

Good-Bye to the Secretary Role

The leaf of every tree brings a message from the unseen world. Look, every falling leaf is a blessing –
Rumi

I have been fortunate to be associated with SAATA right from its formative years, and in the emergence of the association of professionals in 2006, I had been in office as treasurer from inception till 2013. Again I stepped in the role as Secretary and took charge from C. Suriyaprakash on September 2, 2016 at the end of the BOT meeting in Coimbatore.

As Secretary my role was to oversee various projects. One major challenge was communicating with the membership. It was difficult because the current data with SAATA office was not accurate; some of the mail ids of members had either changed or were not right. When mails were sent to membership, around 65% bounced. So, communication to membership primarily reached through trainers. The trainers did their best to keep passing on the communication. The trainers extended their help by collecting cash, cheques and passing them on to the SAATA office. Without their support, SAATA membership will not have grown and sustained to where we are today. Thank you all for your support and encouraging the trainees to become members and actively take part in SAATA activities. To resolve this, one major exercise was initiated in 2016, asking members to register online and get unique membership IDs.

The primary focus in 2017 has been streamlining the SAATA membership and website. In 2016, some members were registered online while many were still non-registered members. In 2017, the login for membership was approved, and members received their unique membership ID. Their web accessibility is on, where they can review their status and renew their membership in the future. **There are a total of 225 members registered online.** The tireless and committed work by volunteers Rema, Kausalya and treasurer Raguraman in resolving online membership issues has made this possible. The process was adventurous as we had new challenges to deal with. Thank you Team for your continuous support and for moving this project in the desired direction. I take this opportunity to thank all the SAATA CMs for their contributions in the process of streamlining membership to register online. The new system in place needs time to settle as there have been some glitches and unforeseen scenarios which created disruptions in providing the online registration. I appreciate the membership's feedback, patience and cooperation to this process.

The SAATA Newsletter was another source to be in touch with membership and to reach out. It was re-launched with new Editors: Srinath Nadathur and Rema K Giridhar, who have brought in a colorful, creative and informative e-newsletter, which has been appreciated by many. The team is doing an excellent job in bringing out the newsletter every quarter. I invite the membership to contribute to the newsletter as there are various columns available to express yourself through your writing skills, artistry etc. It was a pleasure working in this project. As a major reach-out exercise, we had requested the international associations and they have been supportive by posting the SAATA e-newsletter in ITAA, EATA websites.

Joint Secretary Rema has done a commendable role in organizing, co coordinating and executing major works related to membership, e-newsletter, and website.

The BOT has been meeting regularly once a year and from 2017 the number of virtual meetings has increased through the use of online platform Zoom as and when the need arises. In order to facilitate these meetings, the idea of board packet was introduced in 2017.

A major milestone for SAATA is to conduct its events in 2018 organized by SAATA with the support of the membership. This year the MLL was organized and conducted by SAATA on January 6-7 and the ITAA-SAATA conference is being organized and conducted by SAATA in August 2018.

The Core Steering committee has been formed for the conference 2018, with Chitra Ravi as the convener steering the process with meticulous planning, coordination and consolidation.

A new fresh team of a handful of volunteers running the SAATA office

Smooth functioning of SAATA was possible by this team of volunteers working with passion, professionalism, compassion, commitment, creativity and joy.

All who are part of SAATA provide their time on volunteer basis, I appreciate their generosity and contributions. There have been events and activities which were executed in short notice and the enthusiasm and commitment of the volunteers made it possible.

I enjoyed being an ad-hoc Secretary for SAATA. It is a privilege to work with the team.

I thank Susan for the support, directions and wise counsel in our operations, Chitra for her commitment to standards, professionalism, compassion, and persuasions, Suriya for his vision, eye for details and authoring the awards and minutes, Ragini for being there questioning and bringing in the different perceptions and being realistic with projects, Ragu for managing and providing the needed support in his ways whenever needed, Saru for her enthusiasm and energy, and Rema for taking care of most of the communication and helping to provide technical guidance.

I thank Viji my wife for taking care of social and family matters so that my time and energies are available to the office I hold.

I am glad to say good bye to SAATA secretary office and to all. It has been a very valuable learning experience. I am reminded of Rumi once again:

As you start to walk out on the way, the way appears.-Rumi

Wishing your all a wonderful new year ahead.