



VERENIGING VAN ADVOKATE

SOCIETY OF ADVOCATES

MOKHGATLO WA BAEMEDI

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NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2017

The year is nearing its end and on 12 October 2017 was the last Board meeting for the year. One can only stand astonished about the way time fly without one notice it as such.

The following aspects were discussed and feedback is hereby given –

1. Membership

We have increased our membership from 56 at the beginning of 2017 to 58 at date of this newsletter. The latest members admitted are: –

Ane Smit

Virginia Lestwalo

Heinrich Scholz

Matladi Pitse

Tubatsi Moloji

Chris Mienie

Rodger Pullen

Jack Gerber

2. Website

The website has been activated and a number of members have submitted information to be uploaded. We have received a number of enquiries due to this web site and it is still increasing. It gives the opportunity for members to be visible as well as to expose the Society to the broad public and the legislature.

- 3. Subscription to Juta and related web sites via the web** 3.1. This is an expensive exercise as for Juta it cost R 1260 – 00 and there must be a minimum of 70 members, the cost per year is R 88 200 – 00.

3.2 LEXIS requires a minimum of 80 members at R 1249 – 00 per member – the cost per year is R 99 920 – 00. It was decided that this is not a viable option and each member could subscribe on its own initiative and requirements.

4. GSA business cards.

There was a request to standardise the Societies letterheads, the website and business cards. The proposal was only received prior to the meeting and was not discussed as yet.

5. GSA ID Cards.

The process has been in the making since September 2017 and it is hoped that some cards will be available before the year end. We are relying on the printer to act on the request.

6. Defaulting Attorneys.

Each member is responsible for the administration of defaulting lawyers to report such lawyer to the Law Society. The issue was discussed but due to the year end, no decision was taken as to whether the Society should get involved.

7. New revised Constitution.

We have revised the Constitution whereby Koot Myburgh has just rearranged the Constitution into proper headings and all that should fall under one heading has been moved to that heading. New aspects has been included in the spirit of the Constitution [see red parts of the draft].

It is circulated for written comment before 15 NOVEMBER 2017 to be confirmed at the AGM of 25 November 2017.

ATTACHED FOR COMMENT

8. Members arrear fees.

- a. From the financial statements received from the auditors, it seems as if there are a number of members, according to the records, currently in arrears with membership fees. Please ensure that your membership fees are paid.
- b. Clause 16(d) of the present Constitution clearly deals with members who's fees are in arrears.
- c. Members are urged to read this clause and consider the effect thereof on the entire Society.

9. Legal Practitioner Act

Since the briefing on 19 August 2017, no further feedback was received. We are awaiting any response by the National Forum which should begin as from February 2018. We reiterate that Bars and Societies such as GSA are not included in the Bill as the Law Societies. The only main effect on advocates is to elect to have a fidelity certificate or not as well as the procedures regarding quotations to and payment by clients.

10. AGM - 25 November 2017.

- a. Time : 16:00
- b. Venue : Royal Elephant Hotel Bondev Park, Corner of Willem Botha & Wierda Roads, ELDORAIGNE, CENTURION.
- c. Function with spouses /partners : 17:30 for 18:00. [no children]
- d. Dress : Tie and jacket - spouse /partner accordingly.
- e. **REPLY TO ATTENDANCE OF THE AGM**
- f. **Nominations for members of the Executive :**
 - i. According to paragraph 17(11) of the present Constitution, nominations must be submitted in writing on or before **10 November 2017** to the secretary.
 - ii. Members whose membership fees are not 'paid up' would not be liable to nominate any person or to vote at the AGM.
 - iii. For this reason we are urging members to ensure that their payments are up to date and make payment ASAP, contact Van Gend Botha in this regard on 082 555 4063.

NOMINATION FORM ATTACHED

Members are requested to confirm with the secretary of attending the meeting and the function by no later than 10 November, as arrangements has to be made and finalised by 15 November 2017

J Brenkman
**BRENKMAN
SECRETARY
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