



## OSA BOG Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Scheduled Date: 04/13/2025</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: 10:09 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	Yes
Chinmaya Panda	OSA – GA	Chapter President	Yes

Supragnya Dash	OSA – Ohio	Chapter President	No
Dillip Behera	OSA-New England	Chapter President	Yes
Nilasundar Jena	OSA – NYNJ	Chapter President	Yes
Gautam Giri	OSA – Southern	Chapter President	Yes
Sukanta Dash	OSA – Mt Hood	Chapter President	Yes
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	Yes
Jayanti Mohapatra	OSA -- MN	Chapter President	Yes
Deepak Jena	OSA – Rocky Mountain	Chapter President	Yes
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
- Constitution Amendment
  - No Reduction of Membership fee
  - Appointment of Advisory Board
- Chapter update
  - Southern Chapter New Officer Introduction
- Chapter Guideline
  - TaxFiling
  - Seed Money Refund
  - Any Pending Dues
- Convention Update

## **Introduction**

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

## **Chapter update**

The BOG welcomed newly elected members from the Southern Chapter: Chapter President Goutam K. Giri, Vice President Jasmine Dash, Cultural Coordinator Lopamudra Hati, and Treasurer Srinibas Dash, all of whom joined the meeting.

## **Constitution Amendment**

- No future reduction of Membership fee
- Appointment of Advisory Board

President Leena Mishra brought two topics for discussion for the upcoming constitution Amendment. She reminded the team that when former President Sushant Satpathy attended a previous BOG meeting, he explained the rationale behind giving incentive a portion of the membership fee to chapters. This policy was introduced during his tenure. It was designed to motivate chapters to recruit new members. He also mentioned that the intent was not to lower the overall membership fee in the future as part of this initiative. He also suggested that this fee sharing with the chapter should be discontinued and that amount can be used to support chapter level events like Utkal Dibasa or RDF in more chapters or increase grants if possible.

It was discussed that OSA's membership fee was \$300 even more than 30 years ago, and many of our members paid that amount to join the organization. Today, when we all have better affordability, we are choosing to lower the membership fee to attract new members. Instead, our focus should be on highlighting the true value of the organization. We need to help prospective members understand the importance of OSA—how it reinforces our identity in a foreign land, keeps us connected and united through a strong and vibrant Odia network, and plays a vital role in preserving and passing on our rich cultural heritage to the next generation.

She further noted that with each new Executive Committee, the Life Membership fee is often revised,

creating the impression among potential members that it's better to wait for a possible reduction before joining. Additionally, the amount of the reduction varies—sometimes \$50, sometimes \$100—making it inconsistent and unfair to those who join at a higher rate. She emphasized that setting the fee at \$200 is reasonable. Many BOG members agreed to bring this proposal to the floor for approval at the May BOG meeting.

President Leena Mishra shared a proposal originally brought forward by Vice President Sarada Panda to the OSA Executive Team. The executives noted that due to a lack of continuity in leadership, much of the work and momentum built by one team is often lost and incoming team restart initiatives. To address this, the proposal recommends extending the Advisory Board's term to four years, covering two Executive Committee (EC) terms. This would help maintain continuity of ideas and experience between outgoing and incoming teams, strengthening both decision-making and the long-term vision of OSA.

The proposed Advisory Board would consist of five members, with each new Executive Committee having the ability to retire two existing members and appoint two new ones. This structure ensures continuity while allowing fresh perspectives. The BOG members unanimously supported the concept, and the proposal will be formally presented for approval at the next BOG meeting.

Here is the draft for the proposed extension of the existing advisory team clause in the Constitution.

#### **BY LAW - V section 1 and 2nd paragraph**

#### **Proposed Amendment: extension of Advisory Committee for OSA**

In order to ensure continuity in the business processes of OSA, it is proposed to establish an Advisory Board for OSA, consisting of five (5) members.

1. **Tenure:** The tenure of the Advisory Board shall be for four (4) years.
2. **Rotation:** The current executive team shall have the option to rotate two (2) members of the Advisory Board every two (2) years, at the commencement of each new executive term.

#### **Roles & Responsibilities of Advisory Committee**

1. The Advisory Board shall stay informed of BOG discussions through the BOG meeting minutes.
2. The Advisory Board should see that OSA executives do not miss regular OSA business procedures and Chapter operations.

#### **Eligibility of Advisory committee**

Members must have at least 10 years of active participation in OSA including leadership roles in national.

#### **Finance:**

- Tax Filing
- Seed Money Refund
- Any Pending Dues

Treasurer Subhransu Mishra reached out to all Chapter leaders, requesting chapter account statements to ensure timely and accurate tax filing. While several chapters have already submitted their financial details, others have indicated they will do so soon. He also informed the BOG members that the Nashville Convention team has sent the seed money check to OSA and confirmation will be provided upon receipt.

Subhransu will review any outstanding dues and address them as needed.

### **Convention Update:**

All chapters expressed strong interest in participating in the inauguration and closing ceremonies of the convention, recognizing that the convention is OSA's annual flagship event and that all chapters are key stakeholders. After some discussion, the BOG members unanimously agreed that if the convention team does not allow chapter participation in the inauguration, then all chapters will collectively withdraw from participating in all other segments of the convention.

Following a brief discussion on the topic, Convener Tapan Padhi joined the meeting. All members expressed their dissatisfaction with his decision. After an extended discussion, the Convener requested additional time to reconsider the matter and assured the BOG that he would communicate his final decision via email.

The next day after the BOG Meeting the Cultural Coordinator sent an email informing all chapters that they could submit their participant lists for the inauguration (with a few limitations on the no. of participants), closing ceremony, and folk dance, in addition to their regular participation in the convention.

### **Chapter Guideline**

Chapter guideline is updated approved with following votes -

### **Chapter Guideline Approval**

<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		
Chinmaya Panda	OSA-GA	YES	
Supragnya Dash	OSA-OHIO		
Dillip Behera	OSA-OSNE	YES	

Nilasundar Jena	OSA-NYNJPA	YES	
Gautam Giri	OSA-SOUTHERN		
Sukanta Dash	OSA-MT.HOOD	YES	
Amulya Das	OSA-SEATTLE		
Sourav Parida	OSA-CAROLINAS	YES	
Smaranika Rout	OSA-SW	YES	
Kamala Kanta Behera	OSA-CANADA	YES	
Manoranjan Sahoo	OSA-CHICAGO	YES	
Jayanti Mohapatra	OSA-MN	YES	
Deepak Jena	OSA – ROCKY MOUNTAIN	YES	
Girija Prasad Rout	OSA-MI	YES	
Bidyashree Parhi	OSA-WASHINGTON DC	YES	
Nirakar Jena	OSA-FL	YES	

**Received 16 Approvals. Approved by 17/ 22 votes.**