

Topic: LANA General Body Meeting

Time: Aug 14, 2021 09:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Minutes:

1. Vice President Jane Joseph welcomed all members and invited President Josen George for his presidential speech.
2. Secretary Anil Sreenivasan provided latest updates regarding the convention. Considering the delta variant COVID situation, this year's convention will be a closed function and will not be opened for the public. Expected strength is below 100. The hall is 300 person capacity and is sufficiently big enough to accommodate participants.
3. Meeting unanimously chose J. Mathews as the chairman for Bylaw updates committee. Two more members are to be added by the chairman. The updated bylaw should be reviewed by the executive and approved by the General Body before it comes in effect.
4. With 23 new members added, the total number of LANA life members is 97. In order to have proportional number in the executive, 4 new positions are suggested in the Executive Committee which will make the total number to 9. The positions shall be
Joint Treasurer
Communications Committee Chair
Programs Committee Chair
Instead of Women's forum Chair, a new position to be decided. There was a suggestion not to have a Joint Treasurer.
5. An auditor shall be appointed for auditing LANA accounts. The auditor should be member who is not part of the executive.
6. There was a suggestion from John Mathew to have LANA registered at national level so that LANA account can be maintained properly.

7. Bylaw committee shall propose guidelines

to consider an american malayalee writer for honorary membership of LANA.

There should be criteria for consideration and criteria for approval

Currently there are six honorary members who will be re-evaluated

for continuation of the status. They will be contacted

to see if they are still interested to continue.

Members shall make recommendations to consider a person for honorary membership.

8. General body agreed to raise the Life membership to \$200.

There was a proposal to make it \$250.

9. The new Bylaw shall provide LANA account maintenance guidelines.

This will include guidelines as to how membership funds

may be spent apart from the operating expenses.

There shall be a restriction on how much an executive can spend in their term.

Event sponsorship may be sought for meeting expense related to special events.

10. No changes to Association membership and Term memberships

11. LANA Awards - Any changes to LANA awards criteria should be after the 2021 awards.

Guidelines are to be included in the Bylaws.

Existing criteria to be followed for this year's awards.

Panel chairman John Mathew has the authority over the awards selection criteria.

It was agreed that apart from President and Awards committee chairman,

all LANA members are eligible to participate. Criteria that LANA committee

members should not be participating in the awards may discourage members

from becoming part of a committee as they can lose several years

in submitting their work for awards consideration.

Though it is in contradiction to the news published, it was suggested

not to publish any news updates regarding the same as it would raise questions

and confusion.

A proposal future was to include diverse panel (age, gender)

in the awards committee.

12. General body approved the correction and possible redesign of LANA LOGO.

Multiple designs are to be considered before choosing a new one.