

Note on changes/amendments to the Detroit Telugu Association Constitution

Constitution of a non-profit organization shall be limited to the organizing principles and the operational details shall be limited to Bylaws. Unfortunately, such distinction in the DTA Constitution and Bylaws was muddled over the years. Besides, the changing attitudes towards volunteerism in the community and significantly increased membership over the last two decades necessitated a more defined operational guidelines for the longevity of the organization. Keeping these in mind, the DTA Constitution and Bylaws Committee appointed by the Executive Committee suggested several changes to the DTA Constitution. While simple grammatical and typographical errors as well as rewording of some sentences to bring clarity do not require explanation, major modifications are as follows:

1. Operational details such as how privacy of the membership records should be maintained, how the bank accounts are to be divided, order of succession to the presidency, qualifications for nomination to the president, etc., were removed from constitution and will become part of the updated Bylaws.
2. A non-discrimination statement that is required for all non-profit organizations was added.
3. Detroit Telugu Association being a cultural organization based on Telugu language and arts as the sole unifying principle, this element was emphasized in the Objectives.
4. Non-profit organizations like DTA cannot actively participate in political activity to influence legislation. A clause was added to the objectives to make this obvious to the members.
5. While all members of DTA enjoy the same privileges, participation in the organizational elections to elect the Governing Body as well as amending the constitution and bylaws is now limited to the residents of the State of Michigan.
6. The four Members-at-large in the Executive Committee without specific designation of responsibilities are changed to Joint-Cultural Secretary, Sports Secretary, Hospitality Secretary, and Hospitality Joint-Secretary. Their roles in the organization will be detailed in the Bylaws. Since Youth Members do not have voting privileges in the Executive Committee, their reference in the Constitution was not needed. They will be described in the Bylaws.
7. An important article of a constitution is about Meetings. This has been missing in DTA constitution and is now added. Specific details of the meetings will be included in the Bylaws.
8. Several articles in the current constitution were consolidated to avoid redundancy.

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DTA Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Members:

Krishna Rao Maddipati (Chair)

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