



Orlando Kannada Sangha, Inc.

***CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS***

Orlando Kannada Sangha, Inc.

CONSTITUTION

CHAPTER I

NAME OF ASSOCIATION

The Association shall be known as Orlando Kannada Sangha, Inc. In this document, OKS, Kannada Sangha or SANGHA shall mean Orlando Kannada Sangha, Inc.

CHAPTER II

CONSTITUTION

Herein referred to as the CONSTITUTION, this document governs all activities of the SANGHA. The President rules on all Constitution interpretations during and in-between meetings. Such interpretations may be changed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors (as defined in Chapter V).

CHAPTER III

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the SANGHA shall be:

- a) To provide a non-sectarian and non-profit cultural and social organization with a view to bringing together all those residing in Central Florida and surrounding areas who are interested in cultural and linguistic heritage of Kannada and Karnataka, India.
- b) To organize cultural, literary, educational, and scientific programs of particular interest to KANNADIGAS. In these and other activities, cooperate and coordinate with other cultural Associations in Florida and rest of North America. KANNADIGAS shall be defined as people who promote Kannada language and culture.
- c) To assist in establishing Kannada language classes as appropriate and to teach Kannada to the next generation.
- d) To integrate our youth and other members of the local communities in the various cultural activities by way of direct participation.

e) To strive for representation of the SANGHA at the State, National and International organizations involved in the promotion of social and cultural activities

CHAPTER IV

MEMBERS

Membership of the SANGHA shall be open to all adults who are desirous of furthering the objectives of the SANGHA and shall remain in effect after the initial approval by the Board of Directors as long as, the members remains in good standing, having paid all the current dues as set out in the By-Laws and abide by the Constitution. General Membership meeting of the SANGHA shall be held in accordance with the ByLaws. Membership shall consist of two types: Family and Single members.

I. FAMILY MEMBERS are Husband & Wife and their children, who have paid the annual dues.

II. SINGLE MEMBER is a single person, and has paid the annual dues. Family and Single annual memberships shall expire on October 30th of each year, unless renewed.

CHAPTER V

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The business of the SANGHA shall be conducted by a Board of Directors, herein called the BOARD elected from the membership. Directors shall serve in an honorary capacity. The BOARD shall be assisted as necessary by any committee set up for specific purpose with specified terms and duration, in the By-Laws. The BOARD shall be responsible to the General Membership.

FORMATION OF THE BOARD

The BOARD shall comprise of four (4) Office Bearers, namely President, Vice-President, Secretary and a Treasurer. The term of the Office Bearers shall be two years. Two office bearers shall be elected every other year, so that there is always continuity in the board.

FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD:

The president provides general leadership and coordination, presides over the General Membership and Board meetings of the SANGHA and signs official documents. The President is an Ex-officio member of all the committees. In case of conflict of jurisdiction, the President shall coordinate matters between the Office bearers and if necessary act as an arbitrator.

The Vice President assists the President and fulfills all functions of the office during the PRESIDENT's absence. The Vice President becomes President if the post is declared vacant and serves until the next annual election.

The Secretary of the SANGHA conducts all general correspondence. The Secretary shall issue notice for all Membership and Board Meetings and keeps accurate minutes of such meeting. All correspondence related to contractual obligations set out in By-Laws of the SANGHA duly authorized by the BOARD shall be signed by any two of the following: The President, The Secretary, and the Treasurer. The secretary shall carry out such other duties as may, from time to time, be assigned by the General Membership or the President.

The function of the Treasurer shall be as follows.

- a) To keep an accurate account of the receipts and expenditures of funds, assets and liabilities of the SANGHA.
- b) To deposit all funds received for or on behalf of the SANGHA in a Bank or Credit Union account approved by the BOARD.
- c) To *maintain* an up to date record of membership.
- d) To make recommendations to the BOARD on the investment of the assets.
- e) To facilitate the task of Auditor(s) of the accounts of SANGHA in collaboration with the Secretary
- f) Arrange for the copies of the accounts and auditors certificate to be circulated with the notice of the General Membership Meeting.

CHAPTER VI

BANKING PROCEDURE

The BOARD shall approve the Bank or Credit Union in which the accounts of the SANGHA shall be kept. All accounts shall be kept in the name of Orlando Kannada Sangha, Inc.

Transactions shall normally be by means of checks. All checks must be signed by two of the following three officers, viz. President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These individuals shall have authority to approve expenditures up to \$200.00 (Two Hundred dollars only) as required for the furtherance of the objectives of the SANGHA. Expenditures over this amount must be authorized by the BOARD. The maximum operating deficit for each year shall be determined by the General Membership. Any increase in this deficit can only be authorized by the General Membership.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

The Auditor(s) shall be selected by the BOARD. No auditor shall be a member of the BOARD or a member of his/her family. The Auditor(s) shall audit and certify all accounts for the SANGHA, including the annual statement of accounts at the end of the tenure of the Treasurer.

CHAPTER VII

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Membership Meetings may adopt such rules of procedure, consistent with these articles, as required for the proper conduct of their business. Without prejudice to the general provisions set out above, the President may, unless the membership decides otherwise, restrict the discussion on a motion to two interventions by anyone member, each intervention being limited to two minutes duration.

ELECTION BY-LAWS

Detailed procedures for the appointment of the nomination committee, Date of election, Publication of ballot papers etc. with respect to the election of the BOARD of the SANGHA shall be contained in the By-Laws enacted by the General Membership.

CHAPTER VIII

AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended as follows:

A written copy of every proposed amendment must be received by the Secretary at least one month prior to the meeting. The Secretary shall issue in accordance with the By-Laws (Article 9) the text of the notice indicating the article(s) proposed for the amendment and the proposed amendments. Proposals for amendments may originate from the BOARD or by means of a written request from at least ten (10) percent of the membership, or by a simple majority of the members attending a General Membership meeting.

This Constitution, except for chapters IX & X, may be amended by a simple majority of the General membership present at the meeting with a quorum of fifty one (51) per cent of the General membership.

The requirements for amending chapters IX and X are defined in respective chapters.

CHAPTER IX

DISSOLUTION

Proposals for dissolution of the SANGHA shall originate only by means of a written request addressed to the Secretary signed by a simple majority of the general membership. The

secretary shall convene a meeting to discuss the dissolution of the SANGHA not less than one month and not more than two months after the receipt of the written request. For the purpose of this meeting the presence of simple majority of the General Membership shall constitute a quorum. The dissolution requires approval by a two-thirds majority of the General Membership present at the meeting.

For the purpose of dissolution, the assets of the SANGHA shall be distributed as determined by the General Membership to an Organization or Organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, cultural, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt Organization or Organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1954.

CHAPTER X

REQUIREMENTS AND EXTENSIONS

The Four office bearers at any point in time shall be able to read, write and speak in Kannada language. All Office Bearers shall perform their constitutionally assigned duties in an honorary capacity. There shall be a gap of at least one year to be eligible for a third term as an office bearer. No person shall hold any of the same position of Office Bearers for more than two consecutive terms. In the event of lack of response from the membership to serve on the committee an existing office bearer (or bearers) who is willing to continue to serve (after two terms) shall be allowed to do so by a simple majority of the General Body or the Board.

For the purpose of amending this chapter the presence of a simple majority of the General Membership shall constitute quorum. The amendment requires approval by a two-thirds majority of the General Membership present at the meeting.