

NTA By-Laws: 5. Membership

§ 5. Membership Classes

5.1 The NTA Bylaws provide for three classes of membership in the Association: Life, Active, and Annual. Requirements for each class of membership are given in the NTA Bylaws.

§ 6. Eligibility

6.1 NTA is a non-profit organisation devoted for the welfare of Telugu people in Norway. NTA Membership is open to any person or family of Telugu ethnicity provided that such a person is:

- Resident of Norway
- Over 18 years of age
- Agree to abide by the statutes and bylaws of NTA
- Submits an application on the prescribed form with the applicant's full legal name, residential address, electronic mail address and telephone number
- Pays the prescribed fees

6.2 The application for membership is processed and approved by NTA Executive Board.

6.3 NTA reserves the right to verify the information provided for membership of any applicant. NTA may seek evidence/additional documentation from applicant, when the submitted information leaves doubt as to the applicant's eligibility for membership in the Association. Local address proof in Norway can be requested in order to verify the validity of residency in Norway.

6.4 In accordance with and without limitation to the statutes and bylaws of NTA, If NTA determines, in its sole discretion, that any individual no longer subscribes to the objectives of NTA or that false or misleading information was provided, NTA may reject or cancel the membership of any applicant.

6.5 All applicants for membership shall indicate whether or not they have previously been rejected for membership in the Association or had membership voided or have previously been convicted or sanctioned by any government body, licensing board, other regulatory body or any criminal organization. All applications for Membership shall carry the following statement, which the applicant shall sign:

"In making this application, I subscribe to and will support the objectives of the Norway Telugu Association (NTA) as set forth in Article I of the bylaws, and the Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct, as adopted by the Association, and I affirm that the statements made in this application correctly represent my qualifications for membership, and understand that if they do not, my membership may be voided."

§ 7. Family Membership

7.1 Family membership in NTA is designed for spouses or families. Members of the immediate family include spouses, and/or kids entitled to Family Membership privileges. Up to four family members (Spouses and/or two kids) may sign up for a Family membership.

7.2 The spouse/family of a member shall also be deemed to be a member in the same class of membership. Each member shall promptly notify the NTA Executive Body of any change in marital status.

7.3 One family member is designated as the main membership holder. As such, that individual receives NTA related information the family wishes to receive by post/electronic communication.

§ 8. Contact Information

8.1 It shall be the responsibility of each NTA member to update member's current valid regular mailing address, telephone number, and electronic mail address to which all notices and other communications of NTA, may be sent.

8.2 NTA reserves the right to remove any electronic or regular mail address or telephone number which is no longer current from NTA's member register. NTA also reserves the right to stop mailing any materials to such member.

§ 9. Validity of Notice

9.1 Notice posted at the NTA website or sent either to a member's regular mailing address, or to such member's electronic mail address on file with the NTA shall be deemed to be good and sufficient notice for all purposes under these Bylaws.

§ 10. Membership Privileges

The privileges of each membership category shall be as stated herein:

10.1 Life Members: Life members (valid for 10 years) shall be entitled to the rights and privileges

- To vote in the NTA (s)elections once qualified
- To serve on committees
- To stand for Executive Committee in NTA (s)elections subject to eligibility criteria
- To receive the special benefits/discounts in NTA events
- To enjoy the special honorific title of "Life member"

10.2 Active Members: Active member, annual general member of NTA continuously for last 3 years, shall be entitled to the rights and privileges

- To vote in the NTA (s)elections once qualified
- To stand for Executive Committee in NTA (s)elections subject to eligibility criteria
- To receive the benefits/discounts in NTA events valid for active members
- To enjoy the special honorific title of “Active member”

10.3 Annual General Members: Membership will be valid per calendar year. Every qualified member as per Article § 6, except Life and Active Members, shall be entitled to the rights and privileges

- To vote in the NTA (s)elections once qualified
- To receive the benefits/discounts in NTA events valid for general members

§ 11. Membership Fees, and Assessments

11.1 Obligation to Pay: Every member of NTA must pay the membership fees, and assessments established for their class of membership by the Executive Committee as they may be amended from time to time, and approved by the Executive Committee.

11.2 Membership Fees Requirement: On or before April 1 of each year, every member of NTA, except those taken life membership, or been disbarred, must pay annual membership fees to NTA.

11.3 The Executive Committee will publish the current schedule of fees, and assessments on NTA'S website www.norwayteluguassociation.com which shall be deemed as notification to all of the members. Annual membership fees for all membership categories shall be established each year by the Executive Committee.

11.4 Fees Non-refundable Membership fees are non-refundable in any event for any class of membership.

11.5 The membership fees are not divisible pro rata temporis.

11.6 Late Payment of Membership Fees: Payment of annual membership fees must be postmarked no later than 1st May. The finance coordinator will send written notice to the last official registered address of each member whose membership fees have not been paid by 1st May. Written notice may be by registered or certified mail, or by return receipt electronic mail. The annual membership fee needs to be paid within 30 calendar days after receipt of the notice. Members who fail to pay their fee within 30 calendar days after receipt of the reminder are considered to be retiring. Members dropped after nonpayment of dues will be considered voluntary resignations from the Association.

§ 12. Revocation

12.1 Membership obtained on the basis of false or fraudulent evidence may be voided at any subsequent time by the Executive Committee.

12.2 Membership in the Association may be terminated by the death of a member, resignation, dropping for nonpayment of dues, or as provided in the By-laws.

12.3 If a member

- is convicted of a criminal offense; or
- fail to comply with any provision of these rules; or
- conducts themselves in a manner deemed to be detrimental or harmful to the character or interest of the association;

Membership of any member can be revoked for significant violations of the Articles of NTA.

12.4 The concerned member shall be given a full and fair opportunity to present their case, and if the Executive Committee decides to terminate its membership, it shall instruct the Leader of the Committee to advise the member in writing accordingly. The notice shall contain sufficient information to allow a defense to be prepared to the complaints against the member. The charges must be specific so that the member will know exactly the content of the conduct complained of and nothing should be left to interpretational issues. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final and binding.

12.5 A member may resign from any class by not paying the dues or assessment of that class in connection with the annual Association dues statement.

§ 13. Reinstatement or Readmission

13.1 The membership of a person who has voluntarily resigned may be fully reinstated at any time by the payment of all current dues. Reinstatement is effective as of the current year.

§ 14. Life Membership Status (Dues Exemption)

14.1 Any member who has reached the age of 65 and has belonged to the NTA for a total of 15 years may be given a honorary title of "Life Membership" with exemption from fees.