



Satsang Sandesh

A Special Edition

India Temple Association, Inc.

Hindu Temple, 25 E. Taunton Ave, Berlin, NJ 08009
SOUTH JERSEY ♦ DELAWARE ♦ PENNSYLVANIA

Vol. 40 No. 1 Phone: (855) MYMANDIR (855-696-2634) www.indiatemple.org NOVEMBER 2013

ITA GENERAL BODY MEETING & ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Nominations along with completed forms are invited from General Body members by November 30, 2013. Nomination forms are included within and can also be downloaded from www.indiatemple.org. Please return completed and signed form to ITA Election Committee, PO Box 1877, Voorhees, NJ, 08043 or you can email your form to Electioncom@indiatemple.org. All emails and forms must be received by **November 30, 2013**. Questions, please contact Election Committee: Phone: 1-(855) MY MANDIR (855-696-2634) x 715, Email Electioncom@indiatemple.org or visit www.indiatemple.org.

Further requirements for the nomination include valid membership for the year two consecutive years (November 1st 2011 through October 31st, 2013), believing in ITA Constitution, one year work experience with any of the ITA Committees and willingness to volunteer time and services for ITA activities. If there are insufficient number of nominations received by the deadline, remaining vacancies may be filled by the Board in accordance with ITA Constitution and Bylaws.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO BECOME TRUSTEE OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT Rina Patel at Electioncom@indiatemple.org.

Seat	Zone	Zone Service notes	Eligible for re-election – renewal of Seat / Zone
			Y – Trustee is eligible to be re-elected N – Trustee is ineligible for re-election of additional term. Maximum of 3 consecutive terms served.
1	North	Rakesh Kohli	Y
1	East	Dinesh Depani	Y
1	West	Chetna Giyanani	Y
1	South	Ramesh Viswanathan	N
1	Founding	Dahya Patel	N
1	Open	Gopal Patel	Y
1	Open	Devang Parikh	Y
1	Open	Lalit Patel	Y

ITA takes this opportunity to thank all outgoing Trustees for their dedicated support and looking forward to their continued support for the ITA activities.

Rina Patel
On Behalf of Election Committee

Dear Members,

It is my pleasure to announce that the ITA General Body will meet on **December 15, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.** at Hindu Mandir on 25 East Taunton Road. The members will discuss the operations of the ITA and elect trustees for the coming year.

With the exception of our religious gatherings, this is – without question -- the most important gathering of the year. There will be a music program before the elections (3:30 PM-5:30 PM). There will be a scrumptious dinner sponsored by the current Board of Trustees after the meeting.

Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. A melodious music program presented by Chandan Modi group (along with local artists)
2. Elections for the Board of Trustees conducted by Rina Patel, Election Chair
3. Movement to ratify the following changes in the By-Laws: (Rina Patel, Parliamentarian, will move);
 - Article I – Membership: Changes to this article were made in 2010. Changes simplify membership structure. The full details are enclosed within and also available on the ITA website, www.indiatemple.org
 - Article VIII - Advisory Board: Changes to this article were made in 2012. Changes define and formalize role of Advisory Board. The full details are enclosed within and also available on the ITA website, www.indiatemple.org

*Please note that the two amendments to the By-Laws mentioned herewith are what were presented in our General Body meeting held last year as well as the special General Body meeting held in April of this year. In the last two General Body meetings, some felt that not enough notice was given about these changes and hence they are presented again and included in this edition for easy reference. These are changes to our bylaws that have been in operations for some time now and need your ratifications in order for it to be made official documentation of our temple. Your vote on **December 15th** will enable us to update the bylaws and sustain the logical documentation of our temple.*

4. Presentation of a report on the overall status of your association – made by Sangeeta Rashatwar, President
5. Presentation of a report on the financial status of your Association - Harshad Patel, Treasurer, will make the presentation
6. Q&A session
7. Dinner

We are thankful to so many of you who continue to provide selfless service to our association. I urge those who have not yet come forward, to get involved and to lend your intellect and energy in making a difference to our Temple and its future. We are always looking for new leadership, new contributors, new ideas, and new energy for our association.

As we contemplate this important meeting, I ask that each of you join us in celebrating our past successes, repairing our shortcomings and charting our future. To paraphrase, John F. Kennedy, “Ask not what the Temple can do for you, but what you can do for your Temple”.

As you see there are many important items on the agenda that require your votes. Requirements for an active member to have voting privileges for ITA items, per Article I of our bylaws, are:

- Age eighteen or older
- A current member of good standing as defined in Article VIII A of the Constitution
- A member at least for the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year for which he/she is voting
- At any given time of voting, member must have a valid membership for the past two years from the date of the voting
- Voting period for eligibility is November 1st, 2011 through October 31st, 2013 (period of two years)

I urge and encourage every participant in our Temple to make sure that his/her membership is active. I would also encourage those with expired memberships to consider renewing for five years or even becoming life members. Many of you with children in our Sunday school would benefit from longer membership renewal since your kids may potentially have eight years of Bal Vihar and five years of youth program participation ahead of them. We have made the process easy with our new online renewal process.

Sincerely,
Rina Patel
ITA Parliamentarian and Election Secretary



ITA Trusteeship - Nomination Form

(Term 2014-2016, Election Year 2013)

I, the undersigned _____ residing at _____ would like to present my name for consideration as an ITA Trustee (see category checked below):

I also declare that -

1. I am an ITA member for period of two years (November 1st, 2011 through October 31st, 2013).
2. I believe in ITA constitution, accept and uphold the objectives outlined in it.
3. If I am an outgoing trustee, I have NOT been a trustee for the last three consecutive terms (My first term started in Year _____).
4. I have worked for at least one year in ITA committee or committees and am willing to volunteer my time to ITA projects (please fill in the details below):
 - Past: and Future: Committees/Program _____
 - Chairperson for that Committee _____
 - Date of *my* Involvement: _____
5. My background and expertise are in _____ (Hinduism, Accounting, Information Technology, Arts, Culture, Education, Music, Engineering/Science, etc.).
6. I am eligible and wish to be a trustee from one of the following categories/zones (please check your selection, check all that apply).

North Zone _____ South Zone _____ East Zone _____

West Zone _____ Founding _____ Open _____

Category/Zone Definitions:

- A. North Zone: Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh
- B. South Zone: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry
- C. East Zone: Andaman, Arunachal, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura, West Bengal
- D. West Zone: Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Lakshadweep,
- E. Founding: Founding or Life member of ITA
- F. Open: Open for any Zone including Founding/Life members



Note:

- All information pertaining to ITA matters including membership information is privileged and confidential to the ITA Trustees and its Board members and not intended for the personal use of the recipient (s) named above. ITA membership information may not be reviewed, copied and/or distributed to general public without the written approval of the ITA Board.
- Deadline for form submission is **November 30, 2013**. Please return completed and signed form to ITA Election Committee, PO Box 1877, Voorhees, NJ, 08043 (if mailed, postmarked by 11/30/2013) or you can email your form to Electioncom@indiatemple.org. All forms emailed must be received by **midnight, November 30 2013**. Questions, please contact Election Committee: Phone: 1-(855) MY MANDIR (855-696-2634) x 715, or Email Electioncom@indiatemple.org.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Contact phone # _____

Email _____

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY: ITA ELECTION COMMITTEE				
Date Received		Trustee Appointed by BOT	Y	N
Category/Zone Assigned		Trustee Elected by GB	Y	N
First Term Beginning				
Re-Eligibility Term Beginning				
Committee Chair	Rina Patel	Signature	Date	
Committee Member	Bhula Bhakta	Signature	Date	
Committee Member	Ramesh Viswanathan	Signature	Date	
Comment:				

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP - **CURRENT**

1. Any individual or family subscribing to the objectives of the Association is eligible to become a member of the Association.
2. The annual membership dues are \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a family. The 5 year membership dues are \$60 for an individual and \$100 for a family. These may be revised from time to time by the Trustees. For the purposes of voting, a family membership entitles a maximum of two votes: one for the husband and one for the wife.
3. The dues are for a calendar year. Membership dues are amounts specifically so designated by the member at the time of the payment. Payments made to the Association for general purposes (such as for the use of the facilities, performance of puja, or general charity) shall not apply towards membership.
4. To be eligible to vote, a member has to be:
 - a. Age eighteen or older.
 - b. A current member of good standing as defined in Article VIII A of the Constitution.
 - c. A member at least for the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year for which he is voting.
5. A family includes husband, wife, and unmarried dependent children; but only the husband and wife are eligible to vote (maximum of two votes per family membership.)
6. Any individual or a family that contributes in total a sum of one thousand dollars or more on or before December 31, 1986 to the Association shall be considered Founding Members. The trustees may extend this date specifically to a date subsequent to the installation of the Murties ordered in 1986. A name plate of Founding Members shall be displayed at the premises of the Hindu Temple. A Founding Member is automatically a member for life.
7. Initially, all Founding Members are Life Members. After 1986, Life Members shall further include any member who donates to the Association in total a sum of one thousand dollars or more in three or fewer consecutive calendar years. (This includes 1986 and prior years also.) Life Members are general members for life.

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP - **AMENDED**

Here is a amended article of the by-laws:

Whereas Article VIII (B) of the ITA constitution empowers the Board of Trustees to amend the By-laws.

Whereas the trustees have designated membership committee to review and update this article to simplify membership structure.

Article I of the By-laws is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

Article I Membership

1. Any individual or family subscribing to the objectives of the Association is eligible to become a member of the Association.
2. The annual membership dues are \$51 for an individual or family. The 5 year membership dues are \$151 for an individual or family. The life membership dues are \$1000 for an individual or family. Membership dues must be paid in one lump sum. Membership Fees may be revised from time to time by the Trustees. For the purposes of voting, an individual or family membership entitles a maximum of two votes; one for the husband and one for the wife.
3. The dues are for a twelve months, five years or life time, depending on membership type. Membership dues are amounts specifically so designated by the member at the time of the payment. Payments made to the Association for general purposes (such as for the use of the facilities, performance of puja, or general charity) shall not apply towards membership.
4. The Five year membership dues for the seniors are \$25 for an individual or husband/wife. The Life membership dues for the seniors are \$100 for an individual or husband/wife. Any person of age 65 and above is considered senior in this membership category.
5. Expiration of membership shall be based on actual enrollment date.
6. To be eligible to vote, a member has to be:
 - a. Age eighteen or older.
 - b. A current member of good standing as defined in Article VIII A of the Constitution.
 - c. A member at least for the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year for which he is voting. At any given time of voting, member must have a valid membership for the past two years from the date of the voting
7. A family includes husband, wife, and unmarried dependent children; but only the husband and wife are eligible to vote (maximum of two votes per family membership.)
8. Any individual or a family that contributes in total a sum of one thousand dollars or more on or before December 31, 1986 to the Association shall be considered Founding Members. The trustees may extend this date specifically to a date subsequent to the installation of the Murties ordered in 1986. A name plate of Founding Members shall be displayed at the premises of the Hindu Temple. A Founding Member is automatically a member for life.

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9. Initially, all Founding Members are Life Members. After 1986, Life Members shall further include any member who donates to the Association in total a sum of one thousand dollars or more in three or fewer consecutive calendar years. (This includes 1986 and prior years also). Life Members are general members for life.

ARTICLE VIII ADVISORY BOARD - CURRENT

1. All ex-trustees who have completed 3 consecutive terms as trustee (with total of 9 years) are eligible to be member of the ITA Advisory Board, as long as they are currently not a trustee.
2. Advisory Board consists of a designated Chairman and eligible members who have agreed to be the member of the said Advisory Board.
3. The Advisory Board Chairman coordinates meetings and communicates between Advisory Board members and the Executive Board as needed.
4. The ITA President is an ex-officio member of the Advisory Board.
5. Advisory Board will review, discuss and make recommendations related to bank accounts, cash flows, expenses, investments, purchase and sale of property, safe keeping of important documents or any such items important to temple organizations and the community being served.
6. Advisory Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to any other specific items requested by the President or the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII ADVISORY BOARD - AMENDED

Here is a amended article of the by-laws:

Whereas Article VIII (B) of the ITA constitution empowers the Board of Trustees to amend the By-laws.

Whereas the trustees have designated an ad-hoc committee to review and update the ITA constitution and By-laws consisting of Parliamentarian Dahyabhai Patel, Co- GS Rakesh Kohli, Advisory Board member Kiran Desai, Legal counsel Swati Kothari and Ex-officio member President Rina Patel.

Whereas the Ad-hoc Committee has co-opted Nikhita Kothari, an associate at the legal offices of Swati Kothari to help them formulate the above mentioned document.

Whereas the Ad-hoc committee is continuing to deliberate on various provisions, it has come to its attention that the Board of Trustees may need to confer with the Advisory Board on various issues

Now therefor the committee is recommending that the Board of Trustees adopt an interim amendment of the By-laws dealing with the structure of the Advisory Board to facilitate the said purpose:

Article VIII of the By-laws is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

“Article VIII Advisory Board

1. Purpose:

a. The Advisory Board is to be formulated to consist of trustees who have served for at least nine years on the ITA Board of trustees (BOT), and who are not currently a member of the BOT

b. The Advisory Board is there to render its advice to the board as requested. The Advisory Board can act as a “watchdog” and bring up matters at their meeting as per item 4(c) and render its opinion which should be discussed by BOT and recorded as outlined in item 3(b) without affecting item 1(c). This may include, but is not limited to discussion of purchase and sale of property, safe keeping of important documents, or any such items important to temple organizations and the community being served.

Explanation: This recognizes that BOT is the governing body and that the AB has no voting rights. But it draws attention to the fact that the function of AB is to bring up and discuss certain important matters (as provided in item 4(c)) even if the BOT has not asked for that review. The BOT does not have to approve the AB recommendation but it has to make a note of it in its records.

c. The Advisory Board has no voting rights on the matters before the Board of Trustees.

d. The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the ITA and their rights are no way diminished by the discussions, recommendations, and advice of the Advisory Board.

2. Interaction with the Board of Trustees:

- a. BOT may maintain an electronically created group site administered by the BOT for communications with the Advisory Board.
- b. BOT shall furnish annually, preferably soon after the annual General Body meeting, a list of newly eligible members to join the Advisory Board with their phone numbers and e-addresses.
- c. BOT shall request, electronically (through a group site administered by the BOT), or otherwise, those newly qualified members to express their desire to join the Advisory Board or decline participation.
- d. BOT shall furnish the Advisory Board a complete list of members that constitute the Advisory Board that year (those eligible and willing to participate, along with those who were in Advisory Board prior thereto and who have not resigned.) The president of the BOT is ex-officio member of the Advisory Board.
- e. The list, so furnished, shall be considered the official list of the members constituting the Advisory Board
- f. A member of the Advisory Board may resign the membership of the Advisory Board by writing to the chairperson of the Advisory Board and to the BOT.
- g. The AB shall nominate a chair person and BOT shall affirm such nomination.

3. Responsibility of the BOT:

- a. The BOT shall furnish annually the financial report of the ITA to the Advisory Board for their review and discussion.
- b. The BOT shall entertain recommendations and review of the Advisory Board on the financial matters, discuss them at their trustee meeting, and put them on record in their minutes.
- c. The BOT shall consult the Advisory Board on matters of vital interest to the ITA to seek their opinion and advice. The matter of what is "vital" shall be determined by items in the constitution that requires two thirds majority. This includes the sale of immoveable property referred to in BL Article II (13)(d), removal of a member referred to in BL Article (X)(8), or any item deemed "vital" by the BOT.
- d. BOT is requested to consider the opinion of AB when an item not specifically covered in the By-Laws comes up, as referred to in BL Article X (9)"

4. Functioning of the Advisory Board (AB):

- a. The AB shall appoint a vice-chair person, and a secretary to coordinate their efforts.
- b. The AB shall meet at least once a year and discuss all matters before them, including but not limited to, recognizing the AB membership for that year, the financial report provided by the ITA, and any other matters of interest furnished by the BOT or brought up by the members of the AB.
- c. The Chairperson may designate individual members, or a committee, to deal with any concerns brought to its attention by the BOT or by AB members.
- d. The Chairperson coordinates communications with the BOT as needed. The chairperson shall designate a person to attend the BOT meetings whenever feasible.
- e. The AB may decide to hold some or all of its meeting through group tele-communication or electronic media.
- f. The AB shall review, discuss, analyze the matters brought before it, and formulate a report of their findings and discussions and communicate the same to the BOT.



India Temple Association, Inc.

25 E. Taunton, Berlin, NJ 08009

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Temple Manager

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Darshan Schedule

Morning

7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Evening

3 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Aarti

12 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Times may change during
special occasions

**Please use the front door
and ring the bell if locked**

**PLEASE REVIEW YOUR ADDRESS LABEL AND RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP BASED ON EXPIRATION DATE OR SUPPORT ITA WITH YOUR
ENROLLMENT IF YOU ARE NOT IDENTIFIED AS A MEMBER**

**Please check appropriate items from the following, and mail it to
Hindu Temple, 25 East Taunton Ave., Berlin, NJ 08009 Attn: Mr. M. Kanzaria**

I/We would like to join India Temple Association and I/We are remitting the membership dues
(please select one) Individual or Family one year (\$51) _____
Individual or Family five year (\$151) _____
Life (\$1,001) _____

I/ We are seniors, age 65 and above and would like to join India Temple Association. I am/We are
remitting the membership dues
(please select one) Individual or Family Five year (\$25) _____
Life (\$101) _____

I am adding additional donations:
_____ Scholarship Fund _____ Lifetime Seva (\$301) _____ Temple Renovations
_____ Seva Samiti Fund _____ Bal Vihar Fund _____ Youth Fund

I am relocating to the following address

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____