



Telugu Association of North Texas (TANTEX)

<http://www.tantex.org>

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President

Geeta Dammanna

President-Elect

Suresh Manduva

Vice-President

Vijay Mohan Kakarla

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Dr. Narasimha Reddy Urimindi

Joint Secretary

Subramanyam Jonnalagadda

Treasurer

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Joint Treasurer

Indu Reddy Mandadi

Immediate Past President

NMS Reddy

Executive Committee

Ananth Mallavarapu

Balki Chamkura

Chinasatyam Veernapu

Jyothi Vanam

Krishnaveni Seelam

Mahesh Aditya Adibhatla

Poorna Chandra Rao Vemulapalli

Raghu Chittimalla

Rajesh Chilukuri

Rajeswari Jujaray

Sirisha Bavireddy

Subhash Nelakanti

Subhashini Pentakota

Board of Trustees

Dr. Srinivas Reddy Alla (Chair)

Dr. C. R. Rao (Co-Chair)

Ramakrishna Lavu

Dr. Ramana Reddy

Murthy Mulukutla

TANTEX- Emergency Meeting of the General Body called for by the Board of Trustees -2012

Date: Sunday, May 20, 2012

Time: 3:00 PM, (Registration started @2:30 PM)

Venue: Legacy Church in Plano

4501 Legacy Drive

PLANO, TX 75024

Meeting Minutes Recorded by: Dr. Narasimha Reddy Urimindi -Secretary

Meeting Chair: Dr. Srinivas Reddy Alla, Chair, Board of Trustees

Presiding Officer: Geeta Dammanna, President

Attendees: Total of 403 life members and 69 annual members in attendance as per the verification and confirmation from Chinasatyam Veernapu, Chair, Membership & Registration

AGENDA:

- Welcome by Secretary
- President's remarks
- BoT Chair - addressing the GB
- Previous GB meeting minutes review and approval
- Discussion; voting; and announcement of results regarding some bylaw provisions for effective functioning:
 1. GB notification time
 2. Method of election
 3. Election of Office Bearers
 4. Election frequency
 5. Signature requirements for submitting a petition for special GB - increase the % requirement
 6. Quorum Requirements
- Vote of thanks by BoT member

At 3PM Secretary made an announcement that the meeting will begin in 15 minutes due to delays in registration process

The quorum requirements were met and the President called the Meeting to Order at 3:15pm

Welcome by Secretary: Narasimha Reddy Urimindi, Secretary, welcomed the members. He has reviewed the meeting ground rules and voting procedures and requested every member to cooperate for the smooth functioning of the meeting.

President's Remarks: Geeta Dammanna, president of TANTEX, explained the current status of TANTEX as she observed from her leadership role.

President's Remarks Continued.....

She conveyed her observations about how the organization was growing on the one hand while facing criticism on the other to the General Body. It was pondered if a lack of seriousness, direction, leadership, awareness, ethical values, or any other factors may have contributed to the criticism of the organization. The president mentioned that she used her executive prerogative and approached the BoT to find the resolution to the issues surrounding the Petition. She also explained how she had been communicating with the General Body and had been trying to resolve the issues within her power limits.

BoT Chair's remarks: Dr. Srinivas Reddy Alla said that "TANTEX made great progress and emerged as one of the proud organizations in US with various programs including Nela Nela Telugu Vennela and Maitri. BoT Chair said that to maintain the wellbeing of the organization he has called for this General body meeting and not for any personal gain or favors.

Review and approval of previous General Body Meeting minutes:

Correction: KC Chekuri made a correction to the proposed bylaw amendment. The comment should be "*If no one is coming forward from that section of the past office bearer (Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary etc) , the General body approved that such position is filled by members-At-Large.*"

The previous General Body meeting minutes were approved subject to the above correction as proposed by Sesa Rao Boddu and seconded by Rao Kalvala.

Some members questioned the intent of the BoT in calling an Emergency General Body meeting and asked for clarification regarding the "conflict of interest" mentioned by the President. President answered the questions explaining under what circumstances the matter was referred to the BoTs. The BoT Chair explained about how they decided to call for the Meeting in view of 'community disturbance'. They both answered several questions relating to the subject and the aftermath of the petition.

Proposed changes to Bylaws/Referendum on some identified issues:

The presiding officer explained that out of 6 bylaw change proposals 3 are amendments where changes can be effective immediately and other 3 are for referendum voting to decide whether to consider proposed changes or not. She added that the purpose of the Referendums is to vote YES or NO on some identified issues. Based on General Body's decision, she explained that detailed processes on Referendum voting topics will be defined and presented to the next General Body meeting for ratification in order to be effective. It was informed that the Governing Board will be responsible for setting up the relevant committees in charge of defining the processes.

- Spoorthi team members, BoT members and past President's volunteered in the counting of the votes and Subramanyam Jonnalagadda, Joint Secretary confirmed the section totals before handing to the Secretary for final approval of the vote count.
- Some of the members walked away from the meeting and remained abstained from voting citing dissatisfaction over the explanation or lack there of from the BoT Chair and the President to their questions

MVL Prasad, Parliamentarian, clarified that a draft document will be published after looking at the pros and cons of each of the Referendums. A focus group approved by the Governing board will be constituted to seek input from the community to develop the detailed process.

Proposed Amendment #1: GB Notification Time
Art. VI AMENDMENTS Sec. 1.2 Page 13 of Bylaws of 2009

Current: The proposed amendments shall be notified/communicated by mail (as well as placing it on TANTEX website) to the voting membership at least **two weeks** before the General Body meeting.

Amendment: The proposed amendments shall be notified/communicated by mail or email (as well as placing it on TANTEX website) to the voting membership at least **15 calendar days** before the General Body meeting.

Justification: To make Articles VI, XVII, XXII consistent

Teller's Report and Announcement of the Result

YES	279
NO	124
ABSTAINED	0

RESULT: MOTION PASSED

Proposed Amendment #2 – GB Notification Time
Art. XVII MEETINGS Sec. 5.1 Page 39

Current: All members shall be notified of all General Body meetings by mail, e-mail, or published on the TANTEX website, at least **15 days** before each General Body meeting.

Amendment: All members shall be notified/communicated of all General Body meetings by mail or e-mail (as well as placing it on TANTEX website) to the membership at least **15 calendar days** before the General Body meeting.

Justification: To make Articles VI, XVII, XXII consistent.

Teller's Report and Announcement of the Result

YES	282
NO	121
ABSTAINED	0

RESULT: MOTION PASSED

Proposed Amendment #3 – GB Notification Time
Art. XXII AMEND. TO CONST. & BYLAWS Sec. 2.1 Page 44

Current: The secretary shall provide the members with a notice of the proposed amendments via email, mail or post on TANTEX website , TANTEX's "Telugu Velugu" magazine (where applicable), at least **four weeks** prior to the General Body meeting.

Amendment: The secretary shall provide the members with a notice of the proposed amendments via email, mail or post on TANTEX website , TANTEX's "Telugu Velugu" magazine (where applicable), at least **15 calendar days** before the General Body meeting.

Justification: To make Articles VI, XVII, XXII consistent.

Teller's Report and Announcement of the Result

YES	282
NO	121
ABSTAINED	0

RESULT: MOTION PASSED

Referendum Vote #1 – Method of Election
Art. XVI ELECTION COMMITTEE Sec. 10.2 Page 37

Current: To ensure balanced and fair elections, the Election committee shall conduct elections using **mail-in postal ballots** for all positions declared for election.

Suggestion: To ensure balanced and fair elections, eligible voters at every Annual General Body meeting will decide the mode of election for all positions declared for election for the following year. The General Body may choose the mode as either 1) Mail-in Postal Ballot **OR** 2) Manual Ballot (in-person voting). The Governing Board of the relevant year shall instruct the Election Committee to conduct elections for that year as decided by the General Body.

(If YES, then for the upcoming elections of 2012,

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mail-in Ballot <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Very convenient for geographically dispersed voters to vote from the privacy of home ○ Flexibility • In-Person Ballot <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Less chance for error and results declared on the same day ○ Expensive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mail-in Ballot <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to stick to detailed processes defined and potential for errors/ lapses as such. ○ Expensive (\$5000+) • In-Person Ballot <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to be available in person and hence

the Election Committee need to conduct elections using in-person ballots for all positions open for election).

(>\$5000)

- No scope for the potential fraud.

- lacks the flexibility
- May need to setup multiple locations with 4 people to monitor the 4+ hour long election window..

Teller's Report and Announcement of the Result

YES	186
NO	36
ABSTAINED	181

RESULT: MOTION PASSED

Referendum Vote #2 – Direct Election of Office Bearers

Proposal: Change all Office Bearers to be directly elected by eligible voting members of TANTEX.

Affected Bylaws- 1:

Art. XIII EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Sec. 1 1.2 Page 27

Current: Out of twenty one (21) EC members the positions of President , Vice-President and President-Elect are not elected by the general election process but by EC members themselves.

Affected Bylaws- 2:

Art. XVI ELECTION COMMITTEE Sec. 12.1 Page 37

Current: The newly elected members of EC will elect, by January 15th, Vice president from preceding year's Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer or Joint Treasurer with at least one year of service in this capacity

Affected Bylaws- 3:

Art. XVI EC & OFFICE BEARER - RESTRICTIONS Sec. 13.1 Page 38

Current: EC members who served at least one year on EC, including those who served on EC in past years, are eligible for nomination to the position of Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer or Joint Treasurer but not to the position of President, President-Elect or Vice-President.

Pros:

- Reduced bias due to any form of unacceptable practices
- Efficient
- Continuity of service

Cons:

- Detailed (time-consuming and subjective) procedures have to be developed to ensure people who spent sufficient time in TANTEX get opportunity to contest.
- Scope for influence

Teller's Report and Announcement of the Result

YES	180
NO	1
ABSTAINED	222

RESULT: MOTION PASSED

**Referendum Vote #3– Election Frequency
Art. XIII EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Sec. 1 1.1 Page 27**

Current: The Executive Committee (EC) will consist of a maximum of twenty one members, including Officers and immediate Past-President of TANTEX and every year at least 1/3rd of new members should be elected by the Life Members through a general Election process conducted by Election Committee.

Suggestion: Proposing to change elections to be held once in every two years.

This is subject to detailed procedures to be developed (before Annual General Body Meeting of 2012).

Pros:

- Reduces expenses
- Reduces hassle of conducting every year
- Longer time to serve with stability

Cons:

- Compared to \$5,000 per election the saving is not much for an important event like this.
- It will have a domino effect on several things such as term, incoming freshmen quota (1/3rd), Term of President etc.
- Delaying effects on waiting line of potential Office-bearers
- Testing the patience and durability of existing President with year-long term
- who sacrifice family and career to perform this volunteer work.
- Opportunity grow in the ladder for the existing EC's

- Scope Influence & misuse

Teller's Report and Announcement of the Result

YES	5
NO	162
ABSTAINED	236

RESULT: MOTION DEFEATED

**Proposed Amendment #4 –Special GB Petition Requirements
Art. XVII MEETINGS Sec. 3.1 Page 39**

Current: The President shall convene a special General Body meeting within sixty days if twenty-five percent of voting members of TANTEX request such a meeting in writing and if such a request is supported by a signed petition indicating purpose of such a meeting.

Amendment: The President shall convene a special General Body meeting within sixty days if one-third of voting members of TANTEX request such a meeting in writing and if such a request is supported by a signed petition indicating purpose of such a meeting.

Once signed there will not be any withdrawals by signatories unless proved to have signed under duress/ coercion and/or gross misrepresentation of facts

Pros:

- Petition submission only for serious situations and not for trivial matters

Cons:

- Makes the petition process burdensome

Teller's Report and Announcement of the Result

YES	4
NO	141
ABSTAINED	258

RESULT: MOTION DEFEATED

**Proposed Amendment #5.1 –Quorum Requirements
Art. XVIII QUORUM Sec. 1 1.1 Page 40**

Current: The quorum for General Body Meetings shall be lesser of 50 voting members in good standing or one-fifth of the total number of voting members in good standing.

Amendment: The quorum for annual, special, or emergency General Body meetings shall be lesser of 75 voting members in good standing or one-fifth of the total number of voting members in good standing.

However, the quorum for annual, special, or emergency General Body meetings with an agenda of bylaw change proposals shall be lesser of 100 voting members in good standing or one-fifth of the total number of voting members in good standing.

Pros

- 75 is a substantial representative number for current 1500+ members of TANTEX
- Eliminates the possibility of 26 (51% of 50 member quorum) deciding major by-law changes

Cons

- If a minimum 75 people are not present then the General Body meeting cannot conduct any business.

Teller's Report and Announcement of the Result

YES	120
NO	6
ABSTAINED	277

RESULT: MOTION PASSED

Vote of Thanks:

- Dr. Sandhya Gavva took the honor of thanking all the members, Spoorthi team volunteers and Governing Board members of TANTEX.

The President adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM