

CALL FOR NOMINATION for OSA ELECTION 2015

Dear OSA Members:

The OSA Election Committee as constituted by the General Body is soliciting nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer of Orissa Society of Americas for 2015-17. As per the constitution, 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 nominees, the nominators and seconders must be OSA Life Members, Patrons, or Benefactors, 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. The nomination must include a short introduction of the candidates in less than 300 words. Photocopy of driver's license, or passport, or birth certificate or a notarized statement to the effect that the nominee is 21 years or older as of February 16, 2015 must be attached for the nominee's age verification.

All nominations must include the contact information (address, telephone number, and email) of the nominees and the nominator. All nominations must be sent to the election committee, postmarked by February 16, 2015 at the address below with complete and correct contact information of the nominees (including other additional details) and the of nominators. Incorrect contact information may lead to the rejection of the nomination. If the candidates wish to include their position statement with the ballot they may include it with the nomination form in a separate sheet. Please note you must nominate a candidate for President and Vice President simultaneously in one slate. Nominations for secretary and treasurer should be in independent slate.

OSA Election 2015
PO Box 4052
Warren, NJ 07059

The Nomination Form is attached. Any correspondence on the election subject will be electronic (via email) only. All emails on this subject must be sent OSAElection2015@gmail.com

Election 2015 Calendar

Deadline for the official ballot list including all members eligible to vote to be received from OSA Secretary **January 15, 2015**

All nominations must be sent to the election committee postmarked by **February 16, 2015**

Election ballots will be sent to eligible members on or before **March 29, 2015**

Ballots must be received by the election committee with postmark no later than **April 27, 2015**

Ballot will be counted and the election results will be notified to the President on **May 10, 2015**

With this letter we are also requesting the Chapter Presidents and members of the Board of Governors of OSA to disseminate the election announcement as widely as possible.

Please contact the OSA Secretary Ms. Sabita panigrahi at sabitapanigrahi@rogers.com or secretary@orissasociety.org to update member address.

We are also including below the election information from the OSA constitution.

Sincerely,

2015 OSA Election Committee
Durgamadhab Misra (Chair), Ashutosh Dutta, Jagannath Mohanty

Relevant Articles from OSA constitution
ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE

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. 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.

Article VII

Elections

As set forth above, elections for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer 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, per the procedures set forth in the Bylaws.

Bylaw IV

Election Procedure

Section 1

Prior to their one-year anniversary of taking office, the Executive Committee shall appoint a three (3) member Election Committee, one of whom shall be designated as the Chairperson. All members of the Election Committee must be OSA Life Members, Patrons, or Benefactors.

Appointment of the Election Committee, including the Chairperson, shall occur during the next Annual Convention following the Executive Committee taking office, and shall be subject to the approval of the Governing Board. No existing member of the Governing Board shall be eligible to serve on the Election Committee.

Appointment of the Election Committee, including the Chairperson, shall further be subject to the approval of Voting Members at the General Body Meeting by at least a simple majority of votes. Appointment to the Election Committee shall be for a period of one year, i.e., until the end of the Elected Officers’ term in office. Any alterations to Election Committee appointments during this one-year period shall require approval of the Governing Board by at least a two-thirds majority of votes.

Any and all actions taken by the Election Committee with respect to any given election, including, but not limited to, the roles and responsibilities identified herein, must be in accordance with the written guidelines governing OSA elections, hereafter referred to as "Election Guidelines".

Section 2

It is the joint responsibility of the Secretary and Treasurer to prepare a list of Voting Members, as described in these Bylaws and the Statement of Rights, by December 31st of the year preceding an election year for submission to the Chairperson of the Election Committee. Upon submission, this list shall serve as the exclusive record of individuals eligible to participate in the next election.

Section 3

It is the responsibility of the Election Committee Chairperson to request nominations for the roles of the Elected Officers. He or she shall do so in writing via electronic mail and in the OSA Newsletter published during the September-December quarter of the year proceeding an election year. The format of the request for nominations shall be at the discretion of the Election Committee. A Voting Member shall not be deemed to have been validly nominated for the role of an Elected Officer unless he or she has been nominated by another Voting Member who is not in his or her immediate family.

Should there be multiple nominations for the role of an Elected Officer, it is the responsibility of the Election Committee Chairperson to prepare in writing a summary of the names and position statements of each candidate for a contested office, hereafter referred to as "Nominee Statements".

Section 4

The Governing Board shall make reasonable efforts to establish and promote electronic voting procedures. Until such time as electronic voting is the exclusive voting format, it is the responsibility of the Election Committee to prepare paper voting ballots. Ballots shall be sequentially numbered and/or coded such that each ballot number and/or code corresponds to an individual on the list of Voting Members. Ballots shall be distributed to all Voting Members via U.S. mail by no later than the fourth weekend of March of the election year. Paper copies of any Nominee Statements shall be included with the ballots. The Election Committee shall open a Post Office box address to which ballots shall be returned by Voting Members. Address information for such Post Office box shall be included on the face of the ballot. It is the responsibility of the Voting Member to return his or her respective ballot via U.S. mail or Canada Post to the correct Post Office box, postmarked on or before the fourth Monday of April of the election year. Any ballots not postmarked on or before this date shall be deemed invalid.

The Election Committee shall adopt reasonable measures to ensure the secrecy of the ballots. Ballots shall be counted by the Election Committee by no later than the second Saturday of May of the election year. Prior to counting the ballots, the Election Committee shall notify the candidates of the location and time the counting will occur. Candidates and/or their representatives may attend the counting. Upon completion of the counting, results of the election shall be announced to all those present.

Election results shall be sent in writing to the President via electronic mail within one (1) calendar day. The President shall subsequently submit the results to the Governing Board within two (2) calendar days. Election results shall be published in a special newsletter by no later than May 30th of the election year.

Section 5

All election materials shall be sealed and signed by each member of the Election Committee. It is the responsibility of the Election Committee Chairperson to maintain and preserve these materials for no less than a period of six months following the completion of the counting of ballots.

Section 6

The Election Committee shall prepare a detailed expense report relating to the election process. This expense report shall be submitted to the Treasurer by no later than thirty (30) days after submission of the election results to the President. It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to reimburse all valid expenses by no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of the expense report. To the extent the Treasurer deems an item on the expense report to be invalid and/or ineligible for reimbursement, it is the responsibility of the Treasurer to set forth his or her determination in writing by no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of the expense report. Should the Election Committee wish to dispute the Treasurer's decision, it may appeal to the Governing Board in writing within thirty (30) days. Any such appeal shall clearly set forth the Election Committee's basis for seeking further review. Upon reviewing the appeal, the Governing Board shall either confirm or overrule the Treasurer's determination. The decision of the Governing Board shall be final and binding.

Section 7

Should a current Elected Officer opt to run for a different elected position, that Elected Officer shall relinquish any election-related responsibilities set forth in these Bylaws. Such responsibilities shall then be handled by an appointee of the Governing Board.

Section 8

Any alteration to the procedures set forth in this Bylaw IV shall be subject to the approval of the Governing Board, and shall be disseminated to all Voting Members in writing by no later than January 1st of the election year.

Section 9

Any allegation of election irregularity and/or fraud, including, but not limited to, violation of the procedures set forth in this Bylaw IV, shall be submitted in writing to the President and the Governing Board. The Governing Board shall investigate the allegation and provide a written report of its findings within thirty (30) days of receipt of the written allegations. The decision of the Governing Board shall be final and binding.