

FISA CHAIRPERSON'S YEAR-END MESSAGE

What a year it has been. Recovering from the turmoil of the previous two years, reassessing our economy and trying to adapt to the changes in our lives brought to us, courtesy of Covid 19. But, as always, the more difficult life becomes, the more we adapt to the changes and the way things have always been done. We have survived the onslaught and with the changes, mankind has learnt a lot about itself. Online meetings, working from home or off-site, has become the norm, and yet, being the social creatures we are, we long for togetherness at meetings, functions and seminars. How our lives have changed. This could well be a prelude to the saying "the more things change, the more things stay as they are".

FISA, as a non-profit organisation that represents fiduciary practitioners and sets high minimum standards for the industry, remained active as the only professional body focusing solely on fiduciary practitioners in Southern Africa.

FISA, through its members, remain actively involved in various projects, webinars, regional meetings and the well-attended FISA 12th Annual Conference held at the Sandton Convention Centre on 9 November of this year, which is known among practitioners, academics and the media as an event where critical issues at the intersection of practice and theory are presented by high quality speakers. The Conference was attended by 170 delegates, guest speakers, sponsors and the media, with just over 200 delegates registered to attend the on-line recording, available from 16 November 2022 up to 31 March 2023.

Dr. Ronel Williams, Head of Client Legal and Administration at Trustqore, Mauritius, and a previous chairperson of FISA, received the prestigious 2022 FISA Chairperson's Award at the FISA Conference.

Most regional quarterly meetings were done online, whilst a few followed the hybrid route. Attendance figures have, on average, remained constant due to the high-quality presentations, which qualify for CPD points, given by guest speakers.

Conclusion

Serving on Council is a privilege as we are the most relevant fiduciary services professional body in South Africa and we are committed to continue developing the knowledge base of all our members by offering high-level educational content that will grow each member, their respective organisations, and practices.

Our membership is growing year on year and FISA now has just over 800 members with new applications received every week.

Lastly, as we head into 2023, as Chairperson of this dynamic professional body, I want to thank our Vice-Chairperson, Penny Du Plessis, our CEO, Louis van Vuren, our Secretary, Aaron Roup and all our fellow council members for their ongoing

support, guidance, enthusiasm and energy in continuing to drive FISA forward. Thanks also to Lucy Reyburn, Barbara Kerr-Shaw and Ansie and Anchen Fouche, who continue to provide invaluable support to FISA and its Council through their effective marketing strategies and information technology support.

On behalf of FISA Council, we wish all our members a Happy Festive Season and a Prosperous 2023.

Here's to a bright New Year, to things that are yet to come and to the memories we make and hold.

Warm regards

Ian Brink

(FISA Chairperson)