

SAIEG

South African Institute for Engineering & Environmental Geologists

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PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUE

Dear SAIEG Members,

This is my first official communication with you as SAIEG President and it has already been a busy start to the SAIEG year with the new SAIEG Council (and some of the old council) being active and doing some interesting work. The first council meeting was held in February and, based on the discussions at that meeting, I am looking forward to working with the group. There have been many changes to the portfolios and fresh ideas are already flowing. Please refer you to the SAIEG website (www.saieg.co.za) for a list of the current council members and their respective portfolios.

As most of you are aware we presented a seminar on the Geotechnical Investigation of Dams, Tunnels & Mine Tailings in January. This event was very well attended (70 delegates) and the reviews we have received have all been positive. A special thank you goes out to the presenters at that seminar (Jaco Ehlers, Gary Davis, David Mouton, Paul Aucamp, John Stiff, Ron Tluczek, Dr Graham Howell, Dr Brendon Jones and Dr GV Price) and to Dr Izak Bretenbach who came up with the idea and did a large amount of the legwork behind the scenes. We plan to develop and present similar events to our members on at least an annual basis going forward. We believe it is an important part of the continued professional development of our members and also urge members to contact us with any suggested topic to be covered by such events.

Our next event is the AGM which will be hosted at SRK's offices in Illovo on the 14th of March 2019 ([click here](#) for the invitation, [click here](#) for the map to SRK). We have chosen this location for 2 reasons. The first is that it is relatively close to the Rosebank Gautrain Station and even closer to a Gautrain bus stop. This means that the meeting can be reached by those in both Johannesburg and Pretoria without traffic concerns. The second reason is that SRK has skype facilities which will allow you to dial into the AGM remotely. This will allow our members in other parts of the country (and world?) to follow and contribute to the AGM. To access the meeting you will need to inform us before the time. Please send an email to paucamp@srk.co.za and request a digital invite to join the meeting.

The day following the AGM will see us hosting the annual Gala Dinner along with the SAIEG awards function. This year we are very pleased to be presenting the SAIEG Gold Medal to Mr Tony A'Bear for his continued contribution to the field of Engineering Geology in South Africa and for the role he has, and continues to play, in SAIEG. I am sure there is nobody that will dispute that the presenting of the medal to Tony is most appropriate

and I invite you all to join us at the Gala Dinner to celebrate this. There will also be other SAIEG awards presented at the event. ([Click here](#) for the invitation, [click here](#) for the booking form.)

Other topics that were discussed at the recent meeting will be communicated as they are addressed during the year, but can be highlighted as follows:

- Increasing SAIEG's interaction with authorities that affect our field of expertise and the way in which it is practised in South Africa (including the Council for Geoscience, SACNASP, NHBRC and selected Metropolitan Municipalities).
- Creation of a list of competent D4 dolomite professionals in conjunction with the SAICE Geotechnical Division.
- Our proposed ABA Brink Memorial Lectures for 2019 which will include one lecture (the belated 2018 lecture) integrated with the University of Pretoria's Geology Department's 40th Anniversary Celebrations and a second lecture toward the end on 2019.
- The new SAIEG digital directory, which will replace our current pdf. Directory during 2019.

Membership

The number of new membership applications has been relatively low during the last few months. This has resulted in no new membership applications being finalised since the last official communication in November 2018. The only exception to this being Sydney Rangwato from University of Pretoria, who was accepted as a Student Member.

I would like to remind all student members from 2018 to renew their membership if they are registered students for 2019. Student members that have entered the workspace are encouraged to become candidate members and existing candidate members that have been members for three years are reminded to upgrade to full members.

If any member has any issues or objections to one of the above decisions, please inform us **within two weeks** after receiving this communique.

General Matters

Please feel free to contact me, your local SAIEG representative or the relevant council member, if you have any suggestions, queries or concerns regarding any SAIEG matters.

Kind Regards

Robert Leyland
SAIEG President 2019/20