



CMANA - 2016 REVISION OF CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS

VOTER INFORMATION SHEET & SUMMARY OF CHANGES

The Constitution should be visionary & directional, provide a consistent framework for governance, and delegate all operations & exception handling to an empowered Board.

Preamble:

The founding architects of CMANA had the vision, foresight, and commitment to found and establish CMANA as 'the premier organization' supporting & promoting the cause of Carnatic Music outside India.

Over the years, CMANA has seen its membership grow rapidly, however active participation of members in the governance of CMANA was (and continues to be) a big challenge. CMANA has also witnessed the mushrooming of a multitude of similar/copy-cat organizations. Musician and music availability also has been changing drastically in the post-Internet era.

Due to these rapid transformations, there was a collective need to revise/recalibrate the Constitutional framework. The revised Constitution would need to be lightweight, nimble, and with the right-sized governance. It should take into account the explicit and implicit directives from the members of the General Body and should enhance CMANA's ability to contribute strategically and efficiently by streamlining its operational and Constitutional constructs.

About the CCC and the Revision Process:

The CMANA Constitution Committee (CCC) was formed with experienced veterans of CMANA, two of whom are past Presidents and one of whom is a member of the current Board.

This committee consulted the current Board and a few expert senior members. It also sent a short survey to collect member input and took the member feedback into general consideration.

A DRAFT version of the revised Constitution was also made available to the Board and to all members for their review and comments. All feedback was considered and factored into producing this FINAL revision.

Salient highlights of the revised Constitution:

Membership

- The life membership and patron membership fees are revised.
- Junior Member criteria and fees structure are unchanged.

General Body

- The General Body shall not meet annually in automatically convened AGBMs, but any time upon formal request by interested members or by the sitting Board.
- Proviso for GBM quorum requirements via a defined due communication process.
- A GBM can include amendments to By-Laws after following due communication process.
- Voting thresholds are simplified.

The Board of Trustees

- The Board will be composed of 4 elected office-bearers, who may appoint additional Trustees.
- An office-bearer may continue in the same capacity for up to THREE (3) consecutive terms.
- The term of the Board will be 2 years after which elections shall be held any time upon formal request by interested members or by the sitting Board (Note: This allows the sitting Board to continue for longer if there is no desire or request to change).

Financial Oversight Committee

- The FOC is appointed by the sitting Board instead of being elected by the general body.

Operations Guide

- A few operational matters were relocated from the By-Laws into a new CMANA Operations Guide. This simplification of the By-Laws is expected to continue over the coming years.