

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION



(BENGAL CIRCLE)

(Registered under Trade Unions Act 1921-Regd. No. 6908)

1, STRAND ROAD, KOLKATA-700 001.

Phone: 2213-0663, 2213-0154, 2213-0665 (after 5.30 P.M.), Fax : (033) 2210-1684

e-mail: sbioabengalcircle@gmail.com

IP No. 500077

Circular No. 14/2016

Date : 07.03.2016

To All Members (Please Circulate)

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 14.02.2016 AT NAZRUL MANCHA, KOLKATA

The 50th Annual General Meeting of SBIOA (Bengal Circle) was inaugurated following a historic rally in the morning from Golpark, Ramkrishna Mission to Nazrul Mancha, where over 1500 members had taken part carrying placards and raising slogans. A well decorated **Tableau** propagating the theme of the 50th AGM "Save Public Sector, Save the Nation", was flagged off by Com. D.T. Franco, President, AISBOF before the commencement of the rally. The stage was dedicated to the veteran trade union leader who had sacrificed his entire life for the consolidation of Bank Officers' movement - Com. R. N. Godbole, the former General Secretary of the Federation. Thereafter, the flag of the Association was hoisted by Com. D.T. Franco, President AISBOF and Com. Y. Sudarshan, General Secretary, AISBOF before the commencement of the meeting.

Com. Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Chief Regional Secretary, Mid/Corporate Module, who anchored the programme then proceeded to invite Circle President Com. Gautam Debnath and General Secretary Com. Soumya Datta to the dais. Thereafter, Com. D.T. Franco Rajendra Dev, President AISBOF, Com. Y. Sudarshan, the General Secretary AISBOF, Shri Prashant Kumar, the Chief General Manager, Kolkata Circle, Com. Sambit Mishra, and Com. Bibekananda Das, the General Secretary and President from Bhubaneshwar Circle, Com. Ravindra Gupta and Com. V. K. Yadav, the General Secretary and President of Delhi Circle Association, Com. Subramaniam and Com. B. Sukkaiah, the General Secretary and President of Hyderabad Circle Association, Com. G. P. Srivastava and Com. Umakant Singh, the General Secretary and President of Patna Circle Association, Com. Atul Swaroop and Com. Pawan Kumar, the General Secretary and President from Lucknow Circle Association, Com. Nandakishor N. Malkhedkar General Secretary of Bangalore Circle Association, Com. Deepak Kumar Sharma, President from Chandigarh Circle Association, Com. Rakesh Agarwal, President from Bhopal Circle Association, Com. Bijoy Dutta, DGS from NE Circle Association, Com. S. L. Kulkarni, Treasurer, AISBOF, Com. Sanjay Das, Secretary of AIBOC State Unit, West Bengal, Com. R. N. Banerjee, General Secretary SBI Pensioners' Association and President of Pensioners' Federation, were called on stage.

Thereafter, the meeting was inaugurated by lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Chief General Manager, Kolkata Circle and the Chief Guest of the function along with the dignitaries who were present on the dais. The occasion was also utilized for release of Special Issue of "Sup-Voice", News Bulletin of SBIOA (Bengal Circle) by the Chief Guest and also a commemorative silver coin on the occasion of the 50th Annual General Meeting by Com. D. T. Franco Rajendra Dev and Com. Y. Sudarshan.

Com. Soumya Datta, Vice President, AISBOF and General Secretary, SBIOA (Bengal Circle) in his welcome address extended a warm welcome to all the dignitaries on the dais. He thereafter gave a brief account of the performance of the Circle Association and the recent achievements of the Federation. He also referred to the stellar role played by the Federation in ensuring the 2nd and 4th Saturdays off at the time of the conclusion of the 10th Bipartite Settlement. Referring to the current economic scenario, with particular reference to the banking industry, he wanted that the Reserve Bank of India should come with stringent measures to punish those who are responsible for huge NPAs in the banking industry. He also referred to some of the recent developments at the industry level and expected that some of the issues pending both at the industry as well as the bank level would get resolved in due course. He placed on record his appreciation for the role of the respected Chief General Manager for the empathy shown in disciplinary matters and the historic transfer exercise of JMGS-I/MMGS-II officers in 2015.

Shri Prashant Kumar, Chief General Manager, Bengal Circle in his Key Note address, while wishing the General Body Meeting all success, recalled as to how the senior comrades of the association have built the officers movement and how they were responsible in bringing many improvements in the service conditions of the officers over a period of time. He also echoed the sentiment of the house that in the next Bipartite settlement alongwith 5-day-week, regulated working hours also should be implemented. He acknowledged that the Circle leaders had been extending total cooperation and support in ensuring to the systems and procedures as per the requirement of the bank to meet the current

Soumya Datta
General Secretary
Mobile : 9830044737

State Bank of India officers' Association

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

: 2 :

challenges in the banking industry. He also referred to the current job situation and the public sector character of the bank. He also referred to the technology initiative of the Circle Association initiative with particular reference to the digital attendance, digital signature and on line attendance. He referred to the alternate channels that are now available to the customer and the need to maintain our customer service. There was a need to change the mindset to suit the current banking environment. He expressed his happiness with the performance of the Circle and wished that the same level of performance would be maintained and the Circle would be able to retain its present position. He also wished that the members should keep themselves healthy and the members of the family happy.

Com. Y. Sudarshan, General Secretary, AISBOF, appreciated the wonderful manner in which the General Body Meeting has been organized by the Bengal Circle association. He referred to the ensuing strike on 29th February 2016 against the unreasonable termination of Com. P.V. Mohanan, General Secretary of Dhanalakshmi Bank Officers organization, kept under Rule 14(1) of the standing order of the Bank for having participated in legitimate trade union activities. He also explained as to how the management had attempted to victimize several members of the officers organization in Dhanalakshmi Bank and the efforts of the Confederation to sort out these issues and the final decision to go ahead with one day token strike all over the country on 29th February, 2016.

Thereafter, he referred to the salient features of the 10th Bipartite Settlement, the 2nd and 4th Saturday holidays, and desired that the next bipartite should take care of the holidays on all Saturdays. He also assured the house that the Confederation is fully prepared to go ahead with the submission of the Charter of Demands and it has been opposing the efforts of the Government in regard to the introduction of the bank level settlement.

As regards the issues pertaining to the superannuation benefits in particular those which are pending for a long time would be attended to at the earliest. He also referred to the recent discussions with IBA and the assurances of IBA to look into all the issues raised and in the minutes signed once the data was collected from all the banks. As regards the issue of New Pension Scheme that is now under operation he referred to the stand of AIBOC and its desire to revisit the scheme and insist for the old scheme in the interest of the members in the banking industry.

He also elaborated the various points relating to the Medical Insurance Scheme introduced by the Bank for the benefit of Pensioners and Family Pensioners in our Bank. The attempts of the Management to introduce performance linked incentive and variable pay, which was bound to result in discrimination and favoritism has been rejected by the Federation. The Federation is also concerned about the delay in the appointment of Officers Director on the Board of State Bank of India and the Federation is seriously pursuing the matter. He also drew the attention of the audience to some of the initiative of the Government which aimed at privatization by introducing the Banks' Boards Bureau and also Banking Investment Company etc., to have backdoor entry for the privatization of the Public Sector Banks. The Federation has been constantly fighting against these moves to save the Public Sector Banks he declared. He also referred to the various attempts made by Com. D. T. Franco Rajendra Dev, the President of the Federation in his endeavor to campaign against these initiatives and for the need to save the Public Sector Banks.

Referring to the problems of the Officers working in the bank, he referred to the difficulties encountered by the single officer branches, the pressure for cross selling, the extension of business hours, the issues related to handling of HRMS etc. He also expressed his unhappiness over the delay in sorting out the revision of certain facilities which was overdue, by the bank. The Federation would continue to look after the welfare of all the members and continue to guide the destiny of the officers in the country. Let us look forward for resolving all our issues through collective efforts declared Com. Y. Sudarshan.

Thereafter, the following stalwarts were felicitated on the occasion:

Com. R. N. Banerjee, Ex-General Secretary, SBIOA (Bengal Circle), Com. Kamalendu Sengupta, Ex-General Secretary, SBIOA (Bengal Circle), Com. Y. C. Bhattacharya, Ex-General Secretary, SBIOA (Bengal Circle), Com. B. B. Das, Ex-General Secretary, SBIOA (Bengal Circle) & President (AISBOF), Com. Tapan Kumar Ghosh, Ex-General Secretary, SBIOA (Bengal Circle), Com. Sankarshwar Datta, Director & Ex-General Secretary, SBISA (Bengal Circle), Com. Ashoke Datta, Ex-General Secretary, SBISA (Bengal Circle), Com. Asim Dasgupta, Ex-President, SBIOA (Bengal Circle), Com. Prasanta Mitra, Ex-President, SBIOA (Bengal Circle), Com. Subrata Majumder, Ex-President, SBIOA (Bengal Circle), Com. Asit Baran Ghosh, Ex-President, SBIOA (Bengal Circle), Com. Samar Kumar Chattopadhyay, Ex-President, SBIOA (Bengal Circle), Com. Samir Kumar Mukherjee, Ex-Sr. Vice President, AISBOF, Ex-Director Central Board of SBI and Ex-General Secretary, SBI Officers' Association (N.E.Circle), Com. Rabin Gopal Maitra, Ex-AGS, Bidhannagar Module, for his continuous support in Disciplinary matters related to officers Com. Tapan Mitra, Ex-DGM, State Bank of India, for his significant contribution in designing the new web site of the Association, Com. Aparesh Sarkar, SBIOA Seniors, for his tremendous support in conceptualising and designing the theme of Tableau and the commemorative coin and Com. Anup Sen, ex- Chief Manager, for his outstanding contribution in spreading awareness about banking and Trade Union related matters through his google group, and Com. Kajal Ghosh, Ex-AGS, Siliguri, SBIOA (Bengal Circle), who retired from bank's service on 31st January, 2016.

State Bank of India officers' Association

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

: 3 :

Com. D. T. Franco Rajendra Dev, the President of the Federation in his address complimented the Bengal Circle Association for the excellent show of solidarity and unity. He referred to the historical background of the City of Kolkata which is known for intellectuals, cultural contribution to the country for more than a century. He referred to the great contribution of the members of Bengal in the consolidation of the Federation and laying a strong foundation for the State Bank Officers movement. He was happy to mention that the Circle is known for conducting the Annual General Meeting every year and in a similar manner all over the Circle. He complimented the entire membership for such a wonderful performance. He made reference to the contribution of Com. Soumya Datta and Com. Gautam Debnath in the consolidation of the Circle Association through their hard work and continuous efforts in addressing the problems of the members.

He referred to the problems of the lady officers and the need to take care of their issues on priority basis such as crèches etc. He referred to the various attempts of the Government to privatize the Public Sector Banks and to undermine the importance of the Public Sector Undertakings' contribution to the economy of the country. The Federation is committed to fight against all these moves and to defend the public sector character of the banks etc. The policies of the Government are influenced by IMF and the directives of the US which are against the interest of our country. We should rally round all the efforts of the trade unions in their fight against the anti-people policies of the Government to safeguard the interest of the common man of the country.

Com. Siddhartha Khan, General Secretary, SBISA (Bengal Circle), who was attending a Triennial meeting of 7 Circles of SBISA in Kolkata, still made it to the meeting despite his busy schedule, was the next speaker. He extended his warm greetings for the success of the 50th Annual General Body Meeting of the Circle Association and shared the common approach of both the organizations in tackling the issues concerning the circle. He also referred to the present work atmosphere and the pressure that is now being created in the branches through targets fixed for business and cross selling etc. He emphasized the need for collective struggle to sort out several common issues affecting both the employees and officers in the bank. He desired that the bank should concentrate on the core business rather compelling the workforce to do other business thereby causing serious tension at branches. Hence, he stressed on the need for both the organization to come together and work for the common cause in the interest of the Bank.

Com. Sanjay Das, Secretary of State Unit of AIBOC, extended warm greetings on the occasion and wished all success of the conference. He assured his fullest co-operation and support in all the struggles launched by the Federation and the Circle Association in defending the public sector character of the banks.

Com. R.N. Banerjee, General Secretary, SBI Pensioners' Association and also President of the Pensioners' Federation extended fraternal greetings on the occasion. He also expressed his happiness over the recent developments at the industry level bipartite settlement wherein all the issues connected with superannuation benefits have been discussed and are being followed up. He referred to the assurances of the Chairman of our Bank that she was looking into all the issues related to the Pension. He also referred to the performance of the State Bank of India and stated that there was no occasion to the Bank not to declare dividend over the last 210 years and hence the Bank should be able to resolve all the issues related to the pensioners in the Bank.

He also extended his full support to all the struggles that would be launched by the Circle Association.

Com. Sambit Mishra, the General Secretary, Bhubaneswar Circle speaking on behalf of all the senior leaders of the Federation who were on the dais extended a warm greetings to the membership of the Circle for the excellent manner in which they had organized the meeting and inspired the entire leadership through their participation in the meeting. He referred to the great contributions made by the people of Bengal to the country and their fighting spirit in particular in organizing trade union movement in the country. The conduct of Annual General Body Meeting on annual basis is an eye opener for all other organizations in the country. He desired that the regulated working hours should be a reality in the next bipartite settlement. He also referred to the current NPAs and the need to strengthen the recovery machinery rather writing off these loans. The Government should take a firm stand to recover these loans from the corporates. Com. Sabyashachi Mukherjee, the coordinator of the meeting announced the end of open session of the AGM. The lunch break was announced and members were requested to be in the auditorium for business session at 3.00 PM.

Business session of the Meeting started at 3.00 pm which was presided over by Com. Gautam Debnath, President of our the Circle. He welcomed the members present in the meeting. At the outset, the employees of the Circle Association and the SBIOA Multi-State Co-Operative Credit Society Limited were felicitated on the dais.

Com. Gautam Debnath then read out the Notice of the Annual General Meeting and took up the first agenda. He requested Com. Soumya Datta to present the General Secretary's report before the house for discussion and adoption. Before presenting his report, Com. Datta thanked Com. Franco who had kindly made himself available to remain present during the business session. At the outset, he thanked everybody present in the house who have shown their solidarity for the Association and had assembled for the meeting from every nook and corner of the Circle to make it a grand success.

Soumya Datta
General Secretary
Mobile : 9830044737

State Bank of India officers' Association

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

: 4 :

Com. Datta, dealt with at length certain crucial issues like officers being compelled to attend office on Sundays and Holidays, the menace of 'Whats App', highhandedness of certain section of the management in certain pockets creating a fear psychosis amongst the members. He assured that all such crucial and relevant issues would be taken up in the ensuing Corporate Negotiating Committee Meeting scheduled to be held on 25.02.2016 at Shillong. As the reports had already been distributed to the members present in the meeting, Com Datta with the permission of the house, read out some relevant portions of the report. The house observed one minute silence to pay respect to the personalities who had died during the period under report. He then tabled the Secretary's Report before the house for discussion and adoption.

Thereafter Com. Kalyan Kumar Dey, AGS Finance placed the Annual Statement of Accounts of the Circle Association before the house.

Com. President of the meeting then informed the house that he had received request from some members who expressed their willingness to discuss on the report placed by the General Secretary.

The first speaker, Com. Moumita Datta of Kazoragram Branch, Burdwan Module, supported the Secretary's Report and Statement of Accounts. She vehemently criticised the Government's policy of privatisation of PSUs and PSBs. She expressed her concern on diminishing equality and social justice, current account deficit, growing unemployment, plight of farmers and laborers, evil consequences of free flow of foreign capital and the impending threat on the collective bargaining power of Unions / Associations / Labours. Com. Debasis Sarkar of Port Blair Branch supported the Secretary's Report and Statement of Accounts. He expressed his apprehension as to how one would be able to pursue one's career in the Banking Industry under the prevailing and deteriorating working condition. Com. Roshan Kumar of SAMB Kolkata fully supported the Secretary's Report and Statement of Accounts and requested the leaders to take up the issue of having a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for SAM Branches and SARB. Staff shortage in SARB and SAM Branches was also pointed out by him. Com. Dibyendu Adhikary of IFB supported the Secretary's Report and Statement of Accounts. He expressed deep concern for getting Staff Accountability exercise done by retired officers. He expressed his anxiety over the attitude and functioning of the enforcement agencies like CBI and ED, who instead of finding the truth and nabbing the real culprits appeared to be keen on harassing the innocent Bank Officers. He requested the leaders to take this up at Federation level. The last speaker Com. Rupam Bhattacharya of LHO Kolkata supported the Secretary's Report and Statement of Accounts. He raised the issue of mis-selling of various products and pondered whether officials involved would face consequences later.

On being called by the President, Com. Soumya Datta, General Secretary placed on record his observations to the issues raised by the speakers.

The report and the Statement of Account were unanimously passed by the house.

After passing of General Secretary's Report and Statement of Accounts which was agenda No.1, Agenda No. 2 (i) i.e. Adoption of Resolution, if any, came up. Com. Sougata Nath, DGS of the Circle Association, placed three (3) Resolutions before the house.

Resolution No.1 – It was unanimously resolved by the house that S.K.Saha & Co. Chartered Accounts was appointed as Auditor of the Association for the year 2016 at an annual remuneration to be decided by the Central Committee.

Resolution No.2 - The house unanimously resolved that Com. Dipak Kumar Kundu (SIB, Kolkata Branch), Com. Pankaj Mondal (Kolkata Branch), Com. Debabrata Das (Kolkata Branch), Com. Tridip Kumar Chakraborty (SIB, Kolkata Branch), Com. Subhas Chandra Lala (Kolkata Branch) be authorised to fulfil the necessary formalities in regard to Form-H to be submitted to the Registrar of Trade Unions, West Bengal, as also 'Form F-1' relating to the amendment of Bye-laws and Rules of the Association.

Resolution No.3 - The house unanimously resolved that that SBIOA (Bengal Circle) whole heartedly supports the cause of maintaining the Public Sector characteristics of the Public Sector Banks and Public Sector Undertakings. It further resolved that SBIOA(Bengal Circle) would actively participate in all programmes under the aegis of All India State Bank Officers' Federation and All India Bank Officers' Confederation in lawful manners and within the bounds of the constitutional rights of a registered trade union and will propagates strongly for furtherance the movement towards attaining this noble objective.

As against Agenda No. 3, there was no amendment to Bye-Laws and Rules of the Association. Agenda No. 4 was not discussed in the house as there was no miscellaneous issue for discussion.

The meeting came to an end with vote of thanks offered by Com Ajit Kumar Chattopadhyay, DGS of the Circle Association and rendition of the National Anthem.

(Circle President)

Soumya Datta
General Secretary
Mobile : 9830044737