

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

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SOBA America announces new National Convention Organization and Management Process

November 14, 2019

Fellow SOBANS,

The Fote Administration hereby announces a new National Convention Organization and Management Process. These changes to the previous process and new initiatives are aimed at ensuring better organization of our national conventions, better accountability and transparency of the process, and better experience for SOBANS and our patrons who attend our national conventions. We will achieve these through a number of steps summarized as

- (1) **Better organization:** The Organizing Secretary of SOBA America shall play an active role, along with the National Convention Czar, in overseeing organization and contracting related to our national conventions. They will work closely with the National Convention Chair selected by the convention host chapter leadership, and the Local Convention Planning Committee to ensure a smooth organization.
- (2) **Better accountability and transparency:** All major approved convention related expenditures greater than \$1,000 shall be invoiced directly to SOBA America and be paid directly to the vendors by the National treasury of SOBA America. All convention related payments from SOBANS (convention levy, VIP tables etc) shall be paid directly into SOBA America via one of the several payment modalities in place. Any member/shareholder who pays via their chapter leadership shall be credited ONLY AFTER the payment enters SOBA America national coffers. All

payments from SOBANS at the convention weekend shall be made via credit or debit card. Our conventions shall be as cashless as possible. We will not accept cash payments from SOBANS.

(3) **Better experience for SOBANS and Patrons at convention gala:** All patrons who purchase VIP tables or other services (childcare, sightseeing, boatribe etc) must ensure that complete payment is received by SOBA America National treasury at least two weeks prior to the national convention. Sales of these services shall stop to allow planning and execution of the services. Any patron or SOBAN whose complete payment has not been received by the deadline shall forfeit the reservation and not receive the services. We need an accurate head count ahead of time to plan and deliver remarkable service.

(4) **Improved efficiency of our annual general assembly and personal enrichment at the general assembly:** In order to improve the running of our annual general assembly and allow time for both an effective business meeting and personal enrichment with speakers on topics of interest to SOBANS, we will implement the following.

a. All motions to be debated at the general assembly must be submitted on or before February 1st to be included in the business meeting agenda for that convention. The President of SOBA America reserves the right to make exceptions in the interest of the association. Motions will be discussed during the closed session of the general assembly – business meeting, open to SOBANS only. Only duly credentialed members will be allowed to vote on motions. Bringing motions ahead of time will

i. Provide ample time for SOBANS to debate important motions ahead of time and get the information they need to make a well thought out decision when they cast their votes on the motion on the convention floor. When necessary, preliminary votes may be cast using our membership portal.

ii. Reduce time needed on the convention floor to make decisions on motions while actually enhancing the ability for SOBANS to make the right calls after having had enough time to consider motions.

b. Each year, a theme will be set for the national convention. This theme will be announced well in advance. Speakers – professionals, experts etc – in the

appropriate field will be invited to do do presentations, give lectures, symposiums etc – to SOBANS consistent with the convention theme. This will be during the open empowerment section of the general assembly. SOBANESE and our families who attend the convention will be invited and encouraged to attend the open session.

This new process is a result of feedback from SOBANS and is in keeping with the Fote administration’s vision of a highly functional, all inclusive SOBA America that adds value to the lives of SOBANS. This document covers the framework. More details and directives on different points mentioned above shall be forthcoming.

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