

Develop a Viable and Strong Financial Base:

In order to fulfill the goals and assist a wider senior community NIAASC is in need of a viable and strong financial base, so that it can have its own office with some professional staff.

Explore financial resources to carry out our responsibilities. This will be carried out through a Committee of experts in the field, that will help NIAASC in exploring, developing grant application, and in seeking funding from public and private sources.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS BY NIAASC

September 26, 1998 - Problems and Issues Faced by Elders and Services available for elderly (specific issues and aspirations of Indian Americans); Entitlement programs, Long Term Care

April 29, 2000 - Medicare and Medicaid Basics; Issues and Services for Seniors, Unique Issues of Indian Seniors; Strategies for Developing Senior Citizen Centers.

November 11, 2000 - In-Family Conflicts and Compromises Faced by Immigrant Seniors

November 10, 2001 - Issues Related to Housing for Seniors including Assisted Living; Issues Related to Transportation, Medicaid and Respite Care for Seniors and their Families.

November 02, 2002 - Elder Law and Its Implications to Seniors

April 26, 2003 - Advocacy Workshop: Crucial Points in Advocacy; Community Perspective in Advocacy

November 1, 2003 - Housing Opportunities for Seniors

August 22, 2004 - Brainstorming Session on "Planning, Development and Administration of Senior Housing Complexes."

October 30, 2004 - Social and Cultural Interventions and Elderly Abuse

October 29, 2005 - Interactive Discussion Among Ongoing Indo-American Senior Programs in NY/NJ/CT

June 11, 2006 - Overseas Citizenship of India

October 28, 2006 - Financial Planning and Management for Seniors, and How Public and Nonprofit Organizations can work cooperatively together

April 29, 2007 - Issues of Single Seniors: Focus on Bereavement Support System, Retirement Housing for Seniors of Indian Origin

October 27, 2007 - Single Seniors: Retirement Housing- Progress in Florida

April 19, 2008 - Home Health Care for Seniors, and Reverse Mortgage

October 25, 2008 - Overseas Citizenship of India A Dialogue Among Ongoing Senior Programs

May 30, 2009 - Networking Among Ongoing Indo-American Senior Programs

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES of NIAASC:

Mission of the National Indo-American Association for Senior Citizens (NIAASC) is to serve as the leading national information, referral and advocacy organization committed to the wellbeing and quality of life of Indo-Americans in their senior years. The objectives include: creating awareness of Indo-American senior issues and needs; providing information on issues and services; advocacy at the local, state and national levels on seniors' issues; forging collaborations with public and private service providers; providing advisory support to Indian community, business and professional groups in developing senior programs and services; educating the public through workshops, conferences and seminars to address senior issues; and working with Indian and other groups to collect and store information regarding senior issues and problems.

Though not entirely due to NIAASC, but as a result of these conferences and collaborative efforts with other organizations, we have been seeing some positive visible outcomes. There is now ShantiNiketan, a Retirement Housing Complex in Tavares, Florida, (near Orlando) developed by a not-for-profit entity; a number of participants attending conferences on 'End of Life Issues' have taken steps to develop instruments such as Health Proxy, Durable Power of Attorney; there is a recognition among Indians that single seniors have special needs and unique concerns and they deserve a dignified and compassionate acceptance in the society – some single seniors are formalizing associations as well. Overall there is awareness that Indian organizations need to pay special attention to seniors of Indian origin.



The National Indo-American Association for Senior Citizens (NIAASC) was initiated in 1998, and incorporated in early 1999 as a 501C3 tax-exempt not-for-profit organization. Its mission is to serve Indian American seniors all over the United States through information, referral and advocacy services.

TEN YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS and FUTURE PLANS

May 2009

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Starting with eight members NIAASC now has about 135 members; a majority of them are life members.

- It has organized 17 conferences/workshops on subjects helpful to seniors and their families. All conferences and workshops are posted on the NIAASC web site. NIAASC has also helped in planning and development of conferences arranged by other organizations and institutions in New York and California. NIAASC representatives have spoken and taken leadership roles at various conferences arranged by local and national organizations to address issues and aspirations of seniors.

- Its web site established in 2003 has attracted thousands of visitors. Through its links one can reach all US Senators and Representatives (i.e. 535 politicians). There are many other links to private and public entities for the benefit of seniors. The web site (www.niaasc.org) is updated regularly.

- NIAASC has utilized its professional and technical resources; and referred persons to appropriate private or public entities to help on issues such as Entitlement Programs, Senior Housing. For those unable to communicate comfortably in English, NIAASC Board members can assist in Hindi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Bengali, Marathi, Urdu, Tamil, and Malayalam languages. It publishes a periodical newsletter with lots of useful information. The newsletter is mailed to over 500 individuals and organizations, and is posted on the web site.

- NIAASC Board members maintain direct relationship with a number of ongoing Indian American Senior programs. At this time it is limited to New York and New Jersey area.

- Whenever needed, NIAASC has collaborated with organizations such as the New York branch of AARP in advocacy efforts on legislative matters.

WHAT NIAASC WISHES TO DO, AND HOW?

NIAASC shall sustain and strengthen its existing tasks to accomplish its mission and objectives to serve seniors throughout USA. NIAASC intends to step up its efforts to serve seniors throughout USA through active and sustained liaisons with other Public and Private entities serving seniors. In addition, it will attempt to focus on the following constructive steps with the help and support of private and public entities involved with seniors.

Develop a Database:

A comprehensive database of senior programs and centers will be established with the cooperation of Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), National Federation of Indian Associations, News Media, and other Outreach efforts.*

**AAA is a federally funded entity normally at the County level, designated through the State Unit on Aging, and generically known as Area Agency on Aging. AAA is the front line support for seniors above the age of 60.*

Increase NIAASC Membership and Encourage Affiliations

NIAASC will increase its membership nationwide to have a stronger voice in its advocacy efforts in Washington DC to highlight concerns of seniors of Indian Origin.

Efforts will be made to develop affiliations and working relationships with Ongoing Senior Programs throughout USA. Guidelines to establish such affiliations will be developed keeping in focus that they help seniors, accomplish NIAASC mission and objectives, and support the work being undertaken by various Ongoing Senior Organizations and Programs.

Membership applications are available on our website at www.niaasc.org

Increase Frequency of Communication, and Interactive Collaboration:

NIAASC wants to update and publish its newsletter more frequently, focusing more on Indo-American senior programs so that seniors and their families can take advantage.

Efforts will be made to work with the National Federation of Indian Associations (NFIA), of which NIAASC is a member, and which is an umbrella organization of over 200 Indian organizations. The goal will be to persuade NFIA to help NIAASC develop a working relationship with NFIA members on issues pertaining to seniors of Indian Origin.

Efforts will also be made to encourage networking among ongoing Indo-American Senior Programs.

Introduce NIAASC to all Units on Aging (Statewide AAA) that are funded through the Administration on Aging, and in turn they fund the local AAAs. Similar relationships will be developed with other national associations such as National Association of AAAs, AARP and Elder Care Locator. It will establish an ongoing dialogue with the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) throughout USA. There are about 650 such agencies, primarily funded with federal dollars.

These agencies are the front line support for all seniors on all issues of importance to seniors.

Encourage Indian community organizations to initiate programs for seniors in their service areas and make them integral part of their regular activities.

(NIAASC publication “Guidelines How to Set Up Senior Citizen Program,” is available on request.)

Develop a workable relationship with Indian community, professional and business entities for a mutually beneficial dialogue for the benefit of seniors. Such relationship will help NIAASC share its expertise with these organizations and also seek their input in its efforts.

Develop a Professional Advisory Council & Affiliation with a Teaching Institution:

An Advisory Council will be formed comprised of eminent professionals to advise and help NIAASC in its various responsibilities such as exploring financial resources, developing position papers, etc.

Possibility of affiliation of NIAASC with a reputable university or college or a research institution will be explored to augment NIAASC's attempts to enhance visibility and supplement its resources of manpower and expertise.

Develop and Publish Position Papers:

Develop position papers on important issues that will be helpful to seniors and their families. Most of the information for such papers will be extracted from our conference proceedings supplemented by further research. These papers may be on subjects such as Support System for Single Seniors; Bereavement Counseling; Resolving Family Conflicts faced by Senior Immigrants; How and Where to Procure Information about Senior Housing, Assisted Living and Nursing Homes; Importance of ‘End of Life’ issues such as Wills, Health Proxy, Durable Power of Attorney.