

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

(Registered under Trade Unions Act 1926-Regd. No. 6908)

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To All Members (Please Circulate)

8th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **ADMINISTRATIVE ZONAL COMMITTEE, SOUTH 24 PARGANAS**

The 8th Annual General Meeting of SBI Officers' Association (Bengal Circle), Administrative Zonal Committee, South 24 Parganas was held on 18th December, 2022 (Sunday). The meeting started at 11:00 am amidst loud slogans with hoisting of flag of State Bank of India Officers' Association (Bengal Circle) by paying tributes to the martyrs by the Shri Hitashish Canton, Regional manager, Region IV, in absence of Chief Guest of the meeting Shri Prabhas Bose, Deputy General Manager (B&O), Zonal Office, South 24 Parganas and Comrade Bhushan Mahajan, General Secretary Maharashtra Circle and Joint General Secretary AISBOF, inaugurator of the meeting in presence of Circle President Comrade Asitava Kundu, both the Deputy General Secretaries Comrade Arun Kumar Roy and Comrade Subhas Chandra Mondal, AGS South 24 Parganas Comrade Dilip Kumar Mandal, DGS, SBISA Comrade Debasish Saha, Chief Regional Secretaries and Zonal Presidents of various Modules, SBIOA Seniors and General members from every nook and corner and the undersigned. Then the Photo Gallery was inaugurated by the distinguished leaders.

The opening session started at 11:10 in presence of Comrade Asitava Kundu, Circle President, Comrade Bhushan Mahajan, General Secretary of Maharashtra Circle and Jt. General Secretary of AISBOF. two Deputy General Secretaries of the Circle Association Comrade Arun Kumar Roy and Comrade Subhas Chandra Mondal, AGS South 24 Parganas Comrade Dilip Kumar Mandal, DGS SBISA Comrade Debasish Saha and the undersigned. Comrade Elizabeth Sonali Desai, AZC Member anchored the program and welcomed everyone present in the meeting. Then she invited the dignitaries and Management functionaries one by one on the dais. All the dignitaries were warmly greeted with saplings and Uttario by AZC South 24 Parganas. Inauguration songs " YUDDHO NOY TOLO AWAZ, KADAM KADAM BADAYE JAA and SOLIDARITY FOREVER.., a rendition of the cultural wing of South 24 Parganas Module under 'SRIJAN' comprising Comrade Asit Sarkar, Comrade Debasish Pandey, Comrade Monokash Ghosh, Comrade Susmita Chatterjee and others set the tone of the event to a high note. The ceremonial lamp was lighted by the Chief Guest, dignitaries on the dais and SBIOA Seniors present in the meeting.

After formal inauguration of the meeting, Comrade Dipten Dinda, Chief Regional Secretary, AZC South 24 Parganas in his address extended a hearty welcome to all the dignitaries on and off the dais, leaders of the Central Committee along with the leaders invited from other Modules and members present in the meeting. Then Comrade Desai invited Shri Hitashish Canton to address this meeting.

In his Speech, Regional Manager, RBO - IV, South 24 Parganas Shri Hitashish Canton emphasised on working hand in hand both by officers and Award Staff cadre. He also opined that Customer Service was the top most priority nowadays in our Bank. He stressed on to reduce the number of customer complaints and retention of customers and to achieve this, the branch staff members needed to be more attentive. He also talked about First Time Right, a campaign by our respected Chairman. Doorstep Banking, profitability, enhancement of SME Portfolio, curtailing unnecessary overheads, use of social media in positive way etc. were the Key Points in his speech. He also expressed his view regarding staying focussed - so that Bank's business expansion in every segment could be achieved.

Comrade Desai then invited General Secretary of Maharashtra Circle and Jt General Secretary, AISBOF Comrade Bhushan Mahajan for his deliberation. Comrade Mahajan greeted the house and expressed his gratitude for inviting him. Comrade Mahajan, spoke about the rich cultural and traditional heritage, historical and spiritual background shared by both the states West Bengal and Maharashtra. He mentioned that trade union movement started in Mumbai in 1850's followed by Kolkata in 1854. He talked about the nationalisation of Banks which was a historic step in Banking Industry in 1969 and how Liberalisation, Privatization and Globalization model (open economy) in the year 1991 rowed the seed of Privatization which afterwards gained momentum. He also highlighted that Bengal Circle is the most vibrant Circle in India, both in business and Association activities. He expressed his concern about present huge work pressure, acute staff shortage, disparity in salary, late night work, Holiday calls and meetings. He told that Private sectors banks were posing a threat to our Bank by aggressive marketing. He mentioned the roles of AIBOC through decades protecting the right and respect of the bankers. He also emphasized on the need to stay together and vigilant. He concluded his speech with the lines " The woods are lovely, dark and deep/But I have promises to keep/And miles to go before I sleep/And miles to go before I sleep " from Robert Frost's poem 'stopping by woods on a snowy evening'.

Then Comrade Desai invited Comrade Debasish Saha for his speech. Comrade Debasish Saha, DGS, SBISA Bengal Circle appealed in his address to both the Associations to work together. He mentioned that our Circle was in gold category in MD ranking since June, 2022, 2nd position in Advance segment, 3rd position in deposit segment and experienced continuous growth in Profit and all was possible due to working together by all categories of work force.

Thereafter Comrade Desai handed over the microphone to President of the Meeting Comrade Himadri Das for conducting the Business Session.

Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay

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Comrade Das heartily welcomed the Circle leadership, Inaugurator of the Meeting, Chief Guest, leaders from other Modules, SBIOA Seniors and all members present in the meeting. Business session of the meeting started with the pledge taken by all the members present in the meeting and it was read out by Comrade Himadri Das. Then he read out the Notice of the meeting and its agenda. As per agenda No 1, he requested Comrade Dipten Dinda to present the Chief Regional Secretary's Report before the House for discussion and adoption. One minute silent was observed to pay respect to the departed soul who breathed their last during the year under report. Comrade Dinda after taking permission from the house read out only pertinent points of the Report in the house due to time constraints. Thereafter, Comrade Asit Baran Purkait, Zonal Treasurer presented the audited Statements of Accounts to the house for discussion and adoption.

Then Comrade Das invited the members to express their views and opinion on the Secretary's report and audited Statements of Accounts.

Following five members volunteered to discuss on the Secretary's report and audited Statements of Accounts.

Comrade Iman Kalyan Roy (Garfa Branch): He supported the Secretary's Report and audited Statements of Accounts whole heartedly and raised some issues regarding charge-handover. He pointed out that a proper record is to be maintained. He also mentioned some technical issues like scan size for OTMS redressal to be increased, wrong use of misbehaviour by some customers also causing difficulty in extending banking services.

Comrade Sanada Nath (RBO-IV): She supported the Secretary's Report and audited Statements of Accounts. She mentioned the problem of acute manpower shortage and thereby increasing the number of single officer branches. She also pointed out the late login in CBS issue which was caused purely by computer hardware or connectivity error and also suggested the unique idea for implementation of ID Card punching mechanism which would reduce the hassle of late login problem.

Comrade Amitava Roy (RACPC South Kolkata)- He pointed out that due to huge work pressure the staff of RACPC had to join the office on the last Saturday and Sunday of every month. He also thanked the leadership for their effort in increasing eligibility of Furniture and Fixture and clinching Holiday for Bhatridwitia.

Comrade Souvik Banerjee (Canning Bazar Branch): He raised the issue of non-availability of non-banking day in single officer semi urban branch and suggested deputation from RBO/ZO on quarterly/monthly basis for helping in reducing pending work. He also urged for the implementation of work life balance mechanism for ATM joint custodians.

Comrade Shrikant Pandey (RACPC, South Kolkata): He started his speech in a very jovial mood. He pointed out that the internal customers, i.e staff members should be dealt with dignity and he also put his emphasis on work life balance in its truest sense.

Thereafter, Chief Regional Secretary Comrade Dipten Dinda in his reply answered the questions raised from the members and assured that some queries would be flagged off in appropriate forum in due course. Meanwhile he urged the members to raise the voice against any misbehaviour, maintain solidarity and beware of frauds.

The Report and Statement of Accounts were unanimously accepted and passed by the House.

Since, there was no resolution, so President of the meeting clubbed Agenda No 3 and 4.

Then Comrade Das invited Comrade Dilip Kumar Mandal Assistant General Secretary, South 24 Parganas for his valuable deliberation.

Comrade Dilip Kumar Mandal, AGS, South 24 Parganas Module greeted everyone and said that the innumerable works done by the AZC could not be summed up wholly in these Report. In his short and concise speech, he raised the issue of shortage of Officers due to improper manpower planning and thereby causing rise in number of single officer branches.

The Circle President, Comrade Asitava Kundu in his address depicted the real picture of today's Banking Industry. He aptly portrayed the picture of multiple focuses set throughout the day on various parameters by Management which at the end of day resulted in as defocused outcome. He emphasised on the importance of work life balance and spending quality time with family and friends. He expressed his concern that Circular of work life balance was there but it was not being implemented in true letter and spirit. He also cautioned about various types of frauds happening in many places in our Circle. He urged for putting in place of proper tool and application for prevention of frauds caused by multi financing now a days.

The undersigned in his address pointed out that manpower planning should be designation based. He also informed that 175 Circle based officer had been allocated to the Circle and it was a long-time demand of Circle Association. He discussed on unethical instruction and misbehaviour of Controllers with internal customers, excessive work pressure due to shortage of officers. He emphasised on work life balance and maintenance of log-off time along with log-in time. He also discussed about introduction of Grade pay, Gym allowances, separate leave type for vacation policy and implementation of transfer and repatriation policy of scale - III officers etc. He briefly shared the vital areas mentioned in Charter of Demand for 9th Joint note including number of facilities exclusively for women Comrades.

The meeting was concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Comrade Pranabesh Banerjee followed by rendition of National Anthem.

With revolutionary greetings,



Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay
(General Secretary)

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