



New blood for the SASTT board

Over several years, it has been a concern of successive SASTT boards that the criticism, even accusation, was levelled at it that the board was an "old boys club". The boards did not take these criticisms lightly. Every time a new board had to be elected, the society called for fresh nominations, usually to no avail.

The result has been that for several years now, the same faces were seen at board meetings. Finally, however, a member heard the call and nominated a new member for election. We welcome Ian Venter of Petzetakis Africa (Pty) Ltd to the board and we look forward to benefiting from his insight and wisdom.

Balanced representation on the SASTT board

The new board members, their portfolios and which segment of the SASTT membership they come from, are listed below. The reader will see that the board now has a good balance between board members hailing from client bodies, contractors/suppliers and engineers. In addition we have a reasonable spread between the ages. Regrettably, no ladies serve on the board...

The board members for 2005

The board consists of the following persons:

Glen Derman	President	Contractor/supplier
Craig Burnie	Vice president	Supplier
Alaster Goyns	Immediate past president	Engineer
Andries Lotz	Hon. treasurer	Client
Joop van Wamelen	Hon. secretary	Engineer
Ian Venter	Additional member	Supplier
Johann Wessels	Additional member	Client
Paul le Roux	Co-opted member	Engineer

Appointment of honorary director

Members will recall that last year the society invited applications from interested persons to take responsibility for the organisation, finances, administration, the website etc of the society. Two valid applications were received, and the board decided to offer the position to Joop van Wamelen. He had recently gone on pension, but still had a part-time job with Agrément South Africa, based at the CSIR.

The membership then tossed a curved ball by re-electing Joop to the board for 2005. Since the constitution of the society does not allow a board member to accept any remuneration from the society, this made it impossible to pay Joop a salary for the job. After assessing the constitutional and tax implications, it was agreed that Joop would offer some of his free time and serve as honorary director, ie in a voluntary capacity. He formally accepted the appointment on 30 June 2005.

Strategic direction for SASTT

At its latest meeting, the board agreed to pursue two strategic objectives, viz:

- a policy to publish regular newsletters
- a liaison meeting on trenchless technology for senior technical metro officials.

Newsletters

All the board members accepted a commitment to take responsibility for creating a newsletter on a subject of their own choice. The newsletter would ideally comprise two pages of text and/or photographs with captions. They agreed on target dates in order to ensure that a newsletter could be published every month for the duration of the current board's tenure.

In addition to the above, newsletters by anyone else with an interest in trenchless technology, will be most welcome. All the members of SASTT are urged to canvass trenchless news from their business relations.

The hon. director will take care of editing and publication of the newsletters. He will also forward any interesting small bits of trenchless news to members.

Liaison meeting on trenchless technology

Last year an informal seminar on trenchless technology was organised for a small group of technical metro officials. The convenor of that meeting has now been urged to organise a larger but more inclusive liaison meeting for such officials.

The board has delegated one of its members to take this issue forward. It is envisaged that the delegates could visit the host metro's projects, exchange specifications, discuss a CCTV manual etc.

SASTT will facilitate the meeting.

Metro officials who wish to be kept informed, must please contact SASTT at director@sastt.org.za.