

- 5.80 The Working Committee is empowered to carry out the following transactions:
- a) To accept donations, contributions, gifts, estates, grants, aids, and fees on behalf of the GSSA.
 - b) To give donations, grants and aids for the religious, educational and humanitarian purposes and to defray day-to-day expenses within the limits of the appropriated budget.
 - c) To disburse any non-budgeted immovable property and major fund disbursements valued at \$2,000.00 (two thousand) and under per item.
- 5.90 The Working Committee shall meet at least once every three months. At least a seven(7) day notice shall be given to its members of the date, time, place, and agenda of such meeting. In certain emergency situations or on the request of at least three (3) of its members, the Secretary, in consultation with the President, shall call a short notice meeting to discuss the important issue(s) in question.
- 5.100 The presence of five (5) members shall constitute the quorum for the Working Committee meetings to conduct any business.
- 5.110 A person may not hold the position of President or Treasurer for more than one term (one year) consecutively.
- 5.120 The maximum consecutive period which an elected member may serve in the Working Committee is two (2) years (two consecutive terms).
- 5.130 Any vacancy occurring after an election shall be filled by the Council of Trustees.

6.00 THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES

- 6.10 The Council of Trustees shall consist of not more than twenty one (21) Trustees, elected from the membership of GSSA, at the December General Body meeting.
- 6.20 The President of the Working Committee shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Council of Trustees.
- 6.30 Members shall be elected on a rotating basis with no more than seven (7) members in one year elected for a term of three (3) years.
- 6.40 The Council of Trustees shall, before the end of January, meet to elect a Chairman and a Secretary for a term of one (1) year and such selections shall be communicated to Sangat through "The Bulletin" and announced at regular Diwan.
- 6.50 Vacancy(s) in the Council of Trustees shall be filled by By-Elections at the next December General Body meeting for the remaining term of such vacancy(s).
- 6.60 No Trustee shall hold the office of the Chairman or the Secretary of the Council of Trustees for more than one consecutive year.
- 6.70 A Trustee can hold his/her Council position for a maximum of one consecutive term (three years).
- 6.80 The Council of Trustees shall meet at least once every three months. At least a seven (7) day notice shall be given to its members of the date, time, place, and agenda of such meeting.

6.90 Presence of more than half of the Trustees shall constitute a quorum for any Council of Trustee meeting to conduct any business.

6.100 All decisions in the Council meeting shall require a majority vote of the Trustees present and voting.

6.110 The Council of Trustees shall perform the following roles:

- a) Frame major policy -and long-term planning of GSSA's objectives, activities and capital project(s) of \$20,000 and above, formulate a plan of action and obtain its approval from the General Body for execution by the Working Committee.
- b) Take over the GSSA management in case a no-confidence motion against the Working Committee has been passed. The Council shall call a General Body meeting for new elections within sixty (60) days of taking over.

The elections shall be conducted under the Chairmanship of the Elections and the Rules Committee.

- c) Approve the sale of the immovable property of GSSA valued \$2,000 to \$10,000. The sale of property valued over \$10,000 will require the approval of 2/3 majority of total membership of General Body, voting for it.
- d) Ensure the due process of Law in case of dissolution of GSSA.
- e) Nominate an Auditor for the auditing of financial records of GSSA for approval at the December General Body meeting and be responsible for its report.

2. Bulletin Editorial Sub-Committee
3. Fund Raising Sub-Committee
4. Langer Sub-Committee
5. Sangat Welfare Sub-Committee

Other Sub-Committees may be appointed as necessary: The following shall also apply to the Sub-Committees:

- a) Membership in these Sub-Committees shall be open to the Sangat.
 - b) Names of all Sub-Committees along with the names of all its members shall be posted on the GSSA Gurudwara Bulltin Board one week before the February General Body Meeting of each year and followed by publication in The Bulletin.
 - c) Each Sub-Committee shall be chaired by a member of the Working Committee who, as the elected representative of the General Body, shall be responsible for all its functions and budget requirements.
 - d) The term of all Sub-Committees shall expire with the term of the Working Committee.
- 5.70 Within the approved budget, the Working Committee may hire and/or remove individual(s) for part time or full time services for the GSSA, as may be required. Such action(s) for full time employees shall require the approval of the Council of Trustees.

5.42 The Vice-President shall assist the President in all the functions, shall assume charge of the duties of the President in his/her absence and carry over the functions assigned by the President.

5.43 The Secretary shall be responsible for the maintenance of all records, documents, registers, and other official papers of the GSSA. He/she shall keep the records of the proceedings of the Working Committee and the General Body meetings. He/she shall prepare the agenda of the meetings in consultations with the President. He/she shall keep the members informed about the activities of the GSSA.

5.44 The Treasurer shall collect dues, keep accounts of all the receipts and expenses and deposit all the funds received in the name of GSSA, in banks(s). He/she shall also sign checks and make payment(s) in the name of GSSA as authorized by the Working Committee within the authorized budget grants. He/ she shall prepare the GSSA annual operating budget and submit it for approval at the February General Body meeting.

5.45 The Members shall be allotted special assignments by the President from time to time as necessary. One member, in specific, shall be designated to assist the Treasurer in bookkeeping and shall review all bank statements and other financial reports.

5.50 The Working Committee shall establish and implement a fund raising program to meet the requirements of the operating budget and the Capital funds. The operating budget shall be tailored to the funds raised and available.

5.60 The Working Committee shall appoint the following Sub-Committees:

1. Children Sub-Committee

f) Fill vacancies in Committees as outlined in other articles.

7.00 **THE ELECTIONS AND RULES COMMITTEE**

7.10 The Elections and Rules Committee shall consist of five (5) members, elected from the membership of GSSA, at the December General Body meeting.

7.20 Members shall be elected on a rotating basis with no more than two (2) members in one year elected for a term of three (3) years.

7.30 The Committee shall, before the end of January, meet to elect a Chairman and a Secretary for a term of one year, and such selections shall be communicated to the Sangat through "The Bulletin" and announced at regular Diwan.

7.40 A member can hold his/her Committee position for a maximum of one consecutive term (3 years).

7.50 No member shall hold the office of the Chairman or the Secretary of the Committee for more than one consecutive year.

7.60 Presence of at least four (4) members shall constitute a quorum for any Committee meeting to conduct any business.

7.70 Vacancies in the Committee shall be filled by the Council of Trustees until the next General Body meeting at which time vacancies shall be filled by by-elections, for the remaining term(s) of such vacancies.

7.80 All elections of GSSA shall be conducted under the Chairmanship of the Elections and Rules Committee.

- 7.90 The Elections and Rules Committees shall advise and rule on constitutional matters, mediate among the various branches of the GSSA and be responsible for receiving and investigating petitions.
- 7.100 Five (5) members of the GSSA may petition, in writing, to the Elections and Rules Committee for consideration and ruling on any issue pertinent to the GSSA. The Committee shall review such petitions within thirty (30) days of the receipt of such petition and issue a written decision.
- 7.110 The decision of the Elections and Rules Committee can only be revoked or modified by the General Body. An appeal to the General Body must be made within thirty (30) days of the written notice of decision of the Elections and Rules Committee.

8.00 BUDGET AND FINANCE

- 8.10 The fiscal year of the GSSA shall be from January 1st to December 31st.
- 8.20 Complete financial reports shall be posted on the bulletin board every quarter.
- 8.30 Proposed annual budget estimates for all branches of GSSA, along with the required fund raising program, shall be prepared by the Treasurer and presented to the February General Body meeting for approval. Until this budget is approved, payments can be made for fixed expenditures only.
- 8.40 The General Body, at the December meeting, shall approve or, if necessary, shall appoint an Auditor for auditing the accounts of GSSA for the following year. The

5.00 THE WORKING COMMITTEE

- 5.10 The Working Committee shall consist of seven (7) members, elected from the membership of GSSA, at the December General Body meeting:
- a) President,
 - b) Vice-President,
 - c) Secretary,
 - d) Treasurer,
 - e) Three Members
- 5.20 The Committee shall, within fifteen (15) days of the election, meet to choose a Vice President and a Secretary amongst themselves. Such selections shall be notified to the Sangat through "The Bulletin" and announced at regular Diwan.
- 5.30 The Working Committee shall assume responsibility on January 1st and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are elected and sworn in.
- 5.40 The general responsibilities for the various Working Committee members are outlined here. The President may, from time to time, delegate other duties to the Working Committee members.
- 5.41 The President shall preside over all the meetings and functions, coordinate various activities, and supervise the management of GSSA. He/she, during the period of his/her term, shall be an ex-officio non-voting member of the Council of Trustees. The President shall provide a written status report of the GSSA activities for each quarter and such reports shall become part of the GSSA records.

- 4.40 Inclusion of any item on agenda by membership, shall require the written endorsement of at least five (5) members. Such agenda items must be given to the Secretary of the Working Committee at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting and at least before one Sunday Diwan. After receiving the agenda, the Secretary shall make it public by announcing it at the following Sunday Diwan and also by posting it on the GSSA Gurrudwara Bulletin Board.
- 4.50 In special cases, the Secretary, in consultation with other Working Committee members may call an emergency meeting of the General Body, at a minimum of 10 days notice, to discuss any important issue(s). The business of such a meeting shall be limited to the important issue(s) in question.
- 4.60 One fifth (1/5) of the total membership or 21 members, whichever is smaller, may request a special meeting. Such requests must be in writing to the Secretary of the Working Committee and must specify the issue(s) they want to discuss. The Secretary, in compliance with their request, shall call for a special General Body meeting within ten (10) days of such a request. The business of such a meeting shall be limited to the issue(s) in question.
- 4.70 All meetings of the General Body shall be presided over by the President of the Working Committee.
- 4.80 The presence of at least one-third(1/3) of the members shall constitute a quorum for the General Body meeting to conduct any business, except amendments to the Charter and/or By-Laws. Amendments to the By-Laws shall require the presence of, or voting, by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members to constitute a quorum.
- 8.50 Auditor, answerable to the Council of Trustees, shall audit the financial statements of GSSA and submit the written report to the Council of Trustees. The Auditor's report for the previous year shall be submitted to the Council of Trustees whose Chairman in turn will present it to the General Body at the February meeting. The Working Committee and the Council of Trustees shall give full support to the Auditor to facilitate his/her work. The Auditor's report shall be posted on the bulletin board.
- 8.50 An accurate written account of all the receipts and payments of the funds shall be maintained for a complete auditing at any time.
- 8.60 The payments required to meet the Gurrudwara mortgage, utility obligations and employee salaries shall take priority over the other liabilities of the GSSA.
- 8.70 All financial records shall be kept for a period of at least ten (10) years.
- 8.80 All the Capital belonging to GSSA shall be kept in a Bank(s) or Trust Company(s). The authorized signatures shall include the Treasurer and the President. Only the signature of the Treasurer or in his/her absence and upon his/her designation, the President shall be required to withdraw or disburse monies up to \$1,000 (one thousand). For monies above \$1,000, both the signatures shall be required.
- 8.90 Assets and liabilities of the GSSA shall rest with the General Body. No member of the Council of Trustees, the Working Committees the Elections and Rules Committee or any other Committee shall be personally held responsible for any liabilities of the GSSA.

- 8.100 No part of the net income, gains, profit or earnings of GSSA shall be applied to the benefit of or be distributable to any individual, private or GSSA official(s). Only the GSSA shall be empowered to pay reasonable compensations for services rendered or make distributions provided that such payments or distributions are in furtherance of the aims and objectives of the GSSA as set forth in Article II of the Charter.
- 8.110 All contributions, gifts, estates, fees, donations and grants, once made to GSSA by a member or non-member, shall be non-refundable.
- 8.120 Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Council of Trustees shall, after paying all liabilities of the Corporation, and compensation for the services rendered, dispose of all the assets of the Corporation, exclusively for the GSSA in such manner(s) or to such organization(s), organized and operated solely and exclusively for charitable or religious purposes under section 501 (c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as may, from time to time, be amended.

9.00 **ELECTIONS**

- 9.10 The general elections of the members of the Working Committee (President, Treasurer and 5 members), the rotating members of the Council of Trustees, the rotating members of the Elections and Rules Committee and the approval of the Auditor shall be held at the December General Body meeting under the Chairmanship of the Elections and Rules Committee.
- 9.20 The Elections and Rules Committee shall call for nominations and be responsible for making necessary arrangements for the annual elections as well as any by-elections.

- 4.22 In the December General Body meeting, to be held no later than the third Sunday of December, the following business shall be conducted:
- a) Submission of annual report of the Working Committee by its President.
 - b) Submission of annual report of the Council of Trustees by its Chairman.
 - c) Elections of the following, under the Chairmanship of Elections and Rules Committee:
 - (i) All Members of the Working Committee for the following year
 - (ii) Rotating Members of the Council of trustees
 - (iii) Rotating Members of the Elections and Rules Committee
 - d) Approval of Honorary members presented by the Working Committee.
 - e) Approval of Auditor for the following fiscal year.
 - f) Any additional business.

- 4.30 At least a twenty-one (21) day written notice shall be given to the members intimating the date, time, place, and agenda for any General Body meeting.

- 3.50 Any member may obtain a life membership after paying a one-time membership fee of \$200.00. The category of membership shall be determined by the principal residence of the member.
- 3.60 Any member found acting contrary to the aims and objectives of GSSA, can be expelled from GSSA. The authority of expulsion of a member lies with the General Body only.
- 4.00 **GENERAL BODY**
- 4.10 The General Body shall consist of all the members of GSSA.
- 4.20 The General Body shall meet at least twice a year, once in February and once again in December.
- 4.21 In the February General Body meeting, the following business shall be conducted:
- a) Approve the general program for the year, presented by the Working Committee.
 - b) Approve the operating budget for the current year, presented by the Working Committee.
 - c) Approve the audited financial report for the previous year, presented by the Council of Trustees.
 - d) Any additional business.
- 9.30 Any member seeking election to any office of GSSA must have been a member of GSSA in good standing in the year immediately preceding the current one. Any member seeking election for the Presidency must have been an elected official of GSSA at least once in the past five (5) years.
- 9.40 No member shall nominate more than two candidates for any office in any one election.
- 9.50 No member may be nominated for more than one position.
- 9.60 Except for Trustees, each member running for any office of the GSSA shall be nominated, in writing, by a member and seconded by another member. A nominee for the post of a Trustee must be nominated, in writing, by at least five (5) members. The nominee shall also express his/her consent in writing of running before his/her name can be put on the ballot.
- 9.70 If the required number of nominations for the Working Committee and/or Elections and Rules Committee are not received by the stipulated date, the Elections and Rules Committee shall propose and second such additional nomination(s) with the written consent of the nominee(s).
- 9.80 The Elections and Rules Committee shall, in writing, inform members of the GSSA at least twenty one (21) days in advance, the number of office bearers to be elected, the procedure for conducting elections, as well as the date, time, and place of the meeting for the elections.
- 9.90 Voting, if necessary, shall be by secret ballots.

9.100 For any election to be valid, at least one third (1/3) of the total membership has to cast their votes.

9.110 A simple majority of votes cast is needed to win the position of President and Treasurer of the Working Committee. For other members of the Working Committee, five (5) candidates obtaining the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.

9.120 For the members of the Council of Trustees, and the Elections and Rules Committee, candidates obtaining highest number of votes shall be declared elected.

9.130 In the case of a tie, the Chairman of the Elections and Rules Committee, in the presence of the tied candidates or their representatives, shall resolve the tie by drawing the winning name out of a box.

10.00 CAPITAL FUNDS

10.10 Capital Funds shall be established for specific purposes.

10.11 Darbar Hall Fund:

This fund shall be established for the specific purpose of building a new Darbar Hall and related facilities.

10.12 Children and Youth Development Fund:

This fund shall be established for the specific purpose of day-to-day and operational requirements and long term projects and facilities related to the activities of children and youth.

vote and hold office. However, for those applying for membership after 2:00 p.m. of the last Sunday of September, the right to vote and contest elections shall be excluded for that year.

3.22 Associate Member:

This membership, available to out of State residents, shall entitle the Associate Member all the GSSA privileges except the right to vote and hold office.

3.23 Honorary Member:

GSSA may confer honorary membership to any person for his/her outstanding services to GSSA. The Honorary members shall be nominated by the Working Committee and approved by the General Body. An Honorary Member shall have all the GSSA privileges except the right to vote and hold office.

3.30 The annual fee for membership shall be \$11.00 per couple (husband and wife) and \$7.00 per individual. A couple membership shall be entitled to two votes; both the voting members have to cast their votes individually in order for the votes to be valid. However, only those members can participate in any voting who have been members in good standing in the year immediately preceding the current year.

3.40 The renewal of membership shall be due on January 1st. Rights and privileges of membership shall be suspended for the duration that membership dues are in arrears. Renewal of membership shall be effective the day following the payment of dues.

BY-LAWS

1.00 NAME AND LOCATION

The Association shall be known and incorporated as the Garden State Sikh Association, Inc., and the term GSSA referred to in official proceedings shall be deemed to mean the full name and title mentioned above. The offices of GSSA shall be located at the Gurudwara Sahib, Washington Valley Road, Bridgewater, New Jersey.

2.00 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the GSSA are as stated in Article II of the Charter.

3.00 MEMBERSHIP

3.10 All those who believe in Sikh religion, the teachings of the Ten Sikh Gurus, accept Sri Guru Granth Sahib as their present Guru, agree with the aims & objectives of GSSA, pledge to abide by its Charter and By-Laws and are eighteen (18) years of age or over can become members. A member shall be required to fill out the membership application (see Appendix) and pay the annual membership fee. This membership application must be filed in person at GSSA. In case of a couple, only one of the applicants need be present for filing this application.

3.20 The membership shall consist of members, associate members, and honorary members.

3.21 Member:

This membership is open only to U.S. Citizens and immigrants who have their principal residence in the State of New Jersey. This membership shall entitle the member to all GSSA privileges including the right to

10.20 These Funds shall be managed by the Working Committee. The Working Committee shall invest these monies in the government securities or government guaranteed accounts and all earnings of such investments shall form part of the specific fund.

10.30 Each year, the Working Committee shall raise monies for deposit in the Darbar Hall Fund. These deposits shall be the greater of \$10,000 or 10% more than the previous year's deposit.

10.40 The monies for the Children and Youth Development Fund shall be totally voluntary with no specific limit as to their collection. In case of shortage of funds, the Working Committee may ask for appropriations from general GSSA funds.

10.50 Donations can be specifically made for a specific fund.

10.60 Any expenditure(s) from these Funds shall require the approval of the members at a General Body meeting. Once the monies are deposited in these Funds, these can only be spent for the specific designated purposes.

10.70 The Working Committee may borrow, from these Funds, a specific amount for a specific time and purpose as outlined below:

a) If there is a deficit in the operating funds and mortgage foreclosure is imminent.

b) Utility payments can not be met and temporary relief is needed.

c) The existing building requires an urgent action for maintenance, renovation, or improvement of a mandatory nature.

d) The salary or other expenses for full time GSSA employee(s) have to be met on a short term basis.

11.00 GENERAL

11.10 All the general measures, unless otherwise specified, shall be adopted by a majority vote of the members, present and voting.

11.20 Roberts Rules of Order shall be followed to resolve issues for which no express provision exists in this Charter and By-Laws.

11.30 No-confidence resolution can be moved against the Working Committee, provided such resolution is presented with written endorsement of at least 20% of the members or 21 members, whichever is greater. Such resolution shall require, for its passage, a special General Body meeting presided over by the Chairman of the Council of Trustees and 3/4 of the votes of the members present. The Working Committee members shall have no voting rights at this meeting. In the event of passage of such resolution, the Council of Trustees shall take over the management of GSSA until new elections are held, and a new Working Committee sworn in.

11.40 The paid employees of the GSSA shall not be eligible for election as members of the Working Committee, the Council of Trustees, the Election and Rules Committee, or any other Committee during the period of their employment.

11.50 The removal of any member of GSSA, member of Working Committee, Council of Trustees, Elections and Rules Committee, or any other Committee of the GSSA, may be initiated by a written petition of at least fifteen (15) members or fifteen percent (15%) of members whichever is greater. To accord a due process of such

501(c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as the same may, from time to time, be amended.

ARTICLE XII - BY-LAWS

For implementation of the Charter, a set of By-Laws shall be formulated and are hereby made part of the Charter.

ARTICLE XIII - INTERPRETATIONS

The intent and spirit of the Charter and ByLaws shall govern. In case of any differences of opinion in the interpretation of Charter and/or By-Laws, where the matter cannot be decided by the Elections and Rules Committee, the General Body shall render the final judgement.

ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENTS

1. Amendment(s) to the Charter shall be kept to a minimum and made only when absolutely necessary.
2. A two-third of the total membership of the General Body voting for it shall be required for any amendment(s).

3. No member of the Elections and Rules Committee shall serve for more than one consecutive term of three (3) years.

4. The elections for not more than two (2) of the members shall be conducted annually at the December General Body meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - TAX EXEMPT STATUS

It shall be the intent of GSSA, at all times, to remain qualified as exempt from tax under Section 501(c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as the same may, from time to time, be amended.

ARTICLE IX - MONETARY OPERATION

GSSA shall not issue capital stock and shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of the net income, gains, profit, earnings, or property shall inure to the benefit of any individual, private or official of its branches, but the same shall be devoted to the objectives of GSSA.

ARTICLE X - POLITICAL AFFILIATION

The activities of GSSA shall remain aloof from carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation as also GSSA shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign of any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE XI - DISSOLUTION

In the event of a liquidation, dissolution, termination or winding up of GSSA, whether voluntary, involuntary or by operation of law, none of the property or assets of GSSA shall be made available in any way to any private individual or other organization except to organization(s) described in Section

expulsion, a General Body meeting shall be called in accordance with specific procedures. The allegation against the member in question shall be presented to the General Body and the member in question will be given a chance to defend. The matter will be put to a secret vote. The member(s) in question shall have no voting right in this matter. The presiding officer will announce the result of the voting as the decision of the General Body. The expulsion will be effective if three fourths (3/4) of the members present and voting approve it.

11.60 The GSSA shall publish a periodical newsletter called "The Bulletin", giving religious, social and cultural news of the Sikh community in particular and others in general and making announcements of special events. This newsletter shall be sent, free of cost, to all members of GSSA. Its copies may be circulated to the non-members depending on the budget restraints.

11.70 Elections or any other issue(s) that require voting in a General Body meeting can also be decided by mail ballots. Ballots will be mailed at least fifteen (15) days before due date. Mail ballots must be duly signed by the member before returning. All mail ballots must reach the Elections and Rules Committee by the stipulated date. All ballots will be opened by the Elections and Rules Committee, in one sitting, in the presence of the interested party(s) or their representatives.

11.80 Records and minutes of the meetings of the Working Committee, the Council of Trustees, the Elections and Rules Committee, and other Committees shall be kept up-to-date at all times by the Secretary of the respective Committee and duly signed by the President or Chairman of the Committee. The official papers shall be kept in a file in the GSSA office.

11.90 Any member of the GSSA can make a written request to the Secretary of any Committee to inspect the minutes of any meeting specifying the purpose of such inspection and the Secretary shall comply with the request within two (2) weeks. Such an inspection shall be limited to the specific purpose in question.

11.100 The outgoing officials shall hand over the charge of all responsibilities along with the records to the incoming officials within two (2) weeks of the December General Body meeting or the first day of the following year, whichever is later.

11.110 Official stationery and seal of GSSA shall be used only by the authorized person(s).

11.120 No member may hold more than one position in any Committee at any time.

11.130 The newly elected members shall be sworn in, in the presence of Guru Granth Sahib, at a regular Diwan, to abide by the Charter and By-Laws of GSSA before assuming responsibilities.

11.140 An elected member having served or serving a partial term as a result of a mid-term resignation, appointment to the part-term vacancy, or by-elections, shall be deemed to have served one full term.

11.150 If any elected member whose term does not expire by December 31st of the current year, wishes to contest elections for another position, he/she must first resign his/her current position. The resignation must reach the Elections and Rules Committee before the nomination for the new position is submitted. Resignation, once submitted to the Elections and Rules Committee becomes effective December 31st of that year and cannot be withdrawn.

2. The Working Committee shall consist of seven (7) members elected from the membership of GSSA.
3. No member of the Working Committee shall serve for more than two consecutive terms (two years).
4. The elections shall be conducted annually at the December meeting of the General Body.

ARTICLE VI - THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES

1. The Council of Trustees shall oversee the Working Committee in offering constructive programs and future planning for major capital projects.

The Council shall neither manage nor interfere in the management of GSSA by the Working Committee.

2. The Council of Trustees shall consist of not more than twenty-one (21) Trustees elected from the membership of GSSA.

3. No Trustee shall serve for more than one consecutive term of three (3) years.

4. The elections for not more than 7 of the Trustees shall be conducted annually at the December General Body meeting.

ARTICLE VII - THE ELECTIONS AND RULES COMMITTEE

1. The Elections and Rules Committee shall advise and rule on constitutional matters, render decisions on disputed issues and conduct all elections of GSSA.

2. The Elections and Rules Committee shall consist of five (5) members elected from the membership of GSSA.

7. To establish a museum of Sikh history and heritage to inspire the posterity.
8. To maintain alliance and cooperation with other organizations of similar aims and objectives for the betterment of Sikhs, Sikh religion and heritage.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

All those who believe in the Sikh religion, the teachings of the Ten Sikh Gurus, accept Sri Guru Granth Sahib as their present Guru, agree with the aims and objectives of GSSA and pledge to abide by its Charter and By-Laws, can become members.

ARTICLE IV - GENERAL BODY

1. The General Body shall consist of all the members of the GSSA.
2. Only the General Body shall have the power to amend the Charter and the By-Laws.
3. The General Body shall be the ultimate power of GSSA and various administrative and functional branches of GSSA shall exercise their functions on behalf of the General Body.
4. The General Body shall meet at least two times in a calendar year: once in the month of February to approve the program and the fiscal budget for the year and again in the month of December to hold elections and present year-end reports. Any other business may be included in the agenda for these meetings.

ARTICLE V - THE WORKING COMMITTEE

1. The day-to-day business and general management of the GSSA shall be conducted by the Working Committee.

12.00 AMENDMENTS

12.10 The amendments to the By-Laws shall be kept to a minimum and brought up only when absolutely necessary.

12.20 A move for amendment(s) to the Charter and/or By-Laws shall originate with at least 20% of the membership and must be presented to the General Body by Elections and Rules Committee for approval.

12.30 The members of the GSSA shall be given at least twenty one (21) days written notice of the full text of amendment(s) along with the date, time, and place of the General Body meeting called for the approval of amendment(s).

12.40 To amend the By-Laws, at least two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership present and voting shall be required.

SPECIAL PROVISION

All out of State residents (individuals and families) who were GSSA members-in-good-standing on September 30, 1981, shall continue to have the special privilege of the right to full membership in GSSA, after fulfilling other requirements, under the Charter and By-Laws. However, one will have to exercise this privilege on a continuous basis, with forfeiture of this privilege if one fails to exercise this privilege during any year.



GURUDWARA, BRIDGEWATER

The Garden State Sikh Association, Inc.

A NON-PROFIT RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION

Washington Valley Road at Route 78 • Bridgewater, New Jersey
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 171, Pluckemin, New Jersey 07978 • Tel: 908-658-9805

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

1. This application must be filed in person at GSSA. In case of a couple, only one of the applicants need be present for filing this application.
2. This application is subject to approval by the Election and Rules Committee. Any denial of membership shall be communicated to the applicant within one month of filing.
3. Membership fee is non-refundable regardless of the action taken on it.

I, _____ along with my wife/husband _____
 of _____ (number) _____ (street) _____ (town) (state) (zip) _____ (telephone)
 apply for:
 Membership (New Jersey Residents)
 Associate Membership (Out of State Residents)
 Life Membership

in THE GARDEN STATE SIKH ASSOCIATION, INC. for the year 19_____ and in so doing:

- a) enclose membership fee of :
 \$7 Individual
 \$11 Couple
 \$200 Life Membership (Per Individual)
- and donation of \$ _____ for a total of \$ _____

Please make checks payable to "GARDEN STATE SIKH ASSOCIATION"

- b) I/we have read GSSA Charter and By-Laws and pledge to abide by them.
 c) support GSSA in its aims and objectives and refrain from activities detrimental to the interests of GSSA, and
 d) am/ are 18 years of age or over.

Date _____ signature _____ signature (spouse) _____

FOR GSSA USE ONLY (Do not write below this line)	
TREASURER	ELECTIONS AND RULES COMMITTEE
Date received _____	Date received _____ Initial _____
Initial _____	ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> Approved Initial _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied Initial _____

APPENDIX

CHARTER

ARTICLE I - NAME

The Association shall be known as The Garden State Sikh Association, Inc., a religious organization in the State of New Jersey and the term GSSA, wherever it appears in this text, shall mean the full name and title mentioned above.

ARTICLE II - AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

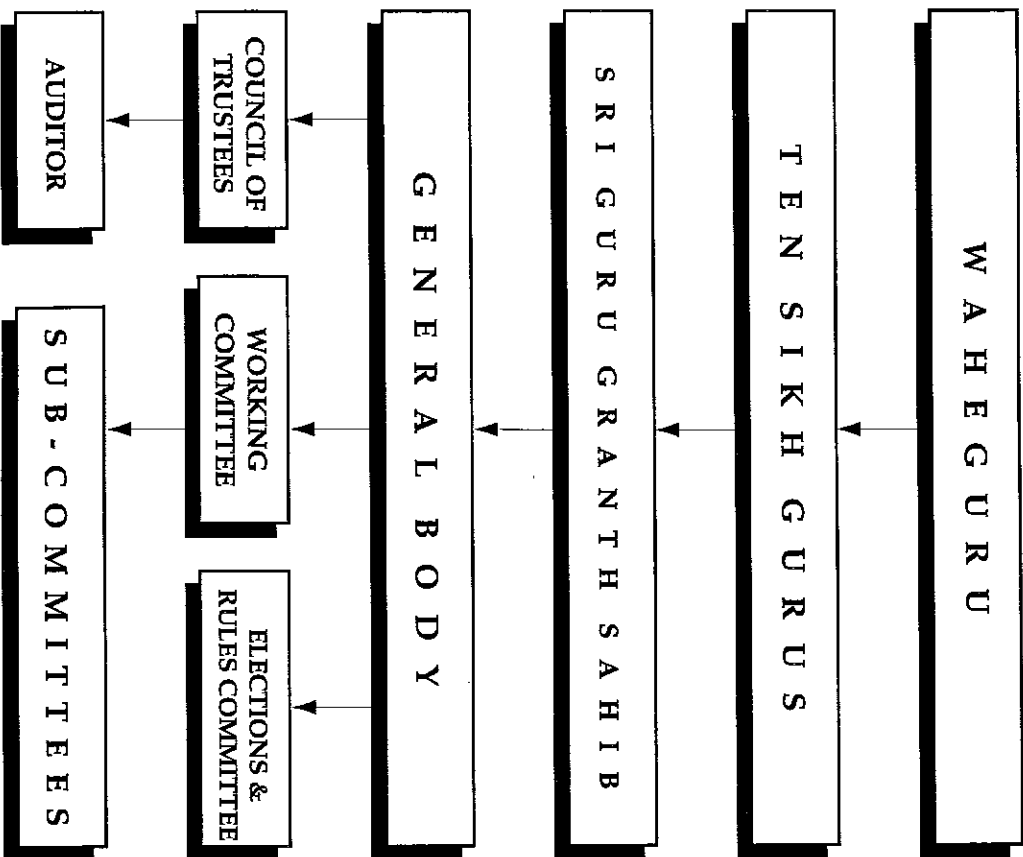
1. To learn, practice and promote religious, cultural and social values based on the concept of WAHEGURU (one God) and universal brotherhood as taught by the Ten Sikh Gurus and Sri Guru Granth Sahib.
2. To arrange regular Diwans (religious congregations) on Gurbani (teachings of the Gurus) and maintain Sikh religious and cultural traditions.
3. To organize programs to promote Sikh religion, Sikh history, Sikh culture and Panjabi language.
4. To maintain, prosper and expand the GSSA Gurudwara (Sikh Religious Place) and attached property in Bridgewater Township, New Jersey as a permanent place for holding religious and cultural congregations and its use for community welfare.
5. To establish programs and facilities for children and youth development, with emphasis on achieving objectives outlined here.
6. To establish and maintain a library to offer facilities for studies and instructions on Sikh religion, culture, history and Panjabi language.

DEDICATED

To All Sewadars; Past, Present and Future,
Committed to SEWA with TAN, MAN, AND DHAN,
For All That GSSA Stands For.



GSSA FLOW CHART



ੴ ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਕੀ ਫਤਹਿ ॥

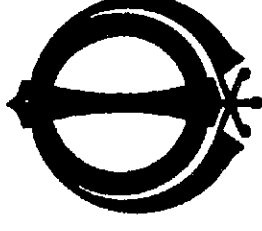
GSSA

The Garden State Sikh Association, Inc.

A NON-PROFIT RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION

Washington Valley Road at Route 78
Bridgewater, New Jersey

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 171, Pluckemin, New Jersey 07978
Tel: 908-658-9805



CHARTER AND BY-LAWS

OCTOBER 25, 1981

REPRINTED

NOVEMBER, 1994
WITH ALL AMENDMENTS

Deh siva ber mohe ihay, shubh karman tay kabhoo
na taroo,

Na daroo ur siyoo jab jah iaro, nishchay kar apni
jeet karoo,

Aur Sikhhau apnay hi mun ko, ih lalach hau guna
tau uchroo,

Jab av ki audh nidhan banay, ut hi rann mein tab
joojh maroo.

ਸਦੇਕਾ ॥
ਦੇਹ ਸਿਵਾ ਬਰ ਮੋਹਿ ਇਹੈ,
ਸੁਭ ਕਰਮਨ ਤੇ ਕਬਹੂੰ ਨ ਟਰੈ ॥
ਨ ਠਰੈ ਅਹਿ ਜੋ ਜਬ ਜਾਇ ਲਰੈ,
ਨਿਸਚੈ ਕਰ ਆਪਨੀ ਜੋਤ ਕਰੈ ॥
ਅਕੁ ਸਿਖ ਹੂੰ ਆਪਨੇ ਹੀ ਮਨ ਕੋ,
ਇਹ ਲਾਲਚ ਹਉ ਗੁਣ ਤਉ ਊਰਰੈ ॥
ਜਬ ਆਵ ਕੀ ਅਉਹ ਨਿਦਾਨ ਬਨੈ,
ਅਤ ਹੋ ਟਨ ਮੈ ਤਦ ਕੂਝ ਮਰੈ ॥੨੬॥
| ਚੰਡੀ ਚਰਿਤ੍ਰ |

Oh God, grant me this boon:

That I may never refrain from good actions.

That I may fight fearlessly all my foes with
courage, and confidence in my victory.

That I may be a true and sincere Sikh whose
ambition is to sing Your praises.

That when this life approaches its end, I may die
fighting with great courage.