



North American Sankethi Association (NASA)

2154 Radcliffe Dr, Troy MI 48085

www.sankethi.org

2002 July -Annual Event

April 18, 2002,
Volume 19. No 2.

Board of Directors

President

Jayashree Sastry
(248) 879-0794
jsastry199@aol.com

Vice-President

Nataraj Honasoge
(248) 855 8161
honasoge@comcast.net

Gen. Secretary

Dr. Rajeshwari Sridhara
(410) 418 4024
rsridhara56@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Mayank Keshaviah
(202) 232-7371
mayank@alum.dartmouth.org

Secretary –

Constitution/Bylaws/ Financial Planning

Santosh Govindaraju
(813) 784 8901
sraju@paragonfinancialco.com

Web/e-media coordinator

Saroja Hanasoge
shanasoge@yahoo.com

Cultural Secretary

Sangeeta Sastry
(248) 879 0794
sangeeta99@aol.com

Dear NASA Members,

Board of Directors wishes you all a happy & prosperous Chitrabhanu Samvatsara!

The Ugadi function held on 13th April 2002 at Detroit was very successful as it has been in the previous years. Over 65 people attended the function. All elements of typical Sankethi tradition were the highlights of the event like Vedic Chanting, sumptuous Food and quality Cultural programs. Many thanks to all the volunteers who supported in making this yet another successful event. Thanks to Nataraj & Mahalakshmi Honasoge for their continued financial support.

It has been brought to my attention that in our last news letter (vol19.no1) on GBM minutes for 2001, we made an erroneous statement in section 4b. under Reports of Committees. Sundaresan's name is listed as one of the members on the investment committee which is inaccurate. I apologize for misreporting and would like to inform you that Sundaresan is the advisor to the Board on constitutional matters and NOT investment matters. This correction has been incorporated in to the original document.

Next, the Board of Directors are preparing for the annual GBM 2002 that is scheduled to be held during the July 4th week end at New Windsor, MD. **It will start at 3pm on Thursday, July 4th and conclude by 11:00AM on Sunday, July 7th.** As always, we are putting in enormous effort to make this event a very valuable & enjoyable one. **The cost of the event this year is about the same as previous years.** The New Windsor conference center accommodates about 180 people. In order to avoid a financial loss, we need your cooperation in assuring a good turnout at this year's event. **Please also note that Annual General Body meeting will be held on Saturday, 6th July followed by the Election of New Board of Directors.**

Your Board of Directors (BOD) has decided to submit certain proposals for amending the Association's bylaws at the upcoming Annual General Body Meeting in July 2002 and recommend a vote for approval of the bylaw amendments as outlined on the GBM notification (page 2, 3).

We wish for members to participate and make this a big success. This will be a great opportunity for families and friends to have a reunion with very little effort and low cost. **We encourage members to bring friends and relatives. Also remember to take advantage of the pre-registration rates by sending in your registration before June 12th, 2002.**

Quality of entertainment will depend on strong involvement on the part of both our talented youth and adults. For participation in cultural events, please contact our Cultural secretary, Sangeeta Sastry @ 248-879-0794; email: sangeeta99@aol.com **before May 25th.**

Best wishes and looking forward to see you at the July 4th event.

Yours truly,

Jayashree Sastry
President, NASA

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Notification of the Year 2002 General Body Meeting

April 18, 2002

Dear Members,

The 2002 Annual General Body Meeting will convene on Saturday, July 6th at 9:30 AM at the New Windsor Conference Center, New Windsor, MD.

The order of business will be as follows:

1. **Roll call**
2. **Reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting**
3. **Reports of committees**
4. **Reports of officers**
5. **Old and unfinished business**
6. **New business**
7. **Good and welfare**
8. **Adjournments**

Under New Business, Your Board of Directors (BOD) has decided to submit certain proposals for amending the Association's bylaws at the upcoming Annual General Body Meeting in July 2002. These are described in the following paragraphs .

Proposal No. 1:

Under the current bylaws, all persons appearing on the Association's membership roll as of the record date set for any membership meeting are entitled to vote at the meeting regardless of their membership category or the period for which they have been on the membership roll without a break. This may create situations in which votes cast by a volatile section of the membership base may prove to be the deciding factor on issues with a far reaching impact on the Association's operations. The objective of the proposed amendment is to limit voting rights to members whose continuing commitment to the Association is evidenced either by enrollment as Life Members or by uninterrupted annual membership for a couple of years preceding the record date.

Accordingly, the following bylaw amendment is being submitted for your consideration :

AMENDMENT # 1: The last sentence of paragraph 4, Section 2, Article III of the Association's bylaws currently reading 'All persons appearing on such membership roll shall be entitled to vote at the meeting.' shall be expanded to read as follows:
'All persons appearing on such membership roll shall be entitled to vote at the meeting provided they are life members or have maintained annual membership status during each of the preceding two calendar years.'

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF THE BYLAW AMENDMENT AS OUTLINED ABOVE.

Proposal No. 2:

Prior to the annual membership meeting held on July 2, 2000 the manner in which the Association's funds could be invested was limited to deposits in a bank or trust company. By virtue of an amendment adopted at the above mentioned meeting, the Association was given the freedom to establish its Investment Policy from time to time and to invest the NASA organization's funds in accordance with that policy. The investment policy formulated by the Association in 2000 had outlined investments to extend to Equity Mutual Funds, Stocks and Bonds (including Corporate Bonds). The present BOD has reviewed this policy in the light of the experience gained during the last two years. Based upon the performance of the markets and an assessment of the risk tolerance of the NASA organization, your BOD finds investments in equities, equity mutual funds and corporate bonds to be inappropriate.

The core objective of broadening the investment vehicles was to achieve a higher rate of return than provided by Savings Accounts, Certificate of Deposit accounts and Money Market funds. GNMA funds and Municipal Bond funds have been known to offer yields and total returns in excess of 7 to 8%. Your BOD finds this total return to meet the requirements for 'above average' returns for NASA investments given the risk tolerance constraint. It is quite fortunate and comforting that NASA has not lost any principal in its portfolio over the past two years. The BOD has had the opportunity to see how bad things could have been and is convinced that the NASA organization cannot tolerate a collapse in the markets. The Board is of the considered view that it would be in NASA's best interest to limit its investments to less volatile and risky products.

Accordingly, the following bylaw amendments are being submitted for your consideration :

AMENDMENT # 2A

In the first sentence of Paragraph 5 of Article V of the Association's bylaws, the part currently reading:

"The treasurer shall have the care and custody of all the funds and securities of the corporation and shall deposit and invest said funds in the name of the corporation in accordance with the corporation's Investment Policy, as the same may be amended from time to time;"

shall be deleted and replaced with the following:

"The treasurer shall have the care and custody of all the funds and securities of the corporation, and shall deposit said funds in the name of the corporation in a FDIC insured account in such bank or trust company as the directors may elect; he shall, when duly authorized by the board of directors, invest said funds in one or more of the following: 1)FDIC Insured Savings Accounts, 2) FDIC Insured Certificate of Deposit Accounts, 3)Money Market Accounts, 4) U.S. Government Treasury Securities and 5) Mutual Funds that invest only in GNMA Securities or Municipal Bonds".

AMENDMENT # 2B:

The sentence reading "Funds shall be invested in accordance with the corporation's investment policy as the same may be amended from time to time." under the heading 'Instrument of Authority' in the current bylaws governing the corporation's Catastrophe Fund shall be deleted and replaced with the following:

"Funds shall be held in one or more of the following: 1) FDIC Insured Checking Accounts, 2) FDIC Insured Savings Accounts, 3)FDIC Insured Certificate of Deposit Accounts, 4)Money Market Accounts, 5) U.S. Government Treasury Securities and 6) Mutual Funds that invest only in GNMA Securities or Municipal Bonds."

AMENDMENT # 2C:

The sentence reading "Funds shall be invested in accordance with the corporation's investment policy as the same may be amended from time to time." Under Article 4.3(b) of the bylaws governing the corporation's scholarship fund shall be deleted and replaced with the following:

"Funds shall be held in one or more of the following: 1) FDIC Insured Checking Accounts, 2) FDIC Insured Savings Accounts, 3) FDIC Insured Certificate of Deposit Accounts, 4) Money Market Accounts, 5) U.S. Government Treasury Securities and 6) Mutual Funds that invest only in GNMA Securities or Municipal Bonds."

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF THE BYLAW AMENDMENTS AS OUTLINED ABOVE.

Please also note that per our bylaws **only members in good standing as of the Record Date, i.e., June 25th, 2002 may vote** on any formal motion. **We urge all the annual members who have not renewed their membership to do so before the Record Date.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Annual Function.

Yours Sincerely,

Rajeshwari Sridhara
General Secretary, NASA

2002 Annual Event – July 4th to July 7th

The 2001 NASA Annual Event is scheduled for the Independence Day July 4th - 7th weekend, at the New Windsor Conference Center, New Windsor, Maryland. Below are the details. The information on the program schedule is also available on the web.

The Place:

We have secured the entire New Windsor Conference Center for our NASA Annual Event 2002. This facility is located in a rural environment, about 50 miles west of Baltimore, MD. The facility has capacity for about 180 people spread over three buildings. Most of the rooms have attached bathrooms (One building has shared baths). The buildings are climate controlled, as is the huge dining room with nice table settings. The center provides beds & pillows, sheets and towels. You need to bring your personal toiletries. Please see the attached directions to get to New Windsor.

The Food Arrangements:

Mr. Ramakrishnan & his team of three members from New Jersey area, will stay onsite & take care of our catering needs from Thursday, July 4th evening through Sunday, July 7th.

The Charges:

The charges for Room and Board are shown in the **Annual Registration Form** (attached). As you can see from the charges, we are offering financial incentive to early registrants (before **June 12th**). The rates will cover one room per family (2 to 4 people per room) with necessary beds (no separate beds for children under 6), food for the entire weekend. We are going to combine the fun of NASA get-togethers with cultural, educational, and religious activities from highly distinguished resources and our own local Sankethi talents!

Please complete the attached Registration form and mail it along with your check for the appropriate amount, to Jayashree Sastry (Address provided on the form).

The Activities:

The Board is cognizant of your feedback from the survey forms, and is making every effort to improve the quality, to satisfy our members at large. However, as always, we welcome any suggestions in this regard. For details of activities, please refer to the Program Overview attached. Besides our regular programs during the event, following are some of the special programs for this year.

- **Election of Board of Directors for next term**
- **Kannada Movie**
- **Seminar on Financial Planning – ‘Wealth Creation and Preservation’**
- **Fireworks**

High School Graduation and College Graduation Awards:

NASA takes pride in recognizing our young men and women who are graduating high school & college through High School Graduation Award (HGA) and College Graduation Award (CGA). As customary, the awards for this year will be presented in New Windsor. The recipient's achievements will be presented to the audience in a colorful ceremony. The HGA carries \$100 cash and a certificate, while the CGA recipients will receive a silver coin and a certificate. Please use the attached Annual Event Registration Form to provide us details.

The following are the eligibility requirements for the awards:

1. Graduates from Fall 2001 through Spring 2002 will be recognized. (Note: Graduates from Spring 2001 will be recognized only if they have not been recognized last year).
2. Parents must be members of NASA in good standing. (Life members or current annual members).
3. The graduate must be present at the meeting.

NASA Member /Family Directory:

We are publishing the NASA address directory for the year 2002 incorporating all the changes made available to us. The information that we have received on the family directory does not appear to meet the objectives or the purpose for which it was meant. And also it is very few in numbers. Considering the cost effectiveness, the Board has decided to just publish a sample copy separately from the address book. This will be made available for reference only at the GBM.

Please note our policy on the NASA database: "The information contained in the directory is for use by NASA's members to enhance the sense of community and to facilitate networking. It should not be used for commercial purposes. The information contained herein is proprietary to and property of NASA and is not to be passed on to any third party without the express consent of NASA." Thank you for supporting NASA's policy.

Membership Dues

We encourage all participants to become Life members, if not already so. The registration fee schedule for the NASA Festival requires membership status in NASA to be current. If you are not already a member, we strongly invite you to become a Life Member for a fee of \$200 payable in one or more installments within a period of one year or an Annual Member for \$25. Please use the attached Membership Form to send us your membership dues.

Remember, You are required to be an active member in order to participate in the Elections & General Body proceedings.

New Members/Renewals: Our membership base is consistently growing. New members are:

Life Members:

Sangeeta Sastry
Ganapathy N. Murthy and Anne Frances Miller

Annual Members :

Ranjana Murthy
Avinash Hanasoge and Divya
Jairam Manjunathaiah and Archana
Aravinda Sheshanna and Rathna
Chethan Nagaraj and Rashmi
Srinivas Sridhara
Shankar Sridhara
Keshava Datta

Congratulations to these families/individuals and NASA welcomes the new members and renewals to participate in and contribute to NASA's endeavors.

Report on Ugadi Function:

The NASA Ugadi function held in Michigan on April 13th, was a great success. Over 65 people from the Midwest, New Jersey, Washington DC, Florida, Canada attended the function. Thanks to the organizers & all volunteers for their strong support in making this event a great success for the third year in a row. The commitment of NASA members from outside Michigan to attend this function added enthusiasm for organizers and was gratifying.

The program started off with the chanting of Rudra (Namaka) and Purusha Sukta by Nataraj Honasoge, Avinash Hanasoge, Ramesh Saligrama, M.G. Prasanna, Kumar, Divakar Rudrapatna, Arun Chickmenahalli, and Naga Narayana.

Next, chanting of Vishnu Sahasranaama by Sandhya Prasanna, M.G. Prasanna, Mahalakshmi Honasoge, Rajeshwari Sridhara, Sangeeta Sastry, Rumya Honasoge, Suchetha Sastry, Pushpa Satyanarayana, Jayashree Sastry, and Divya Hanasoge.

Radhika Rudrapatna from Ontario, Canada eloquently spoke about the significance of Ugadi and did Panchanga Shravana; Bevu- Bella was distributed; Everyone repeated the shloka after her before consuming the Bevu –Bella.

Many thanks to Dr. Chandrasekhara & Sumathi from Florida for sending the auspicious neem leaves for the occasion.

A religious activity was followed by authentic, delicious home cooked Sankethi food prepared by many Sankethi families. We thank all those who generously offered the services.

The superb performance on the Violin by Sri. Srikanth (disciple of Smt. Kanyakumari) and Smt. Pavani (disciple of Sri. R.R. Keshava Murthy) accompanied by Sri. Rajasekhar Atmakuri on Mridangam was very melodious and captivating. Thanks to the artists for accepting our invitation to perform at NASA UGADI.

The Variety entertainment program continued with Sankethi talents :

Vocal music by Rathna Aravinda, Sandhya Prasanna, Shobha Kowshik and Rajeshwari & Sridhara
English songs by Rumya Honasoge and Nitya Shankar
Vignesh Prasanna, Anisha Sudershan recited shlokas & sang songs.

The Sankethi skit written & choreographed by Divakar Rudrapatna was hilarious. The story line was based on the latest hassles in the airports – security , baggage check in etc. The script was very witty, humorous and quite appropriate to the current situations. Well done Divakar Rudrapatna & family ! Our special recognition goes to Prerana & Sriresh for their excellent acting as security agent and passenger at the airport ! The participants were - Divakar, Arun, Mayank, Santosh, Avinash, Kumar, Prerana, Sriresh and Rumya. Congratulations everyone!

The cultural program officially concluded with a melodious 'Sankethi Song' translated & sung by Sandhya Prasanna and Kumar followed by yet another sumptuous dinner.

Thanks to all the participants who made this a colorful event.

We encourage members from other regions to come forward to host this event in the future, so that there will be some change.

NASA Community news:

New Arrivals:

We welcome the arrival of baby girl, **Anuja Sudarshan** (born on April 9th, 2002). Our congratulations to the proud parents, Uma and Sudarshan Arkanath, of Northville, MI

Sankethi Sangama Publication:

Many of you have been receiving a free copy of Sankethi Sangama – Kannada/Sankethi publication mailed from India. This is an excellent publication covering various topics of interest & news of our community. NASA encourages you to extend your support by subscribing to this publication. For details please contact Sri.Y.N. Dathatri, at Tel: (631) 847 0595 or dathatyn@snyfarva.cc.famingdale.edu

Charitable Contributions:

1. The Kowshika Sankethi Sangha in India is building a women's semi-free hostel in Mysore.
2. Sri Keshava Trust is making an earnest appeal to all the members of NASA to consider donating \$100 per month for one year i.e. a total of \$1200 for one year towards free professional eye care service for life time. This will offer life time services to 24 people whom each donor can nominate; that is for every \$100, two people can be nominated in India. For additional details write to netra@vsnl.com or menduc@aol.com (JKRangappa)
3. Ramachandra and Veydehi Shivashankar and Seetha Shivashankar-Aiyer are making an appeal to the Sankethi Community to make generous contributions to Ram Shivashankar's endowment scholarship fund established in Ram's memory at Cleveland State University. For more details, please refer to the attached page.

We encourage NASA members to make generous contributions to these worthy causes.

You may send your tax-deductible contributions through NASA to any charity / non-profit organization in the US or anywhere, along with a \$5 administrative cost to cover expenses. Please make the check payable to NASA & mail it to the attention of Jayashree Sastry, 2154 Radcliffe Drive, Troy, MI 48085

One Last Word...

As in the past, the following policy will be followed for the allotment of rooms.

Your Room Coordinator is Nataraj Honasoge. The following policy, like last few years, is in effect for the allotment of rooms. As stated earlier, rooms in one building have shared baths, with separate baths for men and women in each floor. We will begin to fill rooms in buildings with attached baths first and then move on to the building with shared baths. **Room allotment will be made on a first-come first-served basis** based on postmark on the envelope carrying your pre-registration form. It is obvious that early registrants are expected to fill the rooms with attached bath first. This, we believe is fair to everyone. We are sure you will cooperate with us to implement this policy. If you have any questions any time during your stay, please contact our Room Coordinator. We want you to be comfortable during your stay and return home with a good feeling.

Please adhere to the rules & regulations of the Conference Center which will be posted at the site.

In addition, during the previous years we almost filled the capacity at New Windsor. If our growth pattern continues, it is possible this year we may fill all the rooms available. Early registrants will, obviously, fill the rooms at New Windsor. We will try to accommodate overflows, if needed, in local hotels. The rates at these hotels are not competitive with the New Windsor rates and the registrants will have to bear the extra costs.

If you have any questions on the activities or arrangements at the Festival, please contact any of the office bearers. We are excited about the upcoming event. Looking forward to seeing all of you in New Windsor and have a pleasant trip to New Windsor.

NASA Annual Festival – 2002 Program Overview*

Thursday, July 4th, 2002

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| 3:00 PM | Registration / Check In Begins |
| 6:30 PM | Dinner |
| 8:00 PM | Games / Rapidfire Antakshari |
| 9:30 PM | Fireworks Display |
| 10:00 PM | Kannada Movie |

Friday, July 5th, 2002

| | |
|----------|--|
| 7:00 AM | Nature Walk / Vedic Prayers |
| 8:00 AM | Breakfast |
| 9:00 AM | Sports Activities |
| 12:30 PM | Lunch |
| 2:00 PM | Financial Planning Workshop – ‘Wealth Creation and Preservation’ |
| 3:30 PM | Graduation Awards / Special Awards |
| 5:30 PM | Cultural/Religious Activities |
| 6:30 PM | Dinner |
| 8:00 PM | Cultural Activities Continued |

Saturday, July 6th, 2002

| | |
|----------|--|
| 7:00 AM | Nature Walk / Vishnu Sahasranaama |
| 8:00 AM | Breakfast |
| 9:30 AM | General Body Meeting / Election of the new Board |
| 12:30 PM | Lunch |
| 2:00 PM | Panel Discussion (Coordinated by Srinivas Sridhara). |
| 3:30PM | Cultural Activities |
| 6:00 PM | “Back to our Roots” - Formal Served Dinner |
| 8:30 PM | Cultural Activities Continued |
| 10:30 PM | Member Mixer (“social hour”) |

Sunday, July 7th, 2002

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| 7:30 AM | Morning Prayers |
| 8:30 AM | Brunch |
| 11:00 AM | Check Out. |

* Note, this program is as it stands today and is subject to change. We anticipate that it will be firmed up by end of May. Also, we strongly encourage you and your children to participate in the cultural programs. In this regard, we do ask you to contact our Cultural Secretary **ASAP**; we will take your requests on a first-come first-served basis. **After May 25th**, due to the planned activities we may not be able to accommodate your/your child’s request to perform. **Also, the participants are required to adhere to the assigned schedule.** As always, we welcome any new ideas you may have. Please start brainstorming now for those Sankethi Skit ideas! Also note that due to the range of activities planned, we will **strongly adhere to the timings in the final program.**

Sign-up sheets for all sports activities will be posted on the premises and the deadline will be 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 4th. If you have any questions please contact Mayank Keshaviah / Santosh Govindaraju.

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2002 Annual Function Registration Form

Name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Number of Attendees: Adults (Age: 12+) _____ Young Adults (Age: 6 - 12): _____ Children (Age: <6) _____

Email* (as many as you wish to list): _____

[* We strongly urge you to give us your email address so we can communicate with you rapidly, effectively & economically.]
I prefer to receive future NASA Newsletters via above email or will access it from the NASA Web Page

Address: _____

Expected Arrival: Date _____ Time _____ . Desire Dinner on 7/4 at Time of Arrival: _____

Signature*: _____ [*By registering for this event, you agree that NASA will not be held liable for injuries or damages, if any received in connection with the July 4th Weekend Function.]

Payment (Please make check out to NASA and Mail to above address): per the following schedule.

Full Weekend Registration

Pre-registration (Post Marked on or before June 12, 2002)

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Thursday, July 4th | \$125/Adult (Age: 12+) |
| | \$100/Young Adult (Age: 6 - 12) |

Partial Registration

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Friday, 5 th through Sunday - Room and Food | \$110/Adult or Young Adult |
| Saturday 6 th through Sunday - Room and Food | \$95/Adult or Young Adult |
| Day Boarding (No Room, one day, one or more meals) | \$50/Adult or Young Adult/day |

Children (Age: under 6): Free in all cases when accompanied by a participating adult

Site/Late Registration (After June 12, 2002): \$15 Extra in all cases except children (Under 6 Yrs)

For participation in cultural events, please contact our Cultural Secretary: Sangeeta Sastry @ 248-879-0794; email: sangeeta99@aol.com . We strongly encourage you and your children to participate in the cultural programs. We will take your requests on a first-come first-served basis. **After May 25th**, due to the planned activities we may not be able to accommodate your/your child's request to perform. **Also, the participants are required to adhere to the assigned schedule.**

High School Graduation (HGA) and College Graduation Award (CGA) Candidates:

Name: _____, Indicate HGA or CGA: _____

Person who will speak about the Candidate: _____

Name: _____, Indicate HGA or CGA: _____

Person who will speak about the Candidate: _____

Name: _____, Indicate HGA or CGA: _____

Person who will speak about the Candidate: _____



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