

# Jamaica Government Pensioners Association



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# ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

December 2017

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Pensioners, I greet you all very well!

I am very pleased and honoured to be making my first address to you through this medium since your decision at our last AGM in April of this year to elect me as your President! I wish to thank you for placing your faith in me and I am committed to do all I can to ensure that the Association continues to grow and to serve you the members even better than it has to date. I wish to commend and thank my immediate predecessor in particular, IPP Charles, for his sterling contribution, service and guidance. Our Executive and Managing Committee are pledged to work together for the welfare of all Jamaica Government Pensioners, especially you the members.

The new Executive has redoubled our efforts to make representations on your behalf to those in both the public and private sectors in an effort to promote the welfare and improve the conditions of all Government Pensioners, especially as it relates to increases in pensions, improved health benefits and reduced costs of products/services.

Your Association's Trust Fund was established to assist pensioners experiencing grave financial difficulties due to ill health, infirmity and natural disasters, but needs the support of you *the members and government or non-governmental organisations, corporate bodies or other individuals* whether through *your gifts, bequests or donations*. I appeal to members who are able, to kindly contribute a minimum of **\$1,000.00** to the Trust Fund, so that eligible pensioners may be assisted when needed.

I further invite you to participate in the activities planned as we seek to promote fellowship with each other. A schedule of our main activities may be found elsewhere in this Newsletter, starting with our Xmas Luncheon to be held at the Knutsford Court Hotel in Kingston on Wednesday December 13, 2017. I hope you can share in this joyous occasion!

As we approach another Yuletide Season I wish you all a wonderful and happy season and the dawn of a pleasant and prosperous New Year! And may you all have an enjoyable, peaceful, relaxing and fulfilling retirement! God bless you!

Johnathan Brown, BH (M)

- Calendar for the period December 2017 to November 2018**

-  *Annual Christmas Luncheon* - Wednesday, December 13, 2017 (Knutsford Court Hotel)
-  *Annual General Meeting* - Wednesday, April 25, 2018
-  *Annual Church Service* - Sunday, July 15, 2018
-  *Annual Lunch Fund Raiser* - Friday, July 20, 2018
-  *National Fun Day / Pensioners in Performance* - November 2018
-  *JGPA Symposium* - Scheduled for early in 2019

Members - encourage eligible retirees to become members!



### Subscription Payment:

Membership subscription is \$1,200 per year

- Complete and return the membership application form with a deduction order to the Association's Administrative Office for the \$100.00 monthly deduction from your pension
  - Download the JGPA Membership Application Form from the Association's webpage;
- or
- Collect an application form at the Association's Head Office or at a Chapter nearest you.

### ASSOCIATION UPDATES

- **Membership ID:** - Provide a "passport sized" photograph for ID, a completed ID Application form with signature and \$400.00 for processing cost
- **Discount Partners:** - We are currently partnering with firms which provide discounts to members of the Association. Obtain information from the office about these partners and tell us of other business places that we could invite to come on board!

**Get your membership ID card now!**

- **Purchase a Membership Pin - Demonstrate pride in your JGPA membership!**

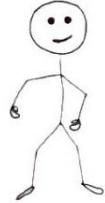
## Thank You

We use this medium to extend grateful thanks to Mr Charles Jones for his stalwart service as President of the Association for four consecutive terms.

He has made significant contributions to the Association especially with respect to the GPASO/Sagicor Health Scheme and the Board of Trustees. Under his leadership the Association was put on firmer financial foundation with respect to the payment of membership dues.

He continues to serve as the Immediate Past President as well as on the Board of Trustees and the GPASO Monitoring Committee.

This is  
my  
thank you  
dance!



### CHAPTERS – Contact Information

Visit our webpage or Facebook page for meeting day, time and venue.

- Have you changed your address?
- Have you changed your name?
- Has a Loved one passed?

**Join a JGPA Chapter:** - Did you know that the JGPA has Chapters in Manchester, St James, Clarendon, St Catherine, Kingston & St Andrew, Westmoreland, Portland and the Portmore Municipality?

Becoming a member of the Association qualifies you to become a member of a Chapter.

Chapter activities allow you to reconnect with colleagues, develop new bonds of friendship, exchange and share information, keep in touch and assist with welfare needs...!

## INAUGURAL SYMPOSIUM – Thursday, April 5, 2018

The Association has been challenged that as retired public servants we should be sharing our accumulated experiences in a positive way and to create opportunities to provide greater public awareness. The challenge is in fact consistent with the *raison d'être* expressed in its 1964 formation document "to promote the general welfare of Government Pensioners." In furtherance of this broad objective the symposium aims to bring together existing pensioners, pre-retirees, employers, and other pension industry players, for mutually beneficial results.

**The theme of the Symposium will be "Retirement – Endless Possibilities". The Patron is The Honourable Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Honourable Audley Shaw will give the Opening Address.**



- **Courtesy Calls:** The new Executive called on the Governor General, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Minister of Finance and the Public Service.

**The Executive meeting with the Governor General**

### WHAT'S NEW?

- **Skills Bank**

**Have you completed the Skills Bank Form?** JGPA is establishing a skills registry to record all the data on our members in order to identify their skills, hobbies and so on. This will demonstrate that there are services that we pensioners can provide to the public.

- **Company Formation– JGPA CARES**

*The Association has taken the decision to form a company to offer services in line with the various areas of work in which retired public servants were engaged including administration, human resource management, financial analysis and accounting, nursing, teaching, industrial relations, to name a few. The proposed name under consideration is*

***JGPA Consulting and Retiree Engagement Services (JGPA CARES).***

- A Pre-Retirees Seminar was held on Friday, June 9, 2017 at the Ministry of Transport & Mining's Office at 138H Maxfield Avenue, Kingston 10. The Seminar under the theme: "Be Prepared - Nothing to Fear" was well received and greatly appreciated by the pre-retirees and members of the Planning Team.

## Articles:

### RECOGNITION OF SENIORS IN OUR SOCIETY

The St James Chapter of the Jamaica Pensioners Association is proud of the contribution of senior citizens to our nation's growth and development over the years. When we consider that many of these persons would not have had the benefit of technological aids such as personal computers and "smart" phones which only became available within the last 30 years or so, their contribution is even more significant.

We salute our senior citizens and commend the dedication and professionalism they displayed at a time when a sense of civic pride, devotion to one's calling, and a desire to execute one's role to the best of one's ability seemed as important, if not more so, than remuneration.

We urge leaders in both the private and public sectors to be especially mindful of those who served the nation when they were most capable, but are now less able to cope physically.

As citizens of Jamaica, let us make it our social responsibility to enhance, rather than to act in ways that detract from the quality of life of senior citizens and enable them to enjoy a more meaningful life in their "winter" years. Our Chapter exhorts you to come aboard now.

*Pauline McFarlane-Ivey (Mrs)  
Chairman, St James Chapter*

### '100' Not Out

On Tuesday 29th August 2017, the oldest member of our Clarendon Chapter, Miss Luah Miller celebrated her One Hundredth Birthday. "Nurse Miller" as she is affectionately called was a nurse by profession and is also one of the founding members of the Chapter. Members of the Chapter visited and paid tribute to her on the special day. We hope she will live to see many more!

### Passing of a Stalwart

Mrs Iris Salmon, who was instrumental in the formation of the Clarendon Chapter, passed away on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August, 2017 at 98. The Reading Specialist Teacher was sent home to glory in a very inspiring funeral service on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September, 2017 at the Saint Gabriel's Anglican Church. May her soul rest in peace!

### A PENSIONERS' PRAYER

Dear God, give us strength while travelling through this phase; enduring pain, abuse and discrimination while taking public transportation. Yes Lord, we are pushed, shoved and insulted by heartless commuters. Give us strength to cope. God, you are our only hope!!!!

*Victor A Pusey Brown  
Chairman, Clarendon Chapter*



## The Trust Fund

The Jamaica Government Pensioners Association Trust Fund was formed on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, 1995. The mandate of the Trust is to assist needy members in dire financial distress occasioned by ill health, infirmity or natural causes. The Fund's assets are invested in approved securities, and it is the interest earned from these investments that is available for financing approved applications. Members are encouraged to contribute generously in order to increase the pool of available funds. We are our brother's and our sister's keepers!

At the Annual General Meeting held in April of this year a new Board of Trustees was elected. A stalwart member of the Association, Mrs Ivy Scott, was the Chairman Trustee and retired after long and faithful service. Mrs Gloria Peart-LaTouche has succeeded her as Chairman Trustee. Other elected Trustees were Mrs Albertha Estick, Secretary Trustee, Mr Charles A. Jones, Treasurer Trustee, Mrs Winnifred Scott and Mr Johnathan Brown, Member Trustees.

Requests for assistance must be submitted to the Secretary of the Association for forwarding to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees which normally meets once every two (2) months. Applicants are therefore urged to make timely submissions given the process.

### LIGHTEN UP!!



“LOL” 1



Songs to sing while speeding

- @ 45 miles per hour - “God will take care of you”
- @ 55 miles per hour - “Guide me oh Thou Great Jehovah”
- @ 65 miles per hour - “Nearer my God to Thee”
- @ 85 miles per hour - This World is not my Home”
- @ 95 miles per hour - “Lord, I’m coming Home”
- @ 100 miles per hour - “Precious Memories”

“LOL” 2

In Church the Minister got up to preach. He greeted his Congregation and thanked so many for being in Church. Then he said, “The message for all **members** of this Church is that you are going to die”.

A man got up and started laughing. He disturbed the message. The Minister continued and explained about seasons - a time to plant and a time to reap, etc. Then he repeated, “So you see members, you are all going to die”

The man started laughing again. While greeting the man after Church he asked him why he was laughing. The man replied, “Sir, I am not a **member** of this Church”.

## FEATURE

***IT'S RELATIONSHIPS THAT MAKE THINGS HAPPEN!****Emerita*

What a delightful experience it was for two members of the Database/Newsletter Committee who had the opportunity to "sit down" with one of our stalwarts in the Association – Mrs Sybil Thompson. A proud *nonagenarian*, Mrs Thompson recently celebrated her 93rd birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October this year in the company of her adopted family at the St Clement's Anglican Mission in Kencot, St Andrew.

However, she seems to have great difficulty understanding the concept of retirement in the traditional sense for she has spent the last twenty-five years in service to St Clement's and has been the driving force behind the establishment and operation of the St Clement's Development Centre. A true testament to the remarkable "people person" that she is.

Sybil Thompson says she elected to join the Civil Service not only because of the security of tenure it offered but at the insistence of her father who dissuaded her from a teaching profession. She states "it was an era when it was difficult for women to obtain suitable employment in the

private sector", and clearly remembers the "historic occasion" when the first black female was employed in a financial institution. Her employment as a clerk in the Jamaica Agricultural Society marked the starting point of a long sojourn in the Agricultural sector moving through a number of agencies to the portfolio ministry and finally ending her stellar career in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security as the Director of the National Insurance Scheme.

It was then on to the GSB Credit Union, one of the Credit Unions forming the First Heritage Co-operative Credit Union where again she made her mark.

Sybil is the consummate manager of human resource and clearly understands the value of networking. It is no small wonder that she was the conceptualizer of the Skills Bank Project which is now being undertaken by the Association.

She attributes this success to her ability to motivate employees to recognise their self-worth. The many accolades received and the numerous cups and plaques which glistened in the Trophy corner of her Aylsham, St Andrew home attest to her success as a manager.

After all, as she puts it - "Its relationships that make things happen".



## **How to Contact the Jamaica Government Pensioners Association?**

### **Administrative Office**

Mrs Joy Manahan  
Administrative Manager:

Mrs Naida Scott  
Database Manager:

#### *Visit us at Address:*

Jamaica Government Pensioners Association  
Ministry of Finance Complex, Block A,  
30 National Heroes Circle  
Kingston 4

#### *Or Contact us by Mail:*

Jamaica Government Pensioners Association  
P.O. Box 128  
Kingston7

**Telephone: (876) 948-2902; 932-4918/9**

**Email:** [jgpaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:jgpaoffice@gmail.com)

**Webpage:** <http://www.mof.gov.jm/jgpa.html>

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