

Memoirs from my Journey as Secretary of Maharashtra Orthopaedic Association

Nitin Deshpande¹

*If You Want to Go Fast, Go Alone. If You Want to Go Far, Go Together.” And If You Want to Transform...?
Join an Organisation!!*



Dear colleague

Greetings from MOA office. The above statement clearly reflects my feeling after serving Maharashtra Orthopaedic Association since nearly a decade now. This bitter sweet experience has surely transformed me and definitely in a good way.

This is my last year of last tenure as Secretary of this prestigious association. It has always been a proud feeling to work for the association.

After working for so long with MOA, there are certain things I would definitely like to share about this organisation and my work.

The first thing which I realized was that our members have an indifferent attitude towards the association. Good numbers of members are not aware what is going on in the association. Very few members reciprocate to communications sent. Very few members see the mails and messages. A vibrant association is one where members take active and keen interest in activities of association. Where they respond to the communication and give their feedback. This encourages me and the executive committee to take proper decisions and modify working pattern. It also helps to know the expectations of the members. More importantly it maintains transparency so that no one can take undue advantage of the association and removes inhibitions on part of members if any. I will request all members to actively participate in the affairs of the associations and also increase our membership. Our number is also our strength, especially in situations where we

have to talk to official bodies/agencies or government organisations. I will urge all existing members to create awareness about MOA activities among non-members. I am sure if they see value in these activities, they will surely join us.

We at MOA have started encouraging our members for conducting various surgical skills developments workshops, regional conferences, fellowships, research work. I personally request our members to come forward more frequently and take advantage of the facilities available. It will serve the purpose that the skills will reach at most peripheral surgeon so that he can deliver medical care at par with any other surgeon in the central place.

Most importantly members should have faith and belief in the association. More and more surgeons should become members so that our strength will grow and we can collectively tackle the issues currently faced by our fraternity.

When I took over as secretary of MOA, there was complete chaos in our association. Though I was elected officially I did not get the charge ceremonially or officially. There was an issue related with election process and interpretation of the constitution. It was observed that there was lack of considerate approach and lack of transparency. The rules and regulations were used and interpreted without taking in to consideration the human values and relations. In my tenure of 6 years I tried my best to maintain transparency, relations, considerate approach and not to make use of the rules for personal benefit.

Though I was working as executive member and as web master since inception of our web site, working as Secretary was totally different ball game. It taught me to take quick decisions, remain alert, become punctual, reciprocating and considerate, maintain perfect records-this saved me many times in various circumstances. It made me more patient, reduced my habit of arriving hurriedly to conclusions. More importantly it gave me courage to withstand criticism, and that too for doing better work and giving better performance.

During my tenure I could bring some important changes in the association. Online elections were started so that all members can take part in elections

¹Deshpande Orthopaedic Hospital, Near Axis Bank, New Mahadwar Road, Kolhapur, Maharashtra 416001 India.

Address for correspondence:

Dr. Nitin Deshpande

Deshpande Orthopaedic Hospital, Near Axis Bank, New Mahadwar Road, Kolhapur, Maharashtra 416001 India.

Email-dohkpr@yahoo.com



Meet the Master Program with Dr Peter Smith was a great success - Pune 2014

process and the executive will become true representation of all. It removed regional barrier. New constitution was drafted removing flaws in previous ones so that the individual interpretation for personal gains is avoided. The communication with members was improved. We now can reach 85% of all our members. On line Journal was started. Subsequently print version was started which was discontinued in between but restarted again. Keeping with the times, MOA –APP was developed which provides important information to all with easy access on Smartphone. MOACON reforms are planned so as to uplift the academic standards of MOACON and avoid unnecessary expenses on non academic events during MOACON. New activity like MOA- MEET THE MASTER was started. Our members got the chance to meet the international masters who have done pioneering work in the field of orthopaedics. I would expect strong and continued support for all these activities and would like every MOA member to benefit from them. During my tenure the corpus fund of MOA reached 82 lakhs from 49 lakhs. Because of which we could give funds easily and generously for various activities. Also the number of conferences and activities organised by MOA and MOA members are also getting bigger and better (Check some memorable pictures of Meet the Master program and MOACON conferences).

One of the major learning points for me during my tenure was in terms of understanding the dynamics of human interactions.

There were various incidences in my term where strong voices were raised and ugly disputes arose. In early days I would respond likewise but slowly I understood that it's counterproductive to be a counterirritant. Most of the times the reason for these conflicts was inadequate or in compliant interactions among people that lead to these situations. If you simply try to understand the point of view of others, many things can be sorted out. If we can sit and talk openly to each other, many misunderstandings will not even arise. Being the secretary, I am witness to every small or big friction in the association. Most of the times things can be worked out by rational and intelligent interactions. However when such tactics fail you have to be ready to undertake tougher decisions

and paths. There is no harm in taking the tough path when you have exhausted all avenues of peace and especially when you do it for the betterment of the association and on behalf of the members of the association. Representing members of the association gives you power but also weighs you down with responsibility. Once you realise this and are able to balance, your conduct will be much improved and more appropriate.

Now it is time to leave. Leave the post and not MOA. The new secretary should do his home work before he joins. He should see to it that he is willingly taking the post because he wants to work for others. He should get elected because of his qualities to do the justice to the post and not because of his ability to win elections. It is the Secretary who is face of the association. At national level people look at Secretary as the work



Unique use of technology was seen during MOACON 2012 at Nanded where lectures were delivered via Skype



Excellent organisation of MOACON 2015 at Solapur showed that tier II cities of Maharashtra are ready to host MOACON at Grand Scale

force in the state. The incoming Secretary should be having the confidence to take all members with him. MOA members should also look closely at all the candidates and select an appropriate candidate who has the vision to take MOA much ahead than what it is today and not simply exercise 'acquaintance' ballot. Our members will always support the Secretary, provided they are made to realize that the Secretary is neither doing any such thing which is of his personal gains or achievement, nor he is making use of the association for self-promotion. More importantly

opportunity

Dr. Nitin Deshpande.

Secretary, Maharashtra Orthopaedic Association.

Conflict of Interest: NIL

Source of Support: NIL

How to Cite this Article

Deshpande N. Memoirs from my Journey as Secretary of Maharashtra Orthopaedic Association Journal of Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery. July - Sep 2016;11(3):1-3