

142th 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.

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Nic Shar,
KnA
President,
speaking at
142th KnND

The vision of Karenni-American Association

We celebrate our national day called “Karenni National Day” but here we are in this country called United States of America. Therefore, we need to develop a new mindset called “Karenni-American National Day.” Because we plead allegiance first of all to United States of America, and secondly to Karenni of course. In a way, we can use a term called “Karenni-American National Day.”

When we celebrate Karenni National Day,

we can look at it in 3 different parts: Past, Present and Future.

We celebrate today to commemorate all the sacrifices our previous ancestors, parents and so-called heroes have made. And, it is not easy to get to where we are today.

The second part is called the Present. I use the present because this is where we can do something about it. However, whenever we have our national days, we have so many vacancies in terms of participation from youths. If possible, we like to get a lot more participation from all over the states. For example, as of today, only 3 teams actually registered for dance competition. Out of the 3 teams, 2 teams dropped out. And, there is only one team right now left for dance competition, which I am pretty sure they are going to get first prize. Are we not encouraging our youths enough? Are we not doing enough to get them involved? Or, are they not doing something that is in collaboration with what we, KnA, do at KnND. I am not sure what it is but we like to fix it, and we like to fix it together with you.

The last part is the future, “where we like to go?” We come to this country to become citizens of this country. Therefore, no matter how much we say “Karenni National Day,” our first and foremost priority has to be Karenni-American. The second is going to be anything Karenni of course.

When we say Karenni-American, it does not have to mean we forget where we came from and that we forget what all the previous people had done for us. What it means, though, is that we are bringing them all together, all the good things from past

and present, and apply them accordingly to be a better people.

Since I am on the stage representing Karenni-American Association, I like to sell you all this idea. Karenni-American Association was officially formed in 2015 but we already had operation way before that, dating as far back as 2012.

Our first Karenni National Day (KnND) was held in Milwaukee Wisconsin in 2012, St. Paul Minnesota 2013, Des Moines Iowa in 2014, Omaha Nebraska 2015, Kansas City Kansas in 2016, and now in Greeley Colorado 2017. That's how long we have been maintaining this special day. If some of you in the crowd have been to every single KnND, I like to recognize your outstanding participation and commitment.

We exist for a reason. Karenni-American Association does 5 things for now.

First of all, we host this annual Karenni National Day. No need to elaborate on this because you all have seen what we are doing.

Second is Karenni Education Program. As of last year, we donated more than \$4,000 to needy school back home.

The third is Karenni-American Soccer League (KnSL). We have thousands of Karenni-American youths across the states,

in which 60 to 70% of them play soccer. What you will see is, at every KnND in the past we held, a lot of participants are coming in most, I like to admit, just for the soccer competition. We like to change the attitude about it if possible.

The fourth is emergency response program. Back in 2013, A tragedy happened, where 37 lives, including women and children, passed away, according our 2013 report at www.karenniamerican.org. KnA donated at least \$13,000 for that tragedy. In 2015, there was another fire also. Similarly, we made another financial contribution too.

The fifth is outreach program, where we partner with other ethnic groups. Our secretary, back in 2016, went to Washington D.C to meet with the then-US ambassador to Burma, and also with respective ethnic leaders. There, they had some productive discussion too.

Please enjoy the show. When you go home, either tomorrow or tonight, please drive the speed limit as we like to hear and listen that everyone is getting home safely. Thank you!



Brief history of a Karenni people

Karenni (Kayah) state is located in the east of Burma/Myanmar and North West of Thailand in Southeast Asia. Karenni people lived in our own kingdom during the pre-colonization. Also during the British colonization in Burma/Myanmar, the Karenni state still continue remained independence. The British colony's representative and the Burmese king signed a treaty on June 21, 1875, which recognized the Karenni state to remain in buffer zone or independence without the influence of British and Burmese during the British's rule in Burma.

However, the Karenni state independent status was lost as soon as British left Burma after World War II. In 1948, the Burmese troop invaded Karenni state, the war broke out between Karenni armed resistance army and Burmese troops, many Karenni people became internally displaced people, as the war expanded through the Karenni state, finally Karenni people went across the Thai-Burma border into Thailand and became refugee. Due to prolonged political

deadlock and fighting was actively taken place in Karenni state till 2012, many Karenni were unable to return home, eventually made a decision to leave refugee camps for permanent resettlement in third countries, such as U.S.A, Canada, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand etc.

The Karenni people's basic survival in refugee camp was heavily relied on international humanitarian assistance, which come from the U.S.A, Australia and some European countries. During transitional time from refugee camp to third countries, many Karenni refugees along with others refugee from Burma, such as Burmese, Karen, Chin, Kachin and others relied on refugee resettlement agencies' services. With this special occasion, we would like to say thank you toward refugee resettlement agencies and host countries for their good services/work in assisting refugee become integrated in a new home.

In conclusion, we would like to say thank you for joining the 142nd anniversary of the Karenni National Day's event and enjoy the show.

KnA's Soccer Tournament Schedules					
No	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Remark
1	Hso Ree Leh	K-CO Youth	Karenni Rocky Youth	K. Utah FC	
2	Mile High	A.K.S United	K- Fourteen	Real Karenni	
3	Young Killer	AK United	MarshallTown	Kn Texas United	
No	Team vs. team	field #	Time	Referee	Linesmen
1	Hso Ree Leh vs. Mile High	1	845am, saturday	Naing Win	Kn Texas United
2	K-CO youth vs. AKS United	2	845am, saturday	Franklin Prayreh	MarshallTown
3	Karenni Rocky Youth vs. K- Fourteen	3	845am, saturday	Nga Reh	Young Killer
4	K-Utah FC vs. Real Karenni	4	845am, saturday	Nyar Reh	AK United
5	Hso Ree Leh vs. Young Killer	1	1045am, saturday	Phoe Htoo	Real karenni
6	K-CO youth vs. AK United	2	1045am, saturday	Essam Samaan	K- Fourteen
7	Karenni Rocky Youth vs. MarshallTown	3	1045am, saturday	Naing Win	Mile High
8	K-Utah FC vs. Kn Texas United	4	1045am, saturday	Franklin Prayreh	AKS United
9	Mile High vs. Young killer	1	12:30pm, saturday	Nyar Reh	Karenni Rocky Youth
10	AKS United vs. AK United	2	12:30pm, saturday	Nga Reh	K. Utah FC
11	K- Fourteen vs. MarshallTown	3	12:30pm, saturday	Essam Samaan	Hso Ree Leh
12	Real Karenni vs. Kn Texas United	4	12:30pm, saturday	Phoe Htoo	K-CO youth
Quarter-Final					
13	Group A-first vs. Group B-second	1	3:05pm, saturday	Naing Win	Group B-first
14	Group C-first vs. Group D-second	2	3:05pm, saturday	Franklin Prayreh	Group D-first
15	Group A-second vs. Group B-first	1	5:05pm, saturday	Phoe Htoo	Group A-first
16	Group C-second vs. Group D-first	2	5:05pm, saturday	Essam Samman	Group C-first
Semi-Final					
17	# 13 winner vs. #14 winner	1	8:30am, sunday	Naing Win	Nga Reh and Nyar Reh
18	#15 winner vs. #16 winner	2	8:30am, sunday	Franklin Prayreh	Dee Reh and -----
Final					
19	#17 winner vs. # 18 winner	1	10:15am, sunday	Nyar Reh	Franklin Prayreh and Naing Win

5 female volleyball teams for 142th KnND: **KCA, United Kayahli, Hso Ree Leh, G. Warriors, AKY**



Noah Khu, Colorado KnND committee



Bu Reh, Chairman of Karenni Community of Colorado
Lu Kayahphu, Vice President of Karenni-American Association

Information Links

- [All Forms](#)
- [Census](#)
- [Contact Us!](#)
- [Culture program](#)
- [Current Officers](#)
- [Education Program](#)
- [Evening Program Registration \(5pm, Sunday, June 18th 2017\)](#)
- [General Sporting and Competition Rules](#)
- [KnND program](#)
- [KnSL program](#)
- [KnSL Registration for Soccer Tournament](#)
- [Mission Statement:](#)
- [Objectives:](#)
- [Officers Login](#)
- [Organization Structure](#)
- [Please consider making a donation!](#)
- [Privacy and Confidentiality Practice](#)
- [Registration for Cane ball Tournament](#)
- [Registration for Volleyball Tournament](#)
- [Rights and Responsibilities of a KnA member](#)
- [Thank you for your donation](#)
- [Vision Statement:](#)

Recent Posts

- [Karenni Education Program Report](#)
- [14th Karenni National Day Report](#)
- [KnA's secretary met with the U.S ambassador, Mr. Scot Marciel](#)
- [A Report of the Second Fire Victims Donation \(2015\)](#)
- [A message from the President](#)

Current Officers



President Nic Shar



Secretary Wai Linn



Vice President Lu Kayahphu



Vice Secretary Maria Chay



Financier Oo Sor



Treasurer Hsawreh Sharpohtay

Education Program

Your name please?

Your phone # please?



What We Are

- [Culture program](#)
- [KnND program](#)
- [KnSL program](#)
- [Education Program](#)

Statements and Reports

- [Report](#)
- [Statement](#)

Online Registrations

- [KnSL Registration for Soccer Tournament](#)
- [Registration for Volleyball Tournament](#)
- [Registration for Cane ball Tournament](#)
- [Evening Program Registration](#)

Rules and Policies

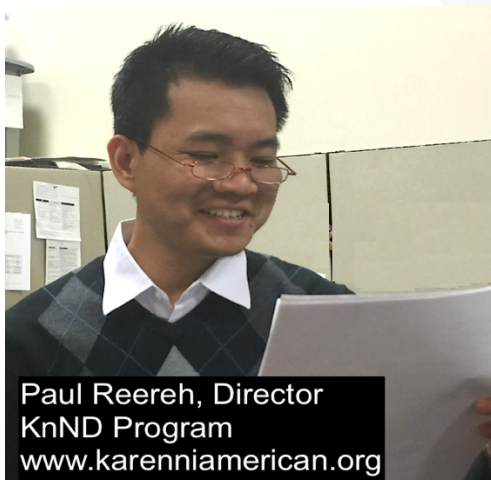
- [Rights and Responsibilities of a KnA member](#)
- [Privacy and Confidentiality Practice](#)
- [General Sporting and Competition Rules](#)

Forms

- [Sport Registration Form](#)
- [KnND Hosting Application](#)
- [Singing and Dancing Score Card](#)
- [KnND Music Band Application](#)
- [Booth Rental Agreement](#)

Who We Are

- [Current Officers](#)
- [Organization Structure](#)



Paul Reereh, Director
KnND Program
www.karenniamerican.org



Saw Meh, Director
Education Program
www.karenniamerican.org



အလံ ချုပ်ပေးသူ ဆော်နီ



သန့်. ရှင်းရေး ဂုဏ်ပြုခြင်း ခံရသူ (ယောဘာန့်)



အလံပန်းချီဆွဲသူ ဘို:ရယ်

Evaluation of 142th KnND event

KnND's event preparation

- KnA's officers and CO's community leaders were able to have a face to face for the KnND's event planning.
- CO's community leaders and KnA's cooperated well for the event operation.
- CO's Karenni Community supported the event both financial and manpower support.

Ceremony event/venue

- CO's Karenni youth were able to take part in KnND's ceremony with cultural dance and singing competition.
- Around 500 people participated the KnND's event ceremony.
- The ceremony venue accommodated all event participants with sufficient seats/chairs.
- Volunteer music band members did a great job in entertaining the event participants.

- Sound system was sufficiently working well.

Social media

- KnA's media group was able to publicize the ceremony event better than previous years.
- Able to get the event live on the KnA's Facebook.

Activity meeting

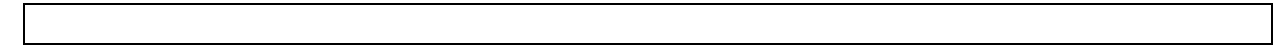
- KnA and various community members from other states were able to have a meeting on the Karenni Fellowship program discussion.
- KnA and CO community leaders were able to have a final meeting on the KnND's activity and general expenses before departing CO event.
- Fundraising activity was able to carry out on second day at the event.

Food accommodation

- Local community members were able to accommodate event participants with free foods for 2 days at their own expense (not using KnND fund).

Improvement recommendations

- Effective communication method needs to be setup for future cooperation with local community leaders/organizers by using social media or any other methods that will support effective information exchange.
- Strictly follow the hosting contract/agreement.
- Future KnND's event celebration will have to reconsider majority travel distance or convenient location.
- Limit social media accessibility on the ceremonial podium, except assigned media personnel by KnA.
- Soccer tournament rule for referee payment and administration fee have to be more visible or clear to the soccer players or team.
- Fundraising department needs to be setup as well to do JUST THE FUNDRAISING for KnA in future KnND because the 142th KnND had a deficit of more than \$5,000.
- Night program should be held on Saturday or the first night of event because the 142th KnND saw a very low turnout for night program as many left home on the second day of event.
- There was only one group dance, competing for dancing competition. There needs to be more dance groups or individuals.
- Youth participation needs to be improved. Strategies should be discussed and implemented.
- Colorado Community did not do any fundraising they said they would. KnA did only 2 hours of special fundraising. This project needs to be prioritized as well.



There was a brief three-party meeting between representatives from Colorado, Kansas and KnA on June 25, 2016, which was the second day of 141th KnND celebration. During the meeting, Colorado representatives expressed great interest in hosting the 142th KnND. A “KnND hosting application” was emailed, late 2016, to Colorado representatives to be filled out and sent back for approval or denial to host the 142th KnND.

The Colorado representatives made a verbal agreement to host the event at the end of January 2017. Since then, the two organizations (KnA and Karenni Community of Colorado) have been communicating through text messages, emails, phone calls, and so on to coordinate the event.

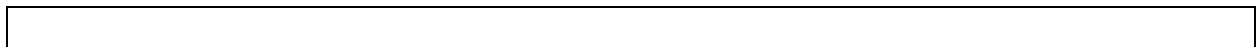
Even though communication through social media is useful, KnA Vice President suggested that in-person meeting and planning would be a lot more beneficial for both organizations in terms of openness, friendship, relationship and professionalism. Therefore, on April 16, 2017, 5 KnA officers decided to go to the city of Greeley Colorado to meet with the leaders and KnND organizing committee of Karenni Community of Colorado. The meeting was successful and professional. Everyone was excited meeting each other in person. 142th KnND meeting agendas were well planned and discussed in great lengths and details.

After that meeting, leaders of KnA and the Karenni Community of Colorado kept in touch with each other to make sure everyone was still on the same page.

Additionally, KnA officers made it to the city of Greeley, Colorado and met with the leaders of the Karenni Community of Colorado again a day head of the 142th KnND celebration, to further plan for the successful event.

Lu Reh Kayahphu

Vice President
Karenni-American Association



142th KnND - Detailed Financial Report			
Karenni-American Association (KnA)			
June 2017			
Revenue			
	Details	Amount	Subtotal
	Soccer registration fees (\$400 x 12 teams)	\$4,800.00	
	Female volleyball registration fees (\$100 x 5 teams)	\$500.00	
	KnSL annual membership fees (\$100 x 12 teams)	\$1,200.00	
	Karenni Community of Colorado - donation	\$8,000.00	
	Event pass (\$10 per car)	\$1,928.00	
	Special fundraising	\$285.00	
			\$15,513.00
Expense			
Soccer			
	4 soccer fields rental (Monfort Park, receipt#12)	\$1,975.00	
	1st prize (Real Karenni)	\$1,620.00	
	2nd prize (Texas United)	\$1,260.00	
	Miscellaneous expense (receipt #1)	\$42.48	
	Miscellaneous expense (receipt# 2)	\$154.49	
	Miscellaneous expense (receipt#3)	\$729.07	
	Documentation (2 persons)	\$300.00	
			\$6,081.04
Volleyball			
	1st prize (United Kayahli)	\$300.00	
	2nd prize (Hso Ree Leh)	\$200.00	
	Miscellaneous expense (receipt#4)	\$40.47	
	Miscellaneous expense (receipt#5)	\$53.46	
			\$593.93
KnSL			
	Referees' compensation (6 part timers)	\$1,110.00	
	PayPal fee	\$90.00	
			\$1,200.00
Night program			
	Auditorium hall (Monfort Elementary, receipt#13)	\$1,675.00	
	Music band rental (receipt#16)	\$270.15	
	Equipments rental	\$500.00	
	Special guest (singer Phary Reh)	\$200.00	
	Miscellaneous expense (receipt#6)	\$34.57	
	Miscellaneous expense (receipt#7)	\$23.54	
	Miscellaneous expense (receipt#8)	\$5.29	

	Miscellaneous expense (receipt#9)	\$27.04	
			\$2,735.59
Event Pass			
	Miscellaneous expense (receipt#10)	\$285.26	
	Miscellaneous expense (receipt#11)	\$66.01	
			\$351.27
Administration			
	President trip (KnND trip)	\$142.96	
	Vice President trip (KnND trip)	\$200.00	
	Secretary and treasurer trip (KnND trip)	\$368.80	
	Senior advisor (KnND trip)	\$200.00	
	Budget rent a car (KnND trip)	\$521.57	
	Gas (KnND trip)	\$25.00	
	Hotel (Charion Hotel) (KnND trip)	\$349.00	
	Expedia (KnND trip)	\$40.00	
	Flight ins (Secretary and Treasurer) KnND trip	\$21.90	
			\$1,869.23
	President (KnND planning trip)	\$489.40	
	Vice President (KnND planning trip)	\$200.00	
	Secretary and Treasurer (KnND planning trip)	\$995.06	
	Financier (KnND planning trip)	\$268.40	
	Clarion Hotel hall rental for meeting venue	\$107.01	
	Hotel stay (KnND planning trip)	\$130.91	
	Rental car (KnND planning trip)	\$211.15	
	Gas (KnND planning trip)	\$15.00	
	Carry-on luggage fee (Secretary) (KnND planning trip)	\$45.00	
			\$2,461.93
Office supply			
	Miscellaneous expense (receipt#12)	\$1,975.00	
			\$1,975.00
Refund			
	Karenni Community of Colorado	\$2,523.95	
			\$2,523.95
Net Income			
			-\$3,078.94

Receipts are available upon request. We strive for transparency and accountability.

HOW TO SPELL CORRECTLY

“Kay Htoe Boe” for Pole Festival
“Deeku” for Sticky Rice Festival
“KnND” for Karenni National Day

We use the following hashtags

#KnND, #KarenniNationalDay
#KayHtoeBoe, #Deeku, #Karenni
#KnA

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, and Kansas City, KS. 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 other platform 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)



Contact Information

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