

ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESENTED FEBRUARY 26, 2017

Board of Directors & Officers

The board of directors which was elected to office on January 29, 2017 and consisting of Sandra Bobb, Dennis Bucchan, Gideon Exeter, Kenneth Farrell, Erline Granderson, Zakiya Hutchinson, Odel Lewis, Prudence Morton and Winston Woodley has met on two occasions so far, one by teleconference and the other in person. While Gideon Exeter was elected as president at the AGM, at the first board meeting, Sandra Bobb and Prudence Morton were named as Secretary and Assistant Secretary respectively, while Dennis Bucchan was named as Treasurer. The position of PRO is to be filled at a later date.

All directors have so far signed the Directors Compliance Forms as required by the by-laws and filed with the relevant government ministry. Notice was also provided to the TD Bank regarding signing officers.

The board has agreed that the business of the Association will be conducted at the board level instead of having an executive committee even though executive portfolios or officers have been assigned as noted above. The board will meet monthly.

The SVG Consulate General in Toronto as well as a number of organizations with which the organization interacts have been notified of the changes that took place at the AGM.

Committees:

The following committees and committee chairs were also named:

2017 Boat Cruise Committee Representatives –

Gideon Exeter as Chair with Prudence Morton and Dennis Bucchan, members.

Event Date: Friday, August 11 aboard Enterprise 2000

Event is jointly coordinated by SVGAT and Toronto SVG Support Group. 150 Early bird tickets to go on sale by May 1 at \$45.00 and other tickets at \$55.00.

2017 Unity Picnic Committee Representatives – Dennis Bucchan, Odel Lewis & Claudius Samuel.

Unity Picnic Date: Saturday, July 15 at Brown's Bay Provincial Park, 1000 Islands

Parking tickets go on sale May 15 for both areas of parking at same prices as 2016.

2017 Unity Picnic Bus Trip Committee chairperson – Erline Granderson

Buses reserved and committee to provide details shortly

2017 Local GTA Picnic and Walk-a-Thon Coordinator – Kenneth Farrell.

The board is attempting to reestablish a local picnic as was held in the past.

More info at upcoming meetings.

2017 Independence Planning Committee Chair – Sandra Bobb.

The Association's organized Independence activities include:

Thanksgiving Church Service – Sunday, October 22 at venue to be determined;

Independence Gala – Woodbine Banquet & Convention Centre, Saturday, October 28

Community Discussions – Sunday, October 29. To be finalized.

Other Matters:

Argyle International Airport

The board of directors sent a congratulatory letter to the Prime Minister and Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on the opening and commissioning of the Argyle International Airport.

Adopt-a-Child Program

It was recognized that funds were not remitted to the children sponsored through the Adopt-a-Child program during 2015 and 2016. The board is looking into the matter and will take the necessary action following an inquiry.

The Scholarship Program

The board will continue to support this program and will have the relevant committees in place soon. Meanwhile, the board received information that the program will soon receive a \$500.00 donation.

March Monthly Meeting

Northwood Community Centre will be undergoing renovations during March and will not be available to us to host our monthly meeting. The venue for the meeting on March 26 will be at Grandravine Community Centre, 23 Grandravine Drive near Keele Street from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The board has decided to use this meeting for a Town Hall format discussion on the Unity Picnic where members of the public will be invited to make suggestions and ask questions regarding the annual 1000 Islands Picnic. The occasion will also be used as an opportunity for a membership drive. The meeting will be aggressively advertised to encourage a good attendance.

Website & Insight

The Association's website which was designed in 2003 has never been revised. A group of individuals has volunteered to take a look at it and make suggestions for refurbishing it and at the same time provide feedback on the quarterly published Insight magazine. In the meantime, updates are continuing to be done on the website and all efforts will be made to have the April 2017 issue of Insight on time.

Membership in the Association

The board has agreed to make great efforts to increase the number of paid up members. As a result, a campaign is soon to be launched to try to encourage current members to renew their membership as well as encouraging persons who are currently not members to become members.

Outreach

The board is pleased to announce that the amount of \$820.00 raised by way of a raffle for a chair donated by Mr. Alfred Compton at last year's Independence Anniversary Gala have been sent to Health Solutions Inc., SVG for the benefit of Miss Anicia Williams. A formal thank you is to be made to Mr. Compton for his contribution on behalf of our community.