

As VP, What New Ideas Will Prof. Ngassa Be Bringing to the Leadership Team and SOBA America? Vision Overall

Statement of Fact: As a Vice President, I recognize that although we are all working for the common good of SOBA AMERICA, my main role is to work collaboratively with the President and help him advance his vision for SOBA AMERICA. SOBA America only has one President at a time.



1. Improve Visibility of the SOBA America Benefits Program (Abenity)

The Benefit Program has member perks (discounts) that are posted and sent by email once a week. Members can also access the weekly perks from the membership portal. The issue is that with the recent trend where most people spend a substantial amount of their time on social media platforms, this information is not readily available to SOBANS. One of the things I would like to do on a weekly basis is to scan through the member perks from Abenity and then summarize the top 3 to 5 “best deals” for the week and post the information on all social media platforms like Telegram, Twitter, Facebook, etc. where members can easily have access to the information. This information will also be shared with all Chapter Presidents.

2. Improve Information Sharing in the Financial Team

The way our structure is set up and given the importance of finances in any association, it is important that reports are posted in a timely fashion. While maintaining the separation of duties for the sake of proper accountability, it is important that the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer are in constant communication when needed and are able to share information on details of financial transactions. While we will continue to use QuickBooks and other tools and systems recommended by SAFAB, I will recommend regular and consistent communication between the Financial Secretary and Treasurer. Ideally, I would recommend a “Financial Team Google Drive or Dropbox” that will be accessible to the Financial Team and the President. This will allow any member of the Financial Team to update information on financial transactions as they come in. While the Google Drive or Dropbox will be updated daily by each member of the Financial Team, I will also recommend a review twice a month by both members of the Financial Team. Furthermore, I would recommend the Financial Team have phone conversations twice a month. Now, the members of the Financial Team can decide to talk more often, email more often, exchange messages by text more often as they see fit; but the recommendation of talking twice a month would be mandatory as “best practice”.

3. Revamp the Role of SAGI Manager

Currently, the Treasurer is the SOBA America SAGI Manager, while Dr. Kevin Njabo is the SOBA America SAGI Delegate. Given that SAGI membership is an important membership benefit, it is important that there is oversight on proper management of the account. Members involved in SAGI should be informed regularly on their status and SOBA America should be informed of the management of SAGI through quarterly reports. This will avoid some of the issues we have had with many members not paying on time and owing SOBA America significant amounts of money. The Treasurer’s responsibilities don’t give him the bandwidth to include the increased responsibilities recommended as SAGI Manager. However, the Financial Secretary’s responsibilities give him adequate bandwidth to take on these recommended responsibilities of SAGI Manager. Therefore, I would recommend the Financial Secretary manages SAGI. By realigning the management of SAGI, we would have improved efficiency and quality of service. Our Policies and Procedures Manual (PPM) will need to be updated on what will happen in the event of non-compliance of a member and internal guidelines to be followed by our SAGI delegates.

4. NLT Liaison with Chapter Presidents and Presidents of Class Groups

In our new configuration going forward, the Chapter Presidents and Class Group Presidents will be very important partners to the NLT. While SOBA America is strong and getting stronger, many chapters are weak and membership is dwindling. Many class groups are also very strong but this strength does not necessarily translate to active participation within chapters. The chapters should be our backbone. I would recommend empowering the Vice President as the official NLT Liaison with the Chapter Presidents and Class Group Presidents. I will recommend the creation of a WhatsApp group with all Chapter Presidents, Class Presidents, Czars and NLT members to share ideas on how to make SOBA America more attractive for everyone. Proposals will be taken to NEC by the VP who will serve as the head of this initiative. Class Presidents and

Czars will be invited from time to time to share their concerns or defend their proposals to NEC. These efforts will help generate ideas on how to grow our chapters and SOBA America. These ideas will be key in maintaining a high membership retention rate.

5. Investment Club for Chapters and SOBA America

Many chapters are involved in some kind of a “njangui scheme” just like we do back home, where money is contributed and members have turns to benefit. We can extend this idea to investment where we create an investment advice forum for SOBANS to share ideas. This idea can be harnessed at the chapter level and could be extended to SOBA America. I recommend the creation of groups of people interested in investing in different things so that they can work together to foster their needs. Although this group would be an independent group from SOBA America, SOBA America would be the vehicle to encourage such groups and networking for members. We will list different investment groups based on interest shown by members. Members interested in different ventures can get together and do the necessary paperwork to constitute an investment group. This will create great business opportunities for SOBANS to work together and improve their finances.

6. Maintaining and Making More Visible a Directory of SOBAN Professionals

I would like to continue maintaining and making visible a directory of SOBAN professionals who can assist SOBANS with knowledge and expertise in many areas (lawyers, IT advise, investment, insurance, etc.) Although we have a directory in our membership portal, an updated PDF document every three months shared with Chapter Presidents and our social media platforms will make the resource easily accessible to SOBANS. At the chapter level, this resource can also be shared with non-SOBANS, which will give our SOBAN professionals more clients.

7. Knowledge Market Discussion Board

I will recommend the creation of a new discussion board in our membership portal that I will call “Knowledge Market Discussion Board”. Every two weeks will feature a different topic on things that can help empower SOBANS as SOBANS will have the opportunity to share ideas and knowledge. This will offer the opportunity for enrichment to SOBANS. Members will be able to use these boards for enrichment all year round.

8. Convention Sponsoring Committee

I will recommend the creation of a Convention Sponsoring Committee that will be charged with working with the local host chapter to look for potential corporate sponsors, local business sponsors, potential charities we can partner with, sponsors for our sporting events and all possible sources of income which can enhance our conventions. This committee can also reach out to professional groups which specialize in assisting charities with funding resources and convention sponsoring. I anticipate that the creation of the Convention Sponsoring Committee and having the right people volunteer for this committee will help to boost our revenue streams in our conventions.