

Press Release No 011- 2019/2020/03

2020 National Convention Canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic, and 2021 National Convention hosting moved to Dallas Chapter

March 27, 2020

Fellow SOBANS,

Given the COVID-19 pandemic that is causing health and economic devastation across the United States and Canada, the 2020 SOBA America National Convention originally scheduled to be held in Dallas, TX from May 22nd to 24th, 2020 has been canceled. This difficult and unprecedented decision was made out of abundance of caution for the health and well being of SOBANS and their families. It was made with tremendous input from SOBANS across SOBA America Nation.

Even though the in-person national convention is canceled, the business of SOBA America needs to continue. Consequently, we will have a virtual annual general assembly meeting via Zoom on Saturday May 23rd, 2020. More details and deliverables will be forthcoming.

Given the unique circumstances that led to the cancelation of the 2020 National Convention, SOBA Dallas submitted a request to have the hosting of the 2021 National Convention, originally awarded to SOBA Carolinas, moved to SOBA Dallas. In the spirit of brotherhood, SOBA Carolinas endorsed this proposal and requested to move their hosting to 2022. The board of directors unanimously approved this measure. **Consequently, the 2021 SOBA America National Convention will be held in Dallas,**

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TX from May 28th to 30th, 2021. The 2022 SOBA America National Convention will be held in Charlotte, NC from May 27th to 29th, 2022.

The Secretary General reminds SOBANS that our SOBA America year remains intact from June 1st to May 31st. SOBANS, therefore, need to remember their financial obligations with regards to membership for the new SOBA America fiscal year come June 2020 even though there will be no convention in May 2020.

The National Leadership Team also reminds SOBANS to continue to follow the advice of healthcare, local and federal officials in Canada and the USA to protect them from COVID-19 infection. This includes constant handwashing, social distancing, avoidance of large gatherings, and avoidance of unnecessary travel until the pandemic eases and life can return back to normal. We pray for the safety and health of SOBANS and their families.

SOBANLY

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