



CONSTITUTION FOR AGRANI
THE BENGALI ASSOCIATION OF GREATER CINCINNATI
Adopted in 1987

Article I (Name)

Section I:

The organization shall be known as “Agrani.” Hereinafter, the organization will be referred to as Agrani in the text of the Constitution.

Article II (Address)

Section I:

The association will have an address in Cincinnati, Ohio. The address will be voted each year by the elected members of the Association and members will be notified at a general body meeting.

Article III (Objectives)

Section I:

The primary objective of Agrani will be to promote the religious, cultural, and educational activities of Bengal and Eastern India.

Section II:

Additional goals of Agrani will be to foster a spirit of friendship and cooperation between its members through social activities, sports events, musical gatherings, and religious festivals.

Section III:

Additionally, Agrani will attempt to highlight the cultural heritage of India, especially Bengal, in its external activities.



Article IV (Membership)

Section I:

Membership will be open to all persons meeting with the eligibility and residency requirements outlined below:

- All dues paying members, with one full year of membership.
- Membership will be open to all persons of Indian origin and/or ancestry, and for all persons subscribing to the aims and objectives of this association. Membership will be open to all residents of Greater Cincinnati and vicinity including Dayton, Columbus, Kentucky, and Indiana.
- All members desiring to join the Association shall be required to pay the following annual membership:
 - \$12.00 per year, for family;
 - \$6.00 per year, for individual
 - \$2.00 per year, for full time students.
 - Family membership shall be comprised of husband, wife, and dependent children.

Section II:

Annual period of membership will be for one year, starting January and ending in December of the same year.

Article V (Voting Rights)

Section I:

All dues paying members will have full voting rights. Each adult member above the age of 18 will have one vote. A family member will have one vote each for each person above 18. All elections will be held by secret ballot, voice vote, or proxy as deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee.

Article VI (General Body)

Section I:

All regular dues paying members shall constitute the General Body.

Section II:

The General Body has the right to amend this Constitution and by-laws. At least two-thirds majority vote shall be needed to amend or revise this Constitution and by-laws.



Section III:

One General Body meeting will be held during each year, preferably in February, wherein a report of activities of the organization, including financial reports, shall be presented. In addition, the new Executive Committee will be elected at the meeting.

Section IV:

The quorum for the General Body shall be constituted by the presence of at least 33% of its due paying members.

Section V:

At least two weeks notice will be required to be given to the members advising the time, date, place, and agenda for this meeting of the General Body.

Section VI:

The Executive Committee is authorized to summon extraordinary meetings of the General Body, if called for.

Article VII (Management)

Section I:

The Association will be managed by five elected members. Four of the elected members will be the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The fifth member will be a Student Representative.

Section II:

All officers will be elected for a one-year term. No person can be elected to the Executive Committee for more than two consecutive years.

Section III:

One auditor will be nominated by the Executive Committee for auditing the accounts of the association every year.

Section IV:

In the event of a resignation, the Executive Committee is empowered to nominate a person for that position.

Section V:

Duties of the Executive Committee members will be as follows:

President: Has the responsibility for the proper functioning of the Association. He will have the power to delegate various responsibilities to the members.



Vice-President: Will be the ex-officio chairman in the absence of the President. In addition, the Vice President will be responsible for liaison work with other local organizations.

Secretary: The secretary will be responsible for keeping records of all meetings, presenting a complete synopsis of all activities to the Executive Committee and the General Body and shall present an agenda for all such meetings. He/She will help the President and Vice-President in setting up Task Committees to serve the special needs of the Organization.

Treasurer: The treasurer shall be in charge of all financial matter for Agrani. The President and Treasurer shall maintain a joint account of the organization. Any financial transaction shall bear the signature of either the President, the Treasurer, or both, if it is over fifty dollars. A financial statement will be prepared and presented to the General Body at its Annual meeting. In addition, the Treasurer must actively engage in increasing the funds for the Organization.

Student Representative: Will be a liaison between the student body and the Association. He/She will communicate all pertinent information to the student members.

Section VI:

The Executive Body will meet at least four times per year, and try to have activities in accordance with the wishes of the General Body.

Article VIII (Compensation)

Section I:

There will be no compensation for services rendered by any members of the Association, including its elected members. Any work done by outside help, e.g. Secretarial help, printing, copying, etc. will be paid by Agrani if considered appropriate by the Executive Committee.

Section II:

Reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses of any members of the Executive Committee or regular members will be permitted provided that a Receipt is submitted to the Treasurer of the Association detailing the cause of the expenditure, for which prior permission must be obtained from the Executive Committee.



Article IX (No Confidence Motion)

Section I:

No confidence resolution can be moved against member(s) of the Executive Committee with the written endorsement of at least 25% of the voting members. Such a resolution shall require for its passage the approval of 2/3rds (67%) of the members present and voting. In such an event fresh elections may take place in the same meeting of the General Body to fill the vacancies.

Article X (Dissolution)

Section I:

To dissolve the Association a resolution in writing asking for such dissolution shall be adopted by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall then call a special meeting of the General Body for the purpose of considering and acting upon such a resolution. If at this meeting, 2/3rds (67%) of the members vote for dissolution, the Executive Committee will take necessary steps to wind up the affairs of the Committee. Specifically, the Executive Committee must get the approval from 67% of the voting members to decide on fair disposal of funds of the organization left over after all payments are completed.

Article XI (Enactment)

This Constitution and by-laws shall be effective immediately upon the acceptance by 2/3rds (67%) of the voting members of the General Body of "AGRANI."



Amendments

***Amendment I through VIII:** Passed and ratified through voice vote, without any dissensions, in the presence of 35 member families, out of a total 56 membership of Agrani on Sunday, March 10, 2002, at Agrani's General Body Meeting, held at the Blue Ash Recreation Center, Cincinnati between the hours of 12 noon and 4 PM.*

Amendment I

*Repeals portion of **Article IV, Section I** of the Constitution.*

Membership will be open to all persons meeting with the eligibility and residency requirements outlined below:

- All dues paying members, with one full year of membership.
- Membership will be open to all persons of Indian origin and/or ancestry, and for all persons subscribing to the aims and objectives of this association. Membership will be open to all residents of Greater Cincinnati and vicinity including Dayton, Columbus, Kentucky, and Indiana.
- Family membership shall be comprised of husband, wife, and dependent children.

Note: The memberships due clauses are repealed. Currently the yearly membership due is USD 20 for family \$10 for individual and \$2 for full time student. However, as & when necessary, it is up to the Agrani Executive Committee and the General Body to decide any change therein.

Amendment II

*Modifies **Article VII, Section I** of the Constitution.*

The Association will be managed by six (6) elected members. Five (5) of the elected members will be the President, Vice President-Administration, Vice President-Cultural Affairs, Secretary, and Treasurer. The sixth member will be a Student Representative.

Amendment III

*Supersedes **Article VII, Section III** of the constitution of the Constitution.*

An audit committee consisting of no more than three (3) individuals will be elected for a period of three (3) years, with one member retiring each year and be replaced by a new member through election.

Note: Rotation of auditor as well as continuity of auditing will be balanced by the annual retirement/election. "No more than three" ensure that even if one or more member(s) is unable to



serve mid-year, no emergency election is necessary and the audit committee does not become defunct pending election at the end of the year.)

Amendment IV

Modifies Article VII, Section V of the Constitution.

Duties of the Executive Committee members will be as follows:

President: Has the responsibility for the proper functioning of the Association. He will have the power to delegate various responsibilities to the members. The President of Agrani shall be empowered to sign checks and shall be the primary signatory of the bank account.

Vice-President, Administration: Will be the ex-officio chairman in the absence of the President. In addition, the Vice President will be responsible for liaison work with other local organizations. He/She will have the joint signing authority of financial transactions along with the President and the Treasurer.

Vice-President, Cultural Affairs: To lead the cultural events for Agrani and make Agrani's presence in the community through active cultural participation.

Secretary: The secretary will be responsible for keeping records of all meetings, presenting a complete synopsis of all activities to the Executive Committee and the General Body and shall present an agenda for all such meetings. He/She will help the President and Vice-President in setting up Task Committees to serve the special needs of the Organization.

Treasurer: The treasurer shall be in charge of all financial matter for Agrani. The President and Treasurer shall maintain a joint account of the organization. Any financial transaction shall bear the signature either of the President, the Vice-President Administration, the Treasurer, or any two - if it is over One Hundred dollars (USD 100.00). A financial statement will be prepared and presented to the General Body at its Annual meeting. In addition, the Treasurer must actively engage in increasing the funds for the Organization.

Note: It is the President, or the Vice President Administration and not the Treasurer who should have the routine check signing duties. The Treasurer should keep track of the bank account and all transactions and may have physical possession of the checkbook to write the checks for the President/Vice-President's signature/s.

Student Representative: Will be a liaison between the student body and the Association. He/She will communicate all pertinent information to the student members.



Amendment V

Addition

Agrani shall appoint a permanent statutory representative through an election of its members for a period of five (5) years, subject to continuing membership, after which the representative will be eligible for re-election.

Note: Nothing prohibits from the statutory representative to hold the position indefinitely, so long as he/she is re-elected every five years at the general body meeting.

Amendment VI

Addition

The statutory representative shall be a permanent signatory to the bank account.

Note: This arrangement will also help us in maintaining continuity with the bank. The statutory representative will be responsible for the smooth transition of the other signatory at the bank at the end of every year. Under normal circumstances, the statutory representative is not expected to operate the bank account.

Amendment VII

Supersedes Article II, Section I of the constitution of the Constitution.

The address of the association shall be the address of the permanent statutory representative as described under Amendment V.

Amendment VIII

Modifies Article III, Section I of the Constitution.

The primary objective of Agrani will be to promote the religious, cultural, and educational activities of Bengal and Eastern India in the Cincinnati area in particular and in North America in general.