

## DRAW TAKES PLACE AT NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING IN CHOISEUL

## **OTHER NOTICES**

- Teachers who may still have outstanding booklets for the car raffle please return them to the union office <u>immediately</u> or contact the SLTU office at 452 4469.
- Please be informed that the Caribbean Union of Teachers Biennial Conference will be held in Barbados in August this year. More information about the conference will be disseminated. However, teachers are asked to begin preparing themselves so that they can be part of the delegation who will be attending the conference.
- Members are asked to turn out in large numbers for this year's NGM. Liaise with your branch reps for transport arrangements.
- Look out for the next issue of Dialogue. This issue will be dedicated to SLTU's Status of Women Committee. If any teacher or school has articles which they wish to be published please send an email to howelldco@gmail.com or contact the union office.



## Union Vibes is a special publication by the St. Lucia Teachers' Union. The focus of this publication is to keep teachers abreast with current SLTU activities/ events.



International Women's Day is observed on March 8<sup>th</sup> every Year. On that day we take time out to recognize and celebrate the many successes of women all over the world, whilst reflecting on the many challenges which women still face in this modern era. The St. Lucia Teachers' Union is grateful and thankful to the many women in the teaching profession who are devoted to the task of educating our populace and future citizens. Cognizant of the fact that approximately 85% of the teachers on island are women, SLTU salutes them for their dedicated service.

SLTU Women on the move

It is in this vein that the St. Lucia Teachers' Union hosted this years Women's Conference on Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at the Grand Riviere Secondary School Auditorium, under the distinguished patronage of her Excellency, Dame Pearlette Loiusy. The global theme for this years observance is " *Equal access to education, training and Science and technology: Pathway to decent work for women.*" Dr. Marylin Morris who delivered the feature address did great justice to this theme as she blended in her own experiences as mother and professional to the topic at hand to deliver an awe inspiring and highly informative speech.

The highlight of this conference however was the election of the "*Status of Women's Committee*" during a closed session which followed the day's proceedings. The seven women elected by the membership present are charged with the task of addressing gender issues affecting teachers and empowering its members for greater efficiency within the union. The members elected were: Mrs. Verlina Joseph, Mrs. Flora Joseph. Mrs. Martina Beliziare, Ms. Vern Charles, Ms. Kerian Antoine and Ms. Joyce Ford.

In the next issue of Dialogue magazine, you will meet the Status of Women's Committee members and will gain a better understanding of their work.



The picture in the emblem is two- fold.

- The two black faces which face each other signify the fraternity and equality which exist among all teachers. Each head holds the brain which determines the teacher's intellectual, spiritual and social capability.

- In another light the two faces form a golden chalice which contains liberation which is the essence of all our aspirations. The joined hands represent unity and the work force which depend on the mental or intellectual ability of all teachers.

## SLTU Aids Members Affected by Hurricane Tomas

On October 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 Hurricane Tomas hit St. Lucia causing tremendous destruction to the island. Fallen trees, swollen rivers, mud slides, flooding, downed power lines, structural damage and numerous deaths where all attributed to the passage of Hurricane Tomas. The water catchment areas including the John Compton Dam were also affected hence, pipe borne water became a challenge for St. Lucia. Schools had to be closed as many schools on the island suffered some structural damage. From the preliminary assessments the Town of Soufriere and the Communities of Bexon and Dennery seemed to have been the areas that were more severely hit.

An island wide restoration campaign was launched and many groups and organizations spearheaded this initiative. The St. Lucia Teachers' Union was one such organization. Since it was established that the Soufriere region and the Bexon and Dennery communities were most affected, the St. Lucia Teachers' Union embarked on an initiative to provide some relief aid to its members from those areas.

The St. Lucia Teachers' Union first reached out to its members in Soufriere. A contingent comprising of some Executive Officers, Branch Representatives from the North of the island and other members of the Teachers' Union visited Soufriere via boat bringing to its members some desperately needed supplies such as water, can food items and toiletries. The delegation also took the opportunity to visit some of the worse affected areas in Soufriere and empathized with its members. A few days later the group also visited the Bexon and Dennery communities to also reach out to its members there.

The St. Lucia Teachers' Union will also be receiving assistance for its members from its sister organizations around the Caribbean through the Caribbean Union of Teachers. Education International through its Regional Coordinator Mrs. Virginia Albert Poyotte has also pledged support for teachers affected by Hurricane Tomas. The St. Lucia Teachers' Union hopes to provide every member who was affected in any way by Hurricane Tomas with some level of assistance.





