

MINNESOTA HINDU DHARMIC SABHA VISHNU MANDIR

BY-LAWS

PREAMBLE

In order to promote, maintain, teach and practice our social, cultural and practical welfare of all Hindus and interested people who want to partake in MHDS's functions here in Minnesota, we hereby ordain this organization as one of the representatives of Hindus and the Hindu Community. Further it should be noted that in no way will MHDS discriminate against people because of their race, sex, or age.

ARTICLE I-NAME AND OFFICE

1.1 The name of this organization shall be the Minnesota Hindu Dharmic Sabha Vishnu Mandir, hereinafter referred to as "MHDS Vishnu Mandir".

1.2 MHDS Vishnu Mandir is registered as a Not-for Profit Corporation in the State of Minnesota, USA.

1.3 MHDS Vishnu Mandir's principal office address is as follows:

MHDS Vishnu Mandir

4022 Washington Avenue North

Minneapolis, MN 55412

Phone 612 522 1201

Email:

Website:

1.4 MHDS Vishnu Mandir's principal office may be changed by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the MHDS Vishnu Mandir General Assembly and/or as may be required by state law.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

2.1 MHDS Vishnu Mandir shall be operated exclusively for worship, educational, cultural, and charitable purposes to provide but not limited to the following:

2.1.1 To promote and organize cultural, educational, and charitable activities beneficial to members of MHDS Vishnu Mandir and the community at large.

2.1.2 Educate the community at large about Hindu heritage and cultural values for better understanding and appreciation of diversity and multi-culturism.

- 2.1.3 Encourage, sponsor and/or support community services and charitable activities.
- 2.1.4 Work with other community organizations on issues of common interest.
- 2.1.5 Raise the awareness of MHDS Vishnu Mandir in the news media, in academic institutions, in businesses, and in matters of public policies.
- 2.1.6 To work towards establishing a Hindu Community Cultural Center in order to facilitate a resource hub, media resources, museum, and library.
- 2.1.7 Mandir facilities may be available for the community to use for Hindu religious services.
- 2.1.8 The Mandir will not be available for recurring Hindu religious services for private use, i.e. weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly.
- 2.1.9 The Mandir will accept donations but will not set a fee for the use of the facilities. However, the Mandir will request that those who use the facility for private use cover the operational cost for that period.

ARTICLE III – ORGANIZATION

- 3.1 MHDS Vishnu Mandir shall be governed by its Constitution and Bylaws. If a conflict arises in the interpretation of either the Bylaws or the Constitution, the ambiguity shall be resolved by the General Assembly through the Trustee Advisory Council. .
- 3.2 To carry out the purposes described in Article 2 of the Bylaws, the Executive Board and Trustee Advisory Council shall have the right to enter into legal contracts including leases, to receive, hold, use, disburse, and dispose of all monies and property of every name and nature donated, bequeathed, generated, conveyed or transferred to the mandir All transactions with more than one-year financial implication and greater than \$20,000 must be approved by the General Assembly before entering into such agreement.
- 3.3 MHDS Vishnu Mandir shall not be operated for profit nor shall any of its funds be distributed in the form of dividends or other distribution to any member nor be donated to a corporation or an association organized for pecuniary profits.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Membership in MHDS Vishnu Mandir shall be granted to any individual who subscribes to its objectives and wishes to further its cause.

4.2 Membership Classification:

4.2.1 **Individual Membership** shall be granted to anyone who is at least 18 years old and as such is entitled to one vote.

4.2.2 **Family Membership** shall be granted to any family (husband, wife, and unmarried children over the age of 18 years living in the same household). The family unit will have one vote for the husband, one vote for the wife, and one vote for each unmarried child/Children over the age of 18 years. This unit shall be considered as a single entity for purposes of payment of dues and mailing of notices, and newsletters.

4.3 Payment of Membership dues automatically grants membership and should be made payable to MHDS Vishnu Mandir. The Treasurer will in turn make appropriate records and issue receipts. Membership dues can be paid annually or monthly.

4.4 Rights and Privileges: All members in good standing shall be entitled to equal rights and privileges. All rights and privileges of a member are vested solely in the member and may not be delegated or transferred. Voting privileges for the current election year, a member has to be a fully paid membership from the previous year.

4.5 Suspension: In the event that a member does not pay the membership dues by December 31, all rights and privileges of membership in MHDS Vishnu Mandir shall be suspended.

4.6 Termination: Membership in MHDS Vishnu Mandir shall terminate upon the death of the member or by the member's submission of a written resignation.

4.7 **Expulsion:** A member may be expelled from MHDS Vishnu Mandir for violations of any Bylaws or harm to the interests of the organization. Such action may be initiated by any member of the General Assembly to the Executive Board by filing written charges and providing supporting evidence for further action. See membership form for further guidelines on matters that may result in expulsion.

4.8 Membership Dues: The dollar amount should be set by the Executive Board with the approval of the General Assembly.

4.8.1 The membership period is from January 1 through December 31 for the current year.

4.9 The right to vote or hold an officer position:

4.9.1 Members shall hold any office, and must be a paid member two years prior to the election year and meet the additional qualifying criteria. See position description for qualifying criteria. (See article 6 of the Bylaws)

ARTICLE V-GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

5.1 General Assembly Meeting: The MHDS Vishnu Mandir's General Assembly meeting shall be held any time after the last Sunday of the quarter. The actual date and time shall be determined by the Executive Board.

5.2 Special Meetings: Special meetings may be called by the presentation of a petition signed by a minimum of ten (10) members of the MHDS General Assembly to the Secretary or by the request of three (3) Executive Board members.

5.3 Notice of Meetings: At least 14 days advance notice of all meetings by letter, email, phone, MHDS newsletter or website (no social media) shall be given by the Secretary setting forth date and time of the meeting and, in the case of a special meeting, the purpose thereof.

5.4 Quorum: A quorum of the General Assembly shall consist of four (4) members of the Secretariat and one-third (1/3) of the currently registered members of the MHDS.

5.5 Simple Majority Vote: A majority of the number of votes cast in person shall be necessary for the adoption of any matter during quarterly or special meetings.

5.6 The members shall adhere to the rules and regulations as outlined in the Bylaws and the Constitution.

ARTICLE VI – Executive Board

6.1 The Executive Board shall consist of those individuals elected by the membership at the Annual Election. The maximum number of the elected Executives shall be seventeen (17) and shall comprise of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer, an Assistant Treasurer, a Program Coordinator, an Assistant Program Coordinator, six (6) Committee Members, a Kirtan Leader, an Assistant Kirtan Leader, and an independent auditor who will be considered the fourteenth member but will not be part of the executive board nor the Board of Trustees and shall have no voting powers in the executive meetings.

There will be an independent Certified Auditor who shall audit the books once per a fiscal year.

6.2 Term: Any MHDS Vishnu Mandir active member who has the best interest (volunteering to serve the organization for 12 consecutive months) is eligible to be an Executive Board member. In addition, an individual must be a paid member for **two years prior** to the election year and meet the additional qualifying . No officers shall be eligible for more than two consecutive annual terms without an interval of at least one year off from the current position.

6.4 Responsibilities:

6.4.1 The property and affairs of MHDS Vishnu Mandir shall be managed by the Executive Board.

6.4.2 The Executive Board may execute all business of MHDS Vishnu Mandir that does not require action by the full membership of MHDS Vishnu Mandir.

6.4.3 The Trustee Advisory Council shall work in conjunction with the Executive Board to act in accordance with the rules of the organization on strategic long range planning, fund raising, sponsorship, Hindu Cultural Center, permanent record keeping, and issuance of grants. The Executive Board shall focus on the day to day planning of the Organization.

6.4.4 Each Board Member shall act in good faith, make an informed decision, exhibit orderly manners, and exercise discretion in all matters.

6.4.5 Each Executive Board Member could be a chairperson of one or more sub committees of the MHDS Vishnu Mandir.

6.5 All members of the Executive Board are serving on a voluntary basis and will be reimbursed only for authorized out-of-pocket expenses incurred on behalf of MHDS Vishnu Mandir by submitting actual expense receipts to the Treasurer.

6.6 Vacancies: Shall be filled by open nominations and then election by the General Assembly.

6.7 Meetings: The time of regular monthly meetings of the Executive Committee shall be at the discretion of the Executives. Special meetings of the Executive Board may be called by the President, at his/her discretion, or at the written request of seven (7) Board members to the

Secretary. Such Meetings will be deemed as Emergency Meetings, which are necessary to facilitate the smooth operation of the Organization.

6.8 Notice of Meetings: Minimum five (5) days advance notice of all meetings shall be given by the Secretary to all Executive Board members setting forth the date and time of meeting and, in the case of a special meeting, the purpose thereof, by letter, phone, email or facsimile. In case of a special meeting, notification will be made by either a phone call or by email.

6.9 Quorum and Majority Vote: A minimum of one-third (1/3) of the members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The majority vote of the Executive members present in person shall be necessary for the adoption of any matter. If the meeting is postponed due to lack of a quorum, the President, at his/her discretion, may call a special meeting after five (5) days. A quorum is still required.

6.10 Meeting Attendance:

6.10.1 Attendance at each Executive Board meeting by each Executive member is mandatory except for those absences that may be excused due to out-of-town situations, illness, conflicts and emergency situations. Executive Board members shall call the President or Secretary in advance of each meeting if he or she cannot attend the meeting with the reason thereof. The President shall forward the roster of meeting attendance and excused absence details to the Secretary.

6.10.2 An Executive Board member is automatically terminated from the Executive Board for the remaining term after **three unexcused absences**. The Secretary must notify the person in writing of his/her termination and notify the General Assembly.

6.10.3 The Secretary shall inform the Executive Board of such termination with records of the absences.

6.10.4 No Executive Board members may be related as a spouse, parent, child or sibling.

6.11 Election of Executives: During the annual General Assembly Meeting, the President shall enact a Nomination Committee to run the election of MHDS Vishnu Mandir's officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Program Coordinator, Assistant Program Coordinator, three (3) Committee Members, a

Kirtan Leader, an Assistant Kirtan Leader, and an Auditor) for the new term. Refer to Article X (10) of these Bylaws.

6.12 Removal of Executives: Any member of the MHDS Executive Board may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members of the MHDS General Assembly, providing a quorum is present, subsequent to:

6.12.1 The presentation of impeachment articles to the accused and the General Assembly.

6.12.2 Trustee Advisory Council to investigate the matter.

6.12.3 An open hearing in which the accused shall be allowed to defend his/her actions.

ARTICLE VII – Executives

7.1 The MHDS Vishnu Mandir Executive Board comprises of the following officers: a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer, an Assistant Treasurer, a Program Coordinator, an Assistant Program Coordinator, six (6) Committee Members, a Kirtan Group Leader, an Assistant Kirtan Group Leader, and an Auditor. All Executives shall be elected at the Annual Election and should be a paid member for two consecutive years prior to election. (Article 4.8.1)

7.2 The President: The President shall be the chief executive officer of MHDS Vishnu Mandir and shall have general direction of the affairs of MHDS Vishnu Mandir and general supervision over its several officers and committees. He/she shall, from time to time, report to the General Assembly. He/ She shall preside at all Executive and General Assembly meetings. He/ She shall sign and execute in the name of MHDS Vishnu Mandir all contracts or other documents authorized by the General Assembly.

7.2.1 The President shall be a paid member for two (2) prior calendar years and have a sincere interest in the smooth operation/vision of the Organization.

7.3 The Vice President: The Vice President shall exercise the powers and perform all the duties of the President's office in the absence of the President.

7.4 The Secretary/Assistant Secretary: The Secretary shall give notices of meetings to the members and to the Executive Committee as prescribed by these Bylaws and the

Constitution. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of MHDS Vishnu Mandir, (including a voice recording of all executive meetings which shall not be allowed to leave the mandir premises and which may be deleted at the end of their tenure), maintain a membership roster, a roll call of attendance, and such books, papers and records as the Executive Committee may direct. These should be open to inspection by any Member of the Organization within 48 hours of request. All minutes must be entered into the book as conducted during Meetings. Minutes must be entered into the books for every General Assembly meeting and every meeting that requires voting by the General Assembly. The Assistant Secretary supports the Secretary to execute all duties as outlined and acts in the role of the Secretary during his/her absence.

7.5 Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer: The Treasurer shall receive all funds, including dues, fees, charges, other donations and shall deposit such funds directly into the MHDS Vishnu Mandir's bank account. All funds received from special events by the Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer shall be deposited within two (2) business days and twenty-four hours for regular services. All funds collected from any event shall be tallied by the Treasurer and another member of the executive. He/she shall disburse funds only as authorized by MHDS Vishnu Mandir Executive, keep appropriate records of receipts and expenses and exhibit such records at reasonable times to any member of the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall make a full financial report, to include a balance sheet and income statement, at the quarterly General Assembly meetings of MHDS Vishnu Mandir. In addition, the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall complete, execute and file any statements or returns incidental to federal or local taxation. Also, the Treasurer shall prepare and present a monthly, or more frequent if so directed by the Executive Board, a financial income statement. As the Executive Board deems necessary, the Treasurer shall be authorized to sign checks on behalf of MHDS Vishnu Mandir. Non recurring checks over \$1,000 shall be signed by both the President and Treasurer. For each major event sponsored by the MHDS Vishnu Mandir, the Treasurer will need to keep a detailed income and expenditure statement showing both all line items for donations (i.e. sponsorship, food, door tickets) and all expenses (i.e. rental fees, decorations). The Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer will be required to turn over their financial records to the Auditor on at least a quarterly basis. The financial data may be viewed by any member of the

organization within 48 hours of request. The Assistant Treasurer supports the Treasurer to execute all duties as outlined and acts in the role of the Treasurer during his/her absence.

7.6 The Auditor: Organizes, retains, and ensures proper controls are maintained as well as permanent documentation is being kept. The Auditor is responsible for performing quarterly Audit Reports for each quarterly General Assembly Meeting. The Auditor works with the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer to establish a mutually suitable presentation to the General Assembly. The Auditor shall not be considered a voting member of the Executive Board nor the Board of Trustees and shall be considered independent of any committee.

7.7 The Pandit: The Pandits should be consulted as to their desire to continue serving the Organization at each Annual Election. Pandits will be selected by the Trustee Advisory Council and the Executive Board, and a formal announcement will be made to the General Assembly upon completion. Being present at Sunday Satsangh, Parbs and other occasions must be considered. Working in harmony with the existing Pandit(s) to achieve and upkeep the goals of the Mandir is essential. Specific qualities of the Pandits include the following:

7.7.1 Must be prepared to work in harmony with each other.

7.7.2 The Pandits should inform the President or Secretary of being tardy or their inability to attend a service or Parb as soon as that need arises.

7.7.3 The Katha should not be used to deliberately offend any individual, Country, Race, Religion or each other.

7.7.4 All Pandits should follow the MHDS Havan Satsangh Book.

7.7.4.A The Havan Satsang Book will only be revised by MHDS Vishnu Mandir's Pandits only.

7.7.5 All Pandits shall share a rotating Schedule for Satsangh. Parbs will be jointly coordinated by the MHDS Pandits. If a schedule is set and a Pandit is unable to fulfill that obligation, the Pandits shall decide if and when another MHDS Pandit shall fill in for him. The MHDS Pandits shall be involved in the planning of the MHDS Annual Yagna.

7.7.6 In the event of a sponsorship, a devotee should ask for the Pandits' schedule and arrange his/her sponsorship according to the schedule.

7.7.7 Any conflict arising during a service must be resolved after the Satsangh or if there is an immediate need, to be resolved tactfully, instead of through the PA system or in the Mandir. In the event that this happens, a member of the Executive Board will move the dispute into the meeting room to resolve while the service continues on.

7.7.8 All Pandits are entitled to a leave of absence, but in the interest of the Mandir, should inform the Executive Board as soon as this need arises.

7.7.9 All Pandits are serving on a voluntary basis without any compensation and may keep all personal donations received from devotees. A donation will be given to the Pandits on special Parbs from the Mandir's funds effective January 2010. The dollar amount will be determined by the current Executive Board.

7.7.10 All Pandits will have a current year schedule by the end of January so that they can plan their personal schedules.

7.7.11 The Pandit will be a voting member in the General Assembly. If he resigns as a Pandit, he is eligible to hold any office. The Pandit can resume his position as a Pandit after serving as an Executive Officer.

7.8 Program Coordinator: Responsible for organizing weekly programs and hosting weekly Sunday services or special religious events for the Mandir. Other responsibilities include:

7.8.1 Assemble a committee to assist in success of a programs and events.

7.8.2 Propose and present to the Executive Board for approval an outline of the program, a contract or agreement for the performers, a budget proposal, and a date to finalize the event prior to taking any action.

7.8.3 Communicate via phone conversations, email, or website (no social media), with all prospective performers & parents (singers, dancers, musicians, and volunteers) to organize the program.

7.8.4 Create a timeline and schedule for practices from start of planning to actual event. This should be made public via the Mandir's website.

7.8.5 Conflict resolution of any kind takes the form of a face-to-face meeting involving the Program Coordinator, Assistant Program Coordinator, committee members assigned to supervise the event, and any additional persons involved.

7.8.6 Religious events or Sunday Satsangh: Responsible for preparing the program and host or find someone to host the event. The Program Coordinator will also work with the Pandits to ensure a successful event.

7.8.7 Advertise any event at MHDS Vishnu Mandir by preparing/ distributing flyers, brochures, postings on the websites, and delivery of announcements. The Coordinators must keep records of all announcements verbatim.

7.8.8 Parameters of MHDS Vishnu Mandir events:

7.8.8.1 The content of events is to be cultural in foundation, unless otherwise specified by the Executive Board. Religious or cultural content will be mandatory for events within the temple walls and only vegetarian foods and/or non-alcoholic beverages will be served or consumed.

7.8.8.2 All final decisions will be made by the persons assigned to the specific program or event after receiving approval from the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VIII – Trustee Advisory Council

ARTICLE VIII – TRUSTEE ADVISORY COUNCIL

8.1 There shall be a Trustee Advisory Council consisting of five (5) members elected by current paid members at the General Assembly Meeting as follows:

8.1.1 The Trustee Advisory Council shall consist of: Chair, Vice Chair, a secretary and three (2) additional members. Please be advised that only one (1) member per family can serve on the Trustee Board. A family member will be defined as a grandparent, parent, spouse, children, and any siblings. To avoid conflicts, a member can't hold an Executive position and a Trustee position at the same time.

8.1.2 Positions: The Chair and Vice Chair shall be any M.H.D.S. Vishnu Mandir past officers (President, Vice president, Secretary, Treasurer, or Organization Founders). The remaining three (3) members shall also be any M.H.D.S. Vishnu Mandir's past officers (President, Vice president, Secretary, Treasurer, or Organization Founders), however, in the event that the remaining three (3) positions can't be filled, the positions will then be open to the General Assembly for nomination. Please be advised that the nominated person or persons must be a current paid member for two (2) consecutive years.

8.2 Duties: The Council shall be responsible for the long term plan of M.H.D.S. Vishnu Mandir's growth and effective operation. It includes, but is not limited to:

8.2.1 Acting as the long term planning body to prepare guidelines for growth of M.H.D.S. Vishnu Mandir's activities, membership, revenues, and effective operation. The Trustee Board will consist of members who are dedicated to serving and preserving M.H.D.S. Vishnu Mandir and protect the interests of the Organization.

8.2.2 Developing guidelines and plans to preserve M.H.D.S. Vishnu Mandir's records and property.

8.2.3 Facilitating transition of M.H.D.S. Vishnu Mandir's Executive Board after annual election.

8.2.4 Acting as an Audit Committee.

8.2.5 Providing interpretation of M.H.D.S. Vishnu Mandir's Bylaws and Constitution.

8.2.6 Acting as a Bylaw Review and Constitution Committee in proposing amendments for consideration to General Assembly.

8.2.7 Working with M.H.D.S. Vishnu Mandir's Executive Board in an advisory role on any issues when requested by the Executive Board or required according to Bylaws.

8.2.8 The Trustee Board and all of its members must attend all General Assembly meetings.

8.3 Term: Any M.H.D.S. Vishnu Mandir past officers (President, Vice president, Secretary, Treasurer, or Organization Founders) can be a candidate for election to the Trustee Advisory Council for one (1) Four (4) year term. Trustee Advisory Council members cannot serve for more than one term without an interval of at least one (1) year off from any role within the Trustee Advisory Council. If a Member resigns, he/she will lose all privileges on the Trustee Advisory Council. Any Trustee Advisory council member can resign or be voted out by the Trustee Board and/or the General Assembly.

8.4. Voting: With the exception of the first Trustee Advisory Council voting process and formation which will take place on Sunday, September 29, 2013, Voting for the Trustee Board shall be on the Sunday of January every four years, in conjunction with the Executive Board elections per the Constitution. For the initial Trustee Advisory Council formed in 2013, elections will be held every four (4) years for replacement appointment.

8.5 Trustee Advisory Council Operation:

8.5.1 The Advisory Council Chair-Person shall coordinate all the Council activities including, periodic meetings, planning activities and keeping records, etc. per established goals by the Council.

- Shall appoint Audit Committee (as per Article IX) from the Council members each year.
- Shall appoint Bylaw Review Committee.
- Shall coordinate with M.H.D.S. Vishnu Mandir's Executive Board and officers for a unified cohesive plan of action on various activities.
- Shall submit suggested Council guidelines to the Executive Board on various activities for effective operation and long term growth.
- Shall oversee in conjunction with the General Assembly that the Bylaws are strictly adhered to by the Executive Board on all issues.
- Shall plan and coordinate scheduling of annual election

Shall assist Pandits with conducting election procedure

8.5.2 Council Vice-Chair Person shall perform all the duties of the Council Chair in the absence of the Chair.

8.5.3 Additional members of the Trustee Advisory Council shall participate in all matters of the Council as established and be responsible for the work assigned by the Council Chair.

8.5.4 At least one member of the Trustee Advisory Council must attend M.H.D.S. Vishnu Mandir's Executive Committee Board but cannot vote on any Committee matter unless there is a tie within the Executive voting. The Trustee Board member will then act as a tie-breaker vote.

8.5.5 Each Council Member shall act in good faith, make informed business decisions and exhibit the exercise of discretion and confidentiality that serves in the best interest of the Organization

8.5.6 A trustee can be removed similar to Executive removal as defined in Section 6.12.1.

ARTICLE IX – COMMITTEES

9.1 The Executive Board may establish as many sub-committees as deemed necessary, to carry out MHDS Vishnu Mandir business. The Executive Board may alter, revamp or discontinue any sub-committee.

9.2 The Chair appointed to oversee a committee must be a paid member. All other members of that particular committee may be either a paid member or not.

9.3 Vacancies and Resignations: Whenever there is a vacancy on any committee by resignation or otherwise, the President shall, with the approval of the Executive Committee, appoint another member to such committee, as needed. All resignations should be done in writing and submitted to the Executive Board.

9.4 Attendance at Executive Meetings: Committee chairpersons shall attend Executive meetings when requested or when there is a need to be present to execute their designated task.

9.5 All Committee chairpersons shall report to the President and coordinate their committee activities. At least one member of the Executive Board shall serve on each committee.

9.6 Each Committee chairperson shall carry out his/her committee duties and activities as per approved goals keep the records of the committee activities and shall turn over the documents to the succeeding chairperson or to the Secretary.

9.7 The following is an outline of committees and is not limited to:

9.7.1 Program Committee: The Program Committee shall follow policies and guidelines for all programs which will be sponsored or cosponsored by the MHDS Vishnu Mandir. It shall be responsible to accept, renew, or reject requests from other local organizations for co-sponsorship, co-operation, and participation in activities and programs being organized by them and shall send its recommendations to the Executive Board. MHDS Vishnu Mandir may participate in a sponsorship if it meets MHDS Vishnu Mandir objectives and with the approval of the Executive Board.

9.7.2 Membership Committee: The Membership Committee shall organize and execute membership drives to attract new members who will take active roles in the programs of MHDS Vishnu Mandir. It shall broaden the type of membership so as to include all eligible members from all segments of the community to further MHDS Vishnu Mandir's mission and objectives. The Committee shall provide proper recognition to the new members at the meetings and in its publications.

9.7.3 Public Relations Committee: The Public Relations Committee shall furnish information to the local press, radio, and TV Stations, and elsewhere, on activities of

MHDS Vishnu Mandir. The PR Committee ensures that important activities and programs are publicized in the MHDS Vishnu Mandir newsletter and website. It shall coordinate with the Program Committee and Publication Committee on future events, its prominent guests and their biographical sketches as a basis for preparing information material for Programming.

9.7.4 Publication Committee: The Publication Committee shall edit, publish, and distribute all MHDS Vishnu Mandir publications, including flyers, newsletters and maintain the website. They may combine the meeting announcements, other activities, and upcoming events in order to create an interest among the members, increase membership, and stimulate attendance at the meetings.

ARTICLE X - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

10.1 If more than one candidate is nominated, the trustee advisory council assisted by the Pandits shall furnish the ballots with candidate names, conduct the election, tally the votes and declare the results.

ARTICLE XI - FINANCE

11.1 The fiscal year of MHDS Vishnu Mandir shall be the calendar year ending on December 31.

11.2 MHDS Vishnu Mandir shall have no capital stock, either authorized or issued.

11.3 MHDS Vishnu Mandir shall have the right to enter into contracts, including leases, to receive, hold, use, disburse and dispose of all money and property of every name/nature donated, bequeathed, devised, conveyed or transferred to it, and to do and perform any/all acts necessary or incidental in order to carry out its purpose as described in Article II of these Bylaws.

11.4 MHDS Vishnu Mandir members and the Executive Board shall not be personally liable to any extent whatsoever for the obligations of MHDS Vishnu Mandir.

11.5 The Executive Board may raise additional funds from members or from other sources as deem appropriate to meet the objectives of MHDS Vishnu Mandir, all of which should be processed in the required procedure by the Treasurer.

11.6 The Executive Board shall not at any time authorize any expenditure that exceeds the available net assets of MHDS Vishnu Mandir. Any Loan or expenditure that does not pertain to the daily management of the Organization has to be approved by the General Assembly.

11.7 Donations received for a specific purpose, including any income from the investment of the funds received, shall be used for that specific purpose, unless authorization has been obtained from the source of that donation.

11.8 Any endowment fund received by MHDS Vishnu Mandir shall remain inviolate and in perpetuity until the dissolution of MHDS Vishnu Mandir. The income from the investment of such fund may be used for the activities of MHDS Vishnu Mandir after gaining approval from the General Assembly. Furthermore, if the fund has been endowed for a specific purpose, its income shall be used only for that specific purpose.

11.9 All non-recurring disbursements above \$1,000 must be approved by the Executive Committee. Disbursements below \$1,000 may be approved by the President and Treasurer.

11.10 Disbursement from various funds shall be made by a check and all checks must be signed by the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer. Additional authorized check signers shall include the President.

ARTICLE XII – GRANT MAKING

12.1 The making of grants/contributions and otherwise rendering financial assistance to meet MHDS Vishnu Mandir objectives defined under Article II of these Bylaws shall be within the power of the MHDS Vishnu Mandir Executive Board with the approval of the General Assembly.

12.2 In furtherance of the MHDS Vishnu Mandir objectives, only the General Assembly shall have power to make grants to any organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable or educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the code.

12.3 The MHDS Vishnu Mandir Executive Board shall review all requests for funds from other organizations, shall require that such requests specify the use to which the funds will be put, submit any such proposals to the Executive Board and only if the General Assembly approves the request, shall authorize payment of such funds to the approved grantee.

12.4 The Executive Board shall require that the grantees furnish a periodic accounting to show that the funds were expended for the purposes which were approved by the General Assembly.

12.5 The General Assembly may, in its absolute discretion, refuse to make any grants or contribution or otherwise render financial assistance to or for any or all purposes for which funds are requested.

12.6 The Executive Board, with the approval of the General Assembly, shall at all times have the right to withdraw approval of the grant and use the funds for other purposes.

12.7 MHDS Vishnu Mandir may refuse to accept contributions so earmarked that they MUST in any event go to a foreign organization which is not acceptable or approved by the US Government to maintain 501(c)(3) status or which does not further the spirit, mission, and objectives of the MHDS Vishnu Mandir.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

13.1 The Bylaws may be amended by following the amendment procedures of the MHDS Vishnu Mandir's Constitution.

ARTICLE XIV - TAX EXEMPTION

14.1 MHDS Vishnu Mandir is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and cultural purposes, within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Code.

14.2 No substantial part of the activities of MHDS Vishnu Mandir shall be to carry out propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. Also, MHDS Vishnu Mandir shall not participate in nor intervene in (including the publishing and distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

14.3 Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, MHDS Vishnu Mandir shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on:

14.3.1 By an Organization exempt from the Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provisions of any future United States tax laws.

14.3.2 By an Organization, the contributions of which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or the corresponding provisions of any future United States tax laws.

ARTICLE XV – DISSOLUTION

15.1 The notice to consider dissolution of MHDS Vishnu Mandir shall be submitted to all eligible voting members of MHDS Vishnu Mandir at least six (6) weeks in advance of the date of a meeting of the General Assembly called for the purpose.

15.2 Dissolution shall require a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the eligible members.

15.3 Upon dissolution of MHDS Vishnu Mandir, the Executive Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of MHDS Vishnu Mandir, dispose of all the assets of MHDS Vishnu Mandir to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or religious purposes, as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board shall determine.