



# Feedback

August 2010

## Executive's Corner



**Good Day Members,**  
Labor Day is recognized in Bermuda the first Monday in September. It is our annual tribute to honor the everyday working people for their contributions made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of this island.

Typically, most of us view Labor Day as a day off and the ending of summer. Viewing Labor Day as a "day off" minimizes greatly what our forefathers fought for and put in place for us; a voice for decision making, safe working environments, living wages, comprehensive benefits, job security, and fairness in the workplace. We tend to celebrate with picnics, travel and having the day off and no longer recognize the importance of the day, participate in the march, the speeches and history of unions and how they have benefited us.

Unbeknown to most of our members, the *real* Labor Day is officially celebrated on May 1 throughout the world, with the exception of the United States, Canada and South Africa.

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JOINT LABOUR DAY ORGANIZING COMMITTEE PRESENTS  
UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY LET'S WORK TOGETHER

29TH  
**LABOUR DAY** 2010  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2010

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

FRIDAY, 20 AUGUST 2010 AT BELMONT HILLS GOLF CLUB

**PRE LABOUR DAY WORSHIP**

SUNDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2010 ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE

**5 MILE ROAD RACE & WALK**

MONDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2010 AT THE UNION SQUARE AT 8:30 AM ORGANIZED BY SWANS RUNNING CLUB

**BER-MAZING RACE**

MONDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2010 START & FINISH AT THE UNION SQUARE

**SOLIDARTY MARCH**

MONDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2010, 11:30 A.M UNION SQUARE  
MUSIC BY SPANISH TOWN. SOUNDS OF SANCTUARY

**RAFFLE PRIZES**



**Members are encouraged to participate in the scheduled events.  
Raffle Tickets are available from the BPSU Secretariat and/or BPSU Bar**



Rochelle Semei

*35th Annual Northeast Regional  
Summer School for Union Women  
25 - 30 July 2010*

Shop Stewards, Sis. Annette Harvey, Sis. Linda Mienzer, and Sis. Jacqueline Simons attended the 2010 Northeastern Summer School held at Penn State University, Pennsylvania.

*"Union Summer School let me experience the Union at its best and empowered me to be the best Union woman I can be". Sis Annette Harvey*

*"A life changing experience—left feeling empowered and infused to take our Union forward". Sis Linda Mienzer.*

*"The Northeast Regional Summer School for Women was simply awesome! The opportunity to meet women who are actively engaged in the fight for fairness and equality in the workplace was truly inspiring and challenging. The classroom sessions compelled each woman to effect positive changes within their unions and utilize effective recruitment strategies. From this band of strong women I have forged new friendships with union sisters that will last a lifetime." Sis Jacqueline Simons*

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We, at the Bermuda Public Services Union, recognize May 1 as the official Labor Day, however, we still participate in September's Labor Day celebration, by joining the march around Hamilton with other unions. In recent years, Labor Day celebrations have dwindled. Not many persons come out to honor and support Labor Day; A sign that the times have changed.

Let us not forget during these changing and trying times, all the hard working people who have contributed to our growth. This Labor Day I hope to see more of us join the march in honor of all the hard work that was done before us to get us where we are today.

*"Onward and Upward Together"*

Sis Cheryl Jones  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

## Maximize your Potential

Summer is drawing to an end, and it is "Back to School" for many members and their children.

For members who are still deciding whether to register for continued education – "The Moment is Now" to be proactive and maximize your potential through courses at the Bermuda College and/or Community Education Centers or on-line.

In keeping with the Union's mission, you are encouraged to be proactive in meeting the changing trends in the workplace through continuous education.

Embrace life-long learning – a wonderful path to follow.

*Sis. Thelma Hart, JP, CPS/CAP  
Training/Research Officer*



## *Violence and Its Impact on Our Union*

Sister X said she will never be the same; once you have been involved with a shooting incident she says “everything changes”.

It starts out just like any other day, nothing out of the ordinary. You have no idea that within twenty-four hours your life as you know it will be forever affected by something completely out of your control.

In hindsight, she said she knew something was in the air, she could feel it. People were different that night, the mood aggressive. “I sensed it” she said, “Looking back now I wish I would have done things differently, but you never think it’s gonna happen to you”.

Sister X had a conversation with the victim that would prove to be their final contact for 30 minutes later he would be dead. What she thought was a car backfiring was in fact the fatal shots. When she found out she said she was instantly tormented by the thoughts that she somehow could have prevented it.

She has not been able to sleep properly since. An important holiday came and went without recognition because she could not bear to celebrate it as it was a time they spent together. “It’s just not the same anymore,” she says as she fights back a tear.

Though she returned to work the very next day she clearly was not ready. She only went because she could no longer be in the house alone. Besides she was so tired of people calling and asking what happened that she thought the distraction of work would be a relief. Her employer was very understanding, offered counseling even. But she refused, she just didn’t want to have to keep talking about it, in fact, she just wanted it all to go away.

It’s funny she said, “I moved to this area to get away from the bad atmosphere and it followed me or is it that it’s gotten so prevalent that no where is safe?” It was a question that made us both pause, afraid to answer.

“Is there anything the Union could have done for you?” I asked.

“I don’t know,” she said. “But I do know we need to talk about this more, maybe some forums or help groups; something because we have a lot of members being affected and carrying this stuff on their jobs. We need to reach out to our young members and their parents and let them know the importance of telling what they know. This ‘snitching’ stuff is crazy. They will feel differently when it’s their loved one.”

We sat there a while longer just appreciating the quiet of her neighborhood. At one point we heard a loud sound and looked at each other with an uneasy glare. It was only a loud bike. We both breathed a sigh of relief.

Members, sadly to say the same night this article was submitted Bermuda again experienced tragic gun violence. There were two shootings, one unfortunately was fatal. Another family in mourning, another set of questions. Are we ready for the tough answers?

Peace  
Sis. Linda Mienzer

**NEWLETTER  
COMMITTEE**

Sis. Thelma Hart JP  
Sis. Susan Hill-Davidson  
Sis. Sonya Fox  
Sis. Annette Harvey  
Sis. Linda Mienzer

**CALANDAR OF EVENTS**

**NEW SHOP STEWARD  
TRAINING  
20TH AUGUST &  
24TH SEPTEMBER**

**SHOP STEWARDS'  
CONFERENCE  
21ST - 22ND OCTOBER**

# TO YOUR SUCCESS!



*BPSU's Summer Student, Danae Trott heads off to Georgia State College, Atlanta Georgia to pursue a degree in Actuarial Science.*

*All the Best Danae!*

## LUNCH 'N' LEARN

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010, the BPSU Future Leaders held their third lunch and learn session entitled "8 Steps To Home Ownership". On this occasion, the featured presenter was Mrs. Frederica Forth-Anglies, President of Century 21 Bermuda Properties. As the title suggest, the session focused on the processes of purchasing a property in Bermuda and was aimed towards people looking to own their first home.



The event was well attended, although there was a noticeable lack of younger members in audience. The presentation was extremely informative and it was obvious that Mrs. Forth-Anglies is very passionate about her profession and has a great desire to see Bermudians own a 'piece of the rock'. Anyone that missed this event, definitely lost out on a great opportunity to hear expert advice and real life stories from someone with years of experience in Bermuda real estate.

Please visit Mrs. Forth-Anglies's website ([www.century21bermudaproperties.com](http://www.century21bermudaproperties.com)) or contact her ([fforthanglies@century21bda.com](mailto:fforthanglies@century21bda.com) or 293-2121) for more information on the "8 Steps to Home Ownership".

Although it may seem impossible to buy a home, especially in Bermuda, it can be accomplished. You can do it! I encourage all our brothers and sisters to strive towards homeownership. Not everyone takes the traditional route of a husband and wife purchasing a home together. Others may choose to purchase a home in partnership with parents, siblings or other family members. As Mrs. Forth-Anglies stressed, your first home does not have to be your Dream Home; in fact, you don't even have to live there. However, it will allow you to take a step to build equity towards purchasing your dream home in the future.

**Bro. Vince Williams-Savery  
Future Leaders' Vice-Chair**

# Save

# Jobs

# Buy

# Bermuda

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