



NEWS AND VIEWS

GAOG Newsletter

Fall Edition

2016

The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. turns 25!



Guests at the Silver Jubilee Anniversary Banquet and 2016 Scholarship Awards Ceremony. Right: President of the Guyana Association of Georgia Inc., Dr. William Thomas addresses guests. Below, The President and First Lady of the GAOG Ms. Thelma Thomas present the presidents awards to members who have gone above and beyond. (Photos Credit: Pose for TV)

On September 24th 2016, the Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. held its much anticipated Silver Jubilee Anniversary Banquet and 2016 Scholarship Awards Ceremony. This grand occasion was a sold out event this year and the guest list included presidents from sister Caribbean Organizations, The Honorary Consul to Guyana, Ms. Marva Jacobs and Guyanese born, reigning Ms. Georgia America 2016, Ms. Onica Blaize. The Master of Ceremonies Mr. Ron Bob-Semple kept the guests engaged and entertained with nostalgic Guyanese jokes and colloquialisms. The invocation was performed by Rev Carl R. Lashley Jr. Guests were entertained during dinner and throughout the night by the melodic voice of Singer and song writer Ashley Innis. The guest Speaker this year was Director of CARICOM Outreach, Mr. Wesley Kirton who gave a riveting address and impressed upon those present the importance of an education. Mr. Kirton is active in community outreach and business and has dedicated many of his years to service the needs of people particularly the Guyanese and Caribbean Community.

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Make Sure your voice is heard.
VOTE TOMORROW Nov 8th 2016!



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Education Chair Mr. Carl Lashey and Hartsfield –Jackson International Airport representative Mr. Beobhari present awards to: Top - Patrick Wilson; center – Nickasey Freeman, bottom – Caryn Achaibar

Scholarship Banquet continued from pg 1

The highlight of the night was the awards ceremony where there were nine new recipients and one continuing student. Yonelle Armstrong is a final year medical student at the University of Guyana and currently in the GAOG scholarship Program. The GAOG/Hartsfield- Jackson Atlanta International Airport Award went to the first three recipients – Patrick Wilson, Nickasey Freeman & Caryn Achaibar. The GOAG/Peachtree Orthopedic Clinic Awards went to Lauren Robinson, Aliyah Beach and Alixis Durmorney . The final GAOG Awards went to Marcus Tinto, Andrea Wilson and Amaya Jackson. The Caribbean International Shipping Services Continuing Education Award was presented to Desiree Jordan Philadelphia.

Education Chair, Mr. Carl Lashley, thanked all the presidents for their hard work and dedication toward the organization over the past 25 years naming some of the accomplishments including obtaining a building for the Association and the continued tradition of awarding scholarships to youth in the community.

In honor of the Silver Jubilee Anniversary, the contributions from past presidents of the Association were recognized with awards. These included the first president Dr. Conrad Wilson, followed by Mr. Phillip Andrews, Mr. Orin Marshall, Mr. Lawrence Griffith, Dr. Gloria Fredericks, Mr. Slater Jeffrey, Ms. Marilyn Farley-Thompson, Ms. Dawn Simmons, Mr. Orin Sergeant, Dr. Ivor Mitchell, Mr. Austin Thompson and sitting president, Dr. William Thomas.

The Awards of Excellence this year went to Ms. Barbara Lashley and Secretary Merlyn Osborne in recognition of their hard work in the Association. The President’s awards of Life Membership were bestowed upon long serving members and past Officers of the Board, Ms. Donna DeGroot (past Vice President & Secretary) and Mr. Claude London (Current Parliamentarian).

The GAOG President, Dr. William Thomas gave the closing remarks reminding all that the GAOG has given out over \$250,000 in scholarships over these past 25 years. The Vice President Mr. Clairmont Fraser gave the vote of thanks bringing the ceremony to a close and opening the floor for dancing and festivities.



Education Chair Carl Lashley and Dr. Shevin Pollydore of Peachtree Orthopedics present awards to Lauren Robinson and Aliyah Beach.



Celebrating Our Presidents



Phillip Andrews
1994-1995



Dr. Gloria Frederick
1999-2000



Dr. Conrad Wilson
1991-1993



Orrin Marshall
1996-1997



Slater Jeffrey
2000-2001



Lawrence Griffith
1997-1998



Marilyn Farley-Thompson
2001-2002

Our Presidents
1991 - 2002



Celebrating Our Presidents



Dawn Simmons
2002-2003



Ivor Mitchell
2007-2007



Dr. William Thomas
2012-2016



Dr. Conrad Wilson
2004-2005



Phillip Andrews
2008-2010



Orin Sargeant
2006-2008



Austin Thompson
2011-2012

Our Presidents
2002 - 2016

INSIDE THE GAOG

2nd Annual Casino Night Fundraiser



Above: Guests enjoying themselves at Casino Night; Below, Casino King – James Williams and Casino Queen Nandi Thomas with their prizes, Guests at the tables and Guests dining.



The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. held its 2nd Annual Casino Night Fund Raiser Event on June 24th 2016 at GAOG Secretariat Building. Guests were pleasantly surprised by the atmosphere and general ambiance and the event was well attended with standing room only. While there was no gambling involved or cash prizes awarded, guest had a choice of five gaming tables which included two black jack tables, two craps tables and one roulette table. Those present enjoyed an exciting three hours of gaming as they showed off their expertise. Guests who had never played before were coached by the dealers.



At the end of the night a casino king – James Williams, and queen, Nandi Thomas were crowned for earning the most chips over all. The grand prizes for the king and queen were two 32” flat screen TVs. Ms. Thomas also scored a door prize later in the evening. Other game and door prizes were raffled off to include XM rum, handmade bath soaps, wines and house hold items.



The sponsors who made this event possible included Caribbean International Shipping Services, Dr. & Mrs. Lennox Applewhaite, Bridges Medical, Metro Brokers (Lyndelle Isaacs Heyliger ABR), Kaiyuni Kreations LLC, Soap Diva Creations, 10 G Insurance, Celebrate Our Children, Emotional Energy, Pandama Retreat and Winery and Dr. Kelwyn Thomas.

Guests were entertained with music from DJ Chigga and enjoyed Guyanese cuisine provided by Joylon Assanah. The feedback from those in attendance was positive as they enjoyed the night and they looked forward to having more fun next year.



The 10th Annual Tea Party



The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc., annual Tea Party was held on July 23rd this year at the Christ Our Hope Catholic Church, DeKalb County GA. This much anticipated event was as always, well attended. As was customary, table captains were responsible for decorating their tables which were entered into the best decorated table competition. Tables were judged based on Creativity, Presentation, Coordination and Elegance. The coveted first place and the third place were awarded to Ms. Marrie George who captured all elements in a sharp black & white accented tea table and a magenta Paris themed tea table respectively. The second prize went to Ms. Audrey Teekah who opted floral garden theme (center).



Guests were entertained, and treated to traditional Guyanese cuisine which included pastries, cakes and of course a variety of teas served by male GAOG members.

The ladies then entered into a casual hat show which proved to be entertaining as hats were modeled and displayed for all present. This followed by a fashion show. Over all in spite of stormy weather, the event proved to be quite enjoyable and successful.



Top: Guest at the Tea party. Below: First place table by Marrie George, Second Place table by Audrey Teekah (Center) and Third place table by Marrie George.

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4th July weekend Fish Fry

This 4th of July weekend the Guyana association of Georgia Inc. held its 1st annual Fish Fry Fundraiser at the GAOG Secretariat (Right). This warm July day event was well attended by members and guests of the association. Those in attendance were treated to fried fish or bar – b – q chicken with a side of fried plantains and cold slaw.

Many present took the opportunity to socialize with friends and acquaintances. The Association held this new event in an attempt to increase funds raised for the scholarships which are awarded annually to youth in the community.



Labor Day weekend Bar-B-Q cook out

Labor Day weekend 2016 the Guyana association of Georgia Inc. held another first - its 1st annual Fish Fry Cook Out and Bar – B- Q at the GAOG Secretariat. The weather was just right to fire up the grill. As usual this event was well attended by members and guests. A variety of choices from Guyanese cuisine were available such as Channa, Black Pudding, Polourie, fish, chicken and spinach rice. Many present took the opportunity to socialize with friends and acquaintances. The Association also held this event in an attempt to increase funds raised for the scholarships which are awarded annually to youth in the community.



Labor day Weekend Bar – b q cook out enjoyed by members and guests at the GAOG Secretariat Building in Lithonia.

Dr. Zwade Marshall meets with GAOG Members



At the September GMM, Guyanese born Dr. Zwade Marshall MD, MBA (left) met with members of the Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. He is a Harvard-trained board certified anesthesiologist, and a fellowship trained interventional pain management specialist. Keeping his focus on a patient's functional goals, Dr. Marshall takes a comprehensive approach to pain management.

He also attended Emory where he was awarded the Humanitarian of the Year award for the school, recognizing his work in co-founding the Pipeline Program, a longitudinal inner-city high school mentoring program. He currently has clinics in the City of Covington and Dekalb County. He stressed on the alarming increase of opioid use and abuse in the US in recent years and the need for a solution.

THE GAOG SUMMER RECAP

Independence Celebrations at St Timothy's Episcopal Church.

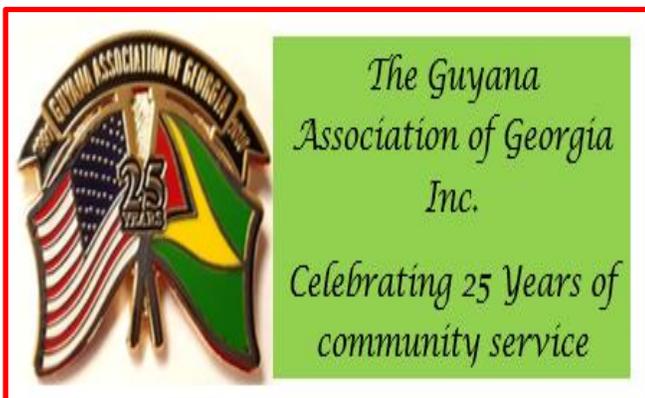
The Guyana association of Georgia Inc. kicked off its week of The Golden Jubilee Celebrations with a worship service at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Dekalb County GA. Several members of the GAOG attended and worshiped with the congregations made up of majority Guyanese and West Indians. The traditional worship services included a prayer for Guyana and its citizens and acknowledgement of 50 years of separation from Great Britain.

The sermon was presided over by Rev. Dr. David S. Dice and a reading from Romans 5:1-5 done by GAOG President Dr. William Thomas.

After the services a reception was held for congregants in the mess hall. Several Guyanese dishes were served to those present and there was a brief fashion show of Guyanese traditional Afro and Indo Guyanese fashion.



Top Left: Rev. Dr. Daniel from St. Thomas Episcopal Church; Dr. William Thomas, President of GAOG, GAOG members in the congregation; Guyanese Cultural fashion and members at the reception after service.



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Deadline for next newsletter is November 30th 2016

Cocktail Reception & Arts and Literature Exhibition



Left: President of the GAOG, Dr. William Thomas addresses guests at the exhibition. Center: Guests enjoying appetizers. Right top: Guyanese Poets and Artists Kim Jonquille Hodge, Coleen Braithwaite and below, renown playwright Harold Bascome and his daughter.

This year in honor of the 50th independence Celebrations for the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. held a Cocktail Reception and Arts and Literature Exhibition. This event was well attended by members of the organization and presidents of the sister organizations.

Guests were welcomed to by GAOG president William Thomas and treated to a brief perspective of Guyana: Past Present and Future. They were then offered a taste Guyanese cuisine and beverages.

Several sister island organizations offered their congratulations to Guyana on celebrating 50 years of independence from the British.

The well wishes and celebrations were complemented with an arts and literature exhibition by local authors some of who were present. Renowned artist and playwright Harold Bascom was present to autograph his work and meet with guests. Budding poet and artist Kim Jonquille Hodge displayed her multi modal art pieces and poetry and literature novels as well. Ms. Coleen Braithwaite was also present with her for guests to see. There were also pieces on display from many other Guyanese authors such as



Mr. Tony Alleyne President of the Georgia Caribbean American Heritage Coalition (third from left), & Dr. William Thomas, President of the Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. & the Caribbean Council of Presidents (third from right) pose with Presidents of other Caribbean organizations in the Atlanta Metro Area, at the Cocktail Reception Celebrating Guyana's 50th Independence Anniversary.

Welcome party



The Welcome Party was a hit this year as usual. In spite of many Guyanese traveling to the mother land to join in the 50th Anniversary festivities, others came out to celebrate right here at the GAOG building. All Guyanese who came from out of town were officially welcomed by GAOG President Dr. William Thomas, to the memorial day festivities that the association puts on every year.

They were entertained by the hypnotic drumming of Jeggae and the Queh Queh dances. Guyanese cuisine was also available.



*Celebrating 25 years of
Excellence*

Cultural Night & Health Fair

The week of celebrations continued Thursday and Wednesday night with a health fair and Cultural night. The Health fair was not as well as attended as anticipated.

The cultural night was the perfect opportunity for the older generations to share and pass down traditions to the younger generations. Many of the older adults present had attended the first flag raising ceremony in 1966 and shared nostalgic experiences of the pride felt during that moment. They thought the younger children the old cultural dances such as the Queh Queh and reflected on times when



Passing down the traditions of Queh Queh to the next generation.

Independence Ball

The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. held its Annual Independence Ball this year again. This much anticipated event was well attended in spite of concerns of losing patrons to the massive Golden Jubilee Celebrations in Guyana.



Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. Family Fun Day 2016



The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. celebrated its annual Family Fun Day at the Freedom Middle School.

The Family Fun Day (May 29, 2016) was an action-packed day. This year it was held at the Freedom Middle School. Patrons showed up in the thousands to support in spite of the venue change and massive Independence Jubilee celebrations in Guyana. It was an incident-free event and most patrons reported that they would return next year.

The Family Fun day was packed with activities for all ages. The children enjoyed track and field sports such as lime and spoon, and other games where prizes were awarded. There were adult races as well all of which were sponsored by Caribbean International Shipping Services. In addition there was more than enough food vendors providing a rich Guyanese cuisine sprinkled with dishes from other island nations.

The highlight of the day was however the entertainment. Nine year old Jailani got the crowd going belting out Soca tunes, he was followed by Nori Amada , Gucchi London, Anthony Malvo, Kimba Servano, and Kenne Blessin. who excited and enthralled all present with her soca beats. There was Queh Queh drumming and performers by the Queh Queh Dance Company who paid homage to the ancestors.



Queh Queh Dancers Perform (above) and children's races at the Family Fun Day

Thank you

Thank you to all our sponsors, members and volunteers who have worked to make this last quarter successful. We look forward toward to your continuous support in the future.

The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc.

Have you signed up or renewed your membership this year? Wait no more!

- Make yourself heard! Only financial members can vote!
- Get discounts at your grocery store
- Stay connected to the Guyanese community
- Professional networking opportunity.
- Access to scholarship opportunities.
- Giving back to your community
- Educational tutoring

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What's Happening in The Community



Caribbean Heritage Month.



Left: Guyanese Honorary Consul Marva Jacobs (Front right) and first lady of the GAOG Ms. Thelma Thomas (third from right) attend with other members at Caribbean Heritage Month. Right: Child bears the Guyana Flag at the opening of the ceremony.

This year the Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. was one of two countries highlighted at the Annual Caribbean American Heritage Month Celebrations. Guyana along with Barbados celebrated 50 years of Independence from the British. Caribbean American Heritage Month is a nationally recognized event as attested by proclamations from President Barack Obama, Office of the Atlanta Mayor Kassem Reed and Dekalb County Commissioner Stan Watson. This year's keynote guest speakers were from both countries Mr. Wesley Kirton, Director of CARICOM Outreach, from Guyana and the Hon. Stephen Lashley, Minister of Education, from Barbados. Mr. Kirton shared that the diaspora has contributed significantly to the US society especially in areas of education and nursing. He added that the Caribbean brings to the US society a rich and diverse culture. It brings a sense of purpose, discipline and work ethic comparable to any other immigrant group in the US and the world.

The audience were treated to several cultural presentations throughout the ceremony from both Guyana and Barbados portraying each country's history. These included dances, poetry and cultural dress show. The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. showcased all things Guyanese at their table which won third place. Finally there was what appeared to be an endless buffet style of Caribbean cuisine which guests enjoyed, giving them a taste of the islands.



Guyanese themed table entered into the competition. (Third Place) and Mr. Wesley Kirton addressing those present.

GAOG donates bottled water to Cricket Club.



This past May, The Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. donated several dozen bottles of water to the Georgia Women's Cricket Association, in Lithonia which were received by their President Petal Samuels and members (Left). This was part of the organization giving back to the community Program. The water was donated to the GAOG by Walmart (National Highway, East Point GA).

President of GAOG Dr. William Thomas hands over to President of the Georgia Women's Cricket Association, Ms. Petal Samuels (second from right)

GAOG Annual Feed the Homeless Program

Once again the Guyana Association of Georgia Inc. participated in the annual Feed the Homeless Program at the Trinity Church in Atlanta Georgia. The Association along with Bethany Church and Trinity Church pooled resources to prepare warm meals for homeless citizens in the metro area. The meals consisted of hotdogs, beans and potato salad or coleslaw. This was topped off with desert- cakes and a beverage. This year the program fed approximately 200 individuals.

The President, Dr. William Thomas, along with Officers of the board and general members showed up to participate in supporting this community event. The Association has been doing it for the past 25 years, spearheaded by past president Ms. Marilyn Farley- Thompson.



Above: GAOG Secretary Merlyn Osborne and past president Philip Andrews; Right: President Dr. William Thomas and members, Center: members prepping meals; Bottom: working with Bethel Methodist and Trinity Church to serve Lunches.

ALL THINGS GUYANESE

Snap Shot



[VEHICULAR OVERHEAD BYPASS FOR EAST BANK ROAD](#)

The East Bank four lane Highway is reportedly nearing completion and the Government is looking to reduce traffic congestion in some areas with plans to construct vehicular and pedestrian overhead passes.

[83 MINING FATALITIES IN SIX YEARS](#)

There have been 83 mining fatalities over the past six years in Guyana. In an attempt to reduce fatalities in this industry, The Guyana Geology and Mines Commission plans beef up its regulations and to come down hard on miners who fail to place safety of workers in front profits.

[HIV AND AIDS IN GUYANA](#)

There number of HIV AIDs cases in Guyana continue to be high. Based on data collected, the combined age range of 20-42 accounts for 80 percent of newly reported HIV cases annually. The Guyana government continues to put resources toward this epidemic and more emphasis will be placed on prevention.

[GUYANA TO ASSIST HAITI](#)

The Government of Guyana will be making a donation of cash to the People of Haiti to help alleviate their distress following the passage of Hurricane Matthew which flattened parts of the French-speaking island and claimed more than one thousand lives.



Oxtail and Vegetable Soup (6 Large Servings)

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs Oxtail
- 1 cup split peas
- 1 lb yuca/cassava (peeled and diced into 2 inch pieces)
- 3 corn on the cob (cut into halves)
- 1 large sweet potato (peeled and diced into 1 inch pieces)
- 3 yellow (ripe) plantains (cut into 2 inch rounds)
- 1 bunch of fresh spinach
- 1 large onion (diced)
- 5 cloves garlic (chopped)
- 3 tsp salt
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 2 wiri wiri peppers (1 scotch bonnet or cherry pepper)
- about 10 cups of water (total)

Directions:

Trim as much fat from the oxtail as possible. Add oxtail and 1 tsp salt to a pressure cooker with 4 to 5 cups of water and cook for about 30 minutes or until oxtail is tender and falls off the bone. Add cooked oxtail, stock and about 4 cups of water to a large stock pot on medium heat. Add corn, split peas, onion, garlic, thyme, peppers and salt and cook until split peas is soft. Add yuca/cassava and cook for 10 minutes or until yuca/cassava is semi soft. Add remaining vegetables and simmer until all the vegetables have cooked and are tender.

Tips and Ramblings:

1. I made a large pot of soup and had in the refrigerator for a few days, eating it whenever I wanted to warm up. It was great!
2. This soup is not "healthy." Oxtail is very fatty. But it is hearty. Go for a run, then enjoy a bowl.
3. If you are fortunate to live in a place where you have a good butcher and can get your oxtail from him/her, you can have him/her cut the oxtail into pieces for you. This makes cooking much easier and faster. My oxtail comes prepackaged in large chunks.
4. If you don't have a pressure cooker, you can cook the oxtail on medium heat for about 45 minutes to 1 hour and it should be just as tender.
5. Adding the peppers whole will give flavor without the heat. I usual cut open one of the pepper at the end for a little bit of heat.
6. If you have a different recipe for oxtail soup, don't hesitate to share.



IS SUH DEY SEH

Only Guyanese does:

Go to the International House of Pancakes and look for
Dhal & Roti

FOLKLORE GALORE

Masacoura Man

Powerful spirit of rivers - he pulls down into the water at rapids, the boats carrying pork knockers into the bush.

Over the summer

Guyana's Golden Jubilee Celebrations



Top: His Excellency, President David Granger and the Honorable Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo, stand to attention during the National Anthem. Bottom Left: The golden Arrowhead being hoisted in honor of the 50th Independence Anniversary Celebrations. Right: Thousands of spectators participate in the flag raising ceremony.

This year thousands of Guyanese from all over the world returned home to celebrate the Golden Jubilee Anniversary. This much anticipated event did not disappoint. Many members of the Association also attended to be part of this historic occasion.

Guyana along with Barbados acknowledge 50 years of being liberated from British rule. This was a proud and nostalgic moment for many as some were old enough to remember the first flag raising ceremony where the Union Jack was taken down and the Golden Arrowhead raised.

Many reported the joy and excitement of being home and seeing loved ones. There were several choice events to attend such as the president's banquet and the actual flag raising ceremony which was held at the newly built D'Urban Park.

Executive Board

Dr. William Thomas – President
Clairmont Fraser – Vice-President
Merlyn Osborne – Secretary
Donna Tinto – Treasurer
Marcus Gordon– Asst. Secty/Treasurer
Parliamentarian – Claude London

Trustees

Carl Lashley
Dennis Fraser
Dr. Kelly Thomas
Fitzstephen Griffith
Lyndelle Isaacs– Heyliger
Shena Applewhaite

Committee

Chairpersons

Building – Dennis Belgrave
Communications – Shena Applewhaite
Education – Carl Lashley
Finance – Dennis Fraser
Humanitarian/Hospitality– Marilyn Farley–Thompson
Membership/Events– Lyndelle Isaacs– Heyliger
Sponsorship– Claire Daily– Wilson

Editor's Corner



With this year fast coming to a close there has been a flurry of activity within the Association. This year marked a large milestone for the Guyana Association of Georgia. In September, we celebrated our silver Jubilee Anniversary and Scholarship Banquet. There were thirteen recipients this year, the largest, ever, and a reassuring sign that the Association's commitment to community service continues to grow.

This year two new fundraising events were held which appear to be keepers. These were the Fourth of July Bar – B- Q and the Labor Day Weekend Cook out.

The Association also held several community events these last two quarters including the Feed the Homeless program with Trinity Church in Atlanta and also donating bottled water to The Georgia Women's Cricket Club of Lithonia.

In keeping with the spirit of giving, the holiday season is now upon us and it is time for festivities and celebrating with family. Please celebrate responsibly and have a safe Thanks giving and Christmas.



Condolences

Our hearts go out to the members and friends of the Association who lost loved ones during this past quarter.

Particularly to our Vice President, Mr. Clairmont Fraser and Family for the passing of his mother Ms. Marjorie Olivia Fraser and;

To our Past Secretary Ms. Jackie Brown for the Passing of her mother Ms. Rachel Johnson.

**Are you up for the challenge?
GAOG needs your talents to help the
community.
Become a member today!**



*Happy
Thanksgiving
to all our
Members,
Sponsors and
Friends.*



**Your association needs you!
Volunteer today in one of
our committees!**

Contact the Chair of the committee you are interested in.

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