

**DINTHILL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
JAMAICA  
PRESIDENT’S REPORT- ADMINISTRATIVE YEAR 2017 - 2018  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SATURDAY OCTOBER 27, 2018**

**Greetings Fellow Alumni, Colleagues, Friends,**

The DTHS Alumni Association, Jamaica continues to celebrate our Alma Mater’s 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary under the theme “Renewal: Through Partnership, Integrity & Perseverance and we welcome all to the Association’s Fourth AGM, in recognition of the renewal process.

The Administrative Year 2017 – 2018 was challenging; mixed with enthusiasm, perseverance and ultimate successes as the members of the Executive demonstrated resilience in our efforts to pursue “The Way Forward” (a primary objective of the President), by integrating all key stakeholders: our Chapters, Principal, Acting Principal, Board of Governors, Teachers, Administrative & Ancillary Staff and the school community.

To this end, I say wholeheartedly, thank you to The Executive Body for their invaluable contribution to the Association in service to our school in preparing students for a successful future towards national development. Special commendation to our Secretariat’s Administrator, led by Mr. Noel Johnson for his exemplary contribution to the Association, the school’s administration and students having demonstrated the “*Facta Non Verba*” identity.

**The Activities/Achievements of our Association Comprised the following:**

The successful staging of our Annual “Back in Time 4” Oldies Party at the Chasers Café in November 2017, through the hard work and instrumentality of our First Vice President. Thanks for a task well executed for the fourth consecutive year! There were approximately 187 persons in attendance. The venue was well accepted by all and the Feedback was good. The Association was in “its elements” as could be seen in the photos that were carried in our 2018 Dinner/Dance Magazine.

Our Annual Dinner/Dance was over a two (2) day period wherein the “Meet & Greet” segment was on August 17, 2018; it was for the third time hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Linval Freeman at their residence in Stony Hill. We thank the Freemans for their continued generosity and show of commitment to the work of the Alumni body. There were approximately 62 persons in attendance. Thanks to Boardwalk Café, who did the Catering.

The Dinner/Dance was held on August 18, 2017, at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor - Talk of the Town. It was attended by approximately 216 persons. Total collections are expected to be for 225 Tickets which include donations from corporate Jamaica and individuals. Music was provided by JUS JAZZ Band. The welcome address was presented by the President Mr. Fredrick Sutherland and Greetings were brought by the Acting Principal Mrs. Monica White. Our Guest Speaker was Professor Stephen Vasciannie President of University of Technology. The Master of Ceremony was our very own Dr. Omer Thomas – Class of 1972. From comments received, the Magazine was: very good; much improved! Overall it was a successful event!! Hearty thanks to our Director of Events & Planning

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The Secretariat, through the strident efforts of its Administrator provided excellent service to the Association, particularly to the Membership & Secretary's portfolios. The following were among its achievements for the period 2017/2018:

- Prepared and distributed by e-mail approximately 600 Invoices for the 2018/2019 membership dues and to inform them of the AGM to be held on October 27, 2018. This is a new concept of increasing membership, participation and communication to the group. Work continues on improving the database.
- There were over 165 new members added during the year with Welcome Letters supported by telephone calls, where required. The responses have been fair. The momentum continues and Membership will take an active and hands-on approach in the collection of outstanding dues and to increase the portfolio.

The Secretariat's role in Acting in the capacity of Secretary, by recording and preparing Board minutes for the year 2017/2018 is noteworthy. It is envisaged that for the year 2018/2019, there will be a reduction of his involvement in this area. Thanks to our Secretariat/Administrator as we look forward to new energy in the portfolios he so well served.

**Other areas of accomplishment by the DTHSAAJA comprise:**

- Contributed Tents and Water to the 2018 Florida Chapter Medical Mission, totaling: \$51,000.00 and hosted those members who attended our "Meet & Greet" on August 17, 2018.
- Hosted the Benefit Play "Pressure Drop" by Basil Dawkins in March, 2018
- Sale of Memorabilia – Caps, Mugs and Bumper Stickers at all Events
- Contributed to the Quiz Team Infrastructure and the Football Team Finals Programme
- Contribution to the Arts – The Spanish Festival and Ms. Dinthill Pageant
- Funded the Annual Awards Ceremony on Alumni Day, April 11, 2017, with Prizes and Trophies
- Prepared a Protocol Document in Draft -outlining the relationships and procedures on matters between The Association, The School and Chapters. It is to be circulated to chapters for their input and the agreed document will be tabled at the next Annual General Meeting for adoption.

**Plans for Year 2018/2019**

- Increase Membership Portfolio to 1200 persons and establish a proper Database
- Provide an Association Trophy for the School's 2019 Graduation Ceremony
- Complete the process of Charitable Status for the Association

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- Ensure committees are formed for each Directorship Portfolio
- Establish and give support to a “Students’ Alumni Club”
- Continue to explore the issue of “Identification Cards” for the Members of the Association
- Establish a Welfare Fund. This fund would be used to provide assistance, particularly to past students who are experiencing extreme difficulties, which has recently become frequent in our daily newspaper publications

**Membership Dues**

It is very important that all members invoiced settle their membership dues. Having established a Secretariat, the Association has been incurring expenses in its operation. Your dues provide assistance to students through the Director of Welfare, Hospitality and Scholarship Portfolio. Students quite frequently request basic assistance through the Guidance Counselor in order to function effectively at school. However, we have experienced difficulties in meeting the many needs that are reported to us because our Fund raising events alone are insufficient to fund the various activities and needs. Thanks to our Director of Welfare, Hospitality and Scholarship for exercising pro-active management in this area and communicating with the Board and school on a timely basis.

**Continued Recognition**

Thanks to the Director of School Affairs who makes frequent visits to the school and updates the Board on developments/challenges at the school; to the Director of Public Relations for promoting our events through Advertisements, procurement of Memorabilia, etc; to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for offering his expertise to provide services in Information Technology, graphics and maintenance of our Website; to our Immediate Past President (IPP) and Protocol Director for keeping the Board in line with the Constitution and our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for representing the Association on the School Board and monitoring on an overall basis the Association’s programmes.

We also recognize and offer thanks to the Principal Mr. Lloyd Fearon, Acting Principal Mrs. Monica White, all Chapters, the Performers and presenters at our events and very importantly, the Membership and Friends of Dinthill, who continue to support our activities.

Thank you all for providing support to the President for the Administrative Year 2017/2018

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*Facta Non Verba!*

**Fredrick Sutherland  
President**

*"It's Easier to do a job right than to explain why you didn't" - Martin Van Buren*