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# WESTWOOD OLD GIRLS ASSOCIATION



**ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Westwood has had several uniform designs over the years. This current design was introduced in the 1950s. Navy blue tunic with sweetheart neckline on the bodice and gores on the skirt is worn over white shirt blouses with short sleeves.

The uniform is accessorized with hats made of jippi jappa straw, accented with yellow and blue hat bands. It was the custom for students of all-girls and female students at co-ed schools to wear either hats or berets, however, Westwood is the only school that has retained this tradition. In recent years the acronym High Achievers Throughout Seasons (HATS) was introduced as a tagline to engender school spirit.

The school pin is worn on the left shoulder band of the tunic. It is mainly yellow and blue, with gilded lettering and outline, it is a composite of a pineapple above a chevron which is above 4 dots, underscored with the school's motto 'Ora et Labore'.

Digital artwork compliments of alumna Deon Green, class of 2012, and Prime Minister's Youth Awardee 2020 in the category of Arts and Culture-

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting 2023 of the  
Westwood Old Girls Association will be held on  
Saturday, March 25, at 4.30pm, via Zoom

To amend constitution

To receive the President's Report

To receive the Financial Report

To elect Officers to the following Executive Positions:

- 1) President
- 2) Vice President
- 3) Secretary
- 4) Assistant Secretary
- 5) Treasurer
- 6) Assistant Treasurer
- 7) Public Relations Officer
- 8) Social Media Manager
- 9) Western Cluster Liaison Officer

Annual membership fees will be due. The fee is \$1,500 for general membership and \$1,000 for members 60 years and over. (Fees are subject for amendment at the AGM). This can be lodged at any BNS Branch to the Westwood Old Girls Association Current Account # 255718 Liguanea Branch. and the proof of payment forwarded to [westwoodite@gmail.com](mailto:westwoodite@gmail.com) or WhatsApp # 876-538-1872.

Fees may also be paid via our website using the Donate option <https://www.westwooditeja.com>

Notice is hereby given.

February 8, 2023

## **AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Welcome and Introductions
4. Apologies
5. Courtesies (Birthdays, Congratulations, Condolences, Obituaries and moment of silence)
6. Special Guest – Rev. Athlone Harrison – Board Chairman
7. Amendment of Constitution
8. Minutes of AGM held March 26, 2022
  - i) Reading
  - ii) Corrections
  - iii) Confirmation
  - iv) Matters Arising
9. Reports for 2022-2023
10. AOB
11. Election of Executive Officers
12. Acceptance by New Executive
13. Vote of Thanks
14. Meeting Closure

# MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

Held on Saturday, March 26, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.

Venue: Zoom

Executive Committee	
President - Doreen Dietrich	Vice President - Phelisa Ricketts-Graham
Secretary - Kimberly Ellis (Cooped)	
Treasurer - Kimoy Morgan	Asst. Treasurer - Shanique Small
Public Relations Officer - Alicia Nelson	

<b>Members Present:</b>		
Alicia Nelson	Claudine Watkis	Kimoy Morgan
Andrea Scarlett	Dawn McNaughton	Linda Miller
Andria Dilbert	Dorothy Palmer	Margery Campbell
Antoinette Anderson	Fiona Hyman	Nicole Smith
Camille Mighty-Atkinson	Halcon Virgo-Furrs	Patricia Tavares
Carol Coy	Hazel Campbell	Phelisa Ricketts-Graham
Carolyn Sinclair	Janet Shirley	Philicia Grant
Carolyn Stewart-Davis	Jean Williams-Johnson	Paulette Williams
Cesna McCain	Joan Buchanan	Raidawn Blake
Claire HoSang	Karen Francis (Principal)	Shaun Wilson-deSouza
Claudia Tavares	Kimberly Ellis	Strycen Dussaro-Fletcher

## 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. President Doreen welcomed all present and mentioned the ongoing pandemic as Jean had mentioned earlier. Thanks to the amendment of the Jamaica Companies Act to accommodate virtual/hybrid annual general meetings we are meeting virtually and are able to vote virtually. We were unable to do this the previous year and therefore had to gather in limited numbers in two physical locations to meet the quorum, due to the DMR President Doreen appealed to everyone to participate and register in the chat as this is the official registration. Please type in your name, year group and email address.

## 2. Prayer

Claire HoSang (1973) prayed at the start of the meeting.

### **3. Welcome and Introductions:**

President Doreen explained that because the Companies Act of Jamaica was amended November 2, 2021, under Section 133B-F, a resolution needed to be made for the virtual meeting. Participants were asked to indicate their approval by a show of hands. The resolution passed.

### **4. Apologies**

Cesna McCain had another appointment and would be late.

Winsome Vanhorn, Shirley Palmer and Corine Kidoo, will be absent.

### **5. Courtesies (Birthdays, Congratulations, Condolences/Obituaries)**

Claire HoSang and Beverly Vassel - March 22, Dawn McNaughton, February 26 and Halicon Virgo, February 8.

Opal Brown (1977) - sister-in-law of Andrea Brown (1973) and Audrey Brown (1974). Condolences were offered and a moment of silence was observed. President Doreen encouraged us to offer strength and comfort to each other as we face difficult times.

### **6. Minutes of AGM held March 20, 202**

Last year's meeting saw low attendance due to the DRMA

a) Reading -

b) Corrections -

Fiona pointed out that under the election of officers, Kimoy Nelson should be Kimoy Morgan.

c) Confirmation -

d) Matters Arising -

### **7. Reports for 2021-2022**

President Doreen highlighted areas of her report as follows:

The Executives met monthly, general meetings were held with over 50 averages in attendance. In the June meeting, Diane Boreland and Charmaine Jarrett-Barrett (class of 1983) were in attendance and shared the school song which they composed.

In October, Professor Wendell Abel, Consulting Psychiatrist, Head of the Department of Community Health, and Psychiatry, presented on the topic of "Identifying and Overcoming Mental Health Challenges."

Honorable Douglas Orane held a rap session with us on “The Benefits of Building a Stronger Alumnae Association and School Trust.” He shared a document with us on “How to Conduct a Fundraising Campaign.” This document should be online, if not it will be posted.

The annual church service was held at the Providence Methodist Church in Liguanea. President Doreen Dietrich gave the greeting, Claudine Watkis read the lesson and Rev. Allison Iton presided. Rev. Iton is the daughter of alumna Sybil Iton who passed away last year. The service was live streamed on Youtube and was well attended. A donation of \$15,000 was made to the church and a Zoom reception was held afterwards.

We were able to form 7 working committees, some were linked together - Hospitality/Membership/Communications, in an effort to stay in touch, particularly with our older members. All platforms were utilized.

We are totally online with all our financial transactions now, thanks to Fiona who donated Quickbooks online. Our audit is completed thanks to Hugh Foster and Associates, who gave their services free of cost.

Our fundraiser for the intercom system at Westwood was successful. The system has been installed and is in use. Our next project, the Enid Beale Building, is our target for the 140th Anniversary Celebrations.

***Mentorship Program:***

The Mentorship Programme was launched via Zoom on February 8.

***School Development and Resources:***

We are still awaiting the report on the infrastructure at Westwood.

140th Anniversary Celebrations:

On January 30, 2022, the kickoff service was held in the William Webb auditorium and with WOGA’s sponsorship it was live streamed. Several alumnae were in attendance.

***Class of 2012:***

A session was held with Grades 10-13 and many donations were made to students.

President Doreen congratulated several individuals who had attained achievements and encouraged attendees to share information since this is how it is shared with everyone. She said it was a successful year with an increase in membership and participation as well.

The Current Directors and the Executive Committee were thanked for their service, particularly the financial arm, in getting WOGA to non-profit status. Secretary Jennifer Scott-Lai and Asst.



Secretary Allison resigned in the latter part of 2021 due to personal reasons. Kimberly Ellis was cooped and has provided lovely support.

We were reminded that the 140th Anniversary Gala is for all family members so we should be inviting everyone to attend.

A motion for the acceptance of the report was passed by Claudia Tavares and seconded by Linda Miller.

***Treasurer's Report:***

Kimoy reported that she was referencing an unaudited report therefore it was subject to change. The draft date for this report is March 24.

Statement of Financial position - investment went up significantly due to a donation from Pamela Burke of \$5.5 million to WOGA.

<i>Investments</i>	\$6,225,381
<i>Receivables</i>	107,956
<i>Cash and cash equivalent</i>	2,981,724

Receivables from SpurrOpen (our online platform for the receipt of funds) are not received in real time. The cutoff date was December 31, 2021, so monies were owed.

Payables and Accruals	26,677
Dorothy Parsons' Fund	729,551
Westwood Rebuilding Fund	2,366,730

**Statement of Comprehensive Income**

Donations/Contributions	5,675,353
(increase in dues and contribution from Pamela Burke)	
Dues	71,200
Fundraising Income	873,813
Interest income	11,805
Unrealized gain on investment	52,919

**Direct and Administrative expenses**

Administrative expenses	1,230,539
Changes in equity	6,192,103

Kimoy suggested that WOGA implements a cutoff date for dues to be paid. This is very helpful for accounting purposes and planning purposes.

WOGA is exempt from taxes because of its charitable organization status.

Janet Shirley inquired about the \$137,000 from WOGA west that was raised for the electronic library that still needs to be reclassified. Janet also wanted directions as to what to do with the cash on hand that she is holding from WOGA west. President Doreen asked Phelisa Ricketts to connect with members of WOGA west to resolve this issue by the following Monday.

***Principal's Report:***

Principal Karen Francis gave a very comprehensive report.

She shared that 2022's motto was "Ready, Set, Pivot" and they are learning to pivot. PIVOT - preparation, initiative, vision, open-mindedness, and trust.

Westwood celebrated its first virtual school leaving ceremony.

Westwood featured well on the Merit List and the CAPE list and Miss Francis offered high praises for the students.

With regard to the 140th Anniversary Celebrations, a jingle competition was held, a virtual tour of the school was very well received, the appreciation service and many other activities were highlighted.

There are many other activities to be rolled out and there was a sense of excitement and anticipation. Miss Francis shared that the Westwood family had experienced many losses and mentioned the two Grade 9 students who passed away due to cancer. A grief session was held.

December 2021 by the Guidance Counselling Department.

There were also many achievements and accomplishments by students and staff alike and Westwood continues to shine and take ground.

Great appreciation was expressed to all those who made donations that impacted several areas of Westwood's operation and life. President Doreen and President Jennifer of the NY Chapter received special mention. Miss Francis wished the prospective Executive team well for the upcoming year.

Janet Shirley thanked Miss Francis for her comprehensive report and for all the work that she is doing as principal.

## **8. AOB**

There was no other business.

## **9. Appointment of New Directors**

President Doreen thanked the outgoing directors: Dawn McNaughton, Rickay Brown, Winsome Vanhorn, Dawn Stoney-Grant, and Lorna Dixon for their dedicated and loyal service. It has been more than 5 years since there has been a change of Directors. Section 178 of the Companies Act requires the passing of a resolution in order to put new Directors in place. Doreen asked for a show of hands for confirmation of appointment for the new Directors. The resolution was passed. The new directors are Janet Coore-Farr (1969), Hope Codlin (1959) and Claudine Watkis (2009).

## **10. Election and Acceptance of New Executive**

Dr. Jean Williams-Johnson served as Director of Elections and was assisted by Phelisa Ricketts. Jean explained the process and guided the attendants through the process.

Doreen King-Dietrich - the only nominee for President was confirmed by attendees' show of hands. Phelisa Ricketts - the only nominee for VP was confirmed by attendees' show of hands.

Kimberly Ellis - the only nominee for Secretary declined the nomination.

Kayla Beckford - the only nominee for Asst. Secretary was confirmed by attendees' show of hands.

Kimoy Morgan, Fiona Hyman and Shanique Small were the nominees for the Treasurer position.

Fiona declined the nomination, Kimoy accepted and was confirmed.

Shanique Small was the only nominee for Assistant Treasurer and was confirmed.

Terri Ann Rhule was the only nominee for PRO and was confirmed.

## **11. Vote of Thanks**

President Doreen thanked everyone for their vote of confidence and encouraged attendees to be thinking about the next election because this is her third year as President. She thanked Jean for her assistance and thanked the various committees. She expressed anticipation of new members and continued support.

## **12. Meeting Closure**

Motion for the closure of the meeting was confirmed by Claudia Tavares and seconded by Linda Miller

Beulah McCain led us in the school song.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022-2023**

The Administrative year March 2022 to February 2023 started on a high note as we celebrated the 140th Anniversary of the founding of our Alma Mater. Several activities were held both by the school and WOGA to commemorate this special occasion. Many of the COVID restrictions were lifted towards the end of 2022 allowing us to host our Grand Reunion and Awards Gala in October.

Unfortunately, the year ended with news of a fire in the Knight Dormitory on February 9, 2023, which caused damage to infrastructure and the loss of personal belongings of 8, Grade 11 girls. Members of the Association including WOGA New York immediately spun into action, donating cash and kind. This enabled the girls to replace most if not all the items lost, including textbooks, stationery, uniforms, white dresses, shoes, bedding, toiletries, computers, tablets, casual wear, school bags, luggage among others, so they could return to school and continue their preparations for CSEC Examinations. Four voltage stabilizers were also ordered to serve as charging ports for students' learning devices.

### **ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW**

#### ***Quarterly and Executive meetings***

All meetings have been held using the Zoom platform. The Executive held monthly meetings and General Quarterly meetings were held in June 2022 and September 2022 and in January 2023. The attendance at General Meetings was very good, as on average over 50 members attended from all over the world. At our January meeting our Special Guest, Mrs. Carla Charlton, Beauty Therapist, gave us some useful tips on self-care.

#### ***WHS 140th Anniversary***

We celebrated the milestones of two centenarians, Janice Robinson in May 2022 and Dorothy Sconce Robertson in August 2022 with visits and presentation of gift baskets. Visits were also made to Elise Robinson (98 yrs.) Etta Whiteman (95 yrs.) and Ruby Whiteman (93 yrs.) who celebrated birthdays.

The Grand Reunion and Awards Gala held at the Hilton Rose Hall Hotel and Spa in Montego Bay, St. James, October 20-23, 2022, was the highlight of the 140th Anniversary celebrations. The event chaired by Beverley Vassell was a dream come true as many anxious moments were experienced during the 2 year long planning exercise due to the pandemic. Approximately 200 Alumnae and their families attended the events planned over the four days. Events included a welcome reception, old hits party, visit to Westwood, an Awards Gala and ended with a church service at the historic Mt. Zion United Church in Rose Hall. The students from Westwood joined us at the church service.

Eighteen Alumnae received awards, seven in the Wall of Honour category for pioneering work done nationally and internationally, eight in the Outstanding Contribution to WOGA/WHS Category and three Special Awards. One posthumous award was given to Kathleen Loffler.

***Awardees for Wall of Honour for pioneering work and outstanding contribution locally and internationally***

Mrs. Carol (Pitter) Bourke OD: 1978-1982, (Tourism and Hospitality), Mrs. Janett Coore-Farr JP: 1966-1969 (Nursing), Ms. Carol Coy: 1969-1974 (Public Service), Mrs. Shernette (Dawes) Crichton: 1981-1986, (Tourism and Hospitality), Dr Hillary Johnson-Morgan: 1983-1988 (Medicine), Dr Karen Polson-Edwards: 1983-1988 (Public Health), Mrs. Jacquel (Edwards) Tucker: 1984-1989 (Community Development)

***Awardees for Outstanding contributions to Westwood High School/WOGA***

Mrs. Jennifer A. (Spence) Brown- 1975, Mrs. Andrea (Fletcher) Crossfield JP-1974, Mrs. Heather Ferguson-Fearon -1982, Ms. Yolanda Johnson - 1984, Mrs. Kathleen Loffler – 1940 Posthumous, Mrs. Grace Muir-Hector – 1972, Mrs. Jean Nelson Bramwell-1960, Mrs. Pamella Stewart-Burke – 1956

***Special Awards***

Karen Francis – 1987-present- (30 years’ service to WHS): Dionne Boreland-Fearon -1983 and Charmaine Jarrett-Barrett -1983 (Composers of the School Song).

President Doreen expressed her gratitude to the attendees, especially the older ladies from other countries, who came, despite their challenges. There was a good representation of Alumnae from the 1950’s to the 2020’s.

A Gleaner supplement was published on Sunday November 27, 2022. Several alumnae advertised their businesses and submitted congratulatory messages.

***Working Committees***

Mentorship and Student Development:

The program started late as Policies about safeguarding must be put in place to comply with the requirements of the Board and the Ministry of Education and meet the school's criteria. The safety of students is a priority, and the team is obligated to ensure that everyone who will be participating is thoroughly screened. The program is being revamped and a new proposal is being written to ensure full compliance. There is a need for an assigned teacher at Westwood to be part of the team. Students' safety is a priority and the committee wants to ensure that the best possible results for the program are achieved. Consideration is also being given to past students who might find themselves in challenging situations and need a mentor.

The class of 1988 provided sanitary napkins for the "period poverty" project on a very large scale as well as assisted students with school fees and other essentials needed. There are also plans in place for a proper scholarship fund for students at Westwood and students transitioning into tertiary education. Bursaries and book grants are other ideas and participation can be the form of year groups, in memory of a person, as a families or individuals.

### ***Fund raising***

The refurbishing of the Enid Beale Home Economics Building was chosen as the 140th Anniversary Project.

Plans are still in train to start work in the Summer of 2023. The projected cost for refurbishing and equipping the centre was \$25 million dollars and since then building costs and labour costs have been increased. Approximately \$7 million dollars have been collected to date and there have been promises from several corporate entities as well as individuals for financial support. The Guardian Group contributed a washing machine and dryer.

Thanks to the year groups and Alumnae who have made significant contribution to the project, and we encourage others to make contributions in cash or kind.

The Governance and Finance Committees worked to ensure compliance was achieved with filing for Government regulations at the Tax Administration of Jamaica and The Companies Office of Jamaica and The Department of Cooperatives and Friendly Societies.

The Hospitality and Public Relations Committees were involved in keeping members informed on activities through the various social media platforms and other media such as emails and telephone calls. They played a major role in the activities and preparations for the Reunion and Awards Gala. There is a need for a comprehensive registry of members of the association to capture vital data which will assist in improving its operations.

### ***Appointments to WHS Board***

January 2023 saw the appointment of new Board of Directors for Westwood as a three-year Board team began to be chaired by the Methodist Church.

The new Chairman is Rev. Athlone Harrison from the St. Ann's Bay Circuit. Alumnae Doreen King Dietrich and Janett Coore-Farr have been appointed to serve.

### ***Obituaries -Alumnae who passed during the year***

Paulette Levers (1973)

Annette Powell-Scott (1959)

Masie Rowe-Martin (1950)

Carmen Dunn-Smalling (1966)

Yolande Monique Beckford (1994)

### ***Condolences were extended to Alumnae who lost close family members:***

Shirley Forbes-Brown's Husband,

Gloria Viera, mother of Marissa Viera Dalrymple-Philibert, Agneta and Bridgett Viera,

Sherleen Osbourne lost her father,

Cesna and Bulah lost an aunt whose daughter is Dr. Karen Earl-Green along with other relatives who attended Westwood and some currently in attendance,

Leslie Wint lost her grandmother who was 106 years,

Beryl Blagrove-Chambers lost her husband,

Fiona Hyman, lost her father,

Karlene Segre lost her mother,

Sharon and Shadesha Thompson lost their mother,

Denise Crawford lost her mother,

Pauline Madourie lost her husband,

Lauren, Claudette, and Marie Walsh lost their father,

Marie Gunning lost her father,

Ingrid Miller, who lost her father,

Janet, Joan and Jackie Bennett who lost their mother,

Fraser lost her father,

Shirley Palmer-Brown lost her sister,

Allison Grey-McFarlane lost her husband,

Andera Scarlett lost her father,

Bulah and Cesna lost their father,  
Paulette, Hope and Stephanie Brown lost their brother,  
Beverly Fray lost her mother,  
Lisa Harrison (formerly Whiteman), lost her husband, and  
Marie Trench lost her mother and brother.

### **Congratulations/Accomplishments**

Phelisa Ricketts-Graham -Governor General's Youth Award – Trelawny,  
Dorothy Sconce-Robertson – Centenarian also featured in the Gleaner,  
Mickel Jackson – Executive Director -Jamaicans for Justice, TVJ Feature,  
Eileen fay Alexander – Long Service Tribute from Campion College,  
Kimberly Todd – Miss St. Ann Festival Queen,  
Anishka Christie – Miss St. James Festival Queen,  
Carol Coy – Director General - STATIN – Gleaner feature,  
Rosette Gordon – Prime Minister's Medal for Counselling,  
Winsome Vanhorne- Christie - National Award-Badge of Honour for Meritorious Service,  
Shernette Crichton - Caribbean Hotelier of the Year,  
Shoii-Anne Smith - Prize for UWI Caribbean Child Research Competition,  
Mikayla Stevenson - National Placement in the CSEC in French,  
Terry Ann Rhule - MBA UTECH,  
Drs. Mishka Chung and Shanique Davidson - Medical Degrees UWI,  
Drs. Aneika Griffiths Brittney Brown -Medical Degrees University of Guyana, and  
Jenniffer Spence Brown – Board of Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations (USA).

### ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS***

Thanks to Alumnae who gave of their time, resources, and emotional support to ensure the activities of the Association were achieved. Our Grand Reunion and Awards Gala reignited flames of past friendships and generated new interest in WOGA. We ask that this momentum that was created will last for a long time to come.

Special commendations to 140th Reunion Committee Chairman Beverley Vassell, Accommodation Coordinator Shirley Palmer-Brown, Awards Selection Coordinator Jean Williams-Johnson, Awards Banquet Coordinators Claudia Tavares and Andrea Buddle and all members of the committee who laboured long and hard to ensure the success of the events. Special thanks to Alumna Carol Bourke, General Manager of Hilton Rose Hall and Spa, who pulled out all stops to ensure the success of our Reunion activities, and that our stay at the resort was enjoyable.



Thanks to Margery Campbell, Fund Raising Committee Chairman and Joan Buchanan Coordinator of the Enid Beale, Refurbishing Project for the great gains made to date. Thanks also to Alumnae and members of the Business Community who have contributed to the effort. It is our desire to start work on the building this Summer.

Commendation also to our Committee Chairs and members, the Executive Committee, and our Directors for the tremendous support during the year.

My hope is that we will continue to build on the legacies of those before us who have served this noble association.

May we be guided by the motto of our Alma Mater.

ORA ET LABORE

**Doreen King Dietrich**  
*President*

# FINANCE REPORT

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

FOR THE PERIOD 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

### Income

Dues	45,632.00	<b>Enid Beale</b>		
Other donations	357,026.00		JMD	USD
		at		
		Westwood	56,450.00	4,450.00
<b>Total Income for the Period</b>	<b>402,658.00</b>	Class 72	150,000.00	3,720.00
		Class 74		1,230.00
		D&G	500,000.00	
		Spurr Open		

### Expenses

Bank charges	33,812.02			
			706,450.00	9,400.00
140th anniversary streaming	125,000.00			
Gifts	66,789.00			
Other	41,000.00			
<b>Total Expenses for the Period</b>	<b>266,601.02</b>			

NET INCOME for the Period 136,056.98

### **FROM BALANCE SHEET AT 31 December 2022**

#### Assets (Bank Account Balances)

BNS Current Account	241,999.27			
BNS Savings Account	2,704,150.90			
BNS USD Saving	1,501,360.15			
Sagicor - Dorothy Parsons Fund	671,461.18			
Sagicor Investments - Shares	5,501,000.00			
	10,619,971.50			

#### Liabilities (Pledged Amounts)

Westwood Dining Room Rebuilding Fund	2,366,730.00			
Dorothy Parsons Fund	729,551.18			
	3,096,281.18			

## **WESTWOOD HIGHLIGHTS**

MARCH 2022 TO MARCH 2023

140 years of existence is no easy feat of accomplishment. Westwood High School for Girls has stood tall throughout the years, though it has undergone numerous changes since its establishment in 1882. The school continues to graduate batches of young ladies who exhibit dignity and decorum. Westwood High School for Girls has grown from six girls to over eight hundred students and has achieved many successes. In this our anniversary year, the Schools' Challenge Quiz Team reached the Semi- Finals. Equally, despite the Covid 19, our students amassed an average of 93% in the CSEC, 2022 examinations and 94% in the CAPE.

Since March 2022 there has been a flurry of activities with many highs and some lows. We continued our anniversary celebrations, accomplishing many achievements and also experiencing many challenges.

We engaged the students in a blended approach since January 2022 where we facilitated a monthly face to face rotation of each cohort for the Easter Term. For the Summer Term all students returned to face-to-face classes. We were faced with a number of challenges. The lines were very long at the dining room and the tuck shop. The classrooms and dining room were crammed. The students were not able to comfortably have their break as there is no shade at the amphi-theatre where the students have their break.

In early May 2022 there was an outbreak of the Covid-19. Students from the Hostel were sent home as many boarders presented Covid 19 symptoms. Many day girls also presented symptoms and had to be sent home. Some over 52 persons including adults and students were diagnosed with the Covid-19 virus. The team of Inspectors and Public Health Nurses assisted us to manage this crisis. The Ministry of Education and Board Chairman were apprised of the situation. The Head of the Trelawny Health Department Dr. Diahann Dale was very supportive, and we extended thanks to her and the team from the Health Department. The parents were very anxious, and some were quite supportive and took steps to comply in picking up the students without hesitation. We still had parents sending the girls to school if they show signs and symptoms. During that time Nurse McKenzie Wray resigned on June 01, 2022. Nurse Celine Kerr was employed June 08, 2022.

The School Leaving Ceremony, which was originally scheduled for June 30, 2022 was pushed back to July 07,2022 due to the delayed start of the external examinations. Dr. Maurice Smith,

University of the West Indies Registrar/Chief Administrative Officer, Author and International Educational Consultant was the guest speaker. He was excellent. Mrs. Elthia Wilson and Miss Geraldine Allen have proceeded on pre-retirement leave.

There was registration for the PEP students. The Ministry allotted 160 students to Westwood. The Orientation for new students and parents went well. The orientation for returning students also went well. For some cohorts we anticipated more parents.

One hundred and eighty (180) grade seven students are enrolled, and thirty-three (33) grade 12 students have been added to the Westwood family. The total school population was 812 students. We have a total of forty-eight (48) teachers with five (5) new members of staff. The theme for the school year 2022-2023 is “Powered up for Success!” We have been challenged in finding a teacher of Visual Arts, Mathematics and English Language. The school received the CSEC/CAPE 2022 results and for the CSEC examination, the overall average is 93% and for the CAPE examinations 94%. The students earned an overall pass rate of 99% in English A and 79% in Mathematics in the CSEC examination. We congratulate teachers, students and parents for their efforts in preparing the students for this examination cycle.

### **Highlights of Activities and Students’/Curricular Achievements during the year March 2022-2023**

#### ***140th Anniversary Celebrations***

The 140Th Anniversary Zoomathon was held in March 28, 2022. We raised over \$200,000.00.

The 140th Anniversary Inter- House Quiz Competition 2022 was held in April and Trestrail House won.

We had about 80 Old Girls visiting Westwood in October 2022 and interacted with the students. It was a pleasure hosting our big sisters. The team raised over \$700,000.00 that day.

Students participated in the 140th Anniversary Church Service at the Mt. Zion United Church. Four Sixth Formers attended the 140th Anniversary WOGA Gala Banquet.

The 140th Anniversary Supplement was published in the Gleaner in November 2023.

#### ***School Challenge Quiz***

Our School Challenge Quiz Team 2022 did very well and in our 140th Anniversary year, superseded last year's team's success, and landed in the Semi-Finals of the 2022 School Challenge Quiz Season. We even played a Master's Match. The members of the School Challenge Quiz team engaged in an early Quiz Rally at Titchfield High School and participated in Quiz Camp in December 2022. SCQ Team 2023- The team won all its matches and reached the quarter finals. We lost the better of two matches to Wolmer's Boys School  
WOGANYC sponsored two students (Rajeena Grant 10 and Tiana Brown 11Q) to the virtual Emerging Global Leaders Seminar.

For the first time we had a Sports Camp where we had students of Netball, Track and Field and Table Tennis preparing the various sports for upcoming competitions.

The students participated in the BEBRAS Challenge Competition. Sheanelle Brown of Grade 9 was the Top student in the competition.

The Guidance Department hosted the Careers Day in March 2022. We continued the partnership with May Day High School. We had Rhoda-Moy Crawford as the Guest presenter.

The Modern Languages Department hosted French Day activities which included an Inter Grade 11 French Quiz, Grade 8 French Display and Grade 9 and 10 Video Presentation. The Department hosted its Overnight camp for Oral Practice for the external Oral examinations.

The students participated in the ISSA Table Tennis Championships and our Senior Team emerged Rural Girls Champions. The team moved on to the All-Island Championship but lost to Wolmer's Girls, placing second (2nd) in the island. The Track Team participated in the ISSA Boys and Girls Championships. The team participated only in field events: javelin, shot put, discus and long jump due to the short time for practice. We placed 11th in the javelin and missed out on earning some points.

The Grade 10 students participated in PISA examinations. This is an international examination in which Jamaica participated to see our ranking in the international education arena.

The Choir participated in the All Together Sing Competition and did very well. The School Challenge Quiz Team has started practice.

Four students attended a Gender Ambassador Forum at the Caymanas Golf Club. Hale Fearon, a Grade 11 student participated in the Forum and received a certificate of participation.

The Tourism Action Club participated in the Tourism Week activities in September 2022. They produced a video for a presentation at the Forum in Montego Bay.

The students did not attend the Passion and Purity Conference 2022. However, the booklet in which Westwood was featured was launched at the Conference. It had highlights of the Pasion and Purity Conference which was held at Westwood in 2019 and articles from our students.

Two Sixth Formers attended the Grace Kennedy Foundation Lecture.

The boarders participated in the 140th Anniversary Church Service at the Mt. Zion United Church. Four Sixth Formers attended the 140th Anniversary WOGA Gala Banquet.

We also hosted our Prize Giving 2022. Students were awarded for the academic years from 2019-2022. Miss Hanniffa Patterson was the guest speaker.

The Sixth Formers participated in the Junior Mayor Competition. Our own, Shoi-Anne Smith is the Deputy Junior Mayor.

Students of Grade 9 completed their semester examinations. There were incidents of cheating. These incidents are being investigated.

We had our Student Council election. The Student Council President is Natassia Downer and Trev-Ann Cameron, Vice President.

The Sixth Form students hosted their PINK DAY activities in celebration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The Choir performed at the Governor General I Believe Initiative Youth Consultative Forum.

Shoi-Anne Smith copped the top prize in the UWI Caribbean Child Research Competition. Congratulations to her! Danique Haughton placed third while the other students placed from 4th to 9th. We congratulate Mrs. Opal Angus, former Guidance Counsellor, who worked with the girls.

The students of Home Economics attended Harvest at the St. Hilda's Diocesan High School in November 2022.

One Guide and a member of the Gender Ambassador Club attended a prayer breakfast hosted by the Girl Guides Association in November 2023 to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls.

The student leaders participated in the Virtual Leadership Summit hosted by the Ministry of Education.

A fundraising activity was held on Friday, November 18, 2022 in the form of a Jeans Day with Xtra Vbyz.

The Annual Gift Service was held on Monday, December 05, 2022. We raised over \$170,000.00. Some of the funds were used to assist the indigent in Stewart Town and for the Welfare Fund. We hosted a Christmas Party for the first time since December 2019.

The cadre of student leaders was named and pinned on December 16, 2022. Our Head Girl is Shoi-Anne Smith and Deputy Head Girls are Tiana Brown and Gabrielle Clarke. A virtual leadership training was held on January 04, 2023.

School Spirit Week was celebrated from January 23-27, 2023.

Report Day was Friday, January 27, 2023.

The students from the ISCF attended the Passion and Purity Girls' Conference at the Merl Grove High School on February 18, 2023.

The ISCF celebrated ISCF Week 2023 with a mini-concert, distribution of Scripture verses and attendance at the Western Conference on Saturday, March 11, 2023 at the Montego Bay High School.

Dr. Olivia Rose, an Alumni, shared her "I am Enough" programme with the girls on International Women's Day 2023.

Grade 11 students hosted their usual Concert.

Members of the Gender Ambassadors Club attended a Forum at the Jamaica Pegasus on International Women's Day 2023.

The students attended the JCDC Parish trainings and Competitions in Speech and Dance. The Track team continues to participate in meets to qualify for the ISSA Girls Championship. Sports Day was held. This was an excellent activity. Trafford House won, and Trestrail House won Cheerleading.

### ***Donations***

We are grateful to all our donors and sponsors who assisted us during the past year. Heartfelt gratitude to all who made life better for us, at Westwood especially with a second fire, One past student, Megan Donaldson donated items for the Clinic.

Another past student, Kay- Jay Johnson donated masks, face shields, blankets and lab coats for use during the pandemic.

One past student donated thermometers, masks, dispensers for the students' use.

One recent graduate donated well needed white dresses to needy students.

One member of the WOGANYC donated funds to assist the School Challenge team as well as a parent.

One member of the WOGANYC donated two dispensers.

One Board member donated Covid-19 rapid antigen self -kits.

The Ministry of Education also donated some Covid-19 rapid antigen self- kits.

The Class of 2012 donated \$57,000.00 to assist with the painting of chairs.

The PTA painted over 120 chairs.

Dr. Janice Robinson donated over Two Million dollars to purchase equipment for the new Science Laboratories.

We also received almost 1000 packs of Always feminine products from the Period Poverty Initiative.

Through the instrumentality of one of our alumni, we received a donation from the Chinese Embassy of Two Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars to start our classrooms.

We received three barrels of feminine products from the Class of 88 through the leadership of Mrs. Halicon Virgo- Furrs.

WOGA donated a washer and dryer for the Enid Beale Home Economics Centre which is the WOGA 140th Anniversary Project.

Mr. Dwight Chai Chang, a parent, has donated the paint to do the paint job at the hostel.

Through the instrumentality of WOGA, we have received donations for the eight students who lost their items in the fire. We are truly grateful to Mr Natalia Whyte- Gardener.



Mrs. Shaun Scarlett, former parent, donated items for the fire victims.

Miss Colomathi, a parent, donated items as well.

Miss Lisa Harvey, a parent donated to the students who lost their items.

Dr Diahann Dale, a former student, donated items for the fire victims through the WOGA initiative.

The Heaven Sent Foundation, led by Alejandra Williams an Old Girl, also donated items to the girls.

A past student donated One Hundred American Dollars.

### ***Discipline***

Critical incidents have been on the rise. There was a case of alleged sexual abuse committed by the coach. There are cases of students selling sweets, bringing cell phones to school, watching movies during class time, inappropriate behaviour (kissing), piercings, bullying and cyber bullying and in recent times there were two fights and an altercation. The two fights involved the same set of girls. The girls were suspended. There were two instances where students had edibles. In both instances the girls had to be taken to the hospital. Two Guidance Counsellors from St. Hilda's Diocesan High School and York Castle High school assisted us on Monday, February 13 with counselling sessions for the students who were affected by the fire as we did not have any Guidance Counsellors at that time. They also saw other students who had issues. Some of the psychological issues that are trending are cuttings and suicidal ideations.

### ***Science Laboratories***

The Science laboratories, though not fully completed, are being used for classes. The outstanding items that were to be completed by February 2023 have still not been completed.

### ***Repairs***

The extra plugs were installed in the Staff Room as well as plumbing work was done. The staff room was fitted with new curtains.

Dormitories and teachers' flats were painted.

The Visitors' Lounge at the Karl Fuller hostel was painted and was fitted with a door.

Plumbing work was done at the Karl Fuller hostel, Chevannes bathroom, Nine Miles, Woodlands, Bathroom and the Princess Alice and Knight dormitories.

Some more internet access points have been installed.

The staircase and the verandah of the Main Building were repaired.

A new stove and fryer were bought for the kitchen.

Parts of the Ivin Logan and Etta Whiteman Blocks were painted. Parts of the exterior is still to be completed.

The work at the Main Building has been completed.

The exterior of the Karl Fuller Hostel is being painted.

The patty warmer was repaired.

Lighting fixtures were installed at the L1 & L2 classrooms.

A new point of sale system was put in Tuck shop 2.

Minor repair was done at the McKenzie dorm.

***Work to be done:***

- The Principal's flat needs repairs to the roof and closet.
- Staff Room 1 needs to be demolished and reconstructed.
- Staff Room 11 leaks
- The cupboards at the Domestic Science Lab 2 need to be overhauled.
- The roof of the Vice Principal's flat needs to be repaired. The second Vice Principal's flat needs to be treated for termites.
- Major repairs need to be done on the Main Building in the area of the Bursar's office.
- Floorboards of the quad classrooms need to be changed.
- The bathroom at the auditorium needs to be overhauled.
- The teachers' flat at Bird Haven needs repair.
- The Housemother's flat and teacher's flat at the hostel need to be repaired.

- Auditorium leaks need to be repaired.
- There is an urgent need for another suction fan as it is awfully hot in the kitchen.

We would like to thank the President, Mrs. Doreen Dietrich and her executive for the continued support that WOGA has given to Westwood.

We wish you all the best for the meeting as we continue to work for the greater good of Westwood.

We would like to thank the President, Mrs. Doreen Dietrich and her executive and President Jenniffer Spence-Brown and her Board from the NYCWOGA for the continued support that WOGA has given to Westwood. We are grateful to you for all have done for your Alma Mater. We wish you all the best for the meeting as you elect your team for another year as we continue to work for the greater good of Westwood.

## SCHOOL SONG

*Composed by-Dionne Boreland and Charmaine Jarrett 1982*

Oh! Westwood sitting there upon a hill top  
As if you were a tribute to the sun  
Oh, Alma Mater you have helped to build up  
The careers of a thousand little ones

Westwood! Westwood!  
You have helped to develop our attitude  
Alma Mater,  
You have our gratitude

The discipline we practiced there at Westwood  
Will stay with us as onward we will strive  
It teaches us to live as sisters all should  
Ora et Labore ! all our lives

Westwood! Westwood!  
You have helped to develop our attitude  
Alma Mater,  
You have our gratitude

Westwood! Westwood!  
You have helped to develop our attitude  
Alma Mater,  
You have our gratitude  
You have our gratitude  
You have our gratitude

**NOTES**

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