

Gauteng Vereniging van Advokate (GVA)

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NEWSLETTER 01/2017

Bar news

We have started the year off on a high note.

The first meeting of the new council was held on 14 January 2017. The following aspects were discussed –

1. Dates for meetings and social functions-

| Serial | Date | Action |
|--------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | 25 February 2017 | Council meeting |
| 2 | 25 March 2017 | Council meeting |
| 3 | 20 April 2017 | FUNCTION WITH JUDGES |
| 4 | 13 May 2017 | Council meeting [Lecture] |
| 5 | 8 June 2017 | FUNCTION WITH CHIEF MAGISTRATES |

| | | |
|---|------------------|---------------------------|
| 6 | 12 August 2017 | Council meeting [Lecture] |
| 7 | 14 October 2017 | SOCIETIES FUNCTION |
| 8 | 25 November 2017 | GENERAL MEETING |

We strongly request yourselves to participate in the social events this year as we would like to present our society to the broader number of judges and chief magistrates.

The venue for the functions will be the same as that of 2016 at the same time. We will inform you accordingly.

2. Visibility of GSA

In 2016, we have started off with our first social contact session with the judges. We intend to expand on that 'first effort' and have been in contact with the DJP in Pretoria regarding a function in April 2017, which could form part of an annual occasion.

We intend to compile a profile, such as presented to the DJP and to hand it over to the JP the same. We received some information that the JP does not know who we are and what we stand for' – so we are going to knock on his door and inform him who we are.

Our society is on the same level as the GBC of SA and many other Bar associations – we the JP to understand this. It is not necessary to be a member of the 'old bars' to be recognised; time moves on.

3. Website and information

Since the AGM in 2016, some members approached us and enquired about the format of the website and the information thereon. It was decided that we should become more visible and to include information of members on the web site with fields of expertise and skills – very short. Reference was made to some other bar associations and its available information. We will request members who would like to be included to submit information to be used. It is free for all

and those who would like to participate – the secretary will send out the questionnaire in the near future.

We will also have our member's information published in Horters in the second part of 2017 under the name of our society.

4. Legal Aid SA

LASA is having a new briefing session on new regulations and procedures. It seems as if the LASA is now actively going to 'classify' advocates in terms of years of experience for briefs. It is a problem instructing an advocate with no experience, who has been accredited on a difficult matter. We have expressed our concerns in the past and it seems as if this is now becoming a reality to give instructions according to experience.

We will let you know of whatever we can get regarding the above. It is each practitioners own responsibility to be accredited and to keep the ball rolling.

5. ID for identification as members of GSA

There was a request for a 'TYPE OF ID' for members as judges and magistrates start to ask about being a member of a bar or society. We have in principle agreed to make such an id as big as a drivers licence with a photo being valid for one year at a time. The secretary will send out a circular for those interested.

6. Personal information

Read with the Legal Practitioners Act we would like to get our house in order. This is a request to member to submit information to start up a 'personal file' and to be ready should the newly appointed board require any information. The questionnaire is simple and we urge members to submit the required information.

7. **Communication regarding the Legal Practitioners Act**

We have received a number of requests regarding the composition of this Board, mostly regarding the composition of the members of the board. As one would understand it is a statutory body and the appointment of members has been dealt with some time ago. As indicated at the meeting of 19 November 2016, we have competent persons on this board who is certainly 'looking after our profession' but we are too small to make waves. I believe the Law Societies are the ones complaining and they will and have the money to take legal action. We will be cited in any actions whatsoever.

Although we took note of the contents of the letters and emails, our position is and still remain that we will not engage in any political positioning and would rather defend and promote our society instead.

8. **Constitution of GSA**

The secretary will send the Constitution to each member and request any changes or new inclusions therein. We will set the date at end of April 2-017 whereafter the board will finalise the constitution for the second round of comments. Please participate – if no replies are received we will continue with the finalisation of the constitution [if applicable].

9. **Meditation course**

Due to some enquiries, we will try to get this course on the map in the second part of 2017 due to admin and logistical reasons. We would like to know who would be interested in finalising the course. Detail of venues and cost will later be communicated - after we have received those who are interested in the course. The secretary will send out the request and we urge members to just in principle indicate 'yes or no'.

10. Communication with members

We have received a request from quite a number of members regarding official and non-official communication in the society. We have discussed the issue and has decided that we would send whatever is available to members – not junk!

We would like to enquire about the topics or in general ‘what you want?’ – please sent an email to us.

We are not going to upload court cases, pleadings, precedents and related information as this would not be in line with the aim of our communication.

11. Admission of new members

Three new applicants have been admitted as members of the society –

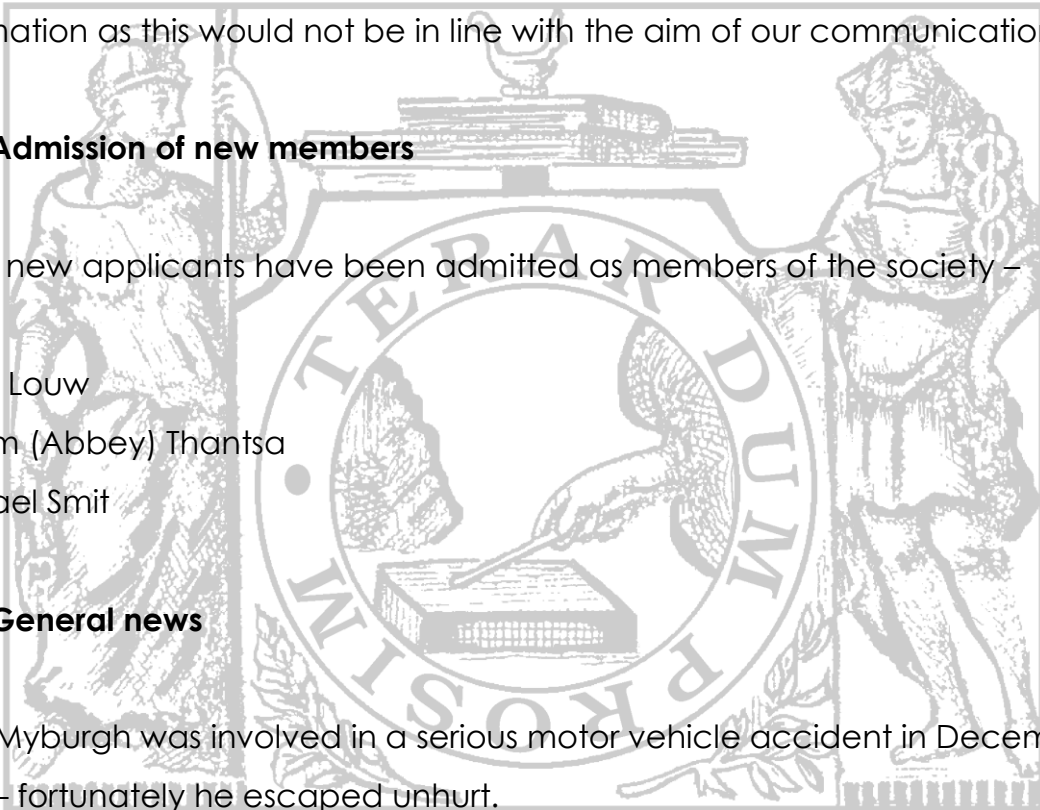
Pierre Louw

Abram (Abbey) Thantsa

Michael Smit

12. General news

Koot Myburgh was involved in a serious motor vehicle accident in December 2016 – fortunately he escaped unhurt.



J Brenkman

Signed Electronically

SECRETARY GSA

PERSONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED

NAME

ID

DATE OF ADMISSION AS ADVOCATE

DATE OF MEMBERSHIP OF GSA

QUALIFICATIONS

FIELD OF EXPERTISE

Maximum 5 SENTENCES

COPY OF ADMISSION ORDER BY HIGH COURT

