

Membership Message 16/2019

Dear Members,

## **52nd Annual General Assembly (AGA): The WACA Africana Festival 2019**

### ***Balance of Payments***

A reminder that, due to new banking regulations in Mauritius, it is regrettably no longer possible to send payments by cheque, money order or bank draft. Balance of payments and WACA fees can *only be made by bank transfer to Mauritius* as outlined in the brochures which can be found in the Event Calendar section of the WACA website: [www.waca.org/events](http://www.waca.org/events). Should this be an issue participants are requested to contact me at WACA Headquarters: [millerk@iata.org](mailto:millerk@iata.org).

### ***AGA Package***

#### ***Security Situation***

Regional Coordinator of the Africa, Indian Ocean Islands and Middle East (AIM) Region, *Yousef Yousef*, has contacted the local representative in South Africa handling WACA's 52nd AGA requirements, *Henry Holland*, regarding the recent disturbances in the country. The following response was received by Yousef:

1. The disturbances were triggered by unemployed South African truck drivers claiming that their jobs had been taken up by undocumented persons from over the borders of South Africa, viz. Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, at the expense of the local drivers.
2. The disturbances then were taken up in the poorer areas of towns where there is a high rate of unemployment.
3. This was manifested by the vandalizing of shops in these poorer areas which are owned, reportedly by undocumented citizens of other African countries.
4. No doubt there was a large element of thuggery involved.
5. These actions led to reprisals by citizens of concerned African countries with the corresponding damage to SA business properties.
6. Further the Governments of the concerned countries have cancelled attendance of Conferences in sympathy with the plight of their citizens in South Africa.
7. The South African government has strongly condemned the disturbances and has embarked on a process to identify undocumented persons in the country.

Summary by Yousef.

- The situation has calmed down.
- There have been no disruptions or disturbances in the suburbs of the cities.
- It is anticipated that as concessions are made, and Governments of all countries concerned consult diplomatically, the situation will become normal again.
- Henry has indicated that, all things being equal, by the time our 52nd AGA begins everything will be normal again with no changes in our itinerary being necessary.
- Henry will keep me updated and I in turn will keep Members informed.

#### ***Balance of Payments***

Participants are advised that the balance of payments deadline for the AGA package and WACA fee is 30 September. Any payments still outstanding should be paid as soon as possible as shown in the Balance of Payments item above.

#### ***Public Relations***

The always anticipated Regional Night will be held this year on Tuesday, 29 October says Public Relations Coordinator, *Linda Lenters*. For those attending for the first time the Regional Night is our interline party evening. There will be a private room where we will have tables hosted by individual Member Clubs which are usually decorated with flags and posters from their respective country. Drinks from the country are offered as well as small souvenirs and specialty foods such as chocolate, meats, candies, nuts, cookies, etc. all brought from the participant's home country!

If you will be only a few members from your Club you could make contact with members of another Club and arrange to have a joint table. We also have many Members-at-Large who will be attending and I encourage them to perhaps also have a multi-cultural table. The more tables the merrier! I will assist you to obtain glasses, ice, bowls and sundry items that you may need from the hotel.

Everyone is encouraged to dress in their country's national dress or themed costumes as well as those who want to look, shall we say, outrageous! There will be a DJ playing modern music and songs as well as old favourites and the room is filled with many, many, talented dancers. It is truly a fun night where even the WACA Council members let loose!

If you have any questions or would like assistance to organise or join a table please e-mail me at [ycic@hotmail.com](mailto:ycic@hotmail.com). I also will be around daily as your P.R. Coordinator updating and keeping you informed of our daily schedule.

*Dress Code (Welcoming Ceremony and Gala Dinner)*

As a reminder for the Welcoming Ceremony men are requested to please wear a jacket and tie. For the Gala Dinner men are requested to please wear black and white attire and ladies are requested to please wear an appropriate dress or pant suit for this always special occasion.

**Post-AGA Tour: Sun City and Pilanesberg National Park**

Participants are advised that the balance of payments deadline for the tour WACA fee is 15 September. Any payments still outstanding should be paid as soon as possible as shown in the Balance of Payments item above.

**Hurricane Dorian**

Following the message of support sent on behalf of the WACA Council and the WACA family at large by WACA President, *Maga Ramasamy*, the following message was received from the Regional Coordinator of the Latin America and Caribbean Region, *Ann Albury*, on 5 September:

Dear Maga,

Thank you for your concern. We finally heard last night from our members in Grand Bahama. They had property damage but are thankful that they were not injured. The damage done in Abaco and Grand Bahama will be no quick fix but with prayers and hard work we will get through. Best regards.

**Zero Waste Flight**

I have accepted, with the collaboration of the Association Airline Ambassadors, to host the 1st Zero Waste Flight summit linking WACA with the University of Kassel, Germany, advises WACA President, *Maga Ramasamy*. The invitation letter (attached) will be issued to various airlines and it would be appreciated if it could be posted by the WACA membership with their respective airline and the airline's Facebook page and/or any other relevant social media page.

**Membership Messages**

**Communicate**

"Membership Messages" are sent out on a regular basis to WACA Member Clubs, Members-at-Large and other individuals closely connected to WACA. Recipients in Member Clubs are requested to forward these messages to all members of their respective Club or direct their members to the News and Press Releases section of WACA's website where the messages are posted:

[www.waca.org/news/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.waca.org/news/Pages/index.aspx).

**Contribute**

If any WACA member has anything they would like to contribute to the next "Membership Message" please send the information to the attention of the WACA Administration Manager at WACA Headquarters.

Yours in interlining,

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