



Union Vibes

September 14th, 2022



Message from the Desk of the General Secretary

On behalf of the National Executive and General Council, I wish to welcome you back to school for the new academic year 2022-2023.

Robert Jordan once said, "The oak fought the wind and was broken, the willow bent when it must and survived." Coming out of a turbulent two year period and still faced with challenges, you continue to make the necessary sacrifices to ensure that all students receive the best that the education system has to offer.

The start of any school year is always a very challenging period for the SLTU and your support, especially during the past two weeks has been remarkable. We will continue to "bend" with you to ensure that you receive the best representation to make your working environment more conducive and experiences more rewarding.

Colleagues, I urge you to call on your Union when necessary, attend Union activities, and seek clarification on matters pertinent to your work. Please remember that the SLTU belongs to all of us. We all are affected in one way or the other when decisions are taken and so you must continue to be active in the decision making processes of our organization. It is important for us to remember that it is only when we unite that the power we possess will manifest itself to create the change that we need and derive the benefits that we so rightly deserve.

This year, we are thrilled to announce the full comeback of our activities for Teachers' Week, under the theme, "**The transformation of education begins with teachers.**" Let us all participate as the SLTU highlights the achievements of our educators and show appreciation for the important role they play in the future of every generation.

We hope that this academic year is productive for everyone. Please be reminded to remain safe and vigilant.

Yours in the Struggle!!!
Chantal Peter
General Secretary



Update on matters with the Ministry Of Education



Update

The SLTU continues to dialogue with the Ministry of Education on matters impacting schools and the education system. In August 2022, the SLTU met with the Minister of Education. The following are highlights of the meeting:

- The SLTU raised concerns about the frequency of our meetings. The Ministry was reminded that the Collective Agreement mandates; the Ministry to meet with the SLTU at all levels. Further, it helps to foster a cordial relationship between the SLTU and the MOE. The Minister recommitted to having termly meeting with the SLTU and gave the assurance of frequent meetings moving forward.
- The SLTU raised concern about school repairs. The SLTU was informed about the repairs being done at schools. However, the SLTU advocated for schools with structural issues like fencing, toilets , slippery tiles and also schools with health and safety issues.
- School Security was also a major issue for the SLTU. Security breaches were brought up, however, the minister gave an overview of the plans which he hopes to take effect, which consist of an audit to be done by a former police chief on the security needs of schools which will guide further decisions on security at schools. The Ministry of Education formally informed the SLTU of its plans to conduct the security audit at all schools by December 2022. The SLTU is pleased with this development as we have been advocating for this audit for some time now.
- The SLTU informed the Ministry of the unstable situation at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC). The SLTU informed the Ministry that it will explore all options available to ensure that our members at SALCC are treated properly. The SLTU insisted that the SALCC management and board must honor the Collective Agreement.
- The SLTU also pointed out to the Ministry the feeling of a lack of appreciation for teachers. The SLTU called on the Ministry to do something tangible to demonstrate a measure of appreciation for the work that teachers are doing.

Teachers' Week

October 2nd—October 9th, 2022



Theme: "The Transformation of Education begins with Teachers."

Sunday October 2nd 10:00 a.m.

Ecumenical Service- TBA, Castries

Monday 3rd October- 10:a.m.

Cooler Lime- Kalime' (Piaye)

Tuesday 4th October

Branch Education Activity

Wednesday 5th October- 9:30 a.m.

Education Conference- National Cultural Center

Thursday 6th October

Branch Social Activity

Friday 7th October- 4:00 p.m.

Teachers Football Finals- Gros Islet Playing Field

Sunday 9th October- 10:00 a.m.

Teachers Rally- Morne Coubaril - Soufriere

Retirees Function- TBA

Toastmasters

It is said that self-investment is the best investment. As teachers we invest most of our time and energy into developing other people, particularly our students. How can we continue to do so if we ourselves remain stagnant?

The St. Lucia Teachers' Union has collaborated with Toast Masters International, a most prestigious organization to provide the opportunity for teachers to improve and develop themselves personally and professionally. Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. Headquartered in Englewood, Colorado the organization's membership exceeds 280,000 in more than 14,700 clubs in 144 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators, and leaders.

There is no better time than now to do something for you!

Do something today that your future self will thank you for.

Join the SLTU Toastmasters Club today!



Teachers Football Fixtures



<i>Matches</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Venue</i>
North vs West	Sept 21	4pm	Sab Playing Field
East vs South	Sept 21	4pm	Micoud Playing Field
North vs East	Sept 23	4pm	Grande Riviere, Dennery
West vs South	Sept 23	4pm	Soufriere Mini Stadium
North vs South	Sept 30	4pm	Phillip Marcelin Vieux Fort
East vs West	Sept 30	4pm	Anse La Raye Playing field
Third place playoff	Oct 7	4pm	Gros Islet Playing Field
Final	Oct 7	6pm	Gros Islet Playing Field