

NPL FORMER SCIENTISTS FORUM

Minutes of the Eighth Meeting of the Management Committee of the NPL Former Scientists Forum, held on Friday, October 31, 2003 at 10.00 A.M. in the TEC Conference Room of the National Physical Laboratory.

Attendance: The following Members of the Management Committee attended the meeting:

1. Dr. V N Bindal	...	...	...	...	President
2. Dr. V S Panwar	...	...	...	...	Joint Secretary
3. Dr. J K N Sharma	...	...	...	...	Member
4. Dr. K C Nagpal	...	...	...	...	Member
5. Dr. (Mrs.) Namita Kundu	...	...	...	...	Member
6. Dr. B N Srivastava	...	...	...	...	Member
7. Shri Shiv Nath	...	...	...	...	Member
8. Shri R C Dhawan	...	...	...	...	Member
9. Shri G K Arora	...	...	...	...	Secretary

In addition, Shri K N Bhatnagar also deputized for Dr. P C Jain, Member, who was presently abroad. Dr. J C Trehan, Member, regretted his inability to attend the meeting. Dr. O P Bahl, Vice President, Shri V P Wasan, Treasurer, Dr. A P Jain and Mrs. Santosh Aggarwal, Members, did not attend the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS

1 Introductory Remarks by the President

Dr. V N Bindal welcomed the members to the meeting. At the outset he observed that too many meetings of the Management Committee had been held, but the reason for this was that the first four meetings were primarily devoted to the drafting of the Rules and Regulations of the Forum, and the 6th meeting was a special meeting with Director, NPL, as per the desire of the members of the Management Committee. In future the frequency of these meetings will be less. As regards the meetings of the Forum, he said that to sustain the interest of the members, we should hold them only if there was a strong agenda to make it attractive enough for the Members to attend, and not just for recreation and socializing.

Dr. Bindal also observed that, as already stressed by him, the Membership fee which was the only source of funds at present, was not going to be sufficient for supporting the various activities that were being planned viz., the News Letter and The Foundation Day Celebration, over a long period. Mere increasing the number of Members was not going to solve this problem, as it will also imply a corresponding increase of expenditure as well. He also said that it was not going to be easy to collect funds for the Newsletter, as even the Scientific Societies like the Ultrasonic Society and the NDT Society, of which he had personal experience, found it difficult to do so, even when he was in active service. He added that one of the suggestions that he had received was to approach the well-to-do placed former associates of NPL, particularly those settled abroad, for donations, but he was not sure as to whether it would be appropriate to do so, and also about the outcome of this effort, which itself will entail expenditure on postage etc.

Dr. Bindal felt that one of the effective ways of generating additional funds was to organize one-day Workshops jointly with the other NPL-Based Societies, viz. the Metrology Society, the Ultrasonic Society, the NDT Society, the Vacuum Society, The Carbon Society etc. This would, however, involve substantial efforts by the Programme Committee to be put in e.g. identification of a good Faculty to deliver talks at these Workshops, and the secretarial work that will be involved. Such an effort will be of direct interest to the Scientific Research Activity of NPL, which could also contribute by way of effective participation both for drawing of appropriate scientists for the Faculty, as also by way of deputation of some participants in these Workshops. We could also approach Director NPL, for the infrastructure support activities. Once such a Workshop has been planned the modalities of sharing the responsibilities as also the earnings from it between the collaborating Society and our Forum could be worked out. He added that he had already started exploring the possibility of a joint Workshop by the Forum, jointly with the NDT Society, and will come up with a specific proposal before the Programme Committee for its consideration.

2. Approval to the Induction of New Members

The Committee approved the induction of the following as New Members:

1. Shri J N Ojha	Life Member
2. Shri Inder Bhan	Life Member
3. Mrs. Raksha Marwah	Life Member

3. Status Report by the Secretary

Shri G K Arora circulated copies of the Status Report, which was accompanied with some documents relating to the Coordinators' List, and the deliberations of the three Area Committees, viz. the Newsletter Committee, the Programme Committee and the Medical Facilities to Pensioners Committee. He then presented the highlights of the Status Report.

3.1 Coordinators' List: He said that the one page Coordinators' List – Additions/Changes (dated 31. 10. 03) now circulated was designed to serve as a supplement to the comprehensive Coordinators' List (dated 12. 09. 03) that he had circulated along with the Status Report presented by him at the last meeting of the Management Committee held in September. As such, no new lists will be provided to the various Coordinators for interaction with Members/Prospective Members in connection with the next meeting of the Forum that had been planned to be held in November 2003.

3.2 Minutes of the various meetings and the follow-up action on the decisions taken at those meetings: The highlights in respect of the three Area Committees viz. the Newsletter Committee, the Programme Committee, and the Medical Facilities to Pensioners Committee are presented under Para 7.

3.3 Membership Register: The Committee was informed that filled up Membership Form had been received from Dr. V V Shah through Dr. Srivastava at the time of the meeting. Dr. Bindal informed that he had also had a talk with Dr. Kundra in this regard. He was proposing to enlist as a Life Member and had been advised to send the filled up Membership Form and the cheque by post. The respective coordinators were requested to pursue with the concerned Members from whom the filled up Membership Forms were awaited.

3.4 Secondary Base List: The List of former Associates who had worked as Group II staff members of NPL at the time of their retirement, was tabled at the time of the meeting. It had been compiled in connection with the Item of Agenda reported at Para 4.

3.5 Collection List: This List tabled at the time of the meeting, had been prepared in pursuance of the offer that Shri Arora had made at the time of the Second Meeting of the Programme Committee held on 17. 10. 03. to enable collection of funds for the Foundation Day Celebrations as also for renewal of Membership for the year 2004. The list received a trial operation by Dr. B N Srivastava and Shri R C Dhawan, both of whom paid Rs 100 /= each for membership renewal and Rs. 30/= each for the First Foundation Day Celebrations. It was decided to use this list for this purpose at the time of the next meeting of the Forum planned to be held in November 2003.

4. Consideration of the Suggestion made by Prof Gopal regarding enrollment of Technicians/ Supporting Staff also as Members of the Forum

The issue was deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Management Committee.

5. Coordinators' List & Mechanics of Interaction with the Members/ Prospective Members

It was decided that to ensure effective interaction between the Management Committee and the various Members/ Prospective Members, each Coordinator will name one person who will act on his behalf, in case he is unable to discharge his obligations as a Coordinator for a certain period.

6. Status Report by the Treasurer

The item could not be taken up for consideration in the absence of Shri V P Wasan. The amount of additional money collected by Shri Arora as per the Collection List and the Life Membership contribution made by Mrs. Raksha Marwah will be passed on to him for preparation of the next financial status report.

7. Presentation of the Status by the Chairmen of the three Area Committees

The Chairmen of the Respective Committees were requested to present the status.

7.1 Medical Facilities to Pensioners Committee: In the absence of Dr. O P Bahl, Shri Arora presented the status as presented in the Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Committee held on 17. 10. 03, a copy of the Draft of which accompanied the Status Report. Dr. Bahl had learnt, through his meeting with Shri S C Tyagi, Deputy Secretary, CSIR, prior to the meeting of the Committee that the stage of seeking prior permission from the head of the Laboratory appeared to have been introduced by the CSIR, and as had also been opined both by the Director, and the COA, of NPL, this only resulted in unnecessary delay in the beneficiary receiving the treatment, as had been communicated by Dr. P C Mehendru, in his letter addressed to the COA, for confirmation of that opinion, a copy of which he had also received from him. This therefore, appeared to be the first problem to be tackled. In addition, the Committee had done a fair amount of exercise in identifying the various issues which could be taken up one by one. A suggestion was made that we

may use the good offices of our patrons, and in particular, Dr. A P Mitra and Dr. S K Joshi, in seeking appointments with the concerned Ministers, to speed up the process after collecting all the facts.

Shri Arora also informed that before coming for the meeting, he had also had a talk with Shri M K Malik relating to the reimbursement of his medical claim. He had informed that he had received a letter dated 12. 09. 03 from the Section Officer (E-I), NPL, in reply to his letter of 22. 08. 03, wherein he had been advised to resubmit his claim after completing certain formalities, which he had not been able to do so far. A copy of that letter had now been sent to him, through Dr. Srivastava at the time of this meeting.

7.2 Newsletter Committee: The members of the Management Committee took note of the contents of the First Draft of the Newsletter, and the subsequent efforts that had been made by Shri Arora to improve it, in the light of the suggestions made at the Second meeting of this Committee on 17. 10. 03, which were tabled at the time of the meeting. Dr. Nagpal said that he would shortly pass on the list of leading manufacturers of medicines to the Secretary for issue of the draft letter that had been appended by him in his Status Report, wherein he had also suggested some minor modifications.

7.3 Programme Committee: Dr. J K N Sharma informed that since Shri M M Sharma was not willing to give a talk on the Merits and De-merits of the New Medical Scheme that the CSIR was planning to introduce, Dr. Nagpal had offered to arrange for a talk on a medical issue. The Committee authorized Dr. Nagpal to fix up this talk in consultation with the President and the Secretary, preferably in the forenoon of November 21, which had been tentatively decided for the next meeting of the Forum, failing which, he may try to fix it for November 24 or November 25, as the TEC Conference Room was already booked for some other programmes after these dates. The notification for the next meeting of the Forum could be done accordingly.

It was also decided to collect Rs. 30/= per head for meeting the expenditure involved in the organization of the First Foundation Day Celebrations at the time of the next meeting of the Forum. The date and programme for these Celebrations will be decided after getting the response at the time of the next meeting of the Forum by way of collection of funds for that function.

8. Date and Venue for a Picnic

It was decided to include this as an item of agenda for the next meeting of the Forum planned to be held in November 2003.

9. Agenda for the Fifth Meeting of the Forum

The Secretary brought to the notice of the Members, the following portions of the "Rules and Regulations" that had been adopted at the third meeting of the Forum, held on April 25, 2003:

10. Frequency of Meetings of NPL-FSF

- 10.1 There shall be at least one meeting of the NPL-FSF per quarter to note the progress made in respect of the decisions taken at the earlier meeting and to deliberate on various issues of common interest that might have come up during the intervening period. The M.C. shall suitably notify the agenda for these meetings preferably about a week in advance of the meeting.
- 10.2 One of the meetings of NPL-FSF shall be the Annual General Meeting.

11. Management Committee

There shall be a Management Committee of the NPL-FSF, having the following Office Bearers:

Elected Members

11.1	President	1
11.2	Vice President	1
11.3	Secretary	1
11.4	Joint Secretary	1
11.5	Treasurer	1

Nominated Members

11.6	Coordinators	15 (Maximum)
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15. General Body

All the members listed in the Membership List approved by the M.C. shall constitute the General Body of the NPL-FSF.

- 15.1 The G.B. shall meet regularly once a year.
- 15.2 Annual General Body meeting shall be held at such time and place as may be decided by the M.C. to transact the following business:
 - (i) To confirm the minutes of the previous General Body meeting,
 - (ii) To consider the Annual Report for the previous year,
 - (iii) To consider the Auditor's Report, and to approve the budget estimate for the ensuing year,

- (iv) To approve the appointment of the Auditor for the ensuing year,
 - (v) To elect the Office Bearers of the M.C. (every two years), and
 - (vi) To consider any additions or amendments in the Rules and Regulations of the NPL-FSF and any other issue of common interest to the Members.
- 15.3 An emergent meeting of the G.B. can be called by the President, or by a written notice signed by at least 20 members of the NPL-FSF.
- 15.4 A notice of at least 15 days for the G.B. meeting, and of at least 7 days for an Emergent meeting of the G.B. shall be given to the Members.
- 15.5 The quorum for the G.B. meeting shall be 20 members, or one fifth of the membership, which ever is less. The meeting can be adjourned by the President in consultation with the members present for want of the quorum, and can be called in order after at least 15 minutes, when the requisite quorum shall not be necessary

16 Elections.

- 16.1 The election for the various Office Bearers of the M.C shall be held by the G.B. once in two years, and this item shall be specifically included as an item on the Agenda for the meeting.
- 16.2 No Member shall be entitled to contest for more than one of the positions of an Elected Member of the M.C. Only such of the Eligible Members who are present at the G.B. meeting, and whose candidatures have been proposed on-the spot by atleast one Member, and seconded by atleast two other Members, shall be eligible to contest for any position of an Elected Member of the M.C.
- 16.3 The Returning Officer, who shall not be contesting for any position of an Elected Member in the M.C., shall conduct the election process only if there are two or more Members of NPL-FSF contesting for any post. For posts where there is only one valid nomination, the nominee shall be deemed to be elected unanimously.
- 16.4 The votes shall be cast by the Members, in person, and if necessary, by Secret Ballot.
- 16.5 The Returning Officer shall, after the completion of vote-counting process, announce the results of election, and communicate the same in writing to the President of the out-going M.C. In the event of a tie, the Returning Officer shall be entitled to cast his vote also, in favour of one of the contesting candidates.
- 16.6 All the records, documents, accounts and assets shall be handed over to the New Elected Management Committee within a period of 15 days from the date of declaration of the results of the Election, by the Returning Officer.
- 16.7 The Management Committee shall have constitutional and legal authority for the fulfillment of the Aims and Objectives of the FORUM.

Shri Arora also brought to the notice of the Members, the following decision that had been taken at the first meeting of the Forum held on January 17, 2003:

“ It was a unanimous decision to have, for the present, the following Office Bearers of a Management Committee of the Forum:

1. **President:** Dr. V N Bindal
2. **Secretary:** Shri G K Arora
3. **Treasurer:** Shri V P Wasan
4. **Members:** All the present Coordinators

It was decided that this Management Committee shall function for one year, and the elections of the Office Bearers of the Forum, as per the approved Constitution, shall be held in January 2004. The President was also authorized to add to the list of Coordinators, if need be.”

In view of the above facts, Shri Arora suggested that the Annual General Body meeting of the Forum and the First Foundation Day Celebrations may be held together on the same day in January, 2004.

The Committee decided that instead of clubbing the Annual General Body Meeting and the First Foundation Day Celebrations, we may have the next meeting of the Forum as the Annual General Body Meeting, and act accordingly. The Secretary may accordingly draft out a suitable agenda for that meeting, including the election of the Office Bearers of the Management Committee as an item of agenda for that meeting. It was also decided to start that meeting at 10.00 A.M. and hold it in the TEC Conference Room, keeping in view the attendance at the Fourth Meeting of the Forum, which could be considered as the expected attendance at the meeting of the General Body may also be of the same order.

Shri Arora said that in view of the availability or otherwise of the TEC Conference Room which Dr. Nagpal is able to fix up for the talk to be delivered at the time of that meeting, it may not be possible to give 15 days notice for the meeting. The Management Committee felt that this being the first meeting of the Governing Body, we may go by the spirit of the rule and the Coordinators will try to inform them about this meeting as soon as the date for that meeting gets communicated to them.

As there was no other item, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.