

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2016 BARBADOS AGM

NATIONAL AWARD OPERATORS ACTIVITIES

FORUM 2015 was held in Toronto, Canada in October 2015, where I gave a brief impromptu report on the state of the Award in the CASC Region (at the request of HRH the Earl of Wessex.

The focus of the Forum was to engage the various stake holders in how to re-configure the Award and keep it relevant in today's environment. An elaborate, in-depth analysis of the program was looked at, and there were several round-table discussions as well as one-on-one sessions with various persons.

I was accompanied by our Operations Manager Miss Carla Alleyne who paid keen interest and made valuable contributions to the issues at hand.

Of importance and major significance at that Forum, there was robust discussion and debate over whether to supersede the pre-existing Constitution with a Memorandum of Understanding. This became necessary as the Constitution would have become obsolete given the new Licensing arrangements. A vote was taken and it was decided to recommend to the Foundation that the change be made, and all Operating Authorities are now required to sign the MOU as part of the licensing agreement.

An International Council Meeting was incorporated into the Forum meeting, and I represented the CASC Region at that meeting. I depart at month-end to again represent the CASC Region at the up-coming IC Meeting in London.

Annual Leaders' Training was conducted in September 2015, with leaders from Queen's College, St. George's Secondary, Ellerslie Secondary and the Sir Frederick Smith Secondary.

The DEIA coordinated the volunteers at the recently held **Multinational Women's Fair** at Four Square Factory. We are pleased to say the out of the total volunteers, over 90 were Dukers. Thank you to all who assisted.

There was a **60th Anniversary Gold Award** presentation at Buckingham Palace in May this year. I was invited as a member of the International Council and also accompanied Mr. Dario Harewood who was there to receive his Gold Award.

The **2016 Regional Meeting** was held in Trinidad to coincide with the annual CASC Adventurous Journey.

Regional Meeting 2016 update

Topics discussed at the Regional Meeting:

- MOU
- Mapping the Future
- Special Projects Grants
- License Consultation
ORB Next Generation
- Position the Award
- Adventurous Journey Unit Management
- Sub-licensing

Much of the discussion centered on the new licensing requirements and the fact that several CASC members failed to meet the requirements. This has implications for the Region, as we now have far fewer CASC Members as authorized Operating Authorities. (hosting of the annual CASC Expedition will be affected).

I was invited to breakfast with the Secretary General to discuss one-on-one how I saw the Region evolving and becoming stronger. Several ideas were looked at, and among those was a suggestion I made that some of the stronger member states take some of the less successful states under their wings and perhaps Sub-license them until they are better organized. This idea found some traction with the Secretary General who promised to raise it with the Deputy Secretary General at the Award Foundation.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Royal Commonwealth Society continues to be a valued partner to the Award, and we again attended Church Service in March this year jointly celebrate the two organizations.

Each year we assist the **Barbados Cancer Society** with their activities, and 2016 was no exception as we participated in their annual Pink Ribbon cancer awareness program.

The Barbados National Trust is a valued strategic Partner. Earlier this year we carried out a residential project at Tyrrell Cot, and such activities are of great mutual benefit.

The DEIA continues its efforts to foster a working partnership with the **Independence Secretariat – Parish Ambassadors Program**. One of the greatest difficulties we face is that of finding Youth Leaders to run the program, and we believe the Parish Ambassadors can help bridge gaps in the communities and help identify potential Youth Leaders.

SUPPORT

We are privileged to have Trustees who are icons in their various fields of endeavor, and they continue to give their unswerving support to the DEIA program. One of the primary support

efforts is fund-raising, and the annual Golf Event led by Mr. James Gardner ably assisted by Sir. Paul Altman continues to raise badly needed funds for the Award. Last year over \$60K was raised.

Fund-raising in general is becoming increasingly difficult, as the negative economic conditions continue to affect our traditional donors. The Trustees have therefore given their blessings on the formation of a Fund-raising Committee which, it is hoped, will comprise a small group of creative thinkers who can come up with creative ideas on how to raise money for the Award. Yours Truly has agreed to find suitable members and chair this committee. Applicants are invited.

RAISING THE PROFILE

To commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the DEIA, each country was invited to submit 60-second videos of participants' involvement of the DEIA. Barbados submitted six shorts, with three of them making the final cut to be part of the 60 videos to be used to promote the Award internationally.

These videos can be accessed via our now functioning **Website**, along with much more interesting content.

A **Gold Award Ceremony** was held at Government House in September 2015, and the following seven persons were presented with their Gold Awards by HRH Princess Anne:

Jeremy Devonish; Georgina Trew; Ajani Daniel; Chad Larrier; Akeem James; Kameel Jones and Ricardo Greenidge.

The Print and Electronic Media continue to be important avenues through which to get our message out there, and we are in the process of developing more regionally-relevant visual aids such as Caribbean-based posters.

The **Quarterly Newsletter** takes quite a bit of effort to put out and thanks to our Ops Manager Carla ably assisted by our Sec. Treasurer Mrs. Nadia Adams for keeping it relevant, current and entertaining. It is distribute electronically to many of our supporters and helps to showcase what we are doing in the Award.

New groups started since our last AGM:

Sea Scouts, with 12 new participants focusing on the Learn to Sail Program

23rd Girl Guides Group and also an Open Award group with just 5 members

PROGRAM EXPANSION

Females continue to out-strip males in terms of new entrants.

2013 – 84 males and 96 females

2014 – 73 males and 84 females

2015 – 49 males and 74 females

This represents a general decline which is due to a large extent to the loss of key Award leaders and difficulties in getting new groups started.

ASSURING THE QUALITY

We continue to focus on the annual training of Award leaders, as this is essential to the quality aspects of the program.

Several relatively new Gold recipients have joined the Expedition Panel, but there is growing concern over the fact that the bulk of the assessment activity is still carried by a faithful few. There is also concern over the general lack of activity by the Panel, and the infrequency of meetings and reporting. I take this opportunity to remind the Panel that it functions under the auspices of the Barbados Operating Authority.

Training for CASC has been enhanced by the efforts of the Barbados Defense Force whose personnel provided advanced training in survival skills and rappelling in particular. This provided much excitement and thrills for a large group of enthusiastic participants.

The **Gold Award Association** has gone through a number of recent leadership changes, with the departure of its former President Mr. Keron Hamblin who was replaced by Jamila Bayne. However, Miss. Bayne is now overseas studying, creating a vacancy in the Chairmanship of the BGWA. We also welcome Mr. Hamblin back to our shores after his one-year academic stint overseas.

A Group Leaders' Association has been proposed and needs to be formed and activated. This will engage the attention of the Council in short order, and group leaders are advised to stand by.

A big THANK YOU to our Trustees, Council, Barbados Expedition Panel and all volunteers who support this worthwhile organization.

Stephen R Smith

National Award Chairman

Oct 1 2016