

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SACRAMENTO AREA BANGLADESHI-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

Article I: Name and Profile

1. The name shall be **The** Sacramento Area Bangladeshi-American Association with an acronym of SABAA and shall be referred to as “The Association” in this document.
2. The office shall be located in Sacramento County.
3. The Association shall be registered as a non-profit organization both at the State level with the Secretary of State of California and at the Federal level with IRS per Code 501(C)(3) of 1954.

Article II: Vision & Mission

Vision

Serve the people of Bangladeshi origin living in the Greater Sacramento area to:

1. Promote and preserve the heritage of Bangladesh.
2. Strengthen the community to become an active, responsible, successful and involved citizen at every level of Bangladeshi and US socio-political activities.
3. Assist the community in times of need.

Mission

1. Organize Bangla cultural events. Encourage and support other individuals or group in organizing such activities.
2. Provide educational and training resources to learn the history, language, arts, literature, culture, and heritage of Bangladesh.
3. Form a liaison and create a link with other Bangladeshi social, cultural, and philanthropic associations or groups and with US politicians at city, county,

state, and national levels. Encourage the community members to get involved during US elections at all levels.

4. Help and guide:
 - a) young generations in building careers, finding jobs, and seeking volunteer activities and;
 - b) new comers from Bangladesh with immigration and settling in society
5. Observe Bangladesh and US national days, events and celebrate Eid festivals.
6. Arrange seminars, symposiums, youth events, consular services, medical guidance, sports, camping, and picnics.
7. Provide social support and services during illness and death in families.

Help individuals, groups, or communities both in the USA and in Bangladesh during catastrophe and disaster (like floods, hurricanes, cold weather, famine, and geopolitical crisis) by raising funds, donating goods, and providing volunteer and medical services.

Article III: Membership

1. Any person of Bangladeshi origin living in the Greater Sacramento Area is eligible to be a General Member of The Association. Bangladeshi origin shall be defined as people who were born in Bangladesh or have a blood-relationship ~~to~~ with someone born in Bangladesh. The Executive Committee (shall be referred to as “The EC” in this document) may offer Guest Membership to a person who does not have origin in Bangladesh.
2. The EC reserves the right to impose a membership fee for the expenses of The Association.
3. A list of General Members shall be maintained with The EC. A member shall be considered Active who has paid a membership fee (if any) AND provided contact information (e-mail address, telephone, and home address) AND responds to specific inquiries (if any) from The EC.
4. Guest Members shall not have voting rights. A General Member has to be in the Active Membership List (See Article: III, 3 above who is an Active Member) at least 2 weeks before any election to be eligible to vote.

5. The EC reserves the right to cancel the membership of any member based on the majority vote of The EC. In no case, membership shall be cancelled based on race, sex, religion, and political beliefs.

Article IV: EC Office and Election

1. The EC shall be composed of President, Vice President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Cultural Secretary, Social Secretary, Public Relations Secretary and one to three Members At Large to keep the total EC numbers odd to avoid a tie. At least one member must be female. Total number of female members in The EC can be variable depending on the available interested candidate(s) who wants to run. An Interim Governing Body (shall be referred to as "IGB" in this document) shall run the operations when The EC is not yet formed OR resigned en-mass OR lost the confidence of majority ($\geq 51\%$) of the General Members. The call for the IGB shall be made by at least 3 (three) General Members. The IGB shall be formed based on responses by General Members. The IGB members may contest for The EC positions.
2. In case either The President or The Vice president is unable to perform her/his job responsibilities for any reasons, his/her job responsibilities shall then be performed by the other available person (President or The Vice President). If both are unable, then The General Secretary shall perform that job responsibilities. If the General Secretary is unable to perform his/her duty for any reasons, the Vice President shall perform his/her duties.
3. In case of any EC member's inability to perform his/her job responsibilities, President shall assign the job responsibilities to any other member as an additional duty. If the vacancy is permanent, a member shall be appointed by The EC to perform ~~that~~ those job responsibilities till the next election. In this situation The EC shall be consisting of even numbers of members and so The President shall have the authority to break the tie by casting an extra vote.
4. If any member of The EC gets involved with activities against the spirit of The Constitution, that member can be removed (impeached) by the absolute majority vote of The EC members. This vacancy shall be filled per Article IV: (3).

5. The EC shall be elected for **at least** a term of 2 (two) years by the active adult members' (over 18 years of age). No EC members shall be allowed to run for more than two consecutive terms. **The EC can make an exception to this rule in an extraordinary circumstance when no candidates are available.** The vote shall be in any one or more of the following methods: electronic vote, ~~or~~ direct ballot, or voice vote/pen and paper vote during a community gathering organized by The EC. Voice vote/pen and paper vote shall only be accepted from those who are physically present during that particular community gathering.
6. The EC shall seek nomination for the office from general members at least 6 (six) weeks prior to the election-day and allow a minimum of 2 (two) weeks for the interested individual (s) to respond. The EC shall publish the name (s) of the nominated individual(s) at least 2 (two) weeks prior to the election day. No nominations shall be accepted after the release of nominated names. If there is only one candidate for a position, that individual shall be elected uncontested. Elections shall be held for positions where there are multiple candidates.
7. EC shall have the right to form a Subcommittee from the General Members to assign any particular task. Such subcommittee shall perform the task(s) according to specific By-Laws enacted at that particular time for that particular task and they will be solely responsible and reportable to The EC. The EC shall dissolve such Subcommittee and By Laws when that particular task is completed.
8. The EC may select Advisor(s), if required. **The number of advisors shouldn't be more than 3 (three). Advisors shall not have any voting power.**
9. ~~At least 3 (three) signatures (President, Vice President and General Secretary)~~ **Majority of the EC members shall be needed** for approval of tangible transactions like buying office, bonds, mortgages, properties, selling tangible items and making a project that shall utilize the Association's fund. ~~EC may request an EC member to cover any of the above three when he/she is not available.~~
10. A Bank account shall be maintained in the name of The Association after confirming the registration with State. Treasurer shall be responsible for all transactions and shall submit to The EC any collection, budget plan, and expense report. Check signing will need joint signatories; The Treasurer and

The President. At the end of EC's term, the incumbent Treasurer and The President shall notify the bank the names of new elected Treasurer and The President who will be the new signatories. The bookkeeping process shall be kept as per the requirements of IRS that shall meet the 501 (C) (3) nonprofit requirements.

Article V: Meetings

1. General Members meetings shall be held at least once a year during any public event or at a called upon a time. The EC meetings shall take place throughout the year at a frequency needed by the community needs or EC's business requirement; there shall be at least one quarterly meeting.
2. The needed Quorum of The EC meeting shall be ~~considered~~ 50% of the EC members or more. The President shall preside over the meetings. The General Secretary shall maintain the EC's record keeping. All meetings shall be conducted by the Robert's Rule of Order. The General Secretary shall record, save and share the minutes of the meetings with the EC members.
3. Any proposed resolution or By-Laws shall need simple a majority to ~~adopt~~ adopt. In case of a tie, The President shall cast his/her vote to break the tie as per Article IV: (3).

Article VI: Amendments

1. Amendment(s) of The Constitution shall need an absolute majority (two thirds or more) of The EC members or by the simple majority of The Association's General Members during any gathering or during a specially called upon meeting.

This constitution is enacted in Sacramento County on May 12, 2018, by the following members of the IGB (in alphabetic order of last name):

1. Khan Alim.....
2. Anisul Aslam.....
3. Mohammad Billah.....
4. Hafizur Chowdhury (Sohel)
5. Zia Islam.....
6. Mahbuba Khan
7. Meskath Uddin.....

Authored by Meskath Uddin, April 2018, Sacramento, California.

NOTE:

The original Constitution is kept in black color including the correction of syntax errors.

First Amendment:

The Executive Committee accepted and approved the new amendments and changes shown in this document used **BLUE** color and ~~strikeout~~.

This Amendment is jointly authored by Meskath Uddin (Cultural Secretary) and Hafizur Chowdhury (President) on February 12, 2022, in Sacramento California.