

Young Workers' *Voice*



"TO MOBILIZE, EDUCATE AND REPRESENT"

September 2010

CPSA Young Workers' Committee

The CPSA Young Worker's Committee comprises of representatives from each of the 17 CPSA affiliates from 15 Caribbean Countries. Young Workers include workers who are 35 years of age and younger.

Our Aims and Objectives are:

- * To provide a voice for young workers on issues and how they impact on them
- * To advise on ways to promote the full integration of young workers in trade unions
- * To advise on trade union education and training programmes and activities for young workers
- * To be the voice of young public sector workers on a wide range of issues
- * To advise on and assist with the research and dissemination of information concerning the involvement of young public sector workers in their unions
- * To act as a support system for young members
- * To promote the involvement of young members in CPSA education and training programmes and activities
- * To recognize and reward the contribution of young workers to the development of trade unionism

If you want more information please email us at:
cpsayoungworkers@ymail.com

The Union as a Social Partner



St. Andrew's Kirk
Georgetown, Guyana

Preceding the 40th annual CPSA conference, members of the CPSA attended a church service held at the St. Andrew's Kirk in Georgetown Guyana.

The Church has been in existence since 1818 and is one of the oldest structures in Georgetown. St. Andrew's church is very significant to the Guyana Public Services Union as its hall was the first formal meeting place of that organization.

Rev. Maureen Massiah is the current minister of the church. During her sermon she spoke much about social justice and social charity.

The Reverend explained that social justice is based on the concept of human rights and equality. The Reverend reminded members of the CPSA that the trade union movement is a guardian of social justice. This is because, Public Services Unions are institutions that are based on the principles of equality and solidarity, that understand and value human rights, and that recognise the dignity of every human being.

The Reverend then went on to speak about social charity. She encouraged members of the labour movement to develop a frame of mind where the needs of others outside of our organization are considered in addition to encouraging members to be sympathetic to those needs. She also stated that organizations should become more charitable when they sit down for deliberations, reminding us to love our neighbours as we would love ourselves, as kindness should be shared with all whom cross our paths. The Reverend closed the sermon by referencing the teachings in the book of Deuteronomy where it is stated that if you turn to the Lord with all your heart and soul then the Lord will bring forth prosperity in your life.

It was evident that Rev. Massiah was speaking directly to the members of the CPSA when sharing her message of social justice and charity. I concur with the words of Rev. Massiah and encourage all Public Services Unions to become more socially conscious. I believe that if we have the capacity within our unions to do more to help others then we should by all means do so.

In Solidarity,
 Bro. Jason Hayward
 Secretary CPSA Young Workers'



International Youth Year



Thursday August 12, 2010, marked International Youth Day and the commencement of International Youth Year August 12, 2010 to August 11, 2011. The Guyana Public Service Union (GPSU) observed the occasion by launching its proposed programme of activities for the year and hosting a reception.

The event commenced with a short ceremony which was chaired by Ms. Ronella Hill, Assistant to the President/CEO and Co-Coordinator for the year's programme. The objectives and list of activities were presented by Ms. Samantha Fedee`, Chairperson of the GPSU Youth Committee. In addressing the gathering, Ms. Fedee` stated that members of the Committee were proud of the United Nations resolution which aimed to "disseminate among young people the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, solidarity and dedication to the objectives of progress and development". She quoted President Franklin D. Roosevelt, former President of the United States, that "we cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future", which is relevant to the aims of the GPSU to build, empower and enhance youths for the future.

The feature speaker of the event was Minister of Agriculture, Honourable Robert Persaud, MP, who "urged youths to take a stand, be responsible, and make changes that would affect their lives in a positive manner. Further young people need to embrace and support each other and encourage, dedicate and re-commit themselves as young people".

Programme Manager for the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) Caribbean Centre in Guyana, Ms. Dwynette Eversley was also present and indicated that it was an opportunity for young voices to be heard, the issues known and strengthen and enhance advocacy platforms on issues that impact them on a daily basis.

GPSU and its Youth Committee plan to have a full year of activities done in three monthly phases under the UN's theme: 'Dialogue and Mutual Understanding'. In addition, GPSU expanded the theme to include elements such as "Enhancing and Empowering for Progress, Peace and Unity". Activities for phase one include, public lectures, training on negotiation and mediation, healthy lifestyles, climate change, family and society. A two day workshop is proposed to recognize Caribbean Youth Day on September 30.

Phase two would address the areas listed by the United Nations such as Education, Employment, Hunger and Poverty, Health, Environment, Drug Abuse, HIV/AIDS, Youth and Conflict.

The GPSU takes this opportunity to wish youth in Guyana, across the Caribbean and the globe a successful year that will favourably shape and change their lives, actions and behavior.

Sis Tricia Teekah
Assistant Rights & Equality Officer
Guyana Public Service Union



Robert's Rules 101

Robert's Rules of order are the rules used within the CPSA when we are conducting our Executive meetings and Conferences. Robert's Rules provide support for the rights of many different groups, thereby making sure majority vote rules but that everyone is heard. Robert's Rules protect the rights of the majority to prevent a tyranny, anarchy and also prevent corrupt rule by one person.

Ten basic principles of Robert's Rules are:

1. The privileges of the group are more important than the privileges of the members on an individual basis.
2. Everyone is equal.
3. A certain number of voting members must be present in order for votes to be made legal. If there is a question, this information is listed in the BPSU constitution as to what makes up a group's quorum.
4. The majority vote wins the day.
5. If you decide not to vote, then you are making the decision to go along with the majority vote.
6. The two-thirds vote is not always used, but it needs to be incorporated when a vote is being taken to change something already in existence.
7. Members who are given the floor to speak should be treated with respect and not interrupted.
8. Motions must be debated as long as members want it, unless a two-thirds vote makes the motion undebatable at any given point.
9. Once a motion is made and voted on, a member cannot bring it up again for vote in the same meeting.
10. Never take things personally.



CARICOM Single Market and Economy

The Caribbean Region has its eyes firmly set on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. The CSM&E can be defined as the ability of goods, services, capital and people to move freely across members states in the Caribbean Community. In addition, it provides for efficient and competitive production of goods and services for both regional and international markets, and means that our Region's people can maximize their talents and resources, thereby leading to greater efficiency and increased profits.

The question to ask is, what role can the Labour movement play during the implementation process. At the 40th Annual CPSA Conference, both the Young Workers' and Women's forum discussed the role that Public Sector Unions can play. Generally it was felt that Public Sector Unions should or can:

- Influence governmental policies to ensure equality and equity
- Promote reforms that ensure security of workers and protect industries
- Influence migration policies to facilitate the free movement of people
- Promote sound education policies on CSM&E
- Influence migrant workers to join a union

Additionally it was suggested that the CPSA could seize this opportunity to strengthen both its influence and voice throughout the Region.



Country Profile Jamaica



Just a little about Jamaica.....the land of wood and water.

Background

Jamaica is the largest and most westerly English speaking Island in the Caribbean, 90 miles south of Cuba and 550 miles south of Miami. It has low coastal plains. Its best beaches are found on the north and west coast of the Island. Jamaica is mountainous in the interior, with its highest peak of 7,423 feet the Blue Mountains, with a population of approximately 2.8 million people.

Jamaica is one of the largest Islands in the Caribbean (nearly 4500 square miles) giving you lots of places to discover and endless miles of beaches to explore. There are fourteen parishes in Jamaica. Kingston is the largest English speaking city in the Caribbean and is the capital of Jamaica.

There are two major airports, Donald Sangster International Airport in the west and Norman Manley International Airport in the East. Most of our visitors arrive at the Donald Sangster International Airport in the western part of the Island. Some visitors choose to stay in Montego Bay (Jamaica's second city and home of Donald Sangster International Airport) while most head either east or west to explore Jamaica first hand.

Places of interest

Negril is located on the western tip of Jamaica, one and a half hours from Montego Bay and is the home to the finest sunsets in the world.

Ocho Rios, Runaway Bay and Port Antonio are all to the east of Montego Bay.

Runaway Bay is one hour east of the Donald Sangster International Airport and is a great place to escape for a while.

Ocho Rios is a popular destination for cruise ships. **Port Antonio** is one and a half hours past Ocho Rios on the same road and with its rugged coastline and beautiful mountains is considered by many to be Jamaica's hidden treasure. The more adventurous can head to the **Blue Mountains** in eastern Jamaica, home of the finest coffee in the world.

If you truly want to get away from the hustle and bustle head for the **South Coast**. Tourism is somewhat newer to this part of the Island and you will find the accommodations intimate with very personalized service.

If you are into history. . . Kingston might be your first choice. Its museums and historical sites make it a popular destination for tourists. Kingston is the hub of excitement, a fusion of the sights and sounds from crammed markets to the noisy bars and entertainment spots including throbbing dancehalls. Kingston is musical to its soul – Ska, Rocksteady, Reggae and the now hip Dancehall rhythm.

Jamaica's National Dish is Ackee and Fish which is frequently eaten with roast Breadfruit and is a Sunday morning delight. It is customary for Jamaicans to have Soups on Saturdays and Chicken and Rice & Peas on Sundays.

Chat to yuh more in the next publication.....!!!

Sis Denise Henry
Chair CPSA Young Workers'





CPSA Young Workers' Secretariat 2010-2011

Sis. Denise Henry— Chair
(Jamaica Civil Service Association)

Bro. Emmanus Alfred — Vive Chair
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
(St. Lucia Civil Service Association)

Bro. Jason Hayward — Secretary
(Bermuda Public Services Union)

Affiliates Include:

- * Anguilla Civil Service Association
- * Antigua & Barbuda Public Service Union
- * Bahamas Public Service Union
- * National Union of Public Workers (Barbados)
- * Belize Public Service Union
- * Bermuda Public Services Union
- * Dominica Public Service Union
- * Grenada Public Workers' Union
- * Guyana local Government Officers Union
- * Guyana Public Service Union
- * Jamaica Association of Local Government Officers
- * Jamaica Civil Service Association
- * Montserrat Civil Service Association
- * St. Lucia Civil Service Association
- * St. Maarten— Windward Island Civil Service Union/Private Sector Union
- * St. Vincent & the Grenadines Public Service Union
- * Trinidad & Tobago - National Union of Government and Federated Workers Union

Email Us At
cpsayoungworkers@ymail.com



40th Annual CPSA Conference

