

SAICE-WC BRANCH CHAIRPERSONS REPORT – 16 November 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

2022 has been a good year for the Western Cape Branch. We have managed to reinstate some momentum with a regular series of branch events, while also expanding the diversity of our reach with a number of younger members getting involved, while also getting better representation from the sectors within the civil engineering industry.

Highlights of the year include the hugely successful Bridge Building competition and our Year End function at Kelvin Grove. These successes would not have been possible without the hard work and effort of our committee who I wish to acknowledge.

We are looking forward to carrying this momentum forward into the next year.

2. OVERVIEW OF BRANCH COMMITTEE

This has been a busy year for our branch as we try to re-establish ourselves. Our committee has evolved over the past six months as evidenced in the table below. The most significant change is the loss of our secretary of the past 8-years, Veronica Coetzee. We have not yet commenced the process of advertising to replace her.

We set ourselves the target of holding 10-events over the course of the year and through the efforts of the committee have managed to do so with a number of events still planned. We are looking for potential new members to our committee

Table 1 : Branch Committee Members for 2022

No	Portfolio	Person	Comment
1.	Chairperson & Council Representative	Geoff du Toit	Remain
2.	Vice Chairperson	Saaligha Gool	Remain
3.	Secretary	Veronica Coetzee	Resigned
4.	Treasurer	Saaligha Gool	Remain
5.	YMP Representative	Mutondi Makhado	Resigned
6.	Competitions:	Aqualibrium: Zindzi Tendo Bridge Building: Geoff du Toit	Will leave Remain
7.	Past Chairperson:	Byron Mawer	Remain
8.	Executive Board Members:	Marianne Vanderschuren Andrew Clothier	Remain
9.	Representative on WC Property Developers Forum:	Steve Fanner	Remain

No	Portfolio	Person	Comment
10.	Athenaeum Representative:	Reinholdt Loots	Remain
11.	Social Media & Branch communication:	Waseefa Ebrahim, Naasih Mallik	Remain
12	Diversity & Inclusivity:	Mutondi Makhado	Resigned
13	History & Heritage:	Keith Mackie	Remain
14	Other Professional Associations:	Andrew Clothier, Ishaq Ebrahim	Remain
15	Liaison with Government:	Daniel Reinecke	Resigned
16	University Branches	Anri Kroukamp; Zindzi Tendo	Remain
17	University Partnerships:	Byron Mawer, Geoff du Toit	Remain

3. BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

At present the Western Cape Branch has 2215 members with the gender and racial distribution as follows:

Table 2 : Demographic distribution of the branch membership (Numbers in brackets indicate an increase or decline since the previous branch report submission.)

RACE	FEMALE	%	MALE	%	Total
African	119 (+3)	5%	293 (-3)	13%	412
Asian	28 (-1)	1%	59 (-4)	3%	92
Coloured	66 (+1)	3%	227 (-5)	10%	299
Unspecified	7 (-1)	0%	56 (-3)	3%	67
White	135 (+4)	6%	1225 (-35)	55%	1391
TOTAL:	351	16%	1860	84%	2261

Key observations include:

- The Branch membership is still dominated by male members as can be seen from the above table, however this demographic is changing.
- The top three divisions represented in the branch are:
 - Joint Structural - 661 Members
 - Transportation - 547 Members
 - Water - 541 Members
- The division with the lowest representation is:
- Fire Engineering - 58 Members
- The age group that holds the highest membership representation is 30-35yrs (329 members) & 25-30yrs (287 members) which is a total of 28% of branch membership.
- Our membership is predominately from the consulting engineering sector.

4. BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2022

The Western Cape Branch committee meetings were held monthly, typically on the 2nd Monday of each month except in December, or if the 2nd Monday falls on a public holiday).

Following on from 2021 most committee meetings took place online using the MS Teams platform as this was most convenient for the committee. All meetings were minuted and the minutes can be provided on request.

Table 3 : Schedule of SAICE-WC Branch Committee Meetings for 2021

No.	Date	Comment
1.	17 th Jan	Kick-off meeting for 2022
2.	14 th Feb	Committee Meeting
3.	14 th Mar	Committee Meeting
4.	11 th April	Committee Meeting
5.	9 th May	Committee Meeting
6.	6 th June	Committee Meeting
7.	4 th Jul	Committee Meeting
8.	15 th Aug	Committee Meeting
9.	12 th Sept	Committee Meeting
10.	10 th Oct	Committee Meeting (planned)
11.	7 th Nov	Final Committee Meeting of the year held prior to the AGM (planned)

5. EVENTS IN 2022

The branch has held a number of successful events this year which are listed in the table below. All our events have been broadcast over the MS Teams platform and all, but one (where our guest speaker was not in Cape Town) have also been held in person. Recordings of the events have been loaded onto our YouTube channel for the benefit of those who could not attend in person.

CPD points for the events have been received and cumulatively the events we will have hosted would have received 1.3 CPD category 1 points.

This definitely justifies membership, and our events are way more fun than those *other* service providers!

Table 4 : Branch events held by the SAICE-WC Branch Committee in 2021

Event	Date	Comments / Detail
Site Visit:	24 th Feb	Zandvliet Waste Water Treatment Works
Branch Meeting:	16 th Mar	Andre Frieslaar : Being Civil in Transport
School Aqualibrium Competition:	9 th Apr	Annual Aqualibrium Competition to be hosted at UCT.
Presidential Visit:	13 th Apr	2022 Presentation from President Marianne Vanderschuren & the accompanying NO representatives.
School Bridge Building Competition:	7 th May	Annual Bridge Building Competition held at Zutari, Century City.
Branch Meeting:	18 th May	Martin Kleynhans and Matt Phillips : Thoughts and insights on the recent KZN flooding from a hydrologist's perspective
Branch Meeting:	15 th June	Stephen Luger: The impact of climate change on coastal erosion & flooding.

Branch Meeting:	20 th July	Dr. Emmanuel Matsika : Accessible Rail Station Platform independent gap filler for persons with reduced mobility.
Branch Meeting	17 th Aug	Jaco de Villiers : The changing landscape of commercial buildings in Cape Town
Branch Meeting	26 st Sept	Prof Richard Walls, "An arsonists guide to burning down parliament". To be held in Stellenbosch
Dinner Dance	27 Oct	Year end event – Dinner Dance at Kelvin Grove. Mike Muller will be guest speaker.
Snape Memorial Lecture and AGM:	23 rd Nov	AGM & Kevin Wall presenting the Snape Lecture 2022.

6. STUDENT OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The Branch Committee is in continual contact with the three tertiary institutions that fall within the borders of the Branch: CPUT, UCT & Stellenbosch University (US).

The Student Chapters have been challenged over the last year or two by Covid-19 restrictions, and US found this period particularly challenging. The chairperson has done a good job in 2022 to rebuild this Chapter and restore interest in SAICE at US.

UCT has maintained their relevance and their presence with the UCT Student Body but the Chapter has been slightly quieter than UCT Chapter's in the past. On the whole though, the Chapter is in a good state and Western Cape Branch is continuous contact with the Chapter to support them in their endeavours.

After years of strong presence at CPUT the student chapter has declined, with no activity being seen by SAICE Western Cape Branch committee. Rejuvenating the chapter is a project for next year, and will be ably lead by Naasih Mallick.

SAICE WC is trialling a support network to academic staff at UCT. This has led to areas being identified where SAICE can provide technical input, or link academic staff to experienced SAICE members who have an interest in:

- Co-Supervising Final Year Thesis;
- Give technical input to course content;
- Present topics of interest to students (in or out of lectures);
- Technical Review of effectiveness of courses, missing content and needs of industry.

This has been coupled with representation by both Byron Mawer and Geoff du Toit on UCT's Civil Engineering Advisory Board.

SAICE WC hope to increase our support to US and CPUT in the near future, by gauging interest from Branch members that are keen to be involved and facilitate such a function on our behalf.

7. MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION

The Branch maintains a social media presence via LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram. Branch members are kept up to date with events taking place in the branch. The various social media pages are also used to share events happening in other branches and the university committees.

Newsletters are distributed regularly to members via Mail Chimp. Newsletters carry content about events that have taken place as well as informing members about upcoming events and news items such as closing dates, e.g. submission of Fellows nominations. We are trying to ensure that Newsletters are sent out monthly. We have also included surveys in some of our newsletters to gain insights into current trends in the industry.

Mail Chimp is also used to invite members to participate in Branch events such as Branch Meetings and Site Visits. The Branch's Website is also used to keep members informed about branch events, contact numbers, school competition entries and CPD points.

7. ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT

The committee has representation on the WC Property Developers Forum, the UCT Advisory Board, the Master Builders association, the City of Cape Town, SAFCEC and CESA.

In addition, the SAICE Western Cape branch was invited to form part of the Western Cape Government War Room/PDIA Fixed Capital & Property Development Working Group.

8. CLOSURE

The SAICE-WC Branch is a relatively strong committee with some dedicated key members. A key objective for the coming year is to keep growing our membership base and bring "new blood" onto the committee to rejuvenate it and backfill where we have lost key members. The exodus from the industry which has been experienced by many has impacted us too with some recent resignations.

Particular projects for next year will include:

- Maintaining momentum with regular branch meetings on matters of relevance to the WC-Branch;
- Extending the bridge building competition through a partnership with the Cape Town Science Centre whereby they will use their network to market the correspondence format of the competition to schools throughout the western cape.
- Continuing to build relationships across the sector – particular with the contracting and client spaces.

If you are interested in getting involved in the committee please reach out. We'd love to hear from you!