

CONSTITUTION

As amended on Apr. 29, 2018

Article I. Name and Location

1. The name of this organization shall be the Chicago Tamil Sangam, hereafter referred as "Sangam".
2. The headquarters of the Sangam shall be at such place permitted by law and the Certificate of Incorporation as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

Article II. Objective

The objectives of the Sangam shall be:

1. To serve the general interest and welfare of the members of the Sangam and the Tamil community.
2. To promote, project and express Literary, Cultural, Charitable, International understanding and exchange ideas and views between and amongst Tamil speaking people of India, USA and other countries.
3. To fulfill the Literary, Cultural and Social needs of the Members of the Sangam and the Tamil community.
4. The Sangam is organized exclusively for charitable, educational or literary purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law. Charitable Purposes shall include the making of distributions to organizations qualifying as exempt organizations under section (501)(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.
5. The Sangam is secular and not affiliated to any particular religion, political party or cause.

Article III. Membership

1. Any person or family upholding the objectives of the Sangam shall be a member. The membership of the Sangam shall consist of Grand Patrons, Life Members, Family Members, Single Members, Student Members and Senior Members.

All members of the Sangam must subscribe to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Sangam.

2. Grand Patron: Any person or family who has paid a one time grand patron fee as determined by the Board of Directors will be admitted as Grand Patron.
3. Life Member: Any person or family who has paid a one time life membership fee as determined by the Board of Directors will be admitted as Life Member.
4. Family Member: Any family who has paid annual Family membership fee as determined by the Board of Directors will be admitted as Family member. All children, elders and other legal dependents who are supported by the family are considered as Family Member.
5. Single Member: Any individual who has paid annual Single membership fee as determined by the Board of Directors is admitted as Single member.
6. Student Member: Any individual who is a verified full time or part time student and who has paid annual Student membership fee as determined by the Board of Directors is admitted as Student member.
7. Senior Member: Any member who has reached the age of 65 (verified with valid ID) shall be admitted as Senior Member.

Article IV. Fees and Dues

The schedule of annual dues shall be established, and when established may be modified, by two-thirds favorable vote of the Board of Directors. The schedule of fees and dues shall be set forth in the Bylaws for each type of membership.

Article V. Management of Funds

Funds collected as Life Membership shall be held in a separate bank account or trust and cannot be utilized for the day to day operations of the Sangam.

Article VI. Nomination and Election of Officers

1. The Board of Directors (hence forth called the Board) of the Sangam shall be comprised of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a

Treasurer, an Assistant Treasurer, the Past President and seven Executive Committee Members. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer are the office bearers of the Sangam.

2. The Board of Directors shall be elected by members of good standing as defined in article III.1 Except for Grand Patrons and LIFE members, eligibility is determined by paid and valid membership for at-least two consecutive years of PAID membership, including the current calendar year.
3. Election of Board of Directors shall be by a secret ballot circulated by the Secretary, counted under the supervision of an Election Committee appointed by the President, and approved by two third majority of the Board of Directors. The past President and Current President will be members of the Election Committee.
4. A vacancy occurring in the Board shall be filled by nominations by the President of the Sangam and approved by a two third majority of the Board. Members of the Board not in attendance are required to submit a proxy vote to the Secretary of the Board before the roll-call. Members of the board may submit nominations to the President.
5. Any Office Bearer having served two full consecutive terms in the office to which one was elected or nominated shall be ineligible for re-election to the same office.

Qualifications for running for the office:

1. General requirements: A candidate for the office of the Executive Committee Member must be a member in good standing as defined by article III.1 for two consecutive calendar years.
2. Specific requirements: 1. for the position of the President, the candidates should be in good standing and must have served as a member of the Board for two terms and one of which must be as an office bearer of the Sangam.
3. Specific requirements: 2. for all other named posts (VP, Secretary, Asst secretary, treasurer and Assistant treasurer) the candidates should be in good standing and must have served as a member of the Board in any capacity for one term.
4. The above requirements could be waived by the Election Committee with the approval of the two thirds majority of the existing board if qualifying candidates are not available. In the case when any office is not filled during the election proceedings, the President will treat this as a vacancy and shall adapt article VI.4 to fill the office.

Article VII. Management

1. The corporate powers of the Sangam shall be vested with the Board of Directors, subject to the constitution of the Sangam. The Board of Directors shall provide Bylaws which shall prescribe regulations for the exercise of the corporate powers vested in it. The Board of Directors shall make an annual report to the membership, which shall include a financial statement and such other matters as may be deemed appropriate.
2. This Board of Directors shall have the power to remove any of the Directors by three fourth majority of the current board when the said Director violates the constitution, involves in activities that defames Sangam, acts to impede the regular activities of the Sangam or being absent from meetings for four times or more consecutively without explanation. Motion to remove a director shall be submitted to the President with a simple majority endorsement (email or signed petition) by the board. The President shall convene a special meeting of the board to discuss and vote on the motion and execute the dismissal. The vacated office shall be filled per article VI.4

Article VIII. Meetings

1. The Sangam shall hold at least one meeting with invitations to all members of the Sangam during the term of the Current Board, termed as the General Body Meeting, at such place and time as shall be determined by the Board of Directors and designated in a notice to the membership as provided for in the Bylaws. The announcements shall be made to allow members to have sufficient time to submit amendments to the Secretary. At the General Body meeting, 25% voting members shall constitute a quorum.
2. Meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at such times (at least once in three months) and places as may be determined by the Board of Directors to be necessary for the discharge of its duties. More than 50 percent of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

Article IX. Amendments

1. A proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be submitted to the Secretary in written petitions signed by at least 25% of the members.
2. Petitions for a proposed amendment shall be presented to the Secretary 30 days prior to the announced General Body Meeting. A proposed amendment in accordance with the intent of the petition shall be drafted by the Secretary and sent by letter to the members of the Sangam at least 15 days in advance of the General Body meeting. The proposed amendment change will be voted at the General

Body Meeting by eligible members of the Sangam and eligibility is two consecutive years of PAID membership, including the current calendar year.

3. Ballots for such amendments shall be counted at the General Body Meeting by the Secretary, President and Vice President and a report thereon shall be submitted to the General Body.
4. For the adoption of any amendment to the Constitution, two thirds of the eligible members are required to be present and vote in favor at the General Body Meeting. An amendment which has been adopted shall become effective immediately.
5. At any meeting of the Board of Directors, a quorum being present, the Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote, may amend the Bylaws in conformity with the Constitution, provided that a written notice of such proposed amendment shall have been given at a previous meeting of the Board of Directors, and provided further that the Secretary mailed a copy of such proposed amendment to each member of the Board of Directors at least 15 days in advance of the meeting at which action thereon is to be taken. Any approved amendment to the Bylaws shall be communicated to all the current members of the Sangam.

Article X. NO HARM CLAUSE

The Board of Directors is not personally or collectively liable for any law suits brought by any member, or any organization or any individuals with respect to the activities of the Sangam. Sangam, as an organization, will defend the Board of Directors on such actions and meet the legal expenses.

Article XI. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

Upon the dissolution of the organization, the executive committee shall after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the organization, dispose of all the assets of the organization exclusively for the purposes of the organization in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for literary, cultural and social purposes as shall at the time qualify as exempt organization or organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law, as the committee shall determine.

Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations as said court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.