

**HINDU AMERICAN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTE
301 STEIGERTWALT HOLLOW ROAD
NEW CUMBERLAND, PA 17070**



**BYE-LAWS
(Last Amended: November 9, 2002)**



**BYE-LAWS OF
HINDU AMERICAN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTE
(Originally adopted 3-17-1984)
(and amended 12-12-1987, 11-05-1994, 11-13-1999 and 11-09-2002)**

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ARTICLE I General Provisions

Section 1. Name:

The name of this corporation is Hindu American Religious Institute (H.A.R.I. or HARI).

Section 2. Registered Office:

The address of the registered office of this corporation is 301 Steigerwalt Hollow Road, New Cumberland, PA 17070.

Section 3. Seal:

The seal of this corporation shall have inscribed upon it the name of this corporation, the year of its incorporation, the state of its incorporation and the designation as the corporate seal.

Section 4. Fiscal Year:

The fiscal year of this corporation shall begin on January 1.

ARTICLE II Purpose

Section 1. Purpose:

This corporation has been established for the following purposes: continuation of the practice of Hindu religion in North America; establishment and maintenance of a temple for religious worship; conducting of religious services in the manner and tradition prescribed by the tenets of the Hindu faith; securing the services of Hindu Pujari to minister the spiritual needs of the membership; conducting of a religious school for children; advancement of the study of the Hindu culture and the promotion of cultural exchanges; and engaging in related religious, social, educational and recreational activities.



ARTICLE III Membership

Section 1. Classes of Membership:

There shall be two classes of members in this corporation.

- a) Members - Any person or family of the Hindu faith who shall make application for membership and who shall receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Board of Trustees shall be a member of this corporation. Membership shall entitle a person and his/her spouse to the privilege of attending and voting at membership meetings and to stand for election as a trustee or as an officer.
- b) Affiliate Members - All persons who shall be members of affiliated organizations, as hereinafter provided, shall automatically become affiliate members of this corporation. Affiliate members shall be entitled to such privileges of affiliate membership as shall be prescribed by the Board of Trustees. Affiliate members shall not be entitled to vote or hold office.

Section 2. Affiliated Organizations:

Any Organization which shall make application for affiliation with this corporation and which shall receive affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Board of Trustees voting shall be an affiliated Organization of this corporation. An affiliated Organization shall be entitled to send one non-voting observer to every meeting of the membership and of the Board of Trustees.

Section 3. Place of Membership Meetings:

Meetings of the membership shall be held at the registered office of the corporation or at any other place within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that the Board of Trustees shall designate.

Section 4. Annual Membership Meeting:

An annual meeting of the members shall be held on the HARI's Diwali Celebration Day of each year but no later than November 20th. The members shall elect officers, trustees and transact other corporate business.



Section 5. Special Meeting:

Special meetings of the members may be called by the President upon his own determination or at the request of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Special meetings shall be called by the President upon receipt of written request of at least one-fourth or more regular members entitled to vote.

Section 6. Notice of Membership Meetings:

Written notice of each membership meeting, stating the place, date and time of such meeting, and in the case of a special meeting the purpose for which it was called, shall be given by the secretary. This notice shall be sent not less than ten days before the meeting (unless a greater period shall be required by law in a particular case) to each regular member and affiliated Organization by United States mail or by telegram, postage or charges prepaid, at the address appearing on the records of the corporation.

Section 7. Waiver of Notice:

A member, before or after a membership meeting may waive notice of the meeting. Such waiver shall be deemed the equivalent of receiving notice. Attendance at a membership meeting by a person entitled to notice shall constitute a waiver of notice unless such person attends for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of business on the ground that the meeting was not properly called or convened.

Section 8. Quorum:

The presence of one-fourth of the members entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any membership meeting. The secretary shall maintain a current record of membership, which includes family members, entitled to vote.

Section 9. Eligibility to vote:

Only the members who have paid their dues are entitled to vote. Members paying dues after September 15th shall not be eligible to vote at meetings.

Section 10. Voting:

Members of the Board of Trustees and officers of this corporation shall be elected at the annual membership meeting. A simple majority vote by written ballot or by show of hands of the members present shall be required to elect.



Section 11. Annual Dues:

The annual dues per family for each calendar year shall be as determined by the general body. Family membership shall consist of husband, wife, dependent children and dependent parents living in the same household.

**ARTICLE IV
Officers**

Section 1. Officers:

All the officers of this corporation except school Co-Directors (who shall be elected after the end of the school year by the School Committee and endorsed by the Board of Trustees) shall be elected at the annual meeting of the members to be held on the day determined by Article III, Section 4. The officers shall consist of a President, a Senior Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, five (5) Vice-Presidents, and school Co-Directors. Only members who have paid membership dues by September 15th of the year and also commit to continue their membership through their term of office are eligible to hold any office. An elected Board of Trustees member shall not be elected as an officer.

Section 2. Terms:

The officers of the corporation shall hold office for one year term and until their successors are elected and have qualified. A term is defined as a calendar year.

Section 3. Removal:

The Board of Trustees may remove an officer whenever in its judgment the best interest of the corporation will be served thereby, after a full membership hearing.

Section 4. Vacancies:

Whenever a vacancy occurs by reason of resignation, removal, or death of an officer, the Board of Trustees shall meet forthwith and select a replacement who shall hold office for the balance of the term of the person vacating the said office.



Section 5. President - Powers and Duties:

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation and shall be responsible for general and active supervision and management of its business. He shall preside at all membership meetings, appoint all committees and be an ex-officio member of all committees. He shall have such other duties as may be assigned to him from time to time by the Board of Trustees. He shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees with full voting rights. The President shall assign various duties and responsibilities to Senior Vice-President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and School Co-Directors individually or as a group. Major areas of participation are: communication; membership and donation; property maintenance; supplies; children's activities; organizing Bhajans; Puja; Satsang; Prayers etc.; organizing special events like annual program and Diwali; looking after well-being and activities of the Temple priest and the smooth functioning of the HARI.

Section 6. Senior-Vice President - Powers and Duties:

The senior vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President. He shall, upon the return or availability of the President, provide to the President summary of the decisions made or actions taken in the President's absence. He shall be responsible for communication between HARI and its members and shall have such other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Trustees, in the absence of the President.

Section 7(a). Secretary - Powers and Duties:

The person in this position shall have custody of all the corporate documents and the corporate seal. This person shall process all incoming mail and outgoing correspondence in a timely manner. This person shall also be responsible for recording minutes of the Executive Committee meetings and maintain an up-to-date list of members and their addresses and shall also perform the duties of the Treasurer, in Treasurer's absence.

Section 7(b). Treasurer – Powers and Duties:

The person in this position shall have custody of all corporate funds and securities. He shall keep a full and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements, deposit all corporate monies and valuable effects to its credit in depositories designated by the Board of Trustees, disburse the funds of the corporation upon proper vouchers with disbursements to be effected upon the counter-signature of the President and shall render a report of the corporation's financial condition at the annual membership meeting and at such other times as the President or the Board of Trustees shall request.



Section 8. Vice-Presidents - Powers and Duties:

The persons in these positions shall have such duties as may be assigned to them individually or in a group by the President, as referred to in section 5 of Article IV, or others for the smooth running of the HARI.

Section 9. School Committee:

The school co-directors shall organize the school by nominating teachers and by supervising day-to-day activities. All policies pertaining to school such as school fees, curriculum, etc., shall be established by a School Committee which shall consist of the President, the school Co-Directors, Teachers, Treasurer, and one appointed Trustee.

Section 10. Nomination of Officers:

At least forty-five (45) days before the annual membership meeting, the Board of Trustees shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of five (5) members. The nominating committee shall select a slate of officers to be presented to the members at the annual membership meeting, after the Board of Trustees has reviewed and pre-certified the list for conformance with the Bye-Laws at a special joint meeting of the trustees and the nominating committee held at least one day prior to the general membership meeting. The nominating committee shall consist of a Trustee, the President, and three members from the general body. Nominating committee shall not nominate its own member/members. Additional written nominations may be submitted by members, provided at least ten members sign such request for nomination and the request is received by the Secretary at least two (2) weeks prior to the Officers' election meeting.

ARTICLE V
Board of Trustees

Section 1. Board of Trustees:

The property and business of this corporation shall be managed by its Board of Trustees, consisting of eleven (11) members of the corporation, comprising of the following:

- a) Nine elected members. One third of who shall be elected every year at the annual membership meeting.
- b) One immediate past president for a term of one year.
- c) One current president.



Section 2. Term:

The term of an elected trustee is limited to three (3) years. An elected trustee cannot be reelected for a 2nd consecutive term without an interval of three (3) years.

Section 3. Nomination of trustees:

At least forty-five (45) days before the annual membership meeting, HARI Board of Trustees shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of five (5) members. The nominating committee shall select a slate of trustees to be presented to the members at the annual membership meeting, after the Board of Trustees has reviewed and pre-certified the list for conformance with the Bye-Laws at a special joint meeting of the trustees and the nominating committee held at least one day prior to the general membership meeting. Persons so nominated should have volunteered their services to HARI and should have taken a very active role in HARI activities. Due consideration should be given to represent surrounding communities. The nominating committee shall consist of a Trustee, the President, and three members from general body. Nominating committee shall not nominate its own member/members. Additional written nominations may be submitted by members provided at least ten members sign such request for nomination and the request is received by the Secretary at least two (2) weeks prior to the Trustees' election meeting.

Section 4(a). Removal:

A trustee may be removed by a majority of two-thirds vote of the members of the corporation for cause/s shown and after a full membership hearing.

Section 4(b). Resignation:

If a trustee fails to attend three or more consecutive Board meetings except in case of sickness or any other unavoidable circumstances, he/she will be obliged to resign the position from the Board of Trustees.

Section 5. Vacancies:

Whenever a vacancy occurs by reason of resignation, removal or death of a trustee, the Board of Trustees shall meet forthwith and by a majority vote of the remaining trustees select a replacement who shall hold office for the balance of the term of the person vacating said office.

Section 6. Powers and duties of Trustees:

The Board of Trustees shall have the control and the management of the affairs and business of this corporation. It shall act in the name of the corporation only when its chairman has regularly



convened a meeting of the Board. Trustees shall attend the majority of meetings of the Board and shall take active participation in the smooth running of the HARI's affairs. Persons in these positions shall have duties as may be assigned to them by the Chairman.

Section 7. Chairman of the Board:

At an Organization meeting, which shall be held each year within one month following the annual membership meeting, the Board of Trustees shall select a chairman from among its members by secret ballot. The chairman shall serve until the trustees' next Organization meeting and shall preside over all meetings of the Board of Trustees. No person shall serve as the chairman of the Board for more than one year per term. The chairman shall be responsible to formulate a long-term development and improvement planning for the corporation. He/she shall be responsible for filing the income tax returns of the corporation for the immediate preceding year. He shall assign various duties and responsibilities to the trustees, individually or in a group. The major thrust being long term financing; building construction, maintenance and improvements; children's education; investment of the corporation funds; land/lot maintenance and improvement; legal affairs and the management of the Endowment Fund. The chairman in consultation with the President, shall also assign, to the trustees, such other responsibilities as may be necessary for the smooth running of the HARI activities.

The Chairman shall conduct the meetings of the Advisory Council of the Temple from time to time. The Advisory Council shall consist of previous and current presidents and chairmen of HARI.

ARTICLE VI Annual Report

Section 1. Annual Report:

The President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall, at each annual membership meeting, present a full and complete statement of the affairs and activities of the corporation for the preceding year.

Section 2. Auditor:

The Board of Trustees shall appoint an independent auditor for a term of five years. The auditor shall audit the corporation's accounts and affairs and submit a written report to the Board, which shall be submitted to the membership.



ARTICLE VII Compensation

Section 1. Compensation:

No officer or trustees shall receive any compensation for the services to the corporation but each may be reimbursed for actual, necessary and reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of the corporation.

ARTICLE VIII Corporate Records

Section 1. Corporate Records:

There shall be kept at the registered office of the corporation a record of the proceedings of the meetings of the membership and Board of Trustees, the Articles of Incorporation, a copy of these Bye-Laws and all amendments thereto, current list of all members in good standing and the corporation's financial records.

Section 2. Right of Inspection:

Every member shall have the right to examine, in person or by agent designated in writing, at any reasonable time for any reason whatever, the records and the books of the corporation and to make notes there from and copies thereof.

ARTICLE IX Fund Raising Activities

Section 1. Fund Raising Activities:

HARI shall not be involved in fund raising activities for any other organization or any individual except HARI sponsored programs for/in HARI's interest.



ARTICLE X Policies And Practices

Section 1. Policies And Practices:

Any change to policies and practices must be approved and voted by 75% of the full Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE XI Amendments

Section 1. Amendments:

These Bye-Laws may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the regular members entitled to vote at any annual membership meeting or special meeting at which a quorum of the membership is present, provided that the full text of the proposed amendment is set forth in the meeting notice.

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Signatures of 2002 Trustee Board

Mr. Dasa Gangadhar	
	(Chairman of the Board)
Ashok Agarwal	
	(President, Executive Committee)
Board of Trustees Members:	
Mr. Janak Amin	
Dr. Ganesh Bal	
Mrs. Heena Barad	
Mr. Narendra Desai	
Mrs. Aruna Lal	
Mr. Pravin Patel	
Dr. V. C. Shah	
Mr. J. P. Sheth	

HARI BYE-LAWS



Mr. Ashok Shukla
