**State Bank of Patiala**

**President**

**Harish Walia**

Chandigarh

9815700573

**General Secretary**

B.C.Bassi

Patiala

9530519122

**Retired Officers' Association (Regd.)**

 **31, NEW GREEN PARK COLONY, PATIALA**

**(Affiliated to All India Bank Retirees’ Federation )**

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Circular No.2

GENERAL SECRETARY REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2018

Shri Harish Walia, President and other office bearers of State Bank of Patiala Retired officers Association and dear colleagues,

It gives me immense pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all of you on this Annual General Meeting of State Bank of Patiala Retired officers Association being held today at Patiala. I also extend warm welcome to Media and Press people who are always there to cover the events of Banking Industry and its human resources both serving as well as retirees.

I also extend a special welcome to our colleagues who have crossed the age of 70 & 80 and ex office bearers of SBOP retired Officers Association.

**Homage** : Before coming to the main points of my report, I have a sacred duty of remembering all those personalities who made our lives comfortable through their valuable contributions to the society, our colleagues and their family members who are not in midst today.  *I request all of you to stand up for two minutes and observe silence in memory of all those persons who left us for ever. Let us pray the Almighty to give strength and courage to the members of the bereaved families in their hour of grief and bereavement.*

*List of members who expired during intervening period*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Sr No.* | *Name S/Shri* | *Membership No.* | *Sr No.* | *Name S/Sshri* | *Membership No.* |
| *1* | *Smt.Saroj Walia* | *1087* | *17* | *Ram Avtar Sharma* |  *177* |
| *2* | *S.C.Juneja* |  *228* | *18* | *K.K.Bansal* |  *242* |
| *3* | *Himmat Singh* |  *494* | *19* | *Hans Raj Goyal* |  *89* |
| *4* | *Smt Joginder Kaur* | *1285* | *20* | *A.K.Jauhari* | *1297* |
| *5* | *H.S.Chohan* |  *399* | *21* | *Rajinder Pal* |  |
| *6* | *Jagdish Chand Arora* |  *278* | *22* | *Hans Raj Gautam* |  *108* |
| *7* | *Smt Krishan Kaur* | *1202* | *23* | *Bakshish Singh* |  *458* |
| *8* | *Pawan Kumar Kataria* |  *679* | *24* | *J.R.Sahota* |  *692* |
| *9* | *Satya Pal*  |  *383* | *25* | *S.K.Nijhavan*  |  *192* |
| *10* | *K.D.Trivedi* |  *153* | *26* | *B.S.Chandok*  |  *824* |
| *11* | *Parveen Chawla* | *1173* | *27* | *Mahender Kumar* | *2269* |
| *12* | *Raj Kumar Singhal* | *1142* | *28* | *P.D.Mehta* |  *259* |
| *13* | *Suresh Kumar Gupta* |  *826* | *29* | *V.A.Ghai* |  *980* |
| *14* | *Khushal Chand* |  *367* | *30* | *Manjit Singh Budhiraja* |  *647* |
| *15* | *Devinder Kr Bansal* | *1247* | *31* | *R.P.Kaura* |  *118* |
| *16* | *Tilak Raj Bhagat* | *1644* | *32* | *Rattan Lal*  |  *512* |

*We pay our homage to Bharat Rattan Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Ex Prime Minister of India who left us for ever.*

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**Political Scenario**

*The political situation in the country is normal and the economic growth is satisfactory. The country rose to the 5th position from the 6th position in the world on economic growth front.*

*The ease in doing business also regitered improvement and rated at 73rd place from 100th last year and 140th in the last to last year in the world. The country has the pride of 1st highest Statue of Unity in the world of a greatest leader of the country Sardar Ballavh Bhai Patel, the architect of Modern India uniting 562 states prevailing in the country at the time of Freedom.
The country has also constructed World’s 2nd highest overbridge. It is matter of pride that Shri Narinder Modi, our Prime Minister has chaired the meeting of 53 countries in U.K. to whom we were slave once. Our Prime Minister has been awarded “Champion of the Earth and SEOUL Peace Award.*

***Recent Trends in Banking Industry***

*The banking sector plays a vital role in the development of country’s economy. The growth of banking sector depends upon the services provided by them to the customers in various aspects. The banking system in India is differenct from other Asian Nations because of country’s unique geographic, social and economic characterists. Today we are having a fairly well developed banking system with different classes of banks – public sector banks, foreign banks private sector banks, regional rural banks and co-operative banks. The reserve bank of india is at the paramount of all the banks. There has been considerable innovation and diversification in the bussiness of major commercial banks. Some of them have engaged in the area of consumer credit, credit cards, merchant banking, internet and phone banking, leasing, mutual funds etc. At present the following system is working.*

*Internet, Society for Worldwide Inter Bank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT), Automated Teller Machine(ATM), Cash Dispensers, Electronic Clearing Service, Bank net, Chip Card, Phone Banking, Tele-Banking, Internet Banking, Mobile Banking*

*In the days to come, banks are expected to play a vital role in the economic development. The recent mergers have changed the scene. The government is trying to consolidate the banking industry in the name of re-evaluation of business strategies to make bigger and stronger banks.*

**Merger with State Bank of India**

State Bank of Patiala stand merged with State Bank of India w.e.f. 1st April 2017. With merger of bank, the Head office of State Bank of Patiala stand merged with Local Head Office, Chandigarh. In the building of Head Office of State Bank of Patiala, Zonal Office with five RBOs have been established. The Bank has also established State Bank of Patiala Gallery thereat.

**Liaison with the Bank**

We are maintaining good liaison with the Bank management. They are helpful. The staff of the Bank has been courteous to us. Mainly we remain concerned with PPFG Department, but we also deal with IRD, HRD, Public Relations and Stationery Departments. The staff is helpful, for which we are thankful to them.

 In pursuance of object of the Association to keep up relation with the Bank and seek all succour and patronage for the retired officers and family pensioners, we call on the concerned staff of the Bank from time to time. We have selected one team at Chandigarh under leadership of our President to keep liaison with State Bank of India LHO on day to day basis.

**Joining AIBRF for resolving Industry Level Issues**

Pursuing an important object of the Association to cooperate, coordinate and affiliate with organizations having similar objects, we joined the All India Bank Retirees’ Federation, which is the main organization of the retirees of all categories. We are getting support from them.

Although all the five Retiree Organisations agreed in principle to form Confederation of Bank Pensioners and Retirees’ Organisations (CBPRO) in a meeting in August, 2015 at New Delhi. The AIBRF is pursuing some gains at their own. Both (CBPRO and AIBRF) have called on IBA authorities separately, claiming it as their achievements but the IBA/Govt. taking note of their disunity have returned them empty-handed.

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**Medi-Claim Policy to Bank Retirees in 2017-18**

The Mediclaim Policy as agreed by IBA was renewed for the year 2017-18. There were some problems in October 2017 and good number of retirees could not become member of the scheme. However, the issue was taken up with Bank at LHO and Corporate level. Consequent our efforts at our own level and at the level of Co-ordination of eAssociate Banks Retires orgarnisations, the issue was resolved and the remaining retirees who were interested to join the medical Policy were allowed to join the Policy from 14.11.2017.

**Honouring the Seniors**

With the view of expressing our regard to the seniors and to facilitate their face to face meeting in a get-together type programme with the old colleagues, we invite our senior old-aged members. The first category for the purpose is of octogenarians who reach the age of 80 years. The second category is of officers attaining age of 70 years by the 30th September this year.

**Membership**

Enrollment of new members is an important and strong area where your Association has all along been doing exceptionally well. By now, our enrollment has crossed magic figure of 2000. We have established a system to contact the retirees who retired from Bank service in April 2017 on wards i.e. after merger of SBOP with State Bank of India requesting them to become members of our Association. A copy of the list of officers retiring in the month is given to CMC/EC members who too take up with the retiring officers. Some of them have given good results by dint of their follow up. A consolidated list of non-members is prepared periodically by the General Secretary with the support of his team members and discussed in the EC meeting to enable the EC members to try on left-outs for enrollment. The units have done a wonderful job in this area and many members have been brought to the ambit, after several years from retirement. A retired officer is approached repeatedly by us to enroll in the organization. Our aim is to enlist every retired officer with involvement of us all. With regard to enrollment of spouse of a departed colleague, almost all of them join as our honorary members.

**Working of Units**

Thirteen units at outstations are functioning at centres namely Panchkula, Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Bathinda, Jalandhar, Faridabad, Delhi, Gurgaon, Yamunanagar, Ambala, Hissar, Rajpura and Khanna. All the units did well and majority of them exceptionally well. The material meant for members at these centres is given through the Secretaries there The units are undertaking social and welfare activities in a big way. The units have tried to excel in one way or the other during the past one year.

**100th Bank Foundation** day was celebrated in November 2017 at Patiala and by each unit in a befitting manner, the expenses of which were allowed by us. We are celebrating 101st Founday day of eState Bank of Patiala today.

**ASSOCIATION BUILDING** : By 31-03-2016 we have invested Rs.45.17 lacs on our building including furniture, fixtures and electricals etc. amounting to Rs. 3.05 lacs therein. Property tax has been deposited with the Municipal Corporation, Patiala for the year 2018-19 also. Ours is now a double-storeyed building having four rooms with attached wash rooms, duly equipped with all necessary furniture/fittings etc., on the first floor for stay of out-stationed member officers & their families. Name Board on the building of the Association, Indication Boards on Sirhind and Jhill Roads, Guide Map of the locality and Notice Board within, have been installed. The website of the Association ([www.sbpretdpta.com](http://www.sbpretdpta.com)) is thoroughly operational and updated. Email (sbpretdpta@gmail.com) and Fax (0175-5085031) facilities are available to members. Wi-fi facility has also been added recently. The office opens daily at 11AM and is attended by the General Secretary and other members. It gives us a sense of pride that in the banking industry, only ours is the body of retired staff, who have constructed their own new building, comprising office, hall, kitchen and a guest house on first floor.

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**Staff and Public Welfare Activities**

Several welfare activities for members/ families / public have been undertaken during the year. They include:

Water cooler exclusively for public provided.

Cleanliness drive of the surroundings undertaken regularly.

Health checkup camps, with free medical tests arranged for public/staff.

Talks by eminent Chartered accountants/other dignitaries arranged.

Birth day greetings sent to the members and spouses by the Association from Patiala or respective unit regularly.

Indoor games facilities with carlom board, chess, cards etc. provided to senior citizens/students /members.

Guide Map for convenience of residents of New Green Park, Colony, has also been installed predominantly in chowk on the main Jhill Road, Patiala.

On the demise of a member/spouse etc., messages to members transmitted and religious ceremonies attended.

Calenders for the year 2018 were got printed on the contribution by office bearers/EC Members and delivered to all those whom we could reach direct or through Secretaries.

 **Holding of Periodical Meetings**

The norms for holding yearly, quarterly and monthly meetings have been adhered to and all meetings have been held within the specified periodicity.

**ISSUES TAKEN UP AT APEX LEVEL**

AIBRF continues to take up the issues pertaining to pensioners with the concerned authorities from time to time. They held a meeting and demanded consolidated pension fund which will have the following benefits:

1. It will improve yield considerably with better investment by professional fund managers.
2. It will be completely free from influence and pressure of bank managements who have used them for their priority as happened last time in PNB.
3. Statutory liability of banks towards pension funds as provided under pension regulations/ other laws will be calculated and demanded by the independent authority from bank managements. It will certainly improve fund corpus and thereby yield.
4. It is seen that Actuary Report/ Due diligence being carried by bank managements on annual basis as per requirement of pension regulations get influenced due to conflict of interest affecting bank pensioners adversely presently. Such incidents can be completely eliminated with constitution of consolidated fund.
5. All pension related demands can be considered independently.

**Renewal of Medical Insurance Scheme for Retirees for the year 2018-19**

 “The Group Insurance Policy for the Bank Retirees under IBA’s Scheme is due for renewal w.e.f. 01.11.2018. The uncertainty in respect of high rate of premium due to steep increase over the premium of previous year has been a significant cause of concern and anxiety not only to the Retirees but also to their organisations. We have been constantly following up the matter with UFBU/IBA/DFS, Government of India impressing upon them the need for reduction in the premium so as to make it reasonable and affordable. The combined efforts of CBPRO and AIBRF have yielded some favourable result as the increase in premium on Basic Insurance amount has been restricted to 75% instead of 110% proposed earlier. Similarly the increase in premium with domiciliary facility is restricted to 123% instead of 144% proposed earlier

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**Demand to waive GST on Medical Insurance Premium of Bank Retirees-** Association took up the issue withthe Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, New Delhi to waive GST on medical Insurance premium paid by pensioners in view of the steep rise in the amount of Medical Insurance Premium.

At local level, our members are experiencing difficulty in respect of booking of holiday homes, various welfare schemes, subsidy on medical insurance premium, medical bills etc. Etc. Hence we are in constant touch with local management to resolve the issues at the earliest. During one year many issues were taken up by us with Bank management. Last year the medical insurance scheme was allowed to retirees in November 2017 also. HRMS Ids were allotted to all retires which have benefitted them. Now they can use their HRMS for viewing Pension slip, feeding of investment etc.

**PENDING ISSUES OF BANK PENSIONERS AND RETIREES**

The Central organisation has taken up the following issues with Shri Narendra Modi ji, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Prime Minister’s Office, South Block, New Delhi-110 001.

Major issues pertaining to Pensioners

1. Uniform 30% Family Pension as available to the employees of Central Government and Reserve Bank of India,
2. Updation of Basic Pension and Additional Pension as applicable to the employees of Central Government and also provided under Bank Pension Regulation 35(1),
3. 100% DA neutralization to Pensioners who retired before 01.11.2002 as applicable to those who retired after 01.11.2002.
4. Pension for those who resigned after completing pensionable service of 20 years.
5. Reckoning of Special Allowance, which is akin to Grade Pay in Government Service, for the purpose of computing Pension and Gratuity.
6. Enhanced ceiling of Gratuity from Rs. 10,00,000/- to Rs. 20,00,000/- to be effective from 01.01.2016 as given to Government employees instead of 29.03.2018.
7. Medical Insurance Premium for Retired Bank Employees and Officers to be borne by the Banks as in case of Retired EDs, MDs, CMDs and serving employees.
8. Addition of upto 5 years to the qualifying service in case of those Officers who joined the Bank with Specialist qualification or experience in Scientific, Technical or Professional fields – Pension Regulation no. 26.
9. Computation of Basic Pension on the basis of last drawn Pay by striking down the explanation incorporated in Pension Regulation no. 2 (s).

10.Allowing to exercise Pension option to those who were compulsorily retired-Pension

 Regulation no. 33

**Co-ordination of eAssociate Bank Retirees Association**

Co-ordination of eABs was formed and its first meeting was hosted by us jointly with State Bank of Patiala Retired Employees Union in the month of September 2018

**DHARNA/DEMONSTRATION TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER 2018**

An informal meeting OF CBPRO AND AIBRF leadership took place on 24th October

2018 at Delhi wherein it was decided that the Coordination should aggressively

chalk out programs to realize core issues of Bank Retirees –

 1.Family  Pension  2. Pension Updation.  3. 100%DA Neutralization.

 4.Full Reimbursement of Medical Insurance Premium to Retirees.

 5. Reckoning of Special Allowance for Superannuation Benefits.

 6. IBA should hold talks with the  Coordination Body of Bank Retirees.

The Meeting also decided that UFBU should be approached to  take a clear stand  positively and seriously in respect of our issues in the ongoing Wage Negotiations and ensure resolution of the issues immediately or at the most along with the Current Wage Settlement.

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It was also decided in the Meeting to hold massive Dharna and Demonstrations in important cities across the Country from last week of November 2018 culminating in  very big Dharna and Demonstrations  in Delhi and Mumbai.

**Accounts**

The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018 have been got audited from two internal auditors (Shri V.P.Singh and Shri S.K.Goyal appointed by the general house last year. Additionaly, the accounts have also been got audited from M/S Bhushan Gupta and Co., Chartered Accountants, Patiala. Long back we got registered with the Income Tax Department as assessees and are provided with Permanent Account Number ( PAN ) of the Association. We always submit our returns timely and we submitted our income-tax returns for the previous financial years through our CA.

To balance the income and expenditure, it is proposed that annual subscription be raised from Rs.500/- per annum to Rs.700/ per annum w.e.f. April 2019.

The Statement Income & Expenditure and balance sheet is enclosed.

**Let me conclude.** The Association, by now is over 3 decades old. Top executives and officers retired from high positions of the Bank, are the members. Running a voluntary organization of the elite we have is really a challenge. This can be done with utmost care and devotion by a well-knit team with fullest cooperation of the membership only.

*During last one year we have tried our best to maintain the momentum of our movement and our activities inspite of the fact that State Bank of Patiala merged with State Bank of India w.e.f. 1st April 2017 and there are challenges to our organization from many corners.*

*The future is going to be full of challenges around us Most of the issue pertaining to retirees are pending for a long. Though we are trying to take up all these issues through our apex organization but is demand of time that we should continue our efforts in a united manner. Let us strength our organization as ours is the only organization which will be taking up the issues of all those who retired or retire under SBOP service regulations.* We are fortunate to have received all help and cooperation from our hon’ble members

*During the period I got all support from the office bearers, EC members and my other colleagues in day to day working of the Association and I express my heartfelt gratitude to all of them for sharing various responsibilities of work pertaining to the welfare of our members/colleagues.*

My thanks to you all who have taken pains to be with us here and also to those who could not be here today. I feel obliged once again, on behalf of us all, for the cooperation and help extended to the Association, by your good selves. I pray to God to bestow upon you and your family members all the pleasures of life in days ahead.

I now, with your permission, present the yearly report for deliberations and adoption

 ***(B.C.Bassi)***

 **General Secretary**

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