

**SOBA AMERICA**  
**2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup> 2025**  
**35<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**  
**Detroit, Michigan**

**MINUTES:**

**8am-9am**

During this period, delegates signed in and received their credentials as well as their voting devices. At exactly 8:30pm, the POSA called the meeting to order. This was followed by an opening prayer and then the singing of the SJC Sasse Anthem. After the singing of the anthem, it was time for roll call by chapters.

**9am- MOTIONS ON THE FLOOR**

During this period, the various motions tabled by members and chapters were brought to the floor. These motions had been discussed extensively on the SOBA America official WhatsApp forum the previous months. About ten minutes were allocated for each motion to be tabled and briefly discussed, and voted on.

**Motion 1. Motion to adjust eligibility for Soba America membership.**

The motion, submitted by the NLT upon approval of the Board, sought to adjust eligibility for membership in SOBA America to keep us in alignment with the guiding principle membership in only one regional chapter. Two SOBANS, including SOBAN Pau Ayah (SOBA Montreal), spoke in favor of the motion and two others, including President Rene Ategwa (SOBA Montreal), spoke against the motion. At the end of the debate, the votes were as follows:

For the motion: 75

Against the motion: 33

**THE MOTION PASSED.**

Here is a full text of the motion:

**Motion:**

To amend the SOBA America by-laws provision on membership eligibility to read as follows:

*Article 2.1: Membership Criteria*

*Membership in SOBA America shall be open to ex-students and former teachers of St. Joseph's College Sasse who reside in the Americas and are affiliated with a Chapter that is in good standing with SOBA America.*

*Article 2.2: Chapter in Good Standing*

*A Chapter shall be considered in good standing with SOBA America if it meets the following criteria:*

- 1. Respects and adheres to the SOBA America Constitution, By-Laws, and decisions made by the National Leadership Team (NLT) and the Board of Directors/National Executive Council (NEC).*
- 2. Pays all dues and other monies collected from its members to SOBA America in a timely manner.*
- 3. Does not affiliate with any other regional SOBA body outside of SOBA America.*
- 4. Maintains a minimum enrollment of 10 members.*

*The NLT and Board ( NEC) shall have the authority to determine whether a Chapter is in good standing and to take appropriate action in cases of non-compliance.*

**Motion 2. Motion on the Reinstatement of SOBAN Nka Fomenky**

The original motion on this issue (which sought the reinstatement of SOBAN Nka Fomenky after he was suspended from SOBA America by its General Assembly in 2021) was withdrawn but, since there was an amendment to the motion which met the standard to be an alternate motion per Robert's Rules of Order, the amendment was brought to the floor for a vote. The core of the amendment (made by Reverend Fr Desmond Ndikum) was for SOBAN Nka Fomenky to submit a written letter to the SOBA America General Assembly stating :

- a. His desire to rejoin Soba America,

- b. An acknowledge and apologize for his past refusal to comply with directives regarding the Soba America platform,
- c. His commitment to act in good faith and in alignment with the rules and spirit of Soba America,
- d. His complete and immediate relinquishing of the Soba America Telegram forums under his control.

Two SOBANS– Kingsley Monikang (SOBA DMV) and Ferdinand Akoh (SOBA Houston)- spoke against the motion while SOBANS Fr Desmond Ndikum and Dr Emmanuel Esaka spoke in favor of the motion.

After the voting, the results were as follows:

For the motion: 84 votes

Against the motion: 49 votes.

#### **THE ALTERNATE (AMENDED) MOTION PASSED.**

Here is the full text of the amended motion which passed.

#### **Motion: Amendment on Reinstatement of Mr. Nka Fomenky**

*Moved that Mr. Nka Fomenky be reinstated into SOBA America upon meeting the following conditions:*

*1. Submission of a written letter addressed to the SOBA America General Assembly expressing:*

- a. His desire to rejoin SOBA America,*
- b. An acknowledgment and apology for his past refusal to comply with directives regarding the Telegram platform,*
- c. A commitment to act in good faith and in alignment with the rules and spirit of SOBA America,*
- d. A complete and immediate relinquishing of the SOBA America Telegram forums under his control.*

#### **Motion 3: Motion to Amend Dual Office Holding Policy**

The original motion (submitted by SOBAN Etch Ebot of Soba Houston) sought to reverse the current policy of Soba America which prohibits individuals from holding office at the national level

while simultaneously holding office at the chapter level. The original motion therefore sought to reverse this policy and make it applicable only to the office of the President.

An amendment to this motion submitted by SOBAN Fr Desmond Ndikum (of SOBA Dallas) sought to extend the restriction to all chapter Presidents. The amendment sought to lift the restriction on other chapter office holders to make them eligible to keep their positions while concurrently serving in the National Leadership Team, provided that there is no conflict of interest between the two positions and that the officer demonstrates the ability to discharge the duties of both roles without dereliction.

Two SOBANS - Dr Aloysius Ibeagha (SOBA Montreal) and Ferdinand Akoh (SOBA Houston)- spoke in favor of the amended motion while SOBAN Serge Yudom (SOBA Dallas) spoke against the amended motion.

After voting, the results were as follows:

For the amended motion: 79

Against the amended motion: 44

#### **THE MOTION PASSED.**

Under Robert's Rules of Order, the original motion wasn't revisited since the amended motion covered all essential elements of the original motion and passed.

Here is a full text of the amended motion that passed.

#### **Amended Motion:**

*Mindful of the fact that the President of SOBA America may not hold any other Executive position at his local Chapter while concurrently being POSA, SOBA America shall prohibit any sitting Chapter President from concurrently holding any position on the National Executive (including President, Vice President, Secretary General, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Organizing Secretary, PRO, or At-Large Board Member).*

*However, chapter-level officers who are not Chapter Presidents—such as Vice Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, PROs, or other committee members—may be eligible to hold a national office concurrently, provided they are able to discharge both roles without conflict of interest or dereliction of duty.*

#### **Motion 4: To Explore Alternative Member Benefits:**

This motion was submitted by SOBA DMV and the goal was to have SOBA America form and exploratory committee to identify and evaluate supplementary member benefit programs beyond SAGI in order to reduce frequent fundraising pressure on members.

Two SOBANS–Tabenyang (SOBAN DMV) and Dr Ibeagha (SOBA Montreal)- spoke in favor of the motion while SOBAN Alain Taku spoke against the motion.

After voting, the results were as follows:

For the motion: 103

Against the motion: 18

**THE MOTION PASSED.**

**Here is a full text of the motion.**

#### ***Motion***

*SOBA America should form an exploratory committee to identify and evaluate supplementary member benefit programs beyond SAGI, to reduce frequent fundraising pressures.*

#### **Motion 5: Motion to Move Convention from Memorial Day Weekend.**

The motion was submitted by SOBA MAL and the rationale was to give SOBANS who are veterans the ability to celebrate Memorial Day.

Two SOBANS-Edmund Mbu (SOBA MAL) and Kingsley Monikang (SOBA DMV) spoke in favor of the motion while SOBANS Roland Fonjong (SOBA DMV) and SOBAN HRH Michael Fondungallah (SOBA Minnesota) spoke against the motion>

After voting, the results were as follows:

For the motion: 21

Against the motion: 102.

**THE MOTION FAILED.**

**Here is a full text of the motion.**

***Motion:***

*SOBA America should amend the bylaws reschedule the SOBA America convention from Memorial Day weekend in May to during another summer weekend.*

**Motion 6. Motion To Eliminate the Hosting of Mini Convention as a requirement for hosting a Soba America convention.**

This motion was submitted by SOBA MAL with the aim of removing the current requirement that a chapter must host a mini convention before hosting a convention.

Two SOBANS- Edmund Mbu (SOBA MAL) and Victor Tante (SOBA Georgia) spoke for the motion while SOBANS Dr Barrow Tabe (SOBA DMV) and Rene Ategwa (SOBA Montreal) spoke against the motion.

After voting, the results were as follows:

For the motion: 27

Against the motion: 68

**THE MOTION FAILED.**

Here is a full text of the motion.

***Motion:***

*SOBA America should remove the requirement that chapters must host a mini-convention before hosting a national convention.*

**Motion 7: Motion to allow political discussions (except “Ambazonia”/Cameroon matters) on the Soba America WhatsApp forums.**

This motion was submitted by SOBAN Paul Forbang of SOBA Dallas to reverse the current rule which prohibits political discussions on the SOBA America forums.

No SOBAN spoke in favor or against this motion.

After voting, the results were as follows:

For the motion: 48

Against the motion: 62

## **THE MOTION FAILED.**

Here is a full text of the motion.

### ***Motion:***

*All political discussions, except those related to Cameroonian/Ambazzonia politics, be allowed in the SOBA America WhatsApp social forum.*

## **CHAPTER REPORTS**

Chapter reports were presented by the chapters that had submitted their reports to the Secretary General before the official deadline. Digital copies were made available to the GA prior to the AGM and time was allocated for Q&A.

The chapters were:

1. Soba California- No questions from the GA
2. Soba Dallas- No questions from the GA
3. Soba DMV- No questions from the GA
4. Soba Montreal- No questions from the GA
5. Soba New England- No questions from the GA
6. Soba Tri-State- SOBAN HRH Michael Fondungallah asked why there were no activities for SOBANESE and kids during the convention. The President of SOBA Tri-State, Dr Abunaw, acknowledged that this was a mistake by the hosting chapter.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The financial report was presented by SOBAN Edwin Atem (Financial Secretary of SOBA America). The report covered the period from 6/1/2024 to 4/30/2025.

At the end of the report, some members of the GA asked questions or made suggestions.

SOBAN Paul Ayah of SOBA Montreal challenged the idea that SOBA America financial reports are sensitive hence should not be printed. He requested that the reports be printed and handed to members during the GA, besides its publication on the website.

SOBAN Paul Ayah also noted that due to the huge financial loss incurred in the last convention in Arizona, SOBA America should have about 4 activities to be covered by SOBA America. Any other additional activity or activities should be covered by the hosting chapter(s).

SOBAN Dr Emmanuel Esaka suggested that SOBA America financial reports should be made public in order to enhance fundraising. POSA explained the difference between the Sasse Alumni Association and SOBA America with regard to fundraising.

SOBAN Arrey Obenson chimed in on the process and suggested that the financial reports be made available on the portal.

SOBAN HRH Michael Fondungallah asked why he has never received a statement on the for-profit report.

The Financial report was then adopted.

### **SAGI Report**

The SAGI report was presented by SOBAN Dr Kevin Njabo.

After the presentation, members asked various questions regarding the program. Pertinent questions included the following:

1. Why is it possible for a person to have multiple registrations with SAGI.
2. Why does SOBA America allow members to owe on their SAGI obligations and how does SOBA America plan to recuperate delinquent dues.

### **CONVENTION HOSTING FOR 2028 AND 2029.**

Four chapters vied to host the 2028 or 2029 SOBA America conventions. The chapters were given the opportunity to present their bids before the General Assembly.

1. SOBA Dallas: Presentation was led by President Moses Sona
2. SOBA DMV: Presentation was led by SOBAN Gerald Tchatchoua and supported by President Luma Becke.
3. SOBA Georgia: Presentation was led by President Emmanuel Tange.
4. SOBA Montreal: Presentation was led by President Rene Ategwa.



At the end of the presentations, SOBAN Divine Tange asked to address the GA. He spoke about the importance of giving the opportunity to chapters that had not hosted the opportunity to host before considering those that already hosted. He singled out SOBA Dallas and SOBA DMV that already hosted conventions in 2022 and 2019 respectively. In this light, he suggested that consideration should only be given to SOBA Georgia and SOBA Montreal.

This speech was met with opposition from both SOBA Soba Dallas and SOBA DMV who strongly disagreed with the statement made by SOBAN Tange. It caused a moment of confusion on the floor as chaos ensued. President Fote clarified that SOBAN Tange's position was his as a SOBAN and that he didn't speak as the Secretary General of SOBA America. This did very little to calm nerves on the floor. A senior SOBAN suggested that SOBAN Tange apologize to the GA for his speech which adversely affected the hosting bids of SOBA Dallas and SOBA DMV. SOBAN Tange obliged and apologized accordingly. His apology was met with applause from the GA.

Following the apology from SOBAN Tange, SOBA Dallas withdrew their bid and endorsed SOBA Georgia's bid.

After voting, the results were as follows:

SOBA Georgia- 48 votes

SOBA DMV- 41 votes

SOBA Montreal- 34 votes

SOBA Dallas: 2 votes.

SOBA Georgia won the ballot. President Emmanuel Tange of SOBA Georgia informed the GA that SOBA Georgia had opted to host the 2029 convention. This meant that runners-up SOBA DMV would host the 2028 convention.

[Final decision – 2028 National convention host is SOBA Chapter DMV and 2029 National Convention host chapter is SOBA Georgia.](#)

## STATE OF THE UNION BY POSA

President Fote presented the state of the union address to the GA. He informed SOBANS that the state of Soba America was strong. Prior to his address, he announced that the convention gift to SOBANS for 2025 (suit/garmen bag) was a parting gift from POSA and FLOSA to SOBANS. This was met with a thunderous applause/ standing ovation from the GA. POSA unveiled the gift and handed the first one to the President General of SOBA America, Mr Ayuk Iyok.

President Dr. Bertrand Fote delivered a heartfelt and inspiring final State of the Union Address, marking the culmination of his six-year tenure. He reflected on the growth, resilience, and accomplishments of SOBA America under his leadership, emphasizing unity, innovation, accountability, and global engagement.

Key accomplishments included:

- **Reunification & Credibility:** Led the successful reunification of SOBA UK, restoring its credibility and position in SOBA globally.
- **Historic Legacy Projects:** Oversaw major initiatives such as the renovation of the Pa Ferdinand Ngando Assembly Hall, restoration of the SJC Sasse Chapel, and the creation of the SJC Sasse Heritage Board.
- **Academic & Institutional Support:** Delivered over \$100,000 in scholarships, special meals, career mentorship, and technology through SOBA America Day. Collaborated with SJC Sasse leadership to help restore the school's top academic performance.
- **Financial Transparency:** Implemented cashless conventions, launched a transparent system for recordkeeping, and continued building a scholarship endowment fund with a \$250,000 goal.
- **Member Empowerment:** Introduced the Lend-A-Hand initiative, Big Brother mentorship program, and SOBA America Business Directory to support SOBANS and SOBANESE, among others.
- **Digital Transformation & Visibility:** Launched SOBA America TV, expanded communication channels, and increased the association's visibility both nationally and internationally.
- **Governance Reforms:** Restructured the National Leadership Team into a departmental model, revised the constitution and bylaws, and elevated the professionalism of national conventions.
- **Crisis Support:** Provided pandemic stimulus checks to SOBANS, marking a historic first in alumni association engagement and care.
- **Spiritual Unity:** Announced the launch of monthly SOBA America prayer sessions, with Rev. Fr. Desmond Ndikum and Pastors Ivo Edimo and Anabi Epizitone serving as spiritual leads.

Dr. Fote closed by thanking his National Leadership Team, FLOSA Laura Fote, the Board, chapter leaders, and the general membership. He urged SOBANS to unite behind the incoming

administration and to help complete the scholarship endowment project as a lasting legacy. POSA also spoke about the importance of the endowment fund and how much it meant to him personally. A teary-eyed POSA called on SOBANS to join him in this endeavor.

The address concluded with a standing ovation, honoring Dr. Fote's visionary leadership and enduring impact on SOBA America.

Following his scholarship endowment plea, the following pledges and donations were made:

1. Dr Barrow Tabe and the 1992 pledged \$2000 (\$500 from Dr Tabe, President Moses Sona and Etchu Ebot respectively).
2. Members of the 1986 class pledged the sum of \$3000 to support the endowment fund.

On the matters arising after his state of the union address, SOBAN Ferdinand Akoh complimented POSA and his team for their good leadership. He went on to apologize for the low grade that he gave POSA on one aspect of an analysis that he had previously made on the SOBA America official WhatsApp forum which mostly graded POSA's performance very high. He withdrew that particular score and changed it to an A.

POSA then called on PG Iyok who addressed the GA.

PG Iyok thanks SOBA America for the warm welcome accorded him.

PG talked about the Heritage board which has representation from SOBA America (President Fote, President Emeritus Mafany Itoe, and Fr Desmond Ndikum).

PG also called on SOBA America and the newly formed SOBA Canada to have an amicable relationship.

He informed the GA that SOBA General received CFA 40 millions from President Paul Biya for infrastructural development in Sasse. He added that more money was needed and promised to reach out to SOBANS directly.

PG informed the GA that Cameroon's PM Dr Dion Ngute would visit Sasse campus the following week.

He finally appealed to the GA that the elections slated for this year should unify and strengthen SOBA America and not cause division.

Finally, PG promised to help promote a better relationship between SOBA General and SOBA Diaspora.

At the end of his presentation, POSA called on SOBANS to join him in singing Saint Joseph song.

## **ELECTIONS**

The last item on the agenda was the election of new members of the National Leadership Team as well as the Board of Directions.

The first order of call was the seating of the debate committee comprised of SOBANS Arrey Obenson (Chairman), Secretary General Divine Tange and Dr. Aloysius Ibeagha. Chairman Obenson informed the GA that after numerous debates between the two candidates vying for the Presidency of SOBA America viz SOBANS Ekole Fonjungo and Njukang Asong, there were no debates planned during the GA. He added that both candidates would only make closing arguments. After a coin toss, SOBAN Njukang Asong made his closing argument followed by SOBAN Ekole Fonjungo.

The election committee (composed of Dr Ibeagha-Chairman, SOBAN Divine Tange, President Anthony Mbuagbaw representing the Ekole Fonjungo Campaign and SOBAN Scott Nyambi representing the Njukang Campaign) was then seated. POSA was also a member of the committee.

A point of order was raised by a member of the GA who wanted to know why POSA was a member of the elections committee. He was duly informed that POSA was a member just to provide technical support with the voting.

Before voting started, HRH Michael Fondungallah asked that all the non-competitive positions (Secretary General-Paul Forbang, Treasurer-Amadeus Dzekedze, Financial Secretary-Terence Ambe, Organizing Secretary-Etchu Ebott II, and Public Relations Officer-Bristel Masonjo, as well as the three BOD members Dr Evariste Enongene, Mbei Enoh and Valentine Bate) be voted by acclamation. Chairman Dr Ibeagha agreed. This was put to the GA which voted by acclamation. The competitive positions were those of the Presidency as aforementioned and the position of Vice President being contested by SOBAN Edwin Atem and Sona Bokossah.

After voting the non-competitive positions by acclamation, voting started on the competitive positions. During this period, the absentee ballots were opened under the watchful eyes of the representatives of the two campaigns. SOBAN Anthony Mbuagbaw challenged the validity of some ballots due to what he terms irregularities as those ballots were mailed from the same post office. He also challenged two ballots that belonged to the same SOBAN. The latter two ballots were disqualified but the rest were counted.

At the end of voting, the results were as follows:

**President**

**Live Ballots:**

Njukang Asong: 124 votes

Ekole Fonjungo: 48 votes

**Absentee Ballots: (2 ballots disqualified)**

Njukang Asong: 56 votes

Ekole Fonjungo: 3 votes

**Overall Total:**

Njukang Asong:  $(124+56)= 180$  votes

Ekole Fonjungo:  $(48+3)= 51$  votes

**Vice President**

**Live ballots**

Edwin Atem: 109 votes

Sona Bokossah: 59 votes

**Absentee Ballots: (2 ballots disqualified)**

Edwin Atem: 56 votes

Sona Bokossah: 3 votes

**Overall Total:**

Edwin Atem:  $(109+56)= 165$  votes

Sona Bokossah:  $(59+3)= 62$

When voting was completed, Chairman Ibeagha announced the results:

SOBAN Njukang was announced as the President-elect of SOBA America while SOBAN Edwin Atem was announced as the Vice President-elect.

The announcement was followed by wild jubilation on the floor.

### **2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION CHAIRS**

Following the announcement of the elections results, the chairpersons of the 2026 elections were presented to the GA. The 2026 SOBA America convention will be held in Minnesota and its chairpersons, SOBANS Stephen Ndely and Divine Tange were handed the SOBA America convention torch and bag by the chairman of the Detroit convention, President Emeritus Quintus Enow later that evening during the gala.

### **MASS**

Father Desmond Ndikum led a mass following the deliberations. He called for unity amongst SOBANS following the contentious elections that just took place.

### **End of General Assembly.**

The GA was adjourned at 4pm

### **END OF MINUTES**

Respectfully submitted by Divine Tange

Secretary General of SOBA America