20 October 2016



Dear SABA-members,

In terms of the constitution (10.1.2) notice is hereby given of the Annual General meeting to be held on 18 November at 18:00 at Dr. Bohmer School, Walter Sisulu road (Haldon rd) at our convention.

It is important that as many members as possible attend as we have a lot to discuss and decide on. Please also check if your club has paid its annual fees as only those who have paid have voting rights. If a chairman of a club cannot attend notice must be given who has a proxy vote for that club. Please also find attached the financial statement. An audited version will be presented at the convention.

I am looking forward to seeing you all there and to renew old bonsai friendships. Vian and his team in Bloemfontein are putting in the hard yards and we appreciate all that is done. Please prod all your members to come and join the bonsai fraternity and see and hear about the exciting things happening in different regions.

Instead of just listing points for the agenda I will have a short discussion of each item.

Lifelong achievement awards

We’ve received three nominations and have two standing over from last year. At a SABA Exco meeting held on 19 October it was decided to award three people and we will be handing over the certificates at the convention. Please try and ensure that the nominee attends the meeting or else nominate someone to receive it.

It is imperative that clubs who nominate someone write a proper motivation and not just send in a name. This is a prestigious award and by not properly motivating a nomination you are not doing the candidate justice.

Election new Exco member

We need to elect a new Exco member in Bloemfontein as Antony Smith has resigned due to work pressure. As he was handling the website it should be someone who can take over that duty.

Please look around for a suitable candidate as the website is a thorn in our side that keeps popping up. We’ve had one volunteer who is prepared to run a website. This will be discussed at the meeting.

In the meantime it would help if all clubs coordinate their Facebook pages to the SABA page. In this way we can get a better countrywide network of what all clubs are up to and increase memberships for everyone.

In the same way webpages of every club can be linked to say the Pretoria Bonsai Kai. This way you will also automatically increase your visits.

New SABA constitution

We’ve send out the proposed new SABA constitution to all clubs. Only one amendment was received so we have to assume that everyone agrees with the changes. The amendment is to say that money will divert back to clubs if SABA is ever dissolved.

If there are any questions about the changes please let us know before the convention so we do not waste too much time on this and have to discuss the same things over and over again.

New Talent

The organising of the New Talent competition is going swimmingly. Some regions who have not send their entrants to Earl Jefferys have promised to do it as soon as possible after the regional competitions.

We’ve been asked to have prejudging of the competition trees but the logistics are not easy. We have done everything possible to ensure that all entrants have a fair chance and the trees are of equal standard. The entrants also pick a tree by lottery so that should equal out in the end.

Motion on overseas delegates

We’ve received a motion from the Western Cape regarding the selection of South African demonstrators at overseas events. The motion is enclosed so clubs can discuss it before voting on it at the convention.

The motions is:

In order for a free, fair and democratic decision by SABA on who will be chosen to represent South-Africa at future international bonsai conferences we are invited to it is proposed that:

1) Details of the invitation are published as soon as it is received with a call for CV’s of nominees and a properly motivated recommendation by the club/region.

2) The nominations will be considered by the SABA Exco and voted on whereby a final decision is made;

or

The nominations are published in a newsletter and all registered clubs get one vote for their candidate and the majority vote wins;

or

The nominations are published and every individually registered member of a club belonging to SABA votes for an entrant and the one with the most votes win.

SABA photo competition

The SABA photo competition has been going very well with more and more people participating. The standard of entries have also become better and more diverse. Thank you to everyone who helps to make this possible.

That said we have been asked to juggle the pool of judges so we have better representation from regions. At the convention we would like every region to nominate a judge that will be part of the panel who will decide the winners for 2017.

SABA calendar

A beautiful Bonsai Calendar by SABA will be for sale to all clubs in South Africa to be collected at the convention in Bloemfontein.

The calendar consists of photos of winners in the monthly SABA photo competition, a very handy diary of what to do every month and the usual date schedule.

It is a first for us and we ask for your support. It costs R100 per calendar. Payments must be made into the SABA account:

BANK : F N B

ACCOUNT NAME : South African Bonsai Association ( SABA )

ACCOUNT NO : 62444063078

BRANCH : Pavillion Durban

BRANCH CODE : 224326

Please send confirmation of payment to [terence.oflaherty@smec.com](mailto:terence.oflaherty@smec.com).

The calendars will be ready for collection at the convention. If you are unable to collect alternative arrangements will include postage.

So that is all for now.

See you all in Bloem!

Regards,

Willem Pretorius

SABA president.