

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Jai Ma

The Annual General Meeting of the members of the Sangha will be held on Saturday, the 18th November, 2023 at 3:30 PM at the Shankarcharya Hall, Kankhal Ashram, Haridwar.

AGENDA

1. Welcome Speech by Swami Chetananandji, President of the Sangha.
2. Briefing by the General Secretary on the current issues and challenges facing the SSAS.
3. Minutes of the AGM & the SGM 2022
4. Presentation of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Sangha for the financial year (2022-23). (Consolidated Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Statements and also, the summary of financial position/ highlights of the accounts as prepared by the Treasurer are enclosed). Annual Report (2022-23) Books and digital copies are being sent separately.
5. Consideration of Report by the Secretary of Board of Trustees (2022-23) on all property matters including sale of Land by the Agarpa Ashram as required to be referred to the General Body of the Sangha under Sec 8(1) of the Constitution.
6. Letter from the President Swami Chetananandji reg: (i) holding of SGM after a comprehensive Review of the "Memorandum of Association And Rules and Regulations" of the Sangha and (ii) holding SGM after such review is completed and approved by the AGM.
7. Advise of eminent Lawyers regarding the legality of holding office by the existing members of the Governing Body Members after the elections were delayed due to COVID and their suggestions regarding the holding of elections thereof.
8. Appointment of Auditor

Yours in the Service of Shree Shree Ma



Vinay Goenka
General Secretary

Enclosed:

Letter from Swami Nirgunanandji as Chairman of the SLC formed by the GB

Letter From Swami Chetananandji as mentioned in clause 6 above

Advise from Eminent Lawyers regarding holding of Elections

Note: No new agenda or issues will be entertained in the AGM unless it is intimated to the HO in writing latest by 08th November 2022. The decision of the General Secretary will be final in this respect.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 June 2023 with Sri Apurva Dewanji and Sri Ananda Pathakji with members of the EC regarding the legal validity of term extension of the existing GB Members

In continuation of the discussion on the above issue during the Annual General Meeting of the Sangha held in November '22, the Executive Committee Members approached Sri Apurva Dewanji and Sri Anand Pathakji for their learned and considered views. Both are eminent lawyers and luminaires in their own field. They were requested by the members of the EC to look into the legality of tenure extension of those Governing Body members whose election / reelection, on the expiry of their 3-year term, had to be postponed on account of COVID. The tenure of their membership was accordingly extended by a resolution of the Governing Body. As both Mr. Ananda Pathak and Mr. Apurva Dewan are old devotees of MA, they very kindly accepted to look into this on a priority basis despite their over busy schedules. A few meetings were held with them and the members of the EC. Finally, in a virtual meeting held on Saturday the 17th of June, 2023 the lawyers briefed the members of the EC about the findings and conclusion on the issue which were as under:

1. The Seven members who were elected in the SGM held in November 2022 for the post of Governing Body members is valid for a period of three years i.e. up to 2025
2. The remaining 14 members of the GB should have stood for reelection in the years 2021 and 2022. The terms of membership of these 14 members of the Governing Body were extended due to COVID. The reasons for which the terms were extended no longer exists. Therefore, we should start the election process for the 14 members.
3. Of the 14 members, the tenure of membership of the seven members who have been in the Governing Body for the longest number of years (whose term expired in 2021) shall be for one year i.e. they will again offer themselves for re-election, if they so desire, in the year 2024. This would be applicable to all devotees who will stand for re-election with this batch of devotees.
4. The tenure of membership of the remaining seven members (whose terms expired in 2022) would be for the normal period of three years that is they will again be due for re-election in the year 2026.
5. The members of the governing body who have been elected in the year 2022 will stand for re-election in the year 2025.
6. If holding elections for 14 members on the same day appears to be impractical then this can be held on two consecutive days.
7. The lawyers were of the view that the constitution prescribes election of 7 members of the GB every year. This process has been followed for decades. This conventional process should be restored at the earliest.
8. The lawyers were informed that the elections were traditionally held in the month of November towards the end of *Sanyam Saptah*. Holding elections earlier may be inconvenient for the devotees. The lawyers did not make any observation as they had already advised that the elections should be held asap.

Vetted by Sri Apurva Dewanji
26 June 2023

footnote by GS:

While the substance of the advice received is very comprehensive, there remain a few inadvertent errors with respect to the years mentioned.

In point 2 line 2, please read 2020 and 2021 instead of 2021 and 2022.

In point 3, line 2 please read 2020 instead of 2021.

In point 4 2nd line, please read 2021 instead of 2022.



Shree Shree Anandamayee Sangha

KANKHAL (HARIDWAR) – 249408 (UK)

E-mail :anandmayeesangha@rediffmail.com

Telephone No: (01334) 246575 / 09412072576

24th October 2023,
(Vijay Dashmi)

Respected Atman,

Sub: A comprehensive Review of the "Memorandum of Association And Rules and Regulations" of the Sangha and holding SGM after such review is completed and approved by the AGM

Jai Ma

This is to inform all devotees that as per the discussion in the last AGM, the Sangha has embarked on the process of a comprehensive appraisal of the "Memorandum of Association And Rules and Regulations" of the Sangha. Our society was registered under Societies Registration Act XXI on 25th January 1950, when the original MoA was designed by the learned devotees at the time and the MoA came into operation. The MoA was last amended up to 5-11-2006. As you all know, times in the last 17 years have changed considerably in many ways.

To respond to this changing situation, we also require various systems and processes as well as a more efficient and interactive way of managing ashram's with the appropriate organizational structure. This requires some deep thinking together with help and inputs from all our strategic advisers. Therefore, a new document to enable proper administration of the Sangha in times to come, to protect the spiritual heritage and the properties of the Sangha, while keeping in view the original vision of the founding devotees, has become an essential need.

The work of coming up with a revised document, after a thorough consideration of the existing provisions and modifying them to cater to the requirements of the changing situation, is likely to take some more time. The process of seeking views and inputs from several devotees, so as to come up with the best debated document, is already underway for quite some time.

Thereafter, this will need vetting by the advisors, legal luminaries and a proper shape will be given in consonance with the laws of the land.

It has been the demand of several devotees for a long time that the process of election of the members to the Governing Body of the Sangha needs to be modified so that the most deserving candidates with proven and consistent sewa track record with the right intent are elected to run the Sangha. It is very important that maximum number of devotees spread all over the country participate in the process of deciding and electing the most deserving candidate who will serve the Sangha with *niskaam sewa*

bhaav. This aspect is under detailed review to come up with the best solution.

Therefore, this is to inform you, that this year, the AGM will not be immediately followed by an SGM for electing the members of the Governing Body. This is as per the discussion in the EC and as per the advice of Sw. Nirgunandandji who was present as a special invitee.

This decision is also supported by all the ascetics of the Sangha. As soon as the new document is ready, a Special General Meeting (SGM) will be convened to discuss and approve the new MoA. It is expected that the entire process of constitutional reforms should be completed within a few months. Thereafter, the process of forming the Governing Body as per the new constitution will be taken up.

The devotees will be duly notified of the dates of the SGM.

With thanks, respects and Jai Ma to all,
In the Lotus feet of Maa

Sw. Chetananda Giri
Sw.Chetanananda Giri

Dear Vinayji, Jai Ma

Now that all the reports and documents regarding the above subject are with SSAS, it is imperative to address the issue without further delay and arrive at a final decision. As a layperson ignorant about laws and accountancy I understand the whole episode was due to improper and hasty handling as well as a mistaken priority by the LMC of Agarpa Ashram. However, the final accountability lies with the SSAS at the Head Office.

I am against brushing aside any deliberate or inadvertent mistake made by any branch or the Head Office under the carpet. The functioning of the SSAS is aimed at pursuing and spreading the message of Shree Shree Ma about Indian religious traditions and righteousness among the people. We should not indulge in any unlawful activity in the organization named after our Holy Ma. If we are really sincere about our service to Ma we should not hesitate to concede to our mistake and rectify it in a way as the laws of the land demand.

Considering the joint accountability of the organization there should be no punitive action by SSAS against any person or persons. All of us are the children of Ma. To quote Ma. "Ei Sharirtar kachhe karo kono aparadh hoy na." (Vangmayee Ma, Bengali ,Vol.1 saying #311, page 137, 1983) i.e, Nobody is at fault before this body. I believe that the mistake was a bona fide one without any mala fide intent or personal material gain.

Now onwards we should be cautious and guard against any repetition of such mistakes.

In Ma,

Swami Nirgunanada