

President's Message

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Executive Committee, we hope that each one of you and your loved ones had a very enjoyable Christmas. May 2015 bring with it good health, happiness and increasing success far beyond your expectations.

Our Commitment to Our Members:

Our key commitment to you was complete transparency especially in the financial area, a cornerstone where this trust is paramount.

- To this end, we imposed the following requirements on anyone joining the committee:
 - Every committee member pays for their ticket to each event that they attend;
 - No cash payments would be made for the purchase of goods or services;
 - All payments must be accompanied by a receipt.
- We also committed to publish the Association's financial statements each quarter.
- We made the *General Secretary* the principal conduit in all communications between the Executive and the general membership.

I am pleased to say that we have honored all these commitments in 2014 and that we will continue to do so in 2015.

Membership:

At the end of 2014, we had 620 paid members. This included 46 new members in 2014. We have 32 new members year-to-date for 2015. As of the end of January 2015, over 71% of our members have already renewed their membership for 2015.

Given that our membership is ageing, which may result in a lack of future leadership, it would bode well for us to plan a drive for younger members to ensure a continuous reserve of executive committee members to carry the Association into the next decade and beyond.

Your Executive in 2014:

Thank you for your constant acknowledgement, feed back and praise for services that we provided in 2014 despite being a "skeletal" committee.

As I indicated at our first event, we have chosen only individuals who are fully committed to serve you without arrogance and expectations of entitlement. I thank those who have volunteered and contributed their services as committee members during our term.

The people on your current Executive Committee are a group of dedicated and extremely committed individuals. They bring exceptional talents to their respective portfolios and work as a team to produce excellent results. This cohesiveness and talent was exhibited to the fullest at our Christmas Dance which turned out to be a truly successful event. Here are your committee members who have exhibited the true grit so often required to deliver exceptional community services.

ALICK ALPHONSO (Vice President & Treasurer): Alick is an honest and trustworthy custodian of the Association's financial assets. At the last AGM, Alick was elected as the Vice President. Soon after, following the resignation of the elected Treasurer, Alick assumed both portfolios and has continued in these positions since that time. He is a strong proponent of financial transparency and was responsible, for the first time in 55 PGA history, for publishing the Association's financial results at the end of each quarter. Our commitment to transparency extends to any member wanting to go through the Association's financials to see how we operate. This commitment shall continue in 2015.

Both Alick and his wife Fermina, have been extremely generous in offering their home and hospitality for any additional meetings that were required to conclude specific activities.

Alick will be given a well-deserved respite in 2015 to perform the role of Treasurer only.

LESLIE DE SOUZA (General Secretary): No words can articulate Leslie's tenacity and eagerness to do a job well. She is an accurate mind reader and often anticipates the pros and the cons of an issue even before it is fully discussed. Leslie is a true team player who never seeks praise. Her record keeping is impeccable and the minutes of our meetings are a pleasure to read.

Here are some highlights of her accomplishments in 2014:

- She updated the membership roster and tailored it to satisfy the needs of the other committee members in order to provide them with only information relevant to their portfolios.
- She went through past records to generate a corrected list of the deceased members of the Association that was used during the joint Mass for the Deceased with West End Seniors' Club.
- She single handedly wrote out every ticket for our Christmas Dance and personally hand delivered her allotment of tickets to the members. She was responsible for preparing the beautiful list of raffle prizes and for enabling the smooth running of the raffle at the Christmas Dance.
- As principal custodian of the membership roster, and in response to a request that members be exempt from filling out the application form when renewing their membership, she has recommended that, given that the number of members moving (e.g. out of a home into a condo) is ever increasing and that e-mail addresses and phone numbers are frequently changed, completing the Membership Form is vital since it is our only tool that allows us to maintain up-to-date member contact information. The committee has therefore decided that the present method of reapplying for annual membership will continue for 2015.

JOAN DO ROSARIO (Social Secretary): Joan is the creative mind behind the planning of all our events. Her talent and attention to detail has contributed towards their success. She is credited with the design and making of the wrist corsages and the boutonnieres for the Christmas Dance. She created the center pieces and looked after the every minute detail to enhance the theme of each event.

Joan has now resigned from this position. We offer our sincere thanks for her contribution to the 55 PGA social activities during 2014 and we wish her good luck in all her future undertakings.

TONY BRAGANZA (Assistant Social Secretary): Tony is a true team player. He was the backbone of our social activities in 2014 and especially at the Christmas dance. His expertise in hall set up and seat allocations has relieved the committee of this very onerous and time-consuming task. The system that Tony uses to create the seating plan allowed us to make changes in order to accommodate member requests and established the seating arrangements that you enjoyed at the Christmas Dance. Tony also personally delivered a large number of dance tickets to our members. He was responsible for bringing in several high value prizes for the Christmas Dance raffle. During the year he took over the responsibility for a number of activities previously performed by the Social Secretary.

NEVILLE ARNOLD (Communications Director): Neville is another valuable team player and a creative genius who joined us in October 2014. You have seen his

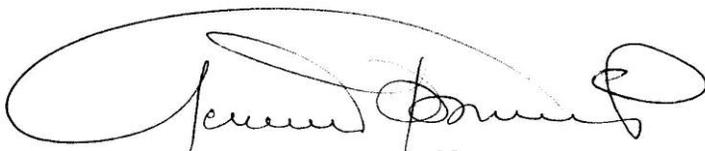
artistic talent in our event flyers. He designed the Christmas Dance tickets and the flyer and added his creativity to enhance the list of raffle prizes that was set up in the hall. He facilitated the presentation of the raffle prizes at the dance with unbridled enthusiasm. He also personally delivered his allotment of the Christmas Dance tickets. He always meets tight timeframes when sending out e-blasts to our members when time and speed are essential.

GERRY ALMEIDA: Gerry, who came on board as an observer in late November after much cajoling, needs little introduction. He is one of the Association's founding members and a former Treasurer. You will recall that when I announced his appointment as our Vice-President for 2015 at the Christmas Dance, it was with a proviso that the position would require confirmation at the AGM. Gerry, who is another supportive team player, made our Christmas dance a great success by bringing in several high value prizes and a donation of \$1,000.00. He also personally delivered a large number of Christmas Dance tickets to our members.

And Last, But Not Least – A Sincere Thank You To:

- Our auditors, **Alban Mascarenhas** and **Al Mathias**, for completing the audit of our financial statements in record time and for their valuable advice;
- **Nick De Mello**, for picking up the cost of printing tickets for the Christmas dance. Nick has been a staunch supporter and major sponsor of our events since the inception of the 55 PGA. Our sincere apologies for giving him a very short turnaround time to have the tickets printed;
- **Kathleen MacLeod**, for preparing the beautiful center pieces for the Christmas Dance;
- All the generous people that donated raffle prizes for our Christmas Dance
- The many volunteers who helped out at our social events
- **Osborne D'Souza** and **Roland Francis** for their work while on the committee
- Our spouses who gave us their full support in 2014
- The staff at the Cawthra Seniors' Centre for being so accommodating and the City of Mississauga for their help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alcino Rodrigues', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Alcino Rodrigues
President, 55 PGA