

AGM Minutes 2016/17

Wednesday 26th July

1. Welcome and prayer

In his capacity as Chair, Phil Bowyer welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of Soul Action South Africa, a Non-Profit Organisation that was founded in 2007, and registered as an NPO 076-225 and PBO 930 033 937 in 2010. After inviting Soul Action Management Committee Member, Barbara McLean, to open in prayer, the Chair explained that the AGM would report on the activities and Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 28th February 2017.

2. Agenda

The Chair, proposed that the AGM would proceed according to following the agenda (unless anyone objected):

3. Apologies & Attendance	6. Confirm 2015/16 Minutes	9. Election of Office Bearers
4. Membership	7. Chair's & Financial Report	10. General
5. Changes to the Constitution	8. Feedback from attendees	11. Close

3. Apologies & Attendance

The Chair explained how Soul Action South Africa had received apologies from the following seven members:

Kim Atkins	Jo Douwes	Karien Hunter	Natalie Ogden
Dean Barnes	Renske Fitzjohn	Johan Labuschagwe	

4. Membership

The Chair explained that attending a conference, gathering, one to one, training or workshop did not make a person a member of Soul Action South Africa. A member was someone who had completed an application form, and received a letter of confirmation from Soul Action that they were a member. The following members were in attendance:

Phil Bowyer	Deon Coetzer	Romela Govender	Clare Serfontein	Mickey Wilkins
Rachel Bowyer	Diane Fick	Barbara McLean	Leigh-Ann Stevens	Toni Wilkins

Since members have the right to determine policy and suggest / vote changes to the constitution, the Chair invited any non-members who wished to apply for membership to do so, explaining how they *must* attend Soul Action's AGM.

5. Changes to the Constitution – there were no changes to the constitution.

6. Approval of Minutes

The Chair proposed that the Minutes from Soul Action's 2016 Annual General Meeting – which all members had received and read – represented a true and accurate record of the meeting that was held on August 17th 2016.

- The proposal was seconded by Romie Govender
- Members in favour All ten
- There were no 'Matters Arising'

7. Chairperson’s Report (including a report on 2017’s Audited Financial Statements)

7.1. Gratitude and Audited Financial Statement (Income) Report

Reflecting on the year ending 28th February 2017, Soul Action’s leadership were grateful for God’s provision which had enabled the organisation to connect with over **600** individuals from **180** local businesses, churches, schools and NPOs. The Chair was grateful for the dialogue, generosity, growth, journeying, learning, and opportunities to share experiences, ideas, knowledge and resources; particularly in the intentional relationships that were developed with **62** leaders from Non-Profit / education sectors; leaders that were gathered and met one to one on a regular basis.

Non Profits – over the course of 2016/17 Soul Action facilitated **nine** opportunities for **30** leaders to connect with God and one another; with the aim addressing the poverty that is nearest by releasing gifts, potential, resources and skills. Gatherings explored how to make Godly decisions, stay true to one’s vision and manage change. One-to-one meetings offered a safe space to process, explore and apply thinking; which has increased leaders capacity for change.

Education – Soul Action’s **four** skills development programs benefited **(six)** leaders from **(six)** schools, **(seven)** volunteers, **(eight)** educators and **(eleven)** Early Childhood Development Centres.

Six leaders participated in **four** workshops – where they developed skills to support, motivate and mentor their staff – **AND** received **seven** termly support visits – to help them apply learning to their context.

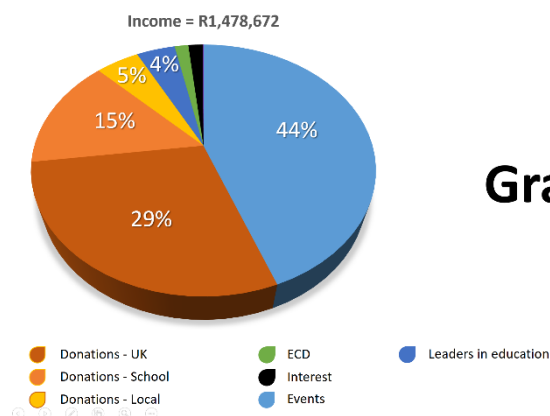
Educators and volunteers were equipped to teach phonics, develop word attack skills, and support learners in becoming independent readers. Educators participated in **two** workshops and received **four** support visits. Volunteers participated in **four** workshops and received **14** support visits.

By offering skills development to educators, leaders and volunteers, **AND** supporting them as they sought to achieve their goals, a total of **2,300** learners received a better education as a result of Soul Action’s education programs.

Pre-school owners and teachers from eleven Early Childhood Development Centres benefited from encouragement, support and training, in holistic development through **eleven** workshops and **eighteen** support visits. As a result, a total of **380** children and families are now growing holistically through safe, loving and nurturing environments.

Soul Action made significant progress in its commitment to establish an affordable, excellent, transcultural and poly-sensory school; clarifying aims and values; developing a philosophy and policies, formulating a comprehensive business plan, imagining the space & launching a campaign to raise **6 million** as part of a UK tour in Nov / Dec 2016.

7.2. AFS (2017): Soul Action received R712,285 in donations (424,540 from the UK; 215,595 for the school and 72,150 from locals); R653,677 for events; R64,394 for education; R23,015 for ECD; R24,101 in interest and R1,200 for training.



Grateful

7.3. Gains

Soul Action’s leadership, and the individuals / organisations connected to Soul Action, benefitted from **50** ‘events’ in 2016/17. These ‘events’ included workshops, focus groups and gatherings, the iMatter Children’s and family workers conference – which was attended by **140** delegates – and short term mission opportunities – which saw **60** delegates from Soul Survivor Church Watford (UK) serve at LIV Village for ten days over the Easter holidays.

One of the challenges expressed by leaders, before Soul Action (re)launched its leadership focus in 2015, was their sense of loneliness. In gathering regularly, leaders have felt heard, and a lot more connected (see feedback below):

“The gatherings are a wonderful time to meet with people who have many of the same challenges but also innovative ideas - those ‘why didn’t I think of that’ moments. I love the talks and I find myself sharing what I have learned to the point that many of my circle have benefitted from what I’ve learned.”

“I find it extremely uplifting being around other organisations with the same goals, and listening to their successes and challenges reminds me that I am not alone.”

The Chair explained how individuals benefited from one to ones / support visits; gaining insight, knowledge, understanding and wisdom, in the process of sharing experiences, perspectives and thoughts. The facilitation of safe spaces – where team members act as a ‘sounding board’ – has meant leaders can share without judgement, and, through sharing, are able to come to their own decisions & move forward. This is reflected in comments such as these:

<i>“It’s allowed me to share freely without the fear of being made to feel like a failure.”</i>	<i>“Great to speak out challenges or opportunities and reflect together on exactly what you are saying or thinking. We don’t often get the chance to verbalise in a safe space.”</i>
<i>“I find I can say anything, knowing I won’t be judged and sometimes just in the speaking out I find healing or a way forward.”</i>	<i>“Challenge’s me, builds rapport and accountability for my own decisions as a leader. I am able to see the fruit from these meetings because of the one on one element and feel heard and I understand myself better.”</i>

Leaders within the education sector acknowledged how they benefitted from the knowledge and skills they developed in how to support, guide and motivate staff, and as a result of this, have greater confidence in their abilities to lead.

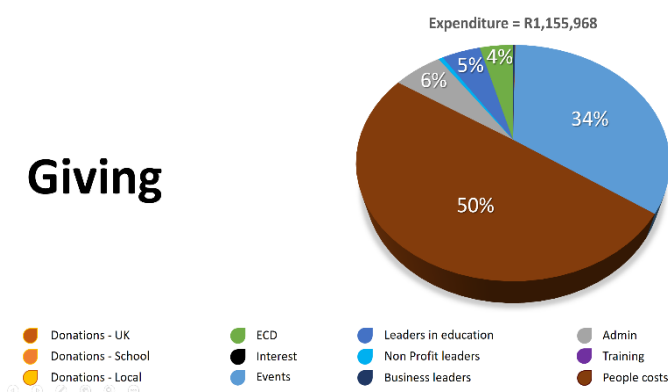
7.4. Giving and Audited Financial Statement (Expenditure) Report

As a result of **800** encounters with the same **100** individuals, Soul Action set out to be more intentional with it’s energy, resources and time in 2016/17. Leaders within the education sector were able to develop knowledge and skills to improve the quality of education. By intentionally listening more – in all sectors – Soul Action witnessed greater openness and greater vulnerability; especially in one to one meetings with leaders and support visits with teachers.

Some key themes that emerged through contemplative prayer in 2016/17, included the need to be more mindful of the Holy Spirit’s presence and activity in daily life. By consenting to God’s presence, and recognising what thoughts to dwell on, deal with, or dispatch, 2016/17 was a year for ‘letting go’ both personally, and professionally.

7.5. AFS 2017: Soul Action spent R573,592 on people, R399,226 on events, R69,988 on admin, R6,448 on Non-Profit leaders, R55,491 on leaders in education, R47,838 on ECD, R2,888 on business leaders and R499 on training.

Giving



The Chair made a full set of Audited Financial Statements available should anyone wish to scrutinise them further.

7.6. What Soul Action has learnt / is learning

The Chair explained that whilst Soul Action celebrates the ‘progress’ made in 2016/17, this didn’t mean the leadership were satisfied with the inequality and segregation that seems to linger in South Africa. As leaders committed to justice in business, charity, church and education, Soul Action longs to see greater access, equity, fairness, honesty, excellence and integration in society. As God brings and weaves people together for good, Soul Action looks forward to increased innovation, progress and surprises in 2017/18. Speaking on behalf of the founders, trustees, team, and individuals connected to Soul Action, the Chair recognised that birthing anything excellent, new, or worthwhile, requires supernatural listening, letting go, and leaving one’s comfort zone(s); often in fear and trembling (2 Ph 2:12).

Aware of how much easier it is to appear faith-full and obedient once the outcomes are clear and certain, the Chair acknowledged that God is primarily interested in how much ‘business’ is being done whilst things remain uncertain, unknown (see the Master / Servants in the Parable of the ‘Rand’ in Lk 19:11-27). Soul Action’s / the Chair’s sense for 2017/18 was that God was encouraging – literally ‘urging us forward’ in Greek – ‘...to demonstrate courageous public faithfulness [to an unseen Master in an environment where some are actively opposed to his rule]’ (Bailey 2008:408).

7.7. The Future

Going forward – into 2017/18 and over the next 10 years – Soul Action’s leadership is confident of God’s call to create space(s) that encourage curiosity, creativity and co-learning, in the search for greater equality and integration. Soul Action intends to continue to empower, mentor and support people of *all* ages to fulfil their God-given potential.

8. Feedback

Soul Action’s Diane Fick asked those present, what they would like to *gain* and *give* to Soul Action South Africa:

Gain	Give
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Even closer partnership and collaboration ▪ Stimulus for change/direction/challenge ▪ Being challenged ▪ Leadership insight of new trends ▪ Fellowship with like-minded people ▪ Laughter, lightness as we walk in faith ▪ Connectivity, network, sharing ▪ Networking, guidance, sounding board ▪ Contact, communication, clarity, correction in my work towards God’s mission in South Africa ▪ To see where and how I can be more inclusive - and accountable for that ▪ Continued encouragement to live a faithful life ▪ Explore, discuss creative ways of doing what God has called us to do ▪ A space for God’s perspective on my mission ▪ Safe space to reflect ▪ Connection (relationship, insight, sharing ideas and hope) with individuals and teams working towards more equal and integrated communities ▪ Biblical challenges to key issues of integration and equality ▪ Conversation/mentorship/dialogue around social justice and equality & how my organisation can move forward ▪ Discussion around how we become better agents for transformational change – Biblical and real life examples ▪ Personal involvement – making a difference to somebody else apart from myself and my family ▪ Opportunities to offer financial skills development to people, opportunities to train more people ▪ How to connect and reach out to other people who need knowledge ▪ Networking opportunities, interviews – radio, local mission news, lay my cards out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prayer – for the work and people involved ▪ Continued support ▪ Support and encouragement ▪ Guidance – ears to listen ▪ Commitment to being an active member - a vocal supporter - and being able to assist in line with opportunities identified ▪ Knowledge ▪ Knowledge and skills ▪ Share my skills and knowledge with individuals ▪ Skills I can offer – facilitator, preacher, trainer, strategy, promotion ▪ Share my knowledge and experience with others so we can all reach our full potential in God ▪ What God has equipped me with ▪ Connection – a network of businesses, social development projects ▪ Connect with other organisations ▪ Support the vision – through new connections ▪ Networking – share vision and dream to all contacts ▪ Opportunities for interviews on radio ▪ Broader reach to rural community ▪ Opportunity for new reach ▪ Support with projects ▪ Time ▪ Time and assistance ▪ To be a volunteer part-time ▪ Time and presence ▪ Financial support ▪ \$6 million – focus in on vision ▪ Ask for money – spiritual fundraising ▪ My stories of who is changing ▪ My testimony ▪ A sense of accomplishment – by seeing your work into my life flourishing ▪ A place where we can practically put into practice what the Lord has called us to – to be integrated, focused on Him, serving the vulnerable

9. Election of office bearers

In accordance with its Constitution, Soul Action South Africa is managed by a Management Committee, which is made up of no less than six members, who stand for a year, but who can then stand for re-election. The Chair proposed that Deon Coetzer should join the following Management Committee members – Dean Barnes, himself, Rachel Bowyer, Jo Douwes, Barbara McLean and Ross Nevette – who were all willing to stand for (re)election for another year.

- The proposal was seconded by Diane Fick
- Members in favour Eight
- Abstained Two

Thinking particularly about establishing an affordable, excellent, transcultural and poly-sensory school, the Chair expressed how the skill set of the Management Committee seemed exceptionally fitting for such a time as this.

10. General

The Chair thanked Deon Coetzer and Kevin Cassidy, of Cassidy & Associates, of 271 Kenyon Howden Road, Montclair, Durban, for auditing and preparing Soul Action’s Annual Financial Statements March 2016 – February 2017. And confirmed Jan Cronje of *KRONA*, 3 Wimble Close, Ballito, would audit 2017 – 2018’s Annual Financial Statements.

11. Close

The Chair thanked the Management Committee and the Soul Action team for their service this year, and those present, for their attendance and contribution, and confirmed that Soul Action South Africa’s 2017 AGM was now complete.

Longstanding members and friends of Soul Action, Mickey and Toni Wilkins, closed the meeting with prayers.