

Dear Members,

52nd Annual General Assembly (AGA): The WACA Africana Festival 2019 Site Visit

A second site visit was recently undertaken by WACA President, *Maga Ramasamy*, and the Regional Coordinator of the Africa, Indian Ocean Islands and Middle East Region, *Yousef Yousef*, to ensure arrangements with the hotel and service providers are completely in order for forthcoming 52nd AGA. They are pleased to report that the hotel management and the handling partners are excited and getting prepared to welcome each and every one to the WACA's grand event.

All the hotel rooms are well appointed and include a safe, a mini fridge an iron and an ironing board. There is a free shuttle bus form the hotel to the East Rand Mall where there are some interesting shops and many good restaurants. A liquor shop (for wine, brandy and whisky) as well as a supermarket can be found at the rear of the hotel where participants will be able to walk in safety to buy any items they require for their room.

Participants are requested to advise Lucie Forget: Lucie.forget1@gmail.com copied to Joyce Pierrot: jpierrot@airmauriti.us.com and Keith Miller: millerk@iata.org with the intended day of arrival, airline flight number as well as the intended departure time and airline flight number so the hotel can be informed accordingly. As reported in Membership Message 12/2019, upon arrival at Johannesburg's O.R. Tambo International Airport participants can take the free Birchwood Hotel and O.R. Tambo Conference Centre shuttle bus. The shuttle bus leaves at ten minutes past the hour from 06:10 to 24:10 from the bus terminal where there is a Birchwood guest lounge to enjoy free WiFi and coffee should you have to wait for the shuttle bus. From the hotel to the airport the shuttle bus leaves at 30 minutes past the hour from 05:30 to 23:30: www.birchwoodhotel.co.za/directions/#ortambo.

On 28 October there will be an evening free as per the programme and it's recommended that participants pay a visit to the famed Emperors Palace. Only ten minutes away from the hotel, Emperors Palace encompasses numerous restaurants, a casino, glamorous shows and many other entertainment activities <https://www.emperorspalace.com>. It will be advisable that we are transferred together to/from the hotel and the transfer can be arranged on site at the hotel's registration desk.

An optional tour for the observers could be a visit to Sandton City <https://www.sandtoncity.com> taking the hotel's shuttle bus to/from OR Tambo International Airport and the Gauteng train which also operates to/from OR Tambo International Airport.

Public Relations

The North American Regional Coordinator, *Linda Lenters*, has been appointed as the Public Relations Coordinator for the 52nd AGA: The WACA Africana

Festival 2019 Interline Celebration. Linda writes that part of duties will be to help with WACA's much needed fundraising. As in previous years, there will be two main fund raisers: a 50/50 draw and a tombola. These fund raising activities have proved successful for the past few years because everyone attending the event can participate.

For the 50/50 we sell tickets and a draw is made with 50% of the amount collected divided amongst a few winners and 50% going to WACA. For the tombola we sell beads and, in order to win a tombola gift, beads are drawn and if a drawn bead has a number it is then matched with the same numbered gift. All attending the event always make the tombola a most exciting and fun event. I am asking that each participant to the 52nd AGA whether delegate or observer to please donate a gift that will become a prize in the tombola. The more donations the more chances for everyone to win!!! Each donated gift must have a value of at least USD 10.00. Sample gifts from previous years are, pashminas, wallets, wine, jewellery, mementos from the attendees country, airline memorabilia, shirts, hats, etc. The best advise is to donate a gift that you yourself would be happy to win. I would like to thank you in advance for your generosity in making this year's fund raisers a success and I will be providing more information in forthcoming Membership Messages. Should anyone have any questions please feel free to contact me: ycic@hotmail.com.

Post-AGA Tour: Kruger National Park

It is important for participants to be aware that, as noted in the brochure, the schedule on 2 November is an early morning game drive (when the animals are most active) followed by breakfast and a 10:00 departure to Johannesburg's O.R. Tambo International Airport (JNB). The drive from the Mjejane River Lodge to JNB is expected to take around 4½–5½ hours so an estimated arrival would be expected between 14:30–15:30. This means that no reservation should be made for a flight that is scheduled to depart before 17:00.

Post-AGA Tour: Cape Town

The attached fascinating article was sent by Calgary Interline Club member, *Wendy Farch*. As I'm sure many of you are aware, in 2018 Cape Town was one of the first major cities in the world to possibly run out of water. Strict measures were taken by the city to save as much water as possible with the eventual arrival of rains finally saving a major disaster. Participants on the tour will find that some restrictions are, however, still in place and one possible solution as the article highlights will be to tow a huge iceberg from Antarctica to a few kilometres off South Africa's southern coast and convert it into municipal water for the city of Cape Town.

Brochures about the 52nd AGA, the pre-AGA tour to Victoria Falls, the post-AGA tours to the Kruger National Park and Cape Town, as well as the relevant registration forms, can be found in the Event Calendar section of the WACA website: www.waca.org/events.

Membership Messages

Communicate

“Membership Messages” are sent out on a regular basis to WACA Member Clubs, Members-at-Large and other individuals closely connected to WACA. Recipients in Member Clubs are requested to forward these messages to all members of their respective Club or direct their members to the News and Press Releases section of WACA's website where the messages are posted: www.waca.org/news/Pages/index.aspx.

Contribute

If any WACA member has anything they would like to contribute to the next “Membership Message” please send the information to the attention of the WACA Administration Manager at WACA Headquarters.

Yours in interlining,

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