



*The South African Society of Music Teachers*

*Die Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging van Musiekonderwysers*

## **2016 Report of the Executive Officer**

1. Meetings: The following meetings were held:
  - a. 10 May 2015
  - b. 25 October 2015
  - c. 19 January 2016
  - d. 18 March 2016
2. New membership applications:
  - a. A total of no less than 35 new members were approved and processed
  - b. The method of sending the new applications by email to Standing committee, Exco and the relevant Centre Chairperson and secretary for approval was implemented. Some of these committee members gave their approval promptly, but we would like to involve more Centre chairpersons and secretaries in the process. When an application is received we need to process the membership as soon as possible. It is important to create good relations with all our members, old and new and to make new members feel welcome as soon as possible after they have applied.
  - c. We also now need to get the new members' permission to publish their personal particulars together with their applications according to the new POPI act.
3. Finance:
  - a. Although our finances are in a healthy state, there are still too many late or non-payments, particularly by some Institutions. The problem probably lies in the fact that tertiary institutions outsource their financial procurement and that the music departments do not seem to have much say in their own affairs.
  - b. Total membership fees decreased as a result of some Institutions' non-payment in spite of a rise in individual membership.
  - c. In many instances the early bird discount proved to be an incentive to centres.
  - d. Our total assets have increased from R1228426.88 in 2014 to R1264654.74 at the end of 2015 showing an increase of R36227.86.
  - e. Our current account showed a surplus of R2638.27 against a liability of R11273.41 in the previous year. In 2014 a grant of R20 000.00 was paid to help finance the EO's visit to the ISME Conference in Porto Alegre in Brazil creating a shortfall.
4. Bursaries and scholarships:
  - a. The winners of the 2015 SASMT bursaries were:
    - i. Lezanti van Sittert (Gladwell) R12000 Piano UP
    - ii. Lourens Fick (Kath Irish) R10000 Piano US

- iii. Aimée Porter (Ellie Marx) R5000 Violin UP
    - iv. Landi Schaap (David Reunert) R1500 Piano Betsie Schaap
  - b. We maintain a policy of paying out about 50% of the interest each year in order to keep the bursary funds sustainable and the funds are invested in a fixed deposit for a year.
- 5. Communication with members
  - a. Circulars are sent out to all members to keep them informed of important matters.
  - b. Regular feedback from members would be welcomed.
  - c. I would like to suggest closer contact between members through social media like opening a twitter account, but much information is available on the website. Younger members should perhaps become involved in such an endeavour.

Elma Britz (EO)