



Jamaica Best Kept Secret

MGHS PSA NY CHAPTER 2015 ANNUAL REPORT **To the Executive Board and Membership of MGHS PSA NY Chapter**

As President of the MGHS PSA NY Chapter Inc, it is my duty and privilege to deliver the Annual report on the State of the Association for the year ending December 2016. The prime purpose of this report is to inform the Membership base of where we currently stand as an Association and where we are headed. This report also focuses on the progress, accomplishments and challenges of the Association during the last year.

As we complete our 6th year as a formal Association, I am proud to report that the Association remains focused in purpose. Our commitment to incorporate our founding purposes into every facet of the Association continues as our guiding principal. Each year I comment on how this organization has exceeded my wildest expectations and it was no different this past year. I am still amazed at how much has been accomplished by so few, with so little, so fast. Even though the engine slows down every so often, conflicts arise and apathy takes a ride with us, I am still optimistic for the future of the MGHS PSA NY Chapter Inc.

I contend that this last year can be counted as another successful and productive year for the Association. It is a year when some goals were realized and a year marked by a few milestones. "Each year the Association seems to rise to the challenge and guide its limited resources to sustain the momentum and maintain the standard of excellence in all our tasks. This past year was no exception". In addition to our core functions of:

- ❖ Organizing the Annual Family Fun Day,
- ❖ Publishing a monthly "Chapter News & Update",
- ❖ Maintaining the excellence of the Chapter's Website and Facebook Page,
- ❖ Administering the Ellorine Walker Scholarship
- ❖ Participating in the Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations' Mega Raffle
- ❖ Organizing our Joint Christmas Dance with Dinthill & St. Elizabeth Technical High School

We established the following specific objectives for 2016:

- ❖ Continue to grow the association's membership roll
- ❖ To identify potential board members and event volunteers
- ❖ To continue to enhance our visibility
- ❖ To increase our coffers
- ❖ Fundraise for the Science Department Modernization Project

This represented a very full agenda for the Association but to sustain our status as a first class association it was required. Although some of the specific goals still remain in progress I submit that overall we achieved the outcomes that we had aspired to accomplish. As a result of our

efforts in reaching our 2016 goals, we marked several milestones:

- ❖ Inauguration of our Fill-A-Backpack and School Supply Drive
- ❖ Representation at MGHS Annual Prize Giving
- ❖ Shipping of purchased items for the science department

Although the Association encountered some minor disappointments along the way, I submit that the goals and objectives we set out to accomplish this past year is discuss in details below.

Membership: We continue to struggle with paid membership in the association. This has been and remains one of the greatest challenges of the Association. 2016 realized a new membership drive, our June Tele-A-Ton and Online Discount. Although a few dues were paid and several commitments made there was not a significant increase in the roll. I'm disappointed by this situation, as several reminders were sent out over the last 6 months to members who made commitments. I am committed to the goal of at least doubling the paid members in 2017. Membership is critical for the future success of the association. It is imperative that we have sufficient membership dues to fund the operation of the association and reduce our dependency on outside fund raising which limits the funds going to our alma mater. I still can't understand after all these years that less than 20% of those receiving the Monthly Chapter News & Updates in the Tri-state area choose not to become dues paying member.

Recruiting Efforts: Our recruiting objectives are an ongoing process. Volunteers are the fuel that drives our engine. The Association exists because of its volunteers:

Currently we are in need of:

- ❖ A Membership Chair
- ❖ Help at each event hosted

If you have a strong interest or just a curiosity, please e-mail me, call me or contact any of our Board Members who will direct you accordingly. I hope you will be able to step forward and offer your services. **We need you!!!**

Enhancing the visibility of the Association: To elevate and maintain the prominence of the Association amongst its constituency, and to maintain its vitality and spur its growth, it is important to keep the Association visible and the focus of attention. Towards this end we consistently update the website and Facebook page.

- ❖ **Website:** The Website has become a major resource to the Association. This was substantiated by significant increase in the visits. Over the last year it received over 13720 hits. The website has been serving as an effective tool for promoting our events and activities and for documenting all of these events in our photo gallery section. You can use the pay pal feature on our site to pay your dues and donate to any of the projects that is of interest to you.
- ❖ **Facebook Page:** The Facebook Page is another Major resource to the association. It generates traffic to our website as it effectively promotes our events and activities and the monthly Chapter News & Updates. To think this is all due to the single efforts of our secretary Ouida Young. Where do we find another Ouida Young, **tell me is it you!**

As we look forward, it is our hope to continue and increase our visibility.

- ❖ The presents of a representative at the 2016 Annual Prizegiving at MGHS was a major effort in establishing awareness of the association amongst our little sisters at our alma mater.

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Increasing Our Coffers: The association's combine balance in all accounts as of December 2016 is **\$2271.56**. Once again this is an area that the association has struggled with since inception. The association has been able to conduct all its activities with funds generated by our funding raising activities mainly by participating in UJAA's Mega Raffle. So the truth is that from an operational standpoint we continue to operate at a small deficit, which will be needed to address at some point in the future. The major drivers for our deficit are:

- ❖ A steady decrease in dues paying members from 2013
- ❖ A steady decrease in raffle sales since 2012
- ❖ Lack of participation in fundraising events since inception
- ❖ The various cost associated with creating superlative events and a unparalleled Association

We have created a first class association that requires a certain level of financial needs to sustain it at this level. So the revenue side is where we must primarily focus our attention.

Fundraising for the Science Department Modernization Project: 2016 was an uneventful year as far as fundraising goes. We obtain a \$200 donation. Our goal was \$10,000 to build a fume hood and teacher's platform in the chemistry lab. As this is a major project our fundraising goals will be ongoing for the next few years.

For those of you who have faithfully supported the association over the past 6 years, the executive committee and I sincerely thank you! We hope that our efforts for 2017 will recreate the excitement that you had when you attended your first meeting or event. To sustain this momentum, I repeat our urgent need for new and creative ideas and a new generation of volunteers.

If you value what is being done in your name as Merl Grove High School Past Student in the New York tri-state area or elsewhere, register your approval with your membership and service to the Association.

Can I count on YOU???

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon L Wilson
President