

Sasse Alumni Association Inc

"An Alumna Association of the Ex-Students
of St. Joseph's College, Sasse-Cameroon"
A 501(c)3 Charitable Organization



SOBA AMERICA

2016 SOBA America Convention Minutes

Houston, TX – May 28th 2016

Deliberations began at 10 AM.

-Breakfast buffet was served from 9 am.

1-Introduction of moderator

- Moderator was Soban Edwin Ndoko

2-Prayer

- Prayer by Soban Ayuk Etta

3-Sasse Anthem

4-Roll call/registration/introduction

5-Opening remarks by the president of SOBA Houston- President Kenneth Njie: president Njie welcomed delegates and assured the GA SOBA Houston will do everything to make sure the convention will be a success.

6-Adoption of last convention minutes by Sobans- Minutes were read by S.G Mbei and a motion for adoption passed.

7-Review of agenda by Secretary General Mbei Enoh (See handout for agenda).

8-Life insurance Presentation- Emeritus Quintus (see handout for details and forms)

Questions for the General Assembly (GA) on why the life insurance program has low participation.

- Should we mandate life insurance vs a \$7,000 member benefit? Yes-25, No-17, Abstain-8
- Should SOBA pay for or subsidize the premiums? Yes-33, No-17, Abstain-3
- Resolution: SOBA America will study this insurance issue further and have a binding vote on how to move forward next convention given these test votes. More time was requested to look into this issue.

9-SAGI- Chief J. N. Fomenky

- New - A Statement of accounts for SAGI to track expenses
- Delegates were advised on the rules and conditions for joining SAGI (See handout).
- Question: Are you currently registered with SAGI? Yes-10, No-34
- If you're not registered, are you/family member interested in joining SAGI? Yes-won the vote (See voting PDF in membership portal for all votes)
- The NLT said they would keep putting out the information on the forum encouraging members to join. All questions can be referred to Dr. Kevin Nana who is our lead coordinator.

10-Chapter report highlights (No presentations)

This was done differently this year as they were submitted in advance in a handout. Chapter presidents had the opportunity to answer questions from the GA (see handout pdf for detailed reports).

- Toronto - President Sache Armstrong and Soban SAGI. The GA decided that president Sache should study more on his proposal and come up with numbers which can be reviewed and voted up or down at the next convention. The GA is expecting a more detailed proposal next year.
- Carolinas – Dr. Bertrand Fote. Hosting Proposal- Dr Fote gave an oral presentation on a new hosting plan which will start in 2020(Proposal is below). He reminded the GA that the Carolinas would be hosting the mini convention in November 2016.
- Dallas – President Augustine Fombon - Toilets in Sasse funding project changed to borehole project. The project is expected to be completed before our convention next year. SOBA Dallas is working with S.J.C Sasse to fully fund this project. President Fombon challenged other chapter presidents to see who will register the highest number of Sobans(penetration rate/number of members).
- DC Metro – President Ekole Fonjongo (Boss) - Accepted Dr. Fombon's challenge to increase SOBA National membership. So SOBA DC and SOBA Dallas agreed to a competition to see the chapter with the highest number of SOBANS/penetration rate.

- SOBA GA: Talked about wills, and end of life issues. SOBA GA is working on these issues and will share with NEC and other chapters within the coming months. Also discussed next convention highlights to be held in downtown ATL. He promised traditional dances during the breaks and an awesome trip for spouses and kids.
- SOBA Montreal – V.P Albert Sekoh: It was great convention in Montreal, great representation in Houston, and looking forward to Atlanta. Also proposed to pay dues in CAD for SOBA Canada members. It was a close vote so we will revisit it in our NEC meeting. However, V.P Sekoh was encouraged to use PayPal for now or collect registration from members and work with the financial team on how to send the funds to the US.
- V.P Sekoh, Dr. Ibeagha and Chairman Ayah (delegation from Canada) were encouraged to research a similar membership discount program like our current one which can better assist SOBANS in Canada. The NEC is looking forward to hearing from them on this matter as well as on the creation of our charity in Canada.
- SOBA Boston – President Julius Enang reminded delegates that only his chapter has consistently paid all their membership dues as a group before the start of each convention. He mentioned the excellent Mini-Convention last year and thanked all the delegates who made it there. He said he looks forward in seeing us there in 2 years for the national convention.
- Western Region- President Alain mentioned he is trying to hold new elections for his chapter and see how the chapter can be broken into new chapters, which can better serve SOBA America. He excused his inability of holding meetings due to his regular travels around the world.
- Dr. Sessekou Agbor received a well-deserved standing ovation as the oldest Soban in the house.

LUNCH

Lunch was delicious African fare prepared by Soba Houston wives and Therese from the cooking show Cooking with Therese.

11-State of the Union Presentation- SOBA America President Frederick Mafany Itoe

President Itoe discussed the platform on which he ran on including:

- Legal issues & structure of Soba America: The organization has been divided into a social arm and charitable arm
- Account practices: Hired a firm in MI to be in compliance with our 501c3. Created new methods of payments & new invoicing
- Website: Brand new SOBA website with superb functionality which includes a discount program, a networking platform for members, a fundraising and donation platform, social media, a YouTube channel, etc.

- Rebranding soba America: grow membership (almost doubled membership since President Itoe took office, member outreach especially Class groups and younger Sobans, increased benefits such as the discount program, fundraising platform.
- Soba America day in Sasse (see handout, convention magazine and membership portal)
- Record keeping improvements

Conclusion: The state of the union is stronger than it's ever been (the president and NLT received a rousing standing ovation).

- During the Q and A session, Soban Calvin raised concerns about why younger Sobans are not part of the GA. Mr. Chibili Nkeze offered to pay for some hotel rooms (3) for the younger sobans during our convention in Atlanta.
- In response to Soban Calvin, Dr. Sessekou Agbor offered to pay for the flights (return flights) of 5 younger Sobans to attend our convention in Atlanta. The NLT will work with Soban Calvin on these proposals. Soban Calvin will also work with NEC on improving the participation of younger Sobans in SOBA America. The NLT will work with Sobans Bruno Ayang and Calvin on other proposal they might have. See convention magazine on initiatives taken by the NLT to improve participation of younger Sobans.
- Soban Supra(Star Model) offered to work with the NLT on using some of his connections to assist us in potentially creating an exchange program for students in Sasse and students in the US. Other proposals included medical visits to S.J.C by medical personnel from the US.

12-New structure/bylaws ratification- VP Dr. Bertrand Fote (see handout and membership portal for details/presentations).

- By-laws were passed out and the GA voted to ratify
- Bylaws vote: yes-15 no-5, abstain-3

13-Website/Abenity/portal presentation- VP Dr. Bertrand Fote (See handout and membership portal for more information).

- Scholarships awarded on SOBA American day with set criteria. Only 1 per student. Sasse Alumni Association will spend about six thousand dollars on these scholarships.

14-Financial Presentation- Financial Report - Chief J.N. Fomenky

- Trivia: Soba America fiscal 3rd qtr. is Dec 1-February 29
- #1 chapter in registration is D.C.

- Chairman Paul Ayah's expressed concerns about governance and recommended an assembling a fact-finding group
- Vote should we form fact finding committees? GA voted Yes overwhelmingly.
- 5 members elected: Chairman Paul Ayah, Emeritus A. Tiku, Elvis Mukete, Pierre Kamga, Sessekou Dr. Agbor
- Scope: Review 3 years And Review current practices and suggest recommendations. The president without objection gave the committee a 45-day period to complete this job. Based on these initial findings, further work could be approved by the president/leadership. If the committee does not find any major problems during this facts finding mission, the committee's job will be considered completed and improvement proposals received.

15-Endowment Presentation- Co-chair Bertrand Fote (see handout and membership portal). See donation levels/Clubs/scholarship naming rights.

16- Enrichment

- a. Captain Chafac Mofor from Atlanta talked about a new way in which Sobans can join the Army and get their citizenship in 3 months. He received a standing ovation as the GA joined in chants of USA, USA, USA!!!
- b. Book-Clinton Egbemba wrote a book about life in Sasse which was available at the door for purchase
- c. Brother's keeper - Sache Armstrong, Soba Montreal
 - Issues: Current fund drive not effective and takes too long and may be skewed towards popularity.
 - Recommendation: A system where every SOBAN contributes a small amount towards certain bereavements just like SAGI
 - The GA decided that president Sache should study more on his proposal and come up with numbers which can be reviewed and voted up or down at the next convention. The GA is expecting a more detailed proposal next year.
- d. Address from UK president. Pres. Akoh Arrey and 2 SOBA UK Members
 - SOBA UK Convention is October 1-2 and SOBA America is invited. He pledged to continue working with the leadership of SOBA America in advancing the goals of SOBA.
- e. New proposal for Convention hosting from Carolinas - Dr. Bertrand Fote
 - Select cities to host
 - No chapter can host more than once in a 3 year period
 - Chapters who have hosted mini-convention within 7 years can bid
 - To start after DC 2019. Current calendar till 2022

- Vote was close, but it passed (16 yes, 15 No, 14 revisit in Atlanta).

See attached document with voting results.

The PDF of all convention handouts and magazine will be in the membership portal for references.