



## MINUTES OF THE RECONVENED 68th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*Minutes of the Reconvened 68th Annual General Meeting of the Agricola Credit Union Co-operative Society Limited held hybrid and virtually on Sunday 30th April, 2023 from the Police Credit Union Head Office Auditorium, San Juan and the Tobago Nutrition Co-operative Society Conference Hall, Milford Road, Canaan, Tobago.*

### 1.0 CALLED TO ORDER

- 1.1 The Meeting was called to order at 1.18 p.m. by the Chairman, Dr. Arthur Potts. The National Anthem was sung and the Credit Union Prayer was recited. A minute of silence was observed as a mark of respect for Credit Union members who died during the year under review.

### 2.0 IN ATTENDANCE

- 2.1 There were 294 Members present out of a Total Membership of 15,542.
- 2.2 The following Board Members were in attendance at the Police Credit Union Head Office Auditorium: -
- |                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Dr. Arthur Potts           | : President                     |
| Mrs. Charmaine Giroux-John | : Treasurer                     |
| Mr. Gerard Giuseppi        | : Assistant Secretary/Treasurer |
| Ms. Arlene Young           | : Director                      |
| Mr. Lloyd Gellineau        | : Director                      |
| Ms. Lois Melville          | : Director                      |
| Ms. Grace Arthur           | : Director                      |
| Ms. Joanne Sookdeo         | : Director                      |
| Ms. Marcia Quammie         | : Manager                       |

### 2.3 GUESTS

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Mr. Jerome Chambers     | : Officer-Co-operative Division               |
| Ms. Reesa Williams      | : Co-operative Officer                        |
| Ms. Shelly Ann Hannibal | : Co-operative Officer                        |
| Mr. Joseph Remy         | : President, Co-operative Credit Union League |
| Ms. Dianne Joseph       | : CEO, Co-operative Credit Union League       |
| Mr. Marlon Pierre       | : President, Northwest Regional Chapter       |
| Mrs. M. Sampson- Brown  | : Vice President, Police Credit Union         |
| Dr. Timothy Alfonso     | : Alexander-Jeremie & Company                 |

### 3.0 NOTICE OF RECONVENED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 3.1 Mr. Gerard Giuseppi, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, read the Notice convening the Reconvened 68th Annual General Meeting.



## ***Minutes of the Reconvened 68th Annual General Meeting (continued)***

### **4.0 STANDING ORDERS**

4.1 The Standing Orders were accepted on a motion moved by Mr. Lloyd Gellineau and seconded by Mr. Horace Ryan.

### **5.0 PRESIDENT'S WELCOME REMARKS**

5.1 Dr. Arthur Potts, President, extended a warm welcome to Members participating in the meeting virtually and in-person at the Police Credit Union Head Office Conference Hall, San Juan and the Tobago Nutrition Co-operative Society Conference Hall, Milford Road, Canaan, Tobago. He also welcomed specially invited Guests, Directors, Committee Members, Management and Staff.

5.2 The President also extended a special welcome to the Returning Officer, Mrs. Versyl Charles-Wright who he advised would be overseeing the elections of the meeting. He also welcomed the hardworking Members of the Nominating Committee.

5.3 Dr. Potts advised that the Reconvened 68th Annual General was convened to complete the election proceedings of the 68th AGM held on 26th September 2021 which was adjourned due to a High Court Injunction served on the Society to cease the election proceedings of the meeting.

5.4 Dr. Potts informed members that Agricola Credit Union received approval from the Co-operative Division to convene the meeting to conduct the elections for the vacant positions on the Board and Statutory Committees. The High Court Injunction matter was referred to the Co-operative Division for determination.

5.5 Dr. Potts stated that the lifeline of any credit union is loyalty, resilience and strength of its membership. Directors and Officers of the Credit Union are charged with the responsibility to carry out the directives of members and steer the organization forward in a way that ensures longevity, strength, resilience and legacy. He assured members that all the issues Agricola faced over the past two years were valuable lessons which will be used as 'stepping-stones' as the organization move forward. The bright light that is Agricola will continue to shine even brighter.

5.6 On the invitation of the President, greetings were extended by Mrs. Margarete Sampson-Brown, Vice President of Police Credit Union and Mr. Marlon Pierre, President of Northwest Regional Chapter, who both attended the meeting in-person at the Police Credit Union Head Office Auditorium.

### **6.0 REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

6.1 The Report of the Nominating Committee was presented by Mrs. Jacqueline Ganteaume-Farrell, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, who advised that the Nominating Committee was afforded training on the role, responsibilities and duties of Nominating Committees by the Training & Development Unit of the Co-operatives Division of the Ministry of Labour. The Committee comprise the following: -

Mrs. Jacqueline Ganteaume-Farrell      Mrs. Ruby James-Myers      Mrs. Willa Draper



## ***Minutes of the Reconvened 68th Annual General Meeting (continued)***

6.2 The Nominating Committee recommended the following nominees to contest the vacant position on the Board of Directors and Statutory Committees: -

### **Board of Directors**

Gerard Giuseppi  
Kimberly Small  
Charlene Charles-Belfon  
Cecilia Hutson

Jemma Mayers  
Orlando Balgobin  
Wayne Estrada  
Natasha John-Taitt

### **Credit Committee**

Lisa Redhead  
Dale Delicia  
Dalanie Baynes  
Lisa O'Brien Castellano

Carol Simon-Lovelace  
Alicem Sahadath  
Jerome Smith

### **Supervisory Committee**

Horace Ryan  
Chemiene Baptiste  
Ann Marie Dardaine

Eleatha Thompson  
Thomas Henry

6.3 The Nominating Committee took note of the calibre of the candidates who presented themselves for nomination who all displayed an eagerness and commitment to serve and to assist in the further development of Agricola Credit Union.

6.4 The Committee recommend that efforts be made to hold an annual seminar on the role, responsibilities and duties of the Board and statutory committees so that members interested in service in an official capacity may be appraised of what is expected of them, once elected. These seminars should be held well in advance of the nomination process that starts with the interviewing of nominees. The Committee also recommended that nominees be allowed a short presentation of themselves of not more than five minutes, highlighting their qualifications, experience and competencies relevant to the office they seek at the election proceedings of the AGM.

6.5 The Nominating Committee thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve. They also thanked Management and Staff for their assistance in providing the necessary information and guidelines for the Committee to complete its assignment.

6.6 Mrs. Ganteaume Farrell gave suitable responses to the following questions: -

- i. Would nominees be given the opportunity to present themselves before the election process,
- ii. Number of vacant positions on the Board of Directors,
- iii. Could a nominee be an officer of two credit unions at the same time,
- iv. The due diligence process of the Committee for nominees.



## **Minutes of the Reconvened 68th Annual General Meeting (continued)**

6.7 The Report of the Nominating Committee was accepted on a motion moved by Mrs. Jacqueline Ganteaume-Farrell and seconded by Ms. Shirlene Williams.

### **7.0 ELECTIONS**

7.1 Mrs. Versyl Charles-Wright, appointed Returning Officer for the Elections, thanked Agricola Credit Union for once again being able to oversee the election proceedings of Agricola Credit Union.

7.2 Mrs. Charles-Wright advised that the Credential Report of the Meeting at 3.07 p.m. was 294 members – 132 members in-person and 181 members virtually.

7.3 There was a Video Presentation of Nominees for the Board of Directors, Credit and Supervisory Committees.

7.4 The Returning Officer advised that Mr. Dale Delicia, a nominee of the Credit Committee, was not present either in person at the meeting sites nor virtual, and that measures were taken to contact him via telephone.

7.5 The Returning Officer also advised that the Credit Committee requires five (5) members with two alternate members. However, only seven candidates were nominated for election, of which Mr. Delicia is one of the nominees. She stated that on advisement the Co-operative Officers the voting process will be carried out for the Credit Committee with Mr. Delicia as a nominee.

7.6 The Returning Officer gave a Credential Report at 3.30 p.m. of 270 members in attendance – 157 members virtually and 113 members in person.

7.7 The Returning Officer gave an outline of the voting process and invited members to commence the voting procedure via digital portal. She advised that Ms. Karen Hernandez, would oversee the in-house voting process at the site of the Tobago AGM venue.

7.8 The Results of the Elections were:-

#### **Supervisory Committee**

<i>Nominees</i>	<i>Votes Received</i>
Ann Marie Dardaine	189
Horace Ryan	174
Eleatha Thompson	147
Thomas Henry	142 (1st Alternate)
Chemienne Baptiste	081 (2nd Alternate)



## ***Minutes of the Reconvened 68th Annual General Meeting (continued)***

### **Credit Committee**

<i>Nominees</i>	<i>Votes Received</i>
Lisa Redhead	192
Carol Simon-Lovelace	167
Alieem Sahadath	165
Dalanie Baynes	148
Jerome Smith	135
Lisa O'Brien-Castellano	135 (1st Alternate)
Dale Delicia	075 (2nd Alternate)

### **Board of Directors**

<i>Nominees</i>	<i>Votes Received</i>
Charlene Charles-Belfon	150
Kimberly Small	111
Jemma Mayers	102
Cecelia Hutson	93 (1st Alternate)
Natasha John-Taitt	80 (2nd Alternate)
Gerard Giuseppe	76
Wayne Estrada	56
Orlando Balgobin	47

- 7.9 The ballots were destroyed upon acceptance of a motion for their destruction. The motion was moved by Ms. Eleatha Thompson and seconded by Ms. Shirlene Williams.
- 7.10 On an enquiry by Mr. Michael Hutson on the tie vote of the Credit Committee, the Returning Officer advised that the matter could be addressed at the inaugural meeting of the Credit Committee. After discussion, a recommendation was made that the two elected officers decide who would serve.
- 7.11 The Returning Officer informed the Meeting that on the advisement of Mr. Jerome Chambers of the Co-operative Division, the tie vote has to be decided by the members at this meeting or the two elected persons.
- 7.12 After discussion between the nominees, Ms. Lisa O'Brien Castellano withdrew from the elected position and Mr. Jerome Smith accepted the vote to serve. The Members commended the nominees for resolving the matter.
- 8.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 8.1 There were no other business brought before the Meeting.



## ***Minutes of the Reconvened 68th Annual General Meeting (continued)***

### **9.0 CLOSING REMARKS**

9.1 Ms. Marcia Quammie, Manager of Agricola Credit Union, stated that the AGM proceedings demonstrated one of the most significant co-operative principles – democratic member control. She thanked the specially invited guests for their participation in the meeting, and members, whom she stated continue to remain loyal despite the storms that raged. She thanked Directors and Committee Members who serve as volunteers to steer the Agricola ship. She thanked Officers of the Co-operative Division who provided much needed oversight not only at the AGM proceedings but in events leading up to the AGM.

9.2 Dr. Potts thanked members for their continued support and loyalty to Agricola Credit Union.

### **10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

10.1 The Meeting adjourned at 5.58 p.m.

  
**Board of Directors**