

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OLD COLUMBANS ASSOCIATION HELD ON THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024 AT 10.30 AM, AT ST. COLUMBA'S SCHOOL MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Quorum as per Bye-Laws: 50 MEMBERS

Members Present: 42, quorum achieved at 11.25 am after 2 adjournments

Chairperson of the Meeting: The President, Santosh V. Kalyani

Guest of Honour and Patron: The Principal, Bro Robert Fernandes

The agenda for the meeting as per notice given on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2024:

- i) To read and pass the minutes of the last AGM held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2023.
- ii) Presentation of accounts for the Financial Year 2023-24.
- iii) Appointment of auditor(s) and fixing their remuneration for the year 2024-25.
- iv) Any other matter with the permission of the chair.

Proceedings of the AGM:

1. The President called the meeting to order at 11.25 am. The members of the Association present were informed of the Patron, Bro Robert Fernandes's message received earlier, expressing his apologies and inability to attend the AGM as he had to accompany an ailing Brother to the hospital for some tests.
2. The Treasurer requested the members present to waive the reading of the MOM for the AGM held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2023 which was circulated earlier. This was approved with a motion put forth by Dr. Vishal Pandit (1990) and seconded by Harbinder Singh (1991).
3. The Hony treasurer successfully presented the accounts for the financial year 2023-24. The floor was opened for questions since the accounts had been circulated prior to the AGM. There were queries from the members pertaining to the costs involved in organizing the Annual Lunch, and the Play Patte Khul Gaye organized by OCA in May 2023. Queries were also raised if any sponsorships were received for the events. The treasurer answered each query and informed the gathering that no substantial sponsor came forward to underwrite the costs involved for the events, and OCA sponsored the Play Patte Khul Gaye, which

was enacted by the Production company run by an ex Columban, where there was a sizeable turn out at the Auditorium but did not generate much revenue. Mr. K. V. Rathee (1962) suggested the AGM be held during the Annual Lunch/Dinner event to generate more traction and involvement. The treasurer acknowledged the suggestion and was informed by Mr. Rajeev Sabharwal (1981), that as per Association's bye laws there is a limitation and AGM has to be held after IT Returns are filed by September end of the calendar year. The accounts were then approved, with a motion put forth by Mr. Yogesh Sachdeva (1985), and seconded by Mr. Rajeev Sabharwal (1981).

4. Appointment of Auditor(s): M/s V. N. Mehta & Associates were reappointed auditors for the year 2024-25 at the current remuneration. This was approved, with a motion put forth by Mr. Melvin D'Souza (1985), and seconded by Mr. Sanjay Govil (1975).

Any other matter:

- With the permission of the chair, Mr. Patrick Barreto (1975) took the floor and questioned why no annual OCA sports carnival was being organized regularly, and that the OCA members would like to make it a regular feature in the annual OCA Events itinerary. The member was informed that owing to bad weather and existing air pollution, there was a directive from the Delhi Government restricting outdoor activities especially sports activities, owing to which no concrete dates were made available. Brother Foley Interschool Cricket Tournament was duly organized, after receipt of dates and painstakingly putting the teams together, but had to be curtailed and finished hurriedly owing to the Delhi Government directive restricting and prohibiting outdoor sports activities. Despite the detailed information being made available Mr. Ajay Narain (1967), put forth his views and objection to the management and organization of this event by the OCA and the school authorities. Mr. Manikya Narain Wahal (1997) suggested the OCA put together a core team to meet the school authorities and organize at the earliest possible, the much in demand OCA Sports Carnival. The President acknowledged the demands put forth by the honorable members and assured timely action. Mr. Patrick Barreto (1975) also put on record a special thanks to the President for being there & taking care of our retired teacher Mrs. Rebello continually.

- The President commenced his address by thanking the august gathering present for making the time for their Alma Mater and being there. He acknowledged and put on record, our Patron and Principal, Brother Robert Fernandes's constant support to the alumni community and our shared vision to raise the standards of education and students at SCS. The President also formally acknowledged the EC Team for their dedicated support and hard work in the past year to help OCA in forging lasting relationships, with more than 30 established corporates and some unicorns, for the exclusive benefit of the Ex Columban-Fraternity, through the launch of the OCA Internship Program. He informed present OCA members that the SCS and its Alumni are the only school across New Delhi and may be India, which has forged such a partnership with established corporates exclusively for COLUMBANS. He informed that these corporates are spread across varied verticals like engineering, media, legal, fintech, education, healthcare, hospitality, food tech, travel, design, policy making, logistics and consulting. He further informed that as he spoke, of the more than 30 corporates, 17 companies were currently accepting candidates for internships, and they were LIVE on the OCA Website since 2023, including industry leaders like Policy Bazaar, Bombay Law Chambers, Shiprocket, Finsec Law Advisors, NDEH, Audacity, The Lalit Hospitality Group, IVCA, DMI Finance, Make my Trip, Yatra, Baluja's & Ambrosia hospitality amongst others.

#### **OCA Events during the last year:**

- OCA sponsored and backed two teams SCS Gold & SCS Green at the Interschool Alumni Golf Tournament 2024 at Jaypee Greens, Greater Noida. The SCS Gold Team won the championship Trophy defeating Modern School by a whisker.
- OCA Annual Lunch at the Delhi Gymkhana Club December 2023 – was a reunion of hearts with a gathering of 325 plus ex columbans and teachers who rediscovered bonds and celebrated the Columban spirit.
- Brother Foley Interschool Cricket Tournament October 2023. OCA successfully organized the Brother Foley Interschool Cricket Tournament from 28<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

#### **Service to Teachers**

- Mrs. Rebello who was being provided a safe place to stay and dignified quality of life was moved to a safe new haven at the specific request of the older charitable facility run by the parents of an ex Columban.

- She suffered a near fatal illness which required hospitalization of nearly a month in May 2024. She had to be provided with a comprehensive 24x7 palliative care and nursing support thereafter, owing to her illness. The expenses for medication, hospitalization and active support for this unexpected near fatal illness & ongoing care was achieved from volunteer ex columbans like Mr. Anil Malhotra (1975), Mr. Madhusudan Gopinath (1975), Mr. Patu Keswani (1975), Mr. Ajay Singh (1983), Mr. Hitesh Oberoi (1990), Mr. Yashish Dahiya (1990), Mr. Sumant Sinha (1983), and Mr. Dhruv Shringi (1991) without drawing a single penny from the Teachers Benevolent Fund. Their support made it possible for the OCA to provide ongoing care and an improved quality of life for our ex-teacher.
- Mr. Yashish Dahiya (1990), helped OCA in buying an annual medical health insurance policy for Mrs. Rebello through Policy Bazaar. This policy would cover any medical expenses should a similar medical emergency arise in the near future.
- Mrs. Rebello has since recovered adequately and is regaining her strength whilst maintaining her spirits and health.
- She celebrated her 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday this year in June, 2024.

The EC Member Mr. Habinder Singh Narula (1991), adjourned the meeting & thanked the members for their attendance and invited them to the canteen for refreshments.

SANTOSH V KALYANI  
PRESIDENT