

FROM THE EDITOR

This is the first issue of our Branch Newsletter in 2015. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep branch members informed of new developments regarding LIASA activities and to communicate with our members.

Please take note of the dates on which General Branch Meetings and other events are going to take place (see p3 of the Newsletter).

On behalf of the Branch Executive Committee, I wish everyone a Prosperous 2015!

Pieter Louw (Branch PRO & Editor)

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Chairperson of LIASA North West Branch, Ms Zandile Nyathi, reported as follows on the activities and membership of the Branch –

- ◆ The Chairperson was invited to address delegates attending a meeting of the Forum for Bojanal District Community and Public Libraries at Legkraal Community Library in Moretele Local Municipality on 9 October 2014 where the aim was to promote LIASA and urge LIS workers to join.
- ◆ The branch had its first Branch Executive Committee meeting on 12 November 2014 through teleconference where new committee members were introduced.
- ◆ The year-end function and first General meeting was held on 10 December 2014 at Letsopa Community Library in Ottosdal and the new Branch Committee was introduced to the general membership.

- ◆ The branch had its second Branch Executive Committee teleconference meeting on 13 February 2015.
- ◆ Mr Morajane was co-opted into the Branch Committee as Membership Secretary since he was responsible for the growth of members by 34% during 2014 and enabled the branch to win a prize at LIASA Conference as the branch with the highest number of new members who joined LIASA.
- ◆ Our paid-up membership stands currently at 25, but there are still members who have to renew their membership before the end of March 2015.
- ◆ The following challenges are experienced by the Branch:
 - Low attendance rate of meetings by members.
 - Lack of members to volunteer their time to serve in local structures.
 - Non-renewal of membership.



NEW BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elections for a new North West Branch Executive Committee were held at the Annual General Meeting in October 2014. The following members were elected as members of the Branch Committee for the 2014/2016 term:

- **Chairperson: Zandile Nyathi** (Madibeng Local Municipality); Cell 071 267 5108; E-mail: eznyathi@nwpg.gov.za or nyathienny@yahoo.com

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On the photo from left to right: Ernest Bampoe - Treasurer, Anele Moko - Branch Chair Elect, Kgantsi Kagiso - SLYSIG Chair, Zandile Nyathi - Branch Chair, Phonie Mahlasela - Secretary and Sithembile Nyebeleza - HELIG Chair. Other BEC members not present are: Pieter Louw – Branch PRO and Mothusi Moalusi - PACLIG Chair

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- **Chair-Elect: Anele Moko** (Directorate Libraries and Archives)
Tel 053 948 9435; Cell 073 950 8724
E-mail: anelemoko@gmail.com
 - **Secretary: Mahlasela Phonie** (North West University, MFK Campus)
Tel 018 389 2115 Cell 082 202 0512; E-mail: Phonie.Mahasela@nwu.ac.za
 - **Treasurer: Ernest Bampoe** (Directorate Libraries and Archives)
Tel 018 388 3977; Cell 083 735 5944; E-mail: ebampoe@nwpg.gov.za
 - **Public Relations Officer: Pieter Louw** (Rustenburg Public Library)
Tel (014) 590-3701; Cell 082 450 5881
E-mail: plouw@rustenburg.gov.za or pieterjwlouw@gmail.com
 - **HELIG Chair: Jonathan Nyebeleza** (North West University, Potch Campus)
Tel 018 299 2819; Cell 074 605 6958
Cell 0620443385; E-mail: Sithembile.jonathan@gmail.com
- PACLIG Chair: Mothusi Moalusi** (Bojanala District Library) Tel 014 538 1290; Cell 073 395 3108;
E-mail: mmoalusi@nwpg.gov.za
- **SLYSIG Chair: Kagantsi Kagiso** (Dept Education and Sport Development)
Tel 018 388 3395; Cell 0827251254;
E-mail: kkgantsi@nwpg.gov.za

CHAIR ADDRESSES BOJANALA DISTRICT FORUM MEETING

The Chairperson of LIASA North West Branch, Zandile Nyathi promoted LIASA during a meeting on 9 October 2014 of the Forum for Bojanala District Community and Public Libraries at Legkraal Community Library which is situated in the jurisdiction area of the Moretele Local Municipality.

Professional and para-professional library staff all over the Bojanala District, one of four districts in the North West Province, attended the meeting. The number of delegates from five municipalities in this district was exactly 40.

Zandile who is a passionate member of LIASA informed those present of the benefits of membership of LIASA. She gave an overview of the structure of LIASA consisting of 10 Branches and 11 Interest Groups such as the Public and Community Libraries Interest Group (PACLIG). She indicated that two of the leading Forum members, Mothusi Moalusi (Assistant Director: Bojanala District Library) has been elected as Chairperson of the North West PACLIG while Pieter Louw (Chairperson of the Forum) was elected as Public Relations Officer of the North West Branch and that both are in these capacities members of her Executive Committee.

Zandile announced that LIASA has been awarded the bid to host the 2015 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Cape Town from 15-21 August 2015 and that LIASA is calling for applications from interested parties to serve as volunteers at this international conference.

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It was also announced that during the recent LIASA Conference in Johannesburg the previous Chair and current Chair-elect of the Branch, Anele Ka Ndlaleni Moko was awarded with the 2nd prize for the Librarian of the Year Award and that the Branch also received the prize for the best membership recruitment.

The delegates of this Forum meeting was in conclusion informed that good progress has been made to register LIASA as a statutory body in order to regulate and give professional status to the LIS sector.



From left to right are three members of the LIASA North West Branch Executive Committee who were present at the Forum meeting of the Bojanala District at Legkraal Community Library, namely Mothusi Moalusi (Chair: NW PACLIG) Zandile Nyathi (Chair: LIASA NW Branch) and Pieter Louw (PRO: LIASA NW Branch).

RECOGNITION OF LIASA AS A PROFESSIONAL BODY

We have received the following good news from Ms Segametsi Molawa, LIASA President:

The SAQA Directorate: Registration and Recognition confirming the approval by the SAQA Board, as per the requirements of the NQF Act, Act 67 of 2008, **the recognition of LIASA as a professional body and the registration of the professional designation, Professional Librarian.** We will be applying for the second designation applicable to LIS support staff.

The immediate implication hereof is to ensure that the LIASA Membership Database complies with the SAQA requirements by 30th April 2015. Members will be contacted to verify their personal details and qualifications. While we are cognisant of the Protection of Personal

Information Act (POPI), this is a SAQA requirement to populate the National Learners Records Database (NLRD), to ascertain the number of qualified Librarians in the country. We will keep you informed of further implications and the implementation plan.

Professional qualification and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) are integral to this professional body status. Professional qualification is critical for entry into the profession and CPD ensures relevant and appropriate skills and competencies in the LIS work place. We will be working closely with employer institutions, Library schools, Independent LIS providers and Librarians in this regard. Librarians will be expected to comply with these requirements to maintain their designation as professional Librarians.

MEMBERSHIP-DRIVE

LIASA North West Branch Executive Committee is calling on every member of the North West Branch to recruit as many of their colleagues as possible to become members of the LIASA. The membership fee for 2015 is R495.

Registration can be done online or a form can be downloaded to register by fax. It is also possible to pay the membership fee in 3 installments by Debit Order. Visit www.liasa.org.za for more information or call Kagiso Ledwaba (Membership Officer) at 012 323 1033; E-mail address: membership@liasa.org.za.

FORTHCOMING LIASA NORTH WEST BRANCH MEETINGS

- 19 March: General Branch Meeting – Rustenburg Public Library
- 09 April: BEC Teleconference
- 30 April: General Branch Meeting – Venue to be confirmed

NOTE: Dates are not fixed and members will be notified in time of any changes.

SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY WEEK

Date: 14 – 21 March 2015
Theme: Connect @ your library

Contributions to **Chat-to-You** may be submitted to –
Pieter Louw (Branch PRO): Tel no (014) 590-3701; Fax no (014) 592-7596; E-mail: plouw@rustenburg.gov.za or pieterjouw@gmail.com

Typing and lay-out by Pieter Louw