

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

President Fote's message - June 2021

Fellow SOBANS,

Greetings. I hope you had a great month of May, and I hope you and your family are staying safe from the COVID-19 pandemic. I just want to take a few minutes and bring you up to speed with what has been happening at SOBA America this past month, and upcoming June plans.

Administration Updates

2021 SOBA America National Convention was a resounding success

By all accounts the 2021 SOBA America Virtual National Convention was a resounding success. Feedback from SOBANS who attended the convention or followed portions of it live on SOBA America TV Network has been hugely positive. On behalf of the NLT, I want to thank all those who attended or followed our convention.

Special thanks go to all those who worked hard behind the scenes to make this possible. Special thanks to First Lady Laura for working hard to ensure the convention material was secured on time and mailed on time. Special thanks to all NLT members for working hard to ensure that their



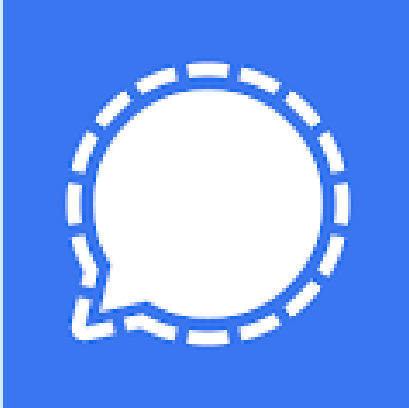
tasks were completed in time for a great show. Special thanks to the chapter Presidents who heeded the call of duty and provided material that was essential to the success of the convention. Special thanks to the SOBANS from the various chapters who participated in the roll call and anthem videos. Special thanks to our partners - Transformunity and Zonetak Studios for working hard to produce an excellent event.

I also want to thank all those who contributed during the convention. Special thanks to Reverend Father Valentine Suum for starting off the day by celebrating mass. Thanks to SOBANS emeritus Nick Enow, Dr. Kevin Njabo, Brian Njotsa and Peter Metuge for doing the readings. Thanks to Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Washington, DC for his warm remarks and benediction. Thanks to our amazing speakers - Keynote speaker Tina Slinker and panelists Dr. Nagella Nwana Nukuna and Dr. Chris Bime for an enlightening and truly educational intellectual enrichment session. Thanks to all convention delegates who took part in civil and engaging debates during the business meeting. Thanks to Pa Ngando for gracing us with his presence. Thanks to SOBAN Arrey Obenson for doing an amazing job as the moderator of the convention, Thanks to DJ Skeeper and MC SOBAN Bendrix Tabu for making the virtual gala so entertaining and fun that we had a full house at 11:00PM ET. Above all, we thank the Lord Almighty for giving us the vision to conceptualize this, the ability to realize this, and the health to be part of this.

We are grateful that we were able to achieve our goal of having a convention that embodied prayer, intellectual enrichment, doing the business of SOBA America, fun, bonding and entertainment. Now we start a new fiscal year with zeal and poise as we continue this journey together.

SOBA America migrates to Signal as its official social media communications platform

Download and join our Signal platforms today



Effective May 30th 2021, our administration announced Signal as SOBA America's official social medical communications platform and asked all members to download and switch to Signal. If you haven't done so yet, please do so promptly.

It was an issue that my administration, together with the National Executive Committee and other senior SOBANS, worked hard to resolve for two years without success. Our patience and resolve to temper justice with mercy by seeking an amicable solution were pushed to the limit. In the end, we had no choice but to bring the matter to the General Assembly for a resolution.

This move became necessary because a former officer of the association, who had, during the previous administration, created our Telegram forums on behalf of SOBA America, at the direction of the President of SOBA America, in his capacity as an officer of SOBA America and for the official use and purpose of SOBA America, has now claimed personal ownership of the forums and has refused to transfer ownership and control to the current administration. This is a blatant violation of Article 4.18 of our by-laws. The General Assembly took disciplinary action against him during the just ended national convention.

We must continue the business of SOBA America. As an association, we cannot and will not be held hostage by one individual. We cannot and will not succumb to threats and blackmail. No one is above the law and no one is bigger than SOBA America. Consequently, I urge you to stand up for our association and move to our Signal forums. I also urge you to leave the Telegram forums that bear the SOBA America name as they no longer represent our association. SOBA America no longer conducts business in those Telegram platforms. In the face of this adversity, we are committed to maintaining our unity and strength because, as the saying goes, where there is unity there is always victory. Let us continue stand tall, stand strong, and support one another. We should also continue to celebrate one another while promoting peace, unity and love in our brotherhood. That is the SOBAN way.

If you are reading this on your phone, you can [CLICK HERE TO JOIN OUR SOBA AMERICA BUSINESS GROUP ON SIGNAL](#)

If you are reading this on your phone, you can [CLICK HERE TO JOIN OUR SOBA AMERICA SOCIAL GROUP ON SIGNAL](#)

By-laws Amendments bring significant changes

We had a major review and overhaul of our by-laws during the just ended National Convention. There were several amendments made which will fundamentally change how we do business in SOBA America. Our administration will update our Policies and Procedures Manual (PPM) to reflect changes in our modus operandi consistent with our new by-laws. We will also update our website with the newly amended bylaws as soon as possible.



Here are some of the most time sensitive changes that you should be aware of and remember.

(1) Membership Dues: Article 2A.3, Section (b) was amended. **Our membership dues are now \$150 per year.** Of this, \$100 goes to the General Fund as previously, but \$50 goes to the SOBAN Death Fund. This is the fund from which death benefits paid to the next of kin of a fallen SOBAN (\$10,000) shall be drawn, instead of a mandatory \$50 contribution from every SOBAN when a death occurs.

(2) Membership Dues Payment Deadlines: Article 2A.3, Section (c) was amended. **Shareholders now have until August 31st to pay their dues and be in good standing to receive shareholder benefits and avoid a 6 month probation period.** That has been moved up from the previous December 31st deadline. Remember that you have to be current with your dues to receive any benefit. The August 31st deadline simply avoids a probation period. In other words, all membership (except for President's Club members) ends on May 31st when our fiscal year ends. If you renew your membership between June 1st and August 31st, you become immediately eligible for benefits. If you renew after August 31st, you wait for 6 months before you will be eligible for benefits. It is important, therefore, that you pay your dues as soon as possible to avoid any issues.

There are several changes to our by-laws, including changes to the composition of the Board of Directors. Please look out for the details of the new bylaws changes and our Policies and Procedures Manual on our website in the coming weeks. Make sure you are registered on the website to gain access to the password restricted membership portal.

The Road Ahead - Moving forward together

On behalf of the National Leadership Team, I want to thank you and the rest of our SOBA America Nation for your vote of confidence in us through our democratic process of free and fair elections. You have spoken and we have listened. Thanks for the mandate to continue to serve you. Our promised is to continue to serve Soba America with dedication, passion, and faithful adherence to the constitution and bylaws of our great association.



We plan to repay your confidence in us by working even harder to continue this incredible journey for SOBA America. In the coming weeks we will be unveiling portions of our vision and plan for moving SOBA America to even greater heights. We count on your support and

engagement to accomplish this ambitious agenda for SOBA America. Team work makes the dream work. We need you to stay engaged and active. **Your voice is very important. Your engagement starts with renewing your membership dues today, or joining our association and coming home if you were not registered last year.**

[Click Here to RENEW your Membership Registration for 2021/2022](#)

SOBA America presents gift to Bishop Bibi on the occasion of his inauguration

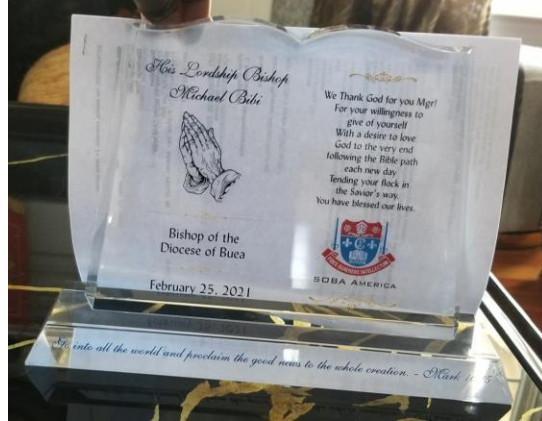
On May 16th, 2021, SOBA America presented a gift to SJC Sasse proprietor Bishop Michael the occasion of his appointment and inauguration as Resident Bishop of the Diocese of Buea. SOBAN Gerard Mengang of SOBA Carolinas presented the gift on behalf of SOBA America. He also conveyed a personal message of congratulations from me to the His Lordship Bishop Bibi.

Bishop Bibi thanked SOBA America for this kind gesture and reaffirmed his commitment to work closely with SOBA America to continue to improve St. Joseph's College, Sasse,





Bishop Bibi admiring his gift from SOBA America.



Up-close picture of the gift to show the wording on its crystal glass bible page design.

[Join SOBA America TODAY by clicking here to register for 2021/2022 fiscal year](#)

Celebrate Each Other Initiative

June 2021 Spotlight - SOBA California

Spicing up the 2021 Convention with an awe-inspiring Roll Call video performance

In this month's Celebrate Each Other Initiative, we celebrate the SOBA California chapter for putting a Hollywood style roll call performance during the 2021 Virtual National Convention. They showed that team work truly does make the dream work as they got the entire chapter to participate in this project.

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to have a virtual convention, my administration resolved to create an experience that will leave SOBANS reeling for more. We knew that with the tight schedule, it will be impossible to do the traditional roll call and still get through the agenda. We decided to get creative. We gave the same written instructions to each chapter, asking them to send a short video (2 minutes or less) that highlights important aspects of their chapter, city or state that they wanted to brag about, things that made their chapter unique, and a greeting welcoming the delegates at the convention.



SOBA California went to work immediately, tapping on the team spirit that has been the bond that strengthens the chapter that covers the largest landmass of any chapter in our association. They shared ideas, as a team, and came up with a great vision. Once again, it took teamwork to get all the elements together and produce a video that is still the talk of the convention. Their effort and engagement was evident in the quality of the entertaining roll call video that they made to introduce their chapter to SOBA America. While some other chapters - SOBA Carolinas, SOBA Dallas and SOBA Georgia - also put in considerable time and effort as evident in their amazing roll call videos, SOBA California clearly stood out. All four chapters taught us one lesson - no task is too big for us SOBANS if we work together. It showed that there are many ways that any SOBAN can be involved and engaged to create a huge impact that they may never imagined. President Mbuagbaw of SOBA California notes, *"I did not realize our roll call video would be such a big hit. We just went to work knowing we could not let our chapter down."*

Such attention to detail, engagement and a desire for excellence is what made SOBA California stand out during the roll call. They were the first to submit their video and boy did they deliver. That is why we are celebrating SOBA California in this month's Celebrate Each Other Initiative. The take home message is not just the fact that they did a great job, but the way they achieved it - team work, inclusion and attention to the rules of engagement. That is the SOBAN way.

Photos: Images from scenes from the SOBA California Roll Call video highlighting key proud elements of their state.



Do you have a story to share? Let us Celebrate you. Email us at info@sobamerica.org

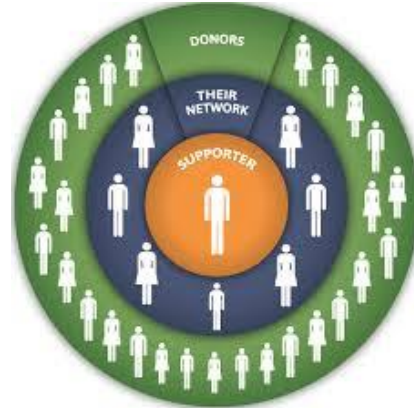
[Click here to RENEW your membership online today](#)

SMILE – Amazon Smile Partnership for fundraising

Help raise money for Sasse Alumni Association with Amazon Smile

As you know, Sasse Alumni Association has partnered with Amazon to raise money when you shop using Amazon. We need you to help us raise money. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price for your eligible Amazon Smile purchases if you select Sasse Alumni Association as your charity. Click on this link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/02-0602143>, sign onto your account and Sasse Alumni Association will be selected. Remember to go to www.smile.amazon.com when you shop instead of Amazon.com to get this fundraising.

Please share this information with your family and friends. Every cent counts. Help us sow a seed in the life of a young child in Sasse who may be helped by these donations.



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Thank you for reading

On behalf of the NLT, I wish you and your families a blessed month of June. Together, we will continue the transformation of SOBA America. Teamwork makes the dream work. Stay safe.

SOBANLY
Bertrand Fote (Sir 4te)
Your Servant-in-chief
POSA

[Visit our Website](#)

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