Report by Treasurer on Financials of JAA
(June 2021 – May 2022)

Before I prepared this report I looked back on the reports prepared for the AGMs of 2020 and 2021. The reports were positively negative and the stability and continued existence of the JAA was in jeopardy.

This year I am happy to report that, whilst the organization is still in a loss-making position, the losses are much smaller than prior years. The organization seems to have turned a financial corner and this can be attributed to an increase in subscription revenue, an increase in donations and a carefully managed reduction in operating expenses.

I would like to expand on these issues for the explanatory purposes as well as to inform our members of the work being done in the background.

There has been an increase in subscription revenue due to an increase in membership.
The annual subscriptions of R690 (including VAT) remain far below the membership subscription of other voluntary organizations across various professions, and an increase must be considered.

The increased membership can be attributed to the noticeable value added by the JAA to its members through the regular newsletters, the various interactions with members on the whatsapp groups and social media platforms and its website providing access to the court rolls and updated information.

There is, however, an enormous amount of value added to members which mostly goes unnoticed, unapplauded and unappreciated.

During this financial year, the JAA continued to provide its conveyancing members with an office in Marble Towers in order for the continued smooth operation of the Johannesburg Deeds Office through the various stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Members paid a fee to access this office, but there were substantial donations made by individual firms to keep this office open for the benefit of all the members.

The JAA and the PAA again, jointly, hosted the ever-popular Allan West Conveyancing seminar, which assisted in the production of much-needed income for the Association.

There has been a noticeable decease in the operating expenses of the organization, which deceased 11% year on year. The rental agreements in respect of the office equipment have finally terminated, and I would like to thank Universal Office Automations Solutions for the very generous gesture of allowing us to keep using the machines in our offices without any further rental payable.

I would also like to thank the staff of the JAA for their continued and exceptional contribution in assisting with running of the JAA. During the year we bid farewell to Angela, but we welcomed Farai to our team, who has proved to be an asset and contributed to our cost-cutting efforts. There have been a few months when the staff have elected to receive their salaries late due to the cash flow position of the organization.

The JAA continues to strive to be the voice of the Johannesburg Legal Practitioners and is looking at including the East Rand Attorneys, who utilize the Johannesburg based offices of the Deeds Office and Master's office into its support base.

KATHERINE GASCOIGNE
Treasurer