

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

2017 SOBA America Convention Minutes

Atlanta, GA – May 27th, 2017

Theme: Ownership & Engagement

1- Mass: 7am: This was the first mass held at a SOBA America convention. It was presided by Fr. Tegha the Dean of student life at SJC Sasse. Tickets for free buffet tickets were shared to delegates after mass.

2-Registration of delegates, convention credentials and packages: 8am to 9:45am.

3-Breakfast/Snacks: 8am-9:45am

Deliberations began at 11:30 am

1-Introduction of moderator

Moderator was Soban Edwin "Mola" Ndoko who was re-elected by a majority vote

2-Prayer: Prayer

3-Sasse Anthem

4-Roll call/registration/introduction

Each member introduced himself. The class of 1984 was in full force (largest class group two years in a row). However, a special introduction was reserved for Soban Sessekou Dr. Augustine Agbor, Class of 1964 to thunderous applause and standing ovation. He was introduced last as the most senior soban in the hall.

5-Opening remarks by the president of SOBA GA

President Asan'a gave opening remarks welcoming the GA. President Asan'a mentioned that Atlanta is the birthplace of SOBA America and welcomed the GA back home. He also acknowledged SOBA GA members and their spouses in his opening remarks for all their sacrifices to make this convention happen. He also thanked all the patrons for their support for this convention.

6- Review of agenda by Secretary General

As a point of procedure, the agenda needed to be adopted prior to the meeting. As a result, there was a motion placed to adopt the meeting agenda. A motion was put in motion by Chairman Paul Ayah to modify item 18 to provide some time for a synopsis of the financial fact finding committee's report. The motion was adopted.

7- Reading last convention minutes and adoption

Meeting minutes were adopted with a slight correction that President Sache Armstrong is from Soba Ontario.

8-Life insurance- Emeritus Quintus

Emeritus Quintus spoke briefly about life insurance available for \$118.80 for individuals, and \$122.40 for a family with dependent children under 18 for a death benefit of \$25,000. Interested members can read our Procedure and Policies Manual for more information.

9-SAGI

Dr. Kevin Njabo or member of NLT- provided documentation on SAGI and an explanation of the benefits and the adoption of an escrow account to pay for SAGI dues. Interested members can read our Procedure and Policies Manual for more information.

10-Chapter Reports Questions and Answers (No presentations)

There were no chapter report presentations at the convention this year due to time constraints. All reports will be posted online. SOBA DMV President "Boss" Fonjungo led a moment of silence for the Sobans we lost since the last convention. He also announced a new Soban Father's Day Gala initiative. He also announced the Mini-Convention taking place in November 11th, 2017 in DC. Soban Albert Sekoh Mini-Convention was announced for Montreal 2018. Finally, President of Soba Carolinas, Dr. Bertrand Fote thanked everyone for making the Mini-Convention in Carolinas a success.

11-Enrichment (College planning)- Dr. Bertrand Fote

Presentation was on how to best prepare for college and to navigate the financial aid process. President Sache mentioned an app called Scholly which helps children find money for college.

12-State of SOBA America Presentation – President Frederick Itoe

President Itoe started by extending thanks to all the Sobans and Sobanese who helped make the Convention a reality. He mentioned that Professor Ngwafor and Father Suum, who were invited to our Convention couldn't make it at the last minute, as they were called back to Cameroon to fulfill urgent duties.

SOBA America received best wishes from the Mayor Kasim Reed of Atlanta.

Highlights

- Re-branding SOBA America(see presentation slides in membership portal)
- Record Membership drive: 300 plus members of SOBA America
- Birth of SOBA Carolinas
- Working on creating SOBA Oklahoma, SOBA Arizona and SOBA California
- Czars appointment
- Endowment fund is in progress
- Updated version 2.0 of our new Policies and Procedures Manual
- Editorial board for our website and magazines
- New SOBA America Annual Magazine
- New membership features: Abenity program, Voting devices, Membership cards, state-of-the-art website
- Raised concerns over the non-payment of bereavement benefits for late Dr. Roland Iboni and Kenneth Ndelle by some members. He implored member to rethink their decisions and pay as soon as possible in respect of our strangest tradition, being our brother's keeper.
- President Itoe also mentioned that SJC Sasse's band needs some serious upgrades.
- Proposed the creation of an application to connect SOBANS worldwide which will enhance networking and reconnect long lost friends.

Recognitions

- President Itoe recognized the following for their outstanding contributions to Sasse: Emeritus Nobert Kong and Dr. Ekolle and his wife for their contributions to Sasse football tournament.
- The 1992 class who donated desks to Sasse.
- The 1980 class donated food and supplies to the staff of SJC Sasse.
- Dallas chapter completed a bore hole project which cost over \$14,000

In conclusion, President Itoe stated that the state of the union is as strong as it has ever been, and that SOBA America is the number 1 alumni association not just in the US, but also in the world! He received a thunderous standing ovation and congratulatory messages from the General Assembly.

13-SOBA America Day in Sasse – VP Bertrand Fote

Sobans were shown a CRTV video of SOBA America Day in Sasse.

- SOBA America gave 50 scholarships to various Sasse students
- SOBA America members gave career advice to students
- Met with staff to discuss their needs

SOBA America Day was well received with several news media associations and Sasse alumni in attendance. In conclusion, it was very successful endeavor!

It was at this moment that we were introduced to **Sr. Aloysius Abi** Class of 1961 and the most senior Ex-Student at the convention.

Lunch Break at 2PM

14-Options for Homes in Cameroon

Mr. Sache and Team introduced a company which would enable Cameroonians to build modern homes in Cameroon, specifically Limbe and Buea.

15-Elections

The following were re-elected as officers of SOBA America:

- President – Frederick Itoe
- Vice President – Dr. Bertrand Fote
- Secretary General – Mbei Enoh
- Treasurer – Chief J.N. Fomenky II
- Financial Secretary – Professor Felix Ngassa

The following officers were newly elected to the NLT:

- Organizing Secretary – Divine Tange
- Publicity Secretary – Czar Njukang Asong (nominated by Professor Felix Ngassa)
- They both took turns in thanking the General Assembly and assuring them of their full commitments to SOBA America.
- President Itoe thanked the General Assembly for the trust they had bestowed on his team and promised to work even harder.

16-Convention venue for 2020 and 2021(Dallas Vs Carolinas)

SOBA Carolinas led by Soban Nicholas Ngwa (Class of 1982) presented a strong case to host either the 2020 or 2021 convention. The main competitor was Soban Edwin Ndoko, who presented the case for SOBA Dallas, and the GA was called to vote. SOBA Carolinas won and when given the choice to host either the 2020 or the 2021 Convention, and they chose 2021. Therefore, SOBA Dallas will be the host for the SOBA America 2020 Convention, and SOBA Carolinas will host SOBA America Convention in 2021.

17-Financial Presentation- Treasurer/Financial Secretary

Treasurer Chief J.N. Fomenky II presented the finances very briefly. They were presented as two separate organizations; as Sasse Alumni Association and SOBA America. Most of the pertinent details will be posted on the portal.

18-Summary of Financial Fact-Finding Committee's report. Proposed changes to SOBA America's financial management based on Financial Fact-Finding committee's report

Chairman Paul Ayah presented the Financial Fact-Finding Committee's report. He mentioned the challenges with getting reports to the committee and mentioned the scope between the 2013-2016 convention. Below is a summary of Convention reports:

- Minnesota Convention – Accounts balanced but it took 5 months to get the finds to national
- Montreal Convention – Accounts balanced, but \$4,000 still unaccounted for.
- Houston Convention – Accounts balanced, but reporting format was different from other conventions. There were also some uncollected receivables at the time of reporting
- Recommended that SOBA America should not use debit cards for transactions. That only checks should be used for easy accountability.
- Recommended that there should be an annual budget present each year for approval.
- Proposed the use of membership management software.
- Proposed a separate account for SAGI
- All expenditures should be included in minutes and resolutions of the meetings.
- Recommended that cash withdrawals should be avoided for accountability purposes. He traced several transactions pre 2015, which he found troubling.
- President's Club – Could not get detailed records from the day the club was created till date. Only recent records and payments could be traced. He expressed concerns that there was a significant gap based on the committees review.
- See full report and more details in membership portal

- President Itoe advised the General Assembly that the report was already in the membership portal.

The committee recommended several process changes to improve the financial processes of SOBA America.

Debate ensued on whether the Financial Fact-Finding Committees report should be adopted or accepted. The GA accepted the report.

In response to the Financial Fact Finding report, the current financial team noted the following:

- Minnesota Convention – Accounts balanced but it took 5 months to get the finds to national: They noted that the urgency in getting our a report without fully accounting/accountability pales in comparism to the collection of outstanding pledges and funds which are more important to the association. They mentioned the cooperation and submission of information from local chapter are a challenge and can't be rushed if the local chapter is slow in cooperating. National always does all in its power to have it done as quickly as possible. They have no choice but to work with them and accommodate delays as necessary in the interest of SOBA America.
- Montreal Convention report and issues: They deferred to the previous administration for answers.
- Houston Convention account receivables: The amount is might be high but we have no control over it. A lot is based on pledges and we have no control over if they are met. We push to get as much as we can. Some are also based on some expected payments from the chapter or incomplete payments from the magazine ads. They said the Editorial Board would no longer post ads, which have not been fully paid.
- Presidents Club: They said they can only account for payments during their administration and have no access to the past payments and records.
- They also mentioned that most of the proposal had already been implemented when they took over but the Committee never reached out to them to see the steps they have taken to address the financial management of SOBA America. They have retained a special accounting firm in Michigan with who they consult and see advice as necessary. The firm reviews their records and procedures as needed from time to time.
- They welcomed some of the good proposals from the committee and pledged to integrate it with what they had in place.
- The financial team mentioned all of the alleged financial inconsistencies did not happen during their administration and can't defend or comment on them. The previous financial team has not responded to the report.

- The financial team promised to unveil their new SAGI management system for members in order to solve some past challenges.

19- Death benefits debate and vote

There was some debate about the best way to proceed, much of which was done on the membership portal. Current by-laws state that "In the death of a shareholder, each member would be obligated to contribute \$100, and \$7,000 will be given to the next-of-kin of that member.

There were 4 final proposals available to the GA for a vote.

1. Keep the \$7,000 but reduce levy to 50 per member for every death
2. Increase the death benefit to next-of-kin \$10,000 but reduce levy to \$50 per member. Excess contributions will be kept in a trouble fund, and in the case of a future death, the amount in this fund will determine the member contribution so that we can reach \$10,000
3. Keep things the way they are
4. Abstain

Option 2 carried the vote. This would only be effective going forward.

20-SOBA Dallas Bore Hole project

This received an honorable mention in the President's State of the Union address and in an article in the Convention magazine.

Introduction of the Chairman of Boston 2018 Convention- This was moved to the Gala because of a time shortage.

21- Adjournment