

Minutes of KOA Board meeting held on – Feb 1st 2009, 6.30 pm- central time.

Agenda items:

The following points have already been communicated to the board for preparation prior to the meeting and are the agenda items for the meeting

1. Increase and maintain membership at the highest possible level;
 - a. Back to zone funds on sliding scale

2. Engage our youth in developing and implementing mechanisms that would drive youth participation in KOA.
 - a. Two Youth Program(Age 20-30 yrs) Director's – looking for candidates

3. Expansion of our Socio cultural programs –
 - i. Religious –Prof. Omanand Koul.
 - ii. Language – looking for the candidate
 - iii. Performing Arts Director – Looking for the right candidate for this role

4. Increase the Communication with the community
 - a. Communication Liaison / Media Secretary

5. Financial Wellbeing – Given the financial meltdown and the economic state of this country and the challenges it presents, KOA and its supporters shall be able to help the community in this context, I propose to have
 - a. Economic Advisor – once every two weeks for an hour -
 - b. Career Advisor - once every two weeks for an hour

6. National KOA Camp's
 - a. East coast on July 4th. Looking for volunteer
 - b. West Coast on Labor day

7. Any important zonal issue- various directors- 10 minutes.

Attendance:

Zone	Director	Status
1	Nirmala Mitra	Present
2	Inderjit Kaul	Present
3	Umesh Kaul	Present
4	Asha Bakaya	Absent
5	Kamlesh Moza	Present
6	Rakesh Raina	Present
7	Ajay Koul	Absent
8	Veena Kaul	Present
9	Vinod Moza	Present
10	Amrit Nehru	Present
President	Pradumon Tickoo	Present
Secretary	Soman Dhar	Present

Before the board meeting the directors had spent 1 hour on net meeting on a training program geared towards using the membership/ donation management tool e tapestry and conducted by our treasurer Mr Ajay Tickoo,

Pradumon Tickoo's Opening statement

Maun Namaskaar tohie Sarnie

“First of all I would like to Thank Ajay Ji for conducting this well needed training. I think Ajay Ji did a phenomenal job in delivering this training. In today's age we need to be tech savvy and should use all tools that can make our job a little easier. We have had this tool for few years now and unfortunately we are not using it effectively. I encourage you to further explore this tool in next few weeks and see how it can add value. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask Ajay Ji.”

Discussion on the agenda items:

1.Increase and maintain membership at the highest possible level;

President mentioned that he wants all zonal directors to make it their priority to increase the membership in their zones. Please reach out on continuous basis to the members of the respective zones and urge members to renew their support for KOA.

- a. An idea to increase local membership is Back to zone funds on sliding scale. We need to discuss if this is a feasible option.
 - i. Bench mark the year 2005 – Soman Ji and Pradumon to provide the list
 - ii. Up to 50% of the bench mark 20% funds will be returned to the zone
 - iii. 50% to 75% membership 30% return to Zone
 - iv. 75% to 100% membership 40% return to Zone
- b. Membership benefits KOA, calendar , directory, and the news letter

Comments –

Zone 8, Veena Ji, Personnel connection. Approach the new members and old members, All the board members should be life members

Zone 1 Nirmala ji: Important to have communication with the people, calling one to one . The older generation has started staying out from KOA functions. Younger generation need to get involved.

Zone 2 Inder ji: In addition to all above, Chapter presidents should get involved to improve the membership. Communication to chapter presidents regarding their roles. **Action:** Aim to increase membership at get together like the upcoming Shivratri function

Zone 3 Umesh ji: what is that KOA brings to the table?. We should have some common guide line on basic functions be held in every zone. We need to add functions like Haven. We need to communicate to people to renew their membership. **Action:** The executive team will send reminders to the members for signing up.

Zone 5 Kamlesh ji: All the board members should become life members. We are not selling anything. \$35 is not a big issue and in return they have world known organization. You either have a feel for the community or you don't. **Action:** To follow up vigorously within my zone.

Inderji mentioned that not all people who attend the zonal functions are members. We need to persuade people to join.

Zone 6 Rakesh ji: Agreed with the above points. We have to get the younger generation involved. Agreed that all board members should be life members too.

Zone 9 Vinod ji: Agreed with all the suggestions . Believes that setting a positive agenda will bring back members. Agreed to work with zone 10 director Amritji to work jointly in California. **Action:** Set up one on one meeting with Amritji to discuss way forward.

Zone10, Amritji : “ While I agree with All of you but we have focused only on the "Symptoms" and not on the disease. We need to focus on what is going on wrong in the organization. The member ship has reduced drastically and we have gone back to official1993 level of membership. We have lost the credibility. We need to change the whole process. CA has lost 60% of membership. We have to know the reasons. I strongly recommend Pradumon ji to discuss what went wrong. We need to build a credible organization. Please for the sake of this organization break away from the past. We need to change the mind set. We need to have an honest approach. Everyone should be the member of KOA. 4500 families living in USA should all be members”

In closing Pradumon ji requested all to be positive and do our very best to make members get a sense of belonging and have members believe that we all are listening.

2. Engage our youth in developing and implementing mechanisms that would drive youth participation in KOA.

Motion to set up two youth directors was placed by Pradumon ji and seconded by Inderji. Motion was passed unanimously with all directors present voting in the affirmative.

The president requested nomination from the zones. Based on the request of Amrit ji it was agreed by all that one youth director would be from California.

The president requested other zonal directors to send in the name of prospective candidate and the selection would be done in an open manner by the board.

3. Expansion of our Socio cultural programs –

Motion to have three (3) program directors focused on our culture. A director for religious awareness, a director for language and a director for performing arts was proposed by Pradumon ji and seconded by Vinod ji. The motion to set up these programs and directors to run these was approved unanimously.

- i. Program Director for Religious Awareness – Name of Prof. Omanand Koul was placed for consideration by Pradumon ji and seconded by Amrit ji. Motion was passed unanimously.
- ii. Language – Dr. Ashok Koul has volunteered to help in delivery and development of the language classes / curriculum. De to his time constraints we would need a volunteer for promotion of this program. . Vinod ji has already started the program with the help of Ashok ji in zone 9.
- iii. Performing Arts Director – Suggestion by Pradumon ji - Rakesh Kaul (junior) in NJ,

Closing comments Pradumon ji:

“As discussed in our earlier meeting these positions are key positions for KOA, The main aim of ours is to preserve and promote our socio culture heritage. I believe we should have sufficient focus in this area and hence we should have more resources focused on this. In this regard I have talked to Omanand Koul Ji and he has graciously accepted to volunteer and serve as program Director for Religious Awareness s.

The board asked Pradumon Ji to invite application for Directors of language and Director for performing arts separately.

Because of paucity of time the meeting ended with update on the two zonal camps by Umesh ji and Vinod ji.

Comments – Amrit Ji: It is good to see that we will have a national camp in California but it should be on 4th. Of July. The camp organized last year in CA was very successful but some of the people questioned if that was a KOA camp or non KOA camp. Amrit ji

suggested that we work with the organizers of the CA camp see if we can have a joint KOA camp. Amrit ji will discuss with Vinod ji and Pradumon ji various options. Umesh ji confirmed that he is still looking for a site in the East Coast for the camp and should be able to finalize the location in the next few weeks.

The meeting ended with the president thanking everyone present for their spirit of volunteerism for community service.