**Item 1: Bylaw Amendment Committee**

**ARTICLE XVI: AMENDMENTS**

The Chairman of the Board in consultation with the Executive Committee & Board of Directors shall have all the powers and authority to call for a General Body meeting to amend the Constitution and Bylaws.

The Board of Directors and Executive Committee shall form an independent committee that includes members of the Executive Committee, members from the Board of Directors and members of general membership to amend the bylaws. ~~The bylaw amendment committee shall not include the President, Past President nor the Chairman of the Board of Directors.~~ The bylaw amendment committee shall not include the President of Executive Committee, nor the Chairman of the Board of Directors. It shall also not include immediate Past President of Executive Committee nor immediate Past Chairman of Board of Directors. The bylaw amendment committee shall consist of Seven (7) members: 2 members from Board of Directors, 2 members from Executive Committee and 3 members from general membership.

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of General Body members present at any meeting, provided a quorum is present and a copy of the proposed amendment(s) is provided to each General Body member at least one (1) week prior to the said meeting called by the Chairman of the Board, Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

**Item 2: Membership Term and Dues; Item 6: Adult Children on**

**Family Membership**

**ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 2: Member Categories, Rights and Privileges**

**Family Life Membership:**

a. Any family meeting the Eligibility and Maintenance Requirements will be eligible to be a Life member of the Association.

b. One person from each Life member family is eligible to hold a leadership position on the Board of Directors, Executive Committee or special committees subject to being a member consistently for prior two (2) years

c. Each Life member family is entitled to Two (2) votes in elections for officers for the Executive Committee or Board of Directors as well as other decisions that are put to the members to vote upon.

**Family Yearly and Half-Yearly Membership:**

a. Any family meeting the Eligibility and Maintenance Requirements will be eligible to be an Active Family Yearly or Active Family Half-Yearly member of this Association. Half Yearly membership is offered only between July 1 and December 31 of the year.

b. One person from each Active ~~Yearly~~ member family is eligible to hold a leadership position on the Board of Directors, Executive Committee or special committees subject to being a member consistently for prior two (2) consecutive years

c. Each Active member family is entitled to Two (2) votes in elections for officers for the Executive Committee or Board of Directors as well as other decisions that are put to the members to vote upon.

**Individual Yearly and Half-Yearly Membership:**

a. Any adult member meeting the Eligibility and Maintenance Requirements will be eligible to be an Active Individual Yearly or Active Individual Half-Yearly member of this Association. Half Yearly membership is offered only between July 1 and December 31 of the year.

b. Each Active Individual member is eligible to hold a leadership position on the Board of Directors, Executive Committee or special committees subject to being a member consistently for prior two (2) consecutive years

c. Each Active Individual member is entitled to one (1) vote in elections for officers for the Executive Committee or Board of Directors as well as other decisions that are put to the members to vote upon.

**Student Individual Yearly and Half-Yearly Membership:**

1. Any adult student meeting the Eligibility and Maintenance Requirements will be eligible to be an Active Student Individual Yearly or Active Student Individual Half-Yearly member of this Association. Half Yearly membership is offered only between July 1 and December 31 of the year.
2. Active students are required to present unexpired student identity card or a recent letter from respective educational institution at membership and every meeting or event for admittance.
3. Active Student Individual members are **not** eligible to hold a leadership position on the Board of Directors or Executive Committee.
4. Active Student Individual members are **not** entitled to vote in elections for officers for the Executive Committee or Board of Directors as well as other decisions that are put to the members to vote upon.

**Section 3: Membership Dues**

Dues shall be determined and/or modified by a two-thirds majority vote of the combined Executive Committee and Board of Directors; and ratified by the general membership appropriately.

a. The Family Life Membership dues are set at $750.00 as of 2018. Family Life Membership will be valid for the life time of the principal member and his/her spouse and dependent children. ~~Family Life Membership will not carry over to children or any other family member.~~  Family Life Membership will not carry over to independent children or any other family member. Independent children need to take their own membership. Family Life Membership will not inherit to children or any other family member.

b. The Family Yearly Membership dues are set at $75.00 per annum as of 2018. Family Yearly Membership will be valid for the principal member, his/her spouse and dependent children. Family Yearly Membership will not carry over to independent children or any other family member. Independent children need to take their own membership.

c. The Family Half-Yearly Membership dues are set at $45.00 per annum as of 2020. Family Half-Yearly Membership will be valid for the principal member, his/her spouse and dependent children. Family Half-Yearly Membership will not carry over to independent children or any other family member. Independent children need to take their own membership.

d. The Individual Yearly Membership dues are set at $50.00 per annum as of 2018

e. The Individual Half-Yearly Membership dues are set at $25.00 per annum as of 2020

f. The Student Individual Yearly Membership dues are set at $50.00 per annum as of 2018. Student membership expires at the expiration of student status or the calendar year whichever is earlier.

g. The Student Individual Half-Yearly Membership dues are set at $25.00 per annum as of 2020. Student membership expires at the expiration of student status or the calendar year whichever is earlier.

h. ~~The membership due~~ All Yearly membership dues shall become payable on the 1st of January each year.

i. The fiscal year for all Yearly memberships shall be from the 1st of January to 31st of December each calendar year.

j. The term for all Half-Yearly memberships shall be from the 1st of July to 31st of December each calendar year.

k. All payments will be final and no refunds/adjustments will be offered.

**Item 3: EC Term changes; Item 5: Handover of Executive Committee**

**ARTICLE VI: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

10) **Fiscal Policies:** The term ~~fiscal year~~ of the Board shall be from January to December.

14) **Cooling off Period:**

a) Any member who has served as a member of the Board of Directors for a cumulative of Six (6) years or

b) a member of the Executive Committee for a cumulative of ~~Six (6)~~ Four (4) years or

c) a member of the Executive Committee and a member of the Board of Directors for a cumulative of Seven (7) years shall stay outside the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for at least Two (2) years ~~as soon as they reach the Six (6) or Seven (7) year mark as the case may be~~ before seeking re-election to the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE VII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**2) Terms:**

a) All Officers shall serve for a period of Two (2) years, but shall be eligible for re-election for up to One (1) more term of Two (2) years ~~subject to cooling off period~~

b) In the first year of their term, new members of the Executive committee may take up any of the following roles - *Vice President - Administration, Joint Secretary – Public Relations, Joint Secretary - Communications, or Joint - Treasurer*

c) In the second year of their term, members of the Executive committee may take up any of the following roles - President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President – Public Relations, Vice President - Administration, Joint Secretary – Public Relations, Joint Secretary - Communications, and Joint Treasurer based on below conditions.
Executive Members interested in continuing with their current role of first year (Vice President - Administration, Joint Secretary – Public Relations, Joint Secretary - Communications, Joint Treasurer) can do so only if there are no new members joining the Executive Committee. If there are new members joining the Executive Committee, then existing members cannot continue in the same role for Vice President - Administration, Joint Secretary – Public Relations, Joint Secretary - Communications, Joint Treasurer positions and need to make way for new members.

d) In case of re-election, first year of re-election is considered equivalent to the first year of the new member of the Executive Committee and they may take any of the following positions - *Vice President - Administration, Joint Secretary – Public Relations, Joint Secretary - Communications, or Joint Treasurer*

e) The outgoing President of the Executive Committee shall serve on the Board of Directors for the following year and as such shall not be eligible for re-election into the Executive Committee.

**3) Executive Committee Nominations:**

a) Request for nominations for the Executive Committee shall be sent by Chairman of the Board at least 30 days prior to expiration of term.

b) Board of Directors headed by the Chairman shall be responsible for setting up a neutral and non-controversial Election committee as necessary and hold timely nominations and/or elections as needed. The elections have to be fair and have to be conducted in a democratic, neutral, non-biased fashion.

c) Any active member of the Association may submit up to Three (3) names – both propose & second to the Head of the Nominating Committee (when vacancies become available upon the expiration of their tenure).

d) The election committee will receive nominations for Four (4) positions in the Executive
Committee every year - Vice President - Administration, Joint Secretary – Public
Relations, Joint Secretary - Communications, and Joint Treasurer. Existing members in
the Executive Committee on their 2nd year of term may assume any of the following
positions in the Executive Committee - President, Secretary, Treasurer or Vice President
- Public Relations, Vice President - Administration, Joint Secretary – Public Relations, Joint Secretary - Communications, and Joint Treasurer based on general consensus or elections if need be. The nominations committee, elections committee, bylaw committee and the Board of Directors may work together if any situation arises that are not mentioned already.

e) The President, Secretary, Treasurer or Vice-President – Public Relations should have served for One (1) year as Vice President – Administration or Joint Secretary – Public Relations or Joint Secretary – Communications or Joint Treasurer in Nrupathunga Kannada Koota (NKK) before assuming current role as President or Secretary or Treasurer or Vice-President – Public Relations.

f) To contest for any position in the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors, a member’s name shall be proposed by another member in good standing and the same name shall be seconded by Two (2) other members in good standing. All nominations shall have a total of Four (4) separate signatures of members in good standing.

**6) Duties of the Officers:**

**c) Treasurer:**

*The Treasurer* shall be the chief financial officer of the corporation and is responsible to keep record of the organization ’s budget and prepare financial reports as needed. *The Treasurer* shall help develop fundraising plans and make financial information available to the Officers and the Association members. The Treasurer shall have access to all finances related to the Association including but not limited to all bank accounts like checking account, money market account, savings account, shares, bonds, brokerage accounts or any form of financial investment. The Executive Committee with the Board of Directors must approve the budget and all expenditures must be within the budget. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as are incident to the office or as may be delegated to that office by the President or by the Board of Directors such as make disbursements to members to reimburse them for Association-related expenses, to affix signatures on checks and make withdrawals of funds, and keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements.

Any major change in the budget must be approved by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. Annual reports are required to be submitted to the Full Executive Committee and the Board of Directors showing income and expenditures. The financial records of the Association are public records and shall be made available to the General Body members, the Executive Committee Officers and to the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall sign all checks either by themselves or with the Chairman of the Board of Directors per association policy published in the constitution & bylaws. The Treasurer is responsible for timely filing of a tax return to the IRS on or before Dec 31.

9) **Fiscal Policies:** The term ~~fiscal year~~ of the Executive Committee shall be from January to December.

11) **Cooling off Period:**

a) Any member who has served as a member of the Board of Directors for a cumulative of Six (6) years or

b) a member of the Executive Committee for a cumulative of ~~Six (6)~~ Four (4) years or

c) a member of the Executive Committee and a member of the Board of Directors for a cumulative of Seven (7) years

shall stay outside the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for at least Two (2) years ~~as soon as they reach the Six (6) or Seven (7) year mark as the case may be~~ before seeking re-election to the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors.

**Item 4: Board of Trustees (New Article VI, existing artices VI onwards will get pushed down and will be incremented by 1)**

**ARTICLE VI: BOARD OF TRUSTEE(S)**

The head board of trustees along with other Trustees or simply Trustees will be a long term group of life members of Nrupathunga Kannada Koota (NKK) ultimately protecting the long term interest of NKK and its members. The Trustees play a non-executive, advisory and voluntary role basically providing guidance and long term vision for the organization. Trustees will be responsible for promoting and facilitating a harmonious functioning within NKK and other related organizations and also act as arbitrators in case of any conflicts. Board of Trustees will supersede both the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors if need be. By becoming a member of NKK, the member basically agrees to arbitration of any conflict with the Board of Trustees as arbitrators rather than any kind of litigation in the court of law thereby settling the matter internally and amicably.

1. **Initial Board of Trustees:**
	1. The board of Trustees may consist of a minimum of One (1) member to a maximum of eighteen (18) members
	2. The head of the board of Trustees will be elected internally for a period of one (1) year and this term may be extended by reelection every year as needed.
	3. The head of the board of Trustees shall not have voting rights in case of any internal vote similar to the President in the Executive committee or the Chairman in the Board of Directors
2. **Role, size and compensation for Trustees:**
3. **Role:** Trustees have advisory role providing guidance & long term vision for the organization; arbitrate in case of conflicts; promote harmonious functioning and supersede both the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors in case of any internal conflicts. In case of any unresolved conflict that cannot be settled within, the Board of Trustees shall advise the general body of members to vote and decide on the matter.
4. **Size:** Minimum of One (1) to a maximum of Eighteen (18) members in all.
5. **Compensation:** Trustees receive no compensation whatsoever
6. **Term of a Trustee:**
	1. All Trustees shall have indefinite term till the size of Board of Trustees reaches a maximum of Eighteen (18) members.
	2. Once the Board of Trustees reaches the maximum number of members (18), the term shall be Three (3) years
	3. All elected Trustees shall be eligible for re-election for up to One (1) more term of Three (3) years subject to cooling off period similar to the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors.
7. **Nomination for Trustee:**
	1. The Board of Directors and members of the Executive Committee shall review list of members every year, verify eligibility per bylaws, obtain a written consent or obtain an application from the respective member and then induct the member into the Board of Trustees.
	2. In case the maximum number of members for the Board of Trustees is reached, nomination and election similar to Board of Directors shall be followed.
	3. A life member who meets all the eligibility criteria has a right to approach the President or Chairman requesting to be considered as a Trustee

1. **Eligibility for Trustees:**

All the following conditions to be met

* 1. To be eligible to become a Trustee the member of NKK shall be a life member
	2. The life member or the spouse or both of them together shall have served either in the executive committee or the board of directors for at least five (5) years
	3. The life member or the spouse or both of them together should have contributed a total of ten thousand dollars ($10,000) or Two percent (2%) of NKK’s net worth whichever is higher as life time contributions to Nrupathunga Kannada Koota (NKK) excluding their membership dues. The total life time contribution amount of $10,000 or 2% of NKK’s net worth shall be calculated & verified by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors at the time of induction into the Board of Trustees.
	4. The life member and or the spouse shall be a legal resident of Georgia and or actively participate in the activities of NKK every year
	5. The life member shall commit to continue to participate actively in the activities of NKK
	6. The member shall be clear of all blemishes, criminal records or negative history.
	7. The member should sign the confidentiality agreement and code of ethics before they take office
1. **Head Board of Trustees:**
	1. The board of Trustees shall elect a head for internal operational purposes by a simple majority
	2. The term of head Board of Trustees shall be one (1) year and may be extended by reelection
2. **Attendance Requirements for Trustees:**
	1. Trustees shall make every effort to participate in all NKK events for general membership
	2. Trustees shall make every effort to attend all but will not be required to attend meetings of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors
	3. Trustees shall be available for any comments, guidance or arbitration from time to time as required by the organization
3. **Exit or removal from the Board of Trustees:**

A member of the Board of Trustees may leave the Board of Trustees

* 1. Voluntarily for any reason or no reason or
	2. If the member does not meet any of the eligibility criteria any more or
	3. If there are any incompatibilities with the Board of Directors and members of Executive Committee

by a two-third (2/3) majority of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee; and then have it ratified by a simple majority of general membership.