

PROBUS ASSOCIATION GAUTENG SOUTH

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NEWSLETTER

September 2008

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY ONE COPY IS SENT TO EACH BRANCH

Dear Probians

- 1. AGM Review:** I think it is no understatement to say that this event was a mighty success. Thanks to Laurie for once again demonstrating his organizational skills. Thanks also to Stan Hayden-Smith for organizing the PA system. The concept of having the additional 30 minutes for discussion of subjects of interest to clubs and, indeed, the clubs throughout Southern Africa, was extremely well received and will be pursued for future meetings. Attendance was excellent; people participated and the food was excellent. Our emergency keynote speaker and summariser, Beth Thomas, was in a class of her own as a speaker. All in all an enjoyable morning.
- 2. Care for the Aged:** This has been changed to "Probus Cares". Please read the attached from Joe Grobler.
- 3. Relations with Rotary/Changes to Constitutions:** At the AGM it was unanimously voted that the ties with Rotary be maintained by all the clubs. However, it is necessary to change the accreditation procedures. This necessitates changes to the Council and standard club constitutions. The major thrust of the change is that clubs will be able to initiate the formation of new clubs and the Council will perform the accreditation. A meeting will be held on 16-9-2008 to undertake the revisions which will, I imagine, be published by the Council for comment by the Associations/clubs.
- 4. Loss of Clubs/Formations of Clubs:** It was sad to have to announce the loss of two clubs. It once again emphasizes the fact that it is necessary for all of us to bring in "younger" members with new ideas and to sustain the flow of office bearers. On the positive side, we once again have the opportunity of engaging Randjeslaagte and Vernon is optimistic about the possibility of a club at Inyoni. Thornhill, whose membership is full, and has a waiting list, could be a further opportunity. I would still like to see the formation of ladies clubs.

5. Buzz Group: This concept is being actively pursued and a committee has been formed. Hopefully, the first event will be in 2009 and biennially subsequently. Suggestions are more than welcome.

6. Speakers/Visit Directories: We still need additions to these. Please send details to Charles Rogers/Stam Madden.

Hope you will comment on all the above.

Yours in Probus

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chas McNulty." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Charles McNulty
Chairman, Probus Association, Gauteng South

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

After the essay "Care for the elderly", as it was known initially, was first read at the Gauteng South Association A.G.M. we had various reactions from clubs throughout the country. Some said they had been practising it for years, others welcomed the idea and started doing something along the lines mentioned - unfortunately some saw it as a subtle way of turning PROBUS into a service organisation and reacted negatively.

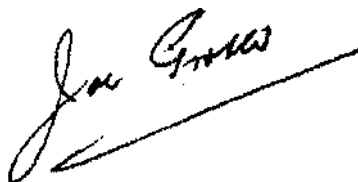
Fortunately time and tide have changed things and from all accounts it would appear that members are becoming much more aware of the real meaning and importance of caring about each other, so much so that we have felt that the best way to keep-ahead of this development would be to change the title accordingly and it was a council member - Betty Stewart from Kempton Park club who came up with the bright idea to call it "PROBUS cares*.

This was unanimously accepted at the council meeting 12th August 2008 and should be seen as adding a profound personal dimension to the ideals of PROBUS. Fellowship, mental stimuli and relaxation - these are all well catered for but once the meeting/function is over and the last glass is drained everything stops until we meet again and apart from, our immediate little circles we very seldom get to know each other personally.

The very concept of PROBUS lends itself to the development of social bonds, which apart from personal benefits for its own members briefly outlined in the essay, it can play an important part in the upliftment of our respective communities by precept and example and by acting, when necessary, as a group adding number strength to other organizations whose sole purpose is to look after their members' interest up to government level. After ail we do not know what tomorrow may bring.

Let us not forget we are a select group of people with strong common ties such as pride in our own achievements and our strong desire to make this a better world. Why not make PROBUS a way of life under the banner.

PROBUS CARES.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Cross", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.