

# Iowa Nepalese Association (INA)

INA Town Hall Meeting

Waukees Public Library

10/19/2024 1 PM - 2 PM

Meeting Purpose: Annual General Meeting 2024

Invitees: All Active Iowa Nepalese Association Members

## **INA Members Present:**

Pradip Sthapit

Punam Lama

Kapil Limbu

Anil Jhah

Sanjib Phuyal

Bishwas Bhattarai

Niroj Koirala

Sarvendra Agrahari

Bibhuti Khatiwada

Binod Pokharel

Sanjay Shrestha (dialed in)

## General Election Update

### Self Nomination

President: Pradip Sthapit

Treasurer: Bibhuti Khatiwada

Public Relations Director: Aabriti Pandey

### Current INA (2024-2026) Executive Board Members

**President:** Pradip Sthapit

**Vice President:** Punam Limbu

**General Secretary:** Bishwas Bhattarai

**Treasurer:** Bibhuti Khatiwada

**Public Relations Director:** Aabriti Pandey

#### **Executive Members:**

Niroj Koirala,

Shweta Agrahari,

Sanjib Phuyal

## Financial Update and Overview

### Financial Overview

- **Summary**
  - 2 checking Accounts and 1 Business Market Rate Savings Account with Wells Fargo
  - **General Checking Account**
    - General Purpose
    - Sources of Revenue: individual donations, membership, Company Volunteer Hours, Deusi Bhailo
    - INA Zelle is linked to this account
    - **\$10,438.00**- includes deposits for Dashain Tihar Party 2024
  - **FLL Checking Account**
    - Sources of Revenue- Company Donations/ Sponsorships
    - **\$7,301**
  - **Business Market Rate Savings Account**
    - **\$1,103**
  - **PayPal Account:**
    - Source of Revenue: Membership
    - **\$3867**
- **Opportunities to grow Revenue**
  - **INA is in real need of revenue growth- Open to ideas!**

## Discussion Point: Multiple Bank Accounts for the Iowa Nepalese Association (INA)

- **Action Item:** Verify if INA is permitted to have more than one bank account (such as savings and checking accounts).
- **Rationale:** Having both savings and checking accounts could allow for better financial management and tracking of the Association's funds.
- **Follow-up:** Responsible members will check with the bank and legal/financial advisors to confirm if this arrangement is allowable under INA's financial policies and regulations.

## Event Financial Summaries

- **Action Item:** Ensure that a summary of the financial details for every event is shared on the INA website.
- **Rationale:** This measure is intended to promote transparency and accountability within the organization by making financial information readily accessible to members.
- **Implementation Plan:** Develop a standard template for event financial summaries to be uploaded to the website following the conclusion of each event. A designated team member will be responsible for ensuring this is done in a timely manner.

# Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws of the Iowa Nepalese Association from the AGM on October 19, 2024

## **Introduction:**

The following amendments to the bylaws of the Iowa Nepalese Association are proposed based on discussions and decisions made during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on October 19, 2024. These changes aim to improve the governance, election processes, and membership guidelines of the Association.

# Proposed Amendment to Article VII, Section 3 of the Iowa Nepalese Association Bylaws

## **Statement of Intent:**

The purpose of this amendment is to clearly define the eligibility requirements for candidates running for Executive Officer Board positions and other Executive Board positions, as well as to specify the voting rights of non-Iowa resident members.

## **Current Text:**

Article VII, Section 3 reads as follows:

*"To run for election for any Executive Board position, the candidate(s) must be a general member of the Association for at least a year and should be an active member."*

## **Amendment Text:**

### **Original intended clauses are hereby retired and is replaced by follow:**

Article VII, Section 3:

*"To be eligible to run for any Executive Officer Board position, candidates must have been a general member of the Association for at least one year, must be an active member, and must be a resident of Iowa. For all other Executive Board positions, candidates must be active general members of the Association. Non-Iowa resident members of the Iowa Nepalese Association will not have voting rights."*

## **Rationale:**

This amendment ensures that eligibility criteria for Executive Officer Board positions are clearly defined, emphasizing the importance of residency and active participation in the Association. It also clarifies that non-Iowa resident members do not have voting rights, reinforcing the focus on local community involvement.

## **Adoption:**

This amendment was presented for discussion at the general meeting of the Iowa Nepalese Association and was Adopted by all the members present.

## Proposed Amendment to Article VII, Section 5 of the Iowa Nepalese Association Bylaws

### **Statement of Intent:**

The purpose of this amendment is to address the situation when there are no self-nominations for existing positions, allowing continuity in leadership while ensuring that the process remains subject to oversight by the election committee.

### **Current Text:**

Article VII, Section 5 reads as follows:

*"The term of the elected positions will be for two years. Candidates may run for election for up to two consecutive terms for the same Executive Board position."*

### **Amendment Text:**

**Original intended clauses are hereby retired and is replaced by follow:**

Article VII, Section 5:

*"The term of the elected positions will be for two years. Candidates may run for election for up to two consecutive terms for the same Executive Board position. In the event that there are no self-nominations for any of the existing positions, the current members may continue in their roles for an additional term, subject to approval by the election committee."*

### **Rationale:**

This amendment allows for the continuation of current members in their roles when no new candidates are available, ensuring stability in the leadership of the organization. The process remains fair and transparent with the involvement and approval of the election committee.

### **Adoption:**

This amendment was presented for discussion at the general meeting of the Iowa Nepalese Association and was Adopted by all the members present.

## Proposed Amendment to Article XIV: Vote of the Iowa Nepalese Association Bylaws

### **Statement of Intent:**

The purpose of this amendment is to clarify the voting eligibility requirements for members and ensure that the process aligns with the principles of the Association.

### **Current Text:**

Article XIV: Vote reads as follows:

*"At all meetings of this Association, the voting shall be by ballot. Each member in good standing, above the age of 18, having membership for at least two months and present at the meeting shall be entitled to cast one vote. The majority of all votes cast shall decide all questions voted upon unless otherwise provided for."*

### **Amendment Text:**

**Original intended clauses are hereby retired and is replaced by follow:**

Article XIV:

*"At all meetings of this Association, voting shall be conducted by ballot. Each member in good standing, who is over the age of 18, a resident of Iowa, holds active membership in the Association, and is present at the meeting, shall be entitled to cast one vote. A majority of all votes cast shall determine the outcome of all matters, unless otherwise specified in the bylaws."*

### **Rationale:**

This amendment aims to refine the voting criteria by emphasizing the importance of residency, active membership, and participation in the Association's decision-making process.

### **Adoption:**

This amendment was presented for discussion at the general meeting of the Iowa Nepalese Association and was Adopted by all the members present.