



## OSA BOG Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Scheduled Date: 09/08//2024</b>	<b>Meeting Type: Regular</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>8:00 PM - 10:00 PM (EST)</b>	<b>Actual Start Time: 8:05 PM</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Virtual</b>	<b>Actual End Time: 10:26 PM</b>
<b>Presided By:</b>	<b>Ms. Leena Mishra</b>	
<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Regular BOG Meeting</b>	

### Invitees/Attendees:

<b>BOG Member</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Leena Mishra	OSA EC	President, OSA	Yes
Saradakanta Panda	OSA EC	Vice President	Yes
Santwana Dash	OSA EC	Secretary	Yes
Subhransu Mishra	OSA EC	Treasurer	Yes
Gyana Patnaik	Past President	Imm. Past President	No
Rani Acharya	OSA EC	Jt. Secretary	No
Siddarth Parhi	OSA EC	Jt. Treasurer	No
Satyabrata Mohanty	OSA – CA	Chapter President	Yes
Bhabani Buxi	OSA – GA	Chapter President	Yes

Supragnya Dash	OSA – Ohio	Chapter President	Yes
Dillip Behera	OSA-New England	Chapter President	Yes
Nilasundar Jena	OSA – NYNJ	Chapter President	No
Ashok Khandelwal	OSA – NYNJ	Chapter Treasurer	Yes
Mousumi Swain	OSA – Southern	Chapter President	Yes
Sukanta Dash	OSA – Mt Hood	Chapter President	No
Amulya Das	OSA – Seattle (WA)	Chapter President	Yes
Sourav Parida	OSA – Carolinas	Chapter President	Yes
Smaranika Rout	OSA – South West	Chapter President	Yes
Kamala Kanta Behera	CANOSA	Chapter President	No
Manoranjan Sahoo	OSA – Chicago	Chapter President	Yes
Jayanti Mohapatra	OSA -- MN	Chapter President	No
Deepak Jena	OSA – Rocky Mountain	Chapter President	Yes
Girija Prasad Rout	OSA Michigan	Chapter President	Yes
Bidyashree Parhi	OSA DC	Chapter President	Yes
Nirakar Jena	OSA - Florida	Chapter President	Yes
Vacant	OSA - MD/VA	INACTIVE	NA
Vacant	OSA - Ozark	INACTIVE	NA
Vacant	OSA - Grand Canyon	INACTIVE	NA

## **Agenda**

- Introduction / Roll Call
- Chapter General Communication (members/non members)
  - Email
  - WhatsApp group
- Chapter members communication
  - Annual Finance Report
  - Election
  - Chapter GBM
- Logo Standardization
- Additional information
  - Fundraising
  - Insurance
- External Programs and how to address
- OSA- Georgia - New member introduction
- Chapter Activities
  - Rocky Mountain
  - Ohio
  - Minnesota
  - Michigan

## **Introduction**

The meeting started with a brief Meet and Greet over Zoom online video conference. The session was brought to motion by the President. Secretary called for a one-minute silence in honor of the late OSA Vice President Mrs. Soluchana Patnaik.

## **Chapter General Communication**

President Leena Mishra shared the plan for standardization of the OSA communication method. She mentioned that all chapter leadership will use two types of communication channels - one for members and another one for non-members. Chapter members' communication list will be maintained by OSA national officials while each chapter will maintain a list for all Odias (Email and/or group like whatsapp) within their chapter for broader communication. All chapters will use [OSA-chaptername-members-all@odishasociety.org](mailto:OSA-chaptername-members-all@odishasociety.org) for all member-related communication such as chapter election, sharing chapter finance reports, or sharing any other matters related to members.

## **Chapter members communication**

President Leena Mishra addressed all the chapter leaders, to maintain and submit the annual financial report within a specified timeframe to ensure that OSA's tax filing is always completed on time. She also highlighted the importance of forming an election team and conducting timely elections as a chapter leader's term approaches its end. Additionally, she encouraged chapters to hold a General Body Meeting (GBM) in the chapter once a year when possible.

## **Logo Standardization**

Leena Mishra highlighted the importance of maintaining a single logo for the organization. She pointed out that some chapters currently use their own logos in different formats. Instead, she proposed that if a chapter wishes to have a logo, it should follow a standardized format. She recommended using the current OSA logo with the chapter name underneath. This uniformity across all chapters will not only show the strength of the organization as one entity but also enhance the promotion of its mission. In response, Many of them agreed to this discussion. Nirakar Jena and Smaranika Rout suggested that each chapter should have the option to create its own logo.

## **Additional information**

President Leena Mishra informed all chapter leaders about the significance of OSA's tax ID and their responsibilities regarding its use. She clarified that each chapter should use OSA's tax ID exclusively for OSA events. She stressed that if any chapter is planning a fundraising event that involves the OSA ID, they must notify the OSA treasurer and plan accordingly.

## **External Programs and how to address**

The President shared that a few members have expressed concerns (through a written request) that OSA is not taking care of the visiting artists invited to the convention. She added that during the last convention, few artists came to her expressing concern about the way they are treated here. She encouraged everyone to brainstorm solutions to this issue and develop a unified approach for addressing it. Several chapter presidents also shared their experiences, highlighting how this problem has a ripple effect at the chapter level. There was also a discussion about how when senior members of the organization bypass the chapter president to organize events through other members they know, it complicates matters and creates challenges within the chapter.

## **OSA- Georgia - New member introduction**

The Georgia Chapter President stated that he informed OSA officials via email about the completion of the chapter election, noting that all newly elected members (President, Secretary & Treasurer) will assume office in November. These new members will attend the next Board of Governors meeting. Secretary Santwana Dash inquired about the Vice president position to which Bhabani Buxi agreed to take action on this. In addition, according to the Georgia chapter president the Georgia chapter guideline is based on the model chapter guideline, tailored for Georgia, went through a process of drafting by an independent guideline committee, circulated to the chapter membership and accepted after incorporating member feedback. He also mentioned that he would pass on the EC feedback to the incoming Georgia chapter leadership team.

## **Chapter Activities**

Ohio President Supragyan Dash shared that the chapter is preparing to celebrate the Kumar Purnima event. Deepak Jena reported that they successfully held Ganesh Puja and a picnic, and they are expecting a large number of participants for the upcoming Diwali event. Additionally, the chapter will host its annual cultural event in February. Michigan Chapter President Girija Prasad Rout informed that they organize five events per year and collect an annual activity fee for these events. They are planning to celebrate Kumar Purnima on October 23rd and have already held a picnic earlier in the year. Chicago

Chapter President Manoranjan Sahoo shared that they have completed their picnic and Ganesh Puja celebrations. They are scheduled to celebrate Kumar Purnima on October 16th and are currently planning their Diwali event, which will be followed by the chapter's annual cultural event.

### **Miscellaneous**

Secretary Santwana Dash asked the BOG members to share information about the OOL exam and the NextGen committee's messages, which had already been emailed to them. Additionally, she requested that all BOG members submit their chapter reports for the Fall edition of Utkarsha. Lastly, she asked all the BOG members to complete the Google form titled "Chapter Details," which she had shared with them.

### **2025 Convention Update**

Convener Tapan Padhi and Co-conveners Saswat Mohapatra and Pravat Das joined the BOG meeting and addressed the members. Tapan Padhi introduced Saswat Mohapatra and Pravat Das to the BOG as the selected co-conveners for the upcoming convention. He requested all BOG members to help in the planning, especially in areas like registration and fundraising, and to share convention-related updates within their respective chapters. Additionally, he shared his earlier proposal, which he emailed to all BOG members, to reduce the membership fee from \$200 to \$99 to keep it up until December.

### **Email Discussion**

An additional discussion took place during the meeting concerning the past youth team raised by an email request from Ananya Buxi, Rhea Sahoo, and Anoushka Jena regarding their concerns. South West Chapter President Smaranika Rout initiated the discussion followed by California Chapter President Satyabrata Mohanty and Georgia Chapter President Bhabani Buxi.

President Leena Mishra noted that this topic has been discussed in meetings, the General Body Meeting, and on OSANet. She also encouraged all members over 18 to join the NextGen team.

A few BOG members, especially South West Chapter President Smaranika Rout and Georgia Chapter President Bhabani Buxi asked for clarification on questions from the youth team regarding the definition of NextGen, the deletion of the youth team's previous work, and the dissolution of the Youth Committee.

President Leena Mishra clarified that the children of OSA members over 18 years old are welcome to join the NextGen team. Ohio Chapter President Supragyan Dash, Rocky Mountain Chapter President Deepak Jena, South West Chapter President Smaranika Rout, and California Chapter President Satyabrata Mohanty requested that former OSA Youth leaders be allowed to attend the next BOG meeting and address the members. In response, President Mishra reminded all chapter leaders that this topic has been discussed multiple times including the GBM, and emphasized that these members had served as leaders for over four years before a new team was formed. She suggested that they are all welcome to join the NextGen. Bhabani Buxi mentioned that the OSA constitution specifies that the BOG is responsible for making policy decisions and the Execution Committee is responsible for executing those. Since the dissolution of the youth committee is of the nature of change of OSA policy, the BOG should have been a part of making the decision to dissolve it.

Continuation of the BOG Meeting Minutes.....

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## Agenda

- **Request from Ananya Buxi, Rhea Sahoo, and Anoushka Jena (30 minutes)**
- **External Programs and how to address them. (30 minutes)**

President Leena Mishra had started the meeting by greeting all the BOG members. She started the meeting by outlining the pending questions from the last meeting followed by the response

1. Q. Definition of nextgen in our term?
  - a. Children of OSA members over 18 years of age residing in North America.
2. Q. Why did the OSA Youth Committee dissolve?
  - a. Every EC comes with its own mission & vision and appoints committees to execute it. Since the youth committee was overlapping with NextGen it was decided to have one committee that is NextGen. This was also recommended by the Past executives.
3. Q. Is all the work (documents) of the past team deleted?
  - a. Any OSA-related documents created by any team/committee of OSA are property/assets of OSA. All the documents are there in their respective drive but access is removed from

the previous team. If the past youth team has any personal items stored in OSA's drive please let us know - we will look for them and send it to them.

b. What about children below 18 years of age?

As explained earlier, kids below 18 years of age are actively participating in the chapter-level event. If any kid below 18 years of age is not able to participate please ask them to reach out to the respective chapter president - we will work on it accordingly.

4. Q. Has EC communicated to the youth team when dissolved?

a. A bit late but yes. In the GBM, the president acknowledged the delay and apologized for the late communication.

There was an extensive discussion regarding whether the OSA Executive Committee has the authority to create and dissolve committees without BOG approval. Many BOG members participated actively, including representatives from California, Southwest, Georgia, Rocky Mountain, and Michigan, Southern and Florida. The Vice President responded by stating that OSA executives have the authority to create and dissolve committees in alignment with their vision. By default, the terms of these committees end with the term of the executive team. Nirakar Jena proposed forming a team for members aged 12 to 18, while Nila Sundar Jena mentioned that there are already enough opportunities for this age group to engage at both the chapter and national levels during conventions. He suggested doing a transition call with the past team and the Nextgen Team. There was a question regarding the deletion of youth ID - to which the president responded we are not sure about the deletion of ID but all the documents/work created by this group should be there in the drive as it was. She mentioned that we will schedule a call with the previous team for the transition to Nextgen. With that, they moved on to the next agenda item: the chapter's external program and how to address it. While there was some brainstorming, it was agreed that further discussion is needed for this.