



Registered Charity Number 663, Newsletter September 2019

Dear Bermuda Senior Islanders' Centre Member:

You received this notice because you paid your membership dues for 2019.

At the AGM, May 28, 2019 we discussed the Centre's unstable financial position. *We shared a letter from our financial adviser warning that without increased funding, the Centre could not continue its charitable mission.

BSIC needs \$70,000.00 made up of annual grants and donations to remain viable. The Government grant and public contributions have significantly declined over the last decade, and we have cut spending to remain operational.

Your director has stoically endured the brunt of the funding cuts by forfeiting substantial remuneration. The situation is such that he has voluntarily tendered notice to the Board to retire from the Centre, effective September 1, 2019.

Our Bye-Laws state that at winding down our debts and liabilities must be paid. It goes on to state that we are legally obliged to pass assets to a charity with similar objectives. I willingly chose Age Concern to be the recipient of the Centre's possessions.

I thank you for your devotion and mutual support of the Bermuda Senior Islanders' Centre.

Sincerely,

Fredrick R. Hassell, MBE

*** Notice was given at the May AGM, in the AGM Report and the July-August Newsletter that the Centre could close without prior notice.**

PS. I appreciate your regrets and expressed sentiments on this matter, but I'm not readily able to promptly return your compliments.

Dear key volunteers, club leaders and donors:

It is with ambivalent feelings that I write to you of my imminent retirement from the Bermuda Senior Islanders' Centre, effective September 1, 2019.

The Centre can scarily survive and maintain its service to seniors on the funding it receives in grants and public donations.

We have enjoyed forty-four years working with you, the government, businesses, schools, churches, the media and civic groups to get seniors out of the house for healthful activities in social clubs.

The Senior Islanders' Centre came about the same time as Meals-on-Wheels and Age Concern and was active in the formation of these bodies that persistently advocate for seniors.

We appreciate your services faithfully rendered to the programme, as a club leader, attendee, volunteer, or corporate donor. Thanks for using your energy and resources to keep vulnerable seniors vibrant and engaged in the community.

In closing, please accept my heartfelt thanks for your welcome donations and valuable services to the Bermuda Senior Islanders' Centre.

Yours in community service,

Fredrick R. Hassell, MBE, Director

Senior Islanders Club Branding

Senior Islanders' social clubs are intended to be a substitutionary diversion of the working day for retirees.

Fredrick R. Hassell, MBE

PS. I appreciate your sincere regrets and sentiments on this matter, but I'm not readily able to promptly return your compliments.

We can no longer do business in the name of BSIC and the Island Wide Social Committee. (Please return your keys to the Club House and bus put them in the mailbox August 26 and 29 before 5:00 p.m.)

Here is how an article in the Centre on Philanthropy's Good News Feature highlighted the fortieth anniversary of the Bermuda Senior Islanders' Centre.

Our Vision

A 'Centre' in which seniors are safe in an atmosphere created by themselves which invigorates them with renewed exciting purposes and rejuvenating things to do in their leisure years.

Our Mission

A 'Centre' reaching out to seniors enticing them out of the house for socialising at luncheons, crafts, computer classes and island-wide rallies. The 'Centre' is the linchpin to a network of clubs across the island.

Our Past

The 'Centre' is an upshot of the Group and the Admiralty House Community Centre. We made our debut in social gerontology with Age Concern and Meals-on-Wheels in 1975. With community support we've been able to nurture and grow seventeen affiliated senior groups across the island.

We have been innovators of Age Concern, Bermuda Institute of Gerontology, Seniors Week, Cruises, Premier's Tea, Sixty Something & Investors Radio Programmes, Senior Islanders Newsletter and Website, Youth Character Builders' Projects, Tourism Ambassadors, Launching of Future Care & Seniors Charter and Coordinators of the Bermuda, UN Committee of Older Persons in 1999.

Community Partners

We thank the Government, service clubs, local and off shore companies for funding. We are appreciative to the ageing population for accepting and allowing our eclectic style of gerontological (science of ageing) practise to improve their lives.

We salute the Sunshine Group, Young at Hearts, Crown of Glory, Golden Elite, 50 Plus Social Club, Joy Club, Season Seniors, Smiling Glee, BIU, Golden Hour, Public Service Retirees, Hamilton Happy Seniors, Devonshire Circle, Special Peoples, RAA, Mount Zion, Each One Teach One, and the Island Wide Social Committee for their many years of partnering with us to keep seniors active.

The Group sprouted in Admiralty House Park in the 1970s, the Admiralty House Community Centre continued the touting in the 1980s and was superseded by the Bermuda Senior Islanders' Centre. May divine providence continue sprouting community service programmes in the naval Park.

(Fredrick R. Hassell, MBE)

Harlem 1951, Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up

like a raisin in the sun?

Or fester like a sore—

And then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat?

Or crust and sugar over—

like a syrup sweet?

Maybe it just sags

like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

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Editor, Fredrick R. Hassell, MBE

24 Admiralty Lane, Pembroke HM01, Government Building 0329

P.O. Box 1248 HM FX, Hamilton, Bermuda

Office Phone 441-295-9094

Email: seniorislanders@logic.bm, Website www.seniorislanders.bm