

**SAAF
ASSOCIATION**



**SALM
VERENIGING**

EAST RAND BRANCH

= MAX THRUST =

EAST RAND BRANCH NEWS LETTER – DECEMBER 2023

Dear Friends,

As we near another year's end, everyone feels excited and wants to let the merriment begin! However, I can't help but realize that time seems



to be flying by, with no possibility of slowing down.

It's also difficult to shake the feeling that time is fleeting. It seems that there is either not enough time, or too much time wasted, but never is it just the right amount. But take it from me, it's time to toss that mindset out the door and begin to live in the moment and let the good times roll! I want to take the opportunity to look back on a year that

turned out much differently than anyone could have imagined. While it was certainly challenging in many ways, it also showed how strong we are as an organization – even in the toughest of times.

We can take pride in the fact that when the pandemic brought the world to a halt and forced us to keep our distance from family, friends, and one another, the work we did helped people stay connected and made the difficult times a little easier.



It was no easy task but the reliability of the service we provide and the quality of the content we offer define us. We rose to the challenge, our networks and platforms passed the test, and we proved as an organization robust and extremely flexible in the face of change.

I'm proud to say that while 2023 might have slowed us down, it certainly didn't stop us. We have managed to achieve many successes in a time when we were forced to adapt to very adverse circumstances. Needless to say, I appreciate the effort you have made to make all of our projects successful.

On behalf of the BEC, I thank you all for the patronage and commitment you've shown over the past year. Our combined strength is what makes us successful as an organisation.

My thoughts and prayers go to all our Members and Friends who are battling illness or are recovering from surgery.

I hope that when you're celebrating the holidays with friends and family you look back on the year with the same sense of accomplishment that we all should feel.

Warmest wishes for a very merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year! May you all enjoy a well-deserved break over the holidays!



Passengers traveling first class on a SAA Boeing were worried about the re-design which means that some toilets have windows. A Woman travelling to London complained that there were no blinds. She was told by the Stewardess, Madam, that if some pervert is clinging to the side of this aircraft at 35000 feet they deserve to see everything.

*** BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ***

Our heartiest welcome goes to our newest BEC Members. Marinda Beukes with Devon Cardases joined the Team during the latter part of the year and will be responsible for the Welfare and Membership portfolios respectively. We are eager to work side by side with them to accomplish our goals.

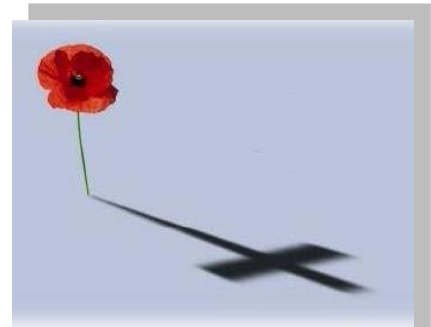


Seen here L to R, are Dave Tayler – Vice Chairman, Marinda Beukes – Welfare Portfolio, Devon Cardases - Membership, Yours Truly - Chairman, Fred Brits – Treasurer and Marj Malan our Secretary. Awesome bunch if you ask me! On behalf of our esteemed Members, I would like to extend my utmost gratitude to the Committee for their support and hard work.

THE STRENGTH OF THE TEAM IS EACH MEMBER, THE STRENGTH OF EACH MEMBER IS THE TEAM.

*** CALLED TO HIGHER SERVICE ***

As 2023 draws to a close we also reflect and remember those members and SAAFA friends who have passed away due to age, illness, or unfortunate circumstances. I am holding their loved ones in my heart and wish them nothing but comfort and strength.



"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM!"



*** FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY ***



I wish our members a happy and blessed Christmas,
and may the spirit of camaraderie and enthusiasm be
carried into 2024.

*** NEC / BRANCH MEETINGS ***

Monthly NEC Meetings were attended at the SAAFA Head Office, AFB Swartkop in Pretoria alternatively virtually via “Microsoft Teams”. Minutes of these Meetings were circulated to the BEC East Rand for their cognizance and feedback where necessary.

BEC meetings were also held on the second Wednesday morning of each month. Members are welcome to attend these meetings, provided that they arranged this in advance. Minutes of these Meetings are available electronically to Members in good standing.



*THE WIFE ASKED ME IF
I'D SEEN THE DOG BOWL.*

*I SAID! I DIDN'T EVEN
KNOW HE PLAYED
CRICKET!*

*** FINANCES AND FUND RAISING ***

It can be reported that the Branch is in a healthy financial position. Fred Brits, our newly appointed Treasurer, is hard at work to familiarize himself with the do's and don'ts around this important function.

Invoices to Members of the East Rand Branch for Capitation Fees payable by 31st January 2024 as per the SAAFA constitution, Claus 9.3 will be sent out timeously. The good news is that our Yearly Membership Fees were kept at R100.00 / Member / Year.

We are grateful for the frequent donations from benevolent members.

The following initiatives also rewarded the branch with additional revenue:

- Frequent raffles at our monthly luncheons.
- Apron Project – Although the aprons were very popular and good money spinners it reached the final phase of its life cycle.
- Golf Shirts, Lounge Shirts, Caps, Wine and Beer Glasses - Proved to be sought after at Crafters Markets, especially amongst youngsters in the “Bermuda Triangle” i.e. Boksburg, Benoni, and Springs Areas. These are also nice giveaways for promotional purposes.
- Table Cloth Project – Intended to dress up the “Braai” Table and impress guests. Tablecloths will in the future only be made to order.



*** CHAIRMAN'S MONTHLY LUNCHEON ***

Our Branch Chairman's luncheons every third Friday of each month were well-supported and were always a very pleasant encounter with great camaraderie and good humour.

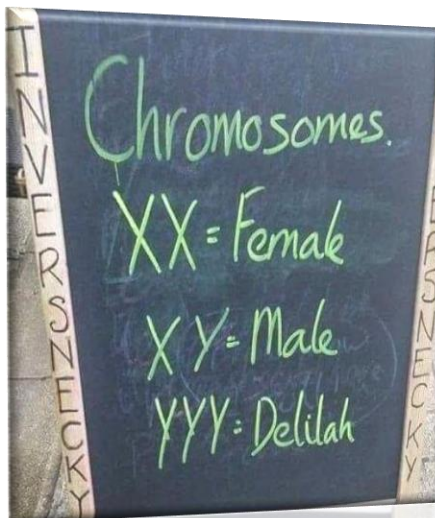


Unfortunately, we had to postpone our "Xmas Bash" due to unforeseen circumstances. However, I've got some amazing news, we will be rocking and dancing early next year! You are cordially invited to join us at the Café @ the Range in Kempton Park on FRIDAY, January 12th at noon. Lunch will be partially sponsored

by the BEC at a rate of R100.00 per person, so you can enjoy a delicious meal for only 150 smackeroots.

In addition to the Cash Bar Devon Cardases, in association with "The Little Wings Daycare Centre" in Benoni, will be sponsoring an array of fine table wines.

A great opportunity to come and enjoy the afternoon with us.



***** BRANCH COMMUNICATION ****

News and Reports were communicated regularly via the SAAFA ERB email, W-App Group, Facebook Page and or our Newsletter, MAX TRUST.

Every other week, newspaper articles containing information about the SAAFA, the East Rand Branch in particular appeared in the Benoni City Times, Kempton Express and Boksburg Advertiser.

We have also made use of the Benoni City Times - Weekly What's On Column to submit information about SAAFA and SAA-related events such as Branch Meetings, Sports News, Community and or Social gatherings. As a registered NPO this service is free of charge and provides us with an outstanding opportunity to wave the SAAFA flag in the East!

These forums are closely monitored to ensure that we adhere to the agreed standards.

The support given by Jani de Beer, Senior Journalist at the Benoni City Times is greatly appreciated.

The SAAFA East Rand Branch WEB Page is under construction and requires further development. Our Webmaster is adamant about going live end of March 2024.

Book / DVD Club (SAAF/SAAFA/Aviation Specific). It took some time for this initiative to be launched even though extraordinary books were donated to the Club! The Sign-out Fee is only R2.00 / Book / DVD. Donations are always welcome...

I am unsure whether this is a feasible project. It may require further development. Time will tell!



***** MEMBERSHIP STATUS *****

There are officially 64 Members listed on the East Rand Branch database. In terms of the SAAFA Constitution, 49 Members are classified as full members with 15 as associated Members. A hearty welcome to all our new members, we're thrilled to have you with us and trust that you will enjoy our company.

I am pleased to report that our "Honour the Living Legends" Project is well on track! Part of this initiative is that articles about Members, their careers and/or lifetime stories are gathered and published in our Newsletter – The MAX THRUST.

These articles mainly focus on visuals and short snippets of text but are also earmarked for our ERB "Coffee Table Book" in the making. The planned published date of the CTB is end-2024.

***** SAAFA NATIONAL CONGRESS 2023 *****

A number of Meetings were held at the CARDOSO Restaurant in Bedfordview. The Planning is done according to the SAAFA Manual of Administration – May 2022, with Chapter 5, and Appendix A to D as guidance. Previous Congress documentation with examples are also used with personal knowledge of members being tapped.

***** WIFE HUSBAND COMMUNICATION *****

A wife asks her husband, "Could you please go shopping for me and buy one carton of milk and if they have avocados, get 6.

A short time later the husband comes back with 6 cartons of milk. The wife asks him, "Why did you buy 6 cartons of milk?" He replied, "They had avocados."

If you're a woman, I'm sure you're going back to read it again! Men will get it the first time.

*** HERITAGE AND REMEMBRANCE ***

The BEC with some Members attended various annual Parades and Memorials at MOTHS Shellholes and Schools during this period i.e. Springs Boy's High – Springs, St Dunstan's – Benoni, Dickie Fritz Shellhole – Edenvale and the SAAF Memorial – Pretoria.

Friends from the East Rand Branch once again participated in a most enjoyable cleaning day at the National Museum of Military History – Johannesburg.

Heritage - Contact was made with the relevant personnel at the following Sites with further action plans in place. Impala Park Primary School - Kempton Park (Impala Static Display), Sir Pierre van Rynfield High School - Kempton Park (Mirage Static Display) and the Community Forum – Dunnottar (Harvard Static Display)

The Elders Flight Event at the Brakpan Aero Club took place on 22 April 2023. Felix Gosher and his Team did a fantastic job, the strong SAAFA presence resulted in camaraderie at its best! We were honoured with the presence of our National President, Mike Louw, Our National Vice President, Trevor Slade, The Country President – Natal Region, Steve Bekker, and Bill De Pinho the Pretoria Branch Chairman.

The Pro Patria Museum Military Fair - Voortrekker Monument, Pretoria, took place on May 1st with stunning tales to tell!!!! To Bill De Pinho, Trevor Slade, Wynand, and Marlize Rossouw a big thank you for the help given on the day!

*** THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE ***

The Editorial Committee would appreciate contributions from the Members of the SAAFA East Rand Branch and extend their thanks for all contributions received.

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

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



***** FINAL APPROACH AND SHUT DOWN *****

That is all for now Folks! May your New Year be filled with happiness, good health, great friendships, and most importantly good times!

Take care and be safe.

Roelf Rossouw

East Rand Branch

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Reference: You're Name

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Secretary
Marianne Mostert

***** Social Media Groups *****

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Bakkies-Boek

<https://web.facebook.com/saafa.eastrandbranch/>

