

LIASA BULLETIN #4

FEEDBACK FROM THE LIASA AGM 2023

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on Thursday, 12 October 2023. While there were over 300 members present during this meeting, both in person and online, there were still over 1 000 members who did not attend the AGM.

This communication therefore serves to update members on the current state of the Association as well as to inform you about the decisions that were agreed to on the day.

Highlights from the President's Report

- LNO changes: Following the resignation of Kagiso Ledwaba, Aphelele Ndzimande was appointed as the Training and Development Coordinator. Rachel More was appointed as the acting LIASA Manager following the resignation of Annamarie Goosen.
- EXCO additions: Fatima Darries (Chair, IGBIS) and Kego Phuti (Chair, Free State Branch) joined EXCO as additional members.
- Branches and Interest Groups: Relocation of BEC members saw changes in the Eastern Cape and Northern Cape branches. The Western Cape branch managed to co-opt members onto their committee to assist the BEC in carrying out its duties. Interest Groups were stable during the past year.
- Membership. The membership total at 30 September was 1 590, an increase of 288 members over 2022. A huge thank you to everyone who joined or renewed.
- CPD. A total of 242 members have been awarded the Professional Designation, PL(SA), with 37 new designations awarded in 2023.
- Training. There were 50 training events hosted during the past year, 19 of which were branch events and 31 being Interest Group events. These were attended by more than 2 500 members. IGBIS hosted the most events by interest groups and the North West Branch hosted the most branch events.
- Academy. The LIASA/Clare Walker Professional Development Centre Management Committee drafted the LIASA Transformation Policy and an updated CPD Policy which was approved by the Representative Council in May 2023. LIASA also communicated with the Council for Higher Education (CHE) on the Standards for the Bachelor of LIS. Contact was made with the Australian Library & Information Association (ALIA) and the Chartered Institute for Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) regarding CPD programmes.
- Social Media. There was a growth in followers on the main platforms used by LIASA, namely Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.
- DSAC funding. LIASA received R862 235.85 in support of South African Library Week 2023 from the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. A further R3 500 000 was received for the 2023 conference, including the grants for 78 attendees to participate in the in-person or the virtual conference.

Membership Fees 2024

The LIASA Representative Council recommended that there be no increase in membership fees for 2024. While there was wide support for this by the AGM, there were concerns raised about the sustainability of the Association and in order to mitigate this, it was proposed and seconded that there would be no increase until the closing of the Voters'

Roll on 31 May 2024, where after a 5% increase would apply for anyone joining and renewing. This was then approved by the AGM. The applicable fees for 2024 are:

2024 Membership Fees		
Category	Fee until 31 May 2024	Fee as of 1 June 2024
Individual Membership		
South African individuals	R720.00	R755.00
Students	R310.00	R325.00
Interns	R310.00	R325.00
Pensioners	R310.00	R325.00
Unemployed	R310.00	R325.00
African Individuals	R1 025.00	R1 075.00
International Individual	R1 025.00	R1 075.00
Institutional Membership		
South African Institution	R3 425.00	R3 600.00
African Institution	R3 425.00	R3 600.00
International Institution	R3 425.00	R3 600.00

Audited financial statements

LIASA received a clear audit for the 2022 financial year. The financial statements are available on the website and the signed auditor's report will be available in due course.

Appointment of Auditors

The LIASA Treasurer proposed the appointment of Auditing Solutions for 2024. They were appointed for 2023 and based on the quotations received, this was the most affordable option, thus the recommendation to appoint them again for 2024. The AGM accepted the recommendation to appoint Auditing Solutions for 2024.

Restructuring and the extension of the current term of office

The LIASA Representative Council presented a motion to the AGM to adjourn a portion of the AGM to 28 February 2024 in order to deal with matters related to the constitutional changes required for the restructuring of LIASA. The adjournment would provide the Council with time to complete the process of drafting the proposed changes and making these available to members two months ahead of the adjourned AGM. The motion also called for the extension of the current term of office for the 5 elected Executive Council (EXCO) members until at least 28 May 2024. The EXCO members would be joined by the incoming Branch and Interest Group chairs to form an Interim Council.

The Interim Council would prepare for the adjourned portion of the AGM scheduled for February 2024; should the membership accept the proposed constitutional changes, and thus the restructuring of LIASA, the Interim Council would then prepare for a Special General Meeting (SGM) by no later than 28 May 2024, and manage the election process for the new governance structure. At the SGM, the new structure would come into effect and the Interim Council would dissolve.

The motion was approved by the AGM and the Interim Council has assumed its position. The members are:

LIASA Interim Council	
Nazeem Hardy	President
Charlie Molepo	President-Elect
Mokgadi Senyolo	Secretary
Danie Malan	Treasurer
Linda Ntaka	PRO
Sidima Mnengi	Chair: Eastern Cape
Moses Nthoroane	Chair: Free State
Sagren Naidoo	Chair: Gauteng North
Sifiso Mbambo	Chair: Gauteng South
Sunitha Richard	Chair: KZN
Alugumi Ndou	Chair: Limpopo
Tshepiso Ratsoana	Chair: North West
Siviwe Bangani	Chair: Western Cape
Larshan Naicker	Chair: HELIG
Mercia Moreana	Chair: IGBIS
Josephine Modiba	Chair: ILLIG
Manda Hough	Chair: PACLIG
Maropene Ramabina	Chair: RETIG
Vuyokazi Jamieson	Chair: SLYSIG
Rachel More	Acting LIASA Manager
Mpho Ngoepe	Editor-in-Chief: SAJLIS (ex-officio)
Nohra Moerat	Editor: LIASA-in-Touch (ex-officio)

I trust that the Interim Council has the support of all LIASA members as it strives to usher in a new era for our Professional Body.

Nazeem Hardy PL(SA)
LIASA President (2021-23)