



## OSA BOG Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Scheduled Date: 02/09/2025</b>	<b>Meeting Type: Regular</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (EST) Rescheduled due to Superbowl</b>	<b>Actual Start Time: 11:07 AM</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Virtual</b>	<b>Actual End Time: 1:02 PM</b>
<b>Presided By:</b>	<b>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	No

Chinmaya Panda	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	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	Yes
Kamala Kanta Behera	CANOSA	Chapter President	No
Manoranjan Sahoo	OSA – Chicago	Chapter President	No
Jayanti Mohapatra	OSA -- MN	Chapter President	No
Deepak Jena	OSA – Rocky Mountain	Chapter President	No
Girija Prasad Rout	OSA Michigan	Chapter President	No
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 (Chapter issues if any)
- 2024 disputed donation
- 2026 OSA Convention
- OSA OPLI Committee
- 2023 convention donation
- External Artists issue
- Volunteering hours

## **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**

Several chapters provided updates about their upcoming activities. Dillip Behera of OSANE mentioned that they celebrated Saraswati Puja on February 8th and highlighted the challenge of getting new members involved in OSA events. He also shared that Utkala Dibasa will be celebrated on April 5th, and the Raja Picnic will take place on June 14th. Additionally, the election process for the new chapter executive will begin in July. In response to his query of the challenge of attracting new members to events, Leena Mishra suggested that involving more volunteers in each every area of an event and assigning responsibilities would be effective. Bidya Parhi shared her experience with the team on the benefits of engaging more volunteers.

Supragyan Dash from Ohio shared her experience of organizing events with limited volunteers due to the proximity of the location. Leena Mishra highlighted the importance of taking immediate action by appointing more executives to her team in order to increase her capacity. Supragyan responded that she is working on it and plans to appoint the officials soon.

Nirakara Jena from OSA-Florida shared their experience of the recently held Saraswati Puja and mentioned that Utkala Dibasa will be celebrated on April 5th. He raised concerns about some OSA members on the National Committee not attending functions and discouraging others from participating in OSA events, asking how to address this issue. In response, Leena Mishra and Sarada Panda responded that as National Committee members there is an expectation for them to actively participate and encourage chapter events. In this case, they agreed to discuss the matter further with the concerned parties and proceed accordingly.

Smaranika Rout of OSA-SW mentioned that regional distances are definitely a challenge to put everyone in one roof. Many people are interested in OSA National but not in chapter level activities.

Leena Mishra mentioned that many of our chapters cover multiple states: for ex: the DC chapter, which includes MD, VA, DC, DE, and West Virginia, and the OSA NYNJ chapter, which includes NY, NJ, and PA. She acknowledged that distance is a challenge but explained that the current approach involves planning the main chapter events in centralized locations so that more people can participate. For other

events, we should spread across different areas of the chapter to reach both ends and invite new members.

#### 10k donation for Nashville convention

Dillip Rout of OSANE and Nirakara Jena of OSA-FL inquired about a pending donation for the OSA Southern Nashville Convention and raised strong concerns about the delay in action. Moushumi Swain of OSA-Southern joined the conversation and together demanded an immediate release of the money to the OSA Nashville Convention Team.

This 10k amount was discussed earlier in the BOG meeting but Leena Mishra provided the clarification on the situation again. She mentioned that, given the current concerns surrounding matching donations in other organizations, BOG members must be extra vigilant when handling donation requests to protect the organization's credibility. A clear accounting of any matching donations to OSA is expected to process the donation request in OSA.

In this case, one OSA member claimed to have donated \$10,000 for the Nashville Convention. After waiting for a long time, we never found any donation from that person. However, we later noticed a \$10,000 donation (\$5,000 + \$5,000 matching donation from Salesforce) was received from another person who seemed to have no remote interest in OSA or ODisha . Since the matching donation didn't have an intended purpose and name was not familiar to us we decided to reach out to the donor to verify if it was even meant for OSA and the OSA convention. We along with the convention team made several attempts to contact the donor, however we couldn't reach the donor.

She added that an email will be sent to all BOG members regarding this matter. Based on the majority's decision, it will be determined whether OSA should release the money to the Nashville Convention, or return it to the donor or donate it to a charity like the Red Cross. It was agreed that a follow-up email would be sent with the details of the donation to maintain a clear record of the decision-making process for future reference.

#### 2026 OSA Convention

The VP, Sarada Panda mentioned that two requests were received for the year 2026 convention. One from OSA-NorthWest (Minneapolis) and another from OSA-Carolina. The appointed convention committee reviewed the requests and recommended that OSANorth-West (Minneapolis) will host the 2026 convention, and OSA-Carolinas will be considered for the following year's convention. It was noted that an email will be sent to seek approval for the 2026 convention.

#### OSA OPLI Committee

There were queries in previous BOG meetings regarding the OSA OPLI committee and its operations. A few BOG members expressed concerns that the same people have been managing the committee for a long time, and questioned what the end goal of the committee is. Additionally, it was noted that the OSA should have clear visibility and a roadmap for their operations and it should be a rolling committee like all other OSA committees.

#### The 2023 Chicago Convention to the Odisha CM Relief Fund.

On another note, there was a discussion about a donation to the CM Relief Fund made by a past convenor of the Chicago Convention. Several BOG members and other members inquired about a recent post by the Odisha government. The post mentioned that Jhara Das, a past convenor, donated from the OSA

(Chicago Chapter) funds.

Everyone expressed their displeasure with this action for several reasons. According to OSA's constitution, even the president cannot donate or spend more than \$500 without consulting the BOG members and the general membership for a larger purpose. OSA convention funds are collected in the name of OSA. If there is a surplus in the convention, the funds are divided between the chapter and OSA National. Additionally, there was no formal appeal from Odisha Govt requesting support for the Odisha CM Relief Fund. So What made the past convenor to make this donation to an outside organization without informing the OSA executives? Since the Chicago Chapter president was not present, the BOG asked the OSA president to investigate further. It was requested that the chapter president explain this action to the BOG..

External Artists visit to OSA convention

This has been an ongoing concern for the team. Nirakara Jena and a few others recalled that the contract for the visiting artist was requested from the convention team, but it has not yet been received. Everyone in the BOG recognised that it is essential that the convention team share the contract for each artist performing at the convention, so that OSA has full visibility of their plans for the event. Leena Mishra agreed to follow up on this with the convention team.

Volunteering Hours

Since it was almost time there was a brief discussion on this topic. Basically OSA would like to standardize this process so that all chapters can use the same format while awarding volunteering hours to our kids. There is a plan to come up with maximum volunteering hours for each OSA chapter event primarily for Ganesh puja, Saraswati puja, Utkal Dibasa, Raja Picnic and Kumar Purnima so that each chapter will keep that as a guideline while awarding hours. The goal is to stay prepared in case of an audit on this.

## Proposal for 2026 Convention

OSA NorthWest (OSA Minneapolis) will host the 2026 convention.

<b>BOG Member</b>	<b>Chapter Name</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Leena Mishra	President	YES	
Saradakanta Panda	Vice President	YES	
Santwana Dash	Secretary	YES	
Subhransu Mishra	Treasurer	YES	
Gyana Patnaik	Immediate past president	YES	
Satyabrata Mohanty	OSA-CA	YES	
Chinmaya Panda	OSA-GA	YES	

Supragnya Dash	OSA-OHIO	YES	
Dillip Behera	OSA-OSNE	YES	
Nilasundar Jena	OSA-NYNJPA	YES	
Mousumi Swain	OSA-SOUTHERN	YES	
Sukanta Dash	OSA-MT.HOOD		
<b>Amulya Das</b>	<b>OSA-SEATTLE</b>	<b>YES</b>	
Sourav Parida	OSA-CAROLINAS		
Smaranika Rout	OSA-SW	YES	
Kamala Kanta Behera	OSA-CANADA		
Manoranjan Sahoo	OSA-CHICAGO		
Jayanti Mohapatra	OSA-MN	YES	
Deepak Jena	OSA – ROCKY MOUNTAIN	YES	
Girija Prasad Rout	OSA-MI		
Bidyashree Parhi	OSA-WASHINGTON DC	YES	
Nirakar Jena	OSA-FL	YES	

**Yes - 16 NO: 0 Abstained:4 16/21**

This proposal was approved by the majority that the 2026 convention will be hosted by OSA Northeast (Minnesota) Chapter.

**Proposal to determine the future for the disputed 10k matching donation**

Based on the BOG discussion an email was sent to all BOG members seeking their opinion to release the disputed 10k donation to the Nashville Convention or return the money. It was clarified in the email that in any case OSA National will not keep the money.

No - Don't keep the money with OSA National /OSA Convention - either return or donate to a charity like Redross.

Yes - Give the Disputed 10k amount to Nashville Convention

<b>BOG Member</b>	<b>Chapter Name</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Leena Mishra	President	NO	
Saradakanta Panda	Vice President	YES	
Santwana Dash	Secretary	YES	
Subhransu Mishra	Treasurer	YES	
Gyana Patnaik	Immediate past president	YES	
Satyabrata Mohanty	OSA-CA	YES	
Chinmaya Panda	OSA-GA	YES	
Supragnya Dash	OSA-OHIO	YES	
Dillip Behera	OSA-OSNE	YES	
Nilasundar Jena	OSA-NYNJPA	NO	
Mousumi Swain	OSA-SOUTHERN	YES	
Sukanta Dash	OSA-MT.HOOD	NO	
<b>Amulya Das</b>	<b>OSA-SEATTLE</b>	<b>YES</b>	
Sourav Parida	OSA-CAROLINAS	NO	
Smaranika Rout	OSA-SW	YES	
Kamala Kanta Behera	OSA-CANADA		
Manoranjan Sahoo	OSA-CHICAGO		
Jayanti Mohapatra	OSA-MN	YES	
Deepak Jena	OSA – ROCKY MOUNTAIN	YES	
Girija Prasad Rout	OSA-MI		
Bidyashree Parhi	OSA-WASHINGTON DC	NO	
Nirakar Jena	OSA-FL	YES	

**Yes: 13 No: 4 Abstained: 13 /21**

The decision was taken based on the majority of the group and decided that the disputed donation money will be released to Nashville Convention.