested the board to make suggestions if any and approve it. We can take it as an action item and put together an operational guideline and when signed off, it can be followed through. Also a pilot study is in progress with Yuvaraj and Dada each mentoring a mentee currently.

Jayashree, Sateesh and Uma Hukkeri: Since the program has already been pioneered and optimized by the BOR, they should take it as an action item and continue with it. Shylendra also felt that BOR will run this for a year and then hand it over to BOD to decide on the next step.

Proposal: BOD approves that BOR will put together an operational guideline and continue to execute the VSNA Early Volunteer Mentorship program organization wide for one year. At the end of the first year, BOR will hand over the results to BOD for further evaluation.

**Proposed by :-Indira Reddy and seconded by:- Sateesh Kavi.
Proposal approved unanimously.**

BOR had submitted other two projects—

1. Convention Seed money:-

Proposal was to fix the seed money to \$20,000 for the next 5 years irrespective of the market condition. Seed money given in the past 10 years, the invest returns, costs incurred in hosting the conventions were some of the key elements that were considered for this decision. Based on the Proposed convention budget give a certain percentage was another option provided.

2. Should we consider the convention alternate year?

Conducting the survey was the task given to BOR. However another thought that emerged was, can we consider hosting the virtual convention alternative years?

Discussion points: Virginia: Canceled the 2020 convention and will not host any virtual convention this year. Srishail: We can have the virtual if there are no hosts available. Shiva: Need opinion from the general membership. Indira: Can we include virtual convention alternate years as a part of the survey?

Conclusion: BOR to draft the survey questions. Will structure the survey to bring full awareness of pros and cons. Will present it to the BOD for approval.

- **VSNA New Website proposal:- Raj Galagali**

Shared the screen. Summarized the proposal at high level.

1. Each chapter will have their subdomains under VSNA.org.
2. Ensure each chapter either to maintain their own website or to opt for central VSNA to maintain their chapter's website.
3. Maintain a uniform template across all the chapters.
4. Ability to share their meetings, recordings on their web site.
5. Monitor membership growth and statistics.

Develop a potential frame-work that can provide many options.

Working with a company that has provided this platform to many organizations like AKKA, NAVIKA, Maratha Mandal etc.

Proposed costs involved: one time set up charges to incorporate all 22 chapters-\$10,000. They also charge \$10 per hour for maintenance. Hours utilized can be flexible depending on the need.

Kalpna: Is it possible to have a link on the central VSNA website for each chapter just to check on the latest information instead of having website for each chapter? Raj reiterated that needs a frame work to facilitate that. There were a couple of concerns from the members that the website may not be utilized to the full extent by all the chapters. Some expressed the desire to check out the sample. If agreed by the BOD Raj can arrange for the vendor to give a presentation and have a Q&A session.

Srishail and Girish agreed that it can provide a single platform to monitor, update and make payments with just a click. Raj also

clarified that all the migrating, maintaining expenses will be borne by the central VSNA. Since Virginia used the same company for their convention website, if the amount has been paid, can it be re-purposed? The answer is, possible. \$10,000 initial expenditure is at the high end of the spectrum. Very likely it will be less than that.

Shiva: Confirmed the availability of funds for this project, but the current performance on the investments is not optimal.

The proposal:-- BOD approves that Raj Galagali to move forward with the Central VSNA new website project to develop a framework that enables each chapter to maintain their subdomains under an uniform platform. BOD authorizes him to spend up to a maximum of \$10,000 towards this project.

**Proposed by:- Sateesh Kavi, Seconded by:-Uma Hukkeri
Unanimously approved by the BOD**

- **Thank you note and Schedule June BOD meeting –**

Jayashree thanked all the members for attending the meeting, for their valued discussion, concerns, concepts and undertaking of all the BOR, BOD projects, all the virtual meeting updates. Looks like we will continue to meet virtually for quite sometime. Hope these virtual meetings connect more people than the personal meetings.

Will meet again in June

SharaNArthigalu,
Jayashree Jagadeesh
Secretary, Central VSNA

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Central VSNA BOD meeting minutes June 21st, 2020

This meeting was conducted as a zoom meeting. Agenda and other call details are as below.

Date: June 21st, 2020 @ 12 pm EST

Zoom Meeting:

Meeting ID: 414 460 7930

Password: 201920

- **Roll Call - Jayashree Jagadeesh: The following VSNA officers and BOD members attended the meeting.**
VSNA officers: Srishail Hadimani, Rajendra Galagali, Shiva Patil, and Jayashree Jagadeesh
BOD members: Uma Hukkeri, Nijaguna Prasad, Kalpana, Nagaraj, Shashidhar Kallur, Sheela Neral, Onkar Murundi, Girish Budibetta, Chayapathi, Manisha, Indira Reddy, Shobha, Thumbesh, Shivu Vibhuti, Sidramanna Tumkur, Prabhakara
BOR chair: Shylendra Kumar.
- **VSNA New Website Proposal-- Raj Galagali**
Arun, Ajit, Basavaraj and Raghav from Inqude- presented the Overview of the new central VSNA website development
Arun: Shared the screen. Incorporating various tools enabling chapters to share, learn, manage memberships, sponsorships, coordinate artists, Guruvandane etc. Did a demo with a real website, addition of a new chapter with their own website, their committee, members, link to specific information like a notice board mobile App etc, can be added.
Raj: Today's demo is just a concept. We can customize to fit our needs. Also mentioned about forming a team/committee who can get involved with issues related to this website. Also added that this can be a hybrid system where chapters can opt to maintain on their own or to seek help from Inqude which comes as a perk from the central VSNA. Goal here is to maintain flexibility, control and at the same time maintain consistency across the board.

Raghav from Inqude demonstrated the use of Mobile app and how to share videos, photos, events and at intra and inter-chapter levels and across the organization to the general public.

Arun: answered yes to **Shobha's** question if the information from the old website will be migrated to the new web site.

Shylendra: what database are you planning to use and what level of security are you providing to protect the member information maintain confidentiality?

Arun: US based Amazon web services and Amazon cloud, HEPA servers and PCI Compliant.

Shashidhar: Is there any limitation to each chapter since we have lot of videos, photos, program details to share?

Arun: For videos we use youtube channel so we get unlimited uploading capacity. For photos please let us know we can buy a terra bite from google drive or drop box. It costs around \$15 for a terra byte.

Shashidhar: Once access is granted to the chapters we have the liberty to add, delete content correct?

Arun: it is a template you can add banner and we provide multiple widgets.

Shashidhar: Any Email blast. Any provision in your portal?

Arun: 1. We provide mini version of campaign where you can send and blast the email to all with an RSVP. 2. You can also integrate with mail chimp. **Thumbesh:** Is it possible to see the draft of the content before sending it to the public?

Arun: you can select private or public. Public is the real time. Also you don't need the evite if you use our RSVP. He also Answered Thumbesh's other questions--that the real time dash board is visible to confirm the membership payments/dues/reminders/individual/family etc. Auto renewal of membership is also possible and currently they are working on WhatsApp integration.

Raj: More questions can be emailed. However, today's meeting is only to demo the concepts. To be as transparent we are going to constitute a committee to involve members from other chapters and BOR. Have reached out to a few already. Thumbesh and Shashidhar volunteered to be part of the web committee.

Srishail: Can members update their change of the if contact information etc like self service portal. **Arun:** Yes. You can also add dependents.

- **Prayer and welcome:** Jayashree thanked the inlude team for the preview of the website and Raj for organizing this. She wished all the fathers on the eve of “ FATHER’S DAY” requested Srishail to enlighten all the fathers with a vachana. (Separate document for the prayer attached)
- **Approval of Agenda: Srishail:** There are a couple of communications which we will address in the open topic section.
Proposed by: Girish Budibetta
Seconded by: Chayapathi
- **Approval of May BOD meeting minutes:**
Indira: Did we get any other cometetive quotes other than iqude?
Raj: we didn’t get any quotes but certainly there are lots of vendors they say can do it. However there was no proof point. Many indian organizations like AKKA, and many VSNA chapters have used for their conventions. If the board really wants, we can certainly get that.
Indira: what does the bylaw say?
Shylendra: Bylaws do not dictate
Proposed by: Chayapathi,
Seconded by: Prabhakara
Indira: Want to abstain from voting. I have not read the minutes. H Insisted to conduct voting on the approval of the minutes.
Jayashree: It is just the record of the minutes of the meeting and doesn’t need any voting. If there are any disagreements, please let me know we will correct those discrepancies.
Raj: Meeting minutes have never been approved by the voting process in the past and we don’t want to introduce something new. These are the facts discussed in the last meeting and if there are discrepancies, need to be corrected.
- **Convention 2020-- updates – Raj Galgali**
We do have good news. After lot of negotiation and taking pro bono help from almost 6 attorneys, we finally have a written agreement

from Hilton that they are willing to cancel the contract without any penalty to the organization. It will take about 60 days to receive the all the initial deposit made towards the convention contract. I would like to thank all those who came forward to help us in every capacity. Secondly, We the DC&VA chapter will not be a candidate to host the 2021 convention either. We are in the process of closing the books with any expenditure and submit the audited report to the central VSNA.

With that we will dissolve all the committees etc.

Prabhakara: Have they itemized the deposit or are they giving in one lump sum amount as a refund.

Raj: We had deposited \$10,000 towards the convention contract and the hotel will refund us the entire amount in the next 60 days.

Shylendra: As for the New England hosting 2021 convention, we still have to decide in our meeting. We were ready but with the ongoing uncertainty of COVID 19, we have to revisit the issue.

- **Project updates : Srishail Hadimani:**

1. We have received an appeal from the youth and it has been sent out on behalf of the youth regarding racial discrimination that is the BLM movement that is going on around the US and in some parts of the world. As an organization we condemn all sorts of discrimination. We believe in equality, democratic principles. However, as a non political organization cannot actively participate but to honor the youth initiative, if you all agree I would like to propose \$1000 donation from VSNA. Srishail requested Manisha to explain/elaborate the content of the appeal since a few members said that they had not received the letter that was shared through mail chimp, Srishail sent it to them while in the meeting.

Manisha: A lot going on in the world with racial discrimination. We as youth thought it is good if we send out a message showing our support to Black Lives Matter movement. Sharing our thoughts with other VSNA chapter members.

Chaya: How do you plan to do it Manisha.

Manisha: We are having conversation among the youth but we are trying to persuade adults to support us to support this cause. She also added that the letter contains the details of how one can help and where to send, lot of resources to help having open conversations with your kids/family. **Srishail:** That letter also has links if any one

wants to donate. Youth have already collected \$1250 and it will be nice to add more.

Indira Reddy: Complimented Manisha on the initiative and the effort. She would definitely support and mentioned that others should support too. Manisha requested all the chapter presidents to send that appeal letter to their members.

Srishail requested to pass the motion on the proposal to donate \$1000 to support VSNA youth to support BLM.

Proposed by: Indira Reddy: Seconded by Chayapathi.

It was unanimously agreed to donate \$1000 from central VSNA.

Shiva: Where should I send the check?

After a discussion it was agreed that it is better to send check to Manisha. She agreed to pool and send the donations received by individuals as well as central VSNA and send the receipts.

Manisha: She has received only Southern CA youth member list & reminded the other chapter presidents to send their youths' list.

2. Flood relief project:--Funds transfer for projects in India:-

Based upon the suggestions and the treasurer's evaluation and discussion with CPA, we have identified an organization that has been approved and registered both in the US and in India. We are authorizing our treasurer to transfer funds, proceed with the projects.

Srishail: Any questions on that? --No questions

3. Several milestone virtual events and meetings are taking place in various chapters. Atlanta chapter celebrated "Mahamane" yesterday. Her holiness Jagadguru Ganga Mataji spoke at the event.

Next Saturday, CT chapter is hosting its 100th episode of Vachanamrutha. They have 2 keynote speakers. One is Sri. Aravind Jatti President of Bsava Samithi, India and the second speaker is His holiness Sri Allama prabhu Swamiji.

4. Bylaws Voting: Most of the life and annual members have received the ballot. There is some confusion— We all agreed in the March meeting to extend the member enrollment till June 30th and all those members are eligible to vote. As a procedural fact in April BOD meeting we all agreed to send the relevant documents to members with 2 week's review time and evaluate the comments and suggestions if any. The bylaw committee did not receive any comments. After 3 ½ weeks of waiting the bylaws were put for early voting considering the forthcoming July 4th weekend. Srishail requested all the chapter presidents to send the central VSNA member list and their payments to the treasurer in the requested

format. If you or any one you know who are members and have not received the ballot please send an email to **vsnabylaws@gmail.com**. Srishail also requested everyone to desist from sending mass emails saying vote yes/no just to be fair and transparent. Let the members decide with their clear consciousness. **Chaya:** Is there any way of knowing who is doing that? **Srishail:** It is unnecessary and let us refrain from naming. **Manisha:** First of all you people don't have right to say that and no need to bring it up here.

Srishail: Only reason why I am saying is, if people have difficulty understanding they should reach out to the bylaw committee. The voting is in process and let us respect that. We will accept the outcome whatever it is. Any questions?

Manisha: Are we not going to acknowledge the email sent by two members-Girish and Bhavani. **Srishail:** Obligation is to respond to direct emails but not for mass communications.

Indira: If they address to the president and BOD, we need to respond. If the president doesn't want to respond, he needs to communicate that to the BOD. I let Girish raise his concern since he sent the email. **Girish:** Since the membership enrollment doesn't end until June 30th, how long will this voting process be extended to accommodate these new members? **Srishail:** as we all agreed earlier, the membership enrollment was extended to June 30th. The voting deadline is July 10th. **Indira:** We cannot start the voting while we are still collecting the memberships. All the board members will be held responsible if we don't follow the procedure. **Chaya** offered to pay the membership dues for all the members on Girish's list that triggered a lot of dissatisfaction among a couple of members.

Prabhakara: I have been involved in multiple organizations. When a procedure is in place, we cannot keep extending the dates. Honor the deadlines and whoever registers before the deadline will get to vote. Manisha's opinion was,- the postponement kept happening because of the lack of proper procedure. Prabhakara clarified that the postponement was because of the COVID-19, situation.

Manisha said it is all internet based. When Srishail started explaining somehow it ended up in a squabble between Chaya and Manisha. Srishail had to intervene and said just to keep the quorum of the house this is what I have to say. June 30th is the cut off for membership and ballot will be issued until then. July 10th is the voting deadline. Let us move on to next agenda item.

Manisha: Are we not addressing Girish and Bhavani's email?

Srishail: I have clarified Girsh is a board member and Bhavani is a life member. We can't answer to mass emails unless it is sent to a specific person with a specific question. Likewise there are 300 life members. The bylaw draft is in circulation for more than 6 months and 6 weeks time has been given to read and comment after incorporating all the suggestions. It has been a never ending story and we are firm with our deadlines.

Kalpana: I think that this process was not done in a democratic way. We never discussed who oversees the election. Everything came from up feeding, we never discussed this as a group. How are the emails authenticated or the dates, nothing was discussed in any meeting.

Srishail; To answer your question, the bylaw doesn't say to form a separate committee to conduct this voting process. We have a well registered documentation with the treasurer. This information was passed on to the current treasurer from the previous one. The treasurer has updated the list with the new registrations. Any discrepancy will go to the treasurer and he will verify and that list will be sent to the bylaw committee. Together we put for voting.

Kalpana: My question is, we did not discuss this as a group as to the process, deadlines or any details. Instead it comes from above instead of going in the reverse. **Srishail:** As I said in April BOD meeting, the bylaw committee chair personally attended and said that this will be sent and circulated for 2 weeks. After the review time, it will be put for voting. We waited for three and a half weeks. Kalpana continued that we didn't discuss any deadlines but just the email comes out.

Many questions from our members regarding ballots. **Manisha:** There is no transparency. **Srishail:** you have sent a list of members but no contact information. The treasurer attempted multiple times to get that. **Indira:** Every BOD needs to have the list of all the eligible voting members. Kalpana had requested their chapter's and we have sent it. **Srishail:** Sorry we can't share that info with everyone. We have to maintain the integrity of the system. **Indira** requested Jayashree to make a note of it. She wants to have the eligible voters' list and the count of who all have received the ballots etc. Some members don't have the emails. How are they going to vote?

Srishail: 38 eligible members don't have the emails and their physical address is wrong. I have shared that list with all the presidents, BOD and BOR members.

Four of them have passed away. Shiva Sajjan sent the info of 4 people which we have recorded. The current list was passed on from the previous treasurer to the current treasurer. For the remaining 32, I have mailed the letter to their physical address registered in our system. None of the responses came back. If you want to assist, we will share that list again. **Indira: requested him to send that list.**

Also who else is verifying this list and what is the total count?

Shiva: 292 life members, 171 annual members as of yesterday. 26 members don't have the correct address since Nandish, 2019 convention chair mailed the souvenirs which came back. I will compile that list and request chapter presidents to help.

Chaya: volunteered to take that action item.

Indira: Follow up question-The same bylaw committee can't take votes. Who is overseeing the process?

Srishail: once resolution is passed by the board, the board authorizes the president to execute that resolution either by himself or delegate it to others. There is a team and the bylaw committee and we the exec committee are seeing the entire operation.

Indira: We have to have a third party overseeing this process.

Srishail: There has been a precedent and we are following what has been done in the past. Indira strongly disagrees. Prabhakara tried to bring up how it has been done in the past. However Indira continues to insist that we never discussed this and need to have a separate committee. Prabhakara and few others wanted a chance to talk.

Shylendra: The current bylaw doesn't say who should execute in the voting for the bylaw approval. Because of such ambiguities and inconsistencies, lack of procedures, this modification to the bylaws was attempted. If there are questions, these should have been brought up earlier because we all make mistakes.

There is a procedure approved by the BOD is in process and questioning how can you do this to the president who has the executive power to execute what has been approved is wrong. If you are conducting an election, there is a proper procedure that needs an election committee to do this. Similarly you elected the bylaw committee and this process is being done together, just like the election process. Now all these questions. Along the same line, how do we know when the list is sent to you or any one, they will do the right thing.

Indira: Agreed that the bylaw committee was approved but it was not approved who would oversee the voting process. It is conflict of interest for the bylaw committee to take voting. She continued to talk and others talking over as well. It was too noisy to understand any one. Srishail warned that he will have to mute everyone. He was left with no choice since others felt it was getting out of control.

Srishail: The allocated time for this topic is beyond over. We have detailed on behalf of both Exec team and bylaw committee. That is all the time we have. **Manisha:** when it is inconvenient for you, you decide to end the conversation. Srishail continued --Any questions related to bylaws, please reach out to the bylaw committee. If you believe somebody is eligible to vote and has not received the ballot, please reach out to the treasurer/bylaw committee. Again June 30th is the cut off date for membership enrollment and July 10th midnight (EST) is the deadline for voting.

Indira: In the general body if this question comes up, I want to make a note that I was not part of this decision. **Srishail:** A democratic process is put in place and we go with the majority vote.

Manisha: It is not a democratic process. Srishail mentioned to Manisha that she is not an annual member or a life .

Manisha: Did you disconnect Indira from the call. I need an answer.

Chaya: yes. I did.

Uma Hukkeri: Are all the emails that you use for mail chimp communication secure? Can anyone access all our emails? Many of us have received emails to say No/Yes to vote from people whom we don't know. Was wondering how they got all our email IDs.

Srishail: Only person/s who have access to the mailchimp password can send the emails via mail chimp. People are using various resources like past presidents/officers, convention chairs etc.

Uma continued to say that it is each person's choice to vote. Chaya requested her to send her the email so that he can verify the security.

Shiva: Reconfirmed that he doesn't share any contact information of members even with the EC. He also confirmed that if there is any discrepancy, he only replies to that member but not share with any.

Jayashree: There is a concern already about the emails. How do we respond to Indira's request to share all the eligible voter list with all the BOD? Uma specifically requested to send if at all only to the respective presidents of their chapter's list.

Indira: Specifically told Jayashree that she has the right to be in the call not to disconnect her. Jayashree did not but Chaya did and told

her to follow the rules. Once again a big squabble talking over each other. I am unable to decipher

- **Treasurer's report: Shiva Patil:**

1. Some issues with both life members and annual. Presidents mail checks with just names but no contact info. Trying to get that from chapter presidents. Once again humble request to fill out the forms to facilitate capturing info and to send ballots.

2. A reminder to all the presidents to send in their income-export report ASAP so that we can file the taxes on time.

3. Waiting for 2019 convention accounts as per Nandish Dhananjaya is pending auditing. May become available next week.

4. As approved earlier by the board, I will mail the check to one of our sister concerns here who will be paying for the North Karnataka flood relief project, since we cannot transfer funds to India directly.

Kalpna: Who are we going to transfer the funds to? Wanted to learn more about the process and why and how it has been done.

Shiva: "Samarthanam" is an 501(3)c organization recognized both here as well as in India and have helped us in the past. Some EC members and BOR members have talked with this organization and have agreed to help in this noble cause. Shiva reiterated that the president explained it earlier in this meeting and also mentioned that MD and California chapters have helped them and they help us without charging any money to us. Since there are no more questions, he said he will mail the check for \$20,000-the entire money collected exclusively for this purpose and close that activity.

Jayashree once again explained everything and made sure this process is clear to everyone. These talks occurred just last weekend and Shiva put it through the board for approval today. If no objections, he will send the check.

- **BOR updates: Shylendra Kumar**

1. As approved by the BOD in the last meeting to go ahead with the implementation of the mentorship program for a year, BOR has nominated Ravi Amblee as the lead. He is going to coordinate with Vijay Kotrappa. They are drafting an email to be shared with the general membership through secretary Jayashree detailing the process and requesting the nomination of both mentor and the mentee.

2. Teachings of Vachana is in place for a while but because of COVID, several virtual activities popped up. Both Yuvaraj Patil and Shiva Sajjan along with Dada Patil are updating the document.

3. Drafting a questionnaire for survey as approved in the earlier meeting. Incorporating additional questions about the understanding VSNA as an organization. We will present the draft in next BOD for approval and proceed. Members should be able to answer the entire questionnaire in 10 minutes but help us get information to improve.

Shiva: Received a letter from Ohio state attorney general for not filing the state taxes for the last 6-7 years. The states are expected to file every year. May be there are other chapters in the same situation. Requested Srishail if we can suggest BOR to take up this project and look into it. **Shylendra:** BOR is there to help and we will work with BOD. But we have to understand the background. Most of the chapters are under the center except NY. VSNA is registered as an entity in Michigan state with an IRS number to operate in Michigan state. Others are considered as a foreign entity registered out of state. For non-profits, it is not required to register in every single state but if you start collecting money then we have to report. We can do it but we have to visit each state's requirements where VSNA has chapters. Srishail thanked Shylendra and BOR for this help.

- **Open topics: Jayashree: Non documentation of life memberships-** Some people have reached out to me since they have paid the life membership dues but their names missing from the list. How can we solve this problem? Needs discussion and solution

Nagaraj: Where can we find the life member list?

Srishail: Previous committee had published this list on the website. During the modification of the website that list was taken out.

However we have the master list and the treasurer can help identify any particular member/s. With the new web site with self service portal is coming, people can check their status. He also requested presidents to check with their chapter members and reach out to us.

Indira: If the form is not filled, they can just fill out the information and update correct? **Jayashree:** If we fill out the form now, the treasurer needs that amount deposited. That is a problem.

Shylendra: We have seen this as a recurring problem. No way to produce any proof. We have to trust them and the BOD has to approve them since this is reinstating their membership without payment. **Jayashree:** That is the reason I am reaching out to BOD.

How to channelize this is an issue when it becomes a good faith question. Manisha: We should just give them the membership.

Indira: They have to pay again. **Girish:** We need to establish some kind of validation that they have paid. If the organization didn't keep the records properly, we cannot penalize them.

Srishail suggested to compile the entire missing life member list at the national level and discuss it in our next meeting.

Manisha: Need to have a cut off date and validation to prevent people from taking advantage.

Indira: I am not getting all the emails.

Srishail tried to explain but somehow there was some confusion in understanding each other's issues. Uma Hukkeri also had some concerns regarding email exchanges among the board members. It was decided to revisit and solve this problem.

Jayashree: Thank you all for your attendance, valuable inputs and discussions. We will meet again in July. Please note that the next meeting will be a joint BOD and BOR meeting.

It is time to attend Father's day celebrations.

"Happy Father's day" to all the fathers.

SharaNArthigalu,
Jayashree Jagadeesh
Secretary, Central VSNA

Disclaimer:- "The meeting minutes were recorded for information purposes only and as per the agenda items. Any out of agenda items discussed may not have been recorded here. Please review and check for the accuracy of your statement/s before the approval of the minutes in the next meeting. No response is considered as in agreement or approval. This document is created for information purposes only and does not stand for legal scrutiny or actions against any individual or the organization"

Veerashaiva Samaja of North America (VSNA)

Meeting Minutes – Special Meeting of VSNA Board of Directors, August 16, 2020

Attendees: 20 BOD Members attended; Quorum (17) Achieved; Attendance details are below.

SI #	Location	VSNA BOD Officers	Attendance
1	Illinois	Ms. Indira Reddy	Yes
2	Florida	Mr. Girish Budibetta	Yes
3	Michigan	Mr. Thej Kartal	Yes
4	Michigan	Mr. Mahesh Patil	Yes
5	Past President	Ms. Laxmi Hiremath	Yes
6	Boston	Mr. Prabhakar Chippadi	Absent
SL #	State	VSNA Chapter Presidents	
1	Alabama	Mr. Mruthyunjay – Proxy	Yes
2	DC & Virginia	Ms. Roopa Guddimath	Yes
3	Detroit	Dr. Sheela Neral	Yes
4	Florida	Ms. Kalpana Malligere	Yes
5	Houston	Mr. Harish Hiremath	Yes
6	North Carolina	Mr. Tumbesh Halnur	Yes
7	Ohio	Ms. Manjula Shankarappa - Proxy	Yes
8	Pennsylvannia East	Mr. Siddaramanna Tumkur	Yes
9	Pittsburgh	Mr. Naveen Kumar	Yes
10	Tennessee	Mr. KP Channabasappa	Yes
11	West Virginia	Dr. Vivek Neginahal	Yes
12	Youth Chapter	Manisha Virupannavar	Yes
13	Kansas City	Mr. Praveen Hiremath – Proxy	Yes
14	Maryland	Ms. Vandana Katti	Yes
15	Toronto	Ms. Rohini Mensinkai	Yes
16	New England	Ms. Shobha Amaresh	Absent
17	New York & New Jersey	Mr. Onkara Murundi	Absent
18	California North	Mr. Shivu Vibhuti	Absent
19	California Central	Mr. Shankar Yediyur	Absent
20	California South	Ms. Uma Hukkeri	Absent
21	Connecticut	Mr. Nagaraj Shivakumar	Absent
22	Chicago	Mr. Shashidhar Kallur	Absent
23	Georgia	Mr. Chayapathy Gangadarappa	Absent
SL #	Officers Position	VSNA Officers	
1	President	Mr. Srishail Hadimani	Absent
2	Vice President	Mr. Raj Galagali	Absent
3	Secretary	Ms. Jayashree Jagadish	Absent
4	Treasurer	Mr. Shiva Patil	Absent
		Total BOD Voting Members	33
		BOD Members Present	20
		Quorum Needed	17

There was a request to record the meeting. Harish also announced that we have met the quorum requirement and we can start the proceedings. Roll call was taken by Girish to reconfirm the attendees. Harish called on Roopa Guddimath to start.

Meeting Related Actions/resolutions:

Resolution proposed by: Roopa Guddimath,

In the absence of officers at this Special BOD meeting, duly called according to the provisions in Article V. Sec10 of the VSNA bylaws, I propose Harish Hiremath, VSNA South Texas Chapter President to conduct this Special BOD meeting.

Seconded By: Kalpana Malligere. Unanimously accepted.

Harish Hiremath: Thanks. With all your permission, I will be Chairing this meeting. Please communicate with me via chat or raise your hand if you would like to talk, and I provide one-minute duration for you to express yourself.

Resolution proposed by: Roopa Guddimath

In the absence of the Secretary at this Special BOD meeting, duly called according to the provisions in Article V. Sec10 of the VSNA bylaws, I propose Girish Budibetta, VSNA BOD member, to record the minutes of this Special BOD meeting.

Seconded By: Kalpana Malligere. Unanimously accepted.

Meeting chair requested Record Keeper to record all the proceedings of the meeting, and to share with all BOD, BOR, VSNA Officers and all the members. Opening message by Harish Hiremath, Special BOD Meeting Chair:

Today, the majority of VSNA BOD members are in this Special BOD meeting to express our position very clearly and voice our opinions firmly. The transparency and conflict of interest in the voting process conducted for Bylaw changes 2020 are in question. We clearly want to distance ourselves and our VSNA BOD, from the Legal Case challenging our officers regarding the voting process. We are all concerned about the use of any VSNA funds to face this legal challenge.

We are utterly unhappy about significant conflict of interest of few of our BOR & BOD members in creating, pushing and rushing these bylaw changes. We want each one of us to express their positions freely and without any fear of retribution. Let us show everyone that we are Veera Sharanas and our VSNA is Anubhava Mantapa. With this, I would like to call for the first item.

Naveen Kumar started by proposing and stating the first resolution.

Resolution # 1

Proposed By: Naveen Kumar, VSNA Chapter President, Pittsburgh

"Due to several issues with the voting process, we are unable to verify the accuracy of the voting results. We, the Board of Directors declare that the voting process conducted to amend the VSNA bylaws in the year 2020, is null and void. VSNA will continue to follow the current bylaws enforced on 01-01-2017."

Seconded By: Roopa Guddimath, VSNA Chapter President, DC & Virginia

Meeting Chair: Whoever is objecting to this resolution, are free to express your opinion telling No and stating your position or chapter's position. (No comments). Anyone wants to abstain from this?

Vandana Katti: I have not made my decisions on this. So, my vote will be to abstain.

Praveen Hiremath: Same here. I do not know all the things. I am also abstaining.

Rohini Menasinakai: I will not vote, yes or no. I also abstain.

Voting: 3 abstained – Pravin Hiremath (Kansas Chapter), Vandana Katti (Maryland Chapter) & Rohini Mensinkai (Toronto), and 16 were Yes votes. As there was no tie, the Meeting Chair did not vote. So, resolution was passed by 16 Yes votes with 3 abstaining.

Kalpana Malligere proposed and stated the second resolution.

Resolution # 2

Proposed By: Kalpana Malligere, VSNA Chapter President, Florida

"We, the Board of Directors, forbid involving VSNA in a legal battle, related to the violations during the bylaw amendment process. We do not approve any VSNA funds to be used by BOD or BOR members towards any legal expense and direct the treasurer not to dispense funds for this purpose and freeze all VSNA bank accounts."

Seconded By: Manisha Virupannavar, VSNA Youth President.

Meeting Chair: Anybody wants to say NO? Anybody wants to abstain?

Discussion

Vandana Katti: Do I have to every time express Abstain. Meeting Chair said yes Vandana Katti expressed her wish to Abstain from voting. Meeting chair said he respects her expression.

Praveen Hiremath: I would like to Abstain from voting.

Manjula Shankarappa: Will you please read the resolution one more time.

Kalpana repeated the resolution again for the benefit of the members.

Vandana Katti and Praveen Hiremath again reconfirmed that they will Abstain from voting to this resolution.

Tumbesh Halnur: I want a clarification please. If this resolution includes EC (VSNA Officers) members. The Meeting Chair confirmed that it also applies to EC (VSNA Officers), since they are deemed part of BOD.

Voting: 2 abstained – Pravin Hiremath (Kansas Chapter) & Vandana Katti (Maryland Chapter), and 17 were Yes votes. As there was no tie, the Meeting Chair did not vote. So, resolution was passed by 17 Yes votes with 2 abstaining.

Naveen Kumar proposed and stated the third resolution.

Resolution # 3.

Proposed By: Naveen Kumar, VSNA Chapter President, Pittsburgh

"In the light of many complaints received by members regarding ballots, BOD directs the treasurer Mr. Shiva Patil to furnish BOD members, within a week, the list of all VSNA members (annual & life members) for 2020, including Member names, chapter/city they belong to, email, date and mode of membership fees received."

Meeting chair asked to repeat the resolution one more time for clarity and Naveen repeated the resolution.

Seconded By: Dr. Sheela Neral, VSNA Chapter President, Detroit.

Meeting Chair requested if anyone wanted to express their opinions they could and vote, No, Abstain or Yes.

Vandana Katti asked whether these details are already available in Central VSNA Website. Meeting chair said that these details were requested and not provided to BOD members. Rohini added that the member list must be approved by BOD also.

Rohini Mensinkai and Vandana Katti wanted to confirm that resolution is requesting the list of paid members and life members and we are not asking whether they voted Yes or No. Meeting chair confirmed that they are not asking how they voted, but wanted to know membership details like when they paid and the mode of their payment.

After the discussion, Rohini Menasinakai and Vandana Katti voted Yes to the resolution.

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Voting: 19 Yes votes. There were no “No” votes. None abstained. As there was no tie, the Meeting Chairman did not vote. Resolution was passed unanimously by 19 Yes votes.

After the third resolution, the Meeting Chair shared several documents on screen to provide more clarity and information to all BOD Member attendees. **(refer Attachment # 3)**

1. First document was the approved and distributed **Minutes of Meeting of the Central VSNA BOD from January 20th, 2019**. He mentioned that this is the first meeting of Mr. Hadimani as a president. He highlighted the following portion of the approved and distributed Minutes of Meeting, related to filling vacancies in BOD and BOR:

Girish B: *Want to call for nominations once again.*

Indira Reddy: *One should call for nominations and conduct elections once again.*

Sanikop: *We should appoint people who applied last year for positions that are still vacant. Fresh nominations should be taken only for any open positions that are left after confirming the ones who applied last year.*

Dada Patil: *Suggested that Prabhakar and Shailendra had applied and we should confirm their nominations. There is no conflict of interest and are not part of any other organization now. In the interest of keeping the community together and acknowledging all the work these two individuals have done, we should confirm their nominations and call for elections for other positions after appointing a new Election committee.*

The Chair highlighted a portion further down in the approved and distributed Minutes of Meeting:

Manisha: *Those two members were disqualified and why should we appoint them.*

Dada: *As BOR chair I have full information from both the lawyers. Dada clarified that Manisha the youth president may not have all the details as only half the information was shared by the past-president.”*

He indicated that the BOR chair at that time claimed that both are eligible and pushed the BOD to accept the applications of two members, Shylendra Kumar and Prabhakar Chippadi into BOR and BOD respectively. The voices of questioning BOD members (Indira Reddy and Manisha Virupannavar) were sidelined and silenced.

2. The second document, dated 03/29/2018, 7:47:00 PM, showed is a public document obtained from The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Corporations Division with the title “**Certificate of Change of Directors or Officers of Non-Profit Corporations**” belonging to International Basava Center (IBC). It showed that Shylendra Kumar, Irappa Arabhavi and Prabhakar Chippadi were directors of the IBC from March 29th, 2018 and well into 2020. Which clearly showed on that day, Jan 20th, 2019, they were incorrectly declared as qualified by Dada Patil, to serve on the Boards of VSNA. On the basis of the BOR Chairman’s statements, the two members were inducted in to VSNA BOR and BOD respectively. But records show that the two members were still directors of IBC at the time. This is clear violation of our bylaws, and the conflict of interest clause was breached. **{refer Attachment # 2 & 4}**

3. The third document shared with the BOD members, indicated that Shylendra Kumar, Irappa Arabhavi and Prabhakar Chippadi were the founding President (Resident Agent), Treasurer and Clerk in the Article of Organization who formed IBC in Jun 11th 2012 and continued to run the organization in that capacity until Nov 1st 2016. They moved on to become directors from then onwards were directors of IBC as of Jan 20th, 2019. This clearly demonstrates the violation of VSNA Bylaws with respect to conflict of interest. All these are public documents and freely available to all. Hence, leadership in subsequent activities related to the Bylaw changes 2020 causes a lot of concern. **{refer Attachment # 5}**

Thej Kartal and Mahesh Patil made the following proposal:

Resolution #4

Proposed By: Thej Kartal & Mahesh Patil, VSNA BOD Members. Stated by Thej Kartal.

“Shylendra Kumar who is a BOR from 2019 to 2022, Irappa Arabhavi BOR from 2017-2020, and Prabhakar Chippadi, BOD from 2019-2020 have erroneously entered VSNA BOR and BOD respectively, while simultaneously serving on the Board of IBC. On the grounds that conflict of interest laws were violated namely, Article VII sec 1 and Article V sec 3a (v),

the Board of Directors declare that this disqualifies their membership in the respective VSNA Boards, and any votes cast by them is also invalid."

Seconded By: Indira Reddy, VSNA BOD Member

Meeting Chair requested if anyone wanted to express their opinions. They could and vote, either No, Abstain or Yes.

Vandana Katti: I do not want to vote as "NO", but I want to Abstain from voting.

Praveen Hiremath: I am Abstaining.

Voting: 2 abstained – Pravin Hiremath (Kansas Chapter) & Vandana Katti (Maryland Chapter), and 17 were Yes votes. As there was no tie, the Meeting Chairman did not vote. So, resolution was passed with 17 Yes votes and 2 abstaining.

The next resolution was proposed and stated by Dr. Vivek Neginhal:

Dr. Vivek outlined the request of 76 youth members all around the country needs to be addressed, even if as adults we wanted to reconcile or overlook. We have to do this for the youth who is the future of VSNA, and this was not unfortunately recognized by either EC and BOR. We like it or not Issues raised by substantial members in a democratic/religious organization, must be addressed.

Resolution # 5

Proposed by: Vivek Neginhal, VSNA Chapter President from West Virginia

"We are requesting and directing the EC (VSNA Officers) and BOD to recognize and address the critical VSNA Youth letter, dated Aug11th, signed by 76 members from all over the country, by latest August 24th, 2020."

Seconded by Indira Reddy, VSNA BOD member.

Meeting Chair requested if anyone wanted to express their opinions. And called for a vote, either no, abstain or yes.

Vandana Katti: Voted "NO"

Praveen Hiremath: Voted Abstain.

Voting: 1 Abstained – Pravin Hiremath (Kansas Chapter); 1 No Vote - Vandana Katti (Maryland Chapter), and 17 were Yes votes. As there was no tie, the Meeting Chairman did not vote. So, resolution was passed by 17 Yes votes with 1 Abstaining, and 1 No vote.

Meeting Chair: If any of you want to express, 1 minute only, please raise your hand.

(following statements are paraphrased).

Meeting Chair: Thank you all very much. This has happened peacefully. I really appreciate all of you for cooperating. We were fair, allowing everyone to express your opinions individually, regardless of what it is. We should always have the freedom to express our voice. That is the basic tenet of Basavanna, as stated in Anubhava Mantapa 900 years ago. If we are not able to do that in the USA, then, we are not Sharanas.

Thej Kartal: I really appreciate everybody's effort to save this organization which started 45 years ago in a sacred way, and we also want to maintain the same, and be transparent. Most importantly, we need to hand over the baton to the youth. They are the ones carrying the baton forward. It is not easy to get the opinion of 76 youth in the modern millennial era. My heartfelt congratulations to the leadership in coming up with this strong letter.

Meeting Chair: Regarding Manisha and Indira Reddy - the fact that the BOD has not responded to many of their grievances is very unfortunate. The way a few people have behaved in our BOD, and VSNA Officers including BOR not addressing their grievances fairly, is unacceptable. The ladies' questions in the BOD were legitimate. They were also questioning why a contract of \$10,000 was awarded to a company without getting three competitive quotes, as is customary. They were muted and blocked from the meeting. That was very unfair and undemocratic. It seemed that few

officers were supporting it. It is totally unacceptable. I am expressing my thoughts freely on record and if you want to express your thoughts you are free to do it. This is our Anubhava mantapa.

Laxmi Hiremath: It is about time to put an end to all of this. We seniors are here to help you. Seniors are concerned to see the organization dwindling. It is meant for the younger generation. The youngsters have done well. The convention that the youth put together by Abhinav Reddy, Manisha and all youngsters, was well organized. It is truly meant for them. We need to put an end to infighting. Let us all come together and unite, and once again move forward.

Roopa Guddimath: Thanks everyone for coming together. United we have raised our voice. And thanks Harish for helping us to come together.

Mahesh Patil: What Manisha has done is fantastic. We have not seen that kind of youth participation in VSNA history. It is not just EC's (VSNA Officers) responsibility to support her, but it is also BOR and BOD's responsibility to be there for youth. We in the BOD must introspect and be there for youth. They are bound to mistakes, but it is all our responsibility to be there for them.

Vivek Neginhal: We need to take this very seriously. VSNA is at a crossroads. But we need to participate. What has happened in the 6 months is very unfortunate. I am staying neutral, not part of any faction. These things happen in a family. We should forgive each other. The same enthusiasm should be harnessed for some great things in VSNA. We have told them that we will support them if the changes are good for everyone. We have asked them to explain. Reciting a couple of Basavanna's vachanas does not make one a Basavanna disciple. Basavanna preached everyone is equal and treat in day today life. There should be no hard feelings and we can still work together in right direction.

Sheela Neral: Would like to thank Harish and all of you for making this happen, and for taking time to hear everyone, and also showing interest in our organization. Also fully agree with, Mahesh, Vivek and Roopa in whatever they have said.

Meeting Chair: Many of our BOD members are on H1B visa. They were really, very much intimidated and threatened when they did their duty and spoke up or voted a certain way. But they all came forward, and courageously stood together inspite of threatening emails and posts. They have survived all of these things and I dedicate this meeting to them.

Indira Reddy: Thank you for all coming together and staying together, and you are going in right direction. We all love our organization. We love our children, and we need to address their concerns and put the organization in the right direction. Thanks for everyone's efforts and being united and stronger. This is Veerashaiva way.

Kalpana Malligere: I have attended every single BOD meeting. And this is the only meeting where everybody spoke, no one got cut off, everybody has been able to express their opinions without issues. I really appreciate it, thank you.

Meeting Chair: I want to express something to Indira Reddy and Manisha. I have long suffered because we could not show our support to you and Manisha Virupannavar, and condemn the way this BOD treated you in the meetings. It was very unfair. **On behalf of this majority BOD, I am sure all will join me, in asking your forgiveness for not treating you fairly in these meetings, if it possible, please forgive us.**

Manisha Virupannavar: Appreciate everyone's support and hope I will get through it. It has been a rough couple of months. I have been an active participant in the local chapter and as a youth president, I did not expect to be treated like this. I know we will come out of this stronger.

Tumbesh Halnur: Over the past 2 months, the meetings and emails have been definitely not been up to the standards of Basava principles this organization is founded. I want to be part of these meetings and express my opinion clearly and do not want to be read my Miranda rights that anything I say will be used to sue me in court. The way few people have conducted is not what I expected. I hope this will change going into the future and it is just my hope, that's all.

Meeting Chair: Thumbesh, I really appreciate that you have tried to speak up many a times. We all know what kind of onslaught of threats and intimidation you faced for it afterwards. But I really congratulate you for standing firm and finally expressing your feelings openly. This is what we always wanted in our BOD, and we wanted everyone to express their opinions freely, whatever their positions, irrespective of "for or against". Expressing is your right and no one can take it away from us.

Dr. Mruthyunjaya: Attending this for the first time, on behalf of Shivashankar. The resolutions were meaningful. Thanks to Harish for overseeing all these concerns.

Vandana Katti: Conducted the meeting very well. Appreciate your effort in seeing inconsistencies and standing up to it. I don't know whether I fully agree with everything discussed here, hence I abstained. But, meeting was done very well. Everybody was given the opportunity to talk and express their feeling. I appreciate it.

Vivek Neginhal: Asking Vandana to elaborate on which part she does not agree, so that we want to understand what the others view is and why they are supporting. No need to fear, please be quick to tell us and we can be educated.

Vandana Katti: I have not done enough research on every issue to vote either way. I see VSNA falling apart and I have been proud member of VSNA for many years. So, I am abstaining on some. I do not understand history to vote one way or other. I respect what Manisha has done, one hundred percent respect for her leadership in the organization and feel sorry for her. Everyone must back off in the best interest of the organization and move forward. I want to make sure that election has no fraud and make it was a democratic election, I am for it. That is where I stand.

Rohini Mensinkai: Harish Thank you. It is a good organized meeting, and everybody is getting an opportunity to talk. I am so much aligned with Vandana what you are saying, and I completely agree with you. We should not be bringing past issues that have been going on. We will be adding more fuel to the fire. Everyone should ask, am I doing the right thing? Unfortunately, I am seeing so much emails going on and it is very sad. And the person who is doing it, it doesn't make any sense, he pushes other people down, it doesn't make sense, it is not leadership skill. I am glad that we are trying to talk and not use the word lawyer always. It just throws out the Basava philosophy and that's all I have to say. Thank you.

Sid Tumkur: I represent VSNA PA East. We are a small organization but growing rapidly. I voted yes for the bylaws and not involved in many of the meetings. But I was upset when my members came and told that they wanted to vote, but they were informed that they had already voted. That is when I wanted to get clarity, did not get it until now, and I am standing up for my chapter. I agree with all the resolutions passes and I am hundred percent for them. I am true believer of Basavanna and founder of democracy. He has taught women, youth and all are equal. I am really upset that EC (VSNA Officers) is not handling the issues properly. That is all I have to say, thank you very much.

Thej Kartal: Want to echo what Vivek said, and what Sid said. I have heard that some of my close friends who are life members did not get ballots. They were not aware what is going on. Unless they are transparent, we don't know what is going on. Every organization has to change, and amendments have to be made. We are not opposed to that, but, oppose the way things were done.

Naveen Kumar: Would like to congratulate all board members to think through the situation, understand what is going on and standby what they feel is right. Here is no one influenced anybody, all are individuals, and everyone made decisions based on what they felt was right. Need to achieve a common goal, stay focused and contribute. One of my chapter's Life member had not received the ballot, then I wrote to our president and treasurer to send him a ballot. But the president sent an email stating that, ballot has sent to him and he has voted two weeks back. When I checked back with my member, he said I don't even know that voting is going on, then how can I vote. That is where the red flag raised for me. Even if it is one vote, it makes a lot of difference. Some members said that they have not even received the ballot. I feel that something is not right. There might be mistakes or human errors. They need to share the details with everybody, and we need to think through the process and make it better. I am not assigning blaming here, but I just know that whatever has happened is not correct. I standby that.

Praveen Hiremath: I am representing here Kansas only because our president Sateesh Kavi had to go to India for an emergency. One thing, I really appreciate about Harish, in addition to what he talked about, way of conducting the meeting and giving opportunity for everyone to talk, he told me in his all the calls, clearly not be influenced by him or any body and make my own decision and vote. Irrespective of whatever you vote, we always need to remain as sharanas and good friends. Thank you very much for that. Again, as Vandana Katti has told, in my opinion, if you can do this in a compromising way, it would be better for all. My humble request, we are one family and we need to make work by following principle "Dayave Dharmada Moolavayya". Since, I do not know all the issues, for most of the resolutions I abstained. Please forgive me.

Meeting Chair: Definitely not Praveen, you are free to have your own opinions and we respect your opinion, if you are a sharana, you need to respect everybody's opinion. Like Vandana, Hats off to her. We must respect such people. Just because the people are on other side, like Jayashreeakka (VSNA Secretary) with whom I worked for ten years and know

her very well. But, today she is supporting the Bylaw changes. Raj Galagali, he supports Bylaw changes. That does not mean that they are not friends to me. Please remember that they are just taking a position, but they are not our enemies. Never treat them as enemies, that is my opinion. Just because you oppose me, you are not my enemy, still you are my friend. That is my belief. Rohini wants to speak, please go ahead Rohini.

Rohini Menasinakai: Harish, well said. Just because the people on other side they are not our enemies. I Just want to make a suggestion that we are going to vote for next committee in near future. Maybe we should look for a company that does secure voting for us and get the results. It is better than somebody within us overseeing this voting and not doing it properly. I would rather spend money on a good cause like that than spending money on fighting lawsuits.

Meeting Chair: What happened was the same group of people who changed the bylaws, pushed the bylaws, managed the voting process also, it was not supervised by an independent committee, so there was no transparency. That's why Bylaw requires Election committee to consist of members outside of BOD and BOR. Also, very clearly, we don't want VSNA BOD to get involved in any legal case especially with all the violations cited and voting irregularities documented. We request, on behalf of all you, to officers to find a compromise, avoid this court battle, that is good for all of us. But, they may or may not listen to us because until now they have not listened to any of our requests. Who else wants to speak next? We have two more minutes.

Indira Reddy: One elderly Life member, had requested a paper ballot to the Treasurer, but did not receive response. I have sent that email to treasurer, but I never got the reply. Felt that we could not help an elderly VSNA person to exercise their right. We must accommodate every senior life member.

Meeting Chair: Okay, we have two more minutes, if anyone want to take it, please let me know. Otherwise, we can close the meeting.

Manjula Shankarappa: Harish, I will take it, reason is, it is not only how the Bylaws were changed, it is how the Bylaws were voted on. We need to vote on one amendment at a time and we cannot ask members to vote one vote for all changes. That went wrong. Several of our Ohio life members did not receive the notification. That is what I have noticed in last six months. That is all my comments, Thanks.

Meeting Chair: I want to share with you all that Manjulaji is very senior member of our VSNA and I was impressed by her depth of knowledge on non-profit organizations. I had requested her to write a white paper on the impact of changing VSNA from Religious to Charitable organization as myself did not understand it clearly. What are the consequences? No body explained to us. I had asked many times, and no one has given a clear and satisfactory answer for me. Manjulaji gave me a white paper explaining why we should not change VSNA from Religious to Charitable Corporation. After that I started telling strongly that the changing to Charitable Corporation is not good for us. Thank you Manjulaji for educating me and if they have done in the similar to all our BOD members, we would not have been in this situation today. Thank you very much. Anybody else?

Vivek Neginahal: I request Praveen to express why he Abstained from voting the resolutions.

Meeting Chair: Praveen, you have been put on spot and if you are not comfortable you can excuse.

Praveen Hiremath: I do not feel like that. I had further conversation with Sateesh and this was our decision.

Meeting Chair: Thank you very much. If you all agree, I will make a closing statement to close this meeting. Basava has told us "kaLabEDa kolabEDa, husiya nuDiyalu bEDa, muniya bEDa, anyarige asahyapaDabEDa, tanna baNNisabEDa, idira haLiyalu bEDa. idE aMtaraMgaSuddhi! idE bahiraMgaSuddhi! ide namma kUDalasaMgananolisuva pari". We have to follow these commandments and hope we have followed it in today's meeting. If I have not allowed anybody to speak and express their opinion openly, please forgive me for that. I hope this meeting was conducted orderly and properly, if you all agree, please say yes.

BOD Members: Yes, Harish, Thank you.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:01 PM EST.

Note: Minutes of Meeting consists of Page no 1 to 8

Veerashaiva Samaja of North America (VSNA)
Joint BoD – BoR Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2020, 12:00 Noon to 2:40 pm

No	Name	Position	Attendance
Executive Team / Officers			
1	Srishail Hadimani	President	Yes
2	Raj Galagali	Vice President	Yes
3	Shiva Patil	Treasurer	Yes
4	Jayashree Jagadeesh	Secretary	Yes
Board of Directors			
1	Girish Budibetta	BoD	Yes
2	Thej Kartal	BoD	Yes
3	Mahesh Patil	BoD	Yes
4	Indira Reddy	BoD	Yes
5	Prabhakar Chippadi	BoD	Yes
6	Vijay Aivalli	BoD	Resigned
Chapter Presidents			
1	Shivashankar Tumkur	Alabama	NO
2	Roopa Guddimath	DC-VA	Yes
3	Sheela Neral	Detroit	Yes
4	Kalpana Malligere	Florida	Yes
5	Harish Hiremath	Houston	Yes
6	Thumbesh Halnur	North Carolina	Yes
7	Priyanka	Ohio	Yes
8	Siddaramanna Tumkur	Pennsylvania (East)	Yes
9	Naveen Kumar	Pittsburgh	Yes
10	K P Channabasappa	TN	Yes
11	Vevek Neginhal	West Virginia	Yes
12	Praveen Hiremath (Proxy)	Kansas City	Yes
13	Vandana Katti	MD	Yes
14	Onkara Murandi	NY –NJ	Yes
15	Shobha Amaresh	New England	Yes
16	Shivu Vibhuti	CA – N	Yes
17	Uma Hukkeri	CA-S	Yes
18	Shankar Yediyur	CA – C	NO
19	Chayapathy	GA	Yes
20	Rohini Menasinkai	Toronto	Yes
21	Nagaraj Shivakumar	CT	Yes
22	Shashidhar Kallur	Chicago	Yes
23	Manisha Viruppannavar	Youth Chapter	Yes
24	Raksha Haliyur	Dallas	Resigned

Board of Regents			
1	Shylendra Kumar	BoR – Chair	Yes
2	Dada Patil	BoR	Yes
3	Vijay Kotrappa	BoR	Yes
4	Irappa Arabhavi	BoR	Yes
5	Ravi Amblee	BoR	Resigned
6	Sajjan Shiva	BoR	Resigned
7	Yuvaraj Patil	BoR	Resigned

Board Members	Total Members	Present	
Officers	4	4	Total Attendance: 34 Minimum Required : 19
Board of Directors	5	5	
Chapter Presidents	23	21	
Board of Regents	4	4	
Total Member	36	34	

Guest member: Laxmi Hiremath (Past President)

Meeting Minutes:

This meeting was conducted as a zoom meeting. Agenda and other call details are as below.

Meeting: Joint BOD & BOR Meeting Date: Aug 23, 2020 Time: 12:00 Noon EST Presided by:
VSNA BOR Chair

Record Keeper: VSNA Secretary

Required Attendees: VSNA BOR Members, Officers, BOD Members and Chapter Presidents

Venue: Virtual Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4144607930?pwd=dER5YjFlandoa1FabXMzeVBvOTVpQT09>

Meeting ID: 414 460 7930; **Password:** 201920

Optional Dial-in number +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 414 460 7930; Password: 201920

Agenda for the Meeting:

1. Welcome and Housekeeping rules - 5 minutes - BOR Chair
2. Roll Call - 5 minutes - VSNA Secretary
3. Prayer - 3 minutes - Srishail Hadimani
4. Current issues related to Bylaws Amendments Process and next steps
 - a. Issues and proposed solution options to keep the unity and to move the organization forward - 7 minutes - BOR Chair
 - b. Comments from President - 4 mins
 - c. Comments/feedback from BOR Members, Officers, BOD Members and Chapter Presidents - 1 minute each
5. Thank you Note and Closure - BOR Chair

Shylendra Kumar (BoR Chair): Welcome all the members for the meeting, and thank you for joining today's important meeting to discuss and resolve issue related to recent bylaws. I have received the following BoR member's resignation in the last 30 days, Yuvaraj Patil, Ravi Amblee and Sajjan Shiva and thank them for their services of 20 months.

Request everyone to stay focused on the today's purpose. My role is to conduct this today's meeting and give everyone to provide an opportunity to express their views and arrive at a conclusion and move the organization forward.

As you all know, we have a situation here. My role here is to facilitate this meeting to bring an end to the chaos that we are in. We the 32 members who are in this meeting to resolve the situation and move forward.

Dada Patil: What we need here is what is good for the organization; people come and go organization will stay. The VSNA bylaws are 40 years old there is a need to look into it and amend as needed. Instead of going back and forth, let's put an end to all this without the interventions of lawyers, court or blaming anybody, that should be our goal.

First time all the board members have attended. Let us all work together and resolve the issue and move forward. As we have another 4 months term, let's complete the term and conduct the elections. Let the new committee work on it on the future.

Here is my proposed resolution:

"We the officers, BOD, BOR, and Chapter Presidents would like to thank the bylaw committee and all those who exercised their vote in the 2020 bylaw voting process. Our goal is to cater to the needs of all of our members. A portion of our members expressed concerns and reservations against some changes in the recently amended bylaws. The voice of the General body is supreme. However, with the sole aim to keep the community united, Officers, BOD, BOR, and Chapter Presidents would collectively pass a resolution not to implement the revised bylaws of 2020 till amended. The old bylaws enforced on 1-1-2017 will stand and be followed as they are without any modifications"

In the larger interest of the organizations, let us move on and I am requesting all of executive committee, chapter presidents, BoD and BoR members think over it and vote on it and be done with it.

Srishail Hadimani (President): Thank you BoR Chair for calling this special meeting to address the outstanding issue. I fully support and concur the view expressed by both Dada and Shylendra. I have also received resignations from two of our board members Vijay Aivalli (BoD), Raksha (Dallas Chapter) and Thank them for their services and contributions. As I have been associated with the organization for over 24 years, have seen how it has evolved over these

years. In the process, we have identified several flaws in our bylaws and we amended them from time to time.

The issues that we faced during the last two years and based on several recommendations received from our members, we have formed committee of experienced people to go over it. Their recommendations were presented to the BoD for their approval, and once it is approved, it was presented to the General Body for voting. I can fully understand and recognize a section of our members are not happy with the proposed set of the bylaws and the voting outcome. It is not end of the world. It requires further wetting of the process, in order to keep the harmony and peace with in the organization, let us all work together, Let us put the proposed new bylaws aside and work together. I fully agree with Dada's proposal. Thank you all for joining todays call.

Raj Galagali (Vice President): Thank BoR chair and Dada patil for working tirelessly in resolving the issue. In the name of saving the organization, everyone is blaming each other. I think this is last opportunity for all the 34 members who have joined this call. Passing the proposed Dada's resolution, which enforces the continue to use of 2017 bylaws. This draws the curtain for the amended bylaws issue.

Many good volunteers are leaving the organization and hence damaging the organization. Let us put our ego and personal differences aside. This would be our last opportunity to work together. I request everyone to think over and vote on the resolution, your decision will decide the future of the organization.

Vijay Kotrappa: Discussed the issue in the BoR and went through many of these emails going around. There is always a process to re-amend the bylaws. There is nothing drastic is happening in the organization. No one has done it with selfish interest; many of the members have put valuable time for the betterment of the organization. Always there is room for improvement, if it is not acceptable to members. There are lots of ways to work around. Organization is important to all of us. I appeal to everyone to vote in the favor of the proposal.

Irappa Arabhavi: We all belong to the same community and our entire objective being same. Let us all work together and put our efforts and work together. I support the resolution and I hope everyone thinks the same to move the organization forward.

Girish Budibetta: If the proposal can clearly state dropping the entire process, people may go forward and implement it in the future. Make the bylaws null and void and forward to BoD, BoD can work on it and bring a closure to it.

Shylendra : If you follow 2017 bylaws, the BoD – BoR - joint meeting, has authority to pass resolution and vote on it. Hence the meeting is called to resolve the issue.

Indira Reddy: I need clear clarification on the proposal. The bylaws modification is null and void and continues to follow 2017 bylaws.

Mahesh Patil: Looks we want a change and we want to be part. The main concern is the way it was handled. As Dada said, cancel the bylaws and reconstitute a team to look in to it.

Shivu Vibhuti: It is good that we are here to resolve the issue; bylaws can be amended as and when needed with majority voting. Whatever happened, let us put behind and move on. I am deeply hurt with the emails and WhatsApp that is going on. It is hurting the organization. I am perfectly fine with the majority; we will support to follow 2017 bylaws. When you write, please watch out your words, you are representing the organization not as individuals. Keep the organization spirit high and maintain respect of the organization

Uma Hukkeri: As mentioned let us follow 2017 bylaws, and let us work towards for the betterment of the organization. Let us stop the allegations and the email chain, and let us see how we can grow the organization. I agree with the resolution, no need to go to court, without blaming any one, as everyone worked hard for the organization, and let us be the role model for others.

Prabhakar Chippadi: Given the so many passion discussion, everyone has interest in the growth of the samaja, I respect everyone's thoughts. We should stay away from name calling. I support and vote for the resolution. A culture has been started from the last 2 years, to bring in a lawsuit for everything that has to stop.

Shashidhar Kallur: I really echo the voice of Indira, let us void the new bylaws, and let us work together and follow 2017 bylaws. I am happy that everyone is coming together to resolve it.

Nagaraj: I am glad that everything is coming to an end, I will support the resolution.

Sheela Neral: Let us make the 2020 bylaws null and void and follow 2017 bylaws. Let us work to the best of the organization.

Roopa: As Dada proposed, let us put everything null and void, and let us follow 2017 bylaws. And let us start from the scratch.

Kalpna: They already spoken I will yield my minutes to Harish and Vivek

Chaya: I appreciate Dada's effort to unite everyone. I am with the proposal. Don't bring personal issues; let us work together for the betterment of the organization.

Harish: Today we are saying we are all members of the same family, but many were hurt with the current affairs of the organization. Members were not allowed to express their opinion, and many people and chapters are talking about leaving the organization. I demand to form a

committee to go over each and every vote to verify. I personally least interested in the organizational matters.

Vandana: I see mistakes have been done from both sides, I believe in democratically voted bylaws. I am all in for holding implementation for this year. Let us take this as an experience and do well in the future

Shobha: I have seen from the beginning few members are –ve and opposing for everything. One must understand that we are all volunteers and putting our personal time. I am deeply saddened to see some of the emails, that people are sending they are unacceptable behavior. We are all professionals; let's stop for going through legal process. Let us focus on the better events and urge people to forget everything and move forward.

Onkar : I think, the resolution that Dada proposed, I agree with it. I suggest including a word the 2020 bylaws are not to be implemented. Even if it is not included, I would say yes to the resolution.

Thumbesh: It is been a very sad situation. I am all for moving forward with positive mind. I agree with the proposal put forward by Dada. I agree with the proposal, let us make it unambiguous. Let us put an end to it, without any further email fight and move forward.

Sidramanna Tumkur: Thank you for the Dada's Proposal. Now we are moving forward by not implementing it. I appreciate the effort.

Naveen Kumar: We are all working for the organization to make it better one. For whatever reasons voting was not properly. As BoD we have addressed all the issues in the last meeting. As BoD I welcome the resolution. I request BoD to call another meeting to vote on the proposal. BoD is a governing body; it reserves the right to make the decision. Executive body to execute the resolution. We are working together and have different roles. BoD reserves the right to make the decision. BoR can send their recommendations. BoD is not against the bylaws but against the voting process.

Manisha: I agree with what Naveen said. There is no personal agenda. The bylaws should not be implemented, and is considered null and void. There should not be a resolution, and proposal to be discussed in the BoD.

Vivek: I am very glad the way it is being conducted. We are heading towards a resolution. Please do not rush it through. This proposal is important, but we cannot rush it through. This resolution has been passed already, and you are pushing it again in the joint meeting. The resolution passed in the last meeting where none of the executive members attended. We should have done this before. The committee has lost confidence in the governing body. Why are we voting today on this?

Dada: Legality of the Null and void. General body is supreme authority. We are in a stage where 345 said yes, BoD or BoR has no authority to overturn. We cannot do Null and Void. There is no implementation. I suggest one correction to include a word “till it is amended”. I have seen lot of backend politics in the organization; they do let the young generation to function. Advising is different dictating is different. As per the bylaws the joint meeting has the authority to pass the resolution. I sincerely request everyone to vote on it.

Vivek: election was not approved by the BoD and the election was done on a wrong assumption. The general body does not know the finer things of the bylaws. The general body was misled. The people have been misrepresented, and general body did not know, what they were voting. We will put this for vote again. If they pass it we agree with it. BoD – BoR has the power, let the members take it, digest it and come back to vote on it. Let us not rush to vote.

Dada: We are not rushing into it. You have expressed your view.

Vivek: We are trying to avoid it, and we are not recommending to go to court.

Shylendra: Let us give chance to other members to speak.

Priyanka: It is disheartening to see lot of chaos in VSNA. I appreciate the initiative and how the meeting is going on today. Everyone needs to step up and move ahead. It is taking a toll on everyone and everything; let us put an end to this negativity.

Rohini: It is great move, Thank you Dada for putting up the resolution, I support it. It is good path. Bylaws are written by putting lot of effort. The change is coming. We need to keep going with options article by article. Please respect each other, lawyer things as become a routine thing and being used for bullying. Let us sit together and resolve the issue.

K P Channabasappa: No Response; yielded time to Vivek

Jayashree (Secretary): Thank you everyone for attending. We have an opportunity to resolve the issue amicably or make it worst. At this stage let us not dig through negativity, I beg everyone to take it forward.

Shiva Patil: No response

Thej Kartal: No response

Shylendra: We are here to address only one issue that is bylaws issue. We BoR members are here to assist with the process. We heard everyone. There are 34 members on the call. Do you want to consider it as a Proposal / resolution and vote today or you want to think over and come back and vote. Based on what I heard, everyone is interested in resolving this issue. If you all agree, let us put to vote. We can call to vote. If majority say Yes – let us conclude. If the majority say no then we can meet again.

Harish: If you take the vote and pass any resolution it is going to be bylaws violation. It will not hold good. It should be clearly recorded in the minutes.

Srishail: The discussion phase is over and go for voting.

Harish: People who are involved in the bylaws process should refrain, officers are involved, BoR chair is involved, people who have not involved in the bylaws process stay away.

Srishail : It is a democratic organization, in a joint meeting the majority decision matters and it should be respected. Every board member has right to vote, we cannot create a new rule.

Harish: Record my objection

Raj: It is Proposal or resolution, let members decide

Jayashree : started voting

Shylendra: If you vote Yes you are agreeing to this resolution, Close the issue; if vote NO, you are taking it as a proposal and voting it on another time. If majority vote YES, let us pass the resolution and close the chapter. If you vote NO in this meeting you are voting for proposal.

Multiple people talking: let us not vote on it, let us vote on it. let us take it and think over.

Shylendra: Let us conclude the meeting today. You have already seen the proposal. Let us take the proposal and reconvene. We will send an email to all the members with the proposal. I will call another joint BoD – BoR meeting on next Sunday Aug 30th, 2020 to vote on the resolution. Thank you everyone for attending the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned!

Disclaimer:- "The meeting minutes were recorded for information purposes only and as per the agenda items. Any out of agenda items discussed may not have been recorder here. Please review and check for the accuracy of your statement/s before the approval of the minutes in the meeting. No response is considered as in agreement or approval. This document is created for information purposes only and does not stand for legal scrutiny or actions against any individual or the organization"

Veerashaiva Samaja of North America (VSNA)

DRAFT Meeting Minutes – Special BOD Meeting, December 6th, 2020 @ 12 to 1:00 PM EST

Attendees List: 20 BOD Members attended; Quorum (17) Achieved

Sl #	Location	VSNA BOD Officers	Attendance
1	Illinois	Ms. Indira Reddy	Yes
2	Florida	Mr. Girish Budibetta	Yes
3	Michigan	Mr. Thej Kartal	Yes
4	Michigan	Mr. Mahesh Patil	Yes
5	Past President	Ms. Laxmi Hiremath	Yes
SL #	State	VSNA Chapter Presidents	
1	Alabama	Mr. Dilip Shivanna – Proxy	Yes
2	DC & Virginia	Ms. Roopa Guddimath	Yes
3	Detroit	Dr. Sheela Neral	Yes
4	Florida	Ms. Kalpana Malligere	Yes
5	Houston	Mr. Harish Hiremath	Yes
6	North Carolina	Mr. Thumbesh Hahnur	Yes
7	Ohio	Dr. Suresh Shroff	Yes
8	Pennsylvania East	Mr. Annappa Metgod	Yes
9	Pittsburgh	Mr. Srikanth Hanumanthappa	Yes
10	Tennessee	Mr. KP Channabasappa	Yes
11	West Virginia	Dr. Vivek Neginahal	Yes
12	Youth Chapter	Mz. Manisha Virupannavar	Yes
13	Toronto	Mr. Kiran Shivappagoudar	Yes
14	Connecticut	Mr. Nagaraj Shivakumar	Yes
15	Kansas City	Ms. Satish Kavi	Yes
16	New England	Ms. Shobha Amaresh	Absent
17	New York & New Jersey	Mr. Onkara Murundi	Absent
18	California North	Mr. Shivu Vibhuti	Absent
19	California Central	Mr. Shankar Yediyur	Absent
20	California South	Ms. Uma Hukkeri	Absent
21	Maryland	Ms. Vandana Katti	Absent
22	Chicago	Mr. Shashidhar Kallur	Absent
23	Georgia	Mr. Chayapathy Gangadarappa	Absent
SL #	Officers Position	VSNA Officers	
1	President	Mr. Srishail Hadimani***	Absent
2	Vice President	Mr. Raj Galagali	Absent
3	Secretary	Ms. Jayashree Jagadish	Absent
4	Treasurer	Mr. Shiva Patil	Absent
		Total BOD Voting Members	32
		BOD Members Present	20
		Quorum Needed	17

Meeting Related Actions/resolutions:

The Special Meeting of the Board of Directors [BOD] was called December 6th 2020 under the provision of Article 5 sec10 of the VSNA bylaws. Twenty BOD members who were registered to attend the meeting called in, greeted each other and at 12:00PM EST Special BOD Meeting started.

Resolution # 1 proposed by Roopa Guddimath, Chapter President of VA & DC

In the absence of officers at this Special BOD meeting, duly called according to the provisions in Article V. Sec 10 of the VSNA bylaws, I propose Harish Hiremath, VSNA South Texas Chapter President to facilitate this Special BOD meeting as Meeting Chair.

Seconded by KP Channabasappa. Chapter President of Tennessee. Unanimously accepted.

Meeting Chair: Thanks. With all your permission, I will be facilitating this meeting as your Meeting Chair.

Resolution #2 proposed by Meeting Chair

As the Meeting chair, in the absence of the Secretary at this Special BOD meeting, duly called according to the provisions in Article V. Sec10 of the VSNA bylaws, I propose Sheela Neral, Chapter President of Detroit, as our official Record Keeper to record the minutes of this meeting.

Seconded by Roopa Guddimath, Chapter President of VA & DC. Unanimously accepted.

Opening message by Meeting Chair:

As your meeting chair, I genuinely believe in the concept of guru Basava's Anubhava Mantapa and would like to give an opportunity for all of you to express your views, thoughts, and positions clearly and firmly without any fear of retribution, without hurting anyone and with a willingness to Agree to Disagree. Today, we are trying to address some of the delayed business of the Samaja - to form Election Committee, Guidelines for the Election Committee, BOD Coordinator to facilitate the smooth running of the elections, and finally to take action regarding Mr. Shrishail Hadimani.

Our organization has gone through a very tough times from past six months, many members have lost the faith and interest in the organization. We stopped operating as a democratic group, many BOD members were scared or hesitating to express their opinions or raise their voices due to the fear of retribution or legal consequences. But today, all of you can express your opinions freely and firmly, without threat of legal action or retribution. But, please let us be wise while expressing ourselves, take care not to be harsh on others, always remain polite, listen to others and be objective. Now, I request our record keeper to read out the names of the attendees and confirm that we have needed quorum.

Sheela Neral read out the names of all the 20 attendees (refer Attendees List) and confirmed that we surpassed the needed quorum of seventeen BOD members.

Meeting Chair: With that, we shall address the first issue of the meeting. – the formation of the Election Committee. I will provide you the nominations received for the VSNA Election Committee from our members:

1. Ravishankar Bhooplapur, Past President
2. Prema Shankar, Past President
3. Anand Hiremath, Past Vice President
4. Jayaprakash Reddy, Chicago
5. Jagadish Biradar, Houston
6. Shrishail Viruppannavar, Chicago
7. Gayathri Ravishankar, New York

We need three members for the Election Committee, and I request any of you to propose the desired members to the group.

Indira Reddy—With regards to the 3 nominees for Election Committee, Ravi Bhooplapur, Anand Hiremath and Prema Shankar and I would like to provide brief introduction of their background to the group.

Indira Reddy provided a brief introduction of the proposed three members.

Meeting chair: Thanks Indira and if anyone else would like to propose any other names for the Election Committee.

Laxmi Hiremath: What we are looking from this election committee honest and sincere work. Proposed three members are great choices and I support them.

Resolution #3 proposed by Girish Budibetta, BOD Member

We propose Ravishankar Bhooplapur, Anand Hiremath and Prema Shankar to serve as Election Committee to conduct the upcoming elections of officers, BOR and BOD positions for the term of 2021 to 2022. All are life members, former VSNA officers and not part of current BOD or BOR. Election Committee will be effective until the new administration formally takes over and completion of youth committee elections whichever is later.

Seconded By: KP Channabasappa, Chapter President of Tennessee

Meeting Chair conducted the voting and record keeper recorded. Voting: YES- 20, NO – 0 and ABSTAIN – 0

Meeting Chair: We have formed the election committee unanimously and now we need to provide guidelines to the election committee members to perform their responsibilities to conducting these elections fairly, democratically, and transparently and in accordance with the bylaws.

Resolution # 4 Proposed by Manisha Viruppannavar:

BOD hereby approve and direct a) the current secretary and treasurer to provide the appointed Election Committee the current verified Eligible Member detailed information immediately, b) assist them in mass communication to the general membership and c) Dispense authorized expenses for conducting the election process. All the qualified candidates will be eligible to participate in election as per bylaws and current BOD/BOR members will continue, only if they are qualified as per bylaws as of Jan 1st, 2017.

BOD directs Election Committee to send out the Request for Nominations to VSNA general membership by Dec 19th, 2020 with a deadline to receive nomination by Jan 2nd, 2021, announce eligible candidates received to BOD and candidates Jan 3rd, and deadline for withdrawal by Jan 9th, 2021. Elections will be conducted by appropriate process, Ballots to be sent by Jan 10th, with a deadline to receive the votes before Jan 30th, 2021. BOD ratifies results and authorizes the formal announcement to general membership on Jan 31st, 2021. New VSNA Officers, BOD and BOR will take over the administration of VSNA from Jan 31st, 2021. Youth Committee elections need to be conducted either together or later by the election committee.

Seconded By: Roopa Guddimath, Chapter President of VA & DC

Meeting Chair asked for a vote on the resolution. Voting: YES – 20, NO – 0 and ABSTAIN – 0

(Discussion paraphrased)

Thej Kartal: Based on my experience, I strongly suggest that we need to come up with a mechanism to steer away from electronic process and we need to send the physical ballots all eligible members. We need to collect, count and tabulate physically.

Suresh Shroff: Do we have the member list of all eligible voting members? Are you asking for it in the guidelines you are providing?

Meeting Chair: Yes, it is addressed in the previous resolution by Manisha. We still do not have, and we have been asking our current Secretary and Treasurer from many months. Hopefully, election committee will be asking them to provide and it is their responsibility. Whatever the support they need, we will be providing.

Meeting Chair: I was happy in facilitating the first two resolutions as it opens a ray of hope for the future of our organization. With a heavy heart we move to the next resolution.

Kalpana Malligere read the rationale for the next resolution:

Mr. Hadimani has been charged with numerous counts of VSNA bylaw violations during his term, by the BOD. A court case by a life member & Regent of VSNA has also been filed in MI courts, with complaints that include voting irregularities.

Recently, Laxmi Hiremath [former president/current ex-officio BOD] has accused Shrishail Hadimani of "fabricating an email and forging [her] name to it." She has denied ever sending the alleged resignation letter. Laxmi H. and the Board of Directors [BOD] have repeatedly demanded the original "alleged resignation email", since November. But Mr. Hadimani has not complied. It is the duty of the BOD to verify the discrepancies, in the statements and documentation, of the two parties and take the appropriate action necessary. The submission of the legitimate, original email would have exonerated Mr. Hadimani. But he has not done so.

In the absence of any proof, Ms. Laxmi has announced to BOD of her decision to press legal charges against Mr. S. Hadimani for "falsifying an email document". Forgery/falsifying a document is a crime punishable under United States Law, with jail time and fines!

We the BOD are entrusted, first and foremost, with the welfare of the Samaja, its growth, its image and its funds. When the president of an esteemed Religious Organization like our VSNA, comes under suspicion, of violating the laws of United States, it has dire implications and consequences to the Organization:

- In the eyes of the public -It makes a mockery of the Veerashaiva values we claim to profess. As stated in our bylaws - we expect a certain standard of conduct in the regular members of VSNA – to be in good standing, law abiding, and '...to imbibe and practice Veerashaiva principles & way of life'. We also expect our chosen leaders to be shining examples of these values.
- When the head of the Organization comes under such suspicion, VSNA's image ~~is~~ will be tarnished in the 'court of public opinion'. It will have other dire consequences to the organization as well.
- VSNA's standing in the international community, that we have strived to build for 45 years, will fall apart.
- VSNA's affiliations with other organizations will also suffer.
- VSNA's legal status might become vulnerable and might invite official scrutiny of the tax exempt and non-profit status.
- Confidence of the members will be eroded, and with that, the membership will decline, and donations will dry up.
- Even current VSNA chapters might question their affiliation with central VSNA.
- When moral & ethical standards decline in a Religious Org, it will lead to drop in participation and decrease in funds. This might result in the demise of VSNA as we know it.

We cannot let this happen under our watch. The minimum responsibility of every member of the current Board is to stop this from happening. It is not our fault when bad things happen in our world. But it will be our fault if we do nothing about it. We must restore confidence that central VSNA is transparent, law abiding, and will tolerate nothing less. The members must be confident that BOD will attempt to right any wrongs. Silence or inaction will not be tolerated by the members we represent. Each one of us must justify- the lack of action, or the action we will take, in this sad time in VSNA history.

Absence of a decisive action on our part, will be judged for not only as tolerating this kind of behavior, but condoning it, and finally covering it up.

Resolution # 5 Proposed by Srikanth Hanumanthappa.

Mr. Srishaikumar Hadimani, having been accused of allegedly 'falsifying a document/forgery' a crime under USA laws, and his refusal to respond or exonerate himself from suspicion, demonstrates 'conduct unbecoming, and detrimental to the goals and objectives of the Religious Corporation' In an attempt to safeguard the image, reputation, legal and financial interests of VSNA, we the Board of Directors are forced to do our bitter duty, to suspend Mr. Srishaikumar Hadimani from the VSNA membership, until such a time he, or the courts/agencies, clear his name from suspicion of the 'alleged crime.'

Seconded By: Vivek Neginahal, Chapter President of West Virginia

Discussion [paraphrased]

Meeting Chair: I will give opportunity to all who want to express your view and first as a facilitator, I will share my thoughts. Arriving at this situation was not easy, lot of serious thought has been given. When our past president rejected Hadimani's claim of her resignation and gave him a deadline to produce the original email from Gmail, he could not. Many BOD members wanted to act immediately, but few of us wanted to give him another deadline and opportunity to absolve himself from this grave error by providing the proof, or to resign. The humble request from seventeen BOD members was not even acknowledged and completely neglected by Mr. Hadimani. Any leader must respond, when one BOD member questions. When seventeen have requested, he did not even recognize our concern. This hurts the Samaja, and it's the lowest point in the leadership. Still, we want to give him another opportunity. Since he is not responding our request, we want to force him to provide us the proof. So, he will be suspended until the time he provides us the proof and clear his name. That means, if tomorrow, he gives us the proof, this resolution will be reversed, he will be reinstated, and welcomed back with open arms. Again, I repeat, if Hadimani provides the proof, we must be willingly taking him back with open heart as member of VSNA and treat one among us. This is my understanding of this resolution, otherwise, I will not be sitting in this chair facilitating this process and I would not have come to this meeting. What is shared is my true position and feel free and share your thoughts and positions openly.

Confidential, For VSNA Chapter Members Only

Manisha Virupannavar: From past few months, sad things are happening in VSNA and what has happened from past two weeks is the last straw. What Central VSNA president has done is criminal and we must not allow him to get away with it. This hurts VSNA. This resolution must be implemented.

Laxmi Hiremath: Narrated some incidents from her term as president. 'Forging my signature literally, I cannot accept it. We need to take action and he should be held accountable. It is for the integrity of the VSNA and the office of presidency.

Vivek Neginahal: If I look at everything happening from past six months, I am ashamed to call myself a sharana or Veerashiva and tolerating this long. Such behavior even one time must not be tolerated. After I took keen interest, I have seen it happening multiple times. We also need to encourage women to be in forefront and we have been torch bearers in this regard. Corrective action must be taken.

Thumbesh Hahnur: Resolution was very specific 'falsification of the email and alleged forgery'. I want to stick to the data we have and if the original email is produced then it will exonerate Hadimani. I had sent a personal email to Hadimani appreciating the good activities and programs done by him and asked him to provide the original email as proof. From few months his actions are going down the hill. I want to just stand by the data, the fact that email is missing is the one that is going to make me feel something wrong here and I am going to stick to that. There is other thing we all know, but it is immaterial at this moment. If he produces the missing original email from Gmail, I am ready to accept him back. I know there are other issues, but those issues need to be tackled when he comes back. I want this to make clear.

Meeting Chair conducted the voting on Resolution # 5 and record keeper recorded.

Voting: YES –16, NO – 0 and ABSTAIN– 4 (by Satish Kavi, Annappa Metgud, Dr. Suresh Shroff & Kiran Shivappagoudar)

Resolution # 6 Proposed by Sheela Neral, Chapter President of Detroit

Due to the current critical situation in the VSNA organization, we direct Vice-President to perform all presidential duties for the remaining term. Also, by the powers vested in Article 5, Section 1: General Powers, BOD is authorizing the Mahesh Patil, Life Member and BOD Member to act as BOD Coordinator to lead and coordinate the Election Process with Election Committee and affairs of VSNA, with Secretary & Treasurer until the completion of elections and new administration takes over.

Seconded By: Kalpana Malligere, Chapter President of Florida.

Meeting Chair conducted the voting on Resolution # 6 and record keeper recorded.

Voting: YES –17, NO – 0 and ABSTAIN – 3 (by Satish Kavi, Annappa Metgud, Dr. Suresh Shroff)

Meeting Chair: Appreciate many of you expressing your opinions freely and disagreed, but still respected each other's opinion. If anyone have any general comments, please let me know.

All members thanked and appreciated the smooth running of meeting and providing all the opportunity express the opinions openly. Special BOD Meeting adjourned.