

Amendments No. 015/2017

This amendment was accepted by the General Body Meeting held on January 14, 2017, and was ratified by the Board Of Directors on January 15, 2017. According to this amendment Section 3.1(a), (b), (c), (e), and 4.1(f), and Article XIII in the BAGA bylaws will be replaced by the corresponding Sections below

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 3.1(a) (b) (c) of the Constitution:

- (a) Annual BAGA Membership will have two categories: General BAGA Membership – family and individual; and BAGA Student Membership - family and individual. Annual membership fees may be set differently for General Membership and Student Membership (individual and family).
- (b) A primary member of BAGA is an individual above 18 years of age who has paid his/her annual membership fees for the current membership year.
- (c) A family is defined as an individual, or married spouses, or live-in partners (who shall be considered as the primary members), their dependent children, and the dependent parents of the primary members. Student (with student ID) memberships are authorized for families where none of the family members are full time wage earners. At the age of 18 dependents have the option to become primary individual members.

Shall be replaced by:

- (a) Annual BAGA Membership will have the following categories: General Memberships - family, couple, single parent family, individual, and Student memberships - family, couple, single parent family, and individual. Annual membership fees may be set differently for family, couple, single parent family, individual, and Student Memberships (family, couple, single parent family, and individual).
- (b) A primary member of BAGA is an individual above 18 years of age who has paid his/her annual membership fees for the current membership year. Similarly,

student above 18 yrs. old (primary member) with student ID is authorized for student individual membership.

- (c)(i) A single parent family is defined as individual (primary member) with dependent children (up to undergraduate or 23 yrs. old whichever comes first). Similarly, single student (with student ID) memberships (primary members) with dependent children (up to undergraduate student) are also authorized for single parent families.
- (ii) A couple is defined as married spouses, or live-in partners (who shall be considered as the primary members) with no dependent children. Students (with student ID) memberships (primary members) with no dependent children are authorized for couples where none of the members are full time wage earners.
- (iii) A family is defined as married spouses, or live-in partners (who shall be considered as the primary members), with dependent children (up to undergraduate or 23 yrs. old whichever comes first). Students (with student ID) memberships (primary members) with dependent children (up to undergraduate student) are authorized for student families where none of the members are full time wage earners.

Section 3.1(e) of the Constitution:

- (e) Annual membership period is from *Saraswati Puja* to one day prior to following year's *Saraswati Puja*. A person or a family can apply for annual membership by paying the annual membership fee at the time of *Saraswati Puja* or any time up to *Durga Puja* of that year. Annual Membership status will remain in effect from the time of membership to the following *Saraswati Puja*. No proration in the annual membership fees will be allowed, i.e., full membership fee has to be paid regardless of timing of payment.

Shall be replaced by:

- (e) Annual membership period is from *Saraswati Puja* to one day prior to following year's *Saraswati Puja*. A person or a family can apply for annual membership by paying the annual membership fee at the time of *Saraswati Puja* or any time up to *Durga Puja* of that year. Annual Membership status will remain in effect from the time of membership to the following *Saraswati Puja*. No proration in the annual membership fees will be allowed, i.e., full membership fee has to be paid regardless of timing of payment.

All officers: BOD and EC should renew their memberships during *Saraswati Puja* to keep their membership always good standing. Similarly, nominees and members should renew their membership during *Saraswati Puja* to be eligible candidates or vote in BOD election during *Saraswati Puja*.

ARTICLE IV

Board of Directors (BOD)

Section 4.1(f) of the Constitution:

4.1 (f) The Board of Directors shall have the rights of monitoring and approval of budget process and are responsible for overseeing and approval of all investment decisions including assets and disbursement of funds from certificate of deposits and/or any other investments. The Board of Directors shall refrain from adopting any action which is inconsistent with the *Objectives* set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and Article II of the Bylaws. In case of a major disagreement with the Executive Committee (EC) about the budget of any BAGA event, the Board of Directors, by simple majority vote, shall have the right to withhold disbursement of BAGA funds until the issues are satisfactorily resolved.

Shall be replaced by:

4.1(f) Financial Responsibilities:

- i. Only the Board members shall be responsible and be signatory to any type of investment (such as Certificate of Deposit). A member relinquishes his/her signature authority at the end of his/her term and transfers it to an existing member.
- ii. Financial responsibilities shall be distributed among all the Board members, and for each investment item (such as a CD) there shall be two signatories.
- iii. Type of investment of BAGA financial assets shall be determined by a majority vote of the BAGA general members at the General Body Meeting (GBM 4.1(d)), and shall be maintained that way until General Body decides otherwise.
- iv. The Board shall publish a financial statement of BAGA's long-term (reserve) status annually in its magazine -- the *Pratichi*.
- v. The Board shall have yearly organizational expenses; such as payment for the insurance, storage facility, P.O. Box, registering the organization, taxes, other relevant governing dues, etc. Beyond those organizational expenses the Board shall be eligible to spend no more than \$2000.00 yearly. To spend more than that allowed amount the Board shall get approval by General Body.
- vi. In case of a major disagreement with the Executive Committee (EC) about the budget of any BAGA event, the Board of Directors shall resolve the issue in a GBM (4.1(d)).

ARTICLE XIII

Amendments

These Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation may be considered for amendment, as needed, by a 2/3 (two-thirds) majority vote of the entire Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose of considering such amendment.

The purpose, context, and objective of such an amendment with proposed language must be shared via email (and/or posted on the BAGA website) with the general body members at least 21 (twenty one) days prior to such a meeting. If more than 30% of BAGA members request (by mail or electronic mail) a general body meeting to discuss the amendment, such a meeting will be convened by the Board of Directors (section 4.1 (d)), where a simple majority vote of those present at the meeting will be required to accept or decline the amendment(s). If 30% of members do not request a meeting, the amendment(s) will be ratified with a 2/3 (two-thirds) majority vote by the Board of Directors.

In an emergency case where 21 (twenty one) days waiting period is not possible for the general body notification and immediate action is required, the BOD is permitted to take appropriate action with its 2/3 (two-thirds) majority vote, but must seek approval for ratification from the general body as described above within 21 (twenty one) days.

Shall be replaced by:

These Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation may be considered for amendment, as needed. The Chairperson shall call a General Body Meeting (GBM 4.1(d)) if 2/3 (two-thirds) majority of the Board of Directors request. The amendment with proposed language must be shared via email with the General Body members.

A minimum of 20% of the members will constitute a quorum. A majority vote will carry the decisions. In the event there is no quorum at the General Body Meeting, a second General Body Meeting will be called after due notice. Members present at this second General Body Meeting shall constitute a quorum. The General Body Meeting shall be chaired by the Chairperson of the Board of Directors.