



S. Thomas' Preparatory School
Kollupitiya

OLD BOYS' UNION



XXXVI

Annual General Meeting

7th July 2017



SCHOOL SONG

Cheer, Cheer, Prep School Boys,
For our home by the roaring billows,
That sound their song in our ears all day,
And lull us at night on our pillows.

Chorus:

Cheer, Cheer, Prep School Boys,
Sing we in cheerful chorus,
We'll cherish the School of our youthful years,
Through Life that lies before us.

Cheer, Cheer, Prep School Boys,
For our Flag with its colours flying,
Dark blue, Light blue and Gleaming White,
Gaily the breeze defying.

Cheer, Cheer Prep School Boys,
Though we're small we've brains and muscle,
And have shown we can hold our own ere this
In many a friendly tussle.

Cheer, Cheer, Prep School Boys,
For the games we play together,
Play with vim in the sunshine bright,
Nor less in a rainy weather.

Cheer, Cheer Prep School Boys,
For our tasks (Tho' we often shirk them),
History, Grammar, Science, Sums,
Which are wrong as a rule when we work them.

Chorus:

Cheer, Cheer, Prep School boys
Sing we in cheerful chorus,
We'll cherish the School of our youthful years
Through Life that lies before us

L. A. L. Blanchard



S. THOMAS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL

OLD BOYS' UNION - 98, Steuart Place, Colombo 03.

FOR All Correspondence:

Kishan De Silva
Secretary

Email: prepobu@gmail.com, prepobu.admn@gmail.com
Web: <http://www.prepobu.lk>

5th June 2017

NOTICE OF 36th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given in terms of Rule 4(a) of the OBU Rules that the 36th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union (OBU) will be held on Friday 7th July, 2017 at 6.30 PM in the School Hall followed by the traditional Headmaster's Dinner. All duly enrolled members (please bring your membership card/number) are invited.

AGENDA

1. Notice convening the meeting
2. Excuses
3. Two minutes' silence in remembrance of old boys who have passed on since the 35th AGM of 29th July, 2016
4. Address by the President, Revd. Dushantha Rodrigo
5. Adoption of Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting
6. Matters arising from the Minutes
7. Presentation of the Report of the activities of the Union by the Honorary Secretary
8. Adoption of the audited Statement of Accounts for the financial period 1st April, 2016 to 31st March, 2017
9. Adoption of Amendments to the Rules of the S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union (See website of the OBU www.prepobu.lk for the Resolution)
10. Election of Office Bearers for the year 2017/2018
 - i) Three Honorary Vice Presidents
 - ii) Honorary (a) General Secretary & (b) Assistant Secretary
 - iii) Honorary (a) Treasurer & (b) Assistant Treasurer
 - iv) Honorary Auditor
11. Election of Committee Members to represent the following age groups.

GROUP	YEARS AT SCHOOL	NUMBER OF MEMBERS
GROUP A	01-01-48 TO 31-12-57	3 MEMBERS
GROUP B	01-01-58 TO 31-12-67	3 MEMBERS
GROUP C	01-01-68 TO 31-12-77	3 MEMBERS
GROUP D	01-01-78 TO 31-12-87	3 MEMBERS
GROUP E	01-01-88 TO 31-12-97	3 MEMBERS
GROUP F	01-01-98 TO 31-12-07	3 MEMBERS
GROUP G	01-01-08 TO DATE	3 MEMBERS

12. Any business of which due notice has been given
13. Announcements
14. School Song

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- A. Rule 5(a) - Nominations of members seeking election to the posts set out in Rules 5(a)(ii), 5(a)(iii)(a), 5(a)(iii)(b), 5(a)(iv)(a), 5(a)(iv)(b) and 5(c) should reach the Honorary Secretary under sealed cover to S. THOMAS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL OLD BOYS' UNION, No. 98, Steuart Place, Colombo 03 no later than 12 PM of Friday 23rd June, 2017 and must include the candidate's name in full, OBU membership number, position nominated to, consent to fill the position nominated to, names, signatures and OBU membership numbers of the OBU member proposing and seconding and current contact details (See website of the OBU www.prepobu.lk for a Specimen).
- B. Rule 5(b)
- No member shall be eligible for nomination or to be elected:*
- i. *as a Vice-President, Honorary General Secretary, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Assistant Treasurer unless he has been a member of the Union for over ten (10) years;*
 - ii. *as a Vice-President, Honorary General Secretary, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Assistant Treasurer if such member has previously served five (5) consecutive terms in the same post;*
 - iii. *as Treasurer unless he possesses a recognised qualification in the field of accounting;*
- C. Rule 4(c) - Notice of any motions to be tabled must be by due notice given which should reach the Honorary Secretary under sealed cover to S. THOMAS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL OLD BOYS' UNION, No. 98, Steuart Place, Colombo 03 no later than no later than 12 PM on Friday 16th June, 2017.
- D. Headmaster's Dinner - Members wishing to attend the Headmaster's Dinner following the AGM must confirm their attendance at the School Office (0112-328976) no later than 1:30 PM of Friday 30th June, 2017. Customarily, for catering purposes, only those with confirmed attendance will be invited to dinner.

Kishan de Silva
SECRETARY

"...The Lord is my Shepherd..."

(Notice convening the meeting was posted on the Facebook page of the OBU on 14th June, 2017; the web-site of the OBU <www.prepobu.lk> on 17th June, 2017; and published in the **Daily Mirror** of 15th June, 2017 and 17th June, 2017.)

MINUTES OF THE 35TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE S. THOMAS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL OLD BOYS' UNION (OBU)

Date: Friday the 29th of July, 2016 at 6.30 PM

Venue: School Hall, S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Kollupitiya

Presided by: Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo, Headmaster/*Ex-officio* President

Attendance: Milinda de Silva, V.C. Perera, Janapriya Fernando, Prasad Hettiarachchi, Jason Samuel, M.M.I. Hassan, Milinda Delwita, Milanka Fernando, Dr. Dilan Ilapperuma, Sidath Colonne, Romesh Tissainayagam, Sanjay Karunaratne, Arjuna Arulanathan, U.I. Gunasekara, P. Gunaratna, J.S. Rajaratnam, A.I. Fernando, N.M. Ediriweera, Karthik Ramachandran, Channa de Silva, Chameera Suraweera, Azam Hussain Sallie, Rehan Caffoor, Asitha Weeraratne, Murugiah Kishokumar, Yshan M. E. Fernando, H.L.D.M. Wijewardene, Shamin Jayawickreme, M.S. Nishtar, R. Seneviratne, M. Ranasinghe, M. Lasanthan, G. Munasinghe, Thilana Wijesinghe, W.I. Backus, Roshan P. Abeysekera, Chrisnath Mendis, Kanishka Hurulle, R. Casie Chetty, Dr. N.F. Wickremesinghe, Kalum Peramune, Arun Pillai, Sameera Kakulandara, Deepal Perera, N.N. Wimalasundera, Dhenujaya C. Samarasinghe, Chinthaka Wijewickrama, Dimesh Jeyaraj, Ranjit Serasinghe, Kesara Serasinghe, Gihan Kulatunga, R.C. Gulasekharan, Naresh Ediriwira, C.K. Hettiarachchi, Hiran D. Molligoda, L.S.F. Sampathawaduge, K.H.U. Kumarasinghe, Sujiva Fernando, G. S. K. Nugara, T. Rajindh Perera, N.N. Wickremasinghe, H.S. Perera, Safraz Abdeen, Hiran Wickramanayake, Suranith Atapattu, Hafiz Zainudeen, Rizan Abdeen, Charles J.A. Sundarasingh, Thilina Wijesinghe, Prasanjith Wijayanilake, Balendran Dinesh, Damith Fernando, J.W. de Silva, Harold Tyrone Mathews, Haroun Cader, Chula M. Fernando, Kishan de Silva, Fayyaz Mukhtar, Dilshan Dissanayake, Suren Wickramatilleke, Fahdi Mohamed, Maalik Ibrahim, Sithambaram Sri Ganendran, Manjula Vitharana, Milinda Ekanayake, Aqeel Deen, G.D.S. de Silva, K.H.T.I. Sumanasekera, S.I. Cassim, and Ranjith Fernando.

1. The Headmaster, Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo, led the House in Prayer prior to the commencement of the Meeting. Thereafter, the 35th Annual General Meeting of the S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union (OBU) was called to order by the Headmaster, who presided over the Meeting. The Notice convening the 35th Annual General Meeting of the OBU had been published in the *Daily Mirror* and the web-site of the OBU <www.prepobulk> and was taken as read.
2. No Excuses were received.
3. Two Minutes Silence was observed in remembrance of Old Boys who have passed away since the last Annual General Meeting held on 5th June, 2015.
4. The Headmaster, Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo, the Ex-Officio President of the OBU addressed the Meeting. Given below are extracts of his address:-

It is my second AGM and my encounter with you has been a rewarding one. The field of education has seen many changes and many more are in the offing. But we are here with memories of the past and want to live through some of those very events that thrilled us that brought embarrassment or shock to a teacher or a fellow Prepите.

In your hands this evening is a report of the work done by the OBU and you will be able to read at leisure the work that has been done.

I am also in debt to the many class groups or batches that have been walking along with the School taking on many projects and seeing it completed and sometimes getting involved in setting it up themselves. The Batch of 98 came forward to install purified drinking water for the boys and their second project is already in progress. The Class of 79 contributed over a Million Rupees towards the Basketball Court is and getting ready to donate an interactive Smart Projector to the School. The class of 2001 has embarked on gifting a Computer lab to the School. The Staff Resource Center is another gift to the School that was sponsored by Mr. Krishan Fernando and his batch mates. The ceiling fans to all class rooms were given by a batch who took the initiative and got others to contribute as well.

Prep School is getting smaller. The Marine Drive will be through the School and many of you might arrive for the next AGM from the Marine Drive.

Swimming Pool: A long-felt need is a Swimming pool which is now being designed for the School. I thank Mr. Nihal Ferdinando who has volunteered to do the design and advise us on the structure.

Grounds: The School is still in the negotiating process with the Zonal Department of Education to obtain a ground for the School. A ground has been identified, but it has run into certain problems which have to be sorted out.

Table Tennis: We have once again revived Table Tennis and the OBU gifted the School with a table-tennis table.

Rugger: Gehan Dias and a few Prepites have been actively involved in the last few weeks in helping out with the coaching.

Melbourne Prep. OBU: Mr. V. Nesiiah has sent funds for the Scholarships.

"Fortrose" Building & Prep. Walk & Fun Fair 2017: Our oldest building needs attention and care and the engineer has submitted a report to the effect that the perimeter walls are in bad state of repair and we envisage the repair to cost over 100 Million Rupees. The Parent Teacher Association of the School and the OBU have come together to raise funds for the above building through a Walk and Fun Fair.

In Conclusion, I invite you to journey with the School in meeting the various needs and enabling us to be with an educational institution of a very high caliber.

5. The Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting held on 5th June, 2015 were circulated and proposed and seconded respectively by **Mr. Siri Perera** and **Mr. Glen Nugawela** and duly adopted.
6. Arising from the Minutes Mr. Janaprieth Fernando queried about what action had been taken with regard to the OBU Trust Fund. Mr. Rajindh Perera, a Sub-Committee Member appointed by the Executive Committee to look into the OBU Trust Fund stated as follows in response: "The work of the Sub-Committee appointed to clarify matters on the OBU Trust was initially slow as information and documentation relating to the Trust Fund

was not readily available. However, we have managed to find the necessary documentation, some of it very recently, and I am happy to inform the House that the Trust Fund monies have been traced and are placed in the following accounts/investments: a.) Current Account at Commercial Bank for Rs. 3,210,943.41/=; and b.) Investment at First Capital Treasuries PLC for Rs. 3,021,406.33. The Trustees of the OBU Trust Fund according to the Trust Deed are the Headmaster, the Secretary and Treasurer of the OBU, and 2 persons nominated by the Headmaster. Currently, there were two vacancies as the two nominees of the Headmaster had resigned. As the Trust Deed provides for three Trustees to act it will be up to the new Trustees after this AGM to consider its future investment plans for the OBU Trust Fund. The School had also located the past audited accounts of the OBU Trust Fund and the Sub-Committee was of the view that a full audit of the Trust Fund should be carried out.

7. The Acting Secretary, Mr. Kishan de Silva, stated that the Annual Report of the activities of the OBU for the period: 2015/2016 had been circulated. The Annual Report was duly adopted by the House, pursuant to being proposed and seconded by **Mr. Siri Perera** and **Mr. Glen Nugawela** respectively.
8. The Treasurer, Mr. Haroun Cader, stated that the audited Statement of Accounts for the financial period 1st July 2015 to 31st March 2016 had been circulated. The audited Statement of Accounts for the financial period 1st July 2015 to 31st March 2016 was adopted proposed by **Mr. Imran Hassan** and seconded by **Mr. Sujeeva Fernando** and duly adopted.
9. The Resolution to amend the Rules of the S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys Union was circulated and was duly passed unanimously.
10. Election of Office Bearers of the Old Boys' Union for the New Year: 2016/2017 was read out by the Headmaster as follows:-

Hon. Secretary Mr. Kishan de Silva (Uncontested);
Hon. Asst. Secretary Mr. Hiran D. Molligoda (Uncontested);
Hon. Treasurer Mr. Haroun Cader (Uncontested);
Hon. Asst. Treasurer Mr. Sithambaram Sri Ganendran (Uncontested)

Members of the Executive Members representing the Age Groups: Hubert Siri Perera, Chandan Lal De Silva, Arjuna Obeysekera, Janapriya Fernando, Arjuna Arulananthan, Fazyaz Mulkhar, Romesh Tissaniyagani, Imran Hussan, Ranjith Seneviratne, Shamin Jayawickrema, Jonathan Rajaratnam, Uditha Kumarasinghe, Rajindh Perera, Dilshan Dissanayake, Santhosh Jayasinghe, Danurjaya Samaratunga (Uncontested)

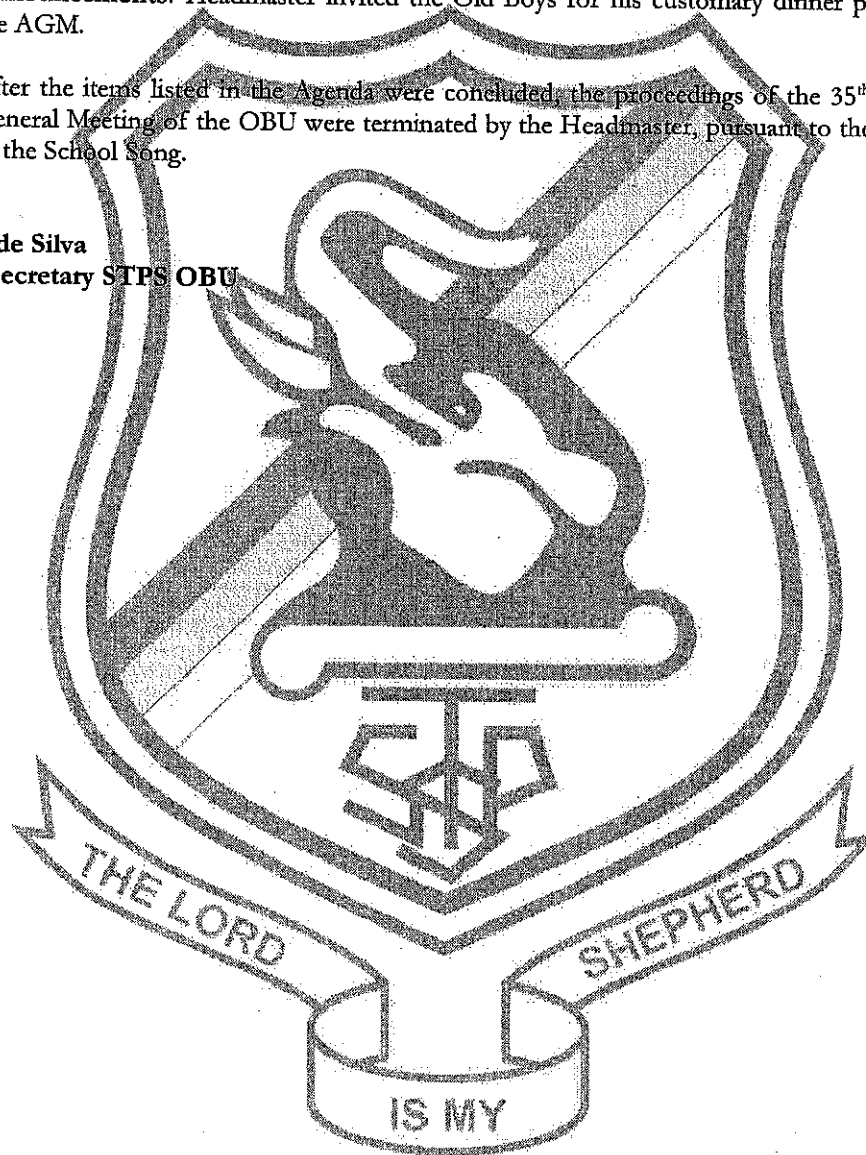
Further, since the Headmaster had received five nominations for the three positions of Vice Presidents of the OBU an Election was called and conducted by the Auditor's of the OBU, SJMS Associates. The results of the Election for the three (3) Post of Vice Presidents were declared by the Headmaster after the result was certified by the SJMS Associates and were as follows: 1. Mr. Kesara Serasinghe - 64 Votes, 2. Mr. Naresh Ediriwira - 59 Votes, 3. Mr. Nilantha Fernando - 58 Votes, 4. Dr. Dilan Illapperuma - 21 Votes and 5. Mr. Chrismal Warnasuriya - 14 Votes. Accordingly, Mr. Kesara Serasinghe, Mr. Naresh Ediriwira and Mr. Nilantha Fernando were declared duly elected as the Vice Presidents of the OBU for the Year: 2016/2017.

11. No notice of any other business had been given.

Two Old Boys, Mr. R.C. Gulasekharam and Mr. G.S.K. Nugara, informed the House that they would like the OBU to post the AGM Notice in the future, as they did not have e-mail nor read the Newspaper.

12. **Announcements:** Headmaster invited the Old Boys for his customary dinner preceding the AGM.
13. After the items listed in the Agenda were concluded, the proceedings of the 35th Annual General Meeting of the OBU were terminated by the Headmaster, pursuant to the singing of the School Song.

Kishan de Silva
Hony. Secretary STPS OBU



REPORT BY THE HONY. SECRETARY

It is my pleasure, as Secretary, to submit the Annual Report on behalf of the Executive Committee for the year 2016/2017.

It is with great satisfaction that I state, without any hesitation, that the S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union (OBU) has come a long way since the last Annual General Meeting (AGM) and that I am proud of the significant contribution the OBU has made towards the development of our beloved school.

The School's flagship project, **The Prep Walk & Fun Fair**, was a mammoth project that involved organizing the first ever Walk by the School and a Fun Fair at the School premises after the lapse of many years, all with a view to raising funds to preserve the humble beginnings of the School - the *Fortrose* building, where our Founder, W. T. Keble, gave life to his vision for modern education. I am grateful to the Headmaster for inviting the OBU to play a part in this project. While the Walk and Fun Fair raised the much-needed funds for the School and breathed a new sense of life to the School premises it also provided an opportunity for Old Boys to reconnect with the School and many of them have thereafter, continued to work, either individually or as batches, towards the development of the School. The aim of the Walk was to equip the School to face the future, but it also provided the Old Boys with an opportunity to walk down "Memory Lane". I take this opportunity to place on record my sincere appreciation of the role played by Mr. Hiran D. Molligoda, the Hony. Assistant Secretary of the OBU who was Chairman of the project. He was an able, meticulous and resourceful leader who showed us that with grit and determination nothing is impossible. I must also make special mention of Mr. Fayyaz Mukthar, a Member of Executive Committee, who worked tirelessly towards making this project the success that it was. The Prep Walk & Fun Fair was a remarkable success and I thank Hiran and the team!

Prep Night 2017 - the Dinner Dance of the OBU, the main fundraiser for the year, was also held very successfully, under the able leadership given by Mr. Imran Hassan, the Project Chairman. The Prep Night dinner dances have only got better each year and due to repeated requests for such social events we hope to ensure that it is held regularly. I thank Imran and his team of Old Boys for their untiring efforts, dedication and commitment towards the project which raised a record income.

The funds raised from the Prep Night 2017 will be utilized for the "*Baby Elephant Bath*" - the project to construct a swimming pool for the School, for which the Executive Committee has made an initial pledge of a sum of Rupees 5 million to the Headmaster. As you may already know a part of the School grounds will be lost due to the Marine Drive Extension depriving the students of the little space they had to enjoy outdoor activities. Thus, the School identified the construction of a pool as a vital necessity to ensure that the present generation of students are not deprived of the opportunity of enjoying outdoor activities and the Vice President of the OBU, Mr. Kesara Serasinghe, has been spearheading this project. I am pleased to inform you that on the 17th of May, 2017 the foundation stone for the pool was laid by the Bishop of Colombo, Rt. Revd. Dhiloraj Canagasabay, at a ceremony held in conjunction with the Founder's Day celebrations. I thank Kesara for his single-minded determination in ensuring that this dream becomes a reality.

The construction of the pool is only one of many infrastructure developments envisaged for the School. The Headmaster is at present working with architects, engineers and other experts to draw up a master plan for the school. Towards this end, with our active participation in

infrastructure development committee meetings at the invitation of the Headmaster, we are confident that the plans he has for this school will bear fruit, slowly but steadily.

The cost of constructing the pool in a manner in which the School can make maximum utility of the limited space it has, will cost a significant sum of money while the envisaged infrastructure development of the School will cost much more. I consider it imperative that the OBU works closely with the Headmaster in these efforts so that our efforts are focused and synergized and I look forward to the continued support of the Members of the OBU towards achieving these goals.

Due to the two large scale projects undertaken by the OBU some of the other projects we had planned for during the year could not be implemented. However, the OBU has continued to assist the School in many ways, whenever it has been called upon to do so.

I am happy to report that the sub-committees of the OBU which handle the administrative matters of the OBU have functioned smoothly. I am extremely pleased with the progress made by the Membership Development Sub-Committee which has cleared a backlog in processing applications for membership and updated the membership database. The Web & IT Sub-Committee has also worked tirelessly to disseminate information of our activities both on the web-site and on Facebook. In the past, we have faced many difficulties in disseminating information about the activities of the OBU and I am pleased that the work of these two committees have addressed this issue to a great extent. The newly formed Legal and Constitutional Affairs Sub-Committee is studying the Rules of the OBU and the Trust Deed of the OBU Trust Fund with a view to amending them. I am happy to report to you that all the monies of the OBU Trust Fund have now been invested in interest bearing accounts/investments.

I must first thank the Headmaster and our *ex-officio* President, Revd. Dushantha Rodrigo, not only for the manner in which he has engaged with the OBU but also for his futuristic vision for the School which has given the OBU a sense of direction and purpose. Much of what the OBU has achieved this past year is due to his enthusiasm and unstinted cooperation and support. He has also never failed to include the OBU in the activities of the School.

I also thank the Members of the Board of Governors with whom we interacted with when carrying out our large scale projects for the School for their continued support of the OBU.

Although we have not had a Staff Coordinator over the past year we have hardly felt it due to the unstinted support we have received for the academic and administrative staff of the School. In fact, the Prep Walk and Fun Fair would not have become a reality if not for the support from the staff. I would like to thank the clerical staff who assist us in conducting our meetings. In organizing the Prep Walk and Fun Fair we also, for the first time, worked with the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) of the School and I thank the office bearers of the PTA for their cooperation.

I would fail in my duty if I did not recognize the service rendered to the School by the many Batch/Class groups who have carried out many projects on their own. We look forward to such initiatives as well as closer interactions with such groups in order to harmonize our efforts.

The success of the projects of the OBU rely ultimately on its Members and I thank every Member who has attended our events or made a contribution to either the School or the OBU. In particular I thank the Members who are present at the AGM.

It goes without saying that none of this would have been possible if not for the generous sponsors who have readily come forward to support our projects and that we appreciate patronage.

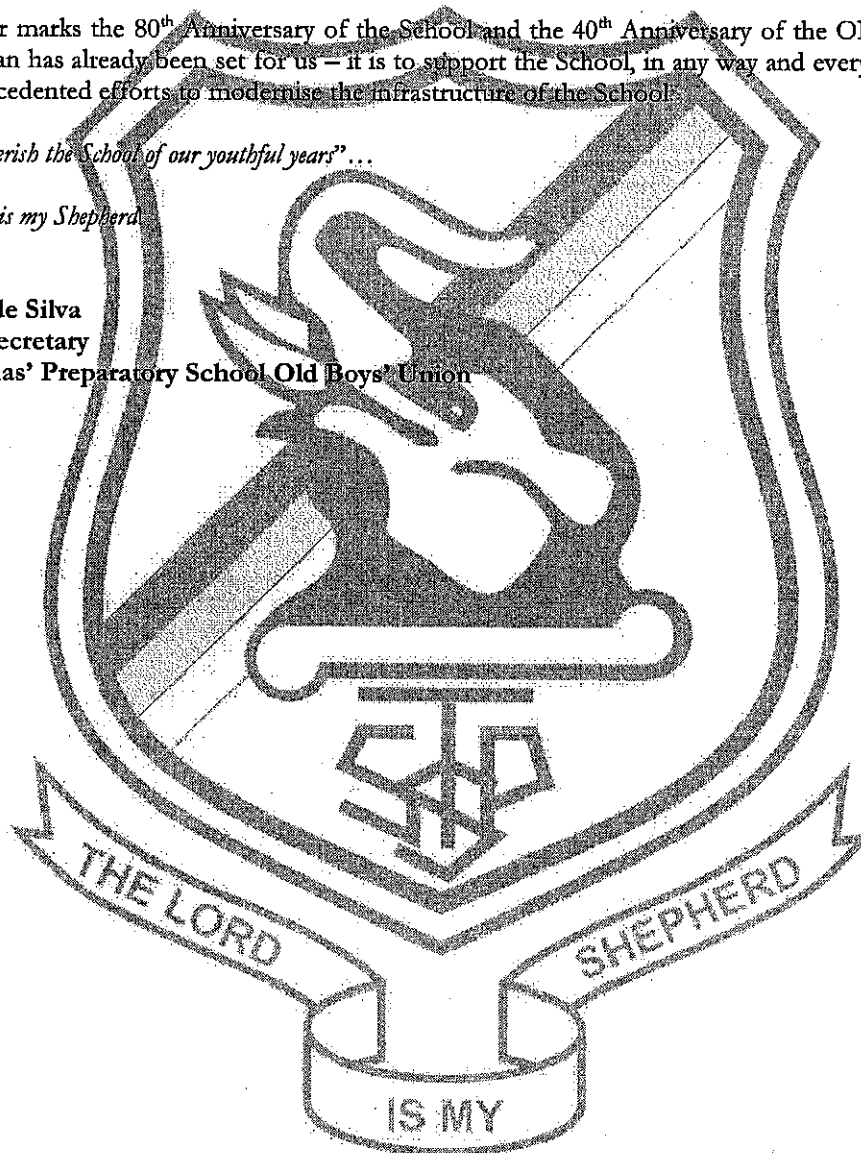
Last but not least I thank all the Members of the Executive Committee who have worked as an efficient team in carrying out the heavy workload which we carried out this past year.

Next year marks the 80th Anniversary of the School and the 40th Anniversary of the OBU. Our action plan has already been set for us – it is to support the School, in any way and every way, in its unprecedented efforts to modernise the infrastructure of the School.

Lets "*Cherish the School of our youthful years*"...

The Lord is my Shepherd

Kishan de Silva
Hony. Secretary
S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2016/2017

During the period under review 8 meetings of the Executive Committee were held. The attendance by the members of the Executive Committee is as follows:

NAME	DESIGNATION	PRESENT	EXCUSED	ABSENT	%
Kesara Serasinghe	Hony. Vice President	7	0	1	87.5%
Naresh Ediriwira	Hony. Vice President	4	4	0	50%
Nilantha Fernando	Hony. Vice President	2	6	0	25%
Kishan De Silva	Hony. Secretary	8	0	0	100%
Hiran Molligoda	Hony. Asst. Secretary	5	3	0	62.5%
Haroun Cader	Hony. Treasurer	8	0	0	100%
S. Sri Ganendran	Hony. Asst. Treasurer	7	1	0	87.5%
Hubert Siri Perera	Committee Member	6	1	1	75%
Chandan Lal De Silva	Committee Member	4	2	2	50%
Arjuna Obeysekera ¹	Committee Member				
Janaprieth Fernando	Committee Member	2	2	4	25%
Arjuna Arulanathan	Committee Member	6	2	0	75%
Fayyaz Mukthar	Committee Member	8	0	0	100%
Romesh Tissanayagam	Committee Member	4	0	4	50%
Imran Hassan	Committee Member	6	2	0	75%
Ranjit Seneviratne	Committee Member	4	0	4	50%
Shamin Jayawickrama	Committee Member	3	1	4	37.5%
Jonathan Rajaratnam	Committee Member	4	1	3	50%
Uditha Kumarasinghe	Committee Member	3	1	4	37.5%
Rajindh Perera	Committee Member	6	1	1	75%
Dilshan Dissanayake	Committee Member	4	3	1	50%
Santhosh Jayasinghe	Committee Member	7	0	1	87.5%
Danurjaya Samarasinghe	Committee Member	3	4	1	37.5%



¹ Submitted resignation from the Executive Committee

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

Co-Chairpersons: Fayyaz Mukthar & Santhosh Jayasinghe

The membership of any association is the very core of its existence and for an association such as the OBU it is imperative that up to date records of the membership are maintained in order to draw on the resources and good will of the membership and to maximize the potential and impact of the projects of the OBU. Towards achieving this end the Executive Committee of 2016/2017 re-appointed the sub-committee to address the issue of Membership Development.

The membership database handed down to the present Executive Committee was incomplete in many ways with the details of Members being either incomplete or inaccurate. There were also a vast number of pending applications which needed to be processed from a considerable period of time.

Therefore, the sub-committee undertook the process of data cleansing (double checking names, membership numbers, addresses, email addresses, telephone no's etc.), updating the information of existing members, clearing the backlog of pending applications in an organised manner and expeditiously processing current applications for membership in order to improve and update the accuracy of the membership database. The sub-committee also recommended to the Executive Committee that the plastic membership card be made mandatory for all members, in place of the existing card.

The sub-committee has managed to implement the above strategies successfully with a significant quantity of temporary membership cards to new Members and new plastic membership cards to existing Members being issued thus far, clearing the backlog to a great extent. Furthermore, the membership database is continuously updated with information from members. However, there still remains a fairly large number of incomplete records.

A software program developed for the database has greatly assisted the work of the sub-committee. The Executive Committee has also authorized the sub-committee to enlist additional manpower and employ ICT based solutions, in particular social media, to further develop the membership database and the application process. The sub-committee is confident that the work of the sub-committee could be streamlined and strengthened with these strategies in place.

The sub-committee realizes that delays may have been experienced by some in processing their membership application forms and thank them for their patience in this regard, as it is a manual, time consuming process done on an honorary basis.

The sub-committee places on record its thanks to the vital assistance from the School administration and staff, without whose enthusiasm and unstinted cooperation and support these vast strides could not have been made in such a short time.

The Membership of the OBU currently stands at 2153 and 36 new Members were enrolled in the past year (*the names of new members have been included in the Annexure to the Report*).

WEB & IT SUB-COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Naresh Ediriwira

The following events were conducted by the Web & IT sub-committee during the year:

- i. Worked with Headmaster and School staff to finalise the content for the new website for the School. Awaiting finalisation from the School to go live;
- ii. Created a web application for the OBU database for the Membership Development sub-committee to use. This is in data cleansing stage now;
- iii. Did updates for the web-site of the OBU <prepubulk> and the newly launched official OBU Facebook group.

The future plans of the sub-committee include modifications to the web-site of the OBU which will include:

- i. Management of the OBU website through a Content Management System (CMS), so that each sub-committee can take the responsibility of updating the news on their own work; and
- ii. Integrating a form for members to be able to update their details online to facilitate the work of the Membership Development sub-committee to keep the database up to date.

LEGAL & CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS SUB-COMMITTEE

Committee Members: S. Sri Ganendran, Rajindh Perera

At the first meeting of the Executive Committee it was decided to create a new sub-committee called the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Sub-Committee to continue the work of the sub-committee that was looking into matters relating to the "S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union Trust Fund" (OBU Trust Fund) and also to study and propose amendments to the Constitution of the OBU.

a. S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union Trust Fund

The sub-committee has made the following recommendations with regard to the OBU Trust Fund:

- i.) that the Headmaster nominate two Trustees to fill the vacancies created by the resignations of Mr. Kavinda Dias Abeysinghe and Mr. Manindra Wickremesinghe;
- ii.) that in any event, in terms of the Deed of the OBU Trust Fund the Headmaster, the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer had the power to act;

- iii.) that the Trust Fund monies should be maintained separately from the general funds of the OBU and should be placed in suitable interest bearing accounts or investments;
- iv.) that the audit reports of the OBU Trust Fund be tabled before the Executive Committee.

Subsequent to these recommendation being made the Trustees took steps to invest the money that was in a Current Account at Commercial Bank in a Fixed Deposit at National Development Bank (NDB).

At present the OBU Trust Fund monies are held in a sum of approximately Rupees 3 million in Fixed Deposits with Nations Trust Bank PLC and a sum of approximately Rupees 3.5 million in investments at First Capital Treasuries PLC.

b. Constitution of St. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union

As several amendments had been effected to the Constitution of the Old Boys' Union at the past few Annual General Meetings it was decided to empower the sub-committee to look into any further amendments that were required. Although a discussion paper was circulated to the Executive Committee and a decision was taken to convene a special meeting to discuss the same such a meeting could not be called due to the constraints of time in view of the activities undertaken by the Executive Committee in the past year.

However, the sub-committee has proposed one amendment to the Constitution which has been placed for adoption at the Annual General Meeting.

SPORTS AND EXTRA CURRICULAR EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Co-Chairpersons: Ranjith Seneviratne & Jonathan Rajaratnam

The Headmaster has been keen to develop sports and extra-curricular activities at the School, even with the limited infrastructure facilities that exist at the school premises and the sports and extra-curricular activities sub-committee has assisted his efforts wherever possible.

The School still lack the space and infrastructure to conduct conventional sports such as cricket, rugby, and football *etc.* and much of the resources of the School are spent on hiring venues. The Headmaster has been exploring the possibility of getting a ground for the conventional sports and is in the process of discussions with the Ministry of Education.

At present our focus and attention should be on the support staff and coaches as that School has many young talented students who need the help of professional coaches.

Keeping with the vision of the Headmaster the members of the sub-committee are looking at various sports activities which could be accommodated at the school premises like volleyball, rifle shooting, basketball, badminton and squash.

With the appointment of the Sports Coordinator and Prefect of Games, Mr. Jayamana Perera, we are planning to have a fully equipped sports room for all sports.

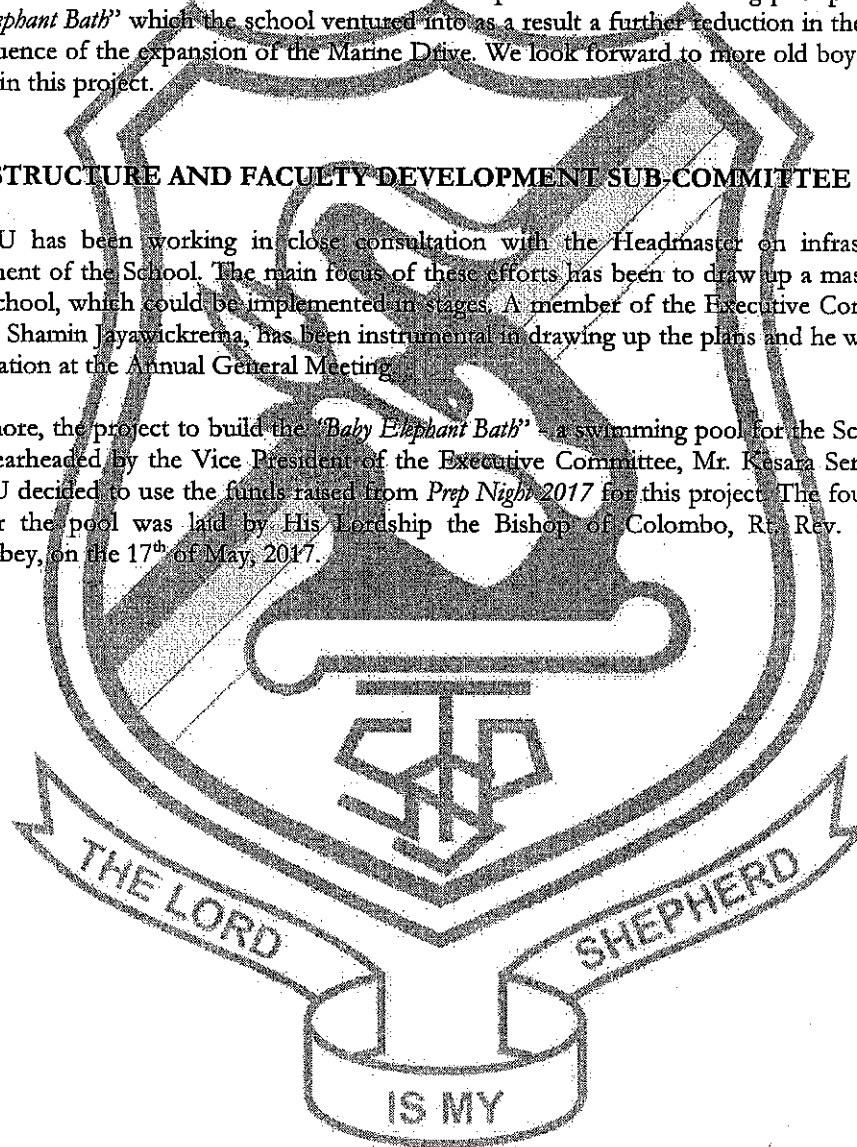
We look forward to raising funds to develop the sport and extracurricular activities at School with the support of the old boys and well-wishers. Although an appeal was made earlier for funds to develop sports at the School the response so far has been very poor.

We appreciate all who contributed towards the development of the swimming pool project the "Baby Elephant Bath" which the school ventured into as a result a further reduction in the land as a consequence of the expansion of the Marine Drive. We look forward to more old boys getting involved in this project.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

The OBU has been working in close consultation with the Headmaster on infrastructure development of the School. The main focus of these efforts has been to draw up a master plan for the school, which could be implemented in stages. A member of the Executive Committee, Architect Shamin Jayawickrema, has been instrumental in drawing up the plans and he will make a presentation at the Annual General Meeting.

Furthermore, the project to build the "Baby Elephant Bath" - a swimming pool for the School are being spearheaded by the Vice President of the Executive Committee, Mr. Kesara Serasinghe. The OBU decided to use the funds raised from *Prep Night 2017* for this project. The foundation stone for the pool was laid by His Lordship the Bishop of Colombo, Rt. Rev. Dhiloraj Canagasabay, on the 17th of May, 2017.



REPORTS ON SPECIAL EVENTS

PREP WALK 2017

Chairperson: Hiran Molligoda

The **Prep Walk & Fun Fair 2017** was a project aimed at raising much needed funds for the "Fortrose", the building that housed the original classrooms and subsequently the hostel of the School. This building constructed by the British with inspiration from Jacobean architecture which has stood for generations as a key landmark now requires extensive renovation. At present it houses the dining hall, the library, the board room, the ICT classroom and five other class rooms. Being the first building to house the School its restoration is an immediate priority in order to uphold the legacy of the founder of the School and to project the future vision of the School. The proposed restoration of the "Fortrose" is for the benefit of all Prepites.

The **Prep Walk & Fun Fair 2017** was jointly organized by the School, the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) and the OBU. It was successfully held on the 28th of January, 2017. Around 3000 participants walked the talk and rallied around the light blue, dark blue & gleaming white banner, while over 5000 people visited the Fun Fair which was held at the School premises.

The Walk commenced from the Hotel Taj Samudra car park sharp at 3.00 PM and proceeded along Galle Road to Kollupitiya Junction and on to Dharmapala Mawatha up to Pittala Junction while turning left to James Piers Mawatha passing Bishop's College and turning left into Perahera Mawatha to Rotunda Gardens and back to Prep School. Thereafter, the Fun Fair commenced and went on till midnight with fun rides for the boys', entertainment, food & trade stalls and many other unique attractions to keep the whole family entertained. The fireworks display was enjoyed by all. It was heartening to see the Bishop of Colombo and the Members of the Board of Governors participating in the Walk and enjoying the Fun Fair.

This was the first time in the history of the School that a Walk had been organized and brought back many Old Boys who wishes to contribute to this worthy cause.

The Committee worked tirelessly and diligently, fully focused on the vision of the founder and on what we wanted the end result to reflect. The pit falls were many. The workload was unbelievable. But the determination to achieve the desired result was the catalyst to propel the team forward in order that we could achieve our desired objective. The challenge of organizing was thus met and Prepites of all ages did the rest.

Restoration work on the "Fortrose" is due to commence soon.

This mega fund raiser brought in a sum of Rupees Fifteen Million and as the Chairman of the Project I thank the Organizing Committee, the PTA, the staff – both academic & administrative, the Old Boys and the volunteers, while not forgetting the valued Sponsors who readily said YES! Without their unstinted support and enthusiasm in whole heartedly committing to the cause culminated in the first ever **PREP WALK AND FUN FAIR** being a roaring success and an unforgettable event for all Prepites both past & present.

Further information on this landmark event, could be obtained by accessing the Official Project Facebook Event Page: www.facebook.com/prepwalk&funfair2017.

PREP NITE 2017

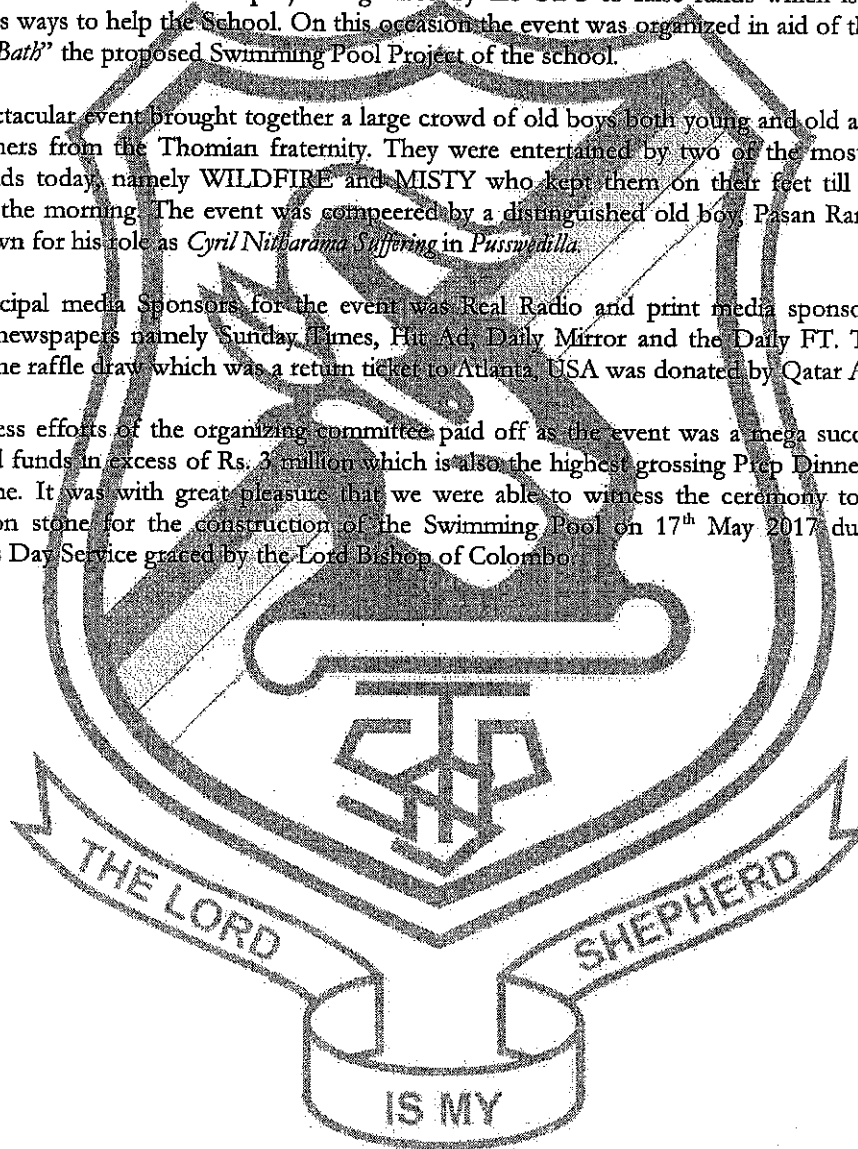
Chairperson: Imran Hassan

The most anticipated event in the Prep OBU Calendar, "**Prep Night 2017**" was held on the 25th of February 2017 at the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Colombo in grand style. The Old Boys' Dinner Dance is the foremost project organized by the OBU to raise funds which is used in numerous ways to help the School. On this occasion the event was organized in aid of the "*Baby Elephant Bath*" the proposed Swimming Pool Project of the school.

This spectacular event brought together a large crowd of old boys both young and old as well as many others from the Thomian fraternity. They were entertained by two of the most sought after bands today, namely WILDFIRE and MISTY who kept them on their feet till the wee hours in the morning. The event was compered by a distinguished old boy, Pasan Ranaweera, well known for his role as *Cyril Nitharana Suffering in Pussuadilla*.

The principal media Sponsors for the event was Real Radio and print media sponsors were premier newspapers namely Sunday Times, Hit Ad, Daily Mirror and the Daily FT. The first prize at the raffle draw which was a return ticket to Atlanta, USA was donated by Qatar Airways.

The tireless efforts of the organizing committee paid off as the event was a mega success that generated funds in excess of Rs. 3 million which is also the highest grossing Prep Dinner Dance of all time. It was with great pleasure that we were able to witness the ceremony to lay the foundation stone for the construction of the Swimming Pool on 17th May 2017 during the Founders Day Service graced by the Lord Bishop of Colombo.



ANNEXURE #1: NEW MEMBERS

Peiris, T. R. C.
De Almeida, P. D. A. S. C.
Medis, W. W. S. A.
Mannanayake, S. P.
Nagendran, L.
Perera, D. H. D.
Gunasekara, S. L.
Walgampaya, P. N. B.
Jabir, M. T.
Korale, A. J. M.
Pandithage, P. A.
Balasuriya, P. A.
Devendra, V. M.
Sembupperuma, A. C. J.
Deen, M. A. A.
Fernando, B. R. L.
Fernando, G. P. A.
Fernando, A. K. M.
Fernando, A. J. S. M.
De Silva, K. K.
Fernando, D. M. A.
De Silva, L. G. V. R.
Gunawardena, D. H. J.
Gnanapragasam, M. J.
De Silva, S. N.
Muthiah, A.
Gamage, A. P. S. F. A.
Daniel, K. R.
Wijesundera, T. N.
Wickramasinghe, H. A.
Izni, M. I.
Jayasinghe, M. C.
Peiris, T. M. D.
Jayasooriya, S. M.
Thirupathy, P. M.
Abeyarathne, H. M.



AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF THE S. THOMAS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL OLD BOYS' UNION

RESOLUTION

In terms of Rule 10 the Rules of the S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union shall be amended as follows:-

- 1) The words "*at least 21 days before*" in Rule 4(c) shall be repealed and replaced by the words "*at least seven (7) working days before*".
- 2) Rule 5(h) shall be repealed and replaced by the following:

Any Member of the Executive Committee who fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee of which due notice has been given for any reason whatsoever may be removed as a member of the Executive Committee by a decision of the Executive Committee to that effect. Any Member of the Executive Committee who is removed from the Executive Committee under this provision shall not be eligible for election to the Executive Committee for a period of two (2) years from the date of such removal.

