



First Regional

BUZZZZZ

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HIGHGATE BRANCH OPENING



(R-L) Governor General Sir Patrick Allen and Lady Allen; First Regional CEO Patricia Smith and President, Donald Mason prepare to cut the ribbon signalling the official opening of the Highgate Branch

First Regional's newly-refurbished branch in Highgate, St. Mary was formally opened on Tuesday May 13, with Governor-General Sir Patrick Allen officially declaring the building open.

In his address, the Governor General applauded First Regional's community outreach initiatives, and commended the Credit Union for its decision to enhance its facilities in St. Mary, pointing out that credit unions continue to be important contributors to Jamaica's financial stability. "Credit unions are as necessary today as when they were first created, being the answer for thousands with minimal disposable income", the Governor General emphasised.

First Regional's CEO, Ms. Patricia Smith said the Highgate Branch opening reflected the Credit Union's continued commitment to the people of St. Mary.

President of First Regional, Donald Mason said the refurbished branch demonstrated First Regional recognition of the importance of meeting the needs of its members in a customer-friendly environment.

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HIGHGATE BRANCH OPENING

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He expressed delight that the refurbished branch would improve service delivery to the Credit Union's valued members in St. Mary because of the more spacious accommodation.

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

At the Highgate ceremony, First Regional presented a suction machine to the Port Maria Hospital, a photocopier to the Islington High School and contributed \$115,000 to the Marymount High School towards purchasing its own copier.



President Donald Mason and Ms. Patricia Smith (right) present a symbolic cheque to Mrs. Lorna Bailey, Principal of Marymount High School



(R-L) CEO Ms. Patricia Smith and Her Excellency Lady Allen present a suction machine to Althea Gardner, CEO of the Port Maria Hospital

"This is our way of giving back to the parish of St. Mary, as we say thanks for your support," Ms. Smith said, regarding the donations.

The Highgate opening was attended by the Mayor of Port Maria, Levan Freeman; Colonel Errol Johnson who represented the Custos of St. Mary; Custos Roturorum of St. Ann, the Hon. Norma Walters and her husband, the Hon. Radcliffe Walters; and members of the credit union as well as First Regional Board of Directors and staff.



Her Excellency Lady Allen (centre) assists with the presentation of a photocopier to Patrick Tyrell, Vice Principal of Islington High School. First Regional CEO Ms. Patricia Smith is at right



HIGHGATE BRANCH OPENING

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Highgate's Team Leader, Shana Kay Palmer (L) presents flowers to Her Excellency, Lady Allen



Custos Rotulorum of St. Ann, the Hon. Norma Walters; her husband, Hon. Radcliffe Walters (left) and Colonel Errol Johnson form part of the audience enjoying the performance by the Marymount Dance Troupe at the Highgate Branch opening



The Marymount Dance Troupe performing at the official opening of the Highgate Branch



AGM 2014

More than 400 members attended First Regional's 36th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at the Jewel Runaway Bay Hotel on Saturday June 7, 2014. Reviewing the Credit Union's performance for the year 2013, President Donald Mason noted that Total Assets had grown by 13% to \$3.356Billion - passing the \$3billion dollar mark for the first time. He said the loan portfolio had grown exceptionally "by an impressive \$519Million (29%) from \$1.793Billion at the end of 2012 to \$2.313Billion at the end of 2013." Of this amount, \$81Million resulted from loans added through mergers, he noted.



President, Donald Mason addressing the 36th AGM

VOLUNTARY SHARES

Turning to Voluntary Shares, the First Regional President said these had increased by \$333Million, from \$1.186Billion in 2009 to \$1.519Billion in 2013. Over the same period, Deposits increased by \$313Million from \$55Million in 2009, to \$872Million in 2012, he told the AGM.



A member asks a question during the AGM



Treasurer Leroy Williams making his presentation

Mr. Mason said First Regional's Capital Base, which stood at 15.79% at the end of 2013, remains strong and is significantly higher than the 8% required by the Jamaica Co-operative Credit Union League and the 6% mandated by the Bank of Jamaica.

Treasurer Leroy Williams, in his presentation pointed out that First Regional's 2013 performance and capital adequacy indicated that the Credit Union is well capitalized to take advantage of opportunities for future growth.



Members participating during the AGM



STAFF INTRODUCTION



CEO Ms. Patricia Smith introduced members of staff and thanked each for his/her contribution towards ensuring a successful 2013 for First Regional.



LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Three members of Staff were recognised for years of service, at First Regional's 36th AGM held at the Jewel Runaway Bay on Saturday June 7, 2014. The three are Paulette Johnson, Member Service Representative of the Round Hill Branch who was honoured for 13 years service; Philippa Green, Member Service Representative of the Brown's Town Branch and Michelle Ten Fah, Team Leader of the Round Hill Branch - both of whom were recognised for 10 years service.

We share with you their proud moment and congratulate all three.

The three employees were presented with plaques by Board Chairman, Donald Mason.



Paulette Johnson of the Round Hill Branch receives her 13-year plaque from Board Chairman, Donald Mason



Philippa Green of the St. Ann's Bay Branch receives her 10-year plaque from Board Chairman, Donald Mason



Michelle Ten Fah, Team Leader of the Round Hill Branch receives her 10-year plaque from Board Chairman, Donald Mason

NEWS FLASH!!



DON'T MISS
St. Ann's Bay's
OWN OLYMPIANS



RETIRING DIRECTORS HONOURED...



CEO Ms. Patricia Smith presents Mr. Earle Irvin with his Citation



Mr. Karl Fuller displays his Citation having just received it from CEO Ms. Patricia Smith

Two Directors, Messrs Karl Fuller and Earle Irvin who retired from the First Regional Board were also honoured at the AGM, and received Citations hailing their service.

Both citations, read and presented by CEO Ms. Patricia Smith, thanked the retiring Directors for their service to First Regional over the years.

....FORMER CUSTOS HONOURED

And, former Custos Rotulorum of the Parish of St. Ann, the Hon. Radcliffe Walters, was honoured by First Regional for “having demonstrated how to serve in both the public and private spheres with undiluted focus, commitment and enthusiasm.”

A Citation read to him by CEO Patricia Smith at the AGM applauded the former Custos’ faithful attendance at AGMs and his “thoughtful participation at each, even during his 14-year tenure as Custos Rotulorum of St. Ann.



Mr. Donald Mason, (left) presenting a Citation to the Hon. Radcliffe Walters

For the past 55 years, the Hon. Radcliffe Walters has been a member of the various Credit Unions which have evolved and merged to become First Regional Co-operative Credit Union.

The Citation was presented to the former Custos by Mr. Donald Mason, President of First Regional.

St. Ann's Bay

Trail-blazers

By Franklin Moodie

1 2 3!

The St Ann's Bay Branch was in a celebratory mood on Monday June 9, having won all three prizes in the Permanent Shares "Trail Blazer" competition.

It is like: "1,2,3 believe me - it so easy" went the anthem during their Olympic style presentation ceremony.

The early hours of the competition saw Krishawn from Ocho Rios in the lead. But by afternoon, Trail Blazer **Princess Lawrence** of St. Ann's Bay Branch took the lead and maintained it throughout the competition. She averaged over \$20,000 per day.

Trail Blazer **Dorecha Brown**, was in for the second; and the only male in the competition, Trail Blazer **Wade Harvey** was determined, and took the third spot. This competition was a major upset to Ocho Rios.

Sources close to the Ocho Rios camp reported that they were in shock at the final results.

Congratulations to all who participated in collecting over \$3MILLION in new monies for Permanent Shares.



NEWS FLASH!!

SHOCK & AWE!!

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