



SOBA AMERICA

SOBA AMERICA CONVENTION 2022

General Assembly Minutes, May 28, 2022

I. Opening Rites

- The General Assembly was gaveled into session at 8:03am by Soban Kevin Njabo who moderated this session of the General Assembly meeting.
- Opening prayer was led by Fr. Desmond Ndikum of SOBA Dallas.
- The General Assembly then sang the St. Joseph College, Sasse Anthem followed by the St. Joseph Song.
- The Moderator then moved on to Chapter Roll Call. Each Chapter was called upon to register their presence by a show of hands. At that point in the meeting around 8:35am, there were only 5 chapters with a minimum of 1 member present at the deliberations.

II. Business of the Day

- Bylaw amendments regarding admission standards for chapters in SOBA America were brought forward for debate. President Fote explained that the Government brought these amendments because of necessity arising from variations and misunderstandings regarding membership in SOBA America as a whole and chapters in particular. One of such concern is Geographical Consideration.
- Debate on the motions was opened and several spoke both against and in favor of the amendment. After a riveting debate, a vote was called on the questions.
- Before we could vote, we had to ensure the voting devices were working properly. Well, they were acting a bit strange and so the

General Assembly decided to vote by a show of hand. The votes were thus:

- **Amendment A1- Eligibility: 16 Votes for Option I & 6 Votes for Option II. Option I was adopted and reads thus:**
 - Chapters can set their membership criteria. However, the following shall apply:
 - Membership in a chapter of SOBA America is only open to ex-students of St. Joseph's College Sasse who are eligible for membership in SOBA America as stipulated in Article 2 of these bylaws i.e. reside in the Americas.

- **Amendment A2- Geographical Considerations: 21 Votes for Option I & 8 Votes for Option II. Option I was adopted and reads thus:**
 - Chapters can set their geographical limits with respect to admission of members. However, the following shall apply:
 - An ex-student of SJC Sasse cannot be admitted as a member of a chapter if his residence is geographically closer to a different chapter of SOBA America.

- **Amendment A3 – Supremacy Clause of SOBA AMERICA Bylaws: 27 Votes in favor, 1 Vote Against and 3 Abstentions. The language was adopted and reads thus:**
 - Chapters shall make their bylaws to govern them. However, chapters shall not have bylaw provisions that are in contradiction to SOBA America bylaws. As a general principle, SOBA America bylaws supersede chapter bylaws in areas that overlap or involve actions that affect the association or its brand.

III. Break

- Following the General Assembly adjourned temporarily for a break at 9:05am.
- The General Assembly reconvened at 9:20am for chapter reports

IV. Chapter Reports

- i. **SOBA Arizona-** The report was given by President Sona Bokosah. He reported that Soba Arizona is strong and striving. They are looking forward to hosting the National Convention in 2024.
- ii. **SOBA MAL-** The report was given by President Edmund Mbu. He reported that the chapter has 25 active members and they are currently running a membership drive.
- iii. **SOBA Montreal-** The report was given by President Albert Sekoh. He reported that Montreal has 20 members. During the pandemic, they had regular zoom calls. They have started meeting in person since March. The chapter is striving.
- iv. **SOBA Carolinas-** The report was given by President Ngale Ndiva Mongoh. He reported that the chapter was striving as it is the home chapter of the national president. Furthermore, he claimed that while SOBA Dallas was doing a fine job of hosting the convention this year, SOBA Carolinas will do better next year 2023. They are working hard to prepare for the 2023 Convention.
- v. **SOBA Dallas-** The report was given by Soban Moses Sona who currently serves as the treasurer. He reported that the chapter is strong and striving. In fact, SOBA Dallas is currently the strongest chapter in SOBA America with 58 very active members. The chapter has been meeting in person since last year and continue to meet monthly.
- vi. **SOBA DMV-** President Julius Ngwa gave a brief report. He highlighted the fact that SOBA DMV donated two projectors to SJC Sasse and were planning to give a third one.

V. **Financial Reports**

- The financial Secretary Soban Edwin Atem walked the General Assembly through the finances of SOBA America. (See Page 5 of Convention Report Booklet)
- The SAFAB Board came up next and reported that due to late submission of financial reports, they were unable to complete their report. They however promised to send out the report to members once they are able to complete it.
- Dr. Aloysius Ibeahga of SOBA Montreal gave a report on the current state of the Pa Ngando Project. (See Page of Convention Report Booklet)

- Dr. Kevin Njabo of SOBA California gave a report on SAGI and encouraged all SOBANs who are not enrolled to do so.

VI. Intellectual Enrichment Session

- Mr. Serge Pani, a guest speaker gave a wonderful presentation on Financial Wellness.

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VII. Convention 2023

- The 2023 Convention is slated for Friday May 26th to Sunday May 28th 2023 in Charlotte, North Carolina.
- The Chairman of the 2023 Convention Soban Nichaolas Ngwa presented a report stating that SOBA Carolinas is ready and working hard. The promise us a heaven on earth convention. He commended the Dallas team for a wonderful convention so far.

VIII. General Assembly Keynote

- Bishop Michael M Bibi, Bishop of Buea and Proprietor of St. Joseph College, Sasse, delivered an address to the General Assembly. His address placed Sasse in a historical context in terms of where the college is today. He shared in the lament of the members about the state of the college. He then went into sharing with the GA his vision for moving the college forward and bringing it into this century. He urged SOBANs to be partners in this mission to develop and build on the foundations of the past and make St. Joseph College, Sasse Great Again.
- The Bishop's address was followed by a riveting question and answer session. To make a long story short, we all agreed that we will work together to make Sasse get back to the top.

IX. Conclusion

- The General Assembly meeting came to a close at 1:15pm with a celebration of Holy Mass presided Bishop Michael Bibi of Buea and Fr. Desmond Ndikum of SOBA Dallas.
- A collection was made to support the Divine Mercy Co-Cathedral Project of the Diocese of Dallas. This was done as a thank you gesture to Bishop Bibi for traveling to the United States to take part in the convention.
- At the end of Mass, all SOBANs present at deliberations got a wonderful gift of customized SOBA America suitcases.

- The General Assembly officially came to a close at 2:45pm.

Attendance: Please refer to the accompanying 2022 SOBA America General Assembly Attendance Roster.

Prepared by Rev. Desmond Ndikum of SOBA Dallas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Divine Tange". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Approved by Secretary Divine Tange – SOBA America Secretary General