

Bylaws of the India Association of Tallahassee with Amendments

Ratified at the Annual General Body Meeting

Sunday, January 25, 2009

Meeting Room A, Leon County Public Library, Tallahassee, FL 32301

The current bylaws and amendments (effective from January 26, 2009) of the India Association of Tallahassee are presented below. Amendments to the by laws are shown in green and underlined.

By-Laws of the India Association of Tallahassee (IATLH)

ARTICLE I - ASSOCIATION

Section 1.1 - Name

The name of this organization is India Association of Tallahassee, Inc., hereinafter called the "Association".

Section 1.2 - References

All references herein to the Association shall mean the India Association of Tallahassee and all references to the Board shall mean the Board of Trustees of the Association and all references to the Committee shall mean the Executive Committee of the Association. All references to Community shall mean community of Indian origin residing in the United States of America (USA). All references to he or him shall be interpreted to be gender neutral and can be read as he or she or him or her [ratified on Jan 25, 2009].

Section 1.3 - Membership and Voting Rights

Membership is open to anyone over the age of 18 years and interested in the furtherance of the Association and residing in the USA. All members shall hold and enjoy equal rights and privileges.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the Association are:

1. To establish communication among the members of the community.
2. To promote understanding and corporate welfare among the members of the community.

3. To provide possible help and assistance for the needy and deserving in the community.
4. To develop and encourage social/cultural activities among the members of the community.
5. The India Association of Tallahassee Inc is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth in purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are tax deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code [ratified on Jan 25, 2009].

ARTICLE III - RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS

The Association is a non-profit organization and will not discriminate anyone based on religion, caste, gender, or creed and will encourage the members to develop cordial and friendly relationship with other similar organizations. The members will bear no ill-will or malice towards any other groups.

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The policies of the Association shall be formulated by a Board of Trustees and shall be responsible for the general membership of the Association.

Section 4.1 - Number and Terms

The Board shall constitute five members. Three are duly elected by the general membership of the Association; the fourth one is the President of the Association

as ex-officio member with voting rights and the fifth one is the immediate past President with voting rights. The President of the Association shall also serve as Secretary to the Board.

The duly elected trustees shall hold office for three consecutive years. Each year one trustee shall retire and election shall be held to fill the vacancy. All trustees are eligible for reelection.

Each trustee is expected to attend at least one meeting of the Board. Two meetings of the Board shall be held in each calendar year at such time and place as the Board shall determine to transact the Association business. Special meetings of the Board may be called at any time by the majority of the Board by giving notice to each member of the Board at least ten (10) days before date of meeting. At all meetings of the Board, majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The members present at any meeting of the Board shall be entitled to vote on any matter requiring the vote of the Board. Voting may also be conducted by mail ballot.

The Board shall meet with the Executive Committee at the beginning, middle and end of the year to get informed of the Association activities.

Any trustee may resign at any time by giving written notice to the President of the Executive Committee. Such resignation shall take effect on the date of such notice or any time specified therein.

The Board, by majority of votes, may declare vacant the office of a trustee for the following reasons:

1. If a newly elected trustee does not accept such office in writing within 10 days after notice of election.
2. If a trustee fails to attend at least one meeting of the Board in one year.
3. Any other appropriate cause as determined by the Board.

A vacancy on the Board of Trustees may be filled by the Secretary of the Board through the appointment of a current member of the Association for a two-year term [ratified on Jan 25, 2009].

ARTICLE V - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The day-to-day activities of the Association shall be conducted by an Executive Committee consisting of the following:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary

4. Joint Secretary
5. Treasurer

ARTICLE VI - ELECTION AND DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Section 6.1 - Election

The following section has been deleted and new section 6.1 incorporated and ratified during the Annual General Body Meetings held on January 29, 1999 and January 28, 2000.

Amendment 1 (ratified at the AGBM January 29, 1999):

The general membership of the Association shall elect the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary and the Treasurer for a two-year term in December preceding the year for which elections are due. Their term of office shall begin January 1 following the election. (The two-year term shall become effective with the election due in December 1999).

Amendment 2 (ratified at the AGBM January 28, 2000):

Prior to the general body meeting in December, the Secretary shall inform the general membership, in writing, of the impending election and call for nominations for the various offices. A member cannot nominate himself / herself or his/her spouse, but can nominate any other member of the Association. While sending the nomination form, the nominating member should obtain the concurrence of the nominee in writing. Elections shall be held if there is more than one nomination for any office. The Secretary shall mail the required ballots to all members of the general body for voting. Actual voting shall be done at the general body meeting after listening to a brief presentation by the candidates. The ballots shall be marked and handed over to the Secretary who shall count the votes in presence of the members and announce the results immediately.

Section 6.2 - Duties

a. President - The President shall preside over all the meetings of the Executive Committee and shall be ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees, with voting rights. The President shall have general supervision over the activities and operation of the Association. The President shall sign, execute and acknowledge, in the name of the Association, all transactions authorized by the Executive Committee. He shall have the authority to constitute and appoint members, thereto, to transact specific functions/activities.

b. Vice-President - The Vice-President shall assist the President in carrying out the duties of the President and shall act in his stead, when necessary.

c. Secretary - The Secretary shall have the responsibility to maintain the Association records, arrange meetings, programs and activities, conduct elections for the members of the Board and the Executive Committee and be in general communication with the Association members. He shall also keep minutes of the Executive Committee meetings. He may delegate some of his duties to the Joint Secretary.

d Joint Secretary – The Joint Secretary shall assist the Secretary in the performance of his duties and shall act in his stead when necessary. He shall also function as a public relations officer and shall be responsible for publicizing the Association activities.

e. Treasurer - The treasurer shall have the responsibility of maintaining the funds of the Association. The Treasurer or the President (or his designee) shall have the authority to sign all financial transactions not exceeding \$500. Any transaction exceeding \$500 shall be signed jointly by the Treasurer and the President or his designee. The Treasurer shall submit quarterly financial reports to the Executive Committee.

Section 6.3 - Vacancies

If the President fails to complete a term, the succession in office shall be the Vice-President. If a Vice-President, Secretary, Joint Secretary or Treasurer fail to complete a term, the President shall appoint someone from the general membership of the Association to complete their term subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE VII - ADMINISTRATION

The members of the Board and the Executive Committee shall hold their offices in an honorary capacity and are not entitled to any emoluments.

The President shall convene the general body meeting once a year at such place and time as determined by the Committee. The Secretary shall communicate this to all members of the Association, in writing, at least two weeks in advance. The President shall convene the Executive Committee meeting as necessary to transact the Association business. The decisions of the Executive Committee shall be by majority of the members who are present and voting.

The membership fee shall be decided by the Board and the members shall be informed of the same by the Secretary. The fee is due to be paid by January 1. However, if it is not paid by February 28, the membership shall expire and it can be renewed for the rest of the year only after paying the required fees.

A membership roster shall be prepared annually and a copy shall be given to every member of the Association.

Amendment 3 (ratified at the AGBM January 28, 2000):

The Bylaws of the Association may be altered, amended, or replaced, in any particular, and the new Bylaws may be adopted, in each case, by affirmative vote of majority of members of the Association who are present and voting at a general body meeting or at a special meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - DISSOLUTION

In case the Association has to be dissolved, any asset of the Association, after satisfying all the indebtedness, shall be donated to one or more of a charitable non-profit organization(s)/institution(s). Such dissolution of the Association shall be based upon the decision of majority of the general membership.

Upon dissolution of the association, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code, or shall be distributed to the Federal, State, or Local government for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes [ratified on Jan 25, 2009].