

GBM-2016

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL BODY MEETING

**KOSCON 2016 – 35 th Annual conference of
Karnataka Ophthalmic Society,
UDUPI**

Date: 19 Nov 2016 (Saturday)

Planned Time: 5:45 pm – but was postponed to 6:30 pm as everyone had to be shifted to Udupi from Kundapur

6:30 pm – due to power failure, again postponed. Started finally at 7:15 pm

To validate the Online Voting System for the election of the Office Bearers of the Karnataka Ophthalmic Society

Dr Sai Giridhar Kamath said: Manual ballot can be had for full day, or two, as done this time or can be done during the GBM. The problem with both types are that- it is time consuming and necessitates the physical presence of the voter at the site of the election. As a result of long waiting times and elaborate process for validation, most of the members would shy away from participating in the electoral process. Hence most of the times, only a handful of members will make themselves available to cast their votes. There will be many important points to be discussed during the GBM and if manual election takes away most of the time, there will not be time available for discussions on other resolutions. Besides this hardly 35-40 people usually come for the GBM. The Online voting system has its unique advantages, as there is no restriction of time and space. The voters can sit comfortably in their house or office and participate in the electoral process without any of the above said disadvantages. Hence, more members would take part in voting process, thereby making it truly democratic.

Having online voting system has its own disadvantages also. If the election is started before the conference and continued during the conference as 'on-site' election, in case of problems of internet connection, bandwidth or failure of hardware etc, election process could not be completed before the general body meeting. This can create severe confusion and havoc. To cite an example he said, in the present venue of the GBM itself, in spite of so elaborate, perfect planning and organizing, still there was no power and the GBM had to be postponed by almost an hour. Even though the Local Organizing Committee tried their best to make us comfortable, still the fans and all lights are not working. GBM in such a condition can be continued with some 'adjustment' by

the members present, but if the election cannot be conducted due to technical issues, it will lead to severe consequences.

When the conference is held in Metros or larger towns, this can be somehow tackled, but we will have much more expenses for getting backup equipment etc, we have to be cautious and sensitive to spending as KOS is already cash strapped. We are getting meagre cash infows from the Local Organizing Committees and many have not paid at all after their respective conferences citing various reasons. But since KOS conferences are held not only in large cities but also in smaller towns, there can be practical and technical problems to organize it perfectly in such smaller towns.

To solve this potential problem, it is proposed to have the online voting, few weeks or a month before the conference, and the results are declared several days before the conference itself. As the election will be totally online, there will be no need to have 'on-site' election.

The General body accepted the Online System but there was lots of debate with the pros and cons of 'On-site' Election. Few members said that they do not have email and so want to have manual 'on-site' election with Electronic Voting Machine also. Dr Santhan Gopal said that these days, email is mandatory even to file income tax returns. It is a very simple process to make an email and anyway it is free. So there is no excuse for not having email in this era. Again Dr Sai Giridhar Kamath said, this is going to add to the expense as well as increase possibility of something going wrong when we have combination of online and on-site elections. Then Dr Santhan Gopal, called for show of hands of members in favour of only 'online system' vs members in favour of 'online' plus 'on-site' system. Majority of the members, except for 3 out of almost a hundred, were in favour of only 'Online System' and so, it was decided not to have 'on-site elections' during the future KOS conferences, either manual or electronic henceforth.

Dr Santhan Gopal also proposed a resolution that online elections include — discussions/ Election of Office bearers/ Managing Committee meetings/ Extraordinary General body meetings/ debates and it can be in the form of email, whatsapp, sms or any other such form of electronic communication. It was accepted unanimously and validated by the general body.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BODY MEETING

**KOSCON 2016 – 35 th Annual conference of Karnataka Ophthalmic Society
19 th November 2016, UDUPI**

Dr. Guruprasad A. S., President KOS, welcomed the gathering.

Agenda of the meeting was read out by Dr. Sirish Nelivigi, Hon. Secretary, KOS. As was done in the previous year, the minutes of the previous GBM was not read out as it was available on KOS website.

The President thanked the Local Organising Committee and Scientific Committee Convenor, Dr. Krishnaprasad K, for efficient organization of the conference and the academic programs.

He then said it would be ideal to have more attendance of members at the general body meetings. President then thanked all the members for the support to the managing committee.

He mentioned Dr. Y. L. Rajshekar as being extremely helpful in the issue of Yeshaswini insurance scheme and also many doctors from some of the peripheral centres such as Ilkal and Bagalkot were very supportive and were physically present in Bangalore to meet the concerned authorities.

Secretary Dr. Sirish Nelivigi then read out the secretary's report. One minute silence was observed as a mark of respect for the departed members of KOS, in the previous year 2015-16.

Dr Sirish Nelivigi reported that 2143 was closing membership for last year. This year membership stands at 2293. This is addition of 150 members to the society in the past year.

He said that in view of the membership drive of last year we were able to get more members last time.

Yahoo membership stands at 1422. We have added about 155 members since last year. I followed a strict rule of not enrolling for KOS unless they register on kosoffice yahoo group.

He reported, in the current KOS year, we conducted 24 scientific programs under the aegis of our society. We had a good coverage of all specialities which included keratoplasty, ocular oncology, Ocular anaesthesia and several other topics which are rarely covered.

He also said that an initiative of PG education programs all over the state was started. We are in the process of collecting all the data from medical colleges like the number of lecturers, etc who could get involved in the programme. He also said that there was a very poor response and requested everyone to contribute.

He also talked about the pending issues of JOVS. We should be getting the next issue very shortly. He also told that he was not able to take out the e-Chakshu in view of dearth of contributors. Secretary's report was accepted by GB, proposed by Dr. G. V. Divakar and seconded by Dr. Y. L. Rajshekar.

Scientific Committee report was read out by Scientific Committee convenor,

Dr. Krishna Prasad K. Scientific committee report was accepted by GB, proposed by Dr. M. M. Joshi and seconded by Dr. Chinnappa A. G.

Journal Editor Report was read by Editor, Dr. Chaitra Jayadev. She conveyed that the official scientific journal of Karnataka Ophthalmic Society, "Journal of Vision Sciences" was indexed with Index Copernicus this year. Consequently, Dr. Chaitra informed the audience that the journal was now receiving articles. She acknowledged all the authors, referees, editorial team and KOS office-bearers for support received and thanked all members for their co-operation.

President Dr. Guruprasad requested all medical college staff to send their articles for publication to Journal of Vision Sciences.

The journal editor's report was accepted by GB, proposed by Dr. Rammohan and seconded by Dr. G. V. Divakar.

Treasurer's report was read by Treasurer, Dr. Rajesh K V. A few copies of the account statements were available at the GBM for those who desired the hard copy.

The Treasurer's report was accepted by the GB, proposed by Dr. Shenoy and seconded by Dr. Leslie.

After the treasurer's report, Dr. Y. L. Rajshekar suggested that the auditor's report should be circulated by 30 th June of each year.

The President then officially handed over charge to Dr. Santhan Gopal, incoming President.

Dr. Santhan Gopal then spoke to the members at the general body, informing that his first decision as President was to make the elections online. He spoke of his vision for KOS, including increasing number of members and to implement decision to make Local organising committee of KOSCON to give money to KOS within one month of completion of conference. There were objections raised to this point, and three months was accepted as a more feasible time period for the same.

Dr. Guruprasad then declared the results of the elections held this year to the posts of KOS Vice-president and scientific committee chairman. Dr. N. S. Muralidhar was declared elected as Vice-President and Dr. Shrinivas Joshi was declared elected as scientific committee chairman. The other posts all had one nomination, except Joint secretary. All the candidates who were nominated were declared unanimously elected and candidates for Joint secretary were invited from the floor of the house. Dr. Krishnaprasad K proposed the name of Dr. Sulatha Bhandary and the proposal was seconded by Dr. Subramaniam Shenoy. Since there were no other proposals, Dr. Sulatha Bhandary was declared unanimously elected as Joint secretary.

Venue of the 2017 annual conference was confirmed as Bengaluru. There was one nomination that had been received for the venue of 2018 conference, from South Kanara Ophthalmic Society, proposing Mangaluru as the host.

The secretary called for any other proposals for hosting the 2018 KOSCON and Belagavi ophthalmic association handed over an application proposing Belagavi as the host for 2018. Since there were two cities bidding to host the 2018 conference, their respective representatives made a speech about why their city should be selected, following which a hand count was done. Following the hand counting, Mangaluru city was chosen as host for 2018 KOSCON.

Dr. Sirish brought up a couple of points for discussion. One was regarding whether members outside Karnataka would be eligible to vote for online elections in future. Dr. Rajshekar said that they can if they are ratified members. Dr. Muralidhar then clarified that as per the constitution of KOS, members residing outside Karnataka cannot vote for elections.

The second topic was whether tenure of managing committee should be increased to two or three years. No decision was taken on this subject.

In summary, the office-bearers of KOS for the year 2016-17 were as follows:

- President: Dr. Santhan Gopal K. S.
- President elect: Dr. Sai Giridhar Kamath
- Vice President: Dr. N. S. Muralidhar
- Hon. Secretary: Dr. Krishna Prasad K
- Hon. Joint Secretary: Dr. Sulatha Bhandary
- Hon. Treasurer: Dr. Vikram Jain
- Scientific Committee Convenor: Dr. Shrinivas Joshi
- Editor, Journal: Dr. Chaitra Jayadev
- Webmaster: Dr. Sai Giridhar Kamath
- Vote of Thanks was given by Joint Secretary, Dr. Ajay K.

DR. SIRISH NELIVIGI
HON. SECRETARY

DR. GURUPRASAD A S
PRESIDENT

