



141th Karenni National Day

Report

Mission

Karenni-American Association (KnA) is to unite Karenni People with an interest in Karenni-American issues through educational, social, and cultural events.

Domar Hso, Organizing Committee
(913) 701 – 0529
Domarhso2@gmail.com
Kansas City, Kansas

Table of Contents

Introduction -----	page 2
President's Remark -----	page 3
Chart -----	page 4
Planning / Reviewing -----	page 5
Brief History -----	page 8
Financial Report -----	page 9
Contact Information -----	page 12

Welcoming you once again, our Karenni People

This year's joint 141th Karenni National Day celebration was held in Kansas City, Kansas, with the purpose of gathering Karenni people from different parts of the United States once a year, honoring our formal homeland history and forming a stronger social connection by hosting sports activities, literacy competition, cultural and musical shows during the celebration.

There were at least 1500 participants from different parts of the United States, of which were Massachusetts, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New York, California, Arkansas, Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, South Dakota, Texas, Nebraska, and Georgia and a few other states too. Some of those mentioned participated in discussion of planning, organizing and in providing their best

resources – human capitals.

This joined annual celebration has seen an increase in the number of participants from respective states due largely to better management by the state organizers and leaders and the KnA. The Kansas Karenni Community in particular has done a great job at hosting such a big event for June 2016.

On behalf of the Karenni National Day organizing committee and Karenni-American Association, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation toward all 141th KnND participants, volunteers, and community leaders for their role in making this year a memorable one.



Domar Hso, KnND Organizing Committee and Kansas Representative, thanking and well-wishing attendants.



Nic Shar, KnA President, giving an opening speech at 141th KnND

To be honest, I haven't lived the life of an American, and I may not be the best person to give u suggestions on how to be an American. But I do have a few theories I love to share with all of you.

1 - Americans are hardworking. They are achieving high goals. Barack Obama came from a broken home. But he worked hard, still works hard. And if we truly are and want to be Karenni-Americans, we must work hard too. There are so many things you can work hard in. One obvious thing is going to school and graduating. Follow your passions. How many are graduating this year? We are not political refugees anymore but economic ones. That requires persistence and determination and clear goals on our sides.

2 - Becoming a law abiding citizen. We must pay our share of the tax, exercise our rights and duties as citizens of this country. And if we truly are and want to be Karenni-Americans, we must work hard and obey the laws. Being the head of this organization is no small task but a privilege. And with privilege comes a responsibility. I yearn for the success story, an inspirational act and volunteers.

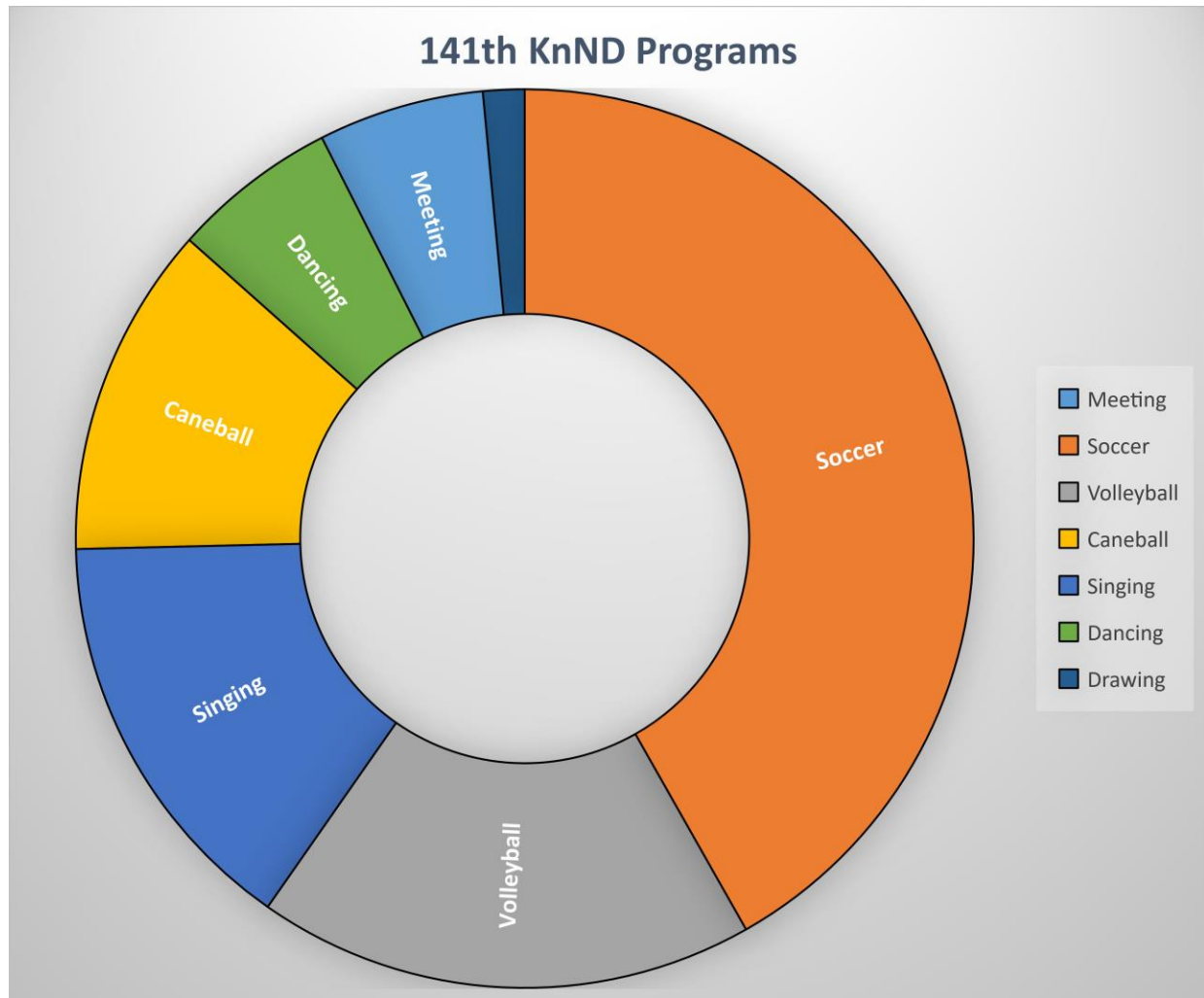
3 - Building a strong emotional, mental, psychological and physical strength. When you do things and live your lives, people will beat you down. Try to fail you. Unless you are physically, mentally, psychologically fit, it is very hard to go through the obstacles. Even when we are pretty, they tell us that we are ugly. Even when we behave honestly, they say we lie. If we find strengths in God, let him be our comfort, strength and everything. If we find it in book, Internet, or YouTube, let them be our pillar of strength. If we believe in our ancestors' spirits, let them be our strengths. If we believe in

PoeDeeKri, let him be our guidance. And if we truly are and want to be Karenni-Americans, we must work hard, obey the law, and be strong physically, mentally, psychologically and emotionally. That includes trying to stay healthy by avoiding unhealthy drinks and foods, too.

You do not need to declare that you are a Karenni-American. Once you are on the top, people will automatically associate themselves with you even though you do not want to be associated at all. I do not appreciate people who called themselves Karenni-Americans when they do bad things to themselves or to the society.

Being a Karenni-American, to me, means realizing that our unique history of being a Karenni is essential and, combining that with the characteristics of being an American is, I think, a better way to improve civilization and our community.

So, what does "Karenni-American" mean to you? What does it mean? Thank you!



HOW TO SPELL CORRECTLY

“**Kay Htoe Boe**” for Pole Festival

“**Deeku**” for Sticky Rice Festival

Planning report for KnND 2016 and review plan

Introduction & background

KnA's formalization

Karenni-American Association reformed its position on September 19, 2015 in Des Moines, IA with states' representatives from CO, TX, NE, KS, AI, WI, IN and MN. A committee of 6 officials was elected to serve as executive members of the Karenni-American Association for the period of 4 years. Mainly, those elected officers focus/organize the Karenni social and cultural event annually with full cooperation with local Karenni-American community that is willing to host the joint celebration.

KnND's celebration for June 2016

During a face-to-face meeting in Des Moines in September 2015, a group of representatives of Karenni community in Kansas requested to host the 141th Karenni National. The proposal was later accepted by the Karenni-American Association's leadership in September 2015.

Ongoing planning for the KnND

The Karenni community in Kansas City has been working closely with KnA in sports and night venues reservation. Karenni National Day's organizing Committee in Kansas City has secured 4 soccer fields and other sport

venues 2 months ahead of the KnND's celebration date, June 24-25, 2016.

Concert and band members

Omaha's Karenni band was responsible for musical performance. The performance included Karenni artist Htwa Reh and a few other rising singers. Mr. Htwa Reh was given a Shadaw Journal "entertainment award of the year."

Karenni-American Association sport program

Male soccer (28 teams)

Karenni-American Association came up with sport program, which is called Karenni-American Soccer League (KnSL). All program rules and registration fees and membership fee have been finalized. Each soccer team pays registration fee of \$300 toward the KnND tournament organizer, KnSL. On top of soccer tournament registration fees, each soccer team pays annual membership fee of \$90 as well. It was agreed upon that the annual membership fee is to be used specifically for the management of soccer.

2016 KnND's soccer tournament was able to host 28 teams. All KnA's leadership agreed to hire and pay soccer referees in order to have a better outcome in handling/managing sport schedules on time.

Female volleyball (13 teams)

Female volleyball's registration fee for each team is \$100 and KnND was able to host 13 teams, total of the fee is \$1,300.

Male cane ball (11 teams)

As of this time, there were 11 Cane ball

teams registered for the tournament. Each team paid \$50 and total of the fee was \$550.

Sport registration fees

Portion of the registration fees spent on soccer field reservation fees, referee hiring/fee and 1st and 2nd place prizes. Additionally, the registration fee was also spent on sport materials and other items that are related to the tournament. Soccer 1st place award amount was \$2,500.00 & 2nd place reward amount was \$2,000.00.

Referees for the tournament

Sport organizing director and his associates recruited referees for soccer, volleyball and cane ball. 8 soccer referees were needed for the mid-field, however, only 2 full time referees were committed to complete the game, the rest were volunteers and part time referees. Linesmen for soccer were volunteered by the tournament players and others, who were not a part of the tournament.

All sport schedules

Tournament was scheduled to begin on June 24, 2016 at 6 AM. However, due to the nature of the park or field location, those soccer teams were confused and were running late to begin as scheduled. Fields that did not have full time referees were managed a bit late to begin on time.

KnND's fundraising

KnA's financier and vice president came up with fundraising contract and procedures. All food vendors supposed to register with KnA's financier and vice president for official venue to sell food within the KnND event reservation. All event attendants supposed to buy token from the boot set up

by the KnA staff for purchasing foods and other items at the event, no cash allowed to purchase or for sale. Any contractor violates the contract that agreed upon, the KnA had a legal authority to cancel the contract and remove the potential violator to leave the event reserved site. KnA collected \$20 out of \$100 sale from food vendor and other item sale. However, the plan was not turn out as planned, the local community was not well informed and was not willing to sign the contract and agreed to follow the procedures. The KnA's tokens were insufficient and event attendants started buying foods and food vendors started accepting cash. The negative outcome for KnA's was that the method was not generating enough revenue as supposed to. In fact, KnA's officers and volunteers wasted time and labor for less revenue, there was no proper tracking system for the token and money exchange practice. This fundraising method needs to be reviewed and reversed or improved upon. KnA has to come up with a plan that needs less human resources involvement and effective management.

Raffle Ticket fundraising

Raffle tickets were sold for fund KnA's fund raising. There were 15 prizes to those potential winners. Each ticket sale price is \$5. However, there has not been a single tracking system that is being transparent, in term of how many were sold and how much was the investment in total.

Parking permit

Each vehicle will be charged for parking fee \$10 for the event. Any vehicle who has got the parking permit will no longer require to pay for second day event entering. However, there was problem with local community, the local decided to collect \$5 per vehicle, when KnA's officers asked the

local security to ask for \$10 per vehicle, the local security were reluctant to take the assignment, the KnA's arranged volunteer failed to show up, despite KnA's officers promised to pay for the labor fee. The parking fee collection was unable to start collecting till mid-day.

Local community fundraising

Local community in Kansas collected \$200 per-household, KnA officers do not know how much the locals raised exactly. The locals only stated that \$6,075 was given to KnA. Again, all KnA's officers have not known who received the \$6,075 and who is holding the money at this time.

Purpose of fundraising

We have to spend money on venue reservations, purchasing items for event, paying fee for organizers and volunteers and any other items involved. Without this fundraising, the KnND's event is not survivable. We hope all Karenni will put their hearts into the event fundraising and donate as much within their capability.

Other intention of fundraising was to fund some small projects that are education-related activities back in Karenni state and KnA's future activities, such as KnA's officer meeting, cultural and social events.

During the KnND's event

KnA's executive team oversaw the fundraising activity, ceremony night program operation, sport activity and independent observation on various activities and reporting.

Post KnND's celebration

- 1) KnA's president will send in copy of speech that delivers at the KnND's ceremony by July 15, 2016.
- 2) KnA's sport tournament director sends in sport activity report and financial expenses report by July 15, 2016.
- 3) KnA's financier and vice president send in fundraising activity and financial report.
- 4) Night program and other drawing, easy writing activity director send in activity report and its expenses report by July 15, 2016.
- 5) Independent observation report on over all activity report will be sent in by July 15, 2016.

All report must include report summary, outline of specific activity, positive outcome and barrier and recommendation for a better arrangement in the future.

Brief history... Of a Karenni People

The British and the Burmese King signed an agreement on June 21, 1875 in recognizing the Karenni state's sovereignty and independence during the British's colony in Burma/Myanmar. With this agreement, Karenni people defined the June 21 as the Karenni National Day. The Karenni National Day celebration was not widely known and unable to celebrate in Karenni state during the past 6 decades due to the Burmese government oppression toward Karenni people's political freedom. However, the Karenni people, who live in remote area and also Thailand, continue to maintain this history and celebrate the Karenni National Day annually on June 21st. The joint Karenni National Day in the U.S was originally initiated by the Karenni Community in Rockford, IL, then followed by Milwaukee, WI, St. Paul,

MN, Des Moines, IA and Omaha, NE. Annually, the KnA's committee holds several teleconference calls for KnND's celebration planning. The committee comprised of community representatives from each state, those committee members are responsible for the fundraising to support the KnND's event celebration and take responsibilities in carrying out various activities. The goal of this joint celebration is to form social connection/friendship, raise awareness on youth education and encourage younger generation to continue holding on the unique values of Karenni in social transition. Along with these goals, the communities gather at the KnND annually in the month of June and build our connection and friendship through KnND's sport tournament. The

youths also got opportunities to present our own cultural dances and musical performances. The purpose of celebrating the joint KnND along with sport tournament is to give youths opportunity to focus on their physical exercises and building friendship through various sport activities. The ceremony is also a unique opportunity for youths to learn our own social values and political history through senior community members' speech delivery, statement reading and educational remarks. Youths also get opportunity to express/present their musical talents and performed cultural dances at the event ceremony. More than that, the event is a unique way to promote those talented and dedicated artists to a broader Karenni audience. *(Written by Wai Linn, KnA Secretary)*

141th KnND Detailed Financial Report			
Karenni-American Association			
June 25th, 2016			
Revenue			
	Details	Amount	Subtotal
	Soccer registration fees (\$300 x 28 teams)	8400	
	Volleyball registration fees (\$100 x 13 teams)	1300	
	Cane ball registration fees (\$50 x 11 teams)	550	
	KnSL annual membership fees (\$90 x 28 teams)	2520	
	Kansas Karenni community donation	6075	
	Raffle tickets sales	4660	
	Parking and facilitation pass fees (\$10 per car)	2,752	
	Booths for merchants	790	
			27047
Expense			
Soccer			
	4 soccer fields rental	2600	
	1st prize	2500	
	2nd prize	2000	
	Trophies and medals	403	
	Referees' compensation	800	
	linemen's flags (8 x 7.99)	64	
	Corner poles (16 x 1.19)	20	
	Whistles (4 x \$3) + Tax	13	
			8400
Volleyball	1st prize	450	
	2nd prize	350	
	Trophy	129	
	Equipment purchase	200	
			1129
Cane ball			

	1st prize	350	
	2nd prize	250	
	Trophy	59.99	
	Equipment purchase	61	
			720.99
KnSL			
	KnSL administration and compensation	1008	
	Referees' compensation (part timers)	200	
	Omaha band members and equipment	500	
			1708
Night program			
	Auditorium rental	2250	
	Stage decoration	856	
	Security	630	
	Equipment rental	500	
			4236
Raffle tickets			
	Raffle prizes and gift cards	2795	
	Administrative fees	300	
			3095
Parking lot			
	Parking sticker	270	
	Parking lot volunteer-security	300	
	2 backdrops purchase	140	
			710
Booths			
	Tokens purchase	176	
			176
Administration			
	Travel expenses (6 officers x \$200)	1200	
	Travel expense (1 advisor X \$100)	100	
	Meeting at the restaurant	145	

	Lodging and motels	373	
			1818
Office supply			
	Printing and copies	49	
	Receipt book	12	
	Ink and A4 papers	20	
			81
General prizes			
	Drawing	150	
	Group dance	100	
	Group dance	100	
	Individual Dance	50	
	1st prize - Singing	150	
	2nd prize - Singing	100	
	3rd prize - Singing	50	
			700
Net Income			
			4273.01

Contact Information

Regional Office

1510 Hade Falls Ln
Houston, TX 77073

karenniamerican@gmail.com
contact@karenniamerican.org
(202) 630-6806

Conference call
Dial-in Number: (712) 775-7031
Access Code: 105-418

www.karenniamerican.org
[www.fb.com/KarenniAmerican](https://www.facebook.com/KarenniAmerican)