

## **2013 Amendments to the TCA Bylaws of 2009**

The following amendments are proposed to existing Bylaws of Telugu Cultural Association of Austin, (TCA) Texas:

### **Membership:**

- Members have to sign the membership form and pay the dues by check or credit card for life membership.
- Introducing student membership to encourage participation of young generation.
- Annual and student memberships have no voting rights but have full monetary benefits such as discounted prices.
- Annual and student memberships expire on the following year GBM day or one year from the date of joining whichever comes first.
- Life member(s) may join at any time during the year.
- Voting rights are for ONLY life members with active membership for at least 90 days before December 31<sup>st</sup>. People, who become life members after October 2nd, will NOT be eligible to vote in the elections for the following year.
- Membership becomes active after validating the member's email address.

### **Board of Directors:**

- The TCA Board of Directors will serve as the TCA Election Committee (TEC) member(s) during the election and the GBM.
- For any conflicts and disputes during the election process and at the GBM, The TEC decision is final.
- The TEC will conduct elections for Executive Committee and open Board of Director(s) positions.
- The TEC will announce all open positions every year via e-mail and/or TCA website to the eligible members.
- The TEC will announce election schedule along with the requirements and procedure for conducting the elections. In case there are no nomination(s) received for open position(s) for which nominations are called, the TEC will review the requirements for such a position(s) and may change the eligibility criteria and call for nomination(s) again.
- During the election process, all the queries, questions, and communication must be sent via email to the TEC.
- In case of a dispute among the executive committee members that cannot be resolved amicably, The Board of Directors has the authority to call for a special GBM to decide on the next steps such as call for elections to elect a new election committee.

The General Body respects and accepts the election process conducted by the TEC and its results.

### **Common Eligibility Criteria for all the Positions:**

- The contestants should have no conflict of interest with the TCA business and must have a clear legal record.

- If any member, contesting for a TCA position (Executive Committee or BOD), misrepresents his/her qualification(s), his/her nomination will be automatically disqualified.
- Contestants or their supporters should not campaign negatively against opposing contestants or use mass emails criticizing them. Contestants are required to observe decency. Any such violations of TCA norms will disqualify the contestant's nomination.

### **Eligibility for the Board of Directors**

- Contestant must be a life member of the TCA for at least two (2) years.
- Contestant must have served on the TCA committee or Board of Director for at least one year, or any other non-profit organization in a leadership role (such as President/Secretary/Treasurer) for at least two years.
- Contestant must submit necessary evidence along with the nomination

### **Eligibility for President**

- Contestant must be a life member of the TCA for at least two (2) years.
- Contestant must have served on the TCA committee or Board of Director for at least one year, or any other non-profit organization in a leadership role (such as President/Secretary/Treasurer) for at least two years.
- Contestant must submit necessary evidence along with the nomination

### **Eligibility for Secretary**

- Contestant must be a life member of the TCA for at least two (2) years.
- Contestant must have served on the TCA committee or Board of Director for at least one year, or any other non-profit organization in a leadership role (such as President/Secretary/Treasurer) for at least two years.
- Contestant must submit necessary evidence along with the nomination

### **Eligibility for Treasurer**

- Contestant must be a life member of the TCA for at least two (2) years.
- Contestant must have served on the TCA committee or Board of Director for at least one year, or any other non-profit organization in a leadership role (such as President/Secretary/Treasurer) for at least two years.
- Contestant must submit necessary evidence along with the nomination

### **Eligibility for Executive Committee Member/Joint Secretary**

- Contestant must be a life member of the TCA for at least one (1) year.

### **General Changes**

- Change the titles from Executive Member to
- Joint Secretary - Cultural & Event Management
- Joint Secretary – Finance & Sponsorship
- Joint Secretary – Membership & Technology
- Joint Secretary – Logistics & Food

- Members elected to the Executive Committee Member, here on referred as Joint secretary should be open to accept and perform other roles decided by the majority of the Executive Committee.
- Elected office bearers should not promote any other organizations except TCA activities.
- Elected office bearers should not have any intention to politicize the organization or any plans to affiliate TCA with any political parties or any national organizations.
- In special circumstances, Executive Committee must get approval from Board of Directors to use the reserve funds of the TCA account up to Three Thousand Dollars (\$3000) per calendar year and for more than Three Thousand (\$3000) Dollars, the request must be presented to the GBM for approval.
- Treasurer will be responsible to present the Financial Statement/Treasurer report to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors by 31<sup>st</sup> December of each calendar year or before next election notification (if this happens prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> December).
- Treasurer is responsible for preparing and submitting Final audited Financial Statement to the GBM (with the input from Executive Committee and Board of Directors).
- All the communication must go out of the TCA Secretary's office; communication must be sent out with prior approval from the majority members of the Executive Committee. In absence of the secretary's services, another executive committee member can send the communication with the committee's approval.
- The Executive Committee is responsible for setting up all the procedures relating to the TCA day to day operations and managing the events in compliance with the Bylaws of the TCA.
- The Executive Committee should always follow the majority rule and try to resolve any conflicts within the team. When a dispute cannot be resolved, the executive committee can seek advice and/or help from the Board of Directors.

PS - The GBM has given permission to conduct elections electronically online or in person at the GBM.

**The above amendments will be effective at the GBM.**