



North American Sankethi Association (NASA)
20017 Doolittle Street, Montgomery Village, MD 20886
<http://www.sankethi.org>

May 24, 2004
Volume 21, No 2

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My Dear Fellow Sankethis:

Once again we have reached that time of the year when we all look forward to our annual gathering to celebrate one more year at the North American Sankethi Association. (NASA). The year 2004 marks our Twentieth Anniversary. We have not only survived, but grown during the past two decades. Although we are a small ethnic organization (we represent approximately one in a million people of the United States population), we have firmly established our roots in this country. The time has come for us to pause and examine our goals and evaluate our performance against our set objectives. So, we shall gather during the American Independence Day weekend, to meditate, chant, worship, play and eat together. Let us entertain ourselves with music, dance and drama, and have fun as an extended family. And, at the same time, let us also take stock, rejuvenate, and re-energize our organization and elect a new Board of Directors (BOD).

Based on the input received from our past presidents and other senior members of NASA, the BOD has decided to start the gathering on July 1 (Thursday) night so that those who decide to drive or fly from long distances can come early and relax. We have a full three-day schedule (see the table below for a detailed outline) of exciting programs. Our commemorative souvenir is getting ready and you can expect some interesting and stimulating articles by our junior and senior members. Here is an opportunity to show your support by sending advertisements and messages of congratulations to NASA. If you are interested, please contact me at your earliest as we are getting ready to go to press. We also expect a few large-hearted donors to come forward and sponsor events and lunches and dinners to commemorate this proud occasion and help us defray the expenses without dipping into our general funds. I have received some pledges already but not nearly enough to keep us afloat. If you have a special birthday, or wedding, or wedding anniversary, you can celebrate it with all NASA members. Most importantly, all of you can help us by just simply registering early and attending the gathering with your family and friends. As always, NASA is an open organization which welcomes anyone who subscribes to its goals and policies. Anyone who is a friend or a relative of a NASA member is automatically welcome in our gathering. We hope to see you in great numbers. Let us be proud to be Sankethis.

Sincerely,

M.S.Nataraja
President, NASA

Notification of the Year 2004 General Body Meeting (GBM)

May 24, 2004

Dear Members:

The 2004 Annual GBM will convene on Sunday, July 4, 2004 at 1.30 PM at the New Windsor Conference Center, New Windsor MD.

The order of business will be as follows:

1. Roll call
2. Reading of minutes of the preceding meeting
3. Reports of officers
4. Old and unfinished business
5. New business
6. Election of new Board of Directors (BOD)
7. Good and Welfare
8. Adjournment

Under New Business, your BOD has decided to submit a proposal for amending the Association's Bylaws governing Membership Dues. The salient features of the proposal are described in the following paragraphs.

Under the current bylaw governing Membership Dues, persons who are eligible to become members of NASA may be admitted either as life members or as annual members depending upon the amount contributed by them toward membership dues. Members who pay a contribution of US\$25.00 toward membership dues are considered Annual Members for the relevant calendar year only.

Life membership itself is divided into three categories: (a) life members who contribute US\$200; (b) life members who contribute more than US\$2,000 but not exceeding US\$5000 (designated as donors); and (c) life members who contribute more than US\$5,000 (designated as patrons).

The relevant Article III (8) of the current bylaws is reproduced below:

"8. MEMBERSHIP DUES

- A. There shall be two categories of members called (i) Life Members and (ii) Members.
Any person desirous of becoming a life member shall contribute a sum of US\$200.00 payable in one or more installments within a period of one year. Any person desirous of becoming a Member shall pay annual contribution of US\$25.00 before the 31st of December each year.
- B. If one of the spouses is a member, the other shall also be deemed to be a member.
- C. Any person contributing more than \$2000 shall be called a Donor and will automatically be considered a life member. In addition to his rights as a life member, he will become a permanent invitee to the meetings of the Executive Committee.
- D. Any person contributing more than \$5000 shall be called a Patron and will automatically be considered as a life member. He will be eligible to serve on the committee when formed."

Although Annual Members constitute a small fraction of NASA's membership base – usually less than ten percent of the total membership, considerable administrative effort is involved in keeping track of changes in annual memberships as very few are renewed promptly at the beginning of a new calendar year. The objective of the proposed amendment is to facilitate the maintenance of complete and accurate membership rolls at all times by eliminating the category of annual members and thereby having only one category of membership, i.e. life membership, within the entire organization.

Currently, there are no life members in NASA who have contributed more than US\$200 toward membership dues. Consequently the elimination of the 'Donor' and 'Patron' sub-categories will not have any impact on the privileges of existing life members. On the other hand, practical difficulties involved in implementing the privileges associated with the 'Donor' and 'Patron' sub-categories at a future date would be avoided.

Notwithstanding the discontinuance of the annual membership category, all annual members who are currently on the membership roll will continue in their membership status until December 31, 2004.

As for life membership dues, the present bylaw allows a period of one year and an unlimited number of installments within that interval. It does not specify any minimum amount for the initial payment nor for the installments falling within a period of one year. The proposed amendment will have the effect of keeping the time limit of one year from the date of initial payment with the proviso that the initial payment as well as each installment shall be for an amount not less than US\$50.

The BOD hopes that these measures will contribute to the growth of life membership and simplify the task of maintaining accurate and complete membership rolls as well as processing life membership dues paid in installments.

We have also added a provision for disposition of membership dues held in the name of a single person or a married couple in the event of the person or the couple ceasing to be life members due to any reason. Without this provision, the reconciliation of the life membership dues account with the membership roll showing the list of active members would be somewhat cumbersome.

Accordingly, the following bylaw amendment is being submitted for the consideration of the General Body:

AMENDMENT # 1: Amend the current text of Article III (8) (A) of the bylaws to read as follows:

"8. MEMBERSHIP DUES

- A. There shall be a single category of members called Life Members.
Any person desirous of becoming a life member shall contribute a sum of US\$200.00 payable in one or more installments of not less than US\$50.00 within a period of one year from the date of the initial payment.
- B. In the case of a married couple, both husband and wife shall be deemed to be life members if one of them has become a life member. The life membership dues held on account of a single person or a married couple shall be transferred to the corporation's general funds upon the person or the married couple, as the case may be, ceasing to be life member(s) for any reason.
- C. Deleted.
- D. Deleted.

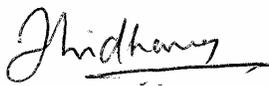
Provision is made however, that all persons who have already contributed a sum of US\$25 towards membership dues for the calendar year 2004 shall continue in their membership status until December 31, 2004."

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF THE BYLAW AMENDMENT AS OUTLINED ABOVE. Any member desiring to provide written feedback or suggest changes (along with supporting rationale) prior to the General Body Meeting is encouraged to do so by June 15, 2004.

Please also note that per our bylaws only members in good standing as of the Record Date (June 25, 2004) may vote in any formal motion or election of office bearers. We urge annual members who have not renewed their membership to renew their membership by the Record Date. Also, we would encourage nonmembers desirous of joining the Association to consider life membership instead of annual membership. We have attached the Membership Form for your convenience.

Also, any General Body Member interested in becoming a member of the 2004-2006 Board of Directors, please contact Prof. Dathatri (631-847-0595 or dathatyn@farmingdale.edu), who will be the 2004 election officer.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to seeing you all at the annual function
Yours sincerely,



S. Sridhara, NASA General Secretary

NASA 20th Anniversary Celebration: July 1-5, 2004 at New Windsor, MD

By popular demand, we have again chosen to hold this year's program at the New Windsor Conference Center located about 50 miles west of Baltimore. Directions are attached. As many of you already know, the center provides air conditioned rooms, beds, pillows, sheets and towels. Excellent food is available, catered by the famous Madras Palace of Gaithersburg MD. Please let us know if you have any special needs by way of food or accommodation, and we will try our best to meet your needs.

We are very excited to present a fine range of programs including two great music concerts, group pooja, sports, cards game, dance, Kannada and English dramas, children's activities, graduation awards and panel discussions along with the General Body Meeting. An outline of the planned program is presented below. We encourage you all to send in your requests to present special talents (please see the Registration Form). The cultural secretaries will try and accommodate as many as possible. We will provide a separate young children's playroom with a TV/Video, and some outdoor water activities (You may also bring some toys, bathing suits, and such).

High School and College Graduation Awards

NASA takes pride in recognizing our young men and women who are graduating from High School & College through the High School Graduation Award (HGA) and College Graduation Award (CGA). 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 with details.

The following are the eligibility requirements for the awards:

1. Graduates from Fall 2003 through Spring 2004 will be recognized. (Note: Graduates from Spring 2003 will be recognized only if they had not been recognized last year).
2. Awardees, or parents as the case may be, must be members of NASA in good standing. (Life members or current annual members).
3. The graduate must be present at the meeting.

Sponsorship of Activities

We would really appreciate it if you would please consider sponsoring any of the following activities:

1. Any cultural event during the 20th Anniversary program
2. Any meal (breakfast, lunch, dinner, snack, dessert, paan etc... either entirely or in part), especially suited to those families which have just celebrated big events of their own
3. Graduation Awards
4. Your pet cultural/educational/charitable Sankethi projects in Karnataka. Please see the attached sponsorship form to donate funds to support the activities listed above. For details please call Sridhar or Nataraj.
5. Commemorative Souvenir and T-shirts

We have attached the Registration Form, and we urge you to register early to take advantage of the discount rate and to get rooms with attached bathrooms. We are offering the entire program free of charge to children under 12 (Thanks to Dr. Rangappa for underwriting any financial strain due to this offer). In spite of adding an additional day of food and lodging to the program (including added costs to rent the facility), we have only increased the daily charges by a nominal \$10 (if members take advantage of the early registration discount). We hope that members would understand this and attend in large numbers. Allotment of rooms is done on a first come first served basis with priority for full registrants, keeping in mind the number of people in the group.

Tentative Program Outline for the NASA Get-Together July 1-5, 2004

The table below outlines the tentative program for the July 4th 2004 get-together. Participants are invited to arrive anytime starting the afternoon of Thursday, July 1. Dinner on Thursday night will be provided, if desired by the participant, and so indicated on the registration form.

All are encouraged to arrive on Thursday to fully participate in all of the fun-filled and exciting activities that have been planned.

Th 7/1	Fri 7/2/04	Sat 7/3/04	Sun 7/4/04	Mon 7/5/04
No AM Session	6:30-7: Nature walk 7:45: Lalitha Sahasranama Chanting 8:30: Continental Breakfast 9:30: Cards Tournament (28) Parallel sessions: Anthyaakshari. Pagade, Chowka-Bhara , Table Tennis)	6:30-7: Nature walk 7:45: Vishnu Sahasranama Chanting 8:30: Breakfast 9:30-12: Sports	6:30-7: Nature Walk 7:45: Vedic Chanting 8:30: Breakfast 9:30-10:30: Health Panel 10:30-11:30 Presidents' Panel 11:30-12: Felicitations to Presidents And Souvenir Release	Nature walk and Vedic Chanting if there is interest ----- 9-11 Brunch and Goodbye ----- BOD remains to help cleanup
No Lunch	Lunch: 12-1:30	Lunch: 12-1:30 Dosa Picnic	Lunch 12.00-1.00	
BOD Arrives in the afternoon	2-3: Guided Lakshmi Pooja by Children and Youth 3-4:00: Children's program (Segment 1) 4:00-4:30: Meditation Session by Prakash/ Vijaya 4:30-5:00: Session By Jayaram (Military Medical Readiness) 6-7:30PM Dinner	2-3: High School and College Graduations 3-3:30: Devaranama Session By Geetha/Amrutha et.al 3:30-4:00 Presentation by Umesh Jois (Omkar Foundation) 4-4:45: Children's program (Segment-2) 4:45-5:30 Cultural Program (By Prior Arrangement only) 6-7:30PM: Back-to-the-roots Served Dinner	1:30-3:30: GBM 3:30-4: Elections	
PM: Check in Starts Simple Pizza dinner on request only	8-10:30 Concert By Vasanthamadhavi Accompanied By Sandhya and Srinath (Concert Open to interested Non-NASA members from the surrounding area by prior registration) 10:30-11:30 Charades	8-9: Dance Drama/Other 9-10: Kannada Drama 10-11: English Drama 11PM: Sports Awards	5-8: Concert by RK Srikantan Supported By RS Ramakanth and Accompanied By Sandhya and Srinath 8:30: Dinner (Dinner and Concert open to interested Non-NASA Members from the surrounding area by prior registration) 10- Fire Works	

General Rules at the New Windsor Conference Center:

- Alcohol, illegal drugs and firearms are prohibited.
- Smoking is not permitted inside the buildings.
- No pets are allowed in the conference Center. Special arrangements may be possible nearby.

Regional Activities

East Coast – Ugadi Celebration on Sunday, March 28, 2004 in Stroudsburg, PA

As an inaugural function for the 20th anniversary, NASA planned a regional get-together to observe Ugadi at the Sringeri Saadhana Center, Stroudsburg, PA, on Sunday, March 28, 2004. The program started with Ganapathi Homa followed by a Saamoohika Sathyanarayana Pooja. Early in the morning holy "rudram" was chanted in chorus while abhishekam was done to the Lord. One hundred and eight modakas were offered as holy sacrifice as a part of the ritual for the Ganapathi Homa, which generated supreme vibrations in the entire premises of the Saadhana Center. After a sumptuous meal prepared by volunteers, a cultural program was also presented. Sri Ramchandra Shastry and his wife Srimathi Radhika Shastry presented Bhaarata vaachana on the entry of Abhimanyu the son of Arjuna, from the Mahabharatha.

The entire Ugadi program was organized by two past presidents of NASA (Prof. Dathatri and Sri. M.R. Balakrishna) and attended by five of the eight past presidents, the current president, Dr. Nataraja, and several other families. A more complete report, along with pictures, has been posted on the NASA website: <http://www.sankethi.org> and will also appear in the NASA commemorative souvenir.

West Coast – Ugadi Celebration on April 10, 2004

Paschimavaahini, the western chapter of NASA, met on April 10th to celebrate Ugadi. As usual, about 100 people attended the function. Plenty of entertainment programs for people of all ages, address by NASA President Dr. M S Nataraja, formation of a new committee, together with great mouth-watering Sankethi food made this program a blast. The Warm-Springs recreational facility in Fremont, California wore a very festive look, no less than any "maduve mane" that day. Another thing worth mentioning is that, Dr Nataraja donated hats with the NASA logo which were sold and a sum of \$200 was collected. The committee has set aside this amount towards a Sankethi charitable cause. We would like to take this opportunity to invite other members of NASA to attend Paschimavaahini programs whenever possible. A full report by Poornima Ramaprasad. along with several pictures, has been posted on the NASA website: <http://www.sankethi.org> and will also appear in the NASA commemorative souvenir.

Membership Update

Congratulations to our new Life Members!
Vimala and Arun Rao
Anupama and Ravi Venkitaraman

NASA Community News

Jyothi and Dr.Praveen Murthy welcomed their first child Chinmay Praveen Murthy, on April 7, 2004 in Fremont, California. Chinmay was 8 pounds 14 oz, 21 inches tall.

Saharada and Srinivasa Murthy have become grandparents. Their daughter Sarita gave birth to a baby girl, Ashita.

We are sorry to inform you that S.N. Jagannath's (Past President of NASA) father passed away, he was 95.

Kowshika Sankethi Sangha

Two prominent members of the Kowshika Sankethi Sangha (KSS), one of our parent organizations in India, are in the USA (Dr. K.K. Murthy and Dr. K. R. Srikantiah). KSS has embarked on many good projects and they are in need of additional funds, and they are appealing for help from NASA members.

Two new major projects are 1. Jubilee Hall/Heritage Center to be built as a part of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Boys' Hostel in Mysore; and 2. Expansion of the Old Age Home in Bangalore, from a capacity of 7-8 to about 15. Also, due to the declining interest rate on KSS deposits, they are running short of operating funds. Dr. Murthy's letter and accompanying brochures will be posted on <http://www.sankethi.org>. We are happy that he is attending the July function along with his family, and he will be personally addressing us on this subject.

We look forward to seeing you all at the NASA 20th Anniversary celebration in July. Best wishes to all of you from NASA!



S. Sridhara, Gen. Secretary, NASA

L.S. Ramakrishna, Assistant Secretary, NASA

NASA 20th Anniversary Get-Together Registration Form

Name: _____

of Attendees: Adults (Age 13+) _____ Young Adults (Ages 6-12) _____ Children (Age <6) _____

Home Address: _____

e-mail: _____ Telephone #: _____

Expected Arrival Date: _____ Time: _____ Desire Dinner on 7/1? _____

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 Annual Function

Payment: Please make check payable to NASA Inc. per the following schedule and mail to
NASA, Inc 20017 Doolittle Street, Montgomery Village, MD 20886

Children 12 and under are Free. All registrants will receive a free t-shirt and commemorative souvenir.

Full Program (arriving anytime Thursday or Friday) Registration

(1) Any person over the age of 13 \$160

(2) Temporary visitors and students from India \$130

Discount for early full registration (post marked on or before June 10, 2004): \$20 per person

Partial Registration

(1) Arrive anytime Saturday \$130

(2) Arrive anytime Sunday \$100

(3) Any one day attendance (no room) \$70

Discount for early partial registration (post marked on or before June 10, 2004): \$10/person

If you are not a current member, you may avail of the discount by paying the annual membership of \$25. Please note that the cost of the facility is high and fixed, and has to be paid for in full regardless of the number of people attending, and that the cost of food must be committed in advance. We appreciate your understanding and request your early registration by **June 10th** to take advantage of the discounted rates.

For participation in cultural events, please contact one of our Cultural Secretaries:

Ramesh Nagaraj (919) 380-1344 mnagaraj@embrex.com or

Veda Shekhar (804) 364-2070 vedashekhar@hotmail.com

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: _____

NASA 20th Anniversary Celebrations Sponsorship Form

If you would like to sponsor any of the activities listed below, in honor of the NASA's 20th Anniversary Celebration, Please complete the form below, make checks payable to NASA, Inc., and mail to **M.S. Nataraja, 20017 Doolittle Street, Montgomery Village, MD 20886.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ e-mail: _____

Amount of Donation: _____

Purpose of Donation (please include details in the space provided below):

___ 4th of July Annual Meeting Cultural Event(s) (could include concerts by R.K.Srikantan or Vasantha Madhavi)

___ 4th of July Annual Meeting Meals (could also include snacks, cold drinks, dessert, paan etc...)

___ Sankethi cultural, educational, or charitable projects (please specify in the space provided below)

___ Sponsorship of Souvenir advertisement space (please specify placement of ad)

___ Back Cover (\$200)

___ Full Page (\$100)

___ Best Wishes Message (\$25)

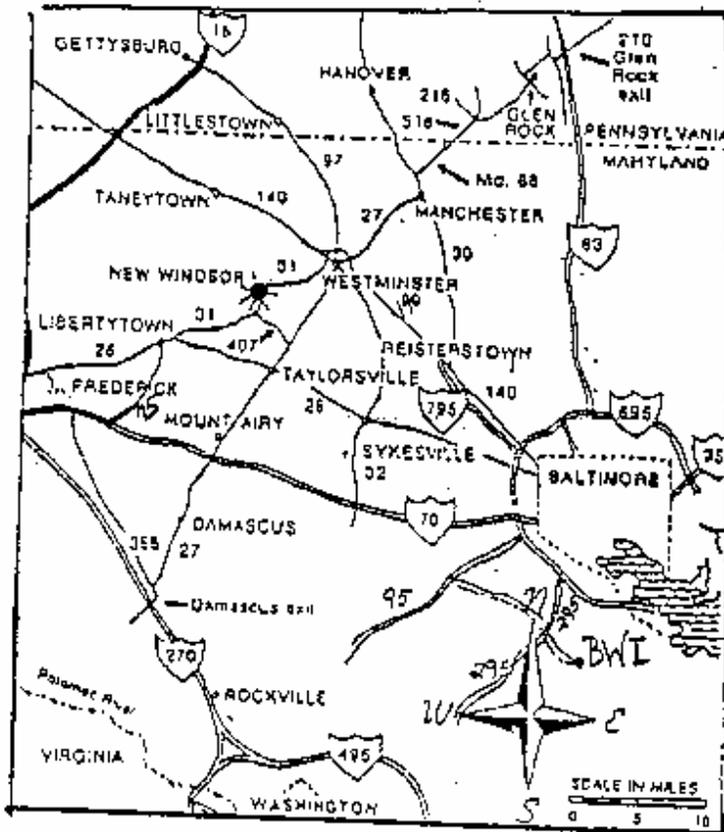
___ Inside Cover (\$150)

___ Half Page (\$50)

___ Any other item/activity (Commemorative Souvenir, T-shirt, or other, please specify in the space provided below)

Sponsorship Details or Advertisement/Message Text:

Directions to the NASA 20th Anniversary Get-Together



FROM BALTIMORE AND POINTS NORTH:

BALTIMORE BELTWAY (695) TO NORTHWEST EXPRESSWAY (795) NINE MILES TO RT 140 TOWARD WESTMINSTER. TAKE RT 140 TWELVE MILES THROUGH FINKSBURG AND WESTMINSTER. TURN LEFT ONTO RT 31 TOWARD NEW WINDSOR. **THE CONFERENCE CENTER** IS SEVEN MILES ON RIGHT JUST PAST 7-11 STORE.

FROM FREDERICK AND POINTS WEST:

TAKE I-70 EAST TO RT 75 (LIBERTYTOWN) EXIT. TURN LEFT TOWARD LIBERTYTOWN. IN LIBERTYTOWN TURN RIGHT ONTO RT 26 EAST THEN NEXT LEFT ONTO RT 31 TOWARD NEW WINDSOR. FOLLOW RT 31 APPROXIMATELY TWELVE MILES TO NEW WINDSOR. **THE CONFERENCE CENTER** WILL BE THROUGH NEW WINDSOR AND ON YOUR LEFT.

FROM WASHINGTON D.C./VIRGINIA AND POINTS SOUTH:

FROM WASHINGTON BELTWAY (I-495) TAKE RT 270 NORTH TO RT 118/DAMASCUS EXIT TO RT 27 NORTH. FOLLOW RT 27 NORTH APPROXIMATELY 20 MILES (THROUGH DAMASCUS, MT. AIRY AND TAYLORSVILLE) CROSS RT 26 AT TAYLORSVILLE AND GO APPROXIMATELY TWO MILES FARTHER ON RT 27 TO RT 407. TURN LEFT ONTO RT 407 AND FOLLOW TO RT 31. TURN RIGHT ONTO RT 31 AND FOLLOW THROUGH NEW WINDSOR. **THE CONFERENCE CENTER** WILL BE ON THE LEFT



North American Sankethi Association (NASA)

20017 Doolittle Street, Montgomery Village MD 20886

<http://www.sankethi.org>

Membership Registration Form

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Spouse Last Name: _____ Spouse First Name: _____

Children's Name(s): _____

Home Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ e-mail*: _____

Secondary Phone Number (optional): _____ Secondary e-mail (optional) _____

* We strongly urge you to provide your email address so we can communicate with you rapidly, effectively, and economically. Email addresses of NASA members will not be shared with 3rd parties.

Please select Membership Type:

___ **Life Member** (Membership cost is \$200, payable in installments of at least \$50 each, within one year)

___ **Annual Member for the Year** _____ (Membership cost is \$25 for the calendar year)

How would you prefer to receive the NASA Newsletter?

___ Paper copy mailed to your home address

___ Via email

___ Downloaded from the NASA website

Please complete this form, make checks payable to NASA, Inc., and mail to

M.S. Nataraja, 20017 Doolittle Street, Montgomery Village, MD 20886



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