

By Laws

INDIA ASSOCIATION OF RIO GRANDE VALLEY (IARGV)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

PREAMBLE

Mission Statement

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the understanding of the culture of India. The Association shall offer programs and services that help promote the awareness of Indian heritage and recognition of its contribution to the North American society. The Association will also direct its effort to promote unity and a higher level of affinity between the members of the Indian community in Rio Grande Valley. These efforts will also include activities, which allow assimilation and adoption of the Indian community members in their present environment. The India Association of Rio Grande Valley will be a non-profit organization and shall not participate in political and/or religious activities.

ARTICLE 1. ORGANIZATION

1.1 The name of the organization shall be the India Association of Rio Grande Valley hereafter called IARGV. 1.2 Its main office shall be located in the City of Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas and shall have an official seal. 1.3 The association may at its pleasure by a vote of the membership body change its name and location.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSES

The following are the purposes for which this association has been formed: " help members in Rio Grande Valley unite under a platform and establish a common agenda on matters of common interest " conduct social, cultural, charitable, educational and other activities " strengthen interpersonal relations and unity among members " promote friendly relations and understanding between members and others in the community " arrange and hold social and cultural activities at the appropriate times and places " develop further cooperation with other organizations having similar objectives

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 The India Association of RGV is open to all races, nationalities and gender who may wish to participate in the Association's activities. Membership may be obtained by submitting an application. The following criteria will be followed: " born in India and living in the Rio Grade Valley area " children of any member who are living in this area " any interested person, living in Rio Grande Valley, who is willing to abide by the rules and regulations of the organization.

3.2 A member is one who:

a. is at least 18 years of age. b. has paid his/her annual membership fee on the prescribed form, and c. complies with the IARGV's Article of Incorporation, the Constitution and the By-Laws.

3.3 Types of Membership

1) Membership, 2) Family membership, 3) Student membership 4) Life membership,

3.4 Annual membership fee will be as follows:

" Membership (Individual) : \$25

" Family Membership : \$50

" Student Membership : \$10

" Life Membership(Family) : \$500

However, members are welcome to contribute as much as they want.

3.5 Only members shall have voting privileges. (Family membership will have unitary vote representation)

3.5 Members shall be able to participate in the decision making process through written suggestions to the Board. At the same time, members shall accept and abide by the decisions of the Board.

3.6 Family membership is limited to spouses and children and parents of the spouses only.

ARTICLE 4. OFFICERS

4.1 The organization of IARGV shall consist of:

a. The General Assembly

b. Executive Committee (Executive committee members will be the Board of Directors (BOD) of IARGV)

4.2 The Executive Committee Officers of this association shall be president, secretary, treasurer, chairs of standing committees and a maximum of four members of the association. All officers will be elected by a simple majority of the members present at the time of annual elections.

4.3 Eligibility

A member to be eligible to the election of office must have been an active member for a minimum of one year.

4.4 Method of Election

All officers shall be elected at the annual election meeting. A simple majority of those members present will constitute a majority.

4.5 Elections and term of officers

All officers will be elected at the annual meeting. In general all officers shall hold office for a term of two years. All officers are eligible for re-election.

Removal: the Executive Committee may fill any vacancies in an office for the unexpired portion of the term of such office.

President: The president shall be the titular head of the organization. He/she shall be responsible for the organization and be the primary spokesperson. He/she may designate any of the responsibility on an ad hoc basis to the other members or officers of the association. The president will assume the office of the president two years after his/her election to the office.

Secretary: The Secretary shall keep minutes of proceeding of all meetings and shall perform the entire duties incident to the office of secretary including policies and directions.

Treasurer: The treasurer is responsible for keeping an accurate account of all income and expense of the association and presenting a budget to the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall consist of president, secretary, treasurer, chairpersons of the standing committees and a maximum of four members. In addition, the immediate past president shall be an ex-officio member with voting privileges. Members of the committee are therefore as follows; a) President, b) Secretary c) Treasurer, d) chairpersons of the standing committees e) members of the association f) immediate past president (ex-officio). The executive committee shall be responsible for all the operational, financial and planning decisions and shall oversee the activities of the standing committees.

ARTICLE 5. COMMITTEES

5.1 Standing Committees: The standing committee will be responsible to and report to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will also determine the powers and duties of the following specific committees: Planning committee, Cultural committee, Financial Affairs and Fund Raising committee, Membership and Nominating committee, Public Relations committee, Community service committee and Banquet committee.

5.2 Chairpersons: The terms of offices for each committee shall be two years. No chairperson may serve more than three consecutive terms on the same committee. Each committee shall elect a vice-chairperson. The president and the secretary of the association shall be ex-officio members of each standing committee with voting privileges. Each committee is charged with the responsibilities of developing and periodically evaluating a commission, which it may enlarge upon and amplify which shall not be inconsistent with the brief charge included in these bylaws. The members of each committee are selected by the chairperson but are subject to the approval by the executive committee.

5.3 Planning Committee: The Planning Committee in general would be chaired by the secretary and consist of not less than two but no more than four additional persons appointed on the recommendation of the president and approved by the chairman of the committee. The Planning committee shall be responsible for formulating and periodically updating the goals and objectives of the association. It will also evaluate the programs of the various committees in achieving the goals established and reporting these evaluations to the Executive Committee with the recommendation for improvement or deletion of the various activities. The committee shall meet as frequently as needed (a minimum of three times annually) to coordinate the immediate and long range programs and activities of the association.

5.4 Cultural Committee: The Cultural Committee shall consist of a chairperson and not less than five members appointed by the chairperson, one of whom should be a member of the Financial Affairs and Fund Raising Committee. This committee shall be responsible to review all cultural activities and plan for new activities. All proposals for new cultural programs will be submitted to this committee for evaluation and approval. The committee will also design, formulate and arrange for new cultural programs, which will be commensurate with the primary objectives of the association.

5.5 Financial Affairs and Fund Raising Committee: The committee will consist of a chairperson and vice-chairperson. The Treasurer of the association will be an ex-officio member with voting privileges. In addition, the chairperson of the Planning Committee, and Cultural Committee and three other members shall serve on the committee. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to supervise the financial affairs of the association and formulate such policies for sound financial growth of the association. It will also be responsible for planning and supervising all fund raising activities. It shall have the authority to direct the investment and reinvestment of the funds of the association without further action by the Executive Committee, but it shall, nevertheless, make regular reports to the Executive Committee with respect to the current financial affairs of the association. This committee shall also be subject to any direction as to the policy which the Executive Committee, but need not, determine to give it from time to time. It shall assist the treasurer in preparing annually, for submission to the Executive Committee and the General Assembly, a budget for the ensuing fiscal year.

5.6 Membership and Nominating Committee: The Membership and Nominating Committee shall consist of a chairperson, who shall be the immediate past president; and not less than four persons appointed on the recommendation of the president, one-half of the members selected to serve on the committee will not be currently serving on the Executive Committee. The committee shall select, screen, qualify and nominate members, officers and others as directed by the Executive Committee of the Association for presentation at the annual meeting of the Association. Nominations by the committee and from the floor shall be accompanied by acceptance by the nominee. Nothing in the function of the Nominating Committee shall preclude nominating from the floor at the time of elections. The committee shall be responsible for the association's program of information and service to its members. .

5.7 Public Relations Committee: The Public Relations Committee will consist of a chairperson and not less than three additional persons. This committee will be responsible for establishing communication and determining relationships with other associations with goals and objectives similar to those of the India Association of RG. The committee will also be responsible for communication with the news media, such as, radio, television and the newspapers. All communications and announcements relating to the activities of the association will be formulated and present by this committee in coordination with the president. The committee is also charged with the responsibility of establishing a regular publication (a journal/magazine) which shall be the official voice of the association.

5.8 Banquet Committee: The committee will consist of a chairperson and not less than three members. The chair of the Banquet Committee will automatically serve on the Cultural Committee. The committee will be responsible for planning and executing all arrangements for food services and other necessities for an cultural functions, working in conjunction with the Cultural Committee.

5.9 Community Service Committee: The Committee will consist of a chairperson and not less than three members. The Chair of the Community Service Committee will automatically serve on the Planning Committee. The committee will be responsible for planning and execution of the community service programs. Chair of the committee will represent the Indian Association of RG when interacting with other humanitarian segments in the state of Texas.

5.10 Ad Hoc Committee: Ad Hoc Committees may be appointed as necessary. Such committees will conduct business as may be deemed necessary or advisable. The president in consultation with the Membership and Nominating Committee will make these appointments.

ARTICLE 6. CONTRACTS AND INSTRUMENTS

6.1 Contracts: The Executive Committee may authorize any officer, employee or other agent of the Association to enter into any contract or to execute and deliver any instrument in the name and on behalf of the Association and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

6.2 Checks, Drafts, Notes: All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money and all notes or other evidence of indebtedness issued in the name of the Association, shall be signed by such officer or agent of the Association and in such manner as the Executive Committee may determine from time to time.

6.3 Indebtedness: The highest amount of indebtedness or liability to which the corporation shall at any one time be subject shall not in any case exceed the value of the property owned by it. The members and directors of the corporation shall not be liable personally for corporate debts, and their private property shall be exempt from liability thereafter.

6.4 Dissolution: Upon the dissolution of IARGV, the Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of IARGV, dispose of all assets of IARGV, exclusively for the purpose of IARGV in such manner, or to such other organization, charitable educational or scientific purpose, as shall at the same time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations, under section 501 C(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the District court of Cameron County, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purpose.

ARTICLE 7. AMMENDMENTS

Any section of this Constitution and/or any Bylaws may be altered, changed or amended at any regular meeting or any special meeting ordered for that purpose by the majority of the members present.

ARTICLE 8. IMPLEMENTATION

The constitution and by-laws shall be implemented and enforced immediately until it is amended by the Executive committee.

By Law Amendments

By law amendments to provide a framework for YOUTH WING formation and some Executive Committee conduct rules.

General Body Special Meeting :

DATE: Sunday, March 20, 2011

PLACE: 2011 VICTOR PARK M STREET IN HARLINGEN, TX

TIME: 1 pm – 1:30 pm

Agenda: EC is happy to present you the amendments to Bylaws for your perusal and acceptance vote for implementation.

Bylaw Amendment I : General Body acceptance for any changes to the Bylaws can be solicited through email. Members can vote or voice their preference through email.

Bylaw Amendment II: Formation of the **IARGV YOUTH WING**.

IARGV By-law allows an addition of ad hoc committee. Under this arrangement, a new committee, Youth Committee shall be instituted.

The YOUTH COMMITTEE WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE:

IARGV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE => YOUTH COMMITTEE => YOUTH WING

YOUTH COMMITTEE:

The **YOUTH committee** shall be responsible for all arrangements pertaining to the activities for young adult group - henceforth called as **YOUTH WING** of IARGV. The committee shall be a part of the youth wing; and a liaison between the Executive Committee of IARGV.

a. The **Executive Committee (EC)** shall appoint one of the members as the **chair person** of the Youth Committee. The Chair person with his/her committee shall attempt to motivate and encourage the youths from **14-25 ages** to participate and play an active role in the Youth Wing activities.

b. The Youth wing consists of a group of young adults who work with the rest of the Indian Association of Rio Grande Valley to promote the Indian culture as well as strengthen and expand the Indian community in Rio Grande Valley. This is done through community service, educational activities, organizing entertainment and cultural events as well as events celebrating Indian holidays.

c. The **Youth Committee and Wing** shall operate under the direction of the **EC of IARGV**.

d. The **Youth Wing** must elect a maximum of **eight members** to be part of the **Youth committee**. (IARGV bylaws will be followed for the nomination and election of the members from youth wing to the youth committee. Youth wing members interested in youth wing committee shall be nominated by two youth wing members to the IARGV nominating committee. The nomination and election of the youth wing committee will be the responsibility of IARGV nominating committee).

e. The elected (eight) members of the Youth committee must elect the Vice Chair of the Youth Committee among them.

- f. The **Vice-chair** of the Youth committee shall attend the Executive Committee meetings by invitations.
- g. To be on the **Youth Committee and a member of the Youth Wing**, the person should have current IARGV membership through family or individual student membership and in the age group of 14-25. There is no application process. It is voluntary.

Rules, Regulations and Guidelines for the Youth wing

1. Follow and obey rules set forth by the Youth Committee.
2. Members of youth wing will exercise utmost discipline and exemplary conduct while engaging in IARGV activities.
3. Members will participate in all the IARGV and Youth Wing activities on voluntary basis and will not hold IARGV and its members responsible for any misfortunes.
4. Youth members under the age of 18 should present parental consent before participating in any of the IARGV activities.
5. Members will follow all the rules and regulations at all times during the IARGV activities, the violations of rules and regulations will lead to the dismissal of the member from the group. IARGV EC decisions will supersede all other decisions.

Guidelines for the Chair of the Youth committee:

1. Youth Committee Chair (Chair) is responsible for all the operations, control, and discipline of the Youth Wing.
2. The chair will inform in advance to the EC of all activities and engagements of the Youth Wing.
3. The chair will immediately report any concerns and violations of the youth members to the EC.

Bylaw Amendment III: EC Meeting rules:

1. Amendment to the Quorum to pass the motion and directives in the EC meetings.
2. Absenteeism policy for the EC meetings (This is necessary in the light of the Quorum)

Amendments:

1. **Quorum:** The quorum to pass any bylaw amendments, rules and regulations, initiatives and decisions should constitute a minimum of **50%** of the prevailing number of EC members. A simple majority of this number constitutes the majority.

2. Absenteeism Policy for the EC members:

a. The EC member will **strive to attend all the meetings** and teleconferences as appropriate in person or through virtual media - when available.

b. An EC member can not be absent for more than **THREE meetings** in succession (including teleconference meetings) without prior excuse by the board. Failing this rule, the EC will decide whether the member had a justifiable reason for the absences and whether he/she should continue as the Executive Committee member based on that.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Immanuel Edinbarough, Secretary, IARGV

