

Dated 12th June, 2009

Dear Member,

Greetings from OSWB.

It has been quite sometime that I wrote out to you all and naturally this message from me is lengthy, but it is important that you go through all of it patiently. This is because as an esteemed member of the OSWB there are a few things which I must draw your attention to. Please bear with me.

Special GB Meeting on 30th May 2009

The 30th of May 2009 saw another futile Special GB meeting of OSWB called for an important cause and ending up nowhere!

The important cause? Registration of the doubly ratified proposed amendments of the Constitution of OSWB with the Registrar of Societies. What seemingly looked an easy task with the mere formality of a repeat ratification of the proposed amendments turned out to be a difficult one because of inexplicable opposition from a segment of our members.

Even though the proposed amendments were circulated to the members present at the start of the meeting (which is in perfect conformity with the provisions laid down in the Societies' Registration Act) the segment concerned opined that this was needed to be circulated along with the notice of the Special GB Meeting and was against the law!

Explanations from all quarters failed to make them see reason and they demanded a fresh Special GB with prior circulation of the proposed amendments. What is surprising is the fact that these proposed amendments were ratified twice in previous GB meetings and were submitted twice to the office of the Registrar in the past for the sake of registration. A minor technical error prevented the amendments from being recorded in the Registrar's office. The present Executive Committee of OSWB worked hard to spot the error and had carefully taken all the necessary steps to see that there was no error committed like in previous years. When everything seemed in order and in place, they were struck by this bolt from the blue!

It is to be pointed out here that OSWB in fact had been following all these proposed amendments (which were pending registration and were taken up with the Registrar by the present Executive Committee) following a unanimous decision taken at a Special GB meeting held on 16th August 2007 at Calcutta Medical College.

It was quite quizzical to see young members of OSWB (who have probably become members one or two years back) question the procedural aspects without even

understanding the meanings of them and their implications! When asked as to what their objections were, they remained silent!

As a result, OSWB remains in a state of constitutional crisis with the 1981-82 constitution being the only registered constitution (with one set of rules and regulations to be followed) while it observes and follows the 2005 amendments (which is a different set of rules and regulations) following the mandate of double ratification at two successive Annual GB Meetings and unanimous approval at the Special GB Meeting of 16th August 2007.

This impasse must end for the sake of OSWB and to end this, I fervently appeal to all of you to be personally present at the next **Special General Body Meeting on 2nd July 2009 at Calcutta National Medical College auditorium at 3 pm**. Please do not be apathetic to an important cause because your presence can make a big difference. Knowing fully well that all of you are busy with professional work, I request you to take some time off on that day and be present with your colleagues to effect an important change which is absolutely necessary.

Vice President Election 2009-10

The constitutional crisis has taken a toll on this year's Vice President Elections as well. My earlier circular had announced the date as 25th June 2009. But under the prevailing circumstances and with the legality of the election process being questioned by our senior member Dr. Himadri Datta we have no options but to defer it till our constitutional matters are resolved. Dr. Datta in a series of communications with me and the Registrar of Societies, has questioned the eligibility criteria being followed for Vice President Elections. If Dr. Datta, who was the Chairman of the Legal Committee of OSWB during 2006-2008 had raised his doubts and objections over these issues during the last two elections of the Society which were held during his tenure the matter could have been solved a long time back. His objection has come at a crucial and final stage in the preparation for Vice-President Election (2009-2010) upsetting our schedule. So please bear with us till we are in a position to announce fresh dates for the Vice President Elections.

AIOC -2010

Members will be happy to know that preparations for the All India Ophthalmological Conference 2010 are in full swing. Please take a note of the following facts.

- Conference dates : 21st to 24th January 2010.
- Venue : Science City
- Registration Charges : Rs.2500/- up to 31st October 2009 (for AIOS Members)
- Reception Committee Member charges : Rs.4000/-

We have appointed an Event Management group recently (Sahara Global) to take care of the necessary areas during the pre conference days and during the conference.

A current Account has been opened with Bank of India, Sarat Bose Road, Kolkata 700026.

The LOC had an exhaustive meeting with the members of the Governing Council of AIOS at Kolkata on 24th May 2009 and they were happy with the progress made so far from our side.

The Society office is now open on Saturdays also for the purpose of AIOC -2010 between the usual office hours and the members of the LOC are available to interact with the members of OSWB on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays between 3 pm and 5 pm. So please feel free to keep the communication alive and give your valuable suggestions and inputs to make AIOC – 2010 a big success.

The conference website www.aioc2010.com is up now and few pages are being given final touch ups. You can visit the site and leave a comment or suggest improvements. All constructive criticisms are welcome.

Ophthabuzz

With three issues of our newsletter Ophthabuzz already in circulation I hope we have been able to meet your requirements. My sincere thanks go out to Dr.J.Bhunias and Dr.Subhankar Home who have been working tirelessly for this colourful and informative newsletter.

OSWB Academic Calendar

The pressure of many OSWB events has prompted us to change some parts of our programme. While the final touches are still being given in the calendar before finalizing, here is an overview : the Glaucoma Update scheduled for 6th June and the free paper contest for PGTs for 20th June will be postponed to July. Preparations for the Annual Conference scheduled for November 2009 is also under way and the dates of abstract submission will soon be announced. As in past we shall have facility for online submission of abstracts for our forthcoming annual conference.

I would request you to kindly check our website www.oswb.org regularly for the details.

Bengal Ophthalmic Journal

The journal is due for publication soon.

I invite all our members to contribute by way of submission of original articles, case reports and interesting questions for the photo quiz section. Submissions should reach OSWB office by end of July 2009 as all articles will go through a process of peer review.

PGT Free Paper Competition Session

The Free Paper Competition Session for the post graduate trainees will be held on 16th July 2009 at Regional Institute of Ophthalmology 2.30 pm onwards. The last date for submission of full text of presentations will be on 1st July 2009.

XL Ophthalmological Conference of West Bengal 2009

XL Ophthalmological Conference of West Bengal 2009 will be held on 21st and 22nd November 2009 at Science City. The last date of submission of free papers is on 15th August 2009.

NOTICE

A Special General Body Meeting of OSWB will be held on Thursday, 2nd July, 2009 at the Auditorium of Calcutta National Medical College at 3.30 pm. You are requested to kindly make it convenient to attend.

Agenda: Amendment of Constitution of OSWB following permission obtained from the office of the Registrar of Societies.

Enclosure : Copy of Existing and proposed alterations in memorandum and rules and regulations of OSWB

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

Dr.Ashis K.Bhattacharya
Hony.Secretary,OSWB