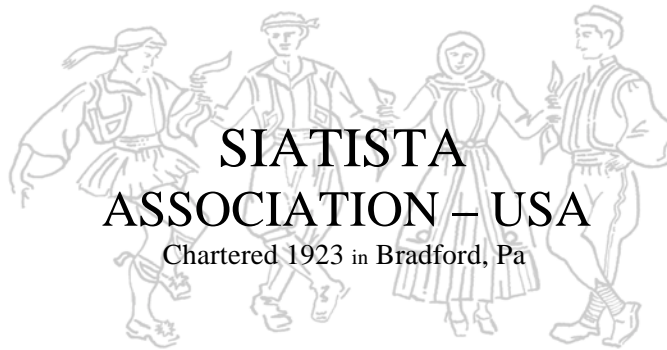


QUESTIONNAIRE



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Perpetuating the ideals, values, beliefs and loves of our ancestors and parents is perhaps the most moving tribute we can offer – a truly honorable way to immortalize them

Questionnaire on the Future of Siatista Association – USA and the Convention

We are soliciting input from our membership and larger population on the future of the Siatista Association - USA. The following questionnaire was born out of the discussion at the 2015 Meeting on the future of the Siatista Association – USA and the Convention. Below you will find background information and an overview of what was discussed at the meeting, followed by specific questions on which we would like to know your views and opinions. The results will be collected and summarized by the officers, and then presented and discussed at the July 2016 Meeting. Please send your responses **by June 3, 2016** to Argeri Bitchakas Cooke (Secretary) at 9109 Cherry Tree Dr.; Alexandria, VA 22309, e-mail her at siatistausa@gmail.com or call her at 571-276-2213, or visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Siatista-Association-USA/79030152475>.

Responder's Name (optional) _____

Background

The Board has considered the Convention “at risk” for several years. We have strived to increase attendance at the Convention, which is the only way it will survive in its current state. The Board has increased communication to the body of members, made calls to individual members with personal invitations to the Convention—encouraged them to bring their families and other friends, reduced costs for Sunday, instituted free membership for two years for recent graduates, and appealed to the emotions of the members reminding them that the Convention is a unique celebration established by our forefathers. Some of the Board's efforts have worked. As a result, there are some new members among our ranks; however, attendance is still not strong enough, and getting weaker. Financially, the Association will be able to sustain the Convention “as is” for about 4 more years. The Board acknowledges that the life of the Convention could easily be extended with increased attendance, but that more participation is not likely. In our view, the cost of attending the Convention remains reasonable, and also travel is not a problem for most, since the majority of members live nearby. Therefore, in an effort to be realistic, we need to address the end of the Convention (and possibly the Association) now.

Below are the ideas that arose in the 2015 Meeting – please react to them or give us completely new ones. If you need additional information, the details are contained in the 2015 Minutes of the Meeting that you received.

A. If you agree with continuing the Convention and the Association as it is now, a two-day event in a hotel venue with live music, until funds run out, please make your opinion known here. Without increased participation, the Convention will last about four more years.

B. Some believe the Convention and Association should continue as they are, but believe we can extend both beyond four years, with increased participation. They would like to encourage our members to pledge that their families come. Others place importance on educating our children and their families on our roots and conveying stories so that they understand the purpose of the Association and the Convention. Some think the Board could step up interaction and discussion with the younger generation. Do you think such efforts will make a difference? Which ones, specifically? **What would get *you* to come to the Convention? What do you think would get others to attend?**

C. Another option is to change the way the Convention is run in order to extend the life of both the Convention and the Association. Suggestions include: changing the format to a picnic; bringing food ourselves; having recorded music; holding the Convention every other year, instead of annually; possibly folding our Association in with another Association; ceasing the Convention until the 100 year celebration of the Association in 2023; holding the Convention at a different time of year; or holding the Convention in a different location. **If you believe we can preserve the Convention at its heart, but should make changes, please comment on the above ideas and/or share your ideas here.**

D. If the Association is *discontinued*, we will need to consider the best, fairest and most appropriate use of the money left in the accounts. Dissolution may require an amendment to the By-Laws, to dissolve in a manner that the current membership sees fit.

Thus far, suggestions for discontinuation are as follows:
Hold two more Conventions, then put the remaining Association resources into a foundation.
Eliminate the Convention, and use the remaining funds to only continue to disseminate information to members.

What comments do you have on the above or other comments/ideas do you have regarding dissolution?
