



**63rd ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING
September 28, 2019 at 3.00 P.M.**

(Venue: Bhaktivedanta Swami Mission School, 6th Floor, Near Laxmi Industrial Estate, Shashtri Nagar, Lokhandwala Complex, Andheri (W), Mumbai - 400 053)

The AGENDA for the AGM was as follows -

1. To confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Body Meeting
2. To adopt the report of the work done by the Association during the year
3. To adopt the Audited Statement of Accounts
4. To appoint the Auditor and his remuneration
5. To transact such other business as may be brought forward with the permission of the chair

IN CHAIR - SWA OFFICE BEARERS

1. Mr. Robin Bhatt - President
2. Mr. Rajesh Dubey - Vice President
3. Ms. Jyoti Kapoor - Vice President
4. Mr. Sunil Salgia - General Secretary
5. Ms. Atika Chohan - Jt. Secretary
6. Mr. Dhananjay Kumar - Treasurer

MINUTES

The meeting adjourned for 30 minutes due to lack of quorum.

The meeting resumed at 3.30 p.m.

The Gen. Secretary Mr. Sunil Salgia invited office bearers on the stage.

The President Mr. Robin Bhatt announced the meeting and welcomed all members for the 63rd Annual General Meeting. He said, there are less people than his expectation. He was expecting around 250-300 members. As per one published report in media, 3 lac new smart phones are sold every day. It means every day 3 lac new customers are connecting. He predicted that next 3-5 years will be great for the entertainment industry. Regional viewership will be increased and by 2022, India will have 600 million mobile phones. Cinema, TV and our work will be increased. Association is trying to add new mediums which are coming up now and also to train the members through Vartalaap, Taleem etc. With this good news, He handed over the proceedings to the General Secretary Mr. Sunil Salgia.

The Gen. Sec. Mr. Sunil Salgia urged the General Body to observe two minutes of silence for writer-friends who had passed away in the past year - Shri Prabhat Pandey, Shri Navneet Hullad, Shri Inayat Akhtar, Shri Kader Khan, Shri Dutta Keshav Kulkarni, Shri Dinesh Salvi, Shri Pappu Polister, Shri Himanshu Joshi, Shri Rajeev Agarwal, Shri Viru Devgan, Shri Girish Karnad, Shri Narendra Banjara, Shri Chand Tiwari, Shri Ashok Maurya, Shri Kiran Nagarkar, Shri Manoj Tyagi, Shri Shyam Ramsay and Shri Sarvesh Sharma.

The General Secretary invited the Jt. Secretary Ms. Atika Chohan to table the Minutes of the 62nd AGM 2018 (Dated: September 30, 2018). The Joint Secretary read out the minutes.

AGENDA:

- 1. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING**

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The General Body approved the Minutes of the AGM 2018.

Proposed by: Mr. Surendra Singh Tanwar

Seconded by: Ms. Nanda Sharma

- 2. TO ADOPT THE REPORT OF THE WORK DONE BY THE ASSOCIATION DURING THE YEAR**

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The Gen. Sec. requested the General Body to adopt the General Secretary's Report for the year 2018-19, which had already been

sent to the members by email. As the Welfare Committee's report was erroneously omitted from the General Secretary's report, he invited Welfare Committee's Chairperson Mr. Satyam Tripathy to give brief idea about Welfare Committee's work during the last one year. Mr. Tripathy said, he can't recall the figures properly but as compared to earlier, during this one year the committee has received more applications for medical, education and some pension applications as well. Out of which we have accepted most of them and tried helping every member in best possible manner. He said, he would like to take this opportunity and say that SWA is an association of professional screenwriters and lyricists. It is not some mill worker's association wherein members are entitled to retirement benefits like pension etc. As all members are aware, there is no retirement age in writer's profession. During last one year, we have received many applications where writers have applied for the pension in spite of their good financial status. He urged that we should limit pensions to the really needy one and not just go by the virtue of age. He also said, as a part of welfare activities we are planning to organize Mental Health Workshops and one such small workshop will be organized by the end of the year. We are planning to organize yoga classes not just to teach yoga to our members but also to teach them how to de-stress as many of our writers have tried committing suicide due to work pressure or lack of work. The Gen. Sec. said, as far as figures are concerned, for the calendar year ending on 31st December 2018, Welfare Committee has disbursed following amounts towards different welfare activities:

Description	Amount (in Rs.)
Pension	8,92,500/-
Medical Aid to members	6,68,012/-
Education Aid	2,75,015/-
Family Welfare Fund	15,000/-
Total	18,50,527/-

The General Body adopted the report.

Proposed by: Mr. Gopal Verma

Seconded by: Mr. Irshad Dalal

3. TO ADOPT THE AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Gen. Sec. requested the General Body to adopt the audited statement of accounts. He informed that SWA has excess of income over expenses is Rs. 15,620,067.14/- During the last year we have given Rs. 5 Lac towards pension, Rs. 10 Lac towards Welfare and Rs. 14,120,067.14/- is the general fund of the association. He also informed that the association has three major savings accounts with Canara Bank, Kotak Bank and Axis Bank. The swipe machine installed in the office is from Axis Bank. Association's major bank is Canara Bank. He also said that we are planning to buy bigger property which will have a library with cafeteria. The General Body applauded his suggestion.

The General Body adopted the Audited Statement of Accounts.

Proposed by: Mr. Azim Malik

Seconded by: Mr. Chandramohan Nile

4. To appoint the Auditor and his remuneration

The Gen. Sec. informed the General Body that for the financial year 2019-20, we have received two quotations from Auditors namely Mr. G. D. Rathi and Mr. P. K. Mutha. The Gen. Sec. said that since many years Mr. G. D. Rathi is doing audit for the association. It was also discussed in past several EC meetings and AGM's that we should not stick to one firm and keep changing the auditors from time to time like other organizations. Now, with the new GST regulations, we need auditor who has GST expertise as well. Keeping this in mind, as per the EC's recommendation we propose to appoint Mr. P. K. Mutha as the Auditors for the financial year 2019-20. Regarding the quotes which he shared with the General Body that SWA's present auditor CA Mr. G. D. Rathi had quoted Rs. 21,000 for the annual audit where as CA Mr. P.K. Mutha, had quoted Rs. 30,000 for the same.

There is a difference of around Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 10,000, however we shouldn't go by the price factor but to have a new experience of larger firm and expertise in GST.

The General Body approved the appointment of Mr. P. K. Mutha & Co. as the Auditor for the financial year 2019-20.

Proposed by: Ms. Nita Kriplani

Seconded by: Mr. Swaminath Pandey

5. ANY OTHER MATTER WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

The Gen. Sec. invited queries and suggestions from the General Body. He insisted members to send suggestions through letters or emails. He said if we get any good suggestion, which is approved by the EC then we can implement it as well.

Member Mr. Swaminath Pandey suggested creating a fund wherein members can donate any amount which can be utilized towards welfare activities of the association. The Gen. Sec. appreciated the suggestion and said that we also have scheme of Adopt a Patient wherein needy members's monthly medicine expenses are borne by other members. Treasurer Mr. Dhananjay Kumar said, in past, we have got donations of different amounts and we have never denied any donations so far, as an association we have always accepted it. We have also started collecting Rs. 5/- as a contribution towards welfare fund at the time of script registration which is a good initiative.

One member said these are two different things. Members who come for registration, doesn't have any work with them and what Mr. Pandey is recommending is other thing. He said that he is seconding Mr. Pandey's proposal. Treasurer, Mr. Dhananjay Kumar informed that, this provision is already available with us. The Gen. Sec. said that we also refer members to Senior Regular member Dr. Sharad Shah who runs a NGO and many of our members have got help from it as well. Member said that he has full faith in the EC and he believes that all intelligent people are sitting on the board. He said that he has another query that when they do online registration, do we read every page? The President Mr. Robin Bhatt replied, No. The Gen. Sec. Mr. Salgia added that nobody reads the member's registered work, a digital signature is affixed automatically and copy is mailed back to the member. We do not keep copy of member's work. For eg., when a member visits office to register his work in office, Registration Officer affix's stamp and sign on the document without reading it. The President said that we only have records of date of registration, type of work, title and reference no.

Another member Mr. Ranjay Kumar said that he is a writer and director as well. He has made many short films. Many producers asks writers to direct the films as it is writers own work and they being the writers understand the concept better than anyone else. The Gen. Sec. asked him to kindly specify his suggestion. He suggested making a fund through which they can help writers to finance their films. With this, their story will remain with them and they can make it in a best possible manner. The Gen. Sec. said we cannot go beyond the scope of the trade union as we are not a Production Company. The Gen. Sec. and the President said, the Trade Union Act does not allow us to do so. As a trade union we can't do any business. The President Mr. Bhatt said we cannot give fund/loans to members to make films. This is business and as a trade union we are not allowed to do so. The Gen. Sec. said as a trade union, our three primary objectives are to protect rights of our members, enhance their skills and conduct welfare activities for our members. One member suggested that apart from official events like NFDC, SWA can also inform members about other events which they may not be aware about. The Gen. Sec. said we have partnered with MPA(Motion Pictures Association) - APSA(Asia Pacific Screen Awards) for launch your script - 2018 where the members have opportunity to get grant of USD 25,000. This is like a scholarship wherein member's script remains with them and they are free to sell it to anybody. This grant is given only to develop the script. He said that we have also participated with Cinestaan and Indiantelelevision.com etc. and by next year we are planning to have our own pitching contest wherein members will pitch selected scripts directly to the producers. Apart from this, we are also exploring different avenues as well.

Another member Mr. Gopal Verma said, He is also associated with the Producers Guild. He suggested making a contract letter in which producer's and writer's agreeable conditions are written in detail. The Gen. Sec. said that Mr. Verma is talking about MBC(Minimum Basic Contract). Mr. Salgia said, we have had meetings with the producer's associations and at one point producers had agreed to sign the contract, but backed out at the last minute. Producers don't want to cut their hands by signing such agreement. He said, producers don't want to give our rights to us rather they want to take it from us. This fight will continue, however one producer has agreed to sign the MoU with us, with this SWA have made some progress in this path. This is the beginning and we are constantly trying for more producers/production houses to join in. He said that we are also talking with channels. Now being the international member of IAWG(International Affiliation of Writers Guild), we are also

trying to formalize MBC with foreign networks such as Amazon Prime, Netflix etc., though we cannot say when it will materialize.

EC member and Welfare Committee Chairperson Mr. Satyam Tripathy said that he appreciates the suggestion of Mr. Swaminath Pandey. In addition to helping members financially, we can also help them by devoting some time to them. There are many members who are unable to come to office personally and interact with other members. He requested the General Body to please inform the office about such members and if one of us can go and meet them personally and spend some time with them, then it will be a great help. The Gen. Sec. said that he has read and heard that there are organizations in foreign countries, when they come to know about old and lonely people, they send their members to them who spend some time with them or read a book for them. He also added that if any of our members come to know about such members pls inform us, we will make teams to help them. The President asked members to approach the office and inquire about members in their locality who are old and lonely. He also requested members to visit such writers and spend some time with them. The old and lonely writers will feel good and members will get satisfaction of doing some good work in a day.

Member Mr. Suresh Kumar asked can we form a script bank with SWA, which can be made available to interested producers. As sometimes writers and producers/directors are busy in their work and/or writers are not carrying script with them due to which sometimes they are unable to narrate or pitch their story to interested producers/directors. Producers can select the scripts on the basis of genres/title etc. Treasurer Mr. Dhananjay Kumar said that we inform our members about pitching sessions which are being organised at different places and as the Gen. Sec. said we are planning to have our own pitching contest soon. We do not have provision of making such script bank hence this suggestion cannot be accepted.

Member Mr. Surendra Singh Tanwar said there are different genres of writers based on regions and platform like TV Serial Writers, Film writers, Journalists, Marathi writers, Tamil writers etc. to whom should we contact? Additionally he also asked about how to strike a balance between Goddess Saraswati and Goddess Laxmi. The Gen. Sec. said we have 30,000 plus members if we could take care of them first that will be great. The Gen. Sec. said, time is changing, and with changing time if writers develop their

skills and change the style of storytelling, then money will automatically flow in.

6. The Annual General Body meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the chair at 0515 PM followed by high tea.