

NEWS

GENERAL SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1988

Before I present the formal report of the association regarding the activities and progress of the association, let me have the proud privilege of welcoming you all to this conference in the pioneer metropolitan city of India—the industrial capital of the country i.e. Kuber Nagari—BOMBAY. It is this place where the idea was rooted and the nucleus was ignited for forgetting all misconceptions and misgivings and to emerge out as a united solid forum of all the dermatologists, venercologists and leprologists of the country, under the banner of IADVL which took formal shape in 1973. Since then, the Association has grown leaps and bounds and today its membership is 1117 (344 LM, 673 OM; 98 AM and 2 HM) as on 31-12-1988, though still many more specialists remain to be enrolled as members which is possible only through the individual members at the periphery and the institutional heads who are producing them. If we have their co-operation, we may achieve the target of 100% which is the call of the day.

The efforts of recovering the arrears have been made through all the possible communications and contacts, directly as well as through the state branches, even by intimating the provisions of the constitution and byelaws. Though the response to such efforts has not been very much encouraging, still the awakening has been created.

A practical problem, probably not thought of at the time of formulating the bye-laws and the constitution, is that some members have remitted their subscription for the current year through the state branch, leaving behind the arrears of the previous years, and this has been endorsed by the state branch offices too. This special issue needs attention of this august body.

The other issue regarding the subscription which, I would like to place before this house is, that some of the members who were in arrears for the last few years have decided to subscribe as life members and the state branches have accepted and forwarded Rs. 200/- as the central office share without including the arrears which is also to be finalised in this meeting.

This is a matter of pleasure that we have achieved the target of Rs. 50,000/- as central fund contribution of the membership drive but this has to be further speeded up to achieve 100% target, so that no-body with a post-graduate specialisation in the subject remains outside this forum.

IADVL TRAINING FELLOWSHIP

In the last conference at Calcutta, it was finally decided to have Training Fellowships for the budding specialists. All efforts were made, both with the institutions all over the country, and also the heads of the departments of our speciality and also through our honourable members by a general circular. Only eight institutions responded, the rest remained silent in spite of reminders. A few budding dermatologists (about 8-10) showed their interest and made enquiries which were furnished, but we received only one application which was forwarded to the chairman of the then committee Prof Handa. For this year, the response seems to be better as we have received three applications for 1989 for which the committee has to be constituted.

Regarding our involvement in the NLEP, as per decision of the IADVL general body meeting at Calcutta, it has been communicated, with a request to the concerned authorities to incorporate the president of the IADVL as one

of the members in its advisory body but their response is still awaited.

AFFILIATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL BODIES :

As per instructions, a circular was sent to the members and state branches to give their views on the matter. At the same time, the concerned members were also approached to furnish the details particularly the financial commitments and the address of the International Body/League, so that the matter may be taken up to step up the demand of affiliation. The reply is still awaited. In the absence of the proper address and designation, whom to contact? Further details are still not available. I shall welcome if anybody comes to my assistance even at this juncture.

RAILWAY CONCESSION :

As per instructions and desire of the members all efforts were made to get the facilities of railway concession to the members for attending the conference, though due to the lack of specific correspondence in the past, a lot of difficulties and hurdles came in the way. The central secretariate is still in touch with the railway authorities, and I hope that the matter will be finalised in due course.

REGISTRATION OF THE ASSOCIATION :

Our Association was registered under the Societies Act at Varanasi by Prof Gurmohan Singh, the then general secretary which has never been renewed. Neither the registration authorities were supplied with the necessary papers, as per their regulations. Efforts were made to renew the registration but for want of original Registration Certificate, the same was refused. Moreover our Association never cared to furnish them with the list of the office bearers each year, annual proceedings of the meetings and audited accounts etc. The records of our office transferred to me now, do not possess these. Therefore, the only way out is to get it registered afresh, as has also been sugge-

sted by the registration authorities. This needs a green signal from this body in a proper resolution.

AWARDS

In view of the previous experience that the same individual is being repeatedly awarded in our conference, and in view of the expression that the committee chairman may be ignorant of the past list, a committee of experienced and actively involved past presidents, past scientific chairmen were included for deciding such awards to avoid such repetition in future. This office has been given to understand that services of such experienced chairmen, past presidents, and even the present president and general secretary were not utilised. In future, the directives and decisions of the central council and general body must be implemented for a healthy tradition. This is also for this august body to consider.

JOURNAL :

The editor will present the journal report subsequently, but the secretary's report will be incomplete, if I do not place on record our appreciation for the dedicated efforts made by the editor and his team to bring the journal uptodate, better in quality and creating a desire and inquisitiveness amongst the members to read and become wiser. The academic quality has improved no doubt and we are confident that it will further march ahead. There has been a desire from the state branches as well as the central council meeting held at Calcutta which decided that the proceedings of the conference including the scientific papers must be published, may be as a special conference number. But as informed by the editor, that the financial constraints are coming in the way of such publications, the matter needs further instructions.

CONSTITUTION :

Our constitution was excellently drafted under the leadership of Dr A Krishna in 1982

which is comprehensive and crystal clear in all aspects. But many times, our members are ignorant about the bye-laws, rules and regulations mentioned therein, which has resulted or may result in misconceptions, misapprehensions, misunderstandings, even approaching the Court of Law unnecessarily forgetting that there is a provision for arbitrations by a committee provided therein. Therefore, it is essential that we make our constitution upto date with all the amendments made so far and this be made available to all the members specially at the time of their joining our association. We have proposals to amend it further, by its principal architect Dr A Krishna himself which is before you for consideration. There are a few more practical difficulties : such as,

Election of central council members from amongst the direct members, the members in arrears for the previous many years having paid the current year's subscription and even having paid life membership fees, the branches forwarding the journal contribution on behalf of the members directly to the journal office and not through the central office, creating discrepancies of not paying CFC arrears and creating ambiguity.

As per the election procedure the last date of withdrawal of nomination is 10th November and the ballot papers are to be despatched by 15th November, providing only five days for printing the ballots and their despatch to around 1000 members. This is a difficult job as it involves printing by the press, and the postal office. It is therefore, requested that atleast ten clear days must be made available for getting the ballots printed and their despatch. Thus, the dates of 15th November should be extended to 20th November which will not matter at all, because the return date of ballot is 15th December.

It is my humble submission that the secretariate office files, records and accounts must be

handed over at the conference at the last annual general meeting to avoid any inconvenience, financial accounting complications and to get the accounts audited. In the absence of previous account books, it is difficult to get it properly prepared and audited.

ELECTIONS :

Needless to mention that the secretariate has been shouldering the responsibilities of being the custodian of the constitution and has been discharging the responsibilities in the true sense and spirit. In the procedure of election, it has fulfilled all the rules and regulations even under all odd situations, keeping the dates and conducting the election in the spirit of the confidence reposed by the members, but strictly adhering to our constitution and bye-laws. It is a matter of pleasure, that the members not only showed their active interest this year, but also got involved in the same spirit resulting in a smooth conduction of the elections. The election officer Dr A Krishna deserves our commendation for such an excellent conduction. He would kindly announce the results in a formal manner.

CONFERENCE :

At Calcutta, the decision of holding the next conference at Bombay was not only overwhelming but applauded. Even amendments were made to name the scientific committee chairman from amongst the members at the venue of the Conference. The other specific directive to have a successful scientific programme and the conference, was to constitute a committee which included immediate past president, immediate past scientific committee chairman besides the president, general secretary and president elect. The efforts made by the organisers of the conference indicate that the conference is going to be a grand success and it would be able to ignite not only a high scientific calibre but also the organisational progress.

Lastly, I must express my best wishes to all of you for a very happy, prosperous and peaceful

new year 1989, and wish that all the deliberations of the conference be fruitful and successful, so that every one goes back wiser, enthusiastic and more conscious about the progressiveness of the speciality.

PROPOSALS BY HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY :

I would like to conclude this report with the following proposals to be considered and recommended to the general body for final approval :

1. State branches should remit the journal contribution and CFC to the central secretariate from where the journal contribution will be forwarded to avoid arrear problem.
2. Members in arrears for 1986 and before, be deleted.
3. The procedural problems of the CFC sent for the current year (Life & O M) on behalf of members who have not paid the previous year.
4. Central council representation on behalf of the direct members be considered.
5. Last date of despatch of ballots be 20th November instead of 15th November.
6. To encourage the state branches to be more active and efficient, prizes and awards to be instituted.

7. Inclusion of *national conference and association activities in our journal*. Consideration of editor's note for financial constraints.
8. Dr P B Joshi, chairman scientific committee, XVI national conference Calcutta be reimbursed expenses by the Calcutta conference organisers and also the journal and central share of the savings of the conference, as well as return the loan advanced to them.

I shall be failing in my duties if I do not thank all the office bearers of the association for their kind co-operation. My special thanks are to Prof Dr D K Gupta for constant encouragement and guidance from time to time. He has been a source of inspiration. Also to Dr A Krishna for constitutional advice and treasurer Dr Ashit Mukherjee.

Last, but not the least I would like to mention the assistance provided by Shri P D Sarwate, the only secretarial staff, who worked hard with dedication on very meagre emoluments. I am also grateful to all the state presidents and secretaries and members in general who have not only responded but also co-operated and have come out with excellent proposals for the upliftment of our association.

Thanking You, JAI HIND.

LONG LIVE IADVL UNITY.

Dr Brijesh Agrawal

General Secretary