



OSA BOG Meeting Minutes

Date:	Scheduled Date: 12/08/2024	Meeting Type: BOG Open House (All Chapter Officials)
Time:	8:00 PM - 10:00 PM (EST)	Actual Start Time: 8:00 PM
Location:	Virtual	Actual End Time: 10 :00 PM
Presided By:	Leena Mishra	
Topic:	Regular BOG Meeting	

Invitees/Attendees:

BOG Member	Chapter	Designation	Attendance
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
Chinmaya Panda	OSA – GA	Chapter President	No

Supragnya Dash	OSA – Ohio	Chapter President	Yes
Dillip Behera	OSA-New England	Chapter President	Yes
Nilasundar Jena	OSA – NYNJ	Chapter President	Yes
Mousumi Swain	OSA – Southern	Chapter President	Yes
Sukanta Dash	OSA – Mt Hood	Chapter President	No
Amulya Das	OSA – Seattle (WA)	Chapter President	No
Sourav Parida	OSA – Carolinas	Chapter President	Yes
Smaranika Rout	OSA – South West	Chapter President	No
Kamala Kanta Behera	CANOSA	Chapter President	No
Manoranjan Sahoo	OSA – Chicago	Chapter President	Yes
Jayanti Mohapatra	OSA -- MN	Chapter President	Yes
Deepak Jena	OSA – Rocky Mountain	Chapter President	No
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 update
- OSA & Chapter Relationship
 - Inter chapter relationship
- OPLI budget approval
- Volunteer hours Tracking in Chapter

- Using Standardized Template
 - Certificate
 - Flyer
- Duty of Chapter Secretary & Treasurer
 - Utkarsha Submission
 - Annual Finance Report
 - Chapter Dues
- Nashville Convention Loan Money
- Chapter Guideline Review (Assigned Prior)
- Chapter membership dues - by Sushant Satpathy
- Convention Update

Introduction

The meeting started with a brief Meet and Greet over Zoom online video conference. The session was started by the President Leena Mishra.

Chapter update

Nirakar Jena, the Florida Chapter President, updated that the chapter will host a New Year picnic in January 2025. They are also planning to celebrate Saraswati Puja in February and Utkal Dibasa in April. Additionally, the chapter is preparing to host the RDF event in August 2025.

Sourav Parida, the Carolina Chapter President, shared that the chapter is planning a New Year program along with Saraswati Puja in February. They will host Utkala Dibasa virtually and are also planning to celebrate Raja and Kumar Purnima.

Bidyashree Parhi, President of the Washington DC Chapter, shared that they had a wonderful Kumar Purnima celebration. The chapter is planning Saraswati Puja in February and a Raja Picnic in June. However she suggested doing the picnic during holiday time to which President Leena Mishra emphasized the significance of calling it a "Raja Picnic" as a way to promote and honor cultural traditions. While the dates can be adjusted within the month, she advised retaining the concept of the Raja picnic to respect traditional values.

Dilip Behera, President of the OSNE Chapter, provided an update on the chapter's activities. He shared that they had a wonderful Kumar Purnima celebration and are planning next year's Saraswati Puja in February and Utkal Dibasa in April. He also mentioned that the NYNJ, OSNE, and GA chapters traditionally host a drama festival, and they will coordinate with each other to plan this event.

Manoranjan Sahoo, President of the Chicago Chapter, updated that they had a wonderful Diwali celebration, which is the chapter's annual event, with 100 families in attendance. OSA Secretary Santwana Dash also attended. The chapter is now planning to organize Saraswati Puja and Utkal Dibasa in the coming months.

Mousumi Swain, President of the Southern Chapter, provided the update that they organized a volunteering event to serve veteran soldiers within their chapter. They are also planning to host Saraswati Puja in February.

Satyabrata Mohanty, President of the California Chapter, shared that they are planning a picnic for next week and will also be organizing a charity event in their chapter.

Jayanti Mohapatra, President of the Minnesota Chapter, shared that they organized a winter coat drive at the temple as part of OSA's efforts to serve the community.

Girija Prasad Rout, President of the Michigan Chapter, shared that they are planning a CPR session and organizing a volunteering opportunity for the chapter. They recently hosted a get-together to honor all the parents who had come from Odisha.

OSA & Chapter Relationship

President Leena Mishra mentioned that during the last kumar purnima a few chapters sent invitations to OSA executives to attend their program. OSA executives attended a few that helped build a stronger connection between the Chapter members, chapter officials, and the OSA executives. She suggested doing the same as a practice by extending the invitation to OSA executives as well as nearby chapter officials to foster stronger connections between the chapters and OSA EC.

OPLI budget approval

President Leena Mishra informed the BOG members that an OPLI conference is scheduled to take place on December 15th in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. She also announced that the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held on January 8th, 9th, and 10th in Bhubaneswar. She encouraged all BOG members to attend if they are visiting India during that time. Treasurer Subhranshu Mishra added that the exact OSA OPLI conference budget will be shared by the OPLI team soon and that the conference expenses will be reimbursed from the OPLI account.

Volunteer hours Tracking in Chapter

President Leena Mishra highlighted that several chapters are conducting volunteering activities, but currently, we don't have a system to track volunteer hours approved by our chapter officials for OSA events. She proposed the creation of a guidance sheet that will outline the maximum hours for both the event day and the preparation phase. This sheet will be used by all chapters for guidance when giving volunteering hours to students in all chapters. Additionally, she requested that each chapter create a Google Form or implement a reliable record-keeping system for all volunteer hours provided in the chapter.

Chapter Officials

We noticed that it is important to bring all chapter officials on board with OSA's vision, mission, process and guidelines along with the chapter president. In order to operate smoothly it is important for every chapter officials to understand the basic values and goal of the organization and the annual event of the organization. During our discussion with all chapter officials some of them shown interest to join the BOG. We decided to open this BOG to all chapter officials including secretary and treasurer after one hour of regular business. Abhaya Das, Outreach Coordinator of the Carolina Chapter, Nibedita Parhi, Secretary of the OSNE Chapter, Bhopal Behera, Treasurer of the Carolina Chapter, and Kasturi Patnaik, Vice President of the Minnesota Chapter, all participated in the BOG meeting.

Duty of Chapter Secretary & Treasurer

President Leena Mishra emphasized the roles of the Chapter Secretary and Treasurer. She stated that the Secretary should collaborate with the Chapter President to prepare the chapter report every quarter and

submit it for Utkarsha while the Treasurer should focus on the chapter's finances and submit the financial report on time to OSA for tax filing. OSA Secretary Santwana Dash requested all Chapter Presidents to submit their reports for Utkarsha, explaining its importance. President Leena Mishra further highlighted the significance of *Utkarsha*, OSA's quarterly newsletter, and *Urmi*, the annual magazine that are record keeping tools for our organization and this will speak for all of us when we are not there.

Vice President Sarada Kanta Panda reminded all BOG members to complete the chapter details Google form shared by the OSA Secretary.

Nashville Convention Loan Money & Account closing

As per the guidelines, the convention account closing deadline is November 30th. OSA has not received the seed/loan money (\$10,000 + (\$15,000 with additional BOG approval) from the Nashville convention team which is supposed to be received much earlier than this date. Membership payment is not received. The account closing is delayed.

NYNJ chapter president (Nilasundar Jena) inquired about this and all BOG members along with the OSA EC requested Chapter President Mousumi Swain to coordinate and send the seed money as soon as possible.

OSA Secretary Santwana Dash highlighted the issue of not receiving membership payments, which has delayed adding members to the database. Leena Mishra emphasized that as the organization is preparing for the upcoming election, the membership database is crucial. She stressed the need to complete the membership payment so that we can prepare a complete membership list. Mousumi Swain assured the BOG that she would work with the convention team to resolve the issue.

Chapter Guideline Review (Assigned Prior)

OSA Secretary Santwana Dash reminded the BOG members to review the Chapter guidelines and provide any suggestions if necessary. Nilasundar Jena, Nirakar Jena, and Sukanta Das were assigned to review the guidelines. She requested the respective chapter leaders to review the Chapter Guidelines and share their feedback.

Chapter membership dues - by Sushant Satpathy

Past President Sushant Satpathy joined the BOG meeting and addressed all the members regarding the 25% membership reimbursement to the chapters. He explained that this incentive was introduced during his tenure to encourage chapter leaders to focus on membership, as the membership fee was \$300 at that time. He also mentioned that his approach was to keep the membership fee the same throughout. No additional discounts should be given at any time on the membership fee.

Currently the fee is reduced. He suggested that instead of continuing with this method, a new approach be considered, such as giving some amount for an event from OSA - which would be easier to manage.

President Leena Mishra emphasized the additional workload of the Treasurer on both chapters and OSA to keep track of this membership dues and calculate. Sometimes chapter presidents forget and come after a year. She requested all BOG members to think through ways to simplify this process.

Convention Update

We did not receive any update on the convention due to the absence of the Convention team.