

## PRESIDENTS REPORT 2024

AAD 2022 has come and gone and thanks to great teamwork it turned out to be a huge success, better than expected. If it wasn't for that timely income we shared with our partners from this AAD, CAASA may have had to close its doors.

It highlights how dependent we are on our income from AAD and showcases that somehow, we must lessen the dependency on, and actively seek alternative income sources. The membership fees are inadequate sustain CAASA significant work unless we increase the fees drastically in line with similar organisations and our members are not very supportive of that approach, thus finding ourselves in a catch 22 situation.

Members state the cost of participation at AAD, an international event, is too high, however it's a double edge sword. Either we participate and contribute to make AAD a more GA orientated show and therefore increase our revenue stream or pay higher membership fees. After explaining our dilemma at POLCOM they decided to assist GA by offering tailor made packages to our members and I encourage all to make use of this opportunity.

The wheels of justice turn slowly, and after two years in and out of court, a settlement agreement was reached with the dismissed AAD employee who fraudulently stole R277 000 via petty cash withdrawals, is required by court order to pay back R3 500 monthly over the next 5 years commencing March 2024, with a suspended sentence of five years. Should she skip payment, she will appear before the judge again who will decide if she will get a second and last chance or go to jail.

Kev and Melissa are doing a sterling job and managing the CAASA's affairs and our expenses very well as they are under budget on all the items. Kev is focused on relationship building with all the relevant institutions.

The heads of our various affiliates and the CEOs of our major companies in our industry have a better understanding of CAASA's responsibility and its importance of unity. There is work that started with the DOT, especially with focus on the ASLC that has had massive impact in the success of our members businesses. There are numerous other cases happening behind the scenes that only come to the fore during discussions that lead to positive outcomes for our members. I therefore want to express my deepest gratitude for the work the staff are undertaking.

Why is it that when things are getting tough that the aviation fraternity only then realize the benefit, they can derive from being a member of CAASA and that must stand together?

May I be so bold as to ask each and every member to assist CAASA and ultimately the industry to reach out to non-members to join us. If each member attracts one additional company to become a member, we can double our revenue stream as this is a numbers game. CAASA is not an elitist club and is open to all, and the work we do, and track record is proven. The entire GA is benefiting from the excellent work CAASA is doing but only a few are contributing financially support that success. Together we can achieve so much more.

Lastly, I want to thank the CAASA Board members for their support and time they give freely to make CAASA a success and it's an honor to serve as president of this highly distinguished organization. May you all experience abundant blessings for this year ahead.

Johannes Nell