



Old Placidians' Association

St. Placid's High School, Patherghata, Chittagong
web : www.opabd.org, e-mail : info@opabd.org

Minutes of the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 18 September, 2011, at 7 p.m. at St. Placid's High School, Patherghata, Chittagong.

The meeting was called to order by the President, OPn Naushad Quadri, as the Quorum was formed. There were 165 members present at the meeting.

One minute silence was held for the souls of Bro. Hamel, OPn Satayjit Barua, OPn Glenn Demello, OPn Cyril Johnson, OPn Richard Raulim, OPn Newton Pope, Father of OPn Jalal, Mother of the OPn Rasgaria Brothers and all deceased members in and out of the country.

1. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT (REVIEW)

President OPn Naushad Quadri requested OPn Md Yakub to take up the agenda in connection with the amendments. Accordingly, OPn Md Yakub read out the draft constitution amendment and thereafter the President requested the seniors to please come forward in helping the great venture that has been taken this year, that is to amend the constitution and make it as transparent as possible. He proposed that everybody can have a constitution that is transparent to everyone. The Executive Committee decided of doing something in this regard, with reference to the notice given to all.

To this OPn Ronald Gomes spoke and said that there were amendments made and are still existing. OPn Fazle Allem also gave his comments on the same. OPn Mahbubur Rahman said that the amendments should be placed in a different manner i.e. existing and proposed, which would be easier to take decision.

He proposed that the person who has proposed for the amendment should come to the dias and explain the reason of the proposal/suggestion. Thereafter it was agreed what OPn Mahbub said is right. Accordingly OPn Md Yakub was requested to read and explain the amendments that he has proposed. OPn Md Yakub then requested the memebtrs present to open the page to his proposals, and he explained the reasons for the amendments.

Proposed Amendments are as follows :

- A. Page 4, Article V
- B. Page 13, Clause E
- C. Page 3, Section 5
- D. Page 19, Section 7
- E. Page 20, Section 11 & 12

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- F. Page 1, Section 6
- G. Page 11, Handover and Takeover Meeting
- H. Page 6, Re-Union related matters

OPn Naushad Quadri found the proposals very acceptable, but kept the floor open for discussion, by requesting OPn Ronald Gomes to say something.

OPn Ronald Gomes felt that OPn Md Yakub made some good suggestions, but some of the old points in the constitution must be kept, followed by the new ones to tick the ones that are appropriate and it is easily understood.

OPn Naushad Quadri feels the constitution should be amended and it is understood if there is any mistake, but as all have the constitution book, everybody should be a little more liberal and try accommodating the new suggestions. He requested OPn Fazle Allem to say something.

Accordingly OPn Fazle Allem said, while they were entrusted in the amendment committee, they followed what the constitution said, what is proposed and the recommendations of the committee. One resolution was taken that some students study for a few years and then move to a different school, and so their qualification to be an OPA, needs to be amended. Next, the word Decent teachers, should be changed to some other appropriate word. OPn Naushad Quadri proposed the word Decent, could be changed to Respected Teachers. Also, if allowed the constitution will be amended the next day. For instance, the life membership fee will be increased to Tk.5,000/00 the very next day instead of leaving it for a while. He also requested on having collective effort and support of all the members in amending the constitution.

OPn Fazle Allem again took the floor and requested the house to accept his proposals made on December 23, 2007, by the constitution amendment committee (CAC), i.e. Article 6, section2 and Article 7, Section1, Bye-Law 1 – Section 1, Bye-Law 1, Section 3 and Voting Facility.

OPn Fazle Allem also said that in the last AGM it was proposed the reunion should be every four years, because of it becoming a burden having many functions going on at the same time.

As for the rights of the old members, no changes should be made. Further more, as for the age requirement of 40 years, if no one suitable at that time is found CAC proposed to look into the matter at that time.

OPn Md. Jainul Abedin is then given the floor to bring his suggestions to the members. OPn Md. Jainul Abedin suggested that only Life members can cast their vote/right for Electing EC members and to be eligible in the OPA Executive Committee, an Old Placidians has to fulfill at least three years of his life membership of OPA.

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OPn Naushad Quadri agrees that members have to complete at least three years of their life membership. OPn Naushad Quadri's proposals for amendment of the constitution were as follows :

1. An Executive Committee will be selected or elected for two consecutive years but in no way one can stay in the committee for more than two years.
2. Full Executive Committee will dissolve after two years.
3. Immediate Past President (IPP) will be in the newly formed committee as IPP.

The floor puts their suggestions to the Executive Committee.

- Five Thousand is a big amount for many students of St. Placid's, so he suggests for the first year to leave the fee to Tk.1,000/00 and then after the completion of ten years, Tk.5,000/00 must be paid.
- President OPn Naushad Quadri feels that the committee has plans for establishing School, organizing OPA Club. So, more matured people are needed in the committee to contribute to the organization.
- OPn Fazle Allem feels that the membership should be between Tk.3,000/00 – Tk.5,000/00. Also a waiting period of 10years is too much, so between Tk.3,000/00 – Tk.5,000/00, whichever is decided by the floor, the fee amount should be paid at once.
- The tenure for the newly elected Executive Committee should be for 2 (two) years.
- According to OPn Naushad Quadri, since there is a general membership available for Tk.300/00, and so to be a life member, the committee should keep their focus on established members instead of the newly passed out students.
- OPn Derrick feels that practically it is not possible keeping track of the 10 year waiting period for each new life member.
- OPn Naushad Quadri responded and said that in the old cadets association a nomination paper has to be bought for Tk.1,000/00 and has to be proposed and seconded by a member.
- According to OPn Ronald Gomes, during the presidency of OPn Anis A Khan, the fee proposed for the life membership was Tk.5,000/00, so after 21 years since then, his suggestion is to have the amount set to Tk.3,000/00.
- OPn Jasim U. Chowdhury proposed the membership fee should be made Tk.5,000/00, as he felt Tk.5,000/00 is not a big amount these days.
- OPn Solaiman Alam Shet feels Tk.5,000/00 is acceptable as a fee for year 2011 and the Executive Committee is doing a great job and should continue.
- OPn Baset's opinion was that making the fee Tk.5,000/00, would reduce the number of new life members, as there are many middle class students studying in St. Placid's.

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- OPn Torab Ali puts forth that the increase in the membership fee is for a noble cause, part of it is going for the literacy centre, which is one of the most important parts. Therefore, his personal recommendation is Tk.5,000/00. Also, 50 percent of the revenue should go towards the literacy centre.
- OPn Naushad Quadri said the Executive Committee can remain for 2 years and the life membership is for Tk.5,000/00. Also, even in the future or anytime, the constitution can be amended, as it is done for the betterment.
- For the young students, a member proposed to have a set age category to be a life member and keep it Tk.1,000/00 for the first five years of their life membership.
- OPn Nizam's suggestions to the amendment are for the Word Decent member, it can be changed to faculty member or teacher member or faculty membership. Next, the newly passed students that are within the age of 20 and the others aging 50, 60 and above could not be placed in the same category/group. The system for the Executive that has been adopted for the last 20years, the passing out years should continue as in that way, there will be representatives of every category age wise, instead of the proposed system.

Also, the amendment points have not been presented very well. It should have been in two columns, stating the old constitution and the new proposed amendments to make it easy for everybody to follow.

- OPn Hannan's suggestion was to make the General membership fee Tk.500/00, this would increase the number of new life members.
- OPn Naushad Quadri found it a good suggestion.
- OPn Rafiq said that Tk.5,000/00 is too much for the new passed out students. Also, the news letter's issued by OPA is often not received by many Old Placidians'.
- OPn Naushad Quadri responded and said that the program is published in the Bengali newspapers, Azadi etc but unfortunately there are lesser readers of newspapers nowadays. But it will be tried to send the news letter/program to every member's residence if everybody sends in their correct mailing address. There is a part in the constitution of the membership database, from which the programs will be sent out also.
- The member found the general membership fee could be increased to Tk.500/00 or more. Also, for the voting held every consecutive year, he suggests that the executive committee should be the only ones to vote.
- OPn Derrick said that the nomination forms if sold for Tk.1,000/00 is sky high and should be reduced to Tk.200/00.
- For the OPA Directory and database, the President requests all the General and Life members, to please give their name, address, email address, phone number, occupation, date of birth, the year they had joined school and passed out and a very informative directory will be given to all members.



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- OPn Md Yakub sets the point that the annual revenue that will be used for the literacy centre, whether 35 percent or 30 percent cannot be measured on a set yearly basis. The Executive Committee should make the decision on how much will be spent in this area. He also withdraws this proposal that he set forward for 30 percent.
- OPn Naushad Quadri said that the funds used for all the different OPA functions are borne by the Executive Committee, it is not used from the OPA funds. Even the crests given in the last Reunion, as well as the accounts represent this. A much better audited report will be provided where the transparency will be visible of the OPA account. Furthermore, there are also some seniors helping in collecting exercise books, milk, biscuits, nutritional food for the literacy centre.

2. UPTODATE OF THE OPA DIRECTORY/DATABASE

Regarding the OPA directory, OPn Naushad Quadri requests everybody to come and give all the information required for the directory within the cut-off date.

3. OPA CLUB

Next venture, OPn Naushad Quadri said that, the Executive Committee is trying to form a club and many have objections to this. An amount of 25 lacs have been kept at the rate of 15.25% in one bank. The proposal of the club has been put forward and it is not mandatory.

Cadet College Club has thousands of Old Placidians. The government has donated 8 acres of land there, also the club has its swimming pool, golf course, tennis and squash court, health club, etc. So, he suggests OPA could have a decent club with the contribution of all. Also, if an affiliation can be done with other clubs, then the members could use the clubs in Chittagong, Malaysia and many other places with their membership. The Executive Committee has discussed the affiliation issue with many already but is in need of the opinion of all before proceeding. The club is proposed to be in Bhatiary. It can have a small English Medium School at a primary level, free dispensary giving free treatment to people at least once a week.

4. FORMING AN ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL

Also, the committee has come to understand that the Bishop will be giving some part of the school class rooms on rent after school hours. So, if he permits, then OPA would want to rent a part of it, to start an English Medium School of their own. The members said it was a good idea and all would give a helping hand in forming the school.

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5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Reunion is ^{held} announced to be on December 23, 2011. OPA is a global organization and its members are worldwide. Their views will be accepted.

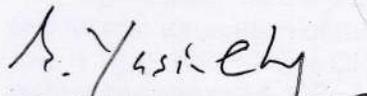
The slogan proposed is "Unity in Action" because old or young, all are united as one and unified because everybody have different opinions, ideas but on the 23rd of December, all the members get together in the re-union as one.

The basket ball match will be held on the 8th of October and the Fun and Fair will be held on the 28th November and requests Brother's permission for holding the Fair in the school ground. Also, the AGM will take place on December 22. Finally the members are requested to update their information from October 1st to October 30th, as it will be printed in December before the re-union. Furthermore, the amended constitution will also be printed in the souvenir.

OPn Javed spoke about developing the teaching system of the literacy centre.

The members were requested to provide 2 copy recent photos, Spouse information, birth date, blood group, mail address, mobile and residence number which will be updated in the latest directory.

There being no other points for discussion, the meeting was adjourned. The President then invited the Seniors first to help themselves to dinner, followed by the young Opns. A vote of thanks was accorded to the Chair.


OPn. Md. Yasir Chowdhury
Honorary Secretary

Seen & Approved
Naushad Quadri
(20-9-2011)