





















**WELCOME TO** 

THE SUDANESE AMERICAN CENTER IN ARIZONA

546 N. Vineyard, Mesa, AZ 85201 <u>sudancenter@gmail.com</u>



### MISSION STATEMENT

The Sudanese American Center in Arizona is a cultural, social, and charitable organization for the pride of the Sudanese Americans YOUTH, and for the purpose of promoting and celebrating the Sudanese heritage and cultural identity.

The Center is a non-profit and non-political Organization. It was organized in 2004 and granted 501(a) (3) status in 2006.

# **PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES**

- •Organize and host festivals, cultural events, workshops, and seminars.
- •Organize sporting events and youth activities.
- •Help ease the transition of the members into a more productive life in the local American society.
- •Improve the life style of its members by providing educational, training, and business opportunities.
- •Sunday school for the youth and new generations.
- •Establish a center for the Sudanese Women's Society.
- Provide translation services for members.
- •Enhance and strengthen the relationships and understanding between the Sudanese people and citizens of the United States of America.
- •Social Solidarity Fund to help members during unexpected and harsh events.
- •Establish a center for information and a library for Sudanese books, artifacts and collections.





## THE HISTORY OF THE SUDANESE AMERICAN CENTER

Almost at the same time when efforts were exerted to celebrate peace in Sudan late 2004, a sizable Sudanese community in the eastern Valley was busy trying to organize it's members. Building on previous short coming efforts to achieve the same goals, a temporary committee was formed and assigned with the purpose of writing bylaws and taking the necessary steps of calling for a general meeting to elect a permanent board of directors, defining the objectives of the organization and passing the bylaws of the new body.

By the end of January 2005, the general assembly meeting was held and the bylaws were passed. Hence, the Sudanese American Center was born. Despite financial problems and some loud voices of decent, the new Sudanese organization was able to achieve a historic success. It was able to establish, and for the first time in Arizona, an Arabic school to help young Sudanese kids learn the Arabic language and adhere to their Sudanese culture. The newly born Sudanese American Center is busy planning for more activities. Following the successful launching of the Sudanese Arabic School, it is working hard to execute other programs, mainly cultural and in the field of sports.

To outreach to its members in Arizona, the Sudanese nationals in America and other part of the world, including the Sudan, a web site and newsletter will be designed. They will be important medium of communication between the Center and all those who are interested in its activities. The Center has moved to its new location at the city of Mesa.

The following list is for the new Executive Committee officers for the Sudanese American Center:

1. Mr. Tarig Alkalifa

2. Mr. Sulaiman Sulaiman

3. Mr Isam Ghandour

4. Ms Abeer Hassan

5. Ms. Raga Aldorees

6. Ms. Samra Abdalla

7. Ms. Nuha Ali

8. Mr. Waleed Ali

9. Miss Manar Aldores

10. Mr. Mohamed Basheer

11. Mr. Shereef Shereef

President

Vice President & Building Manager

General Secretary

Treasurer

**Assistant Treasurer** 

Social Secretary

Social Office

Cultural & Public Relations Secretary

Youth Secretary

Youth Coordinator

Media & Sports Secretary





# Team Work:

The Center Soccer Team at the 2007 Sudanese American Soccer Federation Tournament in Maryland.





# Our People Our Center

The first school committee board: Standing from left; Khalid Osman, Abdelgadir Ahmed, Nimat Osman, Wafaa Elnefeidi. Sitting from left; Galal Babikir, Sidahmed Elrayah, and Ahmed Osman

Celebrating
Our People
Our Culture

Recognition and appreciation of the graduates Class of 2012.



# This Center is For You And By You

Dr. Elsaeed Abdelkarim in the middle presenting a seminar about the economic problems in the developing countries and the story of Galaleen Elrahamona from Zagalona to Arizona. Dr. Abdelkarim also presented another seminar about Nutrition.





# Our People MERIC Our Center

Poetry night presented by Azmi Khalil and the well known Sudanese singer Hamad Elrayah.

# Celebrating Our People Our Culture

Few members at the Phoenix Civic Plaza during Eid Prayer



## THE SUDANESE AMERICAN CENTER IN ARIZONA

# The Center Floor Plan

#### **Description of Major Rooms:**

**Main Meeting Room:** For large gathering, seminars, general assembly, exhibits, and other main events. It also used for the Sunday school and hosting sporting events i.e. table tennis. This room has a projector and large screen that show satellite channels such as Sudan TV.

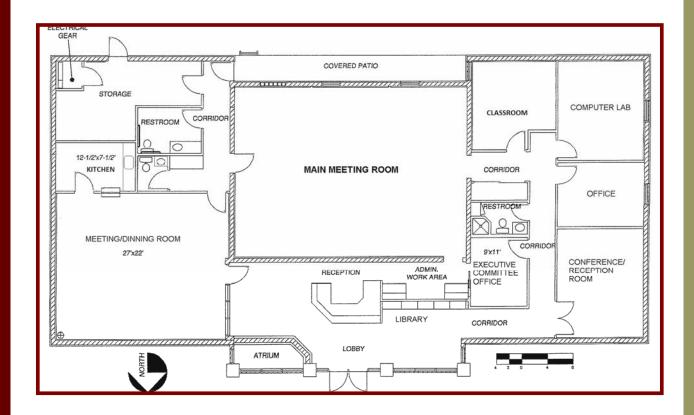
**Meeting/Dinning Room:** Used for the Sunday school, small gathering, and also as a dinning area during large events. This room has a projector and large screen for viewing DVD and VHS tapes.

**Conference/Reception Room:** A conference room for the Executive Committee and also a reception room for the Center guests and visitors.

**Computer Lab:** For computer classes for the Sunday school (students and parents) and also as an internet café for all members on other days.

**Library:** a library for Sudanese books, artifacts and collections.

**Classroom:** used for the Sunday school different age groups.



## THE SUDANESE AMERICAN CENTER IN ARIZONA

#### **IRS Tax Exemption Letter**

... TERNAL REVENUE SERVICE P. O. BOX 2508

CINCINNATI, OH 45201

Date: OCT 10 2006

THE SUDANESE AMERICAN CENTER IN ARIZONA

C/O KHALID OSMAN

1921 S ALMA SCHOOL RD STE 305

MESA, AZ 85210-3037

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

ID# 75111

Employer Identification Number:

20-2739748 DLN:

506276020 Contact Person:

MS. D. TOBLER

Contact Telephone Number:

(877) 829-5500

Accounting Period Ending:

DECEMBER 31 Public Charity Status:

509(a) (2)

Form 990 Required:

Effective Date of Exemption: DECEMBER 8, 2005

Contribution Deductibility:

YES

Advance Ruling Ending Date: DECEMBER 31, 2009

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. During your advance ruling period, you will be treated as a public charity. Your advance ruling period begins with the effective date of your exemption and ends with advance ruling ending date shown in the heading of the letter.

Shortly before the end of your advance ruling period, we will send you Form 8734, Support Schedule for Advance Ruling Period. You will have 90 days after the end of your advance ruling period to return the completed form. We will then notify you, in writing, about your public charity status.

Please see enclosed Information for Exempt Organizations Under Section 501(c)(3) for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

The Sudanese American Center in Arizona is a non-profit Organization and was granted 501(a) (3) status in 2006 as per this letter from the

**Internal Revenue** 

Service.

First Page

Letter 1045 (DO/CG)

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THE SUDANESE AMERICAN CENTER IN

Sincerely,

The g. Henre

Lois G. Lerner Director, Exempt Organizations Rulings and Agreements

Enclosures: Information for Organizations Exempt Under Section 501(c)(3)
Statute Extension

Second Page

# THE SUDANESE AMERICAN CENTER IN ARIZONA

# **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name:	
Spouse Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
E-mail Address:	
Family Members over 18:	
I do hereby accept membership rules and By-Laws of the Sudanese American Center as approved by Assembly.	the General
Signature:  Membership Fees Authorization Agreement  Membership Fees Authorization Agreement	
I/We hereby authorize the Sudanese American Center to initiate debits from my bank account and the finanction indicated below for the monthly membership fees. Funds will be transferred to the Account of The Sudican center no 138522000 Chase Bank 1761 W, Baseline Rd. Mesa, AZ 85202. This authorization will remuntil I cancel it in writing. Please complete this form, sign and date it, and return it to the Sudanese Americal along with a voided check to: 546 N. Vineyard, Mesa, AZ 85201.  Date:	anese Amer- ain in effect
Name(s):	
Street Address:	
City, State, Zip Code:	
Home Phone: Work Phone:	
Financial Institution:	
Bank Routing Number:	
Bank Account Number:	
Type of Account (circle one): Checking Savings	
Signature 1:Signature 2:	_
I/We wish to support the Sudanese American Center with a monthly debit of: \$	
Please debit my account every month on the (circle one): 5th 15th 20th 25th	

# BY-LAWS OF THE SUDANESE AMERICAN CENTER IN ARIZONA

#### **ARTICLE 1**

#### Section I. NAME:

The name is: THE SUDANESE AMERICAN CENTER IN ARIZONA mentioned hereafter in this document as the Center.

#### Section 2. NATURE:

The Center will function as a non-profit, non-political, cultural, social, and charitable organization for the welfare of the Sudanese Americans, for the purpose of promoting and celebrating the Sudanese heritage and cultural identity, and enhancing harmonious relations among Sudanese Americans as well as between Sudanese Americans and other communities.

#### Section 3. PRINCIPAL OFFICE:

The principal office of the Center shall be located in Arizona at a place determined by the Board of Directors. However, branch offices may be established and maintained in other cities.

#### **ARTICLE II**

#### SECTION 1. PRINCIPAL BUSINESS:

These bylaws are formed and adopted by the Center to govern, regulate and facilitate its business as a non-profit organization exclusively for charitable, scientific, literary, non-political, educational, cultural and humane purposes under chapter 5 of Title 10 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, and as a tax-exempt organization under sections 501 (a) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision a any future law) and section 43-11201.4 of the Arizona Revised Statutes (or the corresponding provisions of any future law).

#### SECTION 2. PURPOSES:

The purpose of the business and affairs of the Center are to:

- Promote and celebrate the Sudanese heritage and cultural identity especially for the youth and new generations.
- Promote understanding and cooperation between the Sudanese and other organization as long as the objectives do not conflict with those of the Center.
- Improve the life style of its members by providing educational, training, business and job opportunities at the local and national levels.
- To help ease the transition of the members into a more productive life in the local American society.
- Provide orientation and guidelines for the advantages and disadvantages of the American culture and lifestyle.
- Enhance and strengthen the relationships and understanding between the Sudanese people and citizens of the United States of America.
- Provide and promote developments and business opportunities in Sudan and encourage American companies and agencies to invest in the new Sudan.
- Perform such acts as may be necessary and appropriate in carrying out the foregoing purposes of the Center.

#### SECTION 3. ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS:

The activities and programs of the Center are per the following but not limited to:

- Establish headquarter for the center to host most of activities.
- The periodical issuance of a Newsletter as a mean of communication and dissemination of information.
- Develop an Internet Site to represent and promote the goals of the center, and to exchange information throughout the web.
- Establish a center for information and a library for Sudanese books, artifacts and collections.
- Festivals and Cultural Events: participation and exchange on various platforms.
- Provide advocacy on various development issues by organizing workshops, seminars, publications, and other Exchange program.
- Educational Programs: The Center will provide a medium for the achieving and exchange of ideas and experiences as well as discussions, and studies in areas of interest.
- Social Events: by organizing several events throughout the year to help bring the Sudanese society together. Such as dinners, picnics, children's day(s), and celebration of various holidays. Etc.
- Sports: By sponsoring soccer team and promoting other sports as desired by the members.

#### ARTICLE III

SECTION I. Number and Qualifications of Directors. The management of the affairs of the Center shall be vested in a board of directors, which shall consist of ELEVEN directors, two of which are designated for the youth group<sup>1</sup>. Directors shall be natural persons elected by majority vote of the members of the Center annual meeting. A director, who ceases to be a resident of the State of Arizona, will, upon such occurrence, ceases to be a director of the Center.

Section 2. Power and Duties: The Board of Directors shall have the power and duties necessary for the overall administration of the affairs of the Center and may do all such acts and things as permitted by law or these bylaws.

Section 3. Election and Term of Office: The Board of Directors shall be elected by a majority vote of the members. The Board shall elect a chairperson who shall preside at its meetings. In order to allow continuity in the service, the Board will be elected for two-year term. Directors who were re-elected after finishing their two-year term, would serve for one more year and their seats will be open for election at the annual general assembly meeting<sup>2</sup>.

Section 4. Vacancies: Vacancies in the Board of Directors shall be filled by vote of the simple majority of the remaining directors. Priority should be given to the member who had more votes at the most recent election. The term of any director who is elected by the Board of Directors to fill a vacancy shall be only for the remainder of the Term of office that became vacant.

Section 5. Regular meetings: With appropriate and advance notices, regular meetings of the Board may be held at such place and time as shall be determined from time to time, by a majority of the directors, but at least one meeting shall be held quarterly.

Section 6. Place of Meetings: The meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at convenient Places in Arizona or elsewhere. Meetings of the Board of Directors, whether regular or special, may be held by means of a conference telephone or similar equipment by means of which all participants of the meeting can hear each other, and participation in such meeting shall constitute presence in person.

#### **ARTICLE IV**

Section 1. The Center shall have no capital stock and the private property of the directors and members of the Center shall at all times be exempt from all corporate debts and liabilities whatsoever.

Section 2. Sources for monetary funds to help the Center accomplish its goals and perform activities and programs are per the following but not limited to:

Membership dues as approved by the general assembly.

Personal donations from members.

Donations from fund raising and invitations to persons and organizations interested in the goals of the center.

Donations from local, state or federal agencies that have funds assigned to activities sponsored and/or performed by the Center.

Section 3. Compensation: The Directors of the Center are volunteers and shall serve without a salary. However, upon the recommendation by the Finance Committee of the Center and provided that funds are available, they shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the execution of their duties. The Treasurer shall present to the general assembly all funds received and expenses paid.

Section 4. Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of the Center shall be the calendar year. January 1st to December 31st

#### **ARTICLE V**

Section 1. General Assembly: The assembly meeting is the main decision making body of the Center. A simple majority of the regular members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 2. Meetings: A regular assembly meeting shall be held annually in the last week of January of the following year at a time and place to be designated by the Board of Directors. Special meetings may be held more often than annually and shall be called by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Discussion: During the assembly meetings, any member of the Center is entitled to express his or her opinion. The presiding chairperson shall regulate and supervise all discussions in the assembly.

Section 4. Chairperson and Secretary of General Assembly: The chairperson of the Board of Directors or the President of the Center or their designee shall call the meeting to order and The Secretary of the Center shall act as the chief secretary of the general assembly.

Section 5. Voting: Only regular members shall have the right to vote in elections and participate in the decision-making process, when it shall be direct and secret. To carry all motions and decisions, a plurality vote of all members present at the assembly is required.

Section 6. Duties and Responsibilities: Duties and responsibilities of the assembly are:

Elections.

Adoption of the Center's budget, fiscal report, and the overseeing and discharging of the Center's operations. Setting annual dues and membership and appropriate extraordinary expenditures of the Board of Directors.

Setting goals and policies consistent with the spirit of the bylaws.

Conducting all orders of business within the Center in accordance with the provisions detailed in these bylaws.

#### ARTICLE VII

#### **DIRECTORS**

Section 1 Designation: The ELEVEN<sup>3</sup> principal directors of the Center shall be the President, the vice-president, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, The Secretary for Culture and Social Affairs, The Secretary of Youth Affairs and five<sup>4</sup> other directors. Duties are not limited to the following descriptions. Any director may help other directors perform his/her duties for the good and best interest of the Center and its members.

Section 2. President: The President shall be the chief executive director of the Center and subject to the control of the Board of Directors, shall have the overall charge and responsibility of the business and affairs of the Center. The president shall be the designated spoke's person of the Center and shall design and coordinate communication methods used by the Center.

Section 3. Vice-President: Subject to the control of the Board of Directors, the Vice President shall closely assist the President of the Center and act on his behalf temporarily in the event of the President's inability to act. Vise president is also to assist other directors in performing their duties.

Section 4. Secretary. Subject to the control of the Board of Directors, the Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Center, shall have charge of all records of the Center, and shall, in general, perform all duties that are incident to the office of the corporate secretary .The Secretary shall attend to the giving and serving of all notes for the Center, when directed by the President or the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Treasurer: Subject to the control of the Board of Directors, the Treasurer shall responsible for the custody of the funds and membership dues of the Center, prepare budget and financial statements and shall, in general, perform all duties that are incident to the office of corporate treasurer. The treasurer is to generate and update information and membership log for all members. The Treasurer shall be responsible for having prepared and timely filing of all necessary tax forms with the Internal Revenue Service and the State of Arizona, including, without limitation, IRS form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax.

Section 6. Secretary for Culture and Social Affairs Shall organize and present all cultural events of the Center, shall be the educational coordinator of the Center, Organize youth activities, Shall be in charge of the sports activities, keep members of the Center posted with current events, and help the president in communications methods.

#### ARTCLE VIII:

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Membership: Types and Eligibility for Membership: Any natural person who is of Sudanese descent, eighteen (18) years or older, have the right for regular membership. Any other person whom an existing member nominates for membership and who is interested in furthering the goals and Purpose of the Sudanese American Center in Arizona may apply for associate membership. Upon approval of the Board of Directors, such persons shall be entitled to the right duties and privileges of membership. In general, the Center shall have three types of membership:

- A. Regular Members: Sudanese persons who apply for membership and pay membership fees as determined by the directors. Regular member shall have the right and privilege to participate, serve, and vote in all official activities of the Center.
- B. Associate Members: All non -Sudanese persons who are friends of the Sudanese people will be welcome to apply for associate membership to participate and contribute in the affairs and assemblies of the Center without voting right upon the approval by the Board of Directors.
- C. Honorary Members: Distinguished friends and supporters of the Sudanese who are specially invited by the Center to become honorary members as nominated by the Board.
- Section 2. Membership Dues: The assembly meeting may, by majority vote, set the dues to be assessed to the members of the Center.
- Section 3. Termination and suspension of Membership: The membership of a person may be temporarily suspended or terminated for non-payment of dues. Membership may be terminated for reasons such as non-payment of dues violation of the spirit of these by-laws or for any other reason upon the simple majority vote of the Board of Directors. Membership may also be terminated upon receipt of a written notice of a member's voluntary withdrawal of membership.
- Section 4. Voting: The Secretary of the Committee shall create and keep a Membership Book with complete record including the name and address of each member. Shall be entitled to one vote in person.
- Section 5. A member should be in good standing for at least three months before he can be nominated and elected to the Board of Directors.

#### ARTICLE IX

#### AMENDMENT AND REPEAL

These Bylaws, except as otherwise provided herein, may be amended or repealed by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3rd) of the members entitled to vote at any regular or special assembly meeting. Amendments must be proposed in advance. A statement of any proposed amendment shall accompany the notice of any regular of special meeting at which such proposed amendment shall be voted upon.

