

# Milana Kannada Koota of Wisconsin

Bringing Kannadigas together

ESTABLISHED IN 1979:

## Constitution and Bye Laws



# The Constitution

## 1.0 PREAMBLE and BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 We, the Kannada people, formerly people from Karnataka, India, regardless of nationality, race, color, linguistic origin, caste or creed, and who are relocated either temporarily or permanently to United States of America and currently living in Wisconsin since 1979 or earlier and herein named Kannadigas have been meeting regularly and informally to celebrate our Kannada culture and heritage and other common interests.
- 1.2 We have called our ethnic group – Milana, meaning friendship or togetherness or friendly environment.
- 1.3 We, the Milana organization, have now resolved to formally provide a structure and declare this as a legal non-profit association in the state of Wisconsin governed by simple rules as shown below.

## 2.0 STRUCTURE

- 2.1 We agree that the name of the association should be called “Milana, Kannada Koota of Wisconsin”, “Milana” or “Kannada Koota” or “Koota of Wisconsin”.
- 2.2 The beautiful lotus flower will represent the blossoming and blooming of the ethnic group Milana Kannada Koota.
- 2.3 The signature logo of the Milana Kannada Koota will be the adorning of the mango leaves at the entrance and supported by two banana trees on either side, to represent the festive mood of our organization meetings. This logo may not be reproduced by another other similar organization without the consent of Milana.
- 2.4 The food that will be served during Milana events will predominantly consist of vegetarian dishes that are traditionally eaten in Karnataka.
- 2.5 Kannada or English language may be an integral part of the event activities of Milana gathering or as may seem fit for the occasion.
- 2.6 The slogan of Milana is “***bringing Kannadigas together***”
- 2.7 The web site will be [www.milanaonline.com](http://www.milanaonline.com) and will be used as a complementary communications tool.
- 2.8 The Koota is a non-profit, non partisan, voluntary cultural and networking organization and that shall be administered within the laws of United States of America and the State of Wisconsin as a Non-Profit entity (**Section 501(c)(3)**) to pursue cultural, charitable and educational activities for the members of the Koota.

## 3.0 PURPOSE and OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The main purpose of Milana is to provide an organization and a structure that will bring Kannadigas or Kannada loving people together several times a year so that they can share their common ethnic culture, language, food, memories and common bonds to benefit the member families.
- 3.2 Milana may also foster and facilitate charitable activities, literacy and advance opportunities for cultural exchanges between Kannadigas, here in the United States of America and elsewhere.
- 3.3 Milana may also develop a Kannada literacy program to all interested in the membership base and as deemed by the elected committee.
- 3.4 Milana may also conduct cultural educational classes on Yoga, religion and others as the Organizing committee may decide.
- 3.5 Milana may also conduct religious activities either together or as separate events as deemed appropriate by the elected committee.
- 3.6 The Koota shall not endorse, support or oppose any political candidate or proposed legislation, or expend funds or publish in any form or manner, or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate either for the Local, State or National Elections.
- 3.7 The Koota financial transactions will be transparent and open and be made available for scrutiny at least once a year by the members.
- 3.8 The Koota shall not transfer or commit any of the net assets or earnings to any individual(s) except when the Organizing Committee decrees to grant honoraria to distinguished scholars or artists.

#### **4.0 MEMBERSHIP**

- 4.1 The membership of this Koota will be open to any person, firstly who subscribes to the objectives of this association as noted under Article 3, and who pay their annual fees in full. Separate event fees for managing each event shall also apply.
- 4.2 Members can belong to either a category of individual, family or student member.
- 4.3 A member's family is defined as the Fees paying Member, spouse and immediate children.
- 4.4 A guest of the member is described as any person who is accompanied and escorted by the member to a Kanndakoota event and who will remain responsible for the guests throughout the event. Separate charges for Accompanied guests apply.
- 4.5 A Non-member is one who has not paid the annual fees but attends the Koota events.
- 4.6 Voting rights are allocated, only to members over the age of eighteen, as follows: one vote for individual members and one vote for family members, hereafter, and known as eligible voting members or the Electoral College. Dependent parents or children or students are entitled to all benefits of the association, except voting rights.
- 4.7 The voting members shall decide membership dues for all categories bi-annually, by recommendation of the Organizing Committee
- 4.8 Membership may be revoked from the Koota, for no more that 12 months, with due cause notice of one month, for conduct incompatible with the purpose of this Koota, by a two third majority of the voting members or Electoral College, provided

the cause is not reversed or measures to reverse considered unacceptable to a majority of the Organizing Committee.

- 4.9 Membership can be revoked on any member or member of committee for no greater than 12 months, if the member's behavior compromises integrity and decency and as determined by a unanimous decision of the organizing committee or two thirds of the Electoral College.

## 5.0 Fee Structure for 2008-2009

Fee Structure for 2008-2009			
<b>Membership Fees</b>	<b>Paid before Shankranthi</b>	<b>Paid after Shankranthi</b>	<b>Description</b>
Family	\$40	\$50	Immediate Family - Husband, wife, Children
Single	\$25	\$35	
Student	\$10	\$20	
<b>Event Fees</b>	<b>Prior to RSVP date</b>	<b>After RSVP date</b>	<b>Description</b>
Member Family	\$15	\$25	Immediate Family - Husband, wife, Children
Extended Family	\$25	\$30	Immediate Family, parents, brother, sister
Single	\$5	\$10	
Student	\$5	\$8	
Accompanied Guests/person	\$10	\$12	colleague, friends of member
Unaccompanied Guests/person	\$12	\$15	All other guests - Non members

## **6.0 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS.**

- 6.1 The Organizing Committee, hereafter called the Committee, shall comprise of a minimum of three and no more than eight members, are elected by the Electoral College. Principal Officers comprising of a President, Secretary and a Treasurer shall be selected among them. Vacancies may be replaced by a majority vote of the Committee for the unexpired portion of the term, from the Committee, or if necessary, by adopting additional Committee members from the Electoral College.
- 6.2 The term of office for the Organizing Committee shall be for a minimum period of 24 months extendable for an additional 6 months if the Committee so chooses. Elections are conducted during the annual meeting generally held in November (Deepavali).
- 6.3 No remuneration of any kind or salary shall be provided for the Committee or Principal Officers.
- 6.4 Quorum of the Electoral College for elections of the Committee shall be a minimum of a third of the total of the eligible voting members. Quorum for other referendum(s) presented for approval by the members shall be a minimum of a quarter of the total of eligible voting members (as stated under **(Section 501(c)(3))** Vote of approval and selection shall be by a simple majority, No proxy/remote/advance vote(s) is permissible.
- 6.5 All individuals of the Committee shall themselves be eligible voting members.

## **7.0 DISSOLUTION**

- 7.1 A resolution to dissolve the Koota adopted by a minimum of three quarters of the entire voting membership or Electoral College at a meeting can result in the dissolution of this association. Under such circumstances, the Committee shall after paying or making provision for payment for all liabilities of the Koota, dispose of all remaining assets of the Koota in such a manner, or to such organizations operated exclusively under the charter of **(Section 501(c)(3))** of the Internal Revenue Code.

## **8.0 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- 8.1 Amendments to this constitution will be submitted to in writing by the members to the Committee or review. A majority vote of the Committee will suffice for presentation thereafter to the Electoral College, after due deliberation
- 8.2 Amendments to the constitution that is presented to the members, however, shall be require approved by a minimum of two third majority of its entire voting eligible members of the Electoral College, prior to implementation.

## **9.0 RECOGNIZED Meetings of the KOOKA ASSOCIATION**

- 9.1 The Koota shall meet at least once a year, although it is traditional to organize five meetings coinciding with the festivals of Sankranti, Yugadi, Ganesha Chaturthi,

Deepavali and a Picnic. Any additional meeting as felt appropriate by the Committee may be held provided appropriate notice is forwarded to its members.

**9.2** All meetings of the Koota shall be held under the current Roberts Rule(s) of Order and either called for by the Secretary, the President or motioned by at least three committee members.

## **10.0 Akka Membership**

10.1 The Kanndakoota shall be a member of Association of Kannada Koota of Americas (AKKA) and will participate in activities of AKKA for dissemination of Kannada culture and language. However the membership does not imply that Milana agrees to and supports all policies of Akka.

### **PUBUSHED AND AMENDED from 1979.**

Founders: Smt. Shanta Jansale, Snrt. Usha Nanda, Smt. Pratibha Rao, Smt. Vasnathi Shetty, Smt. Prashanti Shivaram, Smt. Savitri Rengaraj, Smt. Rajashree Manoli, Smt. Nagaveni Reddy. AMENDMENT (51) NOVEMBER 2001.

**Amendment 1:** Name changed, from Milwaukee Kannada Koota, to **Milana Kannada Koota of Milwaukee**. Reflecting the significance of the Native American meaning of 'Milwaukee' as '*a meeting or gathering place*' a transliteration **in** Kannada is Milana" Approved by unanimous decision.

**Amendment 2:** Change to incorporate as non-profit: status under **(Section 501(c)(3)) of** the Internal Revenue Service. Approved by unanimous decision.

**Amendment 3:** Approval to commence Kannada literacy "Kannada Kali" to its Members. Approved by unanimous decision.