

# **2014 GBM Minutes**

## **GENERAL BODY MEETING OF OSA**

**Place:** Ballroom, Sheraton Hotel, Columbus, OHIO

**Date:** July 5th, 2014

**Time:** 10.25 AM-12.50PM

### **Present on the Podium**

Dr Bigyani Das (Parliamentarian)

Niraj Rath (Legal Counsel)

Tapan Padhi (President)

Sikhanda Satpathy (Vice-President)

Sabita Panigrahi (Secretary)

Prashanta Ranabijuli (Treasurer)

Satya Pattnaik (Editor)

**Sergeant at arms** – Lalatendu Mohanty

**Official in charge of the Floor** – Sushant Satpathy and Sridhar Rana

**Initial recording of the minutes** – Sabita Panigrahi

**Attendance:** Quorum was established at 10:20 AM. 65 members were present at the start of the meeting. Around 45 members joined after the meeting started. Altogether 110 members signed the sheet. There was some inflow and outflow of members in the interim period.

### **Agenda:**

- President's Report (Overall activities and achievements)
- Vice President's Report (Awards)
- Secretary's Report (Minutes and list of BOG approvals)
- Treasurer's Report (Finance)
- Annual Fundraising – Constitution amendment
- 2014-2015 Election Committee
- 2015 OSA Convention
- Presentation by Odisha Development Committee
- Q&A
- Closing Remarks

## **President's Report**

President Tapan Padhi shared the activities and the achievements of OSA with the members. The highlights are:

1. **OSA's activity and impact**
  - Weekly EC Meeting
  - Monthly BOG Meeting
  - Emergency Meeting
  - Impact beyond members
  - Higher expectation from OSA
  - Community and Social impact
2. **Cyclone Phailin Fund Raising**
  - Phailin Committee
  - Largest donation - \$60K
  - BOG decision on Utilization – Library projects
3. **Community Service hotline**
  - Annual Fundraising initiative
  - Late Shri Kanungo, Shri Kar, Shri Patnaik and Shri Nayak
  - Immediate assistance for funeral etc. - \$20K donation
  - OSA members help in case of need – Connecticut case
4. **Odisha Development Initiatives**
  - Higher Education Symposium - 287 attendees, Live Telecast
  - Entrepreneurship Collaboration
  - Proceedings publication
5. **Utkarsa and Urmi**
  - Emphasis on 2nd Generation
  - Widely reviewed and feedback
  - Theme based
6. **Champu, Chanda, Odissi initiative**
  - New production by OSA
  - Sponsorship
7. **Regional Drama Festival**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Initiatives
  - Children's programs
8. **Membership**
  - 1100 mark crossed
  - Upgrade
9. **New Chapter**

- Rocky Mountain Chapter

## **Vice President's Report**

Vice President Sikhanda Satpathy thanked the OSA award committee 2013-1015 chaired by Saswat Mohapatra for their diligent work. The committee members were Sridhar Rana and Purna Patnaik. He reported that some members have suggested raising award amounts. In response to this, it was decided that OSA will explore with award sponsors, new donors and additional funding avenues. He also showed his concern about the lack of nomination for some of the awards over the years. He requested members for their cooperation on this matter. He announced the recipients of various awards.

**Distinguished Odia Award:** Dr. Chitta Baral

**Arun Das Memorial Kalashree Award:** Pradip Tripathy

**Utkalamani Gopabandhu Das Memorial Award:**Dr. Subhash Mohapatra

**Subrina Biswal Award for Academic Excellence:** Apekshya Panda

**Youth Volunteer Award:** No nomination

**Yuva Kala Vikasha Award:** No nomination

**OSA Lifetime Achievement Award:** Shri Bibhuti Patnaik

**OSA Stalwart Award:** Dr. Prasanna Pati, Dr. Duryodhan Mangaraj, Dr. Arjun Purohit and Dr. Dasharathi Ram

**OSA Leadership Award:** Utkala Prabha, Satya Patnaik, Sandip Dasverma, Kuku Das and Niharika Mohanty

**OSA Service Award:** Lalatendu Mohanty, Lata Mishra, Saswata Mohapatra and Dr. Sukanta Mohapatra

**OSA Chapter Service Leadership Award:** Michigan Chapter

## **Secretary's Report**

Secretary Sabita Panigrahi summarized the list of approvals by BOG (Board of Governance)

1. Increase the support for RDF from \$500 to \$800.
2. The \$10,000 convention advance for 2014 convention.
3. 2013-2014 budget
4. Phailin fund raising money will go to the Chief Minister Relief Fund
5. A membership promotion with life membership fee of \$200 between Jan 15- Apr 30, 2014
6. Formation of Rocky Mountain chapter
7. The proposal to name the Souvenir - Urmi

8. Minor modification in Subrina Biswal Performing art award rules and guidelines (participant must be a child of an OSA voting member having a primary residence in Canada or USA)
9. Proposal from Chicago chapter to donate Odisha Tourism money to two families (Jyoti Patnaik and Ashok Nayak)
10. Annual Fund Raising proposal and guideline

She informed that the BOG meeting minutes have been regularly published in OSA Website, OSA newsletters and in OSAnet. She also requested all the members to join OSAnet to get informed about OSA affairs.

Last year's GBM minutes (2013) were presented. The motion was forwarded by Shanti Mishra and seconded by Amiya Mohanty for the approval of last year's GBM minutes. It was approved unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Prashanta Ranabijuli reported the 2013 Convention account and 2013-2014 Annual finance report. The report was distributed in OSAnet for the members to review.

**Total Balance as of 05/31/2014 \$220,923.52 \***

**Total Balance as of 06/01/2013 \$187,329.77**

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**Net Increase \$33,593.75**

\* Includes \$12, 754.79 in Ashok Nayak fund

He also reported that OSA now has more than 1100 members. He gave special thanks to Chicago convention team, newly formed Rocky Mountain chapter, Southern chapter, NY/NJ chapter, New England chapter, Ohio convention team and Canada OSA members for bringing new OSA members.

He also mentioned that OSA conducted several successful fundraising drives in 2013-2014 and raised more than \$100K for various humanitarian causes. He thanked members for their generosity.

He shared some of the thoughts to find additional sources of income:

- Will keep working on bringing in new members, membership upgrades but we need to pursue other avenues too.

- Some employers give matching monetary donation for volunteer hours. This is setup for a few employers currently. Members who spend time on OSA related work should check if their employers match volunteer hours.
- Corporations donate money to non-profit entities. Need to pursue such possibilities for which OSA is eligible. Example: AmazonSmile
- A three-member Finance Committee consisting of Akhileswar Patel, Loknath Patro and Prashanta Ranabijuli are looking at long-term growth options. Proposals details will be presented soon.

A few members asked whether OSA finance report was audited and whether chapter money be accounted. Prashanta addressed the questions and mentioned that OSA's financial document is audited by CPA for IRS tax filing and that the chapters are required to give year-end report for audit and OSA reporting. Chapters' financials, Convention's financials, and OSA National's financials are included in the tax return.

The motion was forwarded by Uma Mishra to approve the finance report. It was seconded by Amiya Mohanty. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Sushant Satpathy brought a proposal to divide the report to reflect the date of transfer. It was seconded by Annapurna Pandey. Forty one members voted for the proposal. Some members questioned about this proposal for clarity.

Parliamentarian Dr Bigyani Das requested General Counsel Niraj Rath to give his advice. Niraj Rath pointed out that amendment should be in written format for members to understand. As per his advice, Sushant Satpathy wrote his proposal on the slide.

“The amendment to the finance report is to reflect the accounts as the date of transfer (allowed by OSA constitution) from past executives to new executives.”

Some members raised questions why there is need for two reports since it is an annual OSA report. A few members questioned the reason for the proposal while the finance report was already approved. Tapan Padhi mentioned that the annual finance report should reflect the activities of the organization as a whole, not by administration. Sushant Satpathy mentioned that he needed clarity to the finance report presented by the treasurer. General Counsel Niraj Rath explained that this does not have to be any kind of amendment if members need clarification on the report. He suggested that if all that was needed was a clarification on the report, then a foot note to the report should be provided by the treasurer. He suggested that members reconsider the motion by accepting the treasurer’s report with a foot

note clarification. General members agreed to it and asked treasurer to send a clarification report. Prashanta agreed to send a separate footnote for the period 08/31/2013 to 05/31/2014. (Please see the page#34-36 of 2014\_OSA\_GBM\_vFinal.pptx)

### **Annual Fund raising – Constitution amendment**

Treasurer reported that several suggestions were received to streamline fundraising activities to address emergency situations in North America and Odisha. A three member committee was constituted by the OSA BOG, which looked into the issue and provided its recommendations.

Constitution amendment is necessary to implement the recommendations. He mentioned that the OSA fundraising and disbursement guideline document along with the amendment proposal was forwarded to OSAnet on June 3rd, 2014.

- Current: Bylaw VI, Section 5 – Emergency Fund

Notwithstanding the provisions of Bylaw VI, Section 4 above, an amount of no more than \$5000, hereafter referred to as “Emergency Fund”, may be used to address one or more emergency situations, including, but not limited to, any sudden, unexpected, or impending humanitarian need within the OSA community. The expenditure of any portion of the Emergency Fund shall be initiated via written proposal from the Executive Committee, and shall be subject to the approval of the Governing Board. The Executive Committee may subsequently solicit donations to recoup any use of the Emergency Fund.

- Amended: Bylaw VI, Section 5 – Emergency Relief Fund

OSA shall maintain an "Emergency Relief Fund", hereafter referred to as ERF. The circumstances necessitating disbursement from ERF and fund raising procedure will be as per "OSA fundraising and disbursement guideline" adopted by the Governing Board. Notwithstanding the provisions of Bylaw VI, Section 4, an amount of no more than \$7000 from the ERF may be disbursed for a single individual or family based emergency situation. In case of natural disaster that affects Odisha, the Governing Board will decide the disbursement amount from the ERF by a simple majority. The expenditure of any portion of the ERF is subject to approval by the Governing Board upon a written request from the Executive Committee.

A motion was forwarded by Annapurna Pandey to approve the amendment. It was seconded by Uma Mishra. A lot of questions were asked by members regarding

disbursement of the fund. Prashanta mentioned that the committee had considered those concerns earlier and included them in the guidelines. He requested members to read the guidelines and provide feedback. Pramod Mohapatra, a committee member, also addressed members' questions and clarified that these concerns have been addressed in the guidelines in detail. This amendment is to increase the amount from \$5000 to \$7000. Jogesh Panda and Lalatendu Mohanty had brought up their concerns about the wording used in the constitution amendment. It was suggested that we have reviewed the wording with our Legal Counsel and hence accepted the wording. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **2014-2015 Election Committee**

President announced the election committee for 2014-2015.

- Durga Mishra (Chair)
- Asutosh Dutta
- Jagannath Mohanty

A motion was forwarded by Ajit Das and seconded by Naresh Das to approve the election committee. It was approved unanimously.

### **2015 OSA Convention**

President announced that next year's convention will be hosted by Washington D.C chapter. He reported that the proposal was brought by chapter representative Bijay Satpathy. He also informed that it would be expanded as Global Odia Conference. It was approved by BOG. He mentioned that it would be a collaborative effort between OSA national and the local chapter. Sushant Satpathy forwarded the motion and Sukant Panda seconded it. The proposal was approved unanimously. Pratap Das invited everyone to the convention.

### **Q&A**

Ranu Mohanty requested that OSA members should consider projects for the development of villages of Odisha. She also commented that there is no female member on the election committee.

Sulochana Patnaik mentioned that in the future, OSA should avoid having all members in the election committee from the same chapter. However, President explained the importance of having all the three members from the same area. He also emphasized that the executives and BOG have selected the members by looking at their past experience in conducting elections. Shanti Mishra mentioned that she was on the election committee in the past and had committee members

from different chapters which was not a good idea. She suggested to have the committee members from the same chapter to conduct the election process smoothly. Pratap Das reminded that OSA is a volunteer organization. He mentioned that some organizations hire outside professionals to conduct their elections. He asked members whether we wanted to do that and spend money. He appreciated that OSA members have been volunteering to conduct the elections seamlessly.

Sradhananda Mishra congratulated the new board. He appreciated the humanitarian effort made by the team. He also showed his appreciation for the healthy financial growth of the organization.

Uma Mishra commented that we should look into promoting female members in different committees and nominating female members for various awards.

Ranjan Rath requested that we need to promote youths.

Pratap Das showed his concern for the senior members and emphasized that we should recognize the contribution of the senior members who built the organization and requested that the registration fee should be waived for seniors during conventions.

Jogesh Panda made a comment that less women were attending the GBM.

### **Closing Remarks**

At the end President thanked Parliamentarian Dr Bigyani Das and Sergeant at Arms Lalatendu Mohanty. He thanked Sridhar Rana and Sushant Satpathy for helping on the floor. He thanked the Ohio Convention team for managing logistics. He also thanked everyone for coming to the GBM and participating actively in the meeting.



