

SAPA: WESTERN CAPE END OF YEAR FUNCTION 2011

PRESIDENTS REPORT: DAVID DE KORTE

As 2011 draws to a close, it is nice to look back on a year of SAPA activities in the Western Cape. I would like to review 2011 under the heading of our four focus areas.

1. Collegiality

The times we have met this year have allowed for principals to mix and chat. At our launch meeting, the breakfast in February, we created a great networking opportunity for our members. This year we plan to make collegiality a focus and have some way we intend making this happen. Another first was when we partnered with Louis van Rhyen as part of her COLP project (College of Learning Principals).

2. Professional Growth:

We have provided a number of professional growth opportunities this year. We ran 2 afternoon 'Pitstop' meetings where we looked at 'getting into the mind of the teenager', and how we could effectively use data and statistics to plan and develop policy for our schools.

We ran a very successful 'LEAD' Workshop where we learnt to 'work less, play more, and still get the job done'. It was interesting to note that this workshop was attended mainly by senior teachers.

We tried to help other provinces and areas outside Cape Town, when we brought Alan Johnson from America across for a series of workshops. He presented in Cape Town as well as going on a Road show up the West Coast and to George. This was an expensive exercise but we had decided that we would assist principals professionally beyond the borders of the Peninsula.

We also partnered with MacMillan and ran training workshops in the province for CAPS.

3. Meeting with the Department

We have met each quarter with Penny Vinjeveld and her top management team where we have brought the burning issues raised by members to the table. We feel that we have made real progress here, and through our professional presentation of issues and effective follow-up have exercised influence beyond our size.

On a National level, we too are making our voice heard. We have met with the DBE each term, and Alta as National President has led these engagements. I in the role of general secretary have drawn up the agenda for these meetings, and have always ensured that Western Cape Issues that need to be aired at National level are on the agenda. In this way the Western Cape has a real influence over the direction and effectiveness of SAPA Nationally.

4. Links with ICP

The Western Cape was well represented in the group of South African SAPA principals that travelled to Toronto in September to attend the ICP Conference (International Conference of Principals). All accounts received from members attending this wonderful experience are that it was most valuable.

In closing, one of our successes this year has been to improve communication with SAPA members through our weekly e-mail contact. We have appreciated the feedback from members on issues raised, and believe we are streets ahead of other provinces in the area. Here I will mention our support of the campaign to oppose legal efforts to get the age of consensual sex lowered to 13 from 16. Also on burning issues, you have all be a great source of topics.

I have enjoyed my year as president, and would like to thank my executive for all their time and effort that has been put towards making SAPA in the Western Cape such a big success. Thank you too to all our members for your support and encouragement. Keep the e-mails coming.

David de Korte
3 November 2011