

Notice of Special Resolution to change the name of the CSOSA and to repeal the current CSOSA Constitution, and adopt a new CSOSA Constitution.

Explanatory Message to Members regarding the proposed Special Resolution

As many of you know may know, at the 2012 AGM and again at the 2013 AGM the membership had mandated the Executive Committee to set up a Constitution Reform Committee (CRC) with its primary objectives to review and reform the current Constitution. At the 2014 AGM the membership again enquired about the reformation of the current Constitution causing the current Executive to setup a CRC chaired by Mr. Edwin Workman to undertake the task.

It is estimated that our current Constitution was adopted sometime before August 30th, 1985 - the year that CSOSA was registered under the Charity Act of Barbados. Following an exhaustive process by the CRC which included feedback from the general membership on a number of occasion and a review by your CSOSA Executive, this new Constitution is ready for adoption by special resolution at the upcoming CSOSA Special Business Meeting (SBM) on Friday January 30th at 6:00pm in the Major Noott Hall at the Combermere School in Waterford.

Special Resolutions:

1. ***"Be it resolved by special resolution of a two-thirds majority of the members of the Association present and entitled to vote at the Special Business Meeting of January 30, 2015 that the name of the Combermere School Old Scholars Association (CSOSA) be changed to [NEW NAME]."***
2. ***"Be it resolved by special resolution that the Constitution currently in effect be repealed; and be it further resolved by special resolution that the Constitution attached hereto, be approved and adopted."***

Paragraph 21 of our current Constitution sates *"The existing Constitution may only be amended by a resolution supported by a two-third majority vote of the total membership of the Association entitled to vote and who are present at a Business Meeting of which advanced notice is given in writing to propose the specified amendments have been given by the Honorary Secretary to all members of the Association."*

100 years ago this association started out as the *"Combermerian Mutual Improvement Society ("CMIS")*, it was later changed to the *"Combermere School Old Boys Association"* and now today it is called the *"Combermere School Old Scholars Association"*, **each time reflecting the changing views of society and its membership pool.**

It is proposed that for this Centenary occasion that the name of the organization be changed.

Here is why:

- a) Membership into the organization is not limited to “Old Scholars” or Alumni of the school, and as such is misleading and inhibits other potential members from joining the organization.
- b) The word “Scholars” connotes that a person was academically gifted and as such, is not in congruent with of the spirit of Combermerians. It therefore alienates potential members.
- c) Furthermore, the word “Old” alienates newer graduates of the School.
- d) The three most suggested names throughout the constitutional reform period were:
 - a. *Combermere School Alumni Association (CSAA)*
 - b. *Combermere Alumni Association Barbados (CAAB)*
 - c. *The Combermere Alumni & Staff Association (La CASA)*

The major changes contained in the proposed new Constitution are to:

1. change the name of the association – para 1
2. include member development as one of the purposes of the association – para 7.1.5
3. discontinue the category of “Life Members” ... current life members retains their status - para 9
4. streamline the types of members of the association – para 9
5. include stringent and more inclusive financial measures and instruments – para 10
6. change the structure of the Executive Committee to be more relevant and inclusive – para 15
7. redefine the roles of the Officers of the association – para 16
8. require the implementation of an Elections Committee – para 17 & 18
9. add and redefine Standing Sub-Committees – para 19
10. add provisions for the establishment of a Secretariat – para 21
11. add provisions for the adoption of association Bylaws – para 24
12. amend the standing orders for and regulations to include an Appendix II and reference to Roberts Rules – para 25
13. generally update and simplify the language and layout of the Constitution in keeping with industry standards

Our current Constitution does not address the notice necessary for a Special Business Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting, but in an abundance of caution, Notice of the Special Business Meeting for a Vote on a New Constitution was published in the Monday October 20th, 2014 edition of the Nation newspaper and numerous notices and schedules have been emailed to the membership informing them of the upcoming meeting.

Paragraph 14 (e) of our current Constitution states *“Unless otherwise set out in this constitution advance notice shall be given at least forty-eight (48) hours before the date of a General Meeting and at least seven (7) days before the annual General Meeting, Meeting of Election of Officers Extraordinary General Meeting.”* Note no mention of a Special Business Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.

Copies of both the current and the proposed new Constitution available online at www.CombermereSchool.com.

Contributions towards this process will be accepted if sent to ConstitutionReform@CombermereSchool.com .

See you this evening at 6pm.

Sincerely,
The Constitution Reform Committee

Edwin Workman
Chairman