



SAGA SNIPPETS

THE SAGA TRUST
PO BOX 35203, NORTHWAY, 4065

TEL 031-562-9951 FAX 086-553-9615
EMAIL: SAGA@SAGA.ORG.ZA WEB: WWW.SAGA.ORG.ZA

COVID-19 Lockdown

This March issue of Snippets is coming to you in April as a result of the rush to get ready for the COVID-19 lockdown.

Please be advised that the SAGA Office is closed until 17 April when the lockdown is due to end.

Memberships and enquiries received in this period will be attended to after lockdown. Our apology for any inconvenience caused.

SAGA message for the next 21 days as posted to our Facebook Page on 29 March 2020

SAGA wishes all South Africans well over this period of ensuring better health for our citizens. Responsible behaviour is what SAGA promotes at every level of good citizenship. Keeping South Africans safe is our prime mission.

We understand that it is going to be difficult for so many of our wonderful citizens both economically and socially, but there are tremendous benefits to our country by slowing down the infection rate as well as many personal benefits to families and individuals who are not working.

This period will allow quality time with those dearest to us to bond and interact as well as personal time for self reflection and goal setting. Life is so busy and rushed in this age we live in and this time of forced isolation is a wonderful opportunity to reset needs and recalibrate priorities.

Emergency Hotline: 0800 029 999

Whatsapp Support Line: 0600 123456

COVID-19

Online Resource & News Portal
SACoronavirus.co.za



While we encourage this time of rest and relaxation we also remind everyone to be mindful of their safety and not to forget to set alarms at night and lock gates and doors appropriately.

The pinnacle of good citizenship is encapsulated in responsible, legal gun ownership. Always ensure that your actions are beneficial to all our fellow South Africans and follow the spirit and letter of the law now pertaining to this lockdown period.

Irresponsible actions can have devastating results to our neighbours and extended citizens alike. Remember personal hygiene and keeping safe distances when attending to your essential shopping needs and make kindness and consideration your top priority for the next 21 days.

Please join SAGA in doing everything to make South Africa a better place during this period and beyond.

We thank all our fellow citizens for your support of responsible, legal gun ownership and your tremendous goodwill in making this lockdown period as successful as possible.

HuntEx Postponed

Plans for HuntEx 2020 have been put on hold until after lockdown when a new date will be made known.

Members who normally renew their SAGA membership at HuntEx should please renew when they receive their renewal notices so as to avoid any lapse in membership.

SAGA will send out reminder emails about membership renewals to those who were due to renew during the period from February to May 2020.



SAGA Trustee Meeting Feedback

A SAGA Trustees meeting was held at the end of February in Cape Town.

A major discussion-point was the future of SAGA – whether SAGA, the oldest firearms rights' organisation in South Africa, was still in touch with the current situation and whether SAGA still provided an efficient service to its members. After lengthy deliberations it was decided that SAGA still plays, and must continue to play, a prominent and constructive role in the firearms community in South Africa.

Plans to strengthen SAGA and to improve service delivery to all members were mooted. These plans include strengthening of the Board of Trustees and the identification and appointment of provincial (and even regional) representatives. The idea behind this strategy is to raise SAGA's membership and to improve service delivery, all with a view to protecting the rights of free, law-abiding and responsible firearm owners.

The first immediate change is that SAGA has a new chairman: Damian Enslin. John Welch has stepped down as chairman of SAGA after many many years of dedicated service. John, in conjunction with the late Ron Anger of Magnum Magazine, and Ian Lehr, an attorney of Cape Town, with various other prominent firearms personalities, founded SAGA in 1985. John was elected the first chairman, a position he held for 6 years and for the last 15 years has again served as SAGA's chairman.

Damian was unanimously welcomed as SAGA's new chairman. Damian is a practising attorney and partner in a law firm in Cape Town. He is intimately involved in firearms-related matters and over the years has built up a sound knowledge of firearms rights and political lobbying. SAGA is in safe

hands with Damian at the helm. We congratulate him on his new role as chairman and wish him well leading this most prestigious organisation.

John was appointed as the first President of SAGA and will remain a trustee. He has agreed to stay involved in SAGA's efforts for fair firearm rights for responsible law-abiding firearm owners.

The second change is the appointment of two new trustees: Hein Gonzales, an attorney from Paarl, and Lance Allam, who works in the medical insurance industry. See the next page for a bit more information about each of the new trustees.

Subsequent to the meeting various candidates have been identified to become provincial and regional representatives of SAGA.

SAGA prides itself as an organisation that conforms to sound corporate governance. An example is our conservative financial policy and that our financial affairs are audited. We also pride ourselves in the rational and reasonable media statements that we issue. We believe that SAGA is the voice of reason in these turbulent times when the government seems to wish to disarm the law-abiding citizen. Despite being reasonable in its approach, SAGA does not hesitate to severely criticise government and specific officials for their policies or viewpoints.

The possible amendments to the Firearms Control Act elicited serious discussion. The trustees were adamant, and unanimous, that any and all amendments to the Act that interfere with, or restrict the rights of, responsible and law-abiding citizens will be vehemently opposed.

SAGA was looking forward to the proposed Firearms Summit which was to be held on 18 March, but which was postponed to a future

date shortly before the meeting. SAGA intends working closely with other members of the firearms community to put the record straight and ensure that all parliamentarians understand that freedoms, such as the freedom to possess and use firearms for lawful purposes, be respected. We are of the view that the ANC government pays mere lip-service to constitutional rights and freedoms and we shall ensure that they hear that loud and clear.

SAGA is proud to be an executive member of the World Forum for Shooting Activities (WFSA). Membership of this august organisation puts us in touch with millions of firearm owners, firearm collectors, sport shooters and hunters throughout the world. This year SAGA was invited to send its chairman to deliver an address at the WFSA Annual General Meeting which coincided with the IWA show in Nuremburg, Germany. However, because of Covid-19, the WFSA AGM and IWA have been postponed.

New SAGA Trustees



Lance Allam

Lance Allam is a well established businessman and family man from Cape Town. Over the years he has served on various committees ranging from shooting sports to motor vehicle and motorcycle organisations.

From a very young age, shooting and western folklore have been of keen interest to Lance. At school, shooting was his main sport and from a young age he has been competing in various types of competition shooting events. His interest today is cowboy action shooting and he is a member of two clubs and has served on the committees of both over the years.

A life member of SAGA, Lance has always had an interest in firearms related and firearms rights issues, and he hopes to be able to add value in this meilleur by being a trustee of SAGA. Besides shooting, his other hobbies are motorcycling and music - he has a Blues band which is another of his passions in life.



Heinrich Gonzales

Heinrich Gonzales is an admitted attorney with the right of appearance in the High Court division of South Africa with his own legal practice in Paarl.

Hein has experience is various fields of the law and has, among others, been part of litigation teams and court proceedings against the previous Minister of Police regarding issues relating to firearms in South Africa.

He is a member of Roundtable Southern Afrika, is an opinion writer for Maroela Media and Legally Armed HQ; and performs as a speaker at community/farming meetings in order to provide training and share information regarding issues that affect firearm owners in SA—subsequently explaining their rights within the ambit of the law.

Heinrich is a proud legal firearm owner and believes that every SA citizen has the right to own a firearm for self-defence and other legal purposes.

SAGA Letters to the Minister of Police



Within the last week SAGA has addressed the Minister of Police on two firearm related issues – the 2019/2020 Firearm Amnesty and the Renewal of Firearm Licences and Competency Certificates during the 21 day COVID-19 lockdown period.

Firearm Amnesty Extension

On Thursday 26th March 2020, SAGA addressed the Minister on the 2019/2020 Firearm Amnesty and requested an extension of the Amnesty for at least a further six months until the end of November 2020.

Throughout the Amnesty process in Parliament, SAGA was against the Amnesty for a number of reasons, as covered in previous articles. However we do believe in the right of our members to decide for themselves and make a choice as to whether or not they want to apply for licences in terms of the Amnesty.

We felt that we had to address the Minister on the Amnesty, as there have been a number of enquiries and requests from not just SAGA members, but also from the general firearms community and public, asking whether the Amnesty would be extended because of the COVID- 19 virus outbreak and the 21 day lockdown period.

The Minister's office has acknowledged receipt of our letter and we await his further response.

Firearm Licence and Competency Certificate Renewals

On the 1st April 2020, SAGA further addressed the Minister on the issue of firearm licence and competency certificate renewals. This is because during the COVID -19 lockdown period, DFOs are not considered essential personnel so firearm licence holders are unable to renew their licences and/or competency certificates.

SAGA requested that firearm licence holders who were required to renew during this period be granted an extension to the period within which to renew.

This letter has also been acknowledged as received by the Minister. A copy of the letter was also sent to the National Commissioner, the Civilian Secretariat for Police, and the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police.

SAGA will follow up on both letters within an appropriate time frame and we will keep SAGA members updated with respect to both of these important issues.

By Damian Enslin

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets