

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 - November 2021

Fellow SOBANS,

Greetings. I hope you had a great month of October, 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 November plans.

Administration Updates

**SOBA Tri-state ready to welcome SOBANS at
mini-convention - 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. This will be our first face-to-face gathering ever since the COVID-19 pandemic started. Some chapters have had face-to-face meetings, but at a national level, it will be the first. I have asked SOBA Tri-state to ensure that there are enough COVID-19 safety precautions in place during the mini-convention.

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 Registration - Frequently Asked Questions

Even though the deadline to register to avoid a 6 month probation has passed. There are many reasons for those who have not yet registered or renewed their membership for the 2021/2022 fiscal year to do so now. Here are some frequently asked questions about the SOBA America registration and how it affects SOBANS.

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 SOBANS 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 year 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. SOBANS X is registered in 2020/2021. As of July 1st 2021, he has not renewed his membership for the 2021/2022 year. SOBANS X's father dies unfortunately on July 1st 2021. He is NOT eligible for the SOBA America Bereavement benefit. SOBANS 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.What if I missed the August 31st deadline to pay my dues? Can I still pay now or should I wait for next year? There are several reasons why you should pay your membership dues as soon as you can, even after the August 31st deadline.

- The 6 month probation period starts the day you pay your dues. This means that the earlier you pay, the earlier you will come off the probation and be eligible for financial benefits. No one knows what will happen tomorrow. It is important, therefore, to get back in good standing as soon as possible.
- There are certain benefits, like our membership discount benefit, that kick in as soon as you are registered, regardless of when you register, Through this, you can get discounts worth thousands of dollars on many of your regular purchases that you make daily.
- It is always a good thing to be part of our SOBA America family.

6.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.

7.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, by clicking here, for more.](#)

8.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.

9.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.

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

[Click Here to REGISTER with SOBA America for 2021/2022](#)

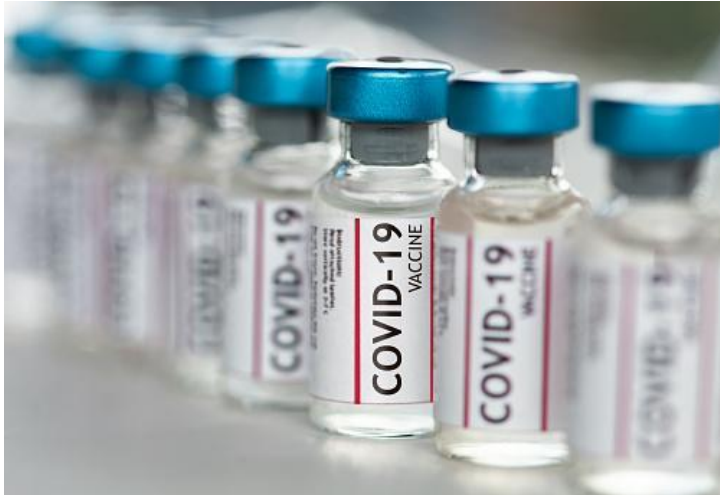
Celebrate Each Other Initiative

November 2021 Spotlight - Every SOBAN who has been vaccinated against COVID-19.

SOBA America encourages every SOBAN and their eligible family members to get vaccinated against COVID-19

In this month's Celebrate Each Other Initiative, we celebrate every SOBAN who has had the COVID-19 vaccine for playing their part in the fight against this deadly global pandemic.

As we continue to fight this COVID-19 pandemic, the advent of the COVID-19 vaccine has provided a huge arsenal in the fight. Getting vaccinated, in addition to practicing social distancing, washing hands and wearing masks are the ways in which we can finally beat this pandemic. As a society, we can only do this if every one of us plays his or her part. Many SOBANS have heeded that call by getting inoculated with one of the vaccines that have been approved in the United States and Canada.



As I continue to talk to SOBANS all across SOBA America Nation, I have been impressed by the fact that a large majority of SOBANS I have spoken to during my "COVID-19 Vaccine Rounds" have been vaccinated. This is worth celebrating as you are not only caring for yourself, but also your fellow brother or sister in the community. This month, we are taking time to recognize EVERY SOBAN WHO HAS BEEN VACCINATED. If you have been vaccinated, thank you and congratulations. SOBA America celebrates you.

Unfortunately, there are still a good number of SOBANS I have spoken to, who have still not been vaccinated. The reasons are varied, but the bottom line is the same - vaccine hesitancy only puts you and your loved ones at risk. As an emergency physician on the frontlines of this fight, I am appealing to you to reconsider your decision if you have not had the vaccine. In the past four months since the Delta variant became rampant, we have seen significant spikes in cases all across the US and Canada. My personal

experience in my practice mimics that across the US and Canada - we have been overwhelmed with cases. We have seen our hospital system and other surrounding systems stay at capacity and beyond, with patients waiting for days in emergency department hallways because of this. 96% of patients admitted in our hospital system with COVID-19 during this time have been unvaccinated. About 99% of deaths from COVID-19 during this time in our hospital system have been unvaccinated patients - young, healthy, and old alike. This is real! We are also seeing lots of long term complications in people who have recovered from COVID-19. Once again, the unvaccinated are disproportionately affected. These are some reasons why I urge any SOBAN or their eligible family member who has not been vaccinated to do so.

Here are a few other frequently asked questions

1. Why do I need to get a vaccine if I can practice other things like social distancing to prevent the COVID-19 virus from spreading? Vaccines work to prepare your body to fight the virus if you are exposed to it. Other steps, like the 3Ws—wear a mask, wait 6 feet apart and wash your hands—help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine and following the 3Ws is everyone's best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19.

2. If everyone else is getting the vaccine, do I need to? Yes. It is incredibly important that everyone do their part to help get as many people vaccinated as possible. This is especially important now with the highly contagious Delta variant, increased cases and hospitalizations. The more people who are vaccinated, the faster we will end the pandemic and the more confident each one of us can be that we and our loved ones are protected as we get back to the people and places we love. To protect those who cannot be vaccinated due to age or medical conditions, we need everyone who can safely get vaccinated to do so.

3. Do people who have had COVID-19 still need to get vaccinated? Yes, you should get vaccinated if you already had COVID-19. People who have been infected with COVID-19 and recovered have some protection against the virus, called natural immunity. Current evidence suggests that reinfection is uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection. However, experts do not know for sure how long this protection lasts, and the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 far outweighs any benefits of natural immunity. In addition, an individual's protection is not based on antibody levels. A study showed that among individuals infected with COVID-19, unvaccinated individuals were more likely to get re-infected than those who were fully vaccinated. People can be confident that the protection they get from the vaccine is very strong and that it lasts for at least six months, and likely longer as scientists continue to monitor the vaccines. Vaccines may also better protect you against certain variants of the COVID-19 virus. Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is the best way to protect yourself and those around you from getting COVID-19.

If you were treated for COVID-19 symptoms with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure what treatments you received or if you have more questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

Let us continue to play our part in this global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. As SOBANS, we are leaders - leaders in our communities and in society. Let us lead at this critical time. That is the SOBAN way, After all, we are few, proud and different. Let's continue to make a difference and let us celebrate each other.

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



Here is the latest update on the Pa Ngando Honor Project.

1. ACTIVITIES ON SITE

i) Upgrading of the stage infrastructure

- The stage floor and passage doors have been dismantled.

Removal of floor boards and steps: This reveals a support structure in concrete footings and timber members that are largely deteriorated. However, some of the elements from the floor shall be recovered and used for re-construction

- Sourcing of timber for new floor and steps
Seasoned timber has been identified; purchasing,

sizing and transportation is in progress

Photo: Dismantling of stage floor



Dismantling of stage floor



Stage after dismantling of wooden floor



Deteriorated stage support

ii) Concreting and Other minor Works

- Upgrading of urinary and toilet facilities attached to the hall (at rear);

Walls reconstruction and improvement of septic tank/soak-away

- Upgrading of walkway to the urinary
Flooring and repair works on concrete pillars

- Improvement of the storage facility (archives room) at rear of the hall for storage of school band and stage equipment

Closing of windows and doors at rear, creation of access door from back of the stage

- Drainage improvement around hall/toilets
Cleaning, Reconstruction of drains to improve flow of storm water

- Plumbing & electrical works

Materials for piping purchased, installation pending **Photo: reconstruction of Urinary and toilets.**





Improvement of septic tank



concrete walkway to urinary



Concreted floor in front of toilets



Improvement of main entrance



Improvement of drainage at entrance



Securing of storage facility at rear of hall (Closing of windows and door) - A



Securing of storage facility at rear of hall (Closing of windows and door) - B



New access door to storage facility through stage.

2. PLANNING OF WORKS

The following activities are planned for the next three weeks:

- Completing of concreting works for the urinary, toilets, storage facility, drainage at rear and at main entrance of hall;
- Installation of new stage floor and steps;; including reinforcement of the floor support;
- Design and installation of stage façade (using panel boards, with some design using battens);
- Completion of plumbing works (piping)
- Purchase and installation of urinary and toilet equipment (part)
- Start of repair works on hall windows and doors; design, manufacture and installation of security door for store (back of stage); roof and ceiling repairs for hall and walkway, toilets, store; installation of roof drains at walkway to urinary/toilets building;

3. FINANCES

So far we have spent about 2 800 000 FCFA. This was spent for materials (sand cement, gravel, wood for formwork, reinforcement bars), labour, transportation, fees for technicians, A detailed expenses report is pending.

We shall be sending in a second request for funds in the third week of November, 2021.

4. DIFFICULTIES AND PROPOSALS

4.1 Difficulties

- i) Site access: The work team only had complete access to the assembly hall and archives room last week; thus work progress in those units has been slower than was anticipated
- ii) Despite security banding of the work zone, students still use the rear of the hall as open air toilets, for want of a better place. The college needs to take this lack of toilet facilities and lack of management system (regular cleaning by paid worker?) as an urgent situation which needs their attention. The fear is that when the current works will be completed, there might still be abuse of the facilities due to poor sensitization/management.
- iii) The on-going 'ghost towns' situation also hampers the works progress.
- iv) Various aspects of the project like purchase/transportation/installation of lighting, audio/video equipment are still to be concluded.

4.2 Proposals

- o Current works do not include tiling of the urinary area and toilets: this could be added for a more complete and appealing finish, This could be examined together with the tiling of the floor of the hall.
- o The ceiling of the archive room (store) could be improved with addition of edge battens, if funds are available.

5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

- **The works are progressing despite the problems enumerated.**
- **All is being done to ensure adequate quality of works**
- **The civil works are planned to be completed by mid-December 2021.**

Fundraising:

Funds continue to poor 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.](#)

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.

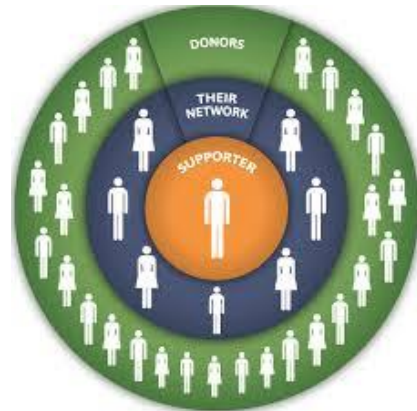
[Click Here to Make a Donation to the Pa Ngando Honor Project \(Please indicate your class\)](#)

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 November. 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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