

= FLYING SPIRIT =

NATIONAL NEWS LETTER - DECEMBER 2022

Dear SAAFA Friends, Greetings and salutations to one and all. I trust this News Letter finds you all healthy and in good spirits.

*** MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT ***



It has been a while since I last communicated through this platform, in fact, at the end of last year before the start of the Festive Season. Much has happened since then and we are now fast approaching the Festive Season again. Unfortunately our previous Editor of the Flying Spirit decided that his pen had run dry and that he would not be continuing with the publication of further editions. This was just before our May 2022 Congress and resulted in no post Congress edition

being published as we did not have a readily available replacement person. My thanks and appreciation goes out to Hermann Olmesdahl for his sterling efforts over the past few years. Fortunately, the ever willing Chairman of our East Rand Branch, Roelf Rossouw, has stuck up his hand and volunteered to act as editor for this end-of-year edition of the Flying Spirit. We would welcome any volunteers to come forward and consider taking over this role into the future. The expectation is that the Flying Spirit is only published twice per annum, a post Congress edition and an end-of-year edition.

We are at the end of another year of post Covid activities. Although SAAFA, like many other similar institutions, started reinstating activities after the lifting of the Lockdown measures, for many it has been a rather subdued return to "normality", with attendance at events and other such like occasions down in numbers. As social animals we are not meant to live in continued isolation. In these times where we are constantly subjected to the negativity surrounding the many circumstances in which our country finds itself, one of the brighter most positive influences in our lives is the SAAF Association. SAAFA is in very good health and provides for many of us a most welcome diversion from the many negative reports that seem sometimes to want to swamp us.

The past year has also had further impact upon the SAAFA, especially in terms of a decline in the numbers of persons who have paid their annual levies, which includes capitation fees, as well as the inability of Branches to hold fundraising and social events, for a variety of reasons.

This obviously impacts negatively upon the ability of a number of Branches to continue with financial and other support to beneficiaries in need. Sadly there has again been some isolated murmuring regarding classes of membership of the Association and the payment of annual and other fees. In terms of our approved Constitution, membership of the Association shall be of three categories, these being full membership, honorary membership and associate membership. Upon approval of membership, a "membership subscription" is payable to attain membership of the Association. This is a once off payment and members in essence become lifelong members of the Association, remaining on either the active or inactive membership lists, depending upon the status of their continued annual payments or otherwise.

Annually thereafter a "members levy" is imposed on a member by the respective SAAFA Branches, at their discretion, payable annually towards the administration of the Branch. In addition, a "Branch Capitation Fee" shall be imposed on a SAAFA Branch by the NEC, at their discretion, and is also payable annually towards the administration of the Association. Normal practice is for the Branches to include the Capitation Fee in the members' levy that is invoiced annually. The foregoing provisions of the Constitution can only be amended through the adoption of an appropriate resolution at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting duly called for the purpose of voting on the desirability or otherwise of such alteration, following a defined process as set out in the Constitution. I trust the foregoing will provide some clarity and hopefully finality to this aspect.

The end of a year can be such an emotional time for many people. Whether it was a good year or not so good year, one definitely gets a feeling for such as the year end approaches. And with 2022 having been no exception, we perhaps find ourselves counting down the days to 2023, expectant of a new year with new possibilities, where the problems of 2022 can possibly fade away. However, despite whatever happened over this past, we need to be thankful for the many blessings we encountered along the way, however big or small.

During the past year we may have learned that things do not always turn out the way we planned or the way we think it should have. Things inevitably can go wrong that cannot be fixed or put back together the way they were before. Some broken things stay broken but with the resolve of our SAAFA National Executive Committee and our various Branch Executive Committees, we have succeeded in getting through the bad times and we look forward to the future for better times. We cannot foresee what 2023 will have in store for us but my fervent hopes and prayers are that it will bring back some sort of normalcy and all the things that we miss about day to day life.

It is said that we should always end the day with a positive thought and I would think that the same can be said about the end of a year. No matter how hard things were and no matter how we feel about 2022, tomorrow and even next year are fresh opportunities to make it better, to put the past behind us and to move forward into the new year with a renewed sense of purpose and excitement.



Christmas normally inspires a lot of positive feelings. For many people, the true meaning of Christmas lies in its religious significance. Christmas can be the start of great things. The Christmas spirit is all about helping others. As we go dashing through the busy holiday season, we need to take time to appreciate the true blessings of Christmas: the moments with family, the companionship of friends, and the fellowship with all. Christmas is normally a time to renew connections with family and friends.

In closing I wish to make use of this opportunity to express to you all my sincere gratitude for your support of SAAFA over the past few difficult years. Without our members continued participation and contributions, despite any and all the limitating factors, we would cease to exemplify the spirit for which we are so well known. I wish to convey my best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a magnificent New Year. May you and your loved ones experience peace, health, happiness, and prosperity in the coming New Year and may the spirit of love gently fill our hearts and homes.

God bless.

Mike Louw

National President: South African Air Force Association

*** SAAFA BENEVOLENCE ***

When we think of the word "BENEVOLENCE" a number of words like "Compassion", "Generosity" and "Altruism" come to mind. It intrinsically means "An unselfish concern for the welfare of others" and I believe that our Association clearly demonstrates an unselfish concern for the well-being of every one of our Members.



e of the Four Pillars of SAAFA Action is the deep pect and care we are called to give to our mrades and their families, especially those in ed. Let's stand together in building the nevolence of SAAFA into something profound and which we can all be immensely proud. We wish all Members a Safe, Peaceful Christmas and a New Year filled with Health and Prosperity.

Trevor Slade
National Vice President: South African Air Force Association



*** SAAFA COUNTRY VICE PRESIDENTS ***



Dirk Ackerman

Derrick Page

Frans Labuschagne

Steve Bekker

Country Vice Presidents are an important part of the SAAFA family; generally, not much is known about their functioning and where they fit into the organization.

Firstly, their appointments are in recognition of their many years of distinguished service to the SAAFA and in recognition of their esteem in the Association.

Secondly, they are also members of the National Executive Committee, which allows them to function in their geographical areas in this capacity. This means that they can assist and advise Branches on an informal basis and can be formally requested by the National President to aid a Branch in a specific matter and perform a ceremonial duty on his behalf.

This approach allows the SAAFA to acknowledge the contributions of senior members far removed from the National Office while extending its executive influence to other geographical areas.

They are also encouraged to keep NEC informed of matters of interest in their areas.

We want to thank you for all your support throughout the year and wish you a very

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Country Vice President: South African Air Force Association

*** SAAFA CONGRESS 2022 ***

The 77th SAAFA Congress, hosted by the Weskus Branch, was held at the Riviera Hotel, Velddrift in the Western Cape, 24 – 26 May 2022. The Branch Chairman, Dirk Blom, and his Team were responsible for a fantastic event! After checking in and registering the meeting of old friends was wonderful.



On day one the business started with the Act of Homage which was held on the banks of the Berg River in front of the Riviera Hotel in Velddrift. This was also attended by the CAF Lt. Gen Wiseman Mbambo and his wife Dr. Thokozani Mbambo.



*** SAAFA CONGRESS 2022 CONTINUED ***

The names of the members who were called to higher service during the last year were read out after placing the cross – *Lest We Forget!*

The opening of the Congress was also attended by CAF and he gave us a presentation on the new Vision and Mission together with the "State of the SAAF".

Very interesting and the Air Force Slogan says it all – "FREE THE EAGLE".

It was then announced that Lt Gen W.S. Mbambo would become a Patron and serve as such during his tenure as CAF. All correspondence and other official matters will therefore include Lt Gen W.S. Mbambo as a Patron.

Steve Bekker from the Durban Branch was appointed as a Country Vice-President for the KZN Province and close surrounds. Prior to the start of the AGM, a brief was provided by Alan Nelson, on the establishment of the "African Aerospace Innovation" in Stellenbosch. This will be known as the "Cape Winelands High School for Aeronautical Science" which is based at Stellenbosch Airfield and working with the University of Stellenbosch.



The President then gave his Address. This included the following pertinent points:

- Congratulations to all Branches that are up and running again fully after the last two years of restrictions and lockdowns. We have learned to adapt and we need to continuously consider what our best options are going forward.
- Emphasized the "SAAFA 4 Pillars" The slogan for this year is "Let's make SAAFA Great Again."
- Need to ensure that where there are Bases and/or Squadrons near the Branches we have a sound relationship with the Commanders. Marketing at HQ, Bases, Squadrons, College, 68 AS, etc....
- Guidelines for Heritage Sites Pretoria to prepare with the SAAF the Centenary of first fatal SAAF aircraft accident 22 September 2022.
- Constitution amended wording for the establishment and recording of Satellite Branches.
- Need to update the SAAFA Website.
- Herman Olmesdahl has resigned as the National Editor for The Flying Spirit.
 Therefore looking for a replacement.
- Need to have Branch Newsletters on a regular basis.
- Need to ensure that we nominate our members for Awards and make sure that they are well-written and relevant.

Other Information from other Portfolios

- Monthly Reports to be submitted by Branches by the 3rd of each month.
- Key 360 to be checked and changes indicated.



*** SAAFA CONGRESS 2022 CONTINUED ***

- Niches availability at Bays Hill 420 available / 86 Reserved
- Need to know and understand the "Older Persons Act", Care Structures / Benevolence need to be reported to Trevor Slade.



The positions of President, Vice-President Treasurer, and Secretary of the National Executive Council remains the same for the 2022/2023 period.

Port Elizabeth Branch will host the 78th SAAFA Congress and Banquet in 2023

*** SAAFA AWARDS 2022 ***

Congratulations to the following Members on receiving SAAFA Awards.

Order of the SAAF Association – Silver.

J.B. Harrison James Bruce Johannesburg

Order of the SAAF Association – Bronze.

W.C.K.M De Pinho William Pretoria

M. Kelbrick Mark Port Elizabeth

C. Stroebel Christo Whale Coast

Presidential Merit Award.

T.A. Burns Tod Anthony Port Elizabeth

F. Hardy Frank Port Elizabeth

M. Nightingale Margaret Port Elizabeth

Certificate of Merit.

Riviera Hotel - Velddrif Velddrif



Hugh Paine, Announcing the Award Winners for the 2021/2022 year.

We must eat chocolate, lots of Chocolate! It is vital for our survival! Dinosaurs didn't eat chocolate and look what happened to them!



*** MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ***

The following story was prepared for the handing over of the said "CHAIR" to the Smuts House Museum and specifically to the Great-Grandson of Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts, Phillip Weyers on 22nd May 2022. Courtesy of Bruce Harrison – SAAFA Remembrance/Heritage

*** THE EMPTY CHAIR ***

In January 1917 General Smuts was recalled from German East Africa by General Botha and asked to represent South Africa at the Imperial Conference in London. Only three days after his arrival, Lloyd George introduced him to the Imperial War Cabinet – Britain's own War Cabinet plus the visiting Dominion Prime Ministers. Lloyd George wasted little time before sending Smuts to the Western Front in France to assess the military situation first-hand. The visitor's wide-ranging survey so impressed the Prime Minister that he prevailed upon General Smuts to remain in England after the Imperial Conference to serve as the seventh member of the War Cabinet. As Minister without Portfolio, South Africa's Minister of Defence joined the Cabinet "on loan", but drew no pay from His Majesty's Government. In that capacity, he recommended the formation of the RAF in April 1918.

The person who had first recognised the potential of air power, however, was not Smuts, but Winston Churchill. As early as 1909, while at the Board of Trade, Churchill had foreseen that aviation would become the most significant factor in war, and suggested to the Cabinet that "we should place ourselves in communication with Mr Orville Wright and avail ourselves of his knowledge" At the Admiralty he founded the Royal Naval Air Service to provide protection to Naval harbours, oil depots, and other key installations. He supported Smuts' recommendation on the RAF

MRAF Lord Tedder says in his memoirs "Smuts was one of the very few to whom Churchill would listen, and was for that reason of the greatest value to us in the Middle East. Once I said to him, when he passed through Cairo on his way to London; "Do stay as long as you can. When you are there we get fewer tiresome telegrams from the Old Man. Stay and hold his hand for a while since you are such a friend of his and he will listen to you" Smuts replied with a twinkle in his eye: "There is an empty seat waiting for me at the Cape. And if I don't get back there soon I shall find someone else sitting in it... and that would never do..."



He also records that "General Smuts, an Allied Leader and one of the World's Greatest statesmen, pointed to the rough road ahead with these words: "I am not worried about the war; it will be difficult but we shall win it. It is after the war that worries me. Mark you, it will take years and years of patience, courage and faith. A set of chairs was made for General Smuts by Samuel Coleman, who worked for Ballantyne's Furniture Manufacturing Company of Pretoria. This chair is one of that set.

The picture shows Gen. Jan Smuts' Great Grandson,

Phillip Weyers sitting in the "Empty Chair" *** THE EMPTY CHAIR CONTINUED ***

Gen. Smuts used this particular chair at the last meeting when he was canvassing his Standerton constituency on the eve of the General Elections of 1948, when the SAP lost Standerton and other seats to the Nationalists, Who took power in South Africa for the next 45 years. Since then "The Empty Chair" has been in the custody of the Coleman family. It was on display at the MOTH Shellhole in Dundee for 29 years, and then relocated to Dickie Fritz for the last six years.



This symbolic "Empty Seat" the "Warriors Chair" has now being returned to its final home and resting place in the Smuts House Museum, by Bill Coleman, Samuel Coleman's grandson.

The picture shows the "Empty Chair" occupied by Bill Coleman, grandson of Samuel Coleman The manufacturer of the twin set of chairs.



ndered if it's safe to fly in the yellow arc ***

me pilots call the yellow arc "the caution range" but a better me is 'smooth air range'. Basically, you should not fly in the low arc if there is any turbulence including light chop, or if the e is "bumpy" as some call it! The rationale is that for most of US is just a number and we still feel young at heart. But let's be

honest, OUR Airframes are older and more fragile than newer vintage airframes and anything above light turbulence risks structural damage and failure even in the lower range of the yellow arc. So, can we fly in the yellow if light turbulence is encountered and a high-speed emergency descent to empty a bladder is required? The simple answer is NO! Therefore, Enjoy higher speeds in the yellow arc, but only in smooth air and with caution, stay alert, keep those wings level and yank that throttle back to idle if unexpected turbulence develops.







*** SAAFA BRANCH NEWS ***

KIMBERLEY BRANCH

The Branch is up and running again after two years of restrictions and lockdowns. We have learned to adapt and to continuously consider our best options going forward. Regular interaction and communication via the Branch WhatsApp Group did take place during this period. The first Branch meeting was held in March this year and it was decided that all future meetings will take place at the Ex-Serviceman Club on the second last Wednesday of each month. This will afford us the opportunity to interact with members of the Ex- Serviceman Club and MOTH from the Northern Cape District Dugout Shellhole – Kimberley. Various Memorial Services were attended during the latter part of the year.



The Memorial Service at the Northern Cape District Dugout Shellhole on the 22 July 2022 was well attended by SAAFA Members, Dave Alexander laid a wreath on behalf of SAAFA - Kimberley.

Seen here are SAAFA Members on Parade

On Sunday 25 September 2022 Christo du Toit and Linda du Toit attended the South African Cape Corps Regimental Association (SACCRA) Commemoration Service for the Battle of Square Hill in Kimberley. One of the honorary guests was Oupa van Wyk, one of the last survivors from the Cape Corps participating in the Second World War. Christo Du Toit laid a Wreath on behalf of the SAAFA. The Branch also received an invitation from the Office of the Executive Major of Kimberley to attend the National Remembrance Day Service during November 2022.



Christo du Toit with Oupa van Wyk

SAAFA Kimberley would like to welcome three new Members to the Association, Lt Col Jacques de Lange, Treasurer, Dave Alexander, Vice Chairman and Christoline Abbot Hodgson Member.

Jacques de Lange suggested that "Blue Evenings" are

held for fund raising purposes. The first get-together, a soup evening was held 20 July 2022 at the Ex-Serviceman Club with the second one, a Hamburger evening at the Chairman's house on 28 October 2022. Good support with great camaraderie!

The Chairman, Christo du Toit wish to thank Members for their effort and support during the year. With support like this SAAFA Kimberley can go a long way in the future.

SAAFA Kimberley also wishes the other branches a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Judge addressed the Drunkard, "You have been brought here for drinking" Drunkard, Thank you very much, your Honour, Let's start and burst out laughing. Banging the gavel, the Judge said, "Order" Drunkard," Whiskey with Soda, please!



*** SAAFA BRANCH NEWS CONTINUED ***

Whale Coast Branch

Not only has the Whale Coast for many years been the home of many Southern Right Whales who have annually returned to its shores, but it is also the home of many who have settled here permanently after retiring from a dedicated and distinguished career in the SAAF. For many years these members joined the SAAF Association's Cape Town Branch and held informal functions at venues in the Whale Coast Area to maintain and foster friendship and camaraderie, and take care of the general well-being of needy members, with the dream of becoming a fully-fledged branch of the SAAF Association. On 13 December 2018 the long sought-after dream became reality when the Whale Coast Branch was incorporated as a Satellite Branch of the Cape Town Branch during a Luncheon held at Café 1904 Restaurant in Hermanus.



Attendees at the incorporation of the Whale Coast Branch as a satellite branch of the Cape Town Branch on 13 December 2018.

Just 15 months later on 11 March 2020, the Whale Coast Branch became a Branch in its own right when the first Annual General Meeting was held at the Hermanus Golf Club and the first Branch Executive Committee was elected to take the Branch forward promoting the interests, image, and history of the SAAF Association, the SAAF and the members of these organisations. Shortly, the Branch will be

celebrating its fourth anniversary as the youngest Branch of the SAAF Association, still going from strength to strength with 65 active members participating in activities.

*** SAAFA BRANCH NEWS CONTINUED ***

East Rand Branch

Another year has passed and 2022 draws to a close. Twelve months of hard work but mostly fun and friendship within the East Rand Branch! The world pandemic has unfortunately not passed us by and was the catalyst for a series of rapid changes that fundamentally altered the way we play and do business, as the months have passed by, we have all aged, and some of our Members and friends are developing conditions that may need support in time to come. We are particularly grateful to those members and friends who stayed safe and healthy in the midst of all of this.



BEC – Shelagh Godfrey, Roelf Rossouw Mac McCloskey, Marj Malan and Dave Tayler

Many thanks to the hardworking Committee Members, They are the hub around which our Branch revolves and is enabled to carry on serving our members. To all our members, Thank you for helping to make the year a success. We wish you all a joyful festive season, may you have a blessed Christmas and may 2023 bring you good health and prosperity. God bless you all...





*** NOTAM ***

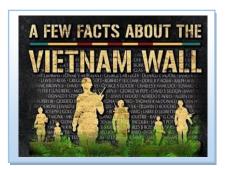
The Editor extends his thanks for all contributions received.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or SAAFA National Executive.

The editor reserves the right to amend or reject any editorial matter submitted for publication.



*** BLAST FROM THE PAST ***



There are 58267 names on the wall! 39996 were just 22 or younger, 8283 were 19, 33103 were 18, 12 were years old, 5 soldiers were 16. There are 3 sets of Fathers and sons on the wall. 31 sets of parent who lost 2 of their sons. 997 were killed on their first day. 1,448 were killed on their last day. 8 woman, all nurses. 244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the war, and 153 are on the wall.

*** THE EVOLUTION ***





"Fama Ex Factis" Fame Through Deeds

SAAF – 19 Squadron.

Formed on 1 September 1939 with 17 Squadron, 19 Squadron formed part of the Airways Wing at Swartkop, flying ex-SAA Junkers Ju-52/3m's, but was disbanded on 1 December that year. Almost missing out on the Second World War, 227 Squadron RAF was renumbered 19 Squadron SAAF on 12 August 1944 at Biferno, Italy, Flying Beaufighters, the squadron was involved in Bombing and strafing attacks in Greece and Yugoslavia until the end of the war saw the squadron disband on 10 July 1945. on 1 March 1970, a Flight of 17 Squadron was formed into 19 Squadron and equipped with Pumas at Swartkop. While A Flight was based at Swartkop, B Flight operated for a time from Durban. In 1988, E Flight at Swartkop become the first unit to be equipped with the new Oryx. A Flight was formed at AFB Louis Trichardt on 1 January 1991, with the squadron moving to Louis Trichardt on 1 January 1992, by which time they operated the Alouette III. 19 Squadron was the first squadron to be fully equiped with the Oryx in early 1994. The squadron moved once again on

1st January 2004 to AFB Hoedspruit.

https://www.saairforce.co.za/the-airforce/squadrons/100/19-squadron

*** CABIN CONSTERNATION ***

A King Air had just rotated (lifted-off the runway) when there was an enormous bang and the starboard engine burst into flames. After stamping on the rudder to sort out the asymmetric thrust, trying to feather the propeller and going through the engine fire drills with considerable calmness and aplomb, stress took its toll on the Captain. Although he transmitted to the tower in a level friendly voice "Ladies and gentlemen" there is no problem at all we're just going to land for a nice cup of tea. He then switched to cabin intercom and screamed at the passengers, Mayday! Mayday! Engine on fire, Prop won't feather, if I can't hold this asymmetric thrust we're going in! Emergency landing! Get the crash crew out! The aircraft landed safely with the passenger's hair standing on end.....







*** FINAL APPROACH AND SHUT DOWN ***

That's all for now Folks! Remember, The American writer, Samuel Clemens, known by his pen name Mark Twain once said: "If you don't read this Newspaper you are uninformed and if you do read this Newspaper you are misinformed". May the true spirit of Christmas shine in your heart and light your path. Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas with love, tranquillity, success, and new achievements. Happy and warm Christmas to you......

Keep those wings level and watch your airspeed!

The Editor...

National Executive - Office Bearers

National President Mike Louw

National Vice President Trevor Slade

Country Vice President (JHB / Outeniqua) Dirk Ackerman

Country Vice President (Weskus) Frans Labuschagne

Country Vice President (Natal) Steve Bekker

Country Vice President (Cape Town)

Derrick Page

Honorary Treasurer Carol Havenga

National Secretary Marianne Mostert

NEC Members

SAAF / SAAFA Liaison

Craig Stanton

Awards

Jaap Rossouw

Benevolence

Trevor Slade

Constitution / MoA / Records

Hugh Paine

Kindred Organisations

Mike Louw

Membership

Roelf Rossouw

Memorial Services

Renier Feldtmann

National Medical Liason

Bill de Pinho

Regalia

Marianne Mostert

Remembrance / Heritage

Bruce Harrison

Veteran Affairs

Colin Bowring

Webmaster / Social Media

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^{*} Let's make SAAFA Great Again *