



## **The odisha society of the Americas**

### **General Body Meeting - 2024**

Date	6th July 2024
PLanned Time	9:00 AM - 11:15 AM
Start Time	9:15 AM
End Time	11:48 AM
Place	Nashville Convention

#### **On the Podium:**

President : Leena Mishra

Vice President : Saradakanta Panda

Secretary : Santwana Dash

Treasurer : Subhransu Mishra

Parliamentarian: Bigyani Das

**Sergeant At Arms:** Sanjeeb Rout - (OSA-Carolinas)  
Nilasundar Jena - (OSA NYNJ )

**Attendance: 133**

#### **Meeting Agenda:**

1. Sign up sheet presentation - Sergeant at arms, declare quorum
2. Call to Order by Sergeant at Arms
3. President's Introduction
  - Parliamentarian for the meeting
  - Sergeant-At-Arms for the meeting
4. Parliamentarian Announcement - house rule
5. President's Annual Report
6. Vice President Report
7. Secretary's Report
8. Treasurer's Report
9. Proposal Presentation
10. Q/A
11. 2025 Convention announcement
12. Vote of Thanks

### **Meeting Details:**

After declaring the quorum by Sergeant At Arms, President Leena Mishra commenced the meeting. She invited Bigyani Das to assume the Parliamentary Chair and welcomed the other Executive Committee (EC) members to the podium.

### **President Report:**

The President welcomed everyone to OSA's annual business meeting and provided a summary report for the year. She highlighted several key initiatives, including "A Trip to Memory Lane," which aims to celebrate past leaders' achievements and familiarize all our new members with them. She also discussed efforts in onboarding and training BOG Members for all Chapter officials, regularising chapters through elections and appointments of additional officials, and validating the membership database. The report also covered the appointment of the award and election committees. Additionally, the President highlighted improvements in member communication and mentioned plans to add insurance for the organisation.

She also informed that the current team has five next-generation members in key positions of the organisation. She also praised the commendable work of two legal counsels from the next generation, who have been always available on short notice. The President also expressed appreciation for our editor, Smita Panda, who has mentored another next-generation member serving as co-editor. Additionally, she acknowledged Swagatika Mohanty, Veena Agrawal from the DC chapter, and Sarthak Das for their excellent work in the membership drive, significantly increasing our organization's member strength.

### **Vice President's Report:**

The Vice President presented his report, highlighting OSA FL Chapter Election concluded in March 2024 [Election Committee: Prabhat Mishra(Chair), Kiron Senapati & Sanghamitra Rini Misra] OSA Award Committee, OSA 2025 Election Committee, OSA Awards, BOG area created in OSA website, Convention website hosted within OSA's Strategic Domain e.g. <https://osa2024.osaconventions.org> and <https://osa2025.osaconventions.org>. The following committee members and OSA Award winners are announced by the vice president.

#### **OSA 2025 Election Committee**

Sachi Pati - GA  
Santanu Das - TX  
Madhusudan Khuntia - IL (Chair)

#### **OSA Award Committee**

Prachi Behera, TX ( Chair)  
Akshay Ray, MI  
Deepak Sahoo , OH

#### **OSA Nomination Based Awards**

Distinguished Odia Award: **DR. Ajaya Mohanty, VA**  
Utkalamani Gopabandhu Das Memorial Award: **DR. Debendra Das**  
Arun Das Memorial Kalashree Award: **MRS. Dipti Mallik, CA**  
Subrina Biswal Award for Academic Excellence: **MR. Tejas Patnaik, IL**  
Youth Volunteer Award: **MR. Anish Mohanty, CA**

### **Secretary's Report:**

The Secretary presented her report, highlighting the trip to memory lane initiative and extending festival greetings to all members. She reported holding meetings with all chapter secretaries to improve communication. She mentioned the efforts of the Membership Committee in driving membership growth and informed that she had updated around 200 email IDs of requested members in OSAnet. After validating the membership database she added around 449 email IDs in OSA Members All group email. Additionally, she has posted all Board of Governors (BOG) meeting minutes on the website since taking office. After taking office, the FL, OSNE, Mt. Hood, Michigan, NYNJ, Ohio, MN, Carolinas, and W.DC chapters held their elections, and all the new leaders were added to the BOG. She provided updated membership numbers and outlined plans to clean the membership database and update the login system.

She presented the membership details for the period from July 10, 2023, to July 3, 2024. During this time, 311 new members have joined OSA of which 269 are life members..

### **Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer presented the finance status of the organisation for the 2023-2024 period beginning with Convention account followed by the 2023 budget and at the end presented the balance sheet of OSA accounts.

Treasurer provided updates on the company matching challenges, and how it can be streamlined. Also discussed the plan to consolidate multiple bank accounts into a single bank account in the upcoming year to simplify financial management. Treasurer also mentioned that to streamline the reimbursement process for chapters to make it more regular and efficient.

Following the presentation of the Chicago convention account details, Anjana Choudhury raised a question regarding the "Other Expenses" listed in the Chicago Convention account. The Treasurer clarified that detailed information on these expenses is available for review upon request. Mr. Utkal Nayak highlighted the significance of the company matching fund initiative and recommended appointing a dedicated person to oversee this task. Mr. Gyana Patnaik advised streamlining the company matching fund process to improve efficiency.

The treasurer's report was then moved for approval. Mr. Pratik Dash made the motion to approve the 2024 treasurer's report. Ms. Shanti Mishra seconded the motion. The report was unanimously approved by all present.

### **OSA 2025 Election Committee :**

Election Committee members were announced and the motion for their approval was moved by Bhabani Buxi and seconded by Abhaya Das. The committee was approved by all unanimously. The election committee members introduced themselves to all members present in the GBM.

### **Proposals:**

President mentioned that all the proposals that are on the floor are already shared in the OSANet for members' review.

## **Proposal 1: Convention Seed Money increase from 10k to 25k**

### **Description:**

This proposal is to increase the seed money for the annual convention from 10k to 25k. This will be applicable for the 2025 Convention onwards.

The executive team started the discussion that due to increasing costs, it has been noted that the convention team has frequently requested additional seed money over the past two conventions. This process requires substantial effort to solicit the request with necessary supporting documents, present to the BOG, and implement. To address these rising costs and reduce the need for extra funding requests for the convention. This adjustment would help prevent the convention team from having to request extra funds each time

Everyone agreed to this proposal and the Motion was brought to the floor by Mr. Uma Mishra, and seconded by Kuku Das. This motion was approved unanimously by all members.

**Status: Approved**

## **Proposal 2: Constitution Amendment - By Law - II /Section 3 – Convention Finances**

**Proposal:** The Convention team will pay 2% of its convention total revenue/budget in case of failure to close the convention account before November 30th of the year of convention.

### **Description:**

In the event of not closing the convention account by November 30th of the convention year, the Convention team will be liable to pay an additional fee equal to 2% of the total revenue or budget of the convention.

Leena Mishra explained the need for the proposal. She explained that recently we are seeing a delay in closing the convention account by the convention team. The delay leads to issues with timely tax filing and difficulties in completing audits on time. This has become a practice now. After thorough discussion on this, we think a measure has to be in place to restrict the convention team from delaying the convention account closing.

The proposal was brought to the floor for discussion.

It was noticed that there was a mixed opinion on this. Mrs. Kuku Das and Mr. Akshya Ray mentioned that we shouldn't have a penalty for this. Along with them, a few other members suggested reviewing further and tableing this for now. A few members suggested that there has to be a measure on this to avoid the delay. Mr. Dillip Dalai and Mr. Manoj Senapati suggested going for this but applying the policy to future conventions and not to this year's convention. Mr. Dharendra Kar requested a further review.

**Status:** The proposal was tabled for further discussion and didn't move for voting.

## **Proposal 3: (New Addition highlighted in blue)**

Article V (Elected Officers & the Executive Committee) - Section 2

OSA shall have the following “Elected Officers”: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Any candidate nominated for the role of an Elected Officer must be an OSA Life Member, Patron, or Benefactor, as defined in the Statement of Rights, for at least one year prior to the date of nomination,

and twenty-one (21) years of age or older. Elections for these offices shall be held once every two years, for a two-year term to begin at the conclusion of the next Annual Convention following the election, as provided in the Bylaws. The Elected Officers must be residents of the United States or Canada at the time of nomination, and must remain residents of the United States or Canada throughout the two-year term for which they have been elected. **Elected Officers may not hold any executive or similar leadership position in any other nonprofit organizations during their term. At the time of their nomination each candidate for the role of an Elected Officer must confirm that, if elected, they will resign from any such a position. Determinations of whether a position constitutes an "executive or similar leadership position" shall be made by the Elected Officers in their sole discretion.** Candidates for the offices of OSA President and Vice President shall campaign on a joint platform as running mates, such that a vote for a Presidential candidate shall automatically mean a vote for his or her running mate. The candidates for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected separately. The current executive committee can contest for the election to office for a second term, with a clause of maximum two terms in the same role for the executives.

The above proposal is brought to avoid conflict in the OSA Executive Leadership role.

OSA EC positions (all 4) will have to certify that they are not holders of any executive position of any other non-profit organization during their incumbency. For example: if somebody is holding a similar position then they must declare and are willing to resign from that position for that period if elected to OSA's highest office.

This motion was brought to the floor by Mrs. Sarita Jagjijita das from CA and seconded by Mr. Prasanta Padhy from Chicago.

The President presented the proposal to the floor. She read the proposal and explained that, like any other organisation, we must prevent potential conflicts of interest by the executive team. The proposal allows individuals to serve the organisation while self-declaring that their associations with other organisations during this two-year period will not create any conflicts with the activities of this organisation.

The proposal was brought to the floor for discussion.

Pratik Dash, A nextgen member, raised a concern about whether the proposal would prevent individuals who are often involved with multiple organisations from being part of this one. In response, Leena Mishra clarified that the proposal applies specifically to OSA executive leadership roles, especially when you hold another similar leadership role that conflicts with OSA leadership. It requires candidates for these leadership positions to self-declare if their involvement with other organisations might conflict with their role within OSA.

Gokul Mishra, Akshaya Ray mentioned that since everyone has a non profit organisation here this proposal will restrict them to take any leadership position in OSA.

Pratap Das, Ajay Mohanty, Kuku Das & Vivek Das objected to this proposal saying that this is not a valid proposal and should be vetted by the legal counsel.

Bhabani Buxi expressed concern about the wording of the proposal. The Vice President clarified the confusion and suggested reviewing the final line of the proposal. Many attendees agreed that the revised version of this proposal would help prevent conflicts of interest for the organisation. However, the wording should be adjusted before bringing it to the floor.

Leena Mishra clarified that this proposal has provision to self declare whether the candidate's participation with another organisation will create any conflict for this organisation's activities but not restrict anyone to participate. She also clarified that all the proposals that are on the floor are vetted by practising legal counsels.

The parliamentarian tabled the proposal and didn't bring it for voting.

**Status:** The proposal was tabled for further discussion and didn't move for voting.

After the proposal discussion around 11:15 the Parliamentarian opened the floor for the members' questions leaving the podium.

## **Q&A**

Prateek Dash, a nextgen member, brought a suggestion that OSA should set aside some funds for the NextGen members to which OSA office bearers noted down the request.

Manaswee Mishra, Ananya Buxi, Debanshi Chowdhury raised a question regarding the OSA youth group that they were the leaders of the youth group and without their knowledge the EC team dissolved the youth group as a result of which they lost the access to the youth email and contacts. A few OSA members along with Anjana Chowdhury, Debaki Chowdhury joined the same discussion. Kuku Das mentioned that she established this youth team during their tenure with a lot of passion and dissolving the team is not a sign of good leadership. This loud discussion lasted for a few minutes.

This discussion and questions session continued for some time - the president responded to the questions by explaining that this Nextgen team was established by our predecessors. During the transition it was advised to keep only one group as "NextGen" since both the groups were overlapping. In addition, few nextgen members suggested to continue the name as "NextGen" instead of "youth". The goal of this team is to engage all the 2nd and 3rd generation adult (above 18 whose parents are residing in North America) members through the initiatives of this group.

There were further questions by Ananya Buxi that we may not be able to mix up with the NextGen since the age bar of this group is open ended and OSA should do something for the young age group too. This discussion went into a little chaos.

The president mentioned that Ananya Buxi, Manaswee Mishra, and Debanshi Chowdhury were appointed for the youth team during Kuku Das's tenure. This team served over 4 years as youth leaders and now they are welcome to volunteer for the "NextGen" team. Also, children under 18 are encouraged to participate in chapter activities alongside their parents. The president along with all EC members concluded the question answer session at 11:48 am (over 30 minutes after the planned time).

One or two active members from the GA Chapter were more vocal and wanted to understand why the GBM cannot run for a longer period.

## **Suggestions:**

Sitakantha Dash proposed creating an emergency fund for OSA by allocating 75% of convention profits to OSA and 25% to the convention team, instead of the current 50/50 split.

Dhirendra Kar suggested a process for the convention team to submit account details to the Treasurer to ensure timely submission of OSA tax filing.