

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

Press Release No 016- 2020/2021/02

SOBA America announces VIRTUAL National Convention on May 29, 2021

February 8, 2021

Fellow SOBANS,

As you know, the current global pandemic continues to pose significant health risks to SOBANS and their families, as well as the entire world. Given this, the Board of Directors of SOBA America/National Executive Council, in a unanimous decision, has voted to make the 2021 National Convention a virtual convention. This will be held on Saturday May 29th, 2021.

This decision, taken with input from SOBANS across SOBA America Nation, was made after the following factors were considered:

- The health and safety of SOBANS and their families was a paramount concern. Even with the COVID-19 vaccine available, the challenges with widespread distribution in the US and Canada continue to pose doubt on the achievement of herd immunity in time for a safe in-person convention in 2021.
- Travel restrictions to and from Canada, home to two of our chapters – Montreal and Ontario, continue to be in place and will remain in place for the foreseeable future based on current data and information from Canadian authorities.
- Capacity limitations on large gatherings in the city of Dallas which was scheduled to host our 2021 National Convention remain in place and there is uncertainty about when those will be lifted given the high number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalisations in Dallas. Holding our convention gala with such restrictions would, in addition to health risks, negatively impact the experience of SOBANS and our

patrons and likely cause significant financial loss given minimum spend requirements of the convention hotel.

The Fote Administration remains committed to working hard to provide SOBANS with a remarkable convention experience even in the virtual setting, with key elements all present. These key elements include:

- An intellectual enrichment section with presentations from speakers on topics related to our 2021 National Convention theme – **SOBA America: Tenacity in the face of COVID-19.**
- Conducting the business of SOBA America including secure elections and voting on key issues during the general assembly.
- Presentation of convention gift and magazine to all duly credentialed delegates to the convention. SOBANS will need to register for the convention as is customary.
- Presentation of awards to SOBANS who have earned the recognition, as is customary during our conventions.
- An opportunity for SOBANS to interact, network and have some fun.

In addition, we intend to treat SOBANS to an amazing experience with the kind of innovation that only a virtual setting can truly provide. Even though there will be a cost associated with putting this together, we understand the financial effects of the pandemic on SOBANS. Consequently, the convention levy for the 2021 convention will be cut in half to \$50. Registration modalities shall be announced soon. It will be important for SOBANS to register on time to get their convention package delivered to them before the convention.

In the coming days and weeks, we will be sharing more details of the 2021 virtual SOBA America National Convention.

SOBANLY

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