



140TH KARENNI NATIONAL DAY

Report

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

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This report is made possible by Nic Shar, Director of Shadaw Journal.

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Welcoming you, our Karenni People

This joint 140th Karenni National Day celebration was held with the purpose of gathering Karenni people from different parts of the United States once a year, with the goals of honoring our formal homeland history and forming a stronger social connection by having sports activities, literacy competition, cultural and musical shows during the celebration.

There were 1,492 participants from different parts of the United States, of which were Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, South Dakota, Texas, Nebraska, and Georgia. Some of those mentioned participated in discussion of planning, organizing and sending donation for the Karenni National Day celebration based on the size of its population and participation rate.

This joined celebration could not have been done, so successfully without a great support system from fellow Karenni from states mentioned above and especially Karenni families in Nebraska.

On behalf of the Karenni National Day organizing committee, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation toward to Shadaw Journal for all of its documentation and also to all Karenni people for their steadfast support for another successful celebration, once again.



(c)ShadawJournal

*Sara Shaw Reh, welcoming the audience at Benson high School
(c)ShadawJournal.*



Sara Lu R. Kayahphu, as a guest speaker, at the 140th KnND.

Good evening everyone. Tehrya beh Tee(Kayah), Tarae ba Theer (kayan), Teh Rar Ba Na (kayaw), Ha Lor Agay, (paku). Once again, it's such an honor to be here with you all this evening. This is our fourth times we have been celebrating our combined Karenni National Day. We started the first year at Milwaukee, WI, second at St. Paul, MN, third at Des Moines, IA and the fourth is here at Omaha, NE. So come on! Why don't we give another round of applauses to the team and supporters here at Omaha, Nebraska! Thank you very much, the working teams and supporters here at Omaha, for the willingness to host and make this event possible for us. I personally really appreciate for all your hard

National Day's Opening Speech

work, cooperation, and coordination. I know it is not an easy task to host this kind of event between our busy lives and schedules.

Nevertheless, you made it.

Thank you. Now, for the grandparents, parents, brothers, and sisters, let me ask you a couple questions. What anniversary is this year for our Karenni National Day? It's 140th Anniversary, alright? What about, what day and month our Karenni National falls on? It's falls on the 21st of June each year, alright? I want you know that it's not necessary to be our Karenni National Day on the day we celebrate. As we have to depend on our working teams' availability, and the availability of the venue for the celebration and sports complexes, we sometimes could not celebrate the event exactly on June 21st each year.

Tonight, I am very thrilled to see hundreds of you are eager to celebrate this very special event to show our very important historical identity to the world. Last,

but not least, I would like to encourage all our Karenni people to be educated, make the world knows Karenni people exist, and support our people back home in Karenni State.

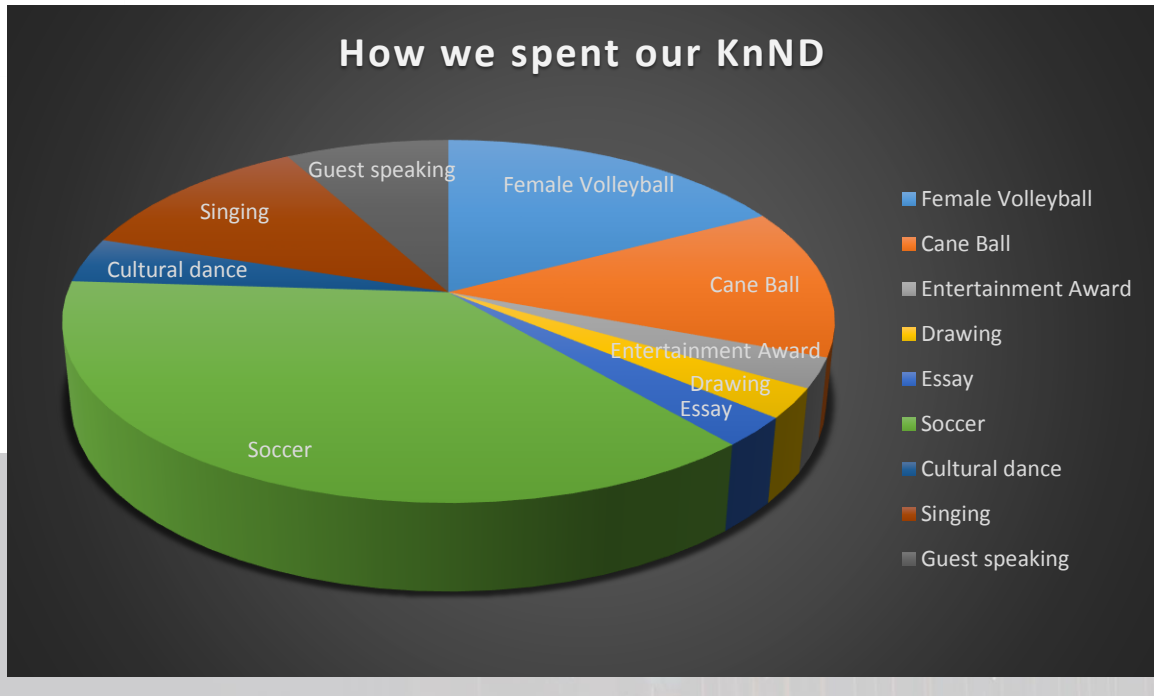
BIOGRAPHY

Saya Lu R. Kayahphu

. The current President of Karenni Community of Texas (which comprises of 9 Karenni-living cities).

. The current President of Karenni-American Association.

“Encourage all our Karenni people to be educated, make the world knows Karenni people exist, and support our people back home in Karenni State”



HOW TO SPELL CORRECTLY

“**Kay Htoe Boe**” for Pole Festival
 “**Deeku**” for Sticky rice Festival

Official statement release of 140th Karenni Nation Day regarding Karenni literature

June 13th, 2015

United States and Australia

In light of a constant misunderstanding, we, representatives from respective Karenni communities, believe that standardization — some historically important terminologies and its correct spellings — has become of urgency, particularly in this day and age when Karenni population is scattered around the continents for good reasons.

In retrospect, families had always been living in a close proximity of one another. Therefore, thanks to a few good leaders, the spelling of some words at every celebration has never become an issue until recently.

For close to a decade or so, we have seen a surge of Karenni communities developing around the world for good. Along with it, however, comes an unprecedented lack of uniformity in several aspects of our lives, in particular Karenni literature — in this case, the widespread differentiated spellings of some Karenni-historic words. For instance, different state representatives prefer to write the spelling of "Pole Festival" slightly different, possibly resulting in unnecessary confusion for not only new Karenni generations but also Karenni enthusiasts.

With the deep understanding that Karenni state itself has multiple sub-languages and consonants, we firmly believe, however, that it has never been a better time than this 140th Karenni National Day to embark on the important task of standardizing the spellings of such iconic words, ensuring the commonality of those meaningful celebrations among our Karenni lives.

Therefore, taking into account that some Karenni people are still unaware of such urgency, we announce on this auspicious occasion, with the clear goals of creating a real sense of unity among Karenni people and formalizing the coining of such words in our endless history, that "Pole Festival" is to be written in three English words as "Kay Htoe Boe" and "Sticky Rice Festival" is to be written in one English word as "Deeku."

(Written by Nic Shar)

The planning process

Karenni Community of Nebraska made an official announcement to host a joint 140th anniversary of Karenni National Day celebration late 2014. KnCN formed a working committee and started teleconference with other states representatives and KnA's leadership for the joint KnND's celebration on June 12-13 of 2015.

Discussion took place over the teleconference calls with other states representatives for several rounds to set up general rules and projects that included in the celebration activities.

KnCN also sent out its team structure and each project organizing team leader to all states representatives for activity registration, such as soccer, volleyball, case-ball and literacy projects.

The KnCN worked on ceremony venue, sport tournament venue and other venues reservation and informed other states' representatives and KnA's leadership through emails and over a private group social media and Shadaw Journal.

KnCN also contacted Karenni committee members in Des Moines, IA for last year KnND's budget balance to pay for venues registration fee in advance.

Night ceremony agenda and venue



- The night ceremony event agenda was a well-organized and entertaining program, despite having issues with late start on the ceremony agendas in the evening.
- Youths from other states were organized in presenting their cultural dances/ other performances.
- Traditional band from Waterloo IA took part in the evening event.
- The night ceremony venue was a comfortable space and seats capacity, however seating capacity was not enough for all participants, requiring some to stand up along the hallway and blocking entrance way.

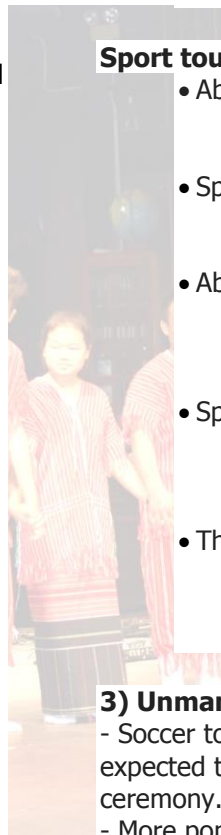
- The car parking space was large enough to host the event participants' vehicles.

Event documentation and publicity.

- Shadaw Journal documented and covered the entire KnND's event activities and publicized on its website and shared it's link to social medias, such as facebook and youtube.
- Shadaw Journal awarded two dedicated Karenni artists for their consistency and passion in producing Karenni music.

Sport tournament

- Able to host 28 male soccer teams, 13 female volleyball teams, and 16 cane ball teams.
- Sport teams were all actively participated in the 140th anniversary of the KnND's sport tournament.
- Able to get all kinds of sport teams, agreeing and signing up "the sport rules and procedures" acknowledgement form.
- Sport tournament was completed without any major physical and emotional fights, despite having some issues with the scheduling.
- There were more people than we expected, and all involved in the sporting activities with a positive attitudes.



3) Unmanageable situations

- Soccer tournament had far more teams than expected this year, resulting in delays for the ceremony.
- More population than originally planned, resulting in lack of auditorium seats for several participants.
- Insufficient local volunteering participants, resulting in some activities being run un-smooth.
- Understaffing of security guards, resulting in some sanitary issues at soccer fields on the 13th.
- Limited mid-field referees and linemen were one of the main factors in completing soccer on schedule.

4) Recommendations for improvement for the future event

- Reviewing KnND's celebration goals and objectives in connection with Karenni history, culture and tradition.
- Re-evaluating some of the activities that are irrelevant to the KnND's celebration goals.
- Emphasize on activities, directly promoting Karenni historical and cultural or traditional values-based types.
- KnA leadership to hold a formal meeting and discuss a better plan that precisely relevant to the celebration goals and objectives.
- Giving equal opportunity to all states to take part in night time event presentations, such as dances, singing songs and etc.
- Improving fundraising rules and reporting method in order to be able resolves financial reporting accuracy.
- KnA should set up a teleconference call and decide 141th anniversary of KnND's joint celebration venue for 2016 as earlier as convenient.
- Recruiting more volunteers to assist with KnND's celebration projects.

- **Workshop or training on event organizing planning, implementation, managing, evaluation and reporting.**
- **The KnND's fund is strictly to be used for raising additional funds. And, any unrelated use of fund needs to be approved by majority of KnA leaders.**

5) "Source of funding" explanations

- KnCN received \$1250 (previous year KnND leftover balance from IA). KnCN did not receive much donation from other states except Texas, Kansas, and private donors.
- KnCN got majority of its fundraising from facility pass and parking permit, raffle tickets sale and lunch tickets. The fund supported the 140th anniversary of KnND in NE. Detailed report on the fundraising amount; please see the "financial report."
- KnND spent those revenues for ceremony venue, sport venues, sport related activities, decoration, foods, and other miscellaneous items. Please see attached financial report for details.

A total of 1492 participants celebrated 140th Karenni National Day, Omaha, Nebraska (at least 200 people more than last year). Thank You!

Karenni-American Association (KnA)

Detailed Financial Report

June 13th, 2015

Revenue		State, raffle, event and individual donations		Total
	Nebraska donation		4570	
	Vocation director donation		500	
	Kansas city donation		300	
	KnCT donation		500	
	Des Moines		300	
	Saya The Kaw		85	
	Lunch's fund		300	
	Raffle tickets		4202	
	Parking and facility pass tickets		2845	
	Previous Iowa balance		1237	
	Total Revenue			14,839
		(28) Soccer team registrations		
	Rockford, IL		300	
	San Diego, CA		300	
	We Are Karenni, IA		300	
	KCPA, UT		300	
	Karenni United, MN		300	
	Karenni Minnesota, MN		300	
	KNCCO, CO		300	
	Karenni Kansas City, KS		300	
	Sioux Fall, SD		300	
	Michigan, MI		300	
	Arizona, AZ		300	
	Texas Dallas, TX		300	
	Waterloo, IA		300	
	DFW, TX		300	
	North Folk, NE		300	
	KNPP, MN		300	
	Kayahli, MN		300	
	Heart of Des Moines, IA		300	
	Texas Houston, TX		300	
	Indiana, ID		300	
	Amarillo Youths, TX		300	
	Marshalltown, IA		300	

	Wisconsin, WI		300	
	Buffalo, NY		300	
	Georgia, GA		300	
	Kentucky, KY		300	
	New Start, NC		300	
	Real Karenni, NE		300	
	Total Revenue			8,400
		(13) Female Volleyball registrations		
	KNYO		100	
	South Dakota		100	
	Des Moines		100	
	Omaha		100	
	Georgia		100	
	Minnesota		100	
	10,000 (MN)		100	
	KNY FW		100	
	Massachusetts		100	
	Amarillo youths		100	
	Indiana		100	
	Colorado		100	
	Houston TX KNET		100	
	Total Revenue			1,300
		(10) Male Cane ball registrations		
	Greeley		50	
	Rockford		50	
	Karenni United		50	
	Daw So Kyaw		50	
	Michigan		50	
	Omaha		50	
	North fork		50	
	KNPP		50	
	Karenni Rockford		50	
	Austin MN		50	
	Real Kayahli		50	
	Real Karenni		50	
	Young Omaha		50	
	Iowa (1)		50	
	Iowa (2)		50	
	Unknown		50	
	Total Revenue			800
		Total		
Total Revenue				25,339

Expense		Supply rentals	
	Male soccer venue (4)		3680
	Female Volleyball venue (2)		560
	Lunchrooms (1)		480
	Benson High School stage (1)		1900
	Sound system and mixer (1)		500
	Local youth band materials		150
	Iowa music band		300
	Total Expense		7,570
		Referees, Prizes and Awards	
	Soccer trophy		400
	Soccer (1 st prize)		2000
	Soccer (2 nd prize)		1800
	Soccer Referee (Shaw Reh, NE)		250
	Soccer Referee (3 persons)		375
	Soccer Administrator		200
	Volleyball (1 st prize)		400
	Volleyball (2 nd prize)		250
	Referee (Law Reh, NE)		200
	Referee (Sue Reh, NE)		100
	Cane ball (1 st prize)		150
	Cane ball (2 nd prize)		100
	Drawing (1 st prize)		100
	Drawing (2 nd prize)		100
	Essay (1 st prize)		100
	Essay (2 nd prize)		100
	Total Expense		6,625
		Entertainment awards and Documentation	
	Entertainment award (2)		200
	Documentation (video, photos)		400
	Total Expense		600
		Food and kitchen supplies	
	Lunch for soccer players		1120
	Special guest dinners		1257
	Kitchen supply rental		218
	Total Expense		2,595
		Miscellaneous	
	Transportation for organizers		120
	Pray Law's energy bills		150
	Computer and printer supplies		459
	Stage decoration materials		337
	Art and Literacy supplies		250
	Security guards' uniforms		200

	Sporting supplies		480	
	T-shirts for special guests		260	
	Car parking permit and tickets		410	
	Parking lot administration		200	
	First aid kits, snacks for referees		50	
	Local security (Poe Reh)		200	
	Administrator fee (Al Khoune)		250	
	Total Expense			3,366
		Emergency for two states (NC, AZ)		
	North Carolina and Arizona		500	
	Total Expense			500
		Total		
Total Expense				21,256



		Total Saving		
	Total Revenue		25,339	
	Total Expense		21,256	
				4,083

Brief history.....

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 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 fund raising 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 the goal, the communities gather at the KnND annually in the month of June and build our connection and friendship through KnND's sport tournament. The youth also got opportunities to present our own cultural dances and musical performances.


The purpose of celebrating the joint KND along with sport tournament is to give youth opportunity to focus on their physical exercises and

building friendship through various sport activities.

The ceremony is also other platform opportunity for youth to learn our own social values and political history through senior community members' speech delivery, statement reading and educational remarks.

Youth also get opportunity to express/present their musical talents and performed cultural dances at the event ceremony. More than that, the event was a unique way to promote those talented and dedicated artists to a broader Karenni audience.

(Written by Soe Reh, WL)



KnA thanks
"Karenni
Community
of Nebraska
(KnCN).

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