

Editorial

Bystanders' apathy.....

There are about eleven thousand members in All India Ophthalmological Society at present and out of them more than Six thousand participated in AIOC – 2009 at Jaipur. However, the General Body Meeting on the afternoon of 7th February, 2009 had to be adjourned due to lack of quorum and restarted after half an hour as per constitution with a sparse attendance of more or less one hundred members. All the vital decisions of the society had to be finalized in that adjourned meeting. The situation repeats every year and at every venue. To verify, one can go through the minutes of all the GB Meetings in the past.

In the Vice President election, approximately around one thousand votes were polled at Jaipur whereas the member registration was more than six thousand. Our present President, Dr. Babu Rajendran, who had already thought over the issue, had a trial of an experimental e-voting system to overcome the problem. He communicated to seven hundred members and out of them only seventy nine people responded for the trial.

The same scenario prevails in most of the state society affairs also. It reflects an apathetic mental projection of the common members in participating in the important decision / policy making processes of the society. The said apathy puts a serious question mark on the upliftment and maintenance of a society. The larger the society, the more glaring is the problem. The security and protection of the society get endangered in such situations and it becomes very vulnerable in maintaining its stability.

Members should strive to exert their power and rights for the benefit and well being of the society. The basic understanding that must never be forgotten is that the office bearers are only the representatives of the members of the society and they only execute the decisions of the majority of members. The situation can improve only by participation of the common members in greater numbers.

This issue invites a serious attention. The office bearers should try to communicate and incorporate the members in the decision making process by decentralizing the jobs. Ways should be worked out on the 'feel important' factor for the members. However, the key to the problem exists in the hands of the common members and only their active participation is probably the best and easiest solution.



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Letters to The Editor

There was an enormous response and feed back after the first issue of 'Ophthabuzz' and they were either vocal through mobile or SMS. Detailed e-mail responses were also there but not so huge. We regret our limitations of space constraints and publish a few analytical criticisms below.



Dr. Tusar Hazra: Very nice idea. There is a feeling of space constraints. Try to increase the size of the pictures. The text content may be reduced a little.

Dr. Samar Basak

Congratulations to the team for coming up with OSWB Newsletter "Ophthabuzz" in an excellent way. Content-wise, it has covered most of the areas and I think, it is the best way to communicate with near and dear colleagues.

Suggestions for further improvement:

1. Photographs are to be larger in size and textual materials may be reduced in places. I think, you have been already communicated for that by other colleagues.
2. Some new sections may be added afterwards in phases as follows:
 - a. News from the Districts (Cover one district in each issue).
 - b. Highlights of previous Monthly meetings of OSWB (Already being done).
 - c. Non ophthalmological achievements by any OSWB member.
 - d. Young Ophthalmologists' forum (<35 years of age).
 - e. Name of the ophthalmologists of the Medical Colleges (with new posting, Head etc.). Also who is retiring from any medical college.
 - f. New member list (of course after ratification) – Welcoming the new member.
 - g. Important announcement: ARC fellowship, Travel fellowship of AIOS, Forthcoming important meetings etc.
3. Give the Calendar of the Forthcoming OSWB meetings – preferably for the whole year – including one day symposium, Mid term conference and next Annual conference, etc.
4. "OSWB – Notice board" – for all important Announcements.
5. Last but not the least, In last page - Print 'Membership Form' as Tear-sheet and always make an appeal for membership drive.

Good going and let's go on and on.....