



First Regional BUZZZZZ

Vol.3 No.4 MAY/JUNE 2015

2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Some 350 members attended First Regional's 37th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at the Jewel Runaway Bay Hotel on Saturday June 13, 2015.

Reviewing First Regional's performance for the year 2014, President Donald Mason said there was a 16% growth in Total Assets which stood at \$3.83 Billion at the end of 2014. He said the Credit Union made a surplus of \$119 Million and Total Comprehensive Income of \$127 million. The President said the Loan portfolio showed a 23% growth of \$419 Million.



Board Chairman, Donald Mason addressing First Regional's AGM on June 13, 2015



Treasurer Leroy Williams, in his presentation, pointed out that at the end of 2014 First Regional's capital adequacy ratio stood at 16.55% - significantly higher than the 8% required by the League and the 6% mandated by the Bank of Jamaica.

Members actively participated, asking questions, seeking clarification and updates on a variety of matters; and commending members of staff at various branches for their professionalism.



Treasurer, Leroy Williams making his presentation

PRESENTATION

First Regional Co-operative Credit Union has presented three blood pressure machines to the St. Ann's Bay Hospital. The presentation was made at the Credit Union's June 13th AGM, and is consistent with First Regional's commitment to positively impact the island's health sector. Board member, Karen Grant presented the blood pressure machines which were accepted on behalf of the St. Ann's Bay Hospital by its CEO Leo Garel.



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Long Service Awards

Five members of Staff were recognised for having given ten years of faithful service each to First Regional. The five were presented with plaques at the 37th AGM held at the Jewel Runaway Bay on Saturday June 13, 2015.

They are: Nicollette Wright-Campbell and Cindy James of the Ocho Rios Branch; Nicole Willary of the St. Ann's Bay Branch; Marsha Simpson from the Port Maria Branch and Sheka Strachan who serves at our Guy's Hill Branch.

The employees were presented with plaques by Board Chairman, Donald Mason. We share with you their proud moment and congratulate all five.



Sheka Strachan of the Guy's Hill Branch accepts her 10 year plaque from Board Chairman, Donald Mason



Cindy James of the Ocho Rios Branch accepts her 10 year plaque from Board Chairman, Donald Mason



Port Maria Branch's Marsha Simpson accepts her 10 year plaque from Board Chairman, Donald Mason



Nicole Willary (St. Ann's Bay Branch) accepts her 10 year plaque from Board Chairman, Donald Mason



Nicollette Wright-Campbell (Ocho Rios) accepts her 10 year plaque from Board Chairman, Donald Mason

STAFF INTRODUCTION



CEO, Ms. Patricia Smith presented the entire First Regional staff complement at the 37th AGM. As she introduced the staff members, she thanked them for their loyal service and dedication which have helped to set First Regional apart.

Give-aways!

The give-away section of the AGM usually generates a different kind of interest as members compete to win prizes by answering questions regarding First Regional's products and services. We present pictures of members who, by their quick responses, showed their knowledge of the products and services that continue to make a difference in their lives.



Marketing Manager Kerry-Ann Gordon presents a gift certificate to Mr. Conroy Howell for having correctly answered a question



Marketing Manager Kerry-Ann Gordon (right) presents a gift certificate to Estrine Chin for having correctly answered a question

Marketing Manager Kerry-Ann Gordon (left) presents a gift certificate to Donna Byfield for having correctly answered a question



Financial Literacy Programme

First Regional Co-operative Credit Union was among a number of Credit Unions islandwide which participated in a financial literacy programme designed to sensitise high school children about the critical role that income

participated during the month of May. Miss Gordon said the students benefitted from having a practical application of money management and the ability to relate this to real life situations.

Under the programme, the students learnt that healthy personal finances come as a result of planning and good money management. Other objectives of the Financial Literacy Programme included having students:

- Evaluate the effect their educational choices have on lifetime earnings,
- Analyse major life goals, such as careers and future studies, and the financial implications of these.
- Understand the importance of planning in making financial decisions.

At the end of the lecture series, students were



First Regional's CEO, Ms. Patricia Smith presenting Zavoy Hayles with his certificate of participation in the Financial Literacy Programme

plays in their personal finances. The financial literacy programme falls under the Ministry of Education's Junior Achievement Programme designed to expose students to the basic steps of budgeting and money management, including saving. The Jamaica Co-operative Credit Union League (JCCUL) is partnering with the Junior Achievement Programme



First Regional's Marketing Manager, Kerry-Ann Gordon (centre) pose with some of the students who participated in the Financial Literacy Programme and who won gift certificates

in this regard, with the objective of having students consider Credit Unions their first saving and money-management option.

Some 1120 high school students participated island wide. First Regional's lectures were conducted by Marketing Manager, Kerry-Ann Gordon at the York Castle High School in Brown's Town, St. Ann, where 32 students

required to write essays detailing what they learnt from the programme. The winner received a First Regional gift certificate and a tablet courtesy of JCCUL; while the runners-up were awarded gift certificates from First Regional.

Of the credit unions which participated in the Financial Literacy Programme programme, First Regional placed third.

A LABOUR OF LOVE.....

First Regional has donated funds to the Runaway Bay All Age School to build a roof for a classroom. Our Credit Union has also underwritten the cost of outfitting that classroom with 30 chairs and desks. This will enable the school to dispense with the shift system.

It was therefore not surprising that Labour Day, Monday May 25 2015 found a focussed First Regional team making a difference at the School by volunteering their labour. From as early as 9:00am, members of the team planted and painted and dusted; chopped and swept—all in an effort to beautify the classroom and space which we have proudly branded. We share the pictures of the day's

activities....**TRULY A LABOUR OF LOVE!**



AGM Candid Camera!

Candid Camera!

Candid Camera!

Candid Camera!



Candid Camera!

Candid Camera!

Candid Camera!



Candid Camera!

Candid Camera!

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AGM Candid Camera!

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AGM Candid Camera!



The *First Regional* family welcomes the following members of staff:

Jermaine Thompson - IT Manager

Travis Donaldson - MSR - St. Ann's Bay Branch

Samantha McDonald - MSR Ocho Rios Branch