

Proceedings of The Annual General Body Meeting held at Netaji Eye Hospital, Ramchandrapur, Purulia on 25th October 2008 at 6.30pm.

The meeting was called to order with President Dr. Gautam Bhaduri in the chair. One minute's silence was observed in the memory of the members who had passed away during this year.

- Dr. Haranath Chakraborty
 - Dr. Sunil Bikas Paul
- May their souls rest in peace.

Agenda 1. Confirmation of proceedings of last Annual General Body Meeting held at Malda.

Hony. Secretary started reading out the proceedings. She was stopped by Dr. Ashis Bhattacharya stating that the proceedings were circulated very late. He did not have a chance to read it fully. He asked for a reason behind issuing three different notices for the same GB meeting with three different sets of agenda in each of the notices. He pointed out that the last notice had not even reached him yet and it was also not issued as per constitutional norms. He wanted the explanation about the corrigendum circulated among the members.

The President stated that in OSWB constitution the rules and regulations regarding agenda of AGM have been clearly stated. There are nine headings under which discussion can be done. Dr Ashis Bhattacharya opined that any number of agenda can be discussed. President replied that discussion can be held under agenda number 9 as per Constitution.

Dr. Ramendra Lal Saha opined that the agenda stated in the third circular should not be accepted for discussion as it is unconstitutional. Dr. Ashis Bhattacharya expressed his dissatisfaction about circulation of three notices for the AGM and he was dissatisfied about the cost of mailing thus incurred and said that this could have been avoided. Dr. J. Bhunia and Dr. P. Sahu opined that there should not be any restriction on the number of agenda.

Dr PN Biswas pointed out that if the previous notice is followed then the election results for members of the new executive committee can not be declared.

Dr. K. Biswas stated those minor issues are disrupting the proceedings of the house. He requested the President to continue the proceeding of the meeting. President asked Hony. Secretary to continue. She completed reading the proceedings of the last AGM held at Malda and it was accepted by the house.

Proposed by: Dr. Ranjan Chowdhury

Seconded by: Dr. Sumit Chowdhury

Business arising out of it:

Dr. Suven Bhattacharjee suggested that the minutes of AGM should be circulated among the members beforehand so that Hony. Secretary need not read it in the meeting and save time. The suggestion was welcomed by all. Dr. P. Sanatani wanted to rectify the noting on her comments on Journal Advisory Committee.

Agenda 1(Contd.). Confirmation of the proceedings of Special General Body Meeting held at Medial College on organisation of AIOC-2010

Proceedings of Special General Body Meeting held at Medial College on 20/03/08 on organisation of AIOC-2010 was read out by the Hony. Secretary and accepted unanimously by members.

Proposed by: Dr. P. N. Biswas
Seconded by: Dr. K. Biswas

Agenda 2. Annual report of the Society

It was already circulated and accepted.

Proposed by: Dr. C. Dutta
Seconded by: Dr. Ranjan Chowdhury

Agenda 3. Audit report

It was already circulated.

Dr. Ranjan Chowdhury wanted to know about tax deduction at source of OSWB . The outgoing Treasurer explained. He also wanted to know the reason for hike in the cost of postage & telegraph. Treasurer accepted his suggestions for curtailing the cost. Dr. Ranjan Chowdhury wanted to know about the source of Rs. 1,00,000/- given for Haldia Conference from OSWB. It was clarified by Dr. Asim Kr. Sil. Dr. Abhijit Ghosh suggested that we should not spend much time on the technical issues of accounting.

Dr. Chandan Bari wanted clarification on the transfer of money from Asansol & Haldia Conference accounts before completion of the audit. Dr. Sugata Nandi Ray reported to the house about the financial crisis he had faced due to large amount of money being transferred just before the actual handover from the previous treasurer.

Dr. S. Sanatani gave explanation in support of the money transfer. He felt that this kind of money transfer is quite natural.

Dr. Rupam Roy wanted to know why audit reports of three conferences were placed at a time. Treasurer explained the reasons that he got those reports ready only now. Dr. R. Roy also wanted to know whether initial contribution from OSWB was given to organising committee of Asansol Conference. He expressed concern about the amount of money spent towards trade exhibition in Asansol conference.

Dr. S. Sanatani expressed concern about poor earning from Haldia and Malda conferences. The Treasurer opined that the profit earned in Asansol conference is practically less than what has been shown. In fact the money given to the organizing committee of Asansol conference by OSWB was not reflected in the statement. Dr. Debdas Mukherjee expressed that no restriction should be imposed on local conference organizing committee on expenditure. The aim should be service to members.

Dr. C. Bari wanted to know about the authority of past Hony. Secretary of withdrawing a huge amount of money from OSWB account without permission from either executive committee or general body. He also wanted to know why it was done in a hurry during the period between declaration of result in Haldia conference and the charge hand over. He wanted to know what emergency requirement led to this money transfer and what was done with the money.

Dr. S. Sanatani stated that for transferring money from one account to the other no permission is needed. He felt that since there was no objection from the auditor, he was right in his action. Dr. K. Biswas expressed dissatisfaction on Dr. S. Sanatani's

explanation . He appealed to the President to investigate into the matter and suggested that responsibility should be given to next committee to investigate. Dr. S. Sanatani expressed his objection. The President asked the opinion of the incoming Hony. Secretary on this matter. Dr. J. Bhunia wanted to know why the investigation was not done by the present executive committee in two years. Dr. Debashis Bhattacharya expressed his dissatisfaction on wasting time on accounting issues. Dr. Ashis Bhattacharya, incoming Hony. Secretary declined to take responsibility of the investigation. Dr. Nirjhar Nath proposed to form an enquiry committee to investigate and place the report in the next AGM. President proposed a two member enquiry committee consisting of present and incoming treasurers. Incoming treasurer declined. Dr. Debashis Bhattacharya proposed the names of past presidents Dr. C. Dutta and Dr. Santosh Das to enquire in to the problem. Dr. Santosh Das declined. Dr. Arup Bhowmik strongly felt that if AGM entrusts the incoming executive committee with some responsibility they should accept it. Dr. Sumit Chowdhury supported. Dr. K. Biswas opined that if the incoming Hony. Secretary declines to obey the directive of the general body he should resign and the Registrar of the Society should be appealed to conduct a fresh election.

Dr. Ashis Bhattacharya expressed his readiness to carry out any work initiated by Dr. Anita Banerjee, the outgoing Hony. Secretary Dr. Anita Banerjee told the house about the procedures taken up so far on this issue. The President accepted that the present committee failed to start the full fledged enquiry. Dr. J. Bhunia stated that it be noted that the language used by the President and the attitude that was reflected during his deliberations was unbecoming of the President's chair. It was proposed that an enquiry committee be formed to investigate about the withdrawals from the accounts of the Asansol and Haldia conferences just after the Haldia conference before charge hand over and the reasons behind such hasty withdrawals and the expenditure done during that period. Dr. R. L. Saha and Dr. C. Dutta volunteered to be the members of the enquiry committee. Terms of reference will be framed by the President after discussion with the incoming Hony. Secretary.

Agenda 4. Annual budget of 2008 – 09

It was passed.

Proposed by: Dr. Abhijit Ghosh
Seconded by: Dr. Arup Bhowmik

Agenda 5.Result of last election of office bearers of OSWB

The results were declared.

Agenda 6.Appointment of auditors

M/s Mookherjee & Banerjee will continue.

Agenda 7.

Bengal Ophthalmic Trust agreed to give Rs. 10,00,000 /- to organizing committee of AIOC-2010 with some conditions. Conditions were readout. Dr. Abhijit Ghosh cleared the stand of Bengal Ophthalmic Trust. Dr. Debashis Bhattacharya proposed alternate ways of fund raising from members. He suggested that if all the members present at the

AGM agreed to register for the AIOC 2010 now by paying their registration charges, a lot of money can be generated towards building a working capital to start work with. His proposal was accepted. Dr. D. N. Chattopadhyay was also in favour of using trust money only when it was absolutely needed.

Agenda 8. Amendment of constitution

The President informed the house about the Societies Registration Act and that there is a necessity of presence of 3/4th of members of the society for amending any rule. Dr. Ranjan Choudhury pointed out that “3/4th of the Members” actually meant 3/4th of the members actually present at the time of General Body Meeting and not 3/4th of the total number of members of OSWB. He also substantiated his statement by reading out the appropriate sections from the rules of Societies Registration Act, 1961. The house agreed that 3/4th attendance is very difficult to achieve. Many felt if this is done without presence of 3/4th members present one might object to it later. President opined that amendment should be done as per Society rules so that no problem arises later. These amendments could not be discussed because a large number of members had already left the meeting.

The other agenda could not be discussed because of paucity of time and most members had left. Dr. Ashis Bhattacharya suggested that the resolutions for amendment of constitution should be taken up earlier for discussion in subsequent General Body Meetings.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

Dr. Gautam Bhaduri
President
OSWB

Dr. Anita Banerjee
Hony. Secretary
OSWB