



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 7/2007

5 September 2007

NEWSLETTER

Spring is in the air and also with the Hebrew new year meaning “new beginning” we trust that we will have a fresh beginning resembling the season for TASA and the Thatching Industry as a whole.

ELECTION OF A NEW NATIONAL MANAGEMENT

The last Regional meetings for 2007 will take place in November and during February 2008 Regional meetings will be held in the different Areas to elect new Regional committees before the Annual General Meeting takes place. The National Committee will elect from among their members the National Chairman, National Vice Chairman and the National Secretary.

Mr. Abrie Visagie, the present National Chairman and Mr. Pat Wilson, the present National Vice Chairman and also Chairman of the Gauteng Region, will not be available for re-election. The general consensus is that a new generation of leaders must come to the fore. It is therefore of utmost importance that bona fide Thatchers attend these meetings to elect committee members that will represent the Thatching Industry in South Africa.

This is the platform from which new ideas can be formed and direction given and complaints tabled.

We encourage those Thatchers, still passively interested to get actively involved and to take on responsibility for the Thatching Industry of which they form an integral part.. The decisions made, whether manifested in specifications or policy, are going to affect everyone associated with the Thatching Industry directly, being a member or non member of TASA.

Come and give your view on how an ASSOCIATION for the Thatching Industry must function and assist in the execution thereof.

ISSUES STILL TO BE RESOLVED

1. Only bona-fide Thatchers may be appointed to management positions

The opinion is more and more expressed that only bona fide Thatchers may be in management positions. Associated membership is created so that other businesses that can benefit from TASA can partake in the activities although without voting powers and paying 50% membership fees.

2. Bad workmanship and non compliance to specifications

Complaints are received from members and clients of TASA members not complying with the SANS 10407 specification when erecting roofs. When joining TASA, members are provided with the Code of Conduct and Ethics which are compulsory and to which members are bound. Our members are under much pressure to compete through complying with specification requirements and also taking the payment of VAT into consideration; compared to so many informal contractors competing for business and under quoting to obtain it without taking cognizance of the applicable specification requirements,

When the Specification at present under scrutiny, is completed, Workshops will again be arranged and the matters taken up with the Authorities to get them conversant with the content thereof. *This will again bring our members in the lime light but will also require from **members to comply to requirements rigorously.***

A Complaints Procedure has been introduced to attend to grievances brought to the attention of TASA. This procedure was created because of the principle adopted of non interference with the contractual

obligations between client and contractor as TASA is not a legal person and cannot and will not get involved in Court actions. The National Committee can, after due consideration and in compliance with the Complaints Procedure rules, suspend or cancel membership. Notice of the above action will appear on the TASA membership list which is published on our website with the note "Canceled" behind the GSA membership number.

Guidelines re the membership requirements are detailed in the Constitution.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It is intended to hold the next Annual General Meeting of March 2008 in the **Cape**. Annual General Meetings will be held in rotation and the priority will be determined according to the number of members in the specific areas. This is in accordance with a decision taken by the National Committee.

REGIONAL MEETINGS AND SAFETY LEGISLATION WORKSHOPS

Safety Legislation Workshops for Natal and Mpumalanga must still take place. Feedback from the other Regions are still awaited. SHE Vision & Technology presents most of the workshops and will provide there views on the matter. This, together with the feedback from the Regions will appear in the next newsletter.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE THATCHING INDUSTRY

No feedback has as yet been forthcoming from the SANS Technical committee re the negotiations with them. The outcome of the negotiations on the Specifications will be forwarded to members immediately on receipt thereof.. This includes the matter regarding fire retardant products and the application thereof, which forms an integral part of the National Building Regulations.

The impact and influence of the country wide representative TASA on matters relating to the Industry must not be under estimated. Matters concerning the Industry would otherwise not be negotiated and individual inputs just negated.

The dispute regarding fire retardant products and the application thereof, keep many Thatchers from joining TASA and also irritate existing members. If bona fide Thatchers cannot reach consensus and join hands in resolving matters like these, problems will continue to exist.

TRADE MARK REGISTRATION

The request for registration of the TASA trade mark has now reach the next stage for registration. The Registrar has notified that he has investigated the matter and is prepared to accept the application formally so that it can proceed with the process.

Strong action will be taken against abuse of the TASA trade mark.

We seriously request you to comment on any matter to the TASA office.

Do you have any solutions / recommendations relating to pressing matters facing TASA and how TASA should react?

We thank you for your support.

Kind regards

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NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

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