

Kaveri Special General Body Meeting (GBM) – 2026

Day - September 27th, 2026

Location: Shouse Community Center,
[1432 Towlston Road, Vienna, VA 22182](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1432+Towlston+Road,+Vienna,+VA+22182/@38.9188889,-77.2455556,15z)

Meeting Start Time: 3:50 PM

1. Opening

The Special General Body Meeting was called to order at 3:50 PM.

- **Mohan Venkobdas** welcomed the members of the General Body.
- The meeting began with an invocation by **Meena Rao** and **Sarita Rudrapatna**.
- **Mysore Nataraj** served as the moderator for the meeting and stated his neutrality in conducting the proceedings.
- **Sudhir Sharma, BOT Chair**, explained the background and context for convening the Special GBM.

2. Background and Proposed Resolution

The meeting discussed the solution proposed in the last GBM directed to BOT regarding prerequisites for certain elected positions.

Based on this proposal, a five-member team consisting of **Madesh Basavaraju, Sanjay Rao, Shailaja Akracharya, Jayashree Jagadeesh, and Srikanta Rao** deliberated on the matter and developed the proposed resolution/recommendation.

Here are the **two recommendations**

1. Executive Officer Qualifications.

To safeguard the operational continuity and fiduciary integrity of the Association, candidates for the office of President and Vice President must have served as active members of the Kaveri Executive Committee for a minimum total duration of two (2) years within the five (5) years immediately preceding their nomination. This prerequisite ensures that senior executive leaders possess a foundational understanding of the organization's administrative framework, and it shall not apply to general Office Bearer or standard committee roles, thereby preserving an open, structured path for new leadership development and community growth.

2. Authorization of Electronic Voting.

To modernize the election process and increase voting accessibility, the Kaveri Executive Committee, in conjunction with appointed election officers, is authorized to establish and utilize a secure, impartial, and auditable electronic voting method or independent third-party platform exclusively for conducting Executive Committee and Office Bearer elections. The use of this electronic voting framework is strictly restricted to candidate elections; All other general business discussions, constitutional revisions, and policy amendments should ideally take place during in-person General Body meetings to preserve open community dialogue, with every effort made to accommodate this format.

The **KEC** had previously sought feedback from the membership. Feedback was received from four members, and all responses were supportive. The only suggestion raised was that the cost associated with online voting should be borne by the **BOT**.

3. Quorum and Authority to Proceed

The required quorum of 50 members had not been reached at the beginning of the meeting. The elders present expressed the view that the meeting should proceed with discussion of the resolution rather than lose the opportunity to deliberate on the matter.

It was clarified during the discussion that the proposal was not an amendment to the Constitution. The proposal concerned modification of the **Election Guidance** and addition of relevant provisions to the **Bylaws**. Accordingly, it was stated that a simple majority would be sufficient for the resolution under consideration. After discussion and deliberation, the members decided to wait until the required quorum was reached so that the meeting could proceed with a decisive consideration and vote on the recommendations, rather than limiting the session to discussion and having to convene another meeting to formally approve the recommendations.

At **5:08 PM**, the required quorum of 50 members was reached.

4. Online Voting

The General Body discussed the feasibility of introducing online voting.

Members noted that research was being conducted regarding:

- Appropriate electronic voting platforms and applications;
- Security and reliability of online voting;
- Implementation procedures; and
- Associated costs.

The question of whether online voting was necessary was also discussed.

Jayashree Jagadeesh noted that driving, particularly in snowy conditions, can be difficult for senior members and that online voting could provide greater accessibility.

The general discussion indicated that electronic voting appeared to be a feasible option, subject to further evaluation of the technology, process, security, and cost.

5. Election Guidance, Bylaws, and Prerequisites

The members discussed whether the existing Election Guidance was being followed and how the proposed changes should be incorporated.

It was clarified that:

- The **Constitution is not being amended**.
- The **Election Guidance** is proposed to be modified through the resolution.
- The **Bylaws** would be amended to add a section addressing prerequisites for members of the KEC and certain office-bearer positions.
- The proposed requirement of having served as active members of the Kaveri Executive Committee for a minimum total duration of two (2) years within the five (5) years immediately preceding their nomination would apply specifically to the positions of **President and Vice President**.
- Members of the Executive Committee and office bearers below the Vice President would not be subject to the above mentioned prerequisite.

A question was raised regarding whether **the Kaveri Youth Coordinator (KYC) and Kaveri Executive Committee (KEC) service could collectively be considered toward the required experience**, including whether one year of KYC service and one year of KEC service would qualify. It was agreed by the General Body that one year of KYC would be considered toward the required experience.

It was also requested that the current version of the Constitution be verified to ensure that the correct and most up-to-date version is being referenced. The recommendation team stated that this has been verified.

The meeting clarified that the General Body was not amending the Constitution. **The Constitution Committee, which had previously been empowered by the General Body, would formulate the appropriate and unambiguous wording for the Bylaw provision.**

6. Discussion on the Proposed Prerequisite

The resolution/recommendation was read again and discussed.

The intent was stated as follows:

The first resolution is to be incorporated as a section in the Bylaws in clear and unambiguous terms and shall be followed accordingly.

It was further clarified that **KYC and KEC experience are to be considered together** for purposes of the proposed prerequisite.

The committee noted that various constitutions and bylaws of other Kannada community organizations had been reviewed as part of the research, and that the wording of the proposed provision had been developed after this review.

Lokesh Aarani and **Kumar Ningas** expressed the view that the rules should not be excessively rigid.

Shiv Mathada raised a concern that the proposed experience requirement could prevent newer members from having the opportunity to apply for the positions of President or Vice President.

The members discussed these concerns and the implications of the proposed requirement.

7. Resolutions and Voting

Following the discussion, the resolution was formally proposed by **Kaveri Krishnamurthy** and seconded by **Suresh Ramachandra**.

The resolution was put to a vote.

- **Ayes:** Overwhelming majority
- **Nays:** 4
- The resolution received **more than a two-thirds majority** and was therefore **passed**.
- These resolutions are effective immediately (applicable to the election of next year 2027 committee)
- If no eligible candidates have applied, then the positions are open to all members without the requirement of two years of service in the committee

ACTION ITEMS:

1. The recommendation Committee, which had previously been empowered by the General Body, would formulate the appropriate and unambiguous wording for the Bylaw provision as new section (Section 7). The verbiage would also include the day this recommendation passed (27th September 2026).
2. KEC 2026 would then update the Kaveri website with the above information in the Bylaw webpage.

8. Conclusion

The discussion was concluded following the vote, with the resolutions having been approved by the General Body.

The meeting was thereafter brought to a close.