



The CHACONIA

The TTAO Newsletter

October 2020

Volume 11 Number 3

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From the President's Pen

We fervently didn't believe that in the Fall of 2020 we would still be in the throes of COVID-19. It would be gone before the summer, and Thanksgiving and Halloween and most certainly Christmas would be celebrated in the manner to which we are accustomed. That's not happening! Seemingly, the second or a late first wave has arrived and the land of the "virtual" has become and now seems to be an almost surreal part of our lives. When will things get back to some semblance of normalcy? 2021, 2022 – who knows for sure? Certainly not us mortals on planet earth.

While we wait, we are adapting to new forms of conducting our lives. Of particular note is the endless list of videoconferencing platforms - Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Cisco Webex, GoToMeeting, ezTalks, all allowing us the ability to attend events and stay connected virtually. Our children are being taught and tutored via desktops, laptops and tablets. We skip the waiting room and visit our physician via Telehealth. 2020 has been quite the experience. Thankfully, the TTAO has been able to adapt seamlessly to the new normal.

At a recently held joint Executive and Social Committee meeting, it was unanimously decided that the current Executive would remain in place until a process for a smooth transition to the next elected TTAO Executive has been determined. All committee meetings will continue to be held virtually and there are plans to extend this process to a general membership meeting. The positive side to "virtuality", is that inclement weather, particularly during the winter months, should no longer affect attendance at meetings.

The TTAO, as a member of the African Caribbean Canadian Coalition, was a participant in the "Promoting Healthy Lifestyles" virtual seminar held on September 26, 2020. The topic "Managing Digital Relationships in the COVID-19 environment", which was presented by Dr. Callistus Ibe, was very well received. We hope that you will join us for future seminars, and if you have topics that you would like to have addressed, please forward them to tandtassociation@gmail.com or African Caribbean Canadian Coalition at accottawa@gmail.com.

Our Humanitarian Committee continues to do their due diligence by keeping in touch with our "wards", to ensure that they are coping well with the isolation brought about as a result of the pandemic.

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The shroud of COVID-19 meant that all planned TTAO activities for this fiscal year had to be cancelled. This however allowed us time to really focus on some projects that had been put on the back burner. The Executive and Social Committees spearheaded projects for the Mon Repos R.C. School, Trinidad and the Mason Hall Government School, Tobago. As well, the Education Committee, in conjunction with the Principal and staff of the Vistabella Primary School in Trinidad, is working on the logistics of awarding the Nazru Deen Scholarship 2020 to a student at that school. Details on all of these projects are outlined further on in this newsletter.

We are hoping to provide some type of virtual entertainment in the near future. You will be provided with information by email, Facebook and telephone. If however, you have any suggestions, please feel free to share them with us. You can use our email or Facebook page to contact us.

In August 2020 one of our members, Rose Leblanc, set up the Facebook page "Masks for kids and adults Ottawa", to sell locally made non-medical face masks. The intent is to raise funds for charities, as the Friends of Serviam (FOS) Group was unable to hold its annual fundraiser this year. The funds raised were put into the FOS pot, along with donations from supporters and other fundraising ventures. The FOS members decided that once again, the TTAO would be the beneficiary of its fundraising efforts and will be receiving a cheque in the amount of \$1,000.00 towards the 2021 C.L.R. James Scholarship fund. It is said that when you give, you receive two-fold. The TTAO has been helpful to many needy children in Trinidad and Tobago and we in turn have been the recipient of this generous donation. Our sincere thanks to FOS. We encourage you to support and learn more about this organisation, by visiting its website at <https://friendsofserviam.ca/>.

Optimism will be the TTAO's guiding virtue and we will continue to live in the hope that our lives will return to some semblance of normalcy very soon. Until that time comes, we assure our members and supporters that the TTAO will always strive to be an organisation that is flexible and resilient in the face of adversities. Thank you to our Executive and Committee members for their continued dedication and hard work during these trying times.

On your behalf, thanks to Brenda Agard Alleyne and Carol Joseph for the production of this edition of the Chaconia newsletter.

Please stay safe, wear your masks, sanitize and maintain social distancing. Embrace loved ones and do enjoy all that can be enjoyed with spirit and fervour. A poet once wrote "Be patient where you sit in the dark. The dawn is coming"

Ingrid John-Baptiste



TTAO Projects



Mon Repos R.C. Primary School Project

Earlier this year, the TTAO received a request for help from the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) of the Mon Repos R.C. School, for 40 students who were desperately in need of uniforms, books, and school supplies. Last year the PTA provided these necessities to 30 plus students, however this year saw an increase in that number.

The Executive unanimously decided that it would support the venture and marshalled the assistance of the Social Committee to raise the funds required, by appealing to our membership. The TTAO set an ambitious goal of raising \$2,000.00 CAN by the end of July, 2020. We are pleased to announce that we surpassed that expectation and were able to forward to the President of the PTA the sum of \$4,380.00 CAN. The final tally was \$33,300.00 TT, which included a very generous \$10,000 TT donation from Guardian Life of the Caribbean Ltd. The rest of the donation was entirely from the members and supporters of the TTAO.

The PTA was able to purchase all the required books on the list, the uniforms and some stationery. In fact, they were so successful, that they generously paid it forward by helping some needy students from another school.

The TTAO, deeply appreciates the contribution of Guardian Life of the Caribbean Ltd. in Trinidad and Tobago. Sincere thanks also to all of our members and supporters who so generously donated towards making a better life for some very needy students in our homeland.

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“Selling Soup to purchase laptops”

An article, featured in the Trinidad Newsday, highlighted the efforts of Melissa Dwarika, a Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) class teacher at the Mason Hall Government School in Tobago, to procure learning devices for eight (8) students who had no means of acquiring them. As students in Trinidad and Tobago will be taught virtually, until at least January 2021, a home computer and internet access are no longer a luxury, but rather a necessity.

Melissa decided to raise funds, by selling soup on Saturdays. The TTAO Executive unanimously decided that we could assist these students and forwarded a donation of \$500.00 CAN to her, to assist with the purchase of at least one device for a student who so desperately needs it. The donation from the TTAO was pooled with two other donations to secure tablets for three (3) SEA students.

On behalf of the students, Melissa has expressed heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the contribution made by the TTAO. As education is the key to success, the association was more than happy to assist.

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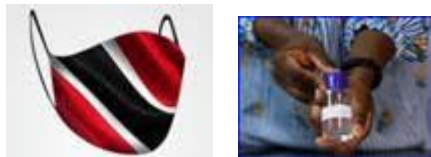
Nazru Deen Scholarship 2020

This year, the TTAO scholarship will be awarded in the name of Nazru Deen, one of our members who passed away earlier this year. As was stated in the article about Naz in the April newsletter, he was extremely generous to the TTAO and was a regular donor to our C.L.R. James Scholarship Fund.

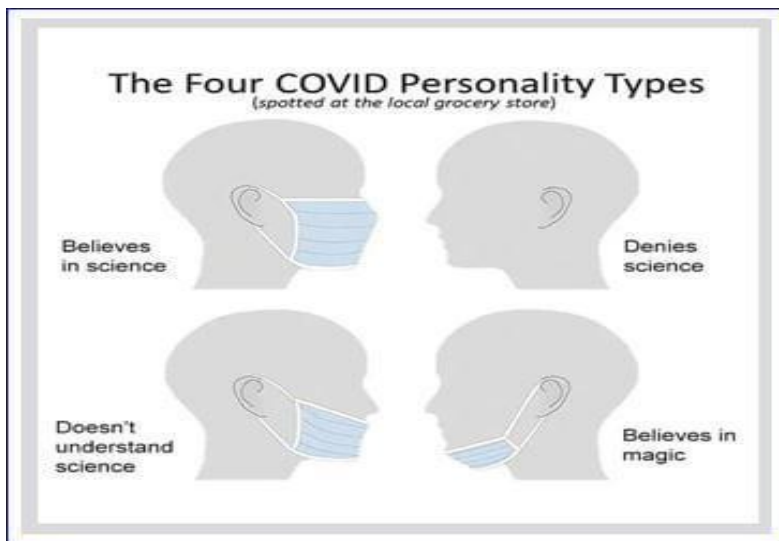
This year the TTAO instituted the Nazru Deen Scholarship award. We have received donations from some of our members, and the first recipient will be a student from the Vistabella Presbyterian School in Trinidad, Naz's alma mater. The student will be chosen after the SEA results are released in October 2020.

The Association has been invited to attend the award presentation virtually, which we will happily do.

Remember to be COVIDWise



- **W** – Wear a mask or face covering where required, or when you cannot maintain a physical distance of two metres (six feet).
- **I** – Isolate yourself from others when you are sick (and get tested promptly if you have COVID-19 symptoms).
- **S** – Stay two metres (six feet) apart from those outside your household.
- **E** – Exercise proper hand hygiene; wash your hands regularly or use sanitizer especially before touching your face.



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Masks for worthy causes

If you are looking for face masks to protect you and your family, visit the Masks for Kids and Adults Facebook page for details on available samples, and how to order at: <https://www.facebook.com/Masks-for-Kids-and-adults-Ottawa-598501267455027>

All material, time and talent are donated to raise funds in support of educational projects for various Caribbean charities, such as:

Friends of Serviam

Marco Depestre Foundation of Ottawa

CLR James Scholarship Fund of the TTAO

Orders can also be placed via email

at masksforcharity@bell.net<mailto:masksforcharity@bell.net>.

In Memory of

Dr. Stephen Blizzard



Dr. Stephen Vernon Blizzard was born in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on October 17th 1928, to Egerton and Engracia Blizzard (née Callender). He attended Queens Royal College in Port of Spain and in 1948 was admitted to Edinburgh University, Scotland, where he graduated with a BSc in Veterinary Science, and in 1954 he became a Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. While a student, Dr. Blizzard joined the Edinburgh University Air Squadron, where he trained as a pilot.

Upon his return to Trinidad, he worked as a government veterinarian, the youngest person in that field in Trinidad and Tobago at that time, for four years, before moving to Canada in 1958 with his wife, Merle La Borde.

Dr. Blizzard had an illustrious career, which included obtaining his MD, and combining his aviation and medical careers, a move that propelled him to international eminence in aviation medicine. He was a proud member of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

In 2002 when Dr. Blizzard was a Member and Selector of the elite International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine, the Academy received the Edward Warner Award, the highest honour in the world of aviation. In 2004 he was awarded the prestigious Wilbur Franks Award for significant contribution to Aerospace Medicine and joined a distinguished group, which included astronauts and NASA's Chief Physician. Dr. Blizzard is listed in Cambridge Publishing's 2008 publication, Top 101 Industry Experts. In 2010, he received the Cambridge Publishing's highest honour, "Professional of the Year" in the field of aviation medicine. His list of awards and achievements is inexhaustible.

He served as President of the TTAO in the early 1990s.

Dr. Stephen Blizzard passed away in Ottawa on June 9th, 2020, after a prolonged illness. He leaves to mourn, his wife, Merle and three children. The Executive and members of the TTAO extend sincere condolences to the family.

May his soul rest in peace.

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Mr. Ken Gibbs



Ken Gibbs as he was fondly known, was a long time member of the TTAO, serving on various committees in the 1980s and early 1990s, and lending full support to the staging of various events. His trademark was that smile, which could light up a room and change the countenance of those who were in his company.

Kenneth was a Captain in the Royal Canadian Air Force and worked at Public Works Canada for many years. In retirement, he enjoyed his golf, his life-long friends from the University of British Columbia, his friends in Ottawa and playing with his grandchildren. Ralph Waldo Emerson once defined success as earning the affection of children and making the world a bit better. Kenneth's success lies in the family and friends he leaves behind.

Kenneth Gibbs passed away on June 20, 2020 at the age of 85, and was predeceased by his beloved wife of 59 years, Faye. He is survived by his daughter Laura and son Craig, three grandchildren and extended family in his native Trinidad.

The Executive and members of the TTAO extend sincere condolences to his family and friends.

May he rest peacefully.

Mr. Clyde Lawrence



Clyde Lawrence migrated to Ottawa from Trinidad and Tobago in 1971. He worked for many years at the Colonial Furniture Store and, because of his kind and gentle nature, he was very well liked by his colleagues, who referred to him as "Clydee". He loved attending parties and social gatherings, but had a very quiet and soft spoken demeanor, always wearing a shy, pleasant smile.

Clyde was a member of the TTAO, and particularly enjoyed participating in the All Fours games. In his younger years, he was an active member of the Ottawa Cricket Club.

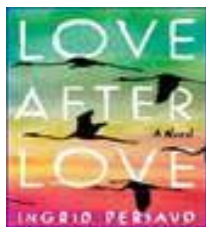
Clyde was healthy until a few years ago when he became ill and eventually had to be moved into a long term care facility. During his stay there, the TTAO Humanitarian Committee visited him regularly and provided as much support as they could. He struggled for a few years and eventually lost his battle on July 29, 2020.

The Executive and members of the TTAO extend sincere condolences to his family and friends.

May his soul rest in peace.

On the Bookshelf

Adults



Love After Love: A Novel by Ingrid Persaud

After Betty Ramdin's husband dies, she invites a colleague, Mr. Chetan, to move in with her and her son, Solo. Over time, the three become a family, loving each other deeply and depending upon one another. Then, one fateful night, Solo overhears Betty confiding in Mr. Chetan and learns a secret that plunges him into torment.

Solo flees Trinidad for New York to carve out a lonely existence as an undocumented immigrant, and Mr. Chetan remains the singular thread holding mother and son together. But soon, Mr. Chetan's own burdensome secret is revealed, with heartbreaking consequences. *Love After Love* interrogates love and family in all its myriad meanings and forms, asking how we might exchange an illusory love for one that is truly fulfilling.

In vibrant, addictive Trinidadian prose, *Love After Love* questions who and how we love, the obligations of family, and the consequences of choices made in desperation.

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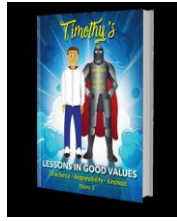
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Children



Timothy's Lessons In Good Values – Volume 2 by Christopher

Gordon

An interactive book series that is based on the importance of good morals and values, as well as fun and exciting activities that kids can enjoy, while learning at the same time. Some of the values that are in the series include kindness, courage and responsibility.

The story of obedience revolves around Timothy protecting his friend Emily from surrendering to peer pressure and disobeying her parents. He also shows her the consequences of her actions. The story of responsibility shows Timothy assisting his friends on the importance of making right decisions. Through his bravery in protecting them from dangerous animals in the forest, Timothy shows his friends that one bad decision can result in a dangerous situation. Lastly, the story of kindness explains why it's so important to be kind to others. It focuses on Timothy protecting an elderly lady from a classroom bully. He educates the bully about the act of kindness and shows him right from wrong.

The ultimate goal for this book series is to inspire the younger generation (young warriors) to have good morals throughout their life and to essentially create a ripple effect for the future generations thereafter.

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Long time ting in the now




Dirt ovens have been a part of Trinibagonian culture for many years, but in recent times we can think of it as a tool of nostalgia. This is a journey cross country to Dove's Dirt Oven Delights in Guayaguayare, run by husband and wife, Sanjid and Caroline, with the assistance of their seven children. It was such a beautiful sight to see just how effortlessly they work together to produce these amazing products in the form of breads, cakes and even pizza.

The family begins the day from as early as 5 a.m. to prepare for customers that begin to come in from 1 p.m. every day, to see and hear about their rich family history and taste just how unique dirt oven products can be. The items are most times prepared on soharee leaves, and when necessary, baking pans and bottomless molds, all made by the family. You can get hops, bread (garlic, molasses, white, whole wheat), coconut bake, sweet bread, non-alcoholic fruit cake, sponge cake and a variety of pizzas. The oven is prepped by burning large pallets in the oven until it reduces to coals and then swept away by a sage leaf broom and the items are then loaded. This technique was passed on from Caroline's father aka Dove, where the business gets its name. The breads are soft and had a unique flavour due to the soharee leaves. The thin crust pizzas are really a treat and don't talk about that non-alcoholic fruit cake...it just brought Christmas early for us.

Check out the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nadq1fBmJqo>

Trinbago Humour

Growing up in Trini  is singing any song & having your parents or relative say "I hope yuh know your school work like dah"

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Angostura continues their innovative spirit (no pun intended)



In August, Angostura unveiled their new White Oak Watermelon Flavoured Rum. The limited edition drink has no artificial flavourings or additives. It's made from natural watermelon and is described by the company as exceptionally smooth, since the first sip gives a crisp and fresh taste of watermelon.

This is the third innovation of White Oak Flavoured Rum to be launched in less than a year. In November 2019, Angostura Limited introduced its White Oak Sorrel flavoured rum that was a phenomenal success. In February 2020, the Coconut Flavoured Rum entered the market just in time for Carnival.

White Oak is one of Angostura's flagship rum brands that continues to be a leader in the market, not just in Trinidad and Tobago, but across the Caribbean.

To enjoy your Watermelon Flavoured Rum, it is suggested that you serve it with carbonated water, pineapple juice, citrus juices or simply on the rocks with ice. Enjoy!

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I thought 2020 would be
the year I get
everything I want.

Now I know 2020 is
the year I appreciate
everything I have.

Did you know?



Have you ever seen red ochro (okra)? There really isn't a difference between this and the green ochro, other than the colour. And when red ochro is cooked, it loses its red hue and the pods turn green.

Sanimanitay from the 416

Santimanitay comes from the French sans humanité meaning without humanity or merciless. In calypso ex tempo, built on improvisation and the one-upping of your opponent, Santimanitay is the mic drop. The term means that whatever wickedness you inflict on me, I will do worse. Above all it means to be ruthless.

At the link below, a group of Toronto's finest musicians, provide their interpretation of the tune Sanitmanitay. Needless to say, the steelpan is involved. Do enjoy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMareGEUp7I>

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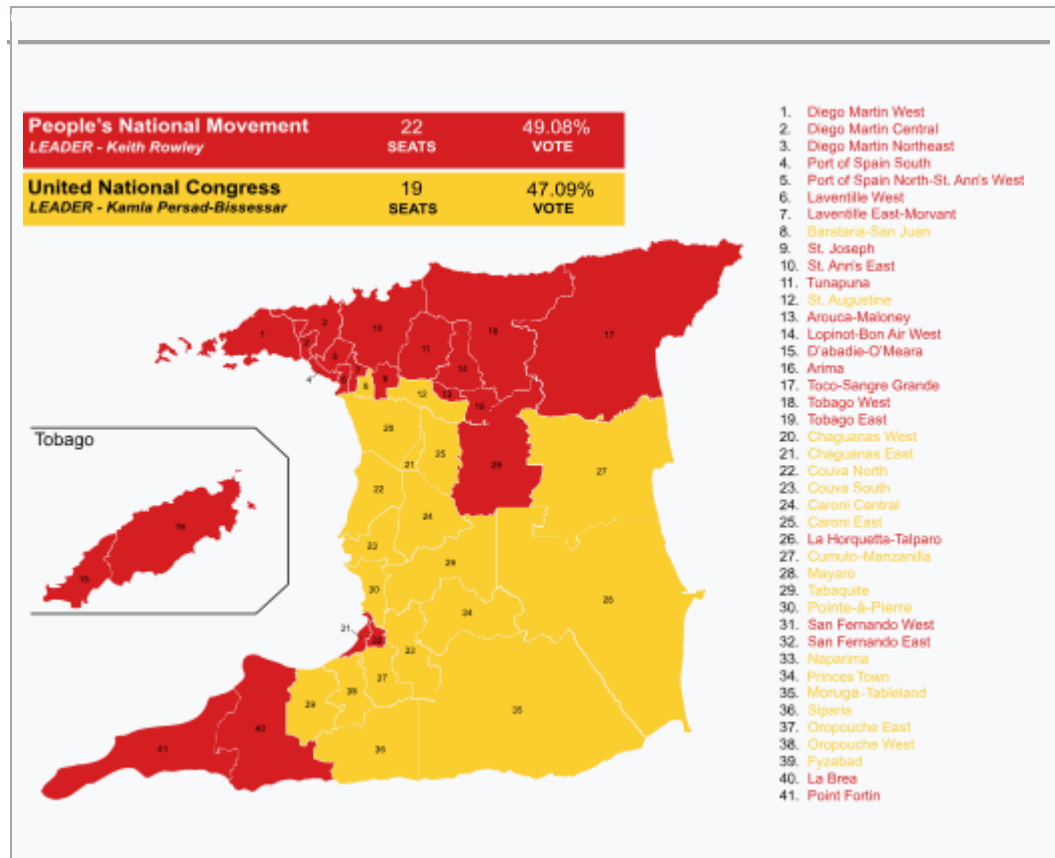
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2020 Trinidad & Tobago General Election Results

The President of Trinidad and Tobago, Paula-Mae Weekes, with the advice of Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley, dissolved Parliament and issued the writs for the election on July 3, 2020.

The 2020 Trinidad and Tobago general election was held on Monday August 10, 2020, to elect 41 members to the 12th Trinidad and Tobago Republican Parliament. 21 seats are required for a majority rule. It was the 14th election since gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1962 and the 22nd national election in Trinidad and Tobago ever.



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Map showing the seats won by the two parties that won seats in the election. Tobago's seats are shown on the left, Trinidad's seats on the right.

Prime Minister before election
Keith Rowley
People's National Movement

Subsequent Prime Minister
Keith Rowley
People's National Movement

No Carnival 2021 in Trinidad and Tobago

The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Keith Rowley, announced on September 28, 2020 that Carnival 2021, scheduled for February 15 and 16, is “not on” due to the pandemic. This decision would have a negative impact on the economy and tourism, but from a health perspective, it is the right thing to do.

Member's Corner



To enhance what the TTAO can do for the community, we need your support, so why not become a member? New members are always welcome! Does an event or committee peak your interest? If you are 16 years of age or older looking to get involved, then consider becoming a member and joining a committee that interests you the most.



The annual membership for the association runs from **September 1st to August 31st**. Due to the current pandemic, membership paid for the 2019-2020 year will be carried forward to 2020-2021. If you have not renewed your membership, please feel free to do so now to continue to be a member in good standing. We are still accepting fees for new and lapsed memberships.

[TTAO membership form](#)

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The TTAO's website & Facebook page

You are encouraged to visit our [website](http://ttaa.ca) at ttaa.ca and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Trinidad-and-Tobago-Association-of-Ottawa-TTAO/157550578878>.

Your feedback and comments are always appreciated.

TTAO Executive and Committees

TTAO Executive and committees for 2019-2020 will remain the same for 2020-2021 due to the pandemic.

The TTAO has been in existence since 1983. The mission of the association is to promote and maintain the integrity of our cultural heritage and assist with the continuing development of nationals of Trinidad and Tobago.

Your 2020-2021 Executive

President: Ingrid John-Baptiste
Vice-President: Dianna Pierre
Secretary: Sharon Pierre-Louis
Asst. Secretary: Judy Madhosingh
Treasurer: Andrew Williams

Floor Members:

Anne-Marie Bostic Nira Dookeran Joycelyn George-Francois

Immediate Past President: Adrian Benjamin

TTAO Committees

Education:

Chair: Dianna Pierre
Andrew Williams Sharon Pierre-Louis Nira Dookeran
Ingrid John-Baptiste

Humanitarian:

Chair: Pat Cholmondeley
Molly Taitt Maurice Taitt Lena Baptiste Pamela Antoine
Judy Madhosingh

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Membership:

Chair: Molly Taitt
 Ingrid John-Baptiste Andrew Williams

Public Relations & Communications:

Chair: Brenda Agard Alleyne
 Carol Joseph Rose LeBlanc Andrew Williams

Recreation:

Chair: Earlvin Dyer
 Pat Cholmondeley Judy Madhosingh Carmen Dyer
 Anne-Marie Bostic Glen Mason

Social:

Chair : Ingrid John-Baptiste
 Dianna & Tony Pierre Sharon Pierre Louis Andrew Williams
 Molly & Maurice Taitt Pat Cholmondeley Lena Baptiste
 Trevor & Rosanna Lashley Anne-Marie & David Bostic
 Suzanne & Errol Whittier Nira Dookeran
 Carmen & Joe Dyer Joycelyn George Francois

TTAO Health Seminar Representatives:

Brenda Agard Alleyne Judy Madhosingh Dr. Alfredo Walker
 Ingrid John-Baptiste

We are always looking for participation on our committees, which will increase chances of success. You are more than welcome to volunteer and/or share your ideas so please [contact us](#) if any peaks your interest.

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Feedback

Interested in contributing to the next newsletter? Would you like to provide comments or suggestions to the TTAO? Send us an email, write us a letter or put a posting on our Facebook page and tell us what you think!