

## **Announcement**

# **Call for Nominations for Members of the Governing Board of SAA**

*Nominations for Executive Council-elect December 2013- (Mandate 2014-2017) and Members of the Governing Board of SAA (Mandate 2014-December2017)*

**DEADLINE: 30 March 2013**

In accordance with the SAA statutes, the Governing Board consists of fifteen members elect from the 5<sup>th</sup> zones of Africa The Governing Board, in accordance with the article 10.1of the Statutes, consists of the following members elected through an electronic ballot process:

- The President-elect, the Secretary General-elect, Treasurer -elect
- Thirteen members elected by the membership at large
- Two members nominated by the UN agencies.

Three members will be elected from each of the three regions: Three members will be elected, consisting the representative from each of the 3 regions: Eastern Africa, Western Africa and Southern Africa and Two members will be elected to represent the Central and Northern regions(SAA statute article 10.1) consisting the representative of the Central and Northern Regions (SAA statute article 10.1). The election will be conducted in the five constituencies during the same period.

## **Global representation and participation**

As a true representative of a Pan-African organization, and a custodian of the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA), The Society for AIDS in Africa, needs energetic, committed and capable people from a variety of cultural and linguistic contexts to serve on its Governing Board. Business is conducted generally in English and French so competence in English or in French, is necessary to enable participation.

Being a member of the Governing Board can be time-consuming and challenging as the Board strives to promote HIV/AIDS research and advocacy, to respond to the pandemic in Africa. It is also rewarding, because of the stimulating opportunity to work with colleagues from different regions and cultures.

## **THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The **President-elect** and the executive Council serve in this role, for four years.

The **President** leads the Society and its board. The President represents SAA and the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa ( ICASA) at government and allied

industries, international and national organizations and bodies. The President chairs the Governing Board and presides over General Assembly meetings which are held at the biannual ICASA Conference. The Presidency involves a significant amount of travelling (some 50 days a year) for meetings, making keynote speeches and generally representing SAA and the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA). As only limited SAA funding is available to assist in some of these travels, the President must have strong ability to mobilize funds and other support. The President works closely with the Secretary General. He is a full member of the governing board. The President elect is a full member of the Governing board

The four year term of office as **Executive members elect**, provides an opportunity to identify priorities to be pursued on assuming the presidency. The Executive members work closely with the SAA Permanent Secretariat and deputise for the President as required, for example, to represent the SAA or chair meetings. The **Executive members** serve in that role for four years. The term of office, as Executive Members, provide an opportunity to identify priorities to be pursued on assuming the presidency. The Executive Members works closely with the President, Secretary General and Treasurer. The Six Executive Members are elected by the Governing board.

Consequently, the position of **Executive Members** also involves a significant amount of travelling, speaking commitments and representation and therefore, demands strong ability to mobilize funds and other support. The Executive Members are full members of the Governing Board.

All the present Governing Board members are eligible for nomination, except the current President-elect, Prof Robert Soudre.

## **GOVERNING BOARD**

The **SAA Governing Board** is responsible for the strategic and professional direction of the SAA, within guidelines approved by the General Assembly (SAA Statutes Articles 10.2). It establishes priorities, has oversight of SAA's activities and approves budgets and the annual accounts. It is focused on strategic issues and provides guidance to the President, Secretary General, and other officers.

The elected members of the Governing Board serve for a term of four years and may stand for a further consecutive of four years.

Six members of the Governing Board are elected by the Board, to be the SAA Executive: the President, Vice President, Secretary General, deputy Secretary General, Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer of SAA. The President may ask a member of the Governing Board, to represent SAA at key conferences or other meetings, to ensure that the SAA's voice is heard. Funding assistance from SAA, is available under such circumstances.

Members of the Governing Board are expected to make themselves available, usually at no cost to the Society, to fulfill Board responsibilities which include the requirement to meet on one

occasion each year. At the ICASA Conference there are two meetings: one on the day before the ICASA starts and one on the day after the Conference ends. SAA covers the hotel costs for these meetings. Some additional limited travel assistance may be available under special circumstances. Business may be conducted in between meetings by email and teleconference.

A Candidate for one of the **thirteen elected places on the Governing Board** has to be a member. Each candidate must have **valid nomination** by SAA members. The current President elect, who will complete his tenure of office in December 2013 will not seek for another mandate. Governing Board members currently in their 2<sup>nd</sup> term are not eligible for nomination. The successful candidates for these positions places on the Governing Board, will serve for four years, from commencing on 11 December 2013 until December 2017. Those elected for the first time will then be eligible for re- election for a final, second term of four years (2014-2017).

## **WHO MAY BE NOMINATED?**

- The candidate must be educated to second degree level in Human/Medical/Behavioral or Social sciences (in a relevant field of study).
- The candidate must have a minimum of 5 years work experience in the field of HIV/AIDS, STIs, Sexual & Reproductive Health or other related issues.
- The candidate must have a minimum of 5 publications in a relevant field of work.
- The candidate should be able to make available, the names and contacts of 3 referees who have had working relationship with the candidate at some point.
- The candidate should have attended a minimum of 3 ICASAs, and this should be justified by ICASA certificate of participation.
- The candidate should have paid his SAA membership fees for at least 3 consecutive years.

## **HOW DO I NOMINATE A CANDIDATE?**

To nominate a candidate for election to the Governing Board:

- The authorized signatory of an Association Member or an Institutional Member of SAA, may nominate candidates and vote in the elections. The authorized signatory, is the individual who is listed in SAA's records as the organization's highest official and whose name appears on SAA membership master list.
- Honorary Fellows may nominate candidates and vote in the elections; or
- Institutional Affiliates may also nominate candidates for these positions, but may not vote in the elections.
- Send the letter of nomination attached with the resume of the candidate to : [Boardnomination@saafrika.org](mailto:Boardnomination@saafrika.org)

**Please note:**

- There is no restriction, on the number of candidates you may nominate for these positions.
- Nominations should be done according to zones (Eastern Africa, Central Africa, Western Africa, Southern Africa, and Northern Africa zone) You should ensure that your nominee is willing to stand. Formal confirmation from each candidate will be sought, together with a statement, once the nomination for that candidate is received.

**The following table sets out who may nominate and who may vote in the ensuing election.**

		May nominate	May vote in the election
<b>Voting members</b>	Authorised signatories of association members*	yes	yes
	Authorised signatories of institutional members*	yes	yes
	Honorary fellows	yes	yes
	Individual Affiliates ( personal)	Yes	Yes
Individual Affiliates (Students)*		yes	No
Institutional Affiliates		yes	No

**\* Only if they have paid their membership fees in full for 2012 and are not in arrears**

## **NOMINATIONS DEADLINE**

Nominations must reach SAA Headquarters **ON or BEFORE Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2013. No late nominations will be accepted.** To avoid disappointment please do not wait until the last day.

## **ELECTIONS**

- In accordance with the Statutes, the elections will be conducted by electronic ballot. Only those eligible Voting Members, as set out in the above table, will be entitled to vote. Institutional & Individual Affiliates ( Student) are not entitled to vote in these elections.
- It is expected that the ballot will take place, during April and June 2013, with 6 weeks between the open of voting portal and the closing date of the voting portal.
- The results will be announced on SAA's Website on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

These elections are extremely important for the future governance of SAA. Please consider whether you wish to nominate candidates for the Governing Board.

Yours sincerely

**Prof Robert Soudre**  
SAA President

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