



Comensa News

Coaches & Mentors of
south africa

November 2008

Special points of interest:

CTASA are hosting a National Coach Trainers Convention from 21 to 23 November —see Upcoming Events for details

Outgoing message from Dale Williams

You can now place your advertisements in this newsletter.

Contact: administrator@comensa.org.za

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Comensa's National AGM 2008

By: Mariane Vorster, National Treasurer

Boring, rules, lists of things to get through and the odd nodding head. That is my experience of most AGMs and yet I really enjoyed the Comensa AGM this year. KZN has by far the smallest membership but there is plenty of heart in the region to make up for it. The AGM was warm and informal as only Dale can make something but we still got through the work. Well done to all the members for sending in their proxies. Over 60 proxies were submitted.

Some of the points worth noting is that there was a 60% growth in membership

last year. Many of the administrative issues have been resolved. The infrastructure, business systems, roles and responsibilities



Oct 2008 Comensa National AGM in Durban

have been put in place and tested. Comensa is a robust, healthy section 21 company, ready to serve its community.

As Sunny noted, it is a sign of our maturity as an organisation when there are three candidates standing as president. Thank you to Peter and Rene for making themselves available and congratulations to Belinda Davies our new president. Belinda has served on the KZN committee as chairman and secretary and has been involved with Comensa for some time. A special vote of thanks has given to both Dale and Saul for their contributions during their office. Edith Sievers continues as vice president and Michelle van Reenen as secretary. I have taken over as Treasurer from Saul Goldblatt. Cont. pg 3

Interim PE Chapter Launched

By: Warren Guscott, Steering Team Member

Mon 27 October celebrated the launch of an interim Coaches & Mentors Association in Port Elizabeth. The express goal of the Association is to grow its membership base to establish a formal COMENSA Chapter in

the city.

The launch drew a wide cross section of Coaches, Mentors, Psychologists and Corporate Leaders committed to this initiative. The unifying vision is to build the professional credibility and networking of Coaches & Mentors within PE. The outcome of the launch is a firm

commitment to grow the existing COMENSA member base (approx. 14) to the required corium to establish a formal chapter. The Association has committed itself to meet regularly. Watch this space!

Contact:
warren@neurolabinc.com

Greetings from our New President



Hello Comensa Members and friends! Here I stand at the threshold of my tenure as President of Comensa with a paradoxical blend of thoughts and feelings. I feel really honoured that Comensa members

2008 Comensa AGM in Durban, Kwa-Zulu Natal

Edith Sievers, Michelle van Reenen, Mariane Vorster, Brent Combrink and Dennis Jackson; We have fresh legs and new eyes in Patrick Greenaway and me; and we have an awesome collection of

brainpower in the whole team! I feel a certain amount of trepidation in that this is a big job and I have huge shoes to fill, coming as I do after Dale and Sunny. I look forward to serving Comensa well through my work with this strong team in pursuit of our strategic objectives. For the last couple of years the Exco of Comensa has taken the view that Comensa is a work in progress and that it is important to lay really solid foundations.

“The success of COMENSA really is measured by the involvement of its members”

Belinda Davies, New President of COMENSA

To this end, we have traditionally focused on a somewhat limited range of strategic initiatives, with the intention of doing a few things really well before moving on to the next selection of focus areas. This has borne fruit and we will continue with this approach. Our areas of strategic focus for the coming year are to add value to our members through:

- Enhancing opportunities for members to learn and grow through events, forums and networking.

- Implementing the Practitioner Membership Criteria in 2008 and continuing to raise the bar.

- Facilitating research and development of the “Scientific Practitioner”.

- Communicate Effectively to Stakeholders

- To nationally and regionally develop and implement the Marketing Strategy.

- Ensure regular and relevant communication.

- Build credibility internally and externally for Coaches and Mentors.

- Fine tune Operational Systems on a national level.

- Implement the PSD system of membership management

- Streamline the membership process (including membership user interface).

- Develop self-service functionality for members.

- Nationally update the Website and related technology.

Having said that, the real work of Comensa is done by its members through the Portfolio Committees and this year, as in previous years, we will be calling on Members to get involved. If you have a special area of interest, please do get involved. To paraphrase JFK, “Ask not what your organization can do for you... ask what you can do for your organization”. The success of Comensa really is measured by the involvement of its members and I’m so looking forward to see-

ing how we mature as an organization over the next 2 years. I look forward to taking this exciting journey with all of you.

Belinda Davies



Left: Belinda Davies; Right: Mariane Vorster

Michelle's Top Tip: Sign in Solidarity



If South African coaches could get ourselves SABS approved, would we? Almost all South Africans recognise that holding an SABS certification adds credibility to any product or service. It would tell consumers that our products, systems or services can be trusted. If South African coaches could apply for ISO9000 quality ratings, would we? We know

**Use
COMENSA
in your
email sig-
nature**

that ISO is an international certification that suggests that a company conforms to certain high-level standards. If we got our ISO9000 or SABS approval, I'd bet we'd use it in our branding and in our e-mail signatures, wouldn't we?

You are an accredited member of an increasingly recognised

professional body called COMENSA. Are you sharing this in your branding and e-mail signatures?

Read more in the attached article, Monthly Tip November.

Michelle Clarke runs a full time coaching practice and volunteers her time to steering the Comensa Marketing Initiatives.

***“Join a
portfolio
committee
and support
the continued
growth of our
profession”
Marian Vorster***

Membership Criteria: Resolution Passed

By Dale Williams: outgoing chair of Membership and Criteria COMENSA continues to move from strength to strength and along with the more than 65% growth in membership numbers reported at the national AGM, COMENSA has also now implemented the first phase of upping the criteria for practitioner members. The implementation of standards for practitioner membership is the re-

sult of a two year process of development and broad consultation with all membership on a national scale.

The criteria were reviewed by the Executive Committee before being put forward at the AGM for approval where they were accepted with an overwhelming majority.

This is great news for coaches as it now means that as

COMENSA members in good standing who acknowledge and abide by these criteria, they have tremendous credibility in the market place. The standards include principals, values and criteria from the EMCC as well as the UK Professional Bodies Round Table.

Thank you to all involved. Marianne Meyer takes over from me with immediate effect.

2008 AGM Cont...

An AGM is an opportunity for the comensa members to hear from those they have elected to look after their affairs about how it's going.

An important point was made by Sunny when she said that the most meaningful work was done in the portfolio committees. This is where the strength of comensa lies and

the future of our organisation and profession.

You may be watching all of this with interest from a distance. If so, the invitation is extended to get involved. You can contribute to a worthwhile process, learn something and heaven forbid, you may even enjoy yourself. Comensa belongs to all of us and you will

get so much more out of Comensa as you participate. I think that everyone enjoyed the AGM in the wonderful relaxed atmosphere of an old Durban home. Good luck to the new committee in the year ahead.



AGM in progress this year



Know someone who may wish to receive this newsletter? Please forward it on to them.

Anyone may subscribe to this newsletter, simply email: COMENSAnews@aweber.com to register!

Contact Comensa:
administrator@comensa.org.za
www.comensa.org.za

Submit your news or story? Contact the editor:
anita.craig@kingsley.co.za

Comensa is Africa's premier professional association for individual and corporate providers, buyers and trainers of coaching and mentoring services. Committed to supporting this professional practice, Comensa is leading the way in research, standards and coaching development as well as connecting the growing network of coaches and people-developers across Southern Africa.

Our Newsletter will keep you up to date with what is going in the coaching community in South Africa and Internationally.



Upcoming Comensa Events

Gauteng:

COMENSA Training Organisations Expo

Date: 19th November

Time: 17h00 to 20h00

Venue: FNB Conference & Learning Centre, Grayston Drive, Sandton, JHB

Contact: Creina Schaefer
creinas@iburst.co.za

Western Cape:

National Coach Trainers Convention

a CTASA Event

"The Future of Coach Development in South Africa"

Date: 21-23 November

Venue: Stanford Valley, Western Cape (accom, meals provided)

Cost: approx R2,200 p/p

Contact: Marieta van Staden
marieta@strongfoundation.co.za

Western Cape End-of Year Event

"Perspectives on Coaching in Organisations"

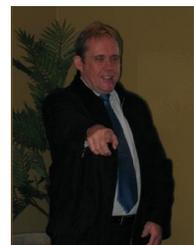
Date: 4th December

Time: 18h00 to 21h00

Venue: The Coaching Centre, Dreyersdal Farm, Bergvliet, CT

Contact: Trixy Lochner
trixylochner@gmail.com

We'll see you there!



ADVERTISEMENTS

Martha Beck Speaks in Johannesburg

11 November 2008

“Freedom from Fear” an evening lecture by Dr Martha Beck, bestselling author of *Expecting Adam*, *Finding Your Own North Star*, and *Steering by Starlight*.

The talk has been specially designed to address living with economic, political and personal uncertainty in both the global and the South African contexts. Martha Beck will take you through a process which allows you to detect places where fear is hampering your life, to understand where fear comes from and how you can manage it.

Where: WITS Great Hall, Johannesburg

When: Tuesday 11 November 2008

What time: 17:00 arrivals & welcome ... Lecture starts 18:30 to 21:00 (no late entries)

Costs: **R380 per ticket** or R420 at the door. Group discount of 5 or more R350

Please register by mailing events@stellarlifedesign.co.za or going to the “Martha Beck in SA” registration page on www.stellarlifedesign.co.za and you will be sent the banking details to reserve your seats.

Visit the Coach and Mentor Training Organisations' Expo

Are you:

- Wanting to develop your coaching and / or mentoring skills?
- Wanting to become a practitioner coach?
- A practitioner coach interested in enhancing your existing coaching or mentoring skills through master classes?
- A manager wanting an in-house coaching and / or mentoring skills course to develop these skills within your team?
- Part of an organisation which offers coach and / or mentor training and wanting to see what other organisations offer?

Then visit the Coach and Mentor Training Organisations' Expo and get all your questions answered!

The EXPO will offer:

- Ten coach and / or mentor training organisations exhibiting
- Leading Key note speakers addressing industry hot topics regarding coaching and mentoring
- A wonderful networking opportunity
- An opportunity to do comparative 'shopping'
- Snacks and refreshments

Date: 19th Nov 2008 Time: 17h00 to 20h00

Venue: FNB Conference and Learning Centre, 114 Grayston Drive, Sandton, Johannesburg

Visit our website at www.comensa.org.za for more information.