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## The Executive Board

### President

Lennox J. Simon

### Vice President

Albie Crick

### General Secretary

Barbara Fergus

### Treasurer

Udean Mars-Grisham

### Public Relations Officer

Leonard Crichton

### Recording Secretary

Brenda Simms

### At-Large Members

Omegah Fair

Lynette "Bonnie" Andrews

### Ex-Officio member

A. Bert Davy

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Nationals Association of  
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# Hairouna Times

A quarterly newsletter from the St. Vincent & The Grenadines  
Nationals Association of Washington D.C.

## From the President

The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Nationals Association of Washington, D.C. was formed approximately twelve (12) years ago by patriotic Vincentians residing in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. The association immediately adopted its name, its motto, drafted and adopted a constitution, elected its first executive board, and commenced operation at the office of one of its founding members. The aims and objectives of the association are:

- 1...To promote the development of closer ties among Vincentians within the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, and other geographic areas throughout the United States;
- 2...To maintain a patriotic link with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and to provide assistance to institutions in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in time of need; and
- 3...To operate exclusively for charitable, educational, scientific, cultural and literary purposes, within the meaning of section 501[c][3] of the Internal Revenue code of 1986.

During the past twelve (12) years, the members of the association have worked feverishly to recruit new members, and to network with other Caribbean organizations in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Some of the association's accomplishments include:

**1...In the area of social welfare**, the association was instrumental in securing and shipping many barrels containing clothing and toys to several institutions for needy children and adults in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Some of the institutions include: the School for Children with Special Needs; the Punnette Home for the Elderly; Can Save Children Program; and the Mental Hospital.

**2...In the area of education**, on September 6, 1990, the association embarked on an educational program by adopting seven (7) primary schools in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to which we provide students with pens, pencils, rulers, exercise books, dictionaries, world maps, encyclopedias, and computers on an annual basis. These institutions include: Evesham Government, Cane End Government, Sandy Bay Government, Layou Government, Barrouallie Government, Rose Hall Government and Ashton Government on Union Island. **(Continue on Page 2)**



## Member in the Spotlight...

Mr. Victor Castello was born in New Prospect, St. Vincent. He is the ninth of twelve children. After primary school, he left St. Vincent to continue his studies at the Seventh-Day Adventist College in Trinidad & Tobago. Mr. Castello decided to explore beyond the horizons and set out for the United States of America. Today, he continues to live in Maryland with his two daughters Beryl and Alma. The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Nationals Association of Washington, D.C. congratulates Mr. Victor Castello on his outstanding service to the organization. Cheers!! Cheers!!

(Continued from Page 1---From the President)

3... In the area of health care, our association was also instrumental in purchasing and donating a neo-natal infant monitoring machine to the pediatrics ward of the Kingstown General Hospital, and providing financial assistance to the "Gavin Joseph Kidney Transplant Fund" to assist a fellow Vincentian in defraying the cost of a kidney transplant operation in New York City, and subsequent out-patient treatment.

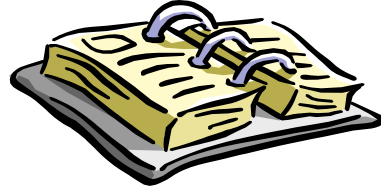
4... In the area of social activities, our association sponsors an annual bus ride to Atlantic City during the month of May; a moonlight cruise on the Potomac during the month of July, and host a family picnic during the month of August each year. Some of our past presidents who have contributed to the growth and maturity of the association include: Dr. Stanley Anderson, Lennox J. Simon, Leonard Crichton, and A. Bert Davy. Our current executive board consists of: Lennox J. Simon, President; Albie Crick, Vice President; Barbara Fergus, General Secretary; Udean Mars-Grisham, Treasurer; Leonard Crichton, Public Relations Officer; Brenda Simms, Recording Secretary; At-Large-Members, Omegah Fair and Bonnie Andrews; and A. Bert Davy, Ex-Officio member. Despite our record of accomplishments, we continue to strive to do more to help our needy brothers and sisters in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Finally, in November 2000, we were honored by the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Organization of Pennsylvania at their fifth annual dinner dance celebrating our country's twenty first (21<sup>st</sup>) anniversary of Independence. We were delighted to accept this "Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 2000 Recognition Award". Moreover, our association is very appreciative of the support and contribution we have received over the years, and hope that both organizations will continue to work together to improve the lives of Vincentians at home. Therefore, I encourage all Vincentians residing in

the diaspora to join a national association and become active.

Lennox J. Simon, President

## Dates to Remember



Annual Moonlight Cruise and Raffle  
Saturday July 21, 2001

Annual Family Picnic  
Sunday Aug 26, 2001

Independence Church Service  
Sunday Oct 21, 2001

Independence Dinner/Dance  
Saturday Oct 27, 2001

Children's Christmas Party  
Sunday Dec 8, 2001

## St. Vincent and The Grenadines Members of Parliament

*-from The Embassy of St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Washington, D.C. and The St. Vincent & The Grenadines Consulate/Mission to the United Nations, New York*

**Hon. Hendrick Alexander**  
Speaker of the House

**Dr. Hon Ralph Gonsalves**  
Prime Minister- Minister of Finance, Planning, Economic Development, Information, Labour, Grenadines and Legal Affairs

**Hon. Louis Straker**  
Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Trade

**Hon. Vincent Beache**  
Minister of National Security, Public Service, and Airport Development

**Hon. Mike Brown**  
Minister of Education, Youth and Sports

**Hon. Girlyn Miguel**  
Minister of Social Development, Family, Gender and Ecclesiastical Affairs

**Hon. Selmon Walters**  
Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries

**Hon. Rene Baptiste**  
Minister of Tourism and Culture

**Dr. Hon. Douglas Slater**  
Minister of Health and the Environment

**Dr. Hon. Jerrol Thompson**  
Minister of Telecommunications, Science, Technology and Industry

**Hon. Senator Julian Francis**  
Minister of Transport, Works and Housing

**Hon. Senator Edwin Snagg**  
Parliamentary Secretary – Minister of State – Prime Minister's Office with responsibility for Grenadines Affairs and Labor.

**Hon. Juliet Jones-Morgan**  
Attorney General

**Hon. Arnim Eustace**  
Leader of the Opposition

Opposition Members:

**Dr. Hon. Lorraine Friday**

**Hon. Terrence Ollivierre**

**Hon. Senator J. Burns Bonadie**

**Hon. Senator Jerard Shallow**



The President, Executive and members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Nationals Association of Washington, D.C., congratulate H.E. Ellsworth A.I John, on his appointment to the post of Ambassador to the United States, and Ambassador/ Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States.

His Excellency Ellsworth A.I John  
Embassy of St. Vincent and The Grenadines  
3216 New Mexico Ave, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20016  
202-364-6730





## SVGNA Committees

- ✘ SVGNA Education and Charities Project

Committee Chair: Albie Crick

Responsibility: Purchase, mail and distribute school supplies, clothing and other donations, to seven (7) primary schools and other institutions in St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

- ✘ The Entertainment Committee.

Committee Chair: Omegah Fair

Responsibility: Plan, promote, and carry out all social activities.

- ✘ Washington Area Charities Projects

Committee Chair: Brenda Simms

Responsibility: Involve the organization with events in the immediate metropolitan area.

....it's meeting time again.....



Members at the general meeting in May 2001

## A Visit by The Minister of Tourism and Culture

On Friday, June 8th 2001, the Minister of Tourism and Culture, Hon. Rene Baptiste accompanied by Mr. Dennis Ambrose, Chairman of the Carnival Development Committee visited Washington, D.C. A reception was held in their honor at the Embassy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Hon. Minister and Mr. Ambrose were warmly welcomed by Vincentians living in the immediate metropolitan area and Vincentians who traveled some 95 miles from Richmond, Virginia.

### Reminder.....

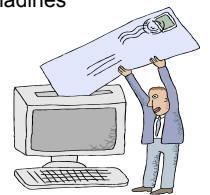
Monthly general meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at 7:00 pm:  
The Holy Comforter Episcopal Church  
701 Oglethorpe St, N.W  
Washington, D.C. 20011

## SVGNA volunteers for Embassy Tour

As part of the Association's charitable efforts, the Washington Area Charities Projects committee volunteered on May 12, 2001 for the Goodwill Industries Embassy Tour. In its **second collaboration with Davis Memorial Goodwill Industries**, the committee assisted with the tour of the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia on Massachusetts Avenue, one of many embassies visited. The committee was pleased to meet the staff of the Embassy and proud to have assisted Goodwill with their **55th annual event, which raised over \$80,000** for employment assistance to the disabled and disadvantaged of the metro area.

### Official Mailing Address

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Questions, comments and suggestions are encouraged. This newsletter is for you and we want to provide the information you need. Please contact any member of the executive, or email [Svgnadc@aol.com](mailto:Svgnadc@aol.com) with any comments or recommendations you have.

## IN THE NEWS

### D.C CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL

The troops paraded from Georgia and Missouri Ave to Banneker Recreation Park (across from Howard University). The date was June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2001, and it was DC's own carnival. A few showers fell, but not the required amount to dampen the spirits of everyone who looked forward to the day. Ready they were; to enjoy themselves, dancing to the music of steel drums and the belting rhythms of soca and every other music the Caribbean exports. The costumes were spectacular, reflecting the diverse Caribbean culture. St. Vincent and the Grenadines was represented by Stefmus

Minister Baptiste informed Vincentians of the new Administration's plans for the promotion and development of Tourism and Culture. She indicated that Culture in general, and Carnival in particular will be given the required attention to be elevated to be a clear cultural showpiece of the Caribbean.

The event allowed Vincentians to ask questions on issues related to the Minister's visit, and to make general inquiries on the plans of the new Administration for St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

Ambassador John and Master-of-Cermony, Mr. Fitz Bramble expressed sincere appreciation to the attendees and thanked Minister Baptiste and Mr. Ambrose for their visit.