

## THE OLD HILARIANS' ASSOCIATION

Bishop Anstey High School,  
145 Abercromby Street,  
Port of Spain,  
Trinidad, W.I.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2005-2006

Hilarian Sisters,

It is a pleasure to present this report to you for the period in review, 2005/2006. The AGM which was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2005 almost had to be cancelled because we barely had a quorum, but we managed to get just enough to hold the meeting. The Executive of the previous year was therefore reinstated to continue the work of the Association. Two new members did attend the meeting. Members who were contacted after the AGM said that they had not seen the notices in the newspapers and had not heard the announcements on the radio stations. Maybe some alternative form of communication needs to be implemented for notice of the Annual General Meeting.

The first meeting of the Executive was held on Thursday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005, I was reelected as President and Camille Forde as Vice-President for another term. Gail Cambridge, Treasurer and Valerie Bowrin, Secretary had been returned to these posts at the AGM. Other members of the executive are Charmaine St. Louis, Jill Padmore, Natalie Best, Marina Piper and the Principal (Ag) as an ex-officio member.

Members of the executive were involved in several events in the months prior to the Annual General Meeting. The All-inclusive Fete was held on January 15<sup>th</sup> and even though we had unexpected rain showers before and during the fete, it was once more a resounding success. While planning for the fete was continuing, a request came from the school to assist the choir to attend and compete in the Festival in Wales in June; the choir needed to raise approximately \$750,000. Regrettably, we were not able to assist financially, but did offer our services in any other way possible. I assisted Lenore and Jennifer Joseph in their effort, "Lunch and Lime", which took place on May 1<sup>st</sup>. This event raised more than \$40,000 for the choir. During this period we assisted one of our Fete Committee members with medical expenses for a kidney transplant. The surgery took place in Pakistan and was successful.

The Association had agreed to a request by the QRC Old Boys Association to prepare and serve dishes for their Chef's Royal on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Two dishes were prepared by the Hospitality and Catering Institute and were served by Camille Forde and myself. The QRC Old Boys reciprocated by purchasing four tickets for the Lunch and Lime.

Concerns had been raised by Chairman of the Board, Mrs. Chang about the timeliness (or lack of) of the contribution from the Fete proceeds to the Board. A meeting was arranged for Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott hotel and was attended by Mrs. Chang, Ingrid Lashley, board member, Diane Shurland, Fete committee chair and Hilarians' representative on the board, and myself. I emphasized at the time that the Association was getting more and more requests from various areas and departments of the school for financial assistance. After much discussion, it was agreed that Mrs. Chang would call a meeting of the stakeholders of the school so that we could all better understand and collaborate on the needs of the school body and to assist in fundraising in a more structured way. The Association still awaits this meeting.

Preparations for the annual luncheon which was carded for July 2<sup>nd</sup> began apace so that all arrangements could be finalized in time. It was decided that there would be no special theme for the luncheon, especially as two groups had expressed an interest in holding their class reunions at the function. We focused on presenting a variety of memorabilia for our attendees. Contact had been made with Hilarian, Vanessa Hemmings who specialized in natural soaps; three scents and special packaging were selected and presented for sale. We also had glass mugs, mini tote bags, and T-shirts in a variety of styles and colours to suit all tastes.

Discussions had been held with Diane Shurland to have an official launch of the 2006 fete at the luncheon to announce the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the fete. A display was done, a plasma screen with video footage of all the previous fetes was run, and all in attendance were presented with champagne glasses embossed with the crest and "10<sup>th</sup> Fete Anniversary". Champagne was donated by one of the fete suppliers and toasts were made. Members of the media were invited and were presented with press kits prepared by the Fete committee. Honourees at the luncheon were, Mrs. Joyce Ali and Corinne McKnight. Scholarship winners, the Head Girl, Senior Prefect and our new honorary Hilarian, Debbie King were all seated at the Head Table and a good time was had by all.

During the remainder of the year the committee redoubled their efforts to acquire office space for the Association. A letter was once more submitted to the board requesting space, and we were determined that we would find a home somewhere by year's end. We had also agreed that we should once more acquire our own tablecloths, crockery, cutlery and glassware. We succeeded in acquiring fifty (50) tablecloths, 25 white and 25 red which are printed with the BAHS crest in one corner. They are available for use by any stakeholder of the school body.

In late November we received approval from the board to have sole use of the room previously used by the counselor for office space. The room is now furnished with a desk, 3 chairs and a 4-drawer lateral filing cabinet, and equipped with a computer and all-in-one printer/copier/scanner. We have also installed a telephone, using one of the non-functional numbers assigned to the school.

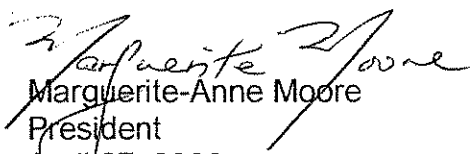
We thank the board for this office space and we are sure that the needs of the membership can be better served because of this. It is hoped that future executive teams will make good use of this space. We would like to ask all past presidents and secretaries to submit the files that they may have in their possession for proper filing and storage of the association's records. It is also hoped that at last a proper membership database can be compiled.

On December 13<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with the Fete committee there was a small media launch of Fete 2006. This event served as the end-of-year function for the executive.

January 28<sup>th</sup> 2006 heralded the date of the 10<sup>th</sup> Fete anniversary and much excitement had been generated with the media launches and the articles which appeared in the print media. The novelty of a champagne ticket had been introduced to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and these tickets were specially priced and had a limited supply; they sold like "hot bread". Special permission had been granted to use the second floor of Anstey House for this purpose and the floor was transformed. The entire grounds of BAHS were transformed into a fairyland with lights and fabric everywhere. We also had the dome stage and 4 plasma screens were placed in strategic positions so that the performances could be seen from anywhere on the grounds. Machel Montano, who had performed at the first fete was asked to return for this year and this seemed to be the icing on the cake for the patrons. The fete was the best ever and we wonder if the Fete committee can top this in 2007. Major congratulations go out to the very hard-working committee and its chairman Diane Shurland.

Even though the Association held no other fundraising events for the year we continue to assist the school and Hilarians' past and present when and where possible. The new office space will, I hope, make the lives of future executives and members a lot easier. It is imperative that a meeting of all stakeholders of the school is convened as soon as possible so that the Association can better assist in addressing the needs of the school.

Once more I would like to thank all members of the Executive, SHIP, Fete Committees and Parent Support Group for their unstinting support during the past year. It has been an honour to serve.

  
Marguerite-Anne Moore  
President  
April 27, 2006