

# SAQCC FIRE AGM 2020

## Chairman's report



COVID 19 has certainly thrown the fire industry and most of our personnel's lives into disarray. It's certainly our number one risk – both in saving lives and for our economy.

Most people only see negatives. However there are many positives emanating from Covid 19 – this AGM meeting being one of them.

A real concern is the fake news which is destabilizing our true knowledge base. In the old days fake news was known as propaganda. Our own industry is full of it. We no longer know what's fact or fiction.

Because of that we need to ensure we **FOCUS** on what we do and are in control of and NOT focus on the noise

To keep ourselves at the SAQCC fire focused we have established deliverables. In order to accurately verify our deliverables we set ourselves a strategy. This was done in 2018. All goals and objectives set in a strategy have to be measurable. This ensures our report back is FACT based and is devoid of fake news. To this extent we set ourselves a list of GOAL, which we separated into Primary and Secondary goals:

At last years AGM I presented a score card of our achievement. I have done the same this year, however, it will be posted on our website as I don't want to drag my report on for too long. However, I do need to refer to our deliverables:

### **PRIMARY GOALS:**

- Mandate
- Set a career path via QCTO qualification development

Sadly these two goals have not been fully achieved.

**Mandate** – we await a revision to our mandate.

**QCTO process** - Many curved balls have been thrown at the SAQCC fire. However, Under the direction and perseverance of Lizl Davel, aided by Nichola Alan, huge progress has nevertheless been made.

### **WE score 50% on these two goals**

## **SECONDARY GOALS**

We set ourselves 12 secondary goals, which have been well achieved.

- our purpose : we re-defined this through our Vision and Mission statements.
- Unity : there was much antagonism and venal rhetoric being thrown about. This has been removed and is not tolerated.
- Professionalism : we needed to take a step up in how we were perceived and in our deliverables. This has been achieved.
  
- disciplinary action
- Engage with all organizations
- Certify and qualify
- Financial governance
- Marketing
- Communication
- Succession
- Management structure.

## PROFESSIONALISM

- Our focus has been on Disciplinary action and inspections. We were using committee members for this task which was not fair on them or the defendant.
- WE are driving IMPARTIALITY and FAIRNESS. To this extent we have:
  - Appointed an external legal organisation to chair disciplinary hearings.
  - New procedures/works instructions have been established or are in the process of being revised.
  - We've appointed a legal counsel to handle any matters of litigation should they arise.
  - We're in the process of appointing independent inspectors to review cases before the SAQCC takes action.

## ADMINISTRATION

- We're in the process of revising job descriptions.
- We're revising KPI's
- we're in the process of assessing efficiency systems in order to streamline the processing of applications and data.

## FINANCIALS

- Our financials are in very good standing – going forward we will be assessing how best to add greater value back into our technicians.

## MARKETING

- Marketing – web site, newsletters, social media continue to be used.
- ROAD SHOWS
  - very well attended.
  - More interactive
  - Can't educate techs on everything- try to do this in companies.
  - Move to virtual road shows - can get more information across in a year ie. we can offer a different message/input for each road show as opposed to having one theme and repeating it at each road show.
- POD CASTS – keep our members better informed.

## VIRTUAL COMMUNICATION

It's always been stated that crisis breeds innovation. Well, let's face it the use of virtual communication is going to change our lives, for the better. Changes will include

- Cost savings.
- Less time wasting
- General communication
- Meetings
- Road shows
- Training, to mention a few.

The reality is that embracing technology is the only option we have if we intend to improve ourselves. All the communication [spinoffs](#) mentioned can only improve the lives of technicians and accelerate their knowledge.

### **OVERALL STRATEGY – SAQCC fire SCORE CARD**

- The SAQCC fire achieved a score of 93.9% on achieving its deliverables.
- The 2019 score was 83.2%
- The SAQCC fire score card has been posted on the SAQCC fire web site.

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the aim of the SAQCC fire is to improve the lives and abilities of fire technicians – That’s exactly what the directors and committees are striving to ensure happens.

I’ve always stated the the job of the Chairperson is not difficult- and I stand by that. The success of a Chairperson depends on the team he/she is working with.

To this extent I’m eternally grateful to the directors of the SAQCC fire; Matt Kielty, Tom Dreyer, Lizl Davel and Nichola Allan.

However a truly special thanks must go to lizl and Nichola : the tenacity and willingness ( sometimes ready to throw the towel in ) they have shown in driving the QCTO qualification process for 1475 and gas suppression career paths is unsurpassed. I can honestly say that the fire industry owe them.

I must also thank the two committees. 1475 & D&GS. Your attendance, participation and contribution to creating a better industry has not gone unnoticed.

I would like to thank the heart beat of the SAQCC fire, Rosemary Cowan and her team of Meryl and Craig. Rose, you’re a fantastic ambassador for the SAQCC fire.

Lastly, but by no means least, I would like to thank the Department of Employment and Labour for their support – in particular Tibor Szana, Jakes Malatse and Matlala Sathekge. The SAQCC fire is in essence a sub department of the Department. They are our bosses. As such their support, speed of response and delivery is critical to the functioning and wellbeing of the SAQCC

fire. I look forward to even greater pro-active involvement and commitment from them over the coming twelve months.

**I thank you all for attending this virtual AGM.**

Kind Regards

**DUNCAN BOYES**  
CHAIRMAN : SAQCC fire