

Dear ADESSA Members

The first couple of months in my new position as Chairperson of ADESSA have been quite hectic for me! It has involved making contact and having meetings with members of the Education Departments, getting to know the ropes of various procedures, as well as getting to know many people connected to education in numerous organisations. During this time, I have also had some contact with ADESSA members, either telephonically or per email, and I look forward to further contact during the course of next year.

For those who are still waiting to hear from GDE - even though the Gauteng Department of Education was supposed to have contacted all suppliers about the evaluation results of software submissions by early December, I have been informed by GDE that a family bereavement by a key person involved with this process has caused a delay.

Amongst other things, ADESSA is involved with trying to get favourable prices for our members to exhibit at various educational conferences, as well as special pricing for advertising in educational journals. We will inform you of these from time to time, as and when they are negotiated.

As you know, I have asked for volunteers from ADESSA members to be official provincial representatives in the provinces in which they primarily operate so that they can form professional relationships with key people in the provincial education departments and keep abreast of aspects that affect ADESSA members. ADESSA Exco is in the process of formalising some of these appointments, and we will inform you of these early next year.

Dereck Marnewick is convening an ADESSA Conference in Midrand / Centurion to be held in March, combined with the ADESSA AGM, and has a conference sub-committee to assist with the planning and organisation. It will be valuable to ADESSA members in terms of marketing opportunities, and there will also be information on education related aspects. You will receive further details early in the new year. I hope that I will have the opportunity of meeting many of you in person at this event.

As I mentioned at the beginning, the last few months have been very busy, but I have loved every minute! It is wonderful to be back in touch with the educational field, and particularly in educational ICT, and I am enjoying the challenges associated with this position. But even more than that, I am privileged to be working with wonderful, professional people who give up their time to work on the ADESSA Executive for the benefit of all members – Charmaine Friel (Secretary), Dereck Marnewick (Treasurer), Jacques Zakarian, Lourens Kruger, Lyn Pollock and Tim Cruise. They have all given me a tremendous amount of support and assistance in various ways, as has your previous Chairperson, Dave Pollock. I am indeed very grateful to them and very much look forward to our continued working association.

I am sure that you are all relieved that the year is winding down and that you will have a little bit of time to relax and to enjoy time with family and friends. I wish you all an enjoyable break and everything of the best over the festive season.

With warmest wishes  
Shirley