



Kashmiri Overseas Association, Inc.

www.koausa.org

A non-profit organization registered in the state of Maryland. Exempt from Federal Income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

KOA FORUM GUIDELINES

Dear Group Member,

This mail is regarding the guidelines for use of this KOAUSA group by members.

This group is to facilitate communication and the participants are KOA members nationwide. This e-group is meant to positively serve the community, so please keep this under your consideration at all times and use the KOAUSA group as such a tool only. The specific guidelines for participating in this group are given below. **Your continued participation as a member of this group is a confirmation that you are in acceptance of these guidelines. Any one found violating any of the guidelines could be removed from the KOAUSA group. To protect the interests of other forum members and for quicker action, member removal or addition decisions will be entirely at the discretion of the moderators of this KOAUSA group.**

Code of Conduct for KOAUSA Group Users: (Please Read in Entirety)

- We welcome dialogue between community members, so long as they keep the dialogue civil, respectful, and meaningful and on-topic.
- Please do not re-post material without prior consent. This includes material from private e-mail and material that is specifically disallowed from being posted on such forums. Various articles may be allowed, if copyright laws are not disturbed. Please note this works in reverse as well, and you may not re-post material from this group elsewhere without the author's consent.
- Please do not post personal information to which you do not want others to have access, and you are expected to avoid posting information about others that is held with you in confidence. Please respect other people's privacy.
- People who post for the purpose of causing disagreements and those who post advertisements and/or off-topic/ distasteful material repeatedly will be banned. Belittling the KOA organization in any guise may fall under this rule, depending on the circumstances, as assessed by the moderator. Absolutely no Spam will be tolerated.
- Drawn discussions between individuals are not allowed and will be deleted. This is not to be authoritarian but merely to preserve the focus of the group.
- No profanity or threats are allowed as this group also has entire families as members. The moderators will delete posts that contain any profanity or threats. First time offenders may be let off with a warning, but continuing to post profanities will result in a ban from posting or in removal from the group.
- Free speech is not necessarily the same as right speech. Please post on this forum in the



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spirit of this statement. In the spirit of free and open respectful dialogue, please remember never to be disparaging in your posts. Insults are counter-productive and will be moderated. This does not mean you cannot emphatically state your point of view in your posts. It does however mean that you must not insult the character of other participants. If you cannot respect the rights and being of others, you do not need to be part of this group.

- "Continuing to ride a dead horse" or excessive and repeated communication on a single topic will be disallowed. Please keep in mind that diversity breeds strength. Some may disagree with your position on a topic. Do not take offense when others disagree. Just move on after a point.

- When replying to posts that do not adhere to the above standards, please do not include the "questionable material" as part of your reply. The moderators do not have 'line item veto' and will have to remove even your post along with the "questionable material" that you may have appended to your post.

- If you accidentally post something you later regret, please send an e-mail to the moderator mentioning the specific post details in your removal request.

- Unless otherwise or later necessitated, posts will be automatically forwarded without being moderated to those that choose Individual Email or Periodic Digest options. Also, as per the present settings, these will be available for viewing immediately for those that choose the Web-Only option. This arrangement with all the members is in good faith that no member will attempt to abuse the forum. Given the present settings, the moderators can therefore clean up any regrettable messages from the archives only.

- Individual posts are held to contain the views of those that send the posts and not those of the KOA organization or the moderators of this forum. Participation in this forum is free and on a purely voluntary basis and neither the KOA organization nor the individual moderators of this group will be liable for any damages to any individual member or group of members or any organization on account of postings to this KOAUSA group. The KOA organization and the individual moderators will also not be liable for their decisions in matters of management of this group such as voluntary/ involuntary un-subscription or removal of members. In case you disagree with this policy for any reason, please choose the simple instructions to unsubscribe or email koexecutive@yahoo.com with your un-subscription request

- Banishment or removal from this group is usually irrevocable. Once banned, no more interactions may be allowed. The moderators exercise great care before exercising this option, therefore, they will watch out against those who attempt to circumvent this mechanism and re-sign under some other name or alias.

- If you think that someone is violating this code of conduct with respect to posting on this forum, please send an email to the moderators directly mentioning the specific post.



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Moderators need your feedback and assistance in maintaining high standards for respectful dialogue on this forum.

Thank You
KOAUSA Group Moderators



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Original: Jan 27, 2008

Revised: July 25, 2008

KOUSA YAHOOGROUPS

I have decided to restructure all the KOA-owned yahoogroups as follows:

(I) KOUSA e-FORUM

KOUSA e-forum will continue to be moderated yahoogroup and is henceforth going to be used ONLY for the following purposes:

1. News/information items related to our KP community, but absolutely no discussions, personal views and opinions will be allowed.
2. Announcement of meeting of interest to KP community
3. Mails from any KP seeking information from the community - responses will not be posted but should be sent directly to the sender.
4. KOA President or Secretary as moderators who can approve the messages.
5. Messages will be approved/disapproved within one (1) day. If urgent, person should contact one of the moderators by phone.
6. Announcements with images will be accepted, but no individual congratulatory messages will be allowed.
7. Membership to this group is restricted to dues-paid KOA members only
8. Birth/death announcements
9. Any new subscription needs to be verified by Zonal Director/Chapter President/Secretary/President by the person subscribing.

(II) KOA ZONAL e-FORA

The zonal e-fora **KOAZone1** through **KOAZone10** are meant for dissemination of community and KOA related information to the community in USA and provide the zonal community, KOA Director and/or Chapter President(s) access to the KP community within their own Zone, and not beyond the borders of his/her jurisdiction. All the Zonal yahoogroups are currently unmoderated:

1. Local activities at the chapter/zone level
2. News related to the community in the particular zone
3. Discussions, personal views and opinions will be allowed
4. KOA President or Secretary to publish Board proceedings, actions, task



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- updates, membership appeal
- 5. KOA related information/news/announcements via <http://koausa.org/announce/index.html>
- 6. Zonal Director / Chapter President / KOA Secretary / President can add/delete members to the Zone listing.
- 7. All KOA nomination/election related information
- 8. Appeal for funds/donations

The members are encouraged to communicate directly with their zonal director and/or chapter president for information. For details about various KOA zones and zonal representation, please visit:

<http://koausa.org/zones.html>

(III) ALL KOA e-FORA (KOAUSA, KOAZONE1 through KOAZONE10)

Any member may post any non-KOA information to any of the KOA-owned forums, as long as these guidelines are strictly adhered to. However, the sender must:

- Provide contact information at the bottom of his/her message so that any reader may contact him/her offline. For example,

Sunil Fotedar (mandatory)
Webster, Texas (mandatory)
sunilfotedar@yahoo.com (mandatory)
210-568-7726 (optional)

- Acknowledge the use of the KOA-forums by writing the following message at the bottom of his/her message:
I am grateful to KOA for allowing me to post my message on KOA-owned forums.

VIOLATIONS AND OFFENCES

KOA President and Secretary will monitor postings to look for offences. Some of the offences are:

1. Violation of the published guidelines are posted in the FILE section of KOAUSA forum and are at:
<http://koausa.org/email/guidelines.html>



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2. Absolutely no cross-posting of KOA-owned information or discussion onto other yahoogroups/googlegroups/e-mail chains not owned by KOA, and vice versa. Any KOA discussion, written attacks on the KOA President and his Executive team on these e-fora not owned by KOA will be considered an offence.
3. The KOA-related information being shared through KOA forums is KOA proprietary. No part of this information/publication may be reproduced or discussed in whole or in part, or stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission of KOA on any other forum/e-mail chain not owned by KOA. Action will be taken against those who infringe upon this information.

Members in violation will be warned and depending on the severity of their offence, their writing privileges may be taken away, even resulting in expulsion from the e-fora. This policy is enforced effective immediately and is subject to change at any time that will be communicated to the membership accordingly.

Regards,
Sunil Fotedar
President, Kashmiri Overseas Association (KOA), Inc.
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