

Albany Maharashtra Mandal, Inc. Constitution

Preamble

Desirous of preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of the state of Maharashtra, and of uniting into a cohesive group, we the Marathi loving people of the Capital District of Albany and surrounding areas do hereby constitute the Albany Maharashtra Mandal and bequeath to ourselves this Constitution and the Bylaws.

1. This organization shall be known as the Albany Maharashtra Mandal (hereinafter called AMM or the Association).
2. An Executive Committee (EC) duly elected by AMM members as described in Article 7 shall manage all the business and affairs of AMM as per the Constitution and Bylaws.

3. Principles and Objectives

3.1 The objectives of AMM shall be:

- 3.1.1** To promote literary, cultural and charitable activities related to preserving and promoting the heritage of Maharashtra (3rd largest state in India) in particular and India in general.
- 3.1.2** To create opportunities for and nurture inter-cultural exchange of this Marathi speaking population.
- 3.1.3** To individually and collectively help and be of service to members of AMM and of the local community.

3.2 AMM shall be a non-political organization.

3.3 Any member wishing to participate in the activities of AMM shall not be discriminated against on the basis of gender, age, race, national origin, color, creed, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, or state of handicap.

4. Membership

4.1 Eligibility for Membership: Eligibility for membership in this Association shall be as set forth in this Constitution and the Bylaws, and applicants for membership shall comply with and be subject to the requirements imposed by this Constitution and the Bylaws. Any individual who has an affinity for Maharashtrian Indian culture or the Marathi language is eligible to become a member of the Association by paying the membership dues decided by the EC. Every such member shall have an obligation to uphold this Constitution and the Bylaws of AMM.

4.2 The membership of AMM shall consist of the following categories:

- 1)** Family membership: an individual (the "Primary Member"), his/her spouse, and minor children under the age of 18 permanently residing in the same family household within the United States of America are eligible to enroll under Family membership. Additional Members above the age of 18 living in the same family household are required to pay an additional fee during the period of the membership year. This membership shall entitle all members qualified in the

forgoing list to participate in the Association's activities and enjoy all member privileges except voting rights. Voting rights shall be limited to the Primary Member and his/her spouse, each having one vote.

- 2)** Individual Membership: any adult age 18 and above, residing in the United States of America can take Individual Membership in a calendar year by paying the membership dues in full. This membership shall entitle the individual to participate in the Association's activities and enjoy all member privileges including one vote.
 - 3)** Life Membership: Life Membership can be for an individual or for a family commonly residing together within the United States of America. Life Members get up to 50% discount in fees on all AMM organized events in a calendar year that are open to general members.
 - 4)** Preferred Membership: An individual or a family commonly residing within the United States of America in the same family household are eligible for Preferred Membership. Currently, Preferred Membership is offered for a term of 5 years. Preferred Membership members are eligible for reduced fees over general members on all AMM organized events during their 5 years membership period.
- 4.3** Annual dues for each membership category shall be decided by the EC. The EC shall have the right to revise any or all of the membership dues depending on inflation or the economic situation, or any other factors.

5. Executive Committee (EC)

- 5.1** The EC shall be comprised of minimum of 5 members and a maximum of eleven members, including the following elected office bearers:
- a) Chairman
 - b) Vice Chairman
 - c) Secretary
 - d) Treasurer
 - e) Membership Officer

Each EC member will have equal voting rights in all the matters of EC. Appointment, terms of office and voting rights are as outlined in Article 5.2, Article 5.3 and Article 5.4.

- 5.2** These EC office bearer positions shall be elected by the members of AMM, in an election with a secret ballot, at an Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) for a two-year term of office. The EC may also contain up to six additional members at large as outlined in Article 5.3. Any voting member of AMM is eligible to run for any office except as limited by Article 5.4.
- 5.3** The EC office bearers by majority vote may appoint up to six additional members to serve on the EC for a two-year term of office for the first two founding years. These appointed members will be full voting members of the EC.

- 5.4 Term Limits: All elected EC members shall be allowed to hold a particular office/position for one term. They shall be allowed to hold another position on the EC, but in any event a member may not serve on the EC for greater than six consecutive years. All appointed EC members after December 31, 2016 will serve on the EC for a one-year term. An exception to these limits will be allowed in a situation where not enough candidates stand for election to fill all the elected or appointed EC positions.
- 5.5 All office bearers of first founding EC shall have terms that run to December 31, 2016. The term of office for members of all subsequent ECs shall begin on January 1 of each year and end on December 31 of such year.
- 5.6 If any vacancy arises on the EC through any cause, the EC may appoint any current member of AMM to fill that vacancy by majority vote. This appointment should be communicated to all AMM members within 30 days.
- 5.7 Any EC member may be dismissed from the EC by a minimum of two-thirds of the EC members voting for dismissal. Twenty-one days' notice shall be given to such dismissed EC member, and after the twenty-one days expire such dismissed EC member shall no longer serve on the EC.
- 5.8 Every other year in August or during Ganapati celebrations, the EC by majority vote shall appoint two Election Officers according to the provisions of the Bylaws. These officers will help conduct annual elections during the AGBM held per Article 7. The term of these Election Officers will end after the AGBM.

6. Finance / Asset Management

- 6.1 AMM shall be a non-profit organization. No dividends or monetary profits shall be declared or paid to the EC or AMM members thereof.
- 6.2 The association's income shall be derived from membership dues, fees for functions and events, and charitable donations and grants.
- 6.3 No monetary or physical assets of AMM shall be distributable to AMM members or other private persons. If the association is dissolved per Article 8, any remaining assets will be donated per Article 8.3.
- 6.4 All AMM members, including EC members, serve as volunteers and cannot be compensated in any form for their time and effort for services rendered to, or duties performed on behalf of, the Association.
- 6.5 A non-EC member shall be appointed by the EC for auditing the AMM accounts of the fiscal year and the results of this audit shall be published to all members by Sankrant day in the following year.

7. General Body

- 7.1 The General Body of the Association shall consist of all dues paying members, and will have power over the EC or any other Committee of the Association.
- 7.2 An Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) of the Association will be held coincident with Diwali celebrations, or during October or November each year.
- 7.3 The following activities shall take place during the AGBM:

- 7.3.1** The Election Officers shall conduct an election for the EC.
 - 7.3.2** The Chairman will present a 'State of the Association' report.
 - 7.3.3** The Treasurer will report on the fiscal status of the Association.
 - 7.3.4** Any other special motions, such as motions to amend the Constitution, shall be considered.
- 7.4** A special General Body meeting may be called by a majority vote of the EC or by a written petition signed by 1/3rd of the dues paying members. In either case, the Chairman shall inform the General Body of the matter and call a General Body meeting within 30 days of receiving such notice.

8. Dissolution and Winding Up

- 8.1** If the Association ceases to function or the EC decides that the Association is no longer able to fulfill the objectives outlined in this constitution, then the Association may be dissolved as follows in Article 8.2.
- 8.2** The EC shall circulate a notice of intent of dissolution to all members and call a special General Body Meeting no sooner than 30 days from the date such notice is circulated. At this meeting, the motion to dissolve can be considered only if enough members are present to cast the greater of 25 votes or votes equal to 25% of all dues paying members. The motion to dissolve must pass by a two-thirds majority of all votes cast.
- 8.3** Upon dissolution of the Association, the EC shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Association, donate of all of the assets for charitable purposes to non-profit organizations.

9. Amendment

- 9.1** This Constitution may be amended as follows: Any AMM member, including EC members, may circulate a notice of intent to amend and a description of the proposed amendment to all members at least 30 days prior to the Annual General Body Meeting. At this meeting, the motion to amend can be considered only if enough members are present to cast the lesser of 25 votes or votes equal to 25% of all dues paying members. The motion to amend must pass by a two-thirds majority of all votes cast.