



CARI-NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As a family it is important to check in on each other. Someone may not always voice what they are going through emotionally, physically or financially. So whether it is your own family or your CARAIFA family, strive to reach out from time to time. One valuable lesson that we should have learnt from the past fourteen months is that we cannot take anything for granted. A simple gesture such as a text or phone call can go a long way in times like these.

There is no aspect of life or corner of the earth that this virus has not touched and so now we must resolve to work toward plans of recovery, rebuilding and innovation to go into the next phase of our lives. We have already adjusted the way we conduct business and live our lives, and it will continue to evolve.

As insurance advisors, we must support each other while going through these changes and challenges. A wise man once said family means no one gets left behind or forgotten. At CARAIFA we are indeed a family and working together will allow us to emerge unified and strong when the dust settles.

Continue to keep each other close and stay safe.



Alicia Birch MBA, LUTCF

Inside this edition

Editor's Note	2
Message from GAIFA	3
Presidents of our Territories	4
Article from Jamaica Observer	5-6
CARAIFA Executives	7
Education Corner	8

EDITOR'S NOTE



Monica Robotham

SLU, CLU, CH.F.C

PR Marketing and
Communication Director

My Caribbean colleagues, on behalf of the CARAIFA's Executives, I greet you well. We are almost at the end of the second quarter of 2021 and still fighting the dreaded COVID-19 however a percentage of persons across the region has received one or more vaccine. We are currently seeing slight relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions, but we continue to follow the protocol, thus protecting ourselves and our families.

It is our hope and prayers that normalcy will return to the world soon. We have seen the emotional and mental toll on our young children and the devastating effect on their education. As parents we need to continue to affirm our children, through our words and actions. As life insurance professionals we must remain strong, be in touch with our loved ones and our clients. Our prayers are with our friends and colleagues on the island of St. Vincent and Grenadines as they continue to recover from the volcanic eruption. COVID-19 has taught us to seize the moment and seize the day. We never know what tomorrow will bring. It offers opportunities to better ourselves and to help others and together we will overcome.

It is said that there are two ways to be happy: change the situation or change your mind set.

Stay safe, take care of your families and clients.

EYE ON THE CARIBBEAN

An article from Joel McPherson, President of GAIFA (Guyana).

We are happy to make our re-entry into CARAIFA!

In Guyana prospective candidates for Sales Representatives are only allowed entry to the Industry at age 21. This stringent regulation creates a barrier for growth in the insurance industry, while other financial institutions' requirement age for entry is 18 years. As leaders it is our view that insurance management should voice their opinion to the Regulators for a change and must do more to empower and motivate Sales Representative to broaden their educational development through professional courses offered by CARAIFA.

As it relates to the new norm of modus operandi due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Demerara Mutual Life Assurance Society Limited engaged an international coach to conduct weekly coaching sessions as at May 2020 and ongoing. This initiative by management has served to encourage the Agency force, resulting in performance levels rising above the effects of production downtime in 2020. Evidenced from this, is one of GUYAIFA's executive, Vice-President, Ms. Maria Rodrigues, sharing in the 2021 first quarter award of top Agents in Guyana and in Dem Life's regional offices.

In conclusion, we wish to remember seven of our fallen Guyanese heroes and insurance stalwarts who, in recent years, departed this life after having served the industry for forty and fifty plus decades. Messrs. Winston aka Pepe Romalho; Maurice Watson, November 2016; Ronald aka Rocky Mann, 11th June 2018; Irshad Ali, year 2019, Stanley Merchant, year 2019; William Hansel aka Hans Barrow, 9th June 2020; and Elbert Carrington aka Carrie, 25th May 2021. Three of them: Messrs. Romalho, Watson and most recently Carrington, joined the industry on the heels of their popularity in the music industry and, as in their music profession, became popularly known in the insurance industry. We salute them and their invaluable service to the people of Guyana and further afield. May their souls rest in peace!



President's of our Territories



Elcah James
Antigua



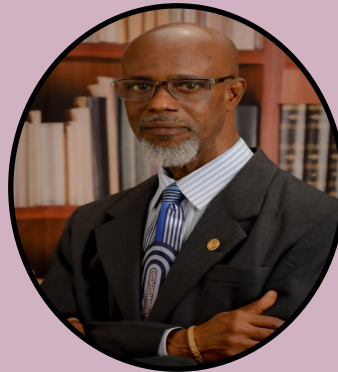
Tyrone Lowe
Barbados



Carol Panton
Belize



Joshua Bernard
Cayman Islands



Joel McPherson
Guyana



Nehemiah Perry
Jamaica



Marcia Alexander
St. Lucia



Gerald Cruickshank
Trinidad & Tobago

	Missing :
*	Dominica
*	Grenada
*	St. Vincent & The Grenadines

All For One—Strengthening Caricom, forging new togetherness

An article by Lisa Hanna, published in the Jamaica Observer on Sunday June 6, 2021

Jamaica is a signatory to the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (2001) for a Caricom Single Market Economy (CSME). Simply put, the CSME was envisioned to enable the free movement of capital, skills, goods, and services, and the right of establishment within the region.

By January 2006 Jamaica and other member states (except The Bahamas and Montserrat) commenced the implementation of the CSME protocols and ratified the Free Movement of Skilled Persons Act, which allowed for the movement of skilled nationals in 10 approved categories. Subsequently, Caricom heads gave the approval and mandated members of the treaty to implement all outstanding actions on the CSME within four years. Regrettably, to date, there has been limited progress in this area.

In July 2016 Prime Minister Andrew Holness appointed the Caricom Review Commission chaired by former Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding. The terms of reference of the commission, among other things, was “to evaluate the effects that Jamaican participation in Caricom had on its economic growth and development with particular reference to trade in goods and services, investment, international competitiveness, and employment” (Commission to review Jamaica's relations within the Caricom and CARIFORUM frameworks, March 2017).

There were fundamental questions the Golding Commission sought to answer. Mainly, should Jamaica stay in Caricom or 'JEXIT?' And, if we were to stay, should our participation be all-encompassing or limited to just political membership? It was an instructive report with comprehensive and relevant insights for the region's overall trade regulatory convergence with 33 overall recommendations for the CSME.

Among the recommendations was the responsibility for member states to allow the unrestricted movement of Caricom nationals, excluding those who posed security and public-health risks. Additionally, Jamaica was to seek a specific actionable and time-bound matrix for member states to fulfil all outstanding requirements for the establishment of a fully functional CSME within five years.

For my own deliberations, I went and sat with Golding back then, who made it very clear that the time was past urgent for heads of governments in the region to act and take personal responsibility for ensuring that the “organs” of Caricom worked. That the strengthening of the secretariat's financial and operational work was compulsory, and an entire recalibration of our intra-regional trading arrangements within the structure was crucial to engage the region's private sector.

This is why it is surprising that after the report was tabled in the House of Representatives on February 6, 2018, and debated on June 19, 2018, that three years later we are no closer to implementing these recommendations. Moreover, we have before us yet another report calling for the free movement of goods and services within member states: Caribbean 9.58 — Speeding Up The Caribbean” (Caricom Commission on the Economy, March 2021).

Caricom was formed in 1973 to improve regional integration in a politically polarised world. This body, now comprising 15 member states, was created around the same time that the developed nations of the world established the Group of Seven (G7). The world has changed dramatically since the early 1970s. Back then the G7 countries were the top seven, world's largest manufacturers and exporters. They still represent a little more than 46 per cent of global gross domestic product, with Canada, the United Kingdom and Italy no longer enjoying top seven status. Today, China holds the number one position (by a wide margin) as the world's largest exporter.

All For One—Strengthening Caricom, forging new togetherness

An article by Lisa Hanna, published in the Jamaica Observer on

On the face of it, our Caricom population numbers are minimal, but as one block we represent eight per cent of the world's nations. More importantly, in a global economy in which principled positions are being reversed and eroded daily, politically and economically, in deference to “might is right”, smaller countries with small populations are better off standing together, rather than standing alone. Therefore, it is vital that our collective voices do not disappear. Within this context, Jamaica must, once again, play a meaningful, proactive role to strengthen, unify and lead a modern recalibrated Caricom and align ourselves with the emerging economic prowess of our allies in Africa and Asia.

If we are honest, we must acknowledge that in Caricom there still exist several non-tariff barriers despite all the mandates, approvals and recommendations. For example, in Trinidad and Tobago (TT), the Foreign Investment Act (FIA) requires any company or individual operating outside of their jurisdiction to pay for any asset in an international currency. In a true single market, this would not exist, as any Barbadian company could borrow funds in TT dollars for the purchasing of any valuable asset. Furthermore, throughout the region, the export of agricultural produce or food from one member state to another still requires agricultural permits. These permits can be denied for a variety of reasons.

In 1979 the European Court of Justice ruled that, even if a product failed to meet the technical specifications of another country within the European Union, once it did not pose a threat to the public health or public interest there were to be no barriers preventing its entry for sale. This was the case with 'Cassis De Dijon', which was produced and sold in France and later permitted into Germany as a result of the courts ruling (Caricom Commission on the Economy, March 2021).

All the reports that I have read recognise that strengthening our Caricom bond is dependent on achieving true economic integration and eliminating barriers to entry for capital, labour, and goods. Our solutions have always been obvious, but delay is the deadliest form of denial.

For too long, as declared by Sir Shridath Ramphal, former Commonwealth secretary general: “We have crept through the fractured promises of the Treaty of Chaguaramas and Declaration of Grand Anse, and through fractured promises, innumerable pious declamations, affirmations and commitments the roll call of unfulfilled promises and unimplemented decision are staggering and shameful.”

There can be no CSME in the absence of regulatory convergence or mutual recognition arrangements, like in the European Union, to minimise inconsistencies and lessen trade and border restrictiveness. In the long run, it is in the interest of all the people in the Caricom to have unrestricted access to the best products, skills, and services available within our own region. Accordingly, the recommendations of the Golding Report need to be implemented without further delay in tandem with the “12-Point Plan In Response to COVID-19” from the Caricom Commission on the Economy. It is time for Caricom to lead, focusing on building our exports and breaking down the non-tariff barriers that currently exist. I believe our future lies in expanding Caricom, not reducing it, and therein lies an opportunity for Jamaica to offer enlightened leadership. Let us work on strengthening the region, forging a new togetherness that boldly signals to the world that we are finally serious.

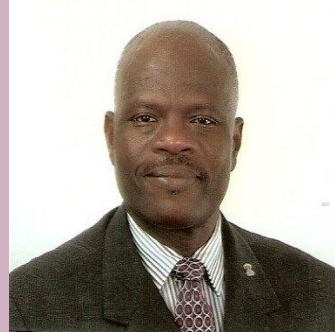
Lisa Hanna is a Member of Parliament and People's People's National Party spokesperson on foreign affairs and foreign trade.

CARAIFA Executives

2021–2022



Alicia Birch
President
(Trinidad & Tobago)



Wynthrop Catwell
Immediate Past President
(Barbados)



Hugh Meredith
Vice president
(Jamaica)



Marcelle Fenton
Secretary General
(Jamaica)



William Wiltshire
**Education Council
Chairman**
(Trinidad & Tobago)



Monica Robotham
**Public Relations Marketing &
Communications Director**
(Jamaica)



Gerald Cruickshank
**Regional Congress Coor-
dinator**
(Trinidad & Tobago)

EDUCATION CORNER

5 Year Rule

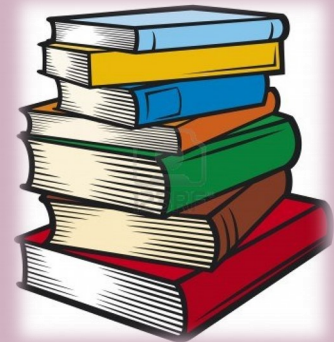
Please note that if the designation is not earned within five years, the course credits will expire, and the course must be repeated to meet the program requirements, where applicable. If the expired course no longer exists in the program's current curriculum, the student must take a new course to complete the program.

If the designation program is completed within five years, the course credits become permanent on the student's transcript and may be applied at a later date toward the fulfilment of requirements for other designation programs, if the course is part of the program's current curriculum.

Congratulations!

To our FSCP Semester 1, 2021 Designees

Claudette Rickards—JAIFA
 Rushelle Mckenzie—JAIFA
 Caleceia Boswell—JAIFA
 Kiylan Oxley—TTAIFA
 Shirlene Greaves—TTAIFA
 Myles Achat-Ali—TTAIFA
 Devika Dass—TTAIFA
 McEwin Joseph—TTAIFA
 Paul Gittens—BARAIFA
 Derick Perera—BeLAIFA



Dates to remember:

Semester 2, 2021 regular examinations—July 14th & 15th

Semester 2, 2021 supplemental examinations- August 18th & 19th