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PROBUS COUNCIL

OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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NEWSLETTER September 2008

Greetings!

1. **AGM** The AGM was held on the 12th August with a full complement on board with exception of Bob Goebel, Walter Eastman and Hugh Ireland who luxuriated at the coast whilst his home in Thornhill was undergoing modifications. The committee, comprising the executive of the Gauteng South association plus Bob and Walter, was re-elected *en bloc* under the able leadership of President Piet Vuyk. It is worth remembering that Council revolves around the various associations at three-yearly intervals, this being the final year of tenure for Gauteng South and let it be said that under the leadership of Past President Vernon Schultz and President Piet it really has been, and continues to be, a fun, fellowship and meaningful operation. It will, in due course, become the responsibility of the Western Cape Association.

2. **In Memoriam:** It is with sadness that we record the passing of Rotary PDG Mike Coleman. Our sympathies go to his wife Hazel and his family. Many Probians will recall how it was he who was so instrumental in founding and promoting Probust in Southern Africa. He received assistance and support from such as Jack Woods and Charles Spindler, just to mention two. He will be missed, both as a Rotarian and as a Probustian.

3. **Future relationship with Rotary:** At the Rotary COSEA meeting 2002 it was decided that the Probust organisation was outside the jurisdiction of the Governors Council. Thus it has become necessary to revise both the Council and the Standard Club Constitutions. This is primarily relating to formation and accreditation of clubs. You will recall that Probust clubs are required to be accredited by the Rotary District Governor or nominee in the area that the club is formed. There are other points of contact with Rotary which will be reviewed. Interestingly, there is no longer any reference to Probust in the Rotary Manual of Procedure, the Rotary "bible", as being part of the "Family of Rotary". However, happily, in the District 9300 Directory 2007-2008, Probust figures prominently under District Services, and in liaison with the Probust Liaison Officer PDG Stan Hayden-Smith who is a tower of goodwill and guidance to the Council.

Key point of this change is that, as we have for some time been advised, a Probust club can initiate and form other Probust clubs without the need to invite Rotary. Also, as a community service, we would encourage Rotary to continue to assist in forming Probust clubs in their areas. It is worth noting that, at the Gauteng South AGM, it was unanimously voted by the clubs to retain the existing strong ties with Rotary. This will be the subject of a Council meeting on 16/9/2008.

4. **Restructuring of Probust:** Because of its association with Rotary, Probust districts tend to be pretty much the same as those of Rotary. This is most significant where two Rotary districts will be amalgamating. It may be worthwhile re-visiting this activity if desired by the associations and the independent clubs.

5. **Probus Directory:** Devised, revised and published by Stan Madden in hard copy and on the internet in the Probus website (www.probus.org.za). Please use it – particularly when you are on holiday and, once again, grateful thanks to Stan for his super effort.

6. **Council and other Meetings of Importance:** It has been suggested that we give consideration to raising the per capita levy (currently R1 per annum) to enable counselors to attend meetings at some central point – ideally a meeting of Council President and Association Chairmen or nominees – to discuss matters of serious interest to the organisation. I know President Piet would welcome feedback –positive or negative!

7. **Probus Cares for the Elderly:** This is definitely growing within the clubs. Please see and read the attached. Thanks to Joe Grobler.

I hope this newsletter is of interest – please disseminate throughout your district.

Best wishes to you all.

Chas McNulty.



Charles McNulty
For Probus Council of Southern Africa

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.

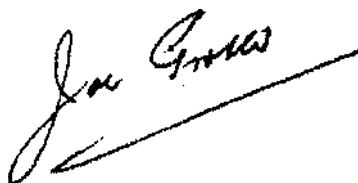
Fortunately time and tide have changed things and from all accounts it would appear that members are becoming much more aware of the real meaning and importance of caring about each other, so much so that we have felt that the best way to keep-ahead of this development would be to change the title accordingly 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.