

DENTASA 2010 AGM

DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Welcome**

The President of the Association, Mr. Axel Grabowski, welcomed all members present to this 64th AGM of the Association. Mr. Grabowski welcomed Ina Coetzee to the Executive Committee as the new Branch Chairperson of Northern Gauteng. Resignations of the Executive Committee members include Mr. Andre Ferreira, Ms. Prasni Rattan and Mr. David van Eyk. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to these members for all their hard work, time and effort over the years.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies received from Ron Heathorn, Driekie Pitout, Teunis Bakker, Gerhardt Ferreira, Nadir Cosani, Evan Stein, Graham Nisbet, Dries Boshoff, Dave Owen, Anso Steenkamp, Henk van Wyk, Terry Hagemann, Renier Greyling, Derek Langsford, Herman Esterhuizen, Rainer Pittroff, Andre Retief, Jan du Plooy, Mike Ressel, Wessel Badenhorst and Gregg Stiemer.

3. **Obituaries**

A minute of silence was observed for the following members who passed away during the past year: Wally Claassen, Bjorn Myklebust, Michael Gormley, Ken Roe, Gunther Thetard and Clive Kennedy.

4. **Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting**

It is a true reflection of what transpired at the previous meeting: the approval was proposed by Ms. Roets and seconded by Mr. Van Staden.

5. **Matters Arising**

All matters arising will be discussed under items of the agenda.

6. **Adoption of the Agenda**

17.1. Awards

17.2. Sada/Iddec Conference

The adoption of the agenda was proposed by Ms. Roets and seconded by Ms. Coetzee.

7. **President's Address**

Annexure A.

8. **Scope of Practice**

Mr. Grabowski discussed this matter in depth on his recent Roadshow. All technicians must obtain liability insurance and this cannot be given without a Scope of Practice. The meeting must vote on the proposed Scope of Practice.

Motion 1:

Mr. Haarde proposed that the Association adopts the draft document on the Scope of Practice. Mr. Joubert seconded the motion.

The meeting accepted the Scope of Practice.

9. **Liability & Guarantees**

The Consumer Protection Act states that technicians have to guarantee work done. Mr. Grabowski reported that they had a meeting with SADA and the two professions need to work together to determine a workable guarantee structure.

There is a document in working and a draft will be made available as soon as possible for discussion by all branches.

10. Consumer Protection Act

This is a very difficult Act but it does affect the profession greatly. Members from the DENTASA Exco had a meeting with their counterparts in SADA who incorrectly believed that they would not fall under this Act. They have to date done nothing to comply and this profession have almost all related matters in place.

Mr. Schubert suggested that technicians could only guarantee their work if dentists guarantee their impressions, etc. Mr. Grabowski added that it starts with the guarantees of the materials you use. All guarantees from the suppliers and manufacturers must be kept record of; the lot numbers, etc. All materials used must have EU numbers according to European standards.

Mr. Ken Barrett asked whether we could use guidelines from other countries? DENTASA has already investigated guidelines from Britain, Canada and America to use as guidelines for work in South Africa.

Liability insurance will be needed from 1 October 2010. DENTASA is in the process of creating a group scheme for members through our broker Mr Johan Eksteen. All members will be notified as soon as more information is available.

All technicians must conform to the standards set out by the European Union. The Profession must determine, record and implement the standards. DENTASA is working on this matter and will value any input.

11. Limited registration of informally trained persons

Mr. Grabowski received this document, drawn up by Adv. Lekitima and Dr. Smit from the Department of Health, at a meeting with the SADTC. Mr. Grabowski did not agree with the proposed document as it provides for laboratory assistants to write and pass one exam and then be called dental technicians. The SADTC is the custodian of education and should be protecting the profession from threats such as these.

Mr. Grabowski reported that DENTASA litigated and served papers to the SADTC. Council has not yet responded. If Council does not respond by the deadline, it would mean that they accept all charges against them. Our attorney will then get an interdict against Council and a court date will be set. Council will then be in limbo and not have the power to make decisions, only regarding the day-to-day running of the office of Council.

Mr. Grabowski further reported that full Council has ratified no decision for a long time. The Act states that the Exco of Council can make decisions, which must be ratified by full Council for it to be valid.

At present dentists are making all decisions for this profession. The President of Council hardly ever attends Council meetings, which means that the vice-President, Mr. Ferreira, must chair the meeting thus losing his vote. Mr. Boshoff and Mr. Owen were suspended from Council thus two less technicians to make decisions. This leaves one technician employee with a vote on the Exco of Council and 3 dentists, Dr. Hlongwa, Dr. Maubane and Dr. Smit making all decisions for this profession.

The meeting showed their support for the actions taken by the DENTASA Executive Committee.

12. New Members

Mr. Grabowski reported that there is a list of 70 new members of DENTASA since the 2009 AGM. The list is available from the DENTASA office. All members present accepted the new members of DENTASA.

Annexure B.

13. 2011 Budget

The audited accounts are available from the office, but they are quite flattering and do not reflect the truth. As our membership year works like a tax year we have cross over payments of especially members fees. Mr. Kapp further stated that members must remember that any budget is a document of vision and a working document, which has not happened yet.

Mr. Kapp referred members to the budget where all figures have been taken off the audited accounts. (Annexure C) Mr. Kapp stressed the fact that we need enough members to employ a General Manager in time. Financially it is very difficult to get to a point where that will be possible. Members must please send input.

Ms. Olivier resigned and at present there is no income from CPD as Council decided that they would run it instead of DENTASA. All technicians were urged to comply with CPD as it is compulsory. Ms. Olivier's salary was left in the budget, as we will need to employ a free-lance editor to ensure that SADTJ continues.

A big expense on the budget is the legal expenses. It is planned for R80 000 but R40 000 has already been paid towards legal expenses. This expense will most likely be more than anticipated.

Mr. Kapp urged members to email if there are matters they want the Exco to attend to so we can add it to the budget for. Take ownership of your profession!

Mr. Kapp stressed the fact that we need to market our profession in a way where we can inn more money. DENTASA is cash strapped.

Ms. Wiehahn asked about the AGM expenses on the budget from the previous year. It was stressed that it was the financials of the previous year and not the 2010-year regarding this particular Roadshow. It must be remembered that a budget is an estimated document and all monies shown in it is not necessarily used. Mr. Kapp replied that in 2009 DENTASA sponsored a part of the member registration fee of the AGM, but with so many attending we ran at a slight loss. DENTASA tries to break even with the AGM and not make a profit. We do have shares but had to sell some to enable the recent Roadshow.

Mr. Kapp stressed that we must work towards a 100% membership of all technicians. If need be we might have to request a once off payment from our members. Mr. Grabowski added that the sad part until now has been that non-members got the advantage that members pay for. This must stop.

Ms. Wiehahn asked why there is an amount for branches in the budget when the Western Cape did not receive any money for branch meetings? DENTASA did pay the venue of the Roadshow recently. This is a budget and branches had to send their budgets in for consideration. A budget only means it is in the planning of the Association and can be claimed by the branches. It does not mean it has been paid yet.

Ms. Wiehahn asked how much DENTASA paid towards this AGM and Dental Cape Show? Mr. Kapp answered that we did not pay anything, as the Cape Dental Show hijacked the AGM. At the 2009 AGM all members voted that the AGM would be rotated amongst the different provinces. KZN asked that the AGM be held with the SADA/Iddec conference but this was not voted in as members previously decided to have an AGM for technicians only.

The AGM is DENTASA's trademark and a structure developed to get the traders to sponsor a part of the member's registration fee. Not for profit. Ms. Wiehahn stated that the previous year technicians still had to pay for their CPD credits. Ms. Wiehahn was upset that DENTASA did not contribute financially to the 2010 AGM meeting.

Mr. Grabowski explained that the members voted for a DENTASA AGM in Cape Town. This is however not a DENTASA AGM, it is the Cape Dental Show which only hosts DENTASA's AGM meeting of 2 hours. This is the reason Mr. Grabowski decided not to take part in this Show other than attending the AGM meeting. Mr. Van Eyk stated that DENTASA members only attending the AGM meeting could attend free of charge. Ms. Wiehahn left the meeting.

Motion 2:

Mr. Greyling proposed that the Association accepts the proposed budget. Mr. Atkins seconded the motion.
The motion is carried.

Mr. Aramugam suggested all technicians stand together and instead of paying the Council, pay their registration fees into a trust account. Mr Grabowski replied that all technicians must pay their Council registration fees.

Mr. Kriessbach insisted that with the proposed group scheme for liability insurance only paid members of DENTASA might be members. Non-members must otherwise pay more.

Mr. Vermeulen suggested that laboratory owners pay an additional R1000 towards legal fees to help DENTASA. Mr. Kapp appreciated this suggestion and will keep it in mind should it be necessary.

Ms. Vasan Paima asked what has happened with Council deciding on the legality of the pension fund? Council will only have it restructured, not scrapped.

Mr. Kapp appealed to all to make themselves available for elections for the profession, both at Council and for DENTASA. Mr. Aramugam suggested that at the next AGM we allow some time for candidates to stand and propose their visions for the profession. All members agreed that this was a very good suggestion.

Mr. Grabowski read a part of a draft document from the HPCSA where it clearly defines what a dental technician is and in short it states that a dentist is the client of the technician and not the patient. This will help us in fighting the battle against claiming directly. As it is a draft document it cannot yet be posted on the Website.

Mr. Grabowski and Mr. Louis Steyn had a meeting prior to the AGM meeting and decided that the fighting within the profession is unnecessary and not constructive. This profession must stand and fight together. We need all the input we can get from all members. Forward your ideas or constructive criticism to Ms. Morris at the

office and help the Exco work for the better of the profession. They cannot do it alone.

Mr. Snyman suggested DENTASA invoice all technicians for membership fees as all get the benefit for the profession. Ms. Roets answered that SADLA did this once but non-members did not appreciate the gesture. Sending out invitations to become members might work better. Members were asked to encourage non-members to join rather than give all the information away.

Motion 3:

Mr. Vos proposed that the DENTASA membership fee be increase to R1000 for laboratory owners and R500 for employees.

Mr. Denath seconded the motion. All members voted with a show of hands. The motion is carried.

14. Trust

The registering of the Trust is in process. This is the profession's money and will be used for the profession.

15. Council Matters

CPD seems to be in limbo, as none knows what is going on. We will notify all as soon as there is any outcome.

Anita Mogwane is still the acting Registrar and she is trying to cope without staff. Please bear with her as interviews for personnel and a new Registrar is on the way.

16. Date for the 2011 AGM

The Cape Dental Show will be an annual event and its date is set for the end of May 2011. Mr. Briscoe suggested we keep the DENTASA AGM separate from other shows. We need to approach the traders in advance and get their support and just have the AGM for technicians. The meeting felt that they wanted an AGM run by DENTASA for technicians.

The members felt the date of the AGM should be discussed with the Dental traders Association to determine their preference. It was also felt that the AGM is more important than any other show and should be driven by DENTASA. All members present agreed that the 2011 AGM will be held in June 2011. more information will be passed on as soon as it is available.

As voted on the previous AGM the venue will be rotated amongst all provinces. Any interested branches must send a proposal to the Exco for consideration.

17. General

17.1. Awards

Mr. Grabowski reported that DENTASA present deserving technicians who give exceptional service to the profession with awards at the AGM awards dinner annually. This year the recipient is Mr. Ken Barrett for his many years of service to the Association and profession. Normally the President of the Association presents the award, but due to the circumstances this year, Mr. Grabowski will not be attending he Awards dinner. Mr. Grabowski congratulated Mr. Barrett on his well-deserved award.

17.2. SADA / Idec Conference

Mr. George reported that the SADA / Idec Conference is being held in Durban this year, running from the 29th of October 2010. They tried to get

the AGM as a part of this congress but the feeling was that a separate AGM must be held for technicians. Each attendee received a booklet of the conference and Mr. George urged all members to support this if possible as it will be worthwhile. This profession needs to consider taking part under this umbrella more often as all faculties of dentistry is represented except for dental technicians. Mr. George will be representing DENTASA and requested the support of all.

Q: Mr. Pienaar asked how do we prevent being forced to become a part of the HPCSA? The Association needs to ensure this does not happen and react to any signs of such should it arise.

The National Reference Price List was scrapped including our list as well. The main reason for this was that the list was determined without enough consultation with the role players.

18. Word of Thanks

Ms. Roets, Vice President of the Association, firstly thanked the most important people, the members, for attending this meeting and being prepared to stand up for the Association. Thank you to all the members who came from far to support us.

Ms. Roets thanked the Cape Dental Show and its organising committee, especially Marilize, Ralf and David, for hosting this AGM meeting.

A special word of thanks went out to the Executive Committee of the Association for all the time effort and energy they put into this profession. Lastly Ms. Roets thanked Ms. Morris for always keeping the wheels turning.

Ms. Roets thanked the President of the Association, Mr. Axel Grabowski, for all his hard work done for the profession.

19. Closure

The Chairman, Mr. Grabowski, declared the meeting closed at 17:48.