



SAINT LUCIA NATIONAL TRUST

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Patron: Dame Pearlette Louisy

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SLNT Hosts First Virtual AGM and Elects a New Council

By Joanne Norville

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Despite the challenges presented by Covid-19, the Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT), convened its 44th Annual General Meeting (AGM) virtually on 28th November 2020. SLNT members and supporters from across Saint Lucia and around the world joined the meeting via Zoom and Facebook Live. Although the format of the AGM had changed due to Covid-19, the customary opening by the SLNT's Patron, Dame Pearlette Louisy, still took place with the Patron delivering inspiring words of encouragement, and empowering the SLNT and its members to remain vigilant in our collective quest to protect the nation's patrimony.



SLNT Patron, Dame Pearlette Louisy attending the SLNT's 44th AGM virtually

The SLNT was also grateful to have Ms. Catherine Leonard, the Secretary-General of the International National Trusts Organisation, deliver remarks virtually about the challenges which National Trusts around the world have been facing this year. She commended the SLNT for our increased public engagement online and highlighted that though these are challenging times, people and organisations need to come together and

support one another even more during this difficult time.

The SLNT's Chairperson, Ms. Alison King, delivered the report on the SLNT's operations over the past year, including updates on the SLNT's advocacy efforts and the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. She outlined the extensive financial challenges facing the SLNT, indicating that such challenges have made it necessary to restructure the organisation. The Chairperson also recognized the dedicated staff members who have worked at the SLNT for over 20 years including Stanley Hilaire, Eleanor Maurille, Esther Mayers, Barbara Antoine and Eulalie Marcellin.

Highlights and achievements of the different departments within the SLNT were presented by Bishnu Tulsie, Director of the SLNT in the Programme Report for the past year. These included several conservation initiatives including the launching and implementation of the

Ecosystem-Based Adaptation Project, mapping and listing of Saint Lucia's historic sites in collaboration with the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, increasing virtual advocacy efforts including virtual membership meetings and other membership activities, staff development, community engagement, and the celebration of the SLNT's 45th Anniversary. The 2019/20 Financial Statement was presented by the SLNT Auditors, Grant Thornton, and was well received by members.

A membership loyalty programme aimed at promoting membership to the SLNT was also launched at the meeting. Jambe du Bois Restaurant, Taxi Boutique, EC Global Insurance and Spice of India were commended for offering special discounts on products and services to SLNT members. Discussions with other companies about partnership in this loyalty programme are ongoing, and some SLNT members attending the AGM also offered to partner in this initiative.



SLNT Chairperson, Alison King
attending the SLNT's 44th AGM virtually

The SLNT members also elected a new Council consisting of Alison King, Finola Jennings Clarke, Calixte Georgr Jr., Sean Compton, Christine Parris, Snaliah Mahal and Cyril Saltibus. The SLNT is grateful to the outgoing Council members who continually lent their support and expertise to the organisation, even while they faced unprecedented challenges during their term.

The SLNT extends thanks to all members and supporters who attended this 44th Annual General Meeting, as well as the staff whose contributions made it possible. For those who may have missed the meeting, the video can be accessed on the Saint Lucia National Trust's Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/145287282155040/videos/2090518021083858> .