

BRAHMA BHARATI

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Editor: Surendra Nath Pandey, Ph.D.



CONVENTION REPORT

Dear Fellow BSNA Members,

The eleventh BSNA convention was held at Hilton McLean Tyson's Corner in McLean, VA in Washington, DC area on July 2-4, 2005. I am glad to report to you that it was a grand success. The credit goes to the Convention Director, Mrs. Mamta Tiwari and her excellent team, who worked very hard to make it enjoyable for all attending the convention. Many members of the DC chapter worked tirelessly to make this convention a memorable one. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mrs. Mamta Tiwari and her entire family, Dr. Gopesh Sharma and his family, Dr. Lalji Mishra, Dr. Parmesh Dwivedi, Dr. Om Sharma (MD), Dr. Satish Misra, Mr. & Mrs. Sanjay and Usha Shukla, Mrs. Meera Sharma, Mrs. Pushpa Pathak and Mr. Nalin Mishra. (I apologize if I am missing some names).



Bharat Natyam by Priyanka Pandey of Michigan

Here is a brief description of the three-day event:

Saturday, July 2, 2005

The local Washington Chapter volunteers kept the convention registration open from 9.00 AM to 6.00 PM. All delegates received a registration package that consisted of the program, the souvenir issue of Brahma Vani, the Brahmakulam supplement, a yagyopaveet (Janeu) and a bottle of Ganga Jal, the water from holy river Ganges.

The Board of Trustees held their meeting from 8.00 to 9.00 AM which was followed by the BSNA Council meeting consisting of the BOT, Executive Committee, Chapter Presidents, Committee Members and Editors of Brahma Vani and Brahma Bharati. BSNA officials and convention organizers presented various reports. Also at the joint meeting, Council members reviewed the revisions to the Constitution made by the Constitution Review Committee, and decided to submit the amendments of the BSNA Constitution for approval by the General Body on July 3 for a vote.

Immediately after the lunch, the convention was inaugurated with chanting of Vedic mantras and Pooja of Lord Ganesha, Lord Vishnu, Lord Shiva, Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess Saraswati. This was followed by prayer and dances appropriate for the occasion.

BSNA President Dr. Shyam Narayan Shukla, BOT Chair Dr. Shri Kant Mishra and Convention Director Mrs. Mamta Tiwari welcomed the delegates. This was followed by a very informative talk by Mr. Vijay Kumar on the subject of "Seven Systems of Indian Philosophy".

After the inauguration activities, the delegates joined in three parallel sessions –two for adults and one for children. Mr. Venkatachalam made a presentation on "Vedic Astrology and Mathematics", and Dr. Lakshmi Chandra Mishra talked on "Vedic (Sanatan) Dharma". The two sessions were chaired by Dr. Surendra Pandey and Dr. Umesh Shukla, respectively.
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The third parallel session was a workshop for the children conducted by Mrs. Pushpa Pathak and Mrs. Guddi Sharma.

From 3.00 to 4.00 PM, Dr. Arvind Pathak conducted a seminar on how to live a healthy, happy, and long life. This was followed by two parallel sessions on health-related issues especially applicable to the Indian diasporas. One was on "Diabetes" by Dr. Suchitra Nanchrella followed by another talk on "Strokes" by Dr. Shri Kant Mishra. The second session was on "Pain Management" by Dr. Naresh Sharma. These two sessions were chaired by Dr. Gopesh Sharma and Dr. Girish Mishra, respectively.

Following the afternoon tea break, a Q&A session on "Immigration and Real Estate Laws" was conducted by Mr. Onkar Sharma and Mr. Ramesh Khurana, attorneys from the Sharma Law Group of Washington, DC. The session was moderated by Dr. Om Sharma of Bowie, MD. This was followed by dinner from 6.00 to 7.00 PM, and a cultural program, from 7.30 to 9.30 PM with MC's Ms. Kavita Sharma and Mr. Giri Raj Sharma under the guidance of Mrs. Usha Shukla. From 10.00 PM to midnight, a Kavi Sammelan was conducted by Mr. Jagar Sharma, who recited appropriate 'Shayaris' to match the poem of every poet. Simultaneously there was a youth get together in the Ball Room with a DJ.

Sunday, July 3, 2005

The morning programs started at 6.00 AM with chanting of "Sahastra Naam" by Mrs. Pushpa Pathak followed by Pooja and Bhajans by Mrs. Meera Sharma and Mrs. Lata Dwivedi, with simultaneous session on Yoga and Meditation conducted by Mr. Prabhat Tiwari. Following the breakfast, three parallel sessions were held from 8.30 to 10.00 AM. The first one was chaired by Dr. Suresh Tiwari with presentations from Mr. K.J. Sharma on "Karma Yoga" and Kuresh Kashami, Homa Kashami and Anandi Ramchabdran on "Holistic Healthcare". Mr. Mahendra Misra chaired the second parallel session at which two topics were discussed: one on "Arranged Marriage - Is It Desirable?" by Dr. Janeshwar Upadhyay and the second on "Kundalini Yoga" by Mr. Prabhas Sharma. The third parallel session was on "Creative Careers" by Mr. Brahma Om Sharma.

After the morning tea break, the General Body meeting was held from 10.30 to 11.30 AM, at which Dr. Surendra Pandey, Chair of the Constitution Review Committee, explained why certain portions of the BSNA Constitution needed revisions and/or additions to fully address the present needs of BSNA. He also discussed those needed amendments to the Constitution in detail. After a Q&A period, the GB approved those amendments unanimously by a voice vote. Following this, Dr. Janeshwar Upadhyay spoke on his suggestions for developing an Operational Guidelines for BSNA, and Dr. Om Sharma, BSNA Treasure gave an overview of BSNA's financial status.

Lunch was served between 11.30 AM to 1.00 PM during which Dr. J.P. Dubey, Ms. Aparna Sharma and Ms.



Swami Dheeranand ji of Chinmaya Mission on
The Essence of Vedanta

Aastha Sharma introduced all BSNA members and their families attending the convention.

The afternoon plenary session started at 1 pm with an enlightening talk on "The Essence of the Vedanta" by Swami Dheerananda ji of the Chinmaya Mission. This was followed by a panel discussion on miscellaneous subjects: "Future Direction of BSNA", "Responsibilities of Youths in BSNA" and "Scholarships Funded by BSNA". Dr. Satish Misra chaired this session with panelists, Dr. Shyam N. Shukla, Mr. Purushottam Sharma, Dr. Suresh Tiwari, Dr. Om Sharma (NJ), Dr. Janeshwar Upadhyay, Dr. Umesh Shukla, Ms. Bhavana Pathak and Ms. Kavita Sharma. This generated a number of comments and suggestions from the audience. After the plenary session, Dr. Mrinal Sharma conducted a seminar on Cardiac health. Dr. Shri Kant Mishra chaired the session.



Kajal Sharma of NJ

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After the tea break, Mrs. Mamta Tiwari introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Satish Tripathi, who delivered his speech on the subject of "Brahmanatva in the 21st Century: What Can We Learn from the Past". After the keynote speech, the audience was entertained with a magic show for about an hour.

The convention delegates reconvened after dinner break for a very entertaining cultural program MC'd by Ms. Priti Tiwari and Mr. Akash Kaushik. The cultural program provided an opportunity for showing off enormous talents that BSNA families (adults and youth) possess. The highly entertaining program consisted of songs, ghazals, dances, fashion show, etc. with the majority of performers from the youth group. This was followed by a professionally conducted Antakshari program from 10.00 PM to midnight.



Ghazal by Kavita Sharma with her brother Giri Raj Sharma at Tabla.

Monday, July 4, 2005

The morning started at 6.00 AM with Yoga and Meditation conducted by Mr. Prabhat Tiwari, and a Bhajan session conducted simultaneously by several ladies. Breakfast was served from 7.00 to 8.00 AM. This was followed by an awards ceremony, where all volunteers were recognized for their contribution toward organizing the convention. Additionally, other awards were given to members in recognition of their outstanding contribution to BSNA. A list of all award recipients is included in this issue.

At 11.00 AM, everyone departed for the picnic place which was located in a beautiful wooded area near a lake, about 8.5 miles away from the hotel. Dr. Parmesh Dwivedi was already there making arrangements for the picnic. Immediately upon arrival, everyone was treated with a hot snack of roasted corn-on-the-cob and fruit salad. Then members played a variety of games including Antakshari and a men-versus-women tug-of-war which women won! After the games, the lunch of hot Chhole-Bhature and Gulab Jamun was served.

Respectfully,
Shyam Narayan Shukla, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE
President, BSNA

Special recognition awards were given to all youth members who performed in the cultural and other programs at the Convention. The award consisted of an orange ribbon supporting a medallion with engraving, "BSNA Eleventh Annual Convention, July 2-4, 2005 Washington DC"

Youth category	Chapter
Kriti Shukla	VA
Anand Tiwari	DC
Anmol Tewari	DC
Arjun Kaushik	DC
Aparna Sharma	DC
Vikas Mishra	DC
Akash Mishra	DC
Kajal Sharma	NJ
Meghana Chaubey	NJ
Natesh Gautam	
Soumya Vats	VA
Ankit Chaubey	NJ
Poonam Sharma	PA
Dev Sharma	PA
Oshin Shukla	DC
Juhi Shukla	
Anup Pandey	
Himanshu Sharma	NJ
Priyanka Pandey	MI
Neha Sharma	
Bharathi Sharma	

Sacramento Chapter held its annual picnic at Elk Grove Park. This was well attended picnic. People enjoyed good food, fun-filled program, and the raffles held at the end. Five new Life Members attended the Picnic. The new Chapter President, Mr. Upendra Shukla recognized and honored the outgoing President, Mr. Janak Sidhra for his service to the chapter. Mr. Bharat Mohla, Chapter Secretary gave an update of activities being planned for rest of the year, and plans for making Sacramento chapter active and strong.

AN APPEAL TO BSNA MEMEBRS
Help Katrina recovery efforts. Send your donations directly to organizations helping Katrina victims.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Dear Fellow Brahmans,

Those of you who attended the last BSNA convention during July 2-4, 2005 at Washington, DC would agree with me that it was a wonderful convention, where all of us had a good time. The entire team of the

DC chapter, with Mrs. Mamta Tiwari as the Convention Director, took care of every detail to see that we felt comfortable and enjoyed the events.

It is a good feeling to meet BSNA members, who usually attend the BSNA convention every year and with whom we have developed a special bond in these eleven years. Seeing them makes us feel as if they are members of our own family. Therefore, I have this request to you: If it is not possible for you to attend the BSNA convention every year, please make it a point to attend it at least once in two years, so that you remain in personal touch with other members and develop an emotional bond with them. I assure you that once you develop closeness with BSNA members from other chapters, you will be looking forward to meeting them at the conventions.

In the General Body meeting of the last convention we had an important achievement, namely, a unanimous approval of the amendments to the BSNA constitution by the General Body. Some articles related to the election of chapter officials, resolution of conflicts in BSNA, removal of an EC member who turns hostile and starts hurting BSNA were properly addressed in the amendments.

BSNA entered a new era when it became an active member of the world Brahman community and participated in the third World Brahman Convention (WBC) this year at London with 25 delegates. BSNA was requested to organize the fourth World Brahman Convention in 2007. Being BSNA President, I was elected as President of the newly formed **World Brahman Organization** (WBO), an umbrella organization of all the Brahman organizations of the world. WBO will soon have a new EC, and write its constitution. It was unanimously agreed that the President's term will be only for two years, from convention to convention, and that the new President of WBO will be the President of the organization which will host the next WBC.

With warmest regards,

Shyam Narayan Shukla, Ph.D., P.E., Fellow ASCE
President, Brahman Samaj of North America

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Address: 44949 Cougar Circle, Fremont, CA 94539

July 4, 2005

The following were recognized for their contribution to BSNA and/or the successful organization of the annual convention

LIST OF AWARDS GIVEN AT THE CONVENTION

Award	Name	
Brahma Shreshtha Puraskaar	Dr. Madan Pathak	DC
Brahma Shreshtha Puraskaar	Dr. Naresh Sharma	NJ
Brahma Shreshtha Puraskaar	Dr. Ramesh Pandey	NJ
Brahma Shreshtha Puraskaar	Mr. Anup Pandey	TX
Brahma Shreshtha Puraskaar	Mr. Dushyant Sharma	IL
Brahma Shreshtha Puraskaar	Mr. Sanjay Shukla	DC
Brahma Shreshtha Puraskaar	Mrs. Durga Mishra	DC
Brahma Shreshtha Puraskaar	Mrs. Manisha Tewari	DC
Brahma Shreshtha Puraskaar	Mrs. Meera Sharma	DC
Brahma Shreshtha Puraskaar	Mrs. Niti Dubay	DC
Brahma Shreshtha Puraskaar	Mrs. Purnima Sharma	DC
Brahma Shreshtha Puraskaar	Mrs. Pushpa Pathak	DC
Brahma Shreshtha Puraskaar	Mrs. Subha Mishra	DC
Brahma Shreshtha Puraskaar	Mrs. Sumitra Sharma	DC
Brahma Shreshtha Puraskaar	Mrs. Usha Shukla	DC
Brahma Shreshtha Puraskaar	Mrs. Vinita Sharma	DC

Nav Prabhat Puraskaar	Mr. Giriraj Sharma	DC
Nav Prabhat Puraskaar	Ms. Kavita Sharma	DC
Nav Suman Puraskaar	Mr. Niket Pandey	VA
Nav Suman Puraskaar	Ms. Shaily Pandey	VA
Brahma Bharati Puraskaar	Dr. Om Sharma	NJ
Brahma Bharati Puraskaar	Mr. Hari Sharma	NJ
Brahma Joyti Puraskaar	Ms. Priti Tiwari	DC
Special Recognition Award	Dr. J. P. Dubey	DC
Special Recognition Award	Mr. Babu Stephen	DC
Special Recognition Award	Mr. Onkar Sharma	DC
Special Recognition Award	Mr. Ramesh Khurana	DC

CHAPTER AWARDS

Vishishta Shaakha Samman	Dr. Om Sharma	DC
Sreshtha Yuva Shaakha	Mr. Nalin S. Mishra	DC

Key Note speaker Award	Dr. Satish K. Tripathi	NY
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Convention Organization Awards

Convention Director	Mrs. Mamta Tiwari	DC
Convention Co-Director	Dr. Gopesh Sharma	DC
Convention Co-Director	Dr. Lalji Mishra	DC
Convention Co-Director	Dr. Parmesh Dwivedi	DC
Convention Co-Director	Dr. Satish Misra	DC

REPORT ON 2005
WORLD BRAHMAN CONVENTION

By **Shyam Narayan Shukla, Ph. D., P.E.**

The Third **World Brahman Convention** (WBC) was held at London on August 21-22, 2005. It was hosted by Brahman Samaj of the United Kingdom (BSUK). Mr. Ram Chandra Tiwari, the President of BSUK was the Convention Director. The convention was a great success in terms of achieving all its objectives in the direction of uniting the Brahmans of the world. On behalf of all Brahmans I thank Mr. R.C. Tiwari, Dr. Diwakar Sukul, Mr. S. Sang, Mr. R.N. Pathak (Ex-Mayor of London) and Dr. Arun Jha. There were about 325 delegates from all over the world including India, Nepal, Mauritius, UK, Holland, USA, and Surinam. The venue of the convention was Mahatma Gandhi Hall of the Indian YMCA, located at 41 Fitzroy Square in central London.

The world leaders of different Brahman organizations had three separate meetings, apart from the convention, to make certain important decisions to unite the Brahmans from all over the world. In these meetings the following decisions were jointly made:

- A new Brahman organization was formed as an umbrella organization for all the Brahman organizations of the world.
- It was unanimously agreed that the name of the new umbrella organization will be **World Brahman Organization**, which will be registered in UK and/or India. (It is already registered in the USA.)
- The President of the Brahman organization which will host the next WBC will be appointed the President of World Brahman Organization for the next two years.
- President of BSNA, **Dr. Shyam Narayan Shukla was unanimously elected President of WBO for the next two years.** He and his organization BSNA are given the responsibility to organize the next World Brahman Convention in North America in the later half of May 2007.
- A list of 9 volunteers from different Brahman organizations was prepared to draft the constitution of the WBO.
- A database of professionals will be created to bring together Brahmans of the same professions all over the world. Dr. Diwakar Sukul, General Secretary of BSUK, will be the contact person for this project.

The convention program started at 10 AM on Sunday, August 21, 2005 with chanting of Veda-mantras by some learned Brahmans from India, Mauritius and Holland followed by Ganesha Vandana. The chief guest, Justice Giridhar Malviya (grandson of Pundit Madan Mohan Malviya and a retired judge of Allahabad High Court) ignited the Jyoti as a symbol of imparting knowledge.

Mr. Ram Chandra Tiwari, President of BSUK and the Convention Director welcomed the delegates to the convention. Mr. Hari Sharma of New Jersey, USA sang a welcome song, written in Hindi by himself. Thereafter, a well known young singer of UK, Miss Reena Bharadwaj sang a Bhajan. The chief guest, Mr. Malviya inaugurated

the 'Lokarpan' ceremony for the WBC souvenir magazine "Brahmavidya". This was followed by recognition of Lt. General S.P.M. Tripathi (Ret'd) of Indian Army, a distinguished guest. Then Mr. R.D. Dixit of All India Kanyakubja Board read a report on convention 2003.

After the inauguration formalities, a number of speeches on different subjects were delivered, some of which are listed below:

- Mr. Mange Ram Sharma (Gurgaon, India) : India's Reservation Policy
- Dr. Shyam Narayan Shukla (Fremont, CA, USA) : Preservation of Brahmanatva through World Brahman Unity.
- Dr. Sangam Mishra (Udaipur, India) : Raising Standard of Education by Modern Methods.
- Lt. General S.P.M. Tripathi (Ret'd) (India) : Uplifting the Communities in Villages of India.
- Dr. H.V. Satyanarayan Shastry (Bangalore, India) : Significance of Sanskaras.
- Dr. D.R. Chaubey (Faridabad, India) : Scientific Approach towards Astrology and Vastushastra
- Mr. R.N. Pathak (UK) : Hindu Temples in Western Countries
- Pt. Anand Shukla Kalapnat (Holland) : Role of Brahman Priests in the Western Countries
- Dr. P.N. Dubey (Faridabad, India) : Cancer Cure by Kitchen Therapy
- Dr. Girija Nandan Pandey (UK) : Surgery in the Vedic Time

In the morning of Monday, August 22 the session started with Bhajans. The keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Bhu Dev Sharma (BSNA Life Member) of Atlanta, GA, USA. His subject was "Brahman Values and Hinduism". Then Dr. Shri Kant Mishra, Chairman, BOT of BSNA gave a talk on "Diseases in the Vedic Period".

There were entertainment programs in between the lectures on both days:

- Ms. Tulika Pandey : A Devotional Song (She too is a leading Hindi singer of UK and has sung in a movie for which A.R. Rahman was the Music Director).
- Dr. Jyotsana Shrikanth : Violin Recital by a group of her students.
- Miss Kajal Sharma, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Yogesh and Pratima Sharma of New Jersey (USA) performed a dance with the background song "Niboda-Niboda..."
- Banwari Maharaj of Vrindavan sang many bhajans with his son and a disciple on harmonium and mridang respectively.
- A very popular UK radio host Mr. Ravi Sharma (originally from Haryana) entertained the audience with his stand up comedies.

Nine BSNA families attended the convention.

The convention ended at 5:00PM that day.

REVISED CONSTITUTION APPROVED

July 3, 2005. The General Body approved BSNA's revised constitution by acclamation during the eleventh annual convention held at Hilton Hotel & Convention Center, McLean, Virginia. Dr. Surendra Pandey, Constitution Review Committee Chair made the presentation explaining all changes/revisions. Following a Q&A period, Dr. Satish Misra made a motion to accept the amendments/revisions as presented. Motion was properly seconded and passed unanimously by voice vote.

The full constitution is included below, and is also on the BSNA homepage at www.bsna.org

Brahman Samaj of North America, Inc ***CONSTITUTION***

ARTICLE I: NAME

Section 1

The name of the organization shall be Brahman Samaj of North America, Inc. (referred to as the Association or BSNA.)

Section 2

BSNA shall be a not-for-profit, non-political, educational, religious, and cultural organization, composed mainly of Brahmans of Indian origin residing in North America.

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Association are:

1. To educate its members and others about the history, culture, geography, and religious customs of Brahmans.
2. To promote studies of the literature, culture, traditions and the values of Brahmans at schools, colleges and universities.
3. To educate the Brahmans, especially the younger generation, about the traditional Vedic values which promote:
 - b. Respect for higher education
 - c. A healthy life style
 - d. Willingness to serve, and
 - e. Respect for one another.
4. To educate the younger generation to integrate the traditional Brahman (Vedic) values with modern scientific attitude and contemporary technological development.

5. To conduct educational and other activities which promote a sense of kinship among Brahman families.
6. To conduct educational and other activities which promote understanding and friendship between its members and all other communities irrespective of race, religion and national origin.

ARTICLE III: BSNA YEAR

The BSNA year shall mean a calendar year. Henceforth, reference to a year would mean the calendar year unless specified otherwise. A different year may be defined for organizational and management convenience for a specific purpose.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

English shall be the official language of the Association. However, Hindi and other regional languages may be used for cultural programs and special situations.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

The membership of the Association shall be open to all those who identify themselves as Brahmans; have respect for the Brahman culture; declare faith in Vedic Hindu philosophy of life or *Sanatan Dharma*; subscribe to and are willing to contribute to the achievements of the objectives of the Association.

Section 2

Anyone meeting the eligibility criteria described in section 1 may become a member in one of the categories listed by submitting a completed membership form with the membership dues as prescribed by the Association. The residents of North America may join the Association as a Patron, Benefactor, Life member, Annual member, Student member, or any other type of membership as determined by the Association.

Section 3

The BSNA members and their spouses shall be the members of the General Body, and be entitled to all the benefits and privileges of the Association including voting for, and holding elected offices. The member's immediate family will be entitled to certain benefits, not including voting, but including participation in all activities of the Association and holding non-elected offices. The immediate family, for this purpose, refers to unmarried children of the member.

Section 4

Non-residents of North America may be offered Associate Membership if they otherwise meet the eligibility criteria listed in section 1. The Association may expand to countries outside North America by forming affiliate organizations or entering into bilateral agreements with other organizations if their goals and objectives are consistent with those of BSNA.

Section 5

The Association may confer an Honorary Membership as recognition to an individual who has achieved an outstanding place in the society and/or has made significant contributions to the advancement of BSNA and its objectives. The decision to grant honorary membership shall be made by the Executive Committee upon the recommendation of the President. The honorary membership shall be conferred normally for the whole life.

Section 6

The President, with the consent of the Executive Committee, may confer Special Membership for one year to individuals without payment of the annual dues. This may be done for extending special financial consideration or as a reward. The Special Members, however, must meet the criteria described in section 1.

Section 7

The General Body (abbreviated as GB) of the Association shall consist of members as defined in Section 2, such as Patrons, Benefactors, Life members, Annual members, Student members, and their spouses. Only members of the GB shall have the voting rights and be eligible to hold elected offices of the Association.

Sections 8

Associate Members, Honorary Members, Special Members, and any other members of the Association who are not members of the GB, may participate in the GB meetings but shall have no voting rights. They may be appointed to special offices and given functional, organizational and advisory responsibilities.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

Section 1

The officers of the Association shall be: The President, The Executive Vice President, Two Vice Presidents, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Assistant Treasurer.

Section 2

All the officers listed in section 1 must be members of the GB and be elected through a democratic process by the GB.

Section 3

The Executive Committee (abbreviated EC, hereafter) shall consist of the elected officers. These officers shall form the core of the EC, as described later in Article VIII.

Section 4

The elected officers shall begin their term at the start of the BSNA year. The term of the elected office bearers shall be three years. The exception to these rules may occur in case of mid-term vacancies as described in section 5.

Section 5

- ii. If the President is unable to perform his/her duties of the office temporarily or for the rest of the term, the Executive VP shall serve as President during the temporary period or for the remainder of the term, as the case may be.
- ii. The EC will select one of the VPs to serve as Executive VP when the latter assumes the office of the President.
- iii. Any vacancy created under sections (i) and (ii) above or due to resignations or any other reason shall be filled by the EC either from one of its own members or a member of the GB by a majority vote of the EC.

ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1: President

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Association and shall perform all duties normally associated with such positions that include but are not limited to the following:

- i. Preside at the meetings of the EC and the GB.
- ii. Make appointments, with the approval of the EC, of the directors, regional and chapter coordinators, committees, and appoint their chairs and members in order to insure that various functions of the Association are carried out effectively.
- iii. Make executive decisions, unilaterally in case of emergencies and/or with the

- consent of the EC, as deemed necessary in the best interests of the Association.
- iv. Serve as an ex-officio member of committees.
- v. Represent the EC and GB to the Board of Trustees.
- vi. Perform all other duties sanctioned by the BSNA Constitution and those necessary for efficient and effective operation of the Association.

Section 2: Executive Vice President

The Executive Vice President (EVP) shall be responsible for all tasks assigned by the President. The EVP shall deputize for the President in the latter's absence, and become the President in the event the President is unable to complete his/her term of office.

Section 3: Vice President

The VP shall assist the President in all matters as assigned by the President.

Section 4: General Secretary

The General Secretary shall prepare agenda for EC and GB meetings, write minutes and maintain their records, handle correspondence for the Association as needed, and perform other tasks assigned by the President.

Section 5: Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all assets of the Association and monitor all income and expenses. He/she shall assist and advise the President and the EC on financial matters, and develop procedures for record keeping and reporting income and expenses for various offices and chapters of the Association. He/she shall prepare and present financial reports to the EC and the GB, and arrange for timely audits of all financial records of the Association.

Section 6: Assistant Treasurer

The Assistant Treasurer shall maintain and update the BSNA databases, prepare, publish, and distribute the BSNA directory and related publications, and assist the Treasurer in all tasks assigned by the President.

ARTICLE VIII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1: Structure

- i. The Executive Committee shall consist of core members who are the elected officers of the Association listed in Article VI (sec. 1). Only

the Core members shall have voting rights in EC meetings.

- ii. The Core members of the EC may add non-voting members to the EC to be known as Associate Members of the EC. The Associate membership may vary from year-to-year depending upon the activities undertaken by the Association.
- iii. The editors of the BSNA publications (Brahma Bharati and Brahma Vani) and homepage shall be the Associate members of the EC.
- iv. President or his /her designee shall chair all meetings of the EC.

Section 2: Duties

The EC shall be the policy making body of the Association. The following shall be the powers and responsibilities of the EC:

- i. To formulate policies and procedures for efficient and effective implementation of Association's objectives, and to develop programs for improvement of its operations.
- ii. To monitor all financial activities and make decisions on the matters of the Association.
- iii. To assist the President in formation of various organizational and functional committees of the Association.
- iv. To establish guidelines and procedures for the operation of various chapters and offices of the Association.
- v. To decide on matters not explicitly covered in the BSNA Constitution.

Section 3: Term

The Core members of the EC shall begin their three-year term at the start of the BSNA year following the election. The term of an Associate member shall expire with the expiration of special task or the term of the Core EC, whichever comes first.

ARTICLE IX: THE COUNCIL

The BSNA Council shall consist of the EC (Core and Associate), the BOT, all Chapter Presidents, Regional Coordinators, Committee chairs, convention director and other members of the convention organizing committee. The Council shall serve as a venue for interactions among the officers of the Association and for building a grass-root effort for the enhancement of the Association. The Council may pass resolutions and recommendations for consideration by the EC. Since the membership to the Council is associated with the positions held, the term of a Councilor begins with the election or appointment to such a position and ends when the individual no longer holds that position. The meeting of the Council shall be held at least once every year in P-format (described later) usually in

conjunction with the annual convention, and at other times as deemed necessary and convenient.

ARTICLE X: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1

The Board of Trustees (abbreviated as BOT) of the Association shall consist of members who have made significant contributions to the community, their profession and/or the BSNA. The BOT shall provide advice and guidance to the BSNA President, the EC and the GB in establishing and implementing the Association's goals and objectives. Furthermore, by virtue of their esteemed position in the community, the BOT shall help in enhancement, strengthening and expansion of the Association.

Section 2

- i. The BOT shall be an open-ended group. However, its membership shall not exceed twelve.
- ii. The term of each BOT member shall be three years.
- iii. The President, with the consent of the EC, shall make appointments to the BOT. To maintain continuity, the appointments shall be made in a staggered manner.
- iv. The members of the BOT shall elect their chairperson from one of its members.
- v. The BOT members may be assigned by the President the role of Regional Coordinators to facilitate expansion and activities of chapters within their region.
- vi. The BOT shall perform the role of the mediator in case of conflicts within the EC, and /or any unit of the Association that cannot be resolved by EC, or on matters not explicitly addressed in the constitution.
- vii. In its role as mediator (section vi), the BOT may form a subcommittee of the BOT for fact finding or conducting hearing, and making recommendations to the full Board, which will make final decision by a majority vote. The decision of the BOT shall be binding on all parties within BSNA.

ARTICLE XI: MEETINGS

Section 1: Type of meetings

Meetings can be of two types: P-meetings at which members are physically present including teleconferences and video conferences, and E-meetings where members communicate through electronic or other efficient media. P meeting includes any meeting that affords an opportunity for participants for real-time discussion and vote. The President shall convene and preside over all meetings except the committee

meetings, which are normally convened and presided over by the committee chair. In absence of the President, the Executive VP or the President's designee may preside over the P-meetings.

Section 2: P-meetings

The regular meetings shall be held at a time and place designated by the President for which announcements shall be made at least two weeks in advance. At times, it may be necessary to call emergency or special meetings to decide on matters requiring immediate attention. The 'call' meetings will be exempt from the two-week advance notice requirement.

Section 3: Quorum

The quorum requirement for the P-meetings of the GB is at least 50% of the core EC members plus 10% or 50 (whichever is greater) of the GB members. The quorum for other committee P-meetings is at least 50% of the members of the committee or the unit. Since E-meetings are not real-time meetings, there are no quorum requirements. However, majority of the committee members must vote in favor for a decision to be considered official.

Section 4: Vote

A simple majority vote of the members present will be needed to pass or adopt any motion, resolution and/or agenda item unless specified otherwise within the constitution. The presiding officer shall vote only in case of a 'tie'.

Section 5: Agenda

- i. The GS, in consultation with the president, shall prepare the agenda for the meetings.
- ii. Any GB member wishing to include an item in the agenda should contact the GS and/or the President. An item must be included in the agenda if any EC member or at least ten GB members propose it.
- iii. During a meeting, the presiding officer may introduce an item or accept a suggestion from the floor for inclusion in the agenda.

Section 6: E-meetings

E-meetings are not real-time meetings -because of their nature, the response time, discussion and the voting are spread over several days and the format may not be very structured. However, guidelines given below must be followed:

- i. The President, his/her designee or the Chairperson of a committee or board convenes meetings.

- ii. The convener of the meeting shall send the agenda item(s) and allow a reasonable time that is not less than three days for discussion. However, the committee may waive the three-day minimum time limit by a unanimous consent if an immediate decision is required to handle emergencies.
- iii. When the discussion period is over, the convener will call for the vote and set a time limit before which all votes must be cast. If within the time limit, enough people have not cast their votes to reach a simple majority (as described in section 3) for or against the item, the convener may allow extra time or reopen the discussion.
- iv. Members may cast their votes via E-mail, telephone, FAX, or any other efficient media. The votes must be sent to the GS or an official designated by the convener to monitor and record the votes.
- v. For further verification, the GS or the recorder will announce the final result identifying persons voting for and against the item. If no one disputes his/her announced vote, the result becomes official.
- vi. An amendment to the constitution, requiring the vote of the GB members, cannot be finalized via E-meetings. However, the EC may finalize via E-meetings whether an item for constitutional amendment may be placed for consideration by the GB at a P-meetings.

Section 7: Decisions

- i. In order to become official, all decisions must be made at a meeting.
- ii. The EC shall make policy decisions, make procedural rules, develop and publish operational guidelines necessary for the efficient operation of all elements of the Association in achieving its objectives.

ARTICLE XII: COMMITTEES

The EC shall establish various Standing Committees in order to manage certain business of the Association regularly and effectively. These committees, known as Standing Committees, shall be permanent in nature and continue to perform their duties unless explicitly dissolved by the EC. Also, the EC may establish ad hoc committees to handle certain one-time business, especially matters that require certain research and debate before a final decision can be made. The ad hoc committees will expire after making the final recommendation to the EC unless the EC votes to extend their term for further work on the matter. All committees shall carry out their directives and report to EC.

Section 1: Nominations and Election Committee

- i. Hereafter referred to as NEC, the Nominations and Election Committee shall be a standing committee of the Association. Its purpose will be to seek out highly qualified and dedicated members to fill various vacancies occurring due to expiration of term, resignations or creation of a new office. The NEC shall make recommendations to the President and the EC.
- ii. The NEC shall prepare the guidelines for conducting elections, and submit the same to EC for approval. Upon approval by the EC, the guidelines will be submitted to the BOT for final approval. The approved guidelines become official rules and remain effective until modified.
- iii. For elected positions, the NEC shall prepare the ballots and conduct election, whenever necessary, as per established rules.
- iv. The NEC shall consist of three members appointed by the President with the consent of the EC. No Core EC member shall be a member of the NEC.
- v. The term of the NEC members shall be three years, starting in first half of the year newly elected EC takes office and ending in December after the general elections for the officers of the Association are held.

ARTICLE XIII: THE CHAPTERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Section 1: Chapters

For local involvement and activities, BSNA shall establish chapters where sufficient memberships and interests exist. The decision to establish a chapter shall be made by the EC upon recommendation of the President. A chapter may be started from scratch or by splitting an existing chapter in consideration of large geographical spread and/or memberships.

Section 2: Officers

The officers of the chapters shall follow similar pattern as that of the Association. Depending on the size of the chapter, the number of officers may be less than the Association's officers as described in Article VI. However, each chapter must have a President and a secretary/treasurer. The terms of the officers shall coincide with the Association's officer and start and end with the BSNA's calendar year.

Section 3: Election of the Officers

Each chapter shall elect its officers by a majority vote of its members and send the names to the EC for ratification. The EC may make an appointment of the Chapter President to establish a new chapter or for a chapter that has been inactive or has failed to conduct

an election in timely manner. The chapter must elect its officers within three years of being established to coincide with the Association's national election. An existing chapter must conduct election by December 31st of the year the Association's election takes place. If no chapter election is held during the specified time, the newly elected BSNA President, with the consent of the EC, may appoint a member of the chapter as the chapter president.

Section 4: Duties of the Chapter Officers

The duties shall be similar to the Association's officers but limited to the chapter level. The chapter president shall represent the chapter in the BSNA Council, and communicate with the BSNA President on the status and activities of his/her chapter. He/she shall be the official spokesperson for the chapter. The chapter president shall keep its membership informed of the Association's activities and decisions made by the EC. Other officers of the chapter shall communicate directly to the chapter president.

Section 5: Activities

Each chapter is expected to organize activities that will help maintain members' enthusiasm, strengthen bonds among members and expand its memberships.

Section 6: Finances

The Association shall distribute a portion of the membership fee collected to the respective chapter as per guidelines established by the EC.

ARTICLE XIV: RECALL & RESIGNATIONS

Section 1: Recall

- i. The GB can recall any elected official of the Association by a two-third vote at a P-meeting. The GB must also elect, at the same meeting, a replacement to fill the vacancy thus created.
- ii. Any person appointed by the EC, not by the GB, may be recalled by a two-third vote of the EC.
- iii. Any committee established by the EC, not by the GB, may be disbanded by a two-third vote of the EC before its normal term.
- iv. Any person appointed by the President may be suspended or dismissed by the President with the consent of EC.
- v. If an elected officer fails to perform his/her duties causing the operations of Association to suffer, or engages in activities that may tarnish the image of BSNA, the EC, by a two-third vote, may make recommendation to the BOT for removal of the officer. The BOT shall conduct hearing and make its decision as described under Article X, section 2 (vi). The

EC shall fill any position, vacated pursuant to this procedure, immediately by appointing a GB member to the vacated position by a simple majority vote of remaining EC members.

Section 2: Resignation

Any member can resign from the membership or any office he/she holds. The resignation must be submitted to the President who will find a replacement.

ARTICLE XV: AMENDMENTS

Section 1

- i. Any member of the EC may ask the EC to consider an amendment. If two-third EC members support the proposal, then EC will move further as described later.
- ii. A proposal to amend the constitution may be initiated by a petition signed by at least 25 GB members and three core EC members.

Section 2

- i. The amendments initiated as per section 1 must be scrutinized and voted by the EC for submission to the GB.
- ii. The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the GB at a P-meeting. In order for the amendment to be approved, it must receive "yes" vote by at least two-third of the GB members present.

ARTICLE XVI: ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT

The President, with the advice and consent of EC shall devise the organizational structure such as Chapters, Regions and Committees, and establish guidelines for the operation of these units in a manner consistent with the constitution and the objectives of the Association.

ARTICLE XVII: OTHER MATTERS

The EC shall make decisions on matters not covered under this constitution.

ARTICLE XVIII: DISSOLUTION

In the event that the Association has to be dissolved, its assets will be transferred to a recognized not-for-profit organization with objectives similar to those of the BSNA. The selection of a suitable organization shall be made by the EC and BOT.

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