



# BJ Staff Co-op Credit Union Ltd

## OUR FINANCIAL SUCCESS IS OUR BUSINESS.....

### Quarterly Newsletter

Special Edition September 2018

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Mrs. Maureen Delevante (Right), Office Manager accepting award for Credit Union of the Year for 2017, in the category 'Small Credit Union' from Mrs. Claudette Christie, Communications Manager of JCCUL

### Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of the BJ Staff Cooperative Credit Union Limited's Quarterly Newsletter. This newsletter is designed to keep us in touch with our members by informing them of current happenings in the Credit Union as well as within the Credit Union League. However, it will not be one-way traffic as we expect to hear from you, our members, as well through this same medium.

We want the Newsletter to be useful, easy to read, informative and entertaining. There will be regular features such as the Editorial which shares the thoughts of the Board of Directors, 'Pictures Say it Best' where a current issue is highlighted pictorially, 'Member Profile' where an interesting Credit Union member is featured and 'Members Say' where Credit Union members will share their thoughts.

We have deliberately started the publication with a generic name for this initial issue, but we would like our members to help us to give our Newsletter an appropriate name which will truly reflect the essence of what this communication apparatus symbolizes. A competition will be administered among Credit Union members to find the most suitable name for the newsletter so that by the next issue in January 2019 the publication should have the new name affixed. See details in 'Name the Newsletter Competition' on page 2.

I hope you enjoy this first issue and do let us know if there are anything else you would like to see covered in the future.



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### Back-to-School Loan EXTRAVAGANZA

Starting now until **September 30, 2018**



- ✓ Limited shares requirement
- ✓ Secured or Unsecured
- ✓ Attractive Interest Rates
- ✓ Get up to \$1 Million in Loans

**APPLY NOW \$\$\$**

Conditions apply  
Check the office for details (Tel. 876-922-0750, Ext. 3509, 3510, 3511, 3513)





# Through Our Lenses

## GSAT Scholarship Awardees



Jafari Lewis

School Attending: Wolmer's Trust High School for Boys

Son of Nancy Evans (Bank of Jamaica)



Gabriella Robinson

School Attending: Immaculate Conception High School for Girls

Granddaughter of Locksley Robinson (Bank of Jamaica)

# Congratulations!!!

### \*General Credit Union News\*

#### Brief History of the Credit Union Movement in Jamaica

Long before the first credit union was introduced in the Caribbean, people created their own informal co-operative systems. They pooled their resources and took turns collecting lump sums at assigned intervals. This informal system of savings was called by many different names in varying regions, but in Jamaica, it is commonly known as a 'partner'. Credit unions have been in Jamaica since the 1940s.

**1937 - Norman Manley** founded the Jamaica Welfare Limited for the "good and welfare of the people of Jamaica, with emphasis on the rural people". This organisation would later sponsor other types of co-operatives.

**Sir Phillip Sherlock** was the Education Officer of the Jamaica Welfare Limited. He actively developed and promoted the concept that significant contribution could be made to national development through community action.

**1939 - Father John Sullivan**, a Catholic Priest from Boston, Massachusetts came to Jamaica and performed parochial work at Holy Trinity Cathedral. He was concerned about loan sharks who at the time were charging as much as 200% interest on loans. Commercial banks also charged high interest rates and refused to open accounts for the ordinary man.

**1940 - Walkerswood** became the site of the first Pioneer Club in Jamaica, to be formed by the Jamaica Welfare Limited. The Walkerswood Pioneer Club was founded

as a way to help Jamaicans become more self-reliant.

**1941** - The earliest Credit Union in Jamaica, Sodality Credit Union, was introduced by Father John Sullivan.

#### Jamaica Co-op Credit Union League (JCCUL)

Formed in 1943, the Jamaica Co-op Credit Union league (JCCUL) offers trade association services to credit unions and has oversight responsibility for the JCCUL Group which comprises four subsidiary organisations that provide a range of services to credit unions and members, in some instances. The four subsidiaries are:

- Credit Union Fund Management Company (CUFMC),
- Centralized Strategic Services Company Limited (CSS)
- Quality Network Co-operative (QNET)
- Jamaica Co-operative Insurance Agency (JCIA)

JCCUL is affiliated to other local, regional and international bodies including:

- National Union of Co-operative Societies (NUCS)
- Caribbean Confederation of Credit Unions (CCCU)
- World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU)

## Members Say



**BJNews:** Mr. Meeks, why would you recommend BJ Staff CCU?

**Conroy:** If you are looking for good service, personal touch and desire to achieve your financial goals, then BJ Staff is the credit union of choice. I find the team to be warm, dependable and willing to explore the best options that are available for you.

### Win Name the Newsletter Competition



Here's your chance to win \$10,000.00 in Shares!!!

Just come up with a suitable name for this Newsletter and give yourself a chance to win the prize!

#### Here is how to enter:

1. Create a suitable name for this Newsletter
2. Email your entry with your name, your proposed name for the Newsletter & your contact information to: [communicate@bjstaffcreditunion.com](mailto:communicate@bjstaffcreditunion.com)
3. Deadline for submission is **October 31, 2018**
4. Judges' decision is final
5. The BJ Staff Credit Union reserves the right to choose any or none of the proposals submitted
6. The winner will be notified via email and /OR telephone
7. Entrants **MUST** be a member of the BJ Staff Co-op Credit Union

#### QUOTE

"Every mickle, makes a muckle"



# Profile

## *Alfred St. Peter Grant aka Alf St. P Grant*



Alfred St. P. Grant joined the Bank of Jamaica as one of its first employees and became one of the founding members of the BJ Staff Co-Operative credit Union (BJSCCU) which emerged out of the *Study Club* on July 7, 1964. Mr. Grant served as the first Chairman of the Credit Committee

Mr. Grant identified himself with the Credit Union and has been known to introduce himself when relating to the Credit Union as “This is Alfred St. P. Grant foundation member, account number 34”.

Popularly known as Alf Grant he took a keen interest in the management and welfare of the Credit Union. With this keen interest he never missed an Annual General Meeting (AGM). Any member of the credit union who attended an AGM would have been acquainted with Alf St. P. Grant who last graced us with his presence at our 25<sup>th</sup> AGM on April 30, 2015 before he departed this earth just under a month later on May, 20, 2015.

Alf Grant was quick in identifying the areas, procedures and protocols of the meetings which were not carried out at the required standards. Many volunteers on the various committees always made sure that these standards were adhered to, and if at any time an error was made Alf Grant was always on hand to point the mistake and outline the correct way to proceed. The Directors of each Committee could always expect Mr. Grant to deliver challenging questions concerning their performance and improving the welfare of the membership.

Being a pioneer with a vast knowledge on the credit union movement, and more so the BJ Staff Co-op Credit Union, it was no surprise when Mr. Alfred St. Peter Grant was chosen as the patron of Credit Unions 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 2014. He embraced this task with his usual commitment, *passion and panache*.

The Board of Directors, staff and members of the BJSCCU are grateful that they took the opportunity to honour Mr. Grant in 2014. He has left with us an example of service, commitment and passion which the credit union will continue to pursue going forward.