

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 - August 2021

Fellow SOBANS,

Greetings. I hope you had a great month of July, 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 August plans.

Elections for three At-large Board of Directors members

Following the change in our by-laws voted by the general assembly during the 2021 SOBA America National Convention, we will be holding special elections to fill the three at-large Board of Directors positions for a two year term. Here is the procedure and timeline

1.Candidacy: Candidates must meet all our requirements for office specified in our bylaws. This includes (a) be in good standing and current with their membership registration, and (b) be of good moral character.

Candidates have up to August 15th, 2021 to file their candidacy via email to the Secretary general of SOBA America. Send email to Secretary Divine Tange - divanto1@yahoo.com

2.Validation: After the filing deadline, the Secretary General will verify eligibility of candidates and announce the official list of candidates. Candidates shall have until September 20th, 2021 to make their case to SOBA America Nation.



IT'S TIME FOR BOARD ELECTIONS!

3.Elections: Elections shall be held online at our SOBA America website membership portal from September 20th to September 26th.

The top three vote getters shall be elected to serve a two-year term in the Board of Directors as per our bylaws.

The new Board members shall be seated during the mini-convention in Detroit, MI on November 20th, 2021.

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

By-laws changes - Frequently Asked Questions

During the 2021 National Convention, a top to bottom review of our by-laws was done. This was a product of work that started about two years ago. SOBANS had an opportunity to make their voices heard and shape the future of our association.

The process started with the creation of a By-laws review task team which solicited suggestions and recommendations from SOBANS over several months. The team put these together in a concise manner. The proposed amendments were debated over a period of two months on our SOBA America chat platform. We had preliminary voting to narrow some options, done online via our website portal. The final proposals

were debated during the 2021 National Convention and voted upon. The general assembly made several significant changes to our by-laws. Vice-president Felix Ngassa's Office is working on updating the by-laws and our Policies and Procedures Manual to reflect these changes.

As expected, there are several questions on the new changes. Here are the Frequently Asked Questions and some answers.

1.What are the implications of Article IIA with the membership dues change? Membership dues have been changed to \$150 annually. Of this, \$50 goes to fund the SOBAN Death Fund which is used to pay out the \$10,000 death benefit to the next of kin in the unfortunate event of the death of a registered member.

2.Does that mean that SOBA America will no longer ask for mandatory contributions if a registered member dies? Yes. The \$50 from your membership dues goes towards that cause. We will no longer have to do a mandatory fund drive in the unfortunate event of the death of a member.

3.Article IIA also now states that Shareholders have until August 31st to pay their dues. What does this mean? This means that any member who was up to date with their dues in the previous has until August 31st to renew their membership for the current year to avoid a six month probation for financial and



certain other benefits. Please note that you have to be current with your dues in order to be eligible for these benefits. The SOBA America fiscal year runs from June 1st to May 31st.

Here is an example. SOBAN X is registered in 2020/2021. As of July 1st 2021, he has not renewed his membership for the 2021/2022 year. SOBAN X's father dies unfortunately on July 1st 2021. He is NOT eligible for the SOBA America Bereavement benefit. SOBAN X pays his dues for 2021/2022 on August 5th, 2021. He is still NOT eligible for the bereavement benefit for the death of his dad because the death occurred BEFORE he renewed his membership.

If, on the other hand, SOBAN X's father dies on August 6th, 2021, he will be eligible for the bereavement benefit because at the time of the death, he was current with his dues.

If SOBAN X renews his membership on September 1st, 2021, he will enter a six month probation period before he will be eligible for financial benefits. So, if his dad passes on September 2nd, 2021, he will NOT be eligible for the bereavement benefit because he did not renew his dues before the August 31st deadline. He will have to wait until January 1st, 2022 to be eligible for financial benefits since he renewed on Sept 1st and is in a 6 month probation period.

4. Are you saying that we should not wait until August 31st to pay our dues? Absolutely. You should pay your dues as soon as possible so you are current and eligible for all benefits to membership. The deadline of August 31st simply prevents you from having to go on a 6 month probation.

5. How about a new member who joins SOBA America for the first time or had not renewed last year? New members or members who fail to renew before the August 31st deadline go on a 6 month probation period for financial and certain benefits.

6. Are there any benefits that are not subject to a probation period? Absolutely. All members are immediately eligible to benefit from our membership discount program, our upcoming mentorship program, networking opportunities and several other benefits. See the top 10 reasons to join SOBA America below for more.

7. Please tell me more about the membership discount program. All members of SOBA America have access to discounts on over 2,000 businesses in the US and 450 businesses in Canada. You have access to discounts on everyday purchases you make from oil change of your car, back to school supplies for your kids, movies, mortgage loans, rental cars etc. You can save thousands of dollars annually by taking advantage of your SOBA America membership.

8. Wow! How do I take advantage of this? You have to register on our website. Go to our website today and register if you have not done so. Once your membership is verified, you will be granted access to our Membership Discount Program through our membership portal. You can search for discounts by category depending on what you need, and find the nearest participating partners to redeem your discounts.

9. When is the SOBA America fiscal year and how does that affect my ability to vote in elections? The SOBA America fiscal year runs from June 1st to May 31st. At least 6 months of registration is required for one to be eligible to vote at the SOBA America Convention.

10. How about the Family Unity Benefits? The general assembly made some changes to the Family Unity Benefit. The benefit was increased. Members get a \$250 benefit for their wedding, \$500 for 10 years of marriage, \$1,000 for 25 years of marriage and \$2,000 once for over 50 years of marriage. To get the benefit, members will have to formally inform SOBA America via the President in writing at least two weeks to the wedding or anniversary date. Benefits are not retroactive.

11. Do I need to be in good standing to receive a financial benefit? Yes. You need to be current with your dues at the time of the qualifying event in order to receive a financial benefit. You also need to be current with any other SOBA America mandatory financial obligation that may be applicable to you.

12. The by-laws mentions disciplinary action for bad conduct. How will that be decided? The by-laws prescribe a process that involves hearings by the Board to ensure that all facts are heard and a pathway to

appeal an adverse decision. The goal is to ensure that we uphold the values that we learned in SJC Sasse as gentlemen.

13. There was so much talk about the composition of the Board of Directors last year. What has changed in the new by-laws? The Board of directors, commonly known as NEC, is composed of following voting members - the President of SOBA America, the Vice-President of SOBA America, the last three Past Presidents of SOBA America, Chapter Presidents, and three at-large members elected by the General Assembly. The remaining past presidents of SOBA America shall also serve on the Board as non-voting members in an advisory role.

14. Can you please break down the rules for running for office? The new bylaws require candidates for office to have attended at least three of the last 5 National conventions including two consecutive conventions in the last three years leading up to the convention during which they seek to be elected. They also need to demonstrate that they are men of highest moral character. In addition, no one may hold more than one office in SOBA America at the same time.

15. Wait. What if a chapter executive wants to run for National Office? The bylaws require anyone elected to National office to step down from their chapter/local office. The Board has further qualified this to occur within 30 days of the election to National Office.

16. There are currently 4 members of the NLT who hold leadership positions in their chapters. Will they abide by this new law and step down from the chapter positions? All the NLT members are committed to following our by-laws. We understand our role as leaders and the expectation, as the national Executive, to enforce our bylaws. Consequently, the NLT members who have served their chapters admirably will follow the law. I am working with the team on the process and details, so expect an announcement soon.

17. Do the by-laws address conditions under which the SOBA America name and logo can be used? Yes it does. Anyone who wishes to use the SOBA America name and logo for their chapter or class project must obtain written permission from the President of SOBA America, and use it only for the expressed purpose. Also, any intellectual property, invention, subscription or other obtained on behalf of SOBA America by a Shareholder acting on behalf of SOBA America, shall be property of SOBA America. The Board has the authority to impose disciplinary action on any violators of this provision.

18. Thank you. Where can we see the updated version of the by-laws? The updated version shall be posted soon in the By-laws section of our membership portal.

Join SOBA America TODAY by clicking here to register for 2021/2022 fiscal year

Administration Updates

Mini-Convention coming soon - November 19th to 21st, 2021 in Detroit, MI

The 2021 SOBA America Mini-convention shall be hosted by SOBA Tri-state in Detroit, MI from November 19th to 21st, 2021. I hope you can make it there. More information shall be forthcoming soon so stay tuned.

The SOBA America mini-convention is officially a Board meeting mandated by our by-laws. It is open to all SOBANS as part of our spirit of inclusion and brotherhood, so they can see their leaders at work and be part of the process. It is also an opportunity for the host chapter to re-introduce itself to the local community and raise some money for the chapter.

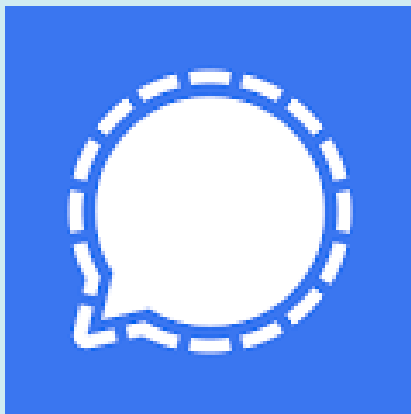
After having been kept away from each other for almost 2 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it will be a great thing to fellowship with each other in a safe way once again. Please get your COVID-19 vaccine if you have not yet done so! I look forward to seeing you in Detroit come November 19th.



SOBA AMERICA

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 media communications platform and asked all members to download and switch to Signal. If you haven't done so yet, please do so promptly.

There is a lot of activity happening on Signal., Our SOBA America platforms are growing. I don't want you to miss out on anything. If you haven't downloaded Signal on your phone and joined our SOBA America Social and Business forums, please do so today. If you are already on our Signal platforms, please help us grow by encouraging your SOBAN friends who are part of our SOBA America family but haven't yet joined to do so. We don't want to leave anyone behind.

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](#)

Membership Drive - Leave no SOBAN behind

Join or Renew Your Membership



It is time for our membership drive. The new fiscal year is here and it is important that we get all SOBANS in the US and Canada into our SOBA America family.

If you have not yet registered, please do so today. Do not procrastinate and miss out on some of the benefits of membership. If you have renewed your membership for 2021/2022, THANK YOU. Take this opportunity to get a fellow SOBAN to come on board. There are many reasons to join SOBA America. [Here are some of the TOP 10 reasons to join SOBA America.](#)

Please note that the deadline to renew membership and avoid a 6 month probation period for most benefits has been moved up to August 31st, and our membership dues have been increased to \$150 by the general assembly.

There are several ways to join/renew your membership.

- (1) Through your chapter
- (2) Online @ our website www.sobamerica.org
- (3) Via cash app to \$sobaamericafinance. Include your name and chapter please.
- (4) Via PayPal to treasurer@sobamerica.org. Include your name and chapter please.

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

Celebrate Each Other Initiative

August 2021 Spotlight - You, my fellow SOBANS

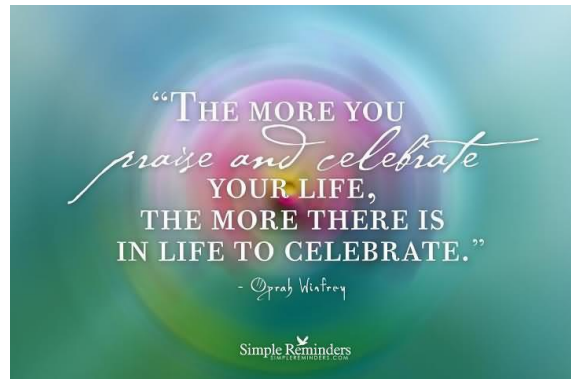
Celebrating our brotherhood by celebrating each other

In this month's Celebrate Each Other Initiative, we will take a break from our traditional celebration of a chapter, class or SOBAN and celebrate every SOBAN. Yes, let us celebrate YOU!

Too often, we get caught up with our busy lives and fail to take a minute to celebrate ourselves. Too often, we take ourselves and our loved ones for granted. Today, I want you to take a moment and look at the mirror and celebrate the Man in the mirror - you.

As a brotherhood, we thrive because of each other. As a brotherhood, we stand up for each other and lift each other up. Let us Celebrate each other and be thankful for those bonds that we forged in our days in SJC Sasse.

As you look in the mirror, give yourself a congratulatory message for making through your life's journey so far. Even if you may not be quite where you want to be, remember that life is a journey and with God, we can conquer all obstacles on the way. Celebrate little successes as that will give you the push you need to take that next step. Here is a poem that I wrote, hoping that it will inspire you or re-affirm what you already know. It is called ONE.



One

The journey to the top
Begins with one small step
The growth of a forest
Begins with one small tree
The light that lights a room
Begins with one sunbeam
The making of friendship
Begins with one sweet smile
The saying of prayer
Begins with one first word

ONE! That is all it takes
One voice to make a change
One hope to raise spirits
One candle to bring light
One love to touch a heart
One star to lift a soul
Just ONE to start it all
One! To make that difference
And that ONE could be you!
Only if you believe!

Sir 4te Bertrand

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](#)

Pa Ngando Honor Project Updates



The Pa Ngando Honor Project Team is working hard. While fundraising continues, the technical aspects of the project are well underway,.

The project team met at the site on 27th July 2021, together with Mr. Choe Fidelis, Vice Principal, who was designated by the Principal to assist/work with the project team.

1. PARTICIPANTS

Ebob ETA – Project Technical Manager
CHOE Fidelis – VP Sasse
Raissa MUNOH - Assistant Supervisor
ATUNG Andreas - Workers Manager
SAKEM Apolinaire - Builder/Foreman
AYUK - Builder

2. ACTIVITIES

- i) Presentation of project scope, activities and sites
- ii) Discussions on responsibilities; planning, logistics, material sourcing, storage of materials, conduct of workers
- iii) Taking of pictures (pre-works records of state of the structures)

3. RECOMMENDATIONS/RESOLUTIONS

- i) The VP assured the project team that he will remove all materials (documents, shelves, tables) from the archives room behind the Hall within a week, so work could start there next week;
- ii) The VP recommended that the whole toilet block behind the Assembly Hall, which had previously been turned partially to offices, be transformed into toilets units and urinary. To this end, the Supervisors and Foreman will take measurements of the dimensions of the block and present a design and costing for the conversion – time limit for this activity is Friday 30th July. Part of this work had already been included in the project costing; a proposal will be made to the Management Team for inclusion of the additional works.
- iii) All materials, like wood elements etc., recovered from the site shall be stored at a place to be indicated by the VP; they could be used for other works;
- iv) The Project Team will visit a wood factory in Buea on Thursday to examine their potential to supply timber for the stage floor; proposed wood type is PADOUK (CAMWOOD), chosen for its durability and strength in bending;
- v) Sourcing of other materials to continue during this week;
- vi) Site work will commence on Tuesday next week;
- vii) Workers on site will wear reflective vests at all times (for easy identification)
- viii) A site record book will be available at the site at all times for daily records of materials supplied, weather conditions, personnel on site, works done, visits, recommendations, comments, etc.

The Management team will discuss the recommendations at their upcoming August meeting.

Fundraising:

Funds continue to pour in slowly. We are still a long way from achieving our goal to meet budget. [Please click here to see a list of donors as of August 1st, 2021.](#) Since then we have had an additional contribution from SOBAN Nyah Check of the 2001 class. I want to personally thank SOBAN Check for his generosity and solidarity as he was a student in SJC Sasse way after Pa Ngando had left. This gesture underscores the true SOBAN spirit. Pa's legacy is intertwined with SJC Sasse; legacy so ALL SOBANS are encouraged to be part of this project regardless of their class.

Making a Donation to the Pa Ngando Honor Project

You can add your name to the list above and be a part of history by donating to the in one of the following ways

- Through your class leadership: This is the preferred method if you are between the classes of 1972 to 1991
- Directly to SOBA America via PayPal to treasurer@sobamerica.org
- Directly to SOBA America via our website by [CLICKING HERE TO MAKE AN ONLINE DONATION](#)

Please note that **ANY SOBAN** can contribute regardless of their class. We'd like every SOBAN to be a part of this project to honor a man whose legacy is intertwined with the legacy of SJC Sasse.

[Click Here to Make a Donation to the Pa Ngando Honor Project \(Please indicate your class\)](#)

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.



[CLICK HERE to make Sasse Alumni Association your charity with Amazon Smile](#)

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

Thank you for reading

On behalf of the NLT, I wish you and your families a blessed month of August. 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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STAY CONNECTED

