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2021 National Convention registration is now open

February 21, 2021

Fellow SOBANS,

The Press Office of SOBA America, together with the Organizing Secretary and the 2021 National Convention Chair, are happy to announce that registration is now open for the 2021 Virtual SOBA America National Convention scheduled for May 29th, 2021. Here is some important information.

(1) Virtual Format:

Despite the fact that our convention shall be virtual this year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are committed to having all key elements of our traditional SOBA America convention present. We are working with professionals to ensure that we deliver a convention full of innovation that will provide a remarkable experience to SOBANS. You won't want to miss this. Here is a high level overview of the tentative agenda

(1) Tentative Schedule:

Time (Eastern Time)	Activity
11:00 - 11:30	Soft Opening and Mass
11:30 – 12:00	Grand Opening and Roll Call
12:00 – 12:30	Debate on By-laws. Voting opens at 1pm until 6pm (including elections)
12:30 – 13:00	Entertainment and Lunch break (including special documentary)
13:00 – 15:00	Intellectual Enrichment Session (Details of presentations later)
15:00 – 15:30	Break
15:30 – 18:30	General Assembly business meeting (Full agenda later)
18:30 – 19:00	Entertainment and break
19:00- 21:00	Virtual SOBA America Gala - Featuring Awards, music and entertainment

- (2) **Convention Levy:** Giving that we are not meeting face to face and mindful of the economic impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors/NEC voted to reduce the convention levy to **\$50 for the 2021 National Convention**. Some will ask, why do we need to pay the convention levy? The convention levy is necessary to cover the costs of organizing and producing the virtual convention befitting of our association as well as other convention related costs. These include
- a. Working with a professional event management company to work on technical, innovative and implementation aspects of the virtual convention.
 - b. Purchasing and mailing of convention gifts to delegates
 - c. Producing and mailing the 2021 Convention magazine and other convention related material to delegates
 - d. Procuring awards to recognize service and excellence as per our tradition
 - e. Securing other professional services related to the convention such as our virtual gala.
- (3) **Payment of Convention Levy:** All SOBANS who intend to participate in our 2021 National Convention must pay the convention levy online by May 10th, 2021. You can pay your convention levy by going to our website www.sobamerica.org and clicking on the [Convention Levy](#) tab in the middle of the homepage.

It is critical that the levy be paid online so we will have your demographic information necessary to send convention related information (electronic and snail mail) to you, including unique credentials needed for secure voting. It is critical that the levy be paid by the May 10th deadline so your convention material to be mailed can reach you on time before the convention. Any SOBAN who registers after the deadline may not receive convention material.

Only duly registered delegates will have access to key convention features/platforms, including the ability to vote on motions or elections, as is customary during our SOBA America conventions.

- (4) **2021 National Convention Theme:** The theme for the 2021 National Convention is ***SOBA America: Tenacity in the face of COVID-19***. We are currently working on finalizing our speaker lineup.

We look forward to a very successful 2021 Virtual National Convention. We count on you, fellow SOBANS, to make this possible by registering early and showing up on time on May 29th, 2021. Together, let's build a better and more efficient SOBA America.

SOBANLY

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