

THE TATTLETALE

The North East Regional Chapter (NERC) Special Edition Feature

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CUNA pays tribute to the Credit Union Movement

CCULTT Salutations to the CU Movement on its 73rd year of service

The History of the Credit Union Movement - T&T style

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Happy International Credit Union Day 2021

Three-score and Thirteen, marks a significant achievement for the International Credit Union Movement, as it celebrates over seven decades of service to the global Credit Union Community.

On October 21, 2021, Credit Unions globally will use the opportunity to engage their members, benefactors, supporters and stakeholders as they count their blessings and achievements particularly having surmounted the recent challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, which makes this year's celebration particularly significant.

'We've done it again', says the Credit Union Movement, having made significant strides in navigating its members through these unprecedented times and with this year's theme of *"Building Financial Health for a brighter tomorrow"*, it seems the movement has its sights set on establishing foundations built for stability & sustainability for generations to come.

The History of the Credit Union Movement in T&t

by Matthew Durham



Matthew Durham, Branch Manager
Eastern Credit Union
Cooperative Society Ltd.

Our Strength as a Movement

The notion of co-operatives was introduced to our region in 1911 by an Anglo-Irish named Sir Horace Plunkett. In 1942 Mr. Thomas Malcolm Milne a devout Catholic and solicitor gave birth to the economic co-operative today known as Credit Unions (CUs). However it was not until 1945 the enactment of the Credit Union Society Ordinance No. 48 of 1945 was passed. This saw the registration of the first CUs, Health Services CU (Trinidad) and Lambeau CU (Tobago).

Over the years the movement has undergone several transformations and in 1952 the amendment to the Credit Union Societies Ordinance No. 18 of 1952 recognized the Credit Union League. This gave rise to one of the biggest milestones, the Co-operative Societies Act Chapter 81:03 in 1971. Today this act still stands as the governing framework, adjudicated by the office of the commissioner of co-operatives despite several draft bills and policy proposals being presented to the government of Trinidad and Tobago for consideration.

Nevertheless the strength, stability, innovativeness and strong leadership of the movement has generated significant growth. To date we boast of over four hundred (400) registered Credit Unions with an assets base of approximately \$7B, servicing over one million members.

"The Power of a Dream"!

'To a Great Mind, Nothing is Little' - Sherlock Holmes

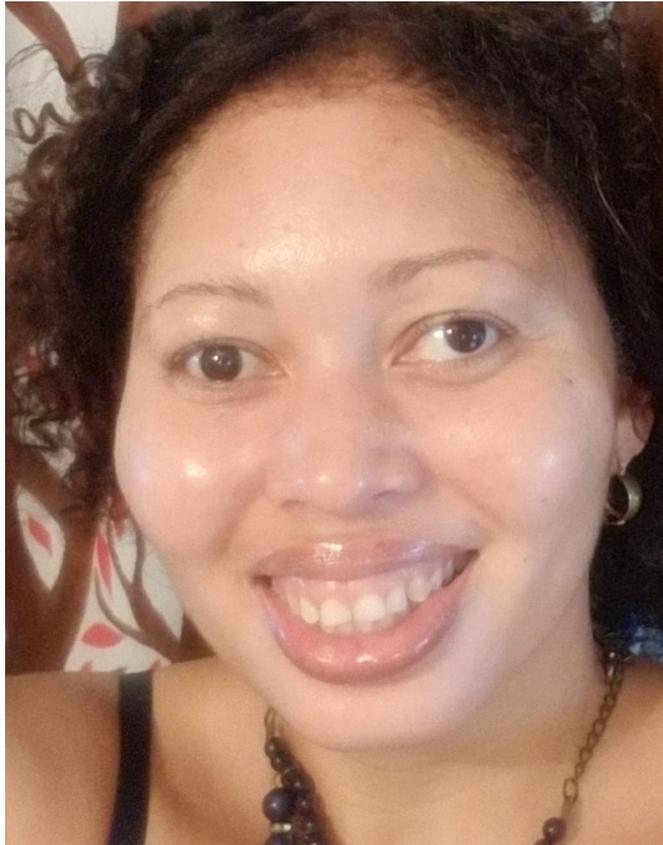
The Credit Union Movement in Trinidad and Tobago was birthed from an idea that later became a dream, that would eventually become a reality and is recognized in today's modern society as a norm.

The dream caster that made the credit union movement possible within our jurisdiction was San Fernando Solicitor and then Commissioner of Inland Revenue, Mr. Thomas Malcolm Milne. In 1942, Thomas Milne read some articles about the co-operative movement in Antigonish, in Canada. His interest was piqued by the concept of cooperativism, as a means to enable the 'common man' greater economic freedom that would eventually become his legacy.

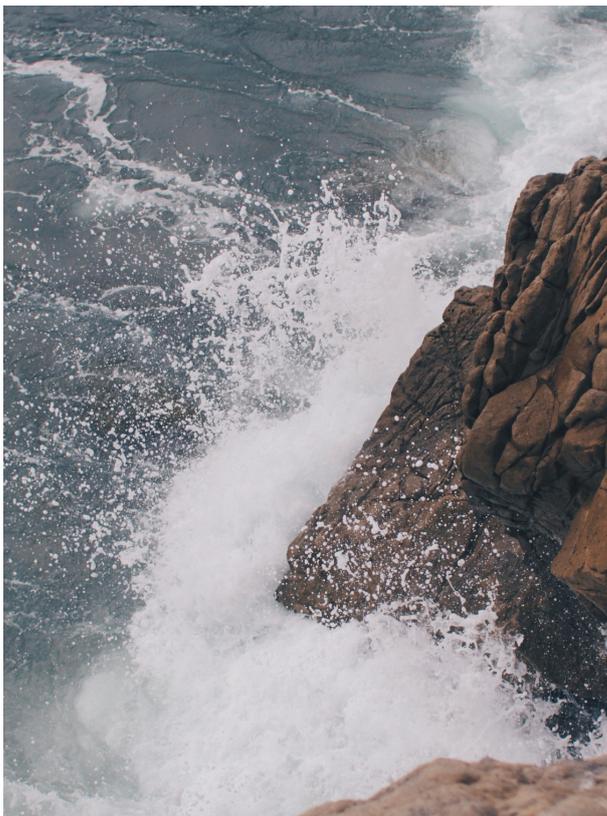
Thus, it came as no surprise when one of his first steps in this legacy building process, was to contact Fr. Edward Sullivan who evangelizing about Credit Unions in the Caribbean. Information was exchanged between the parties and during the period 1942 to 1945, this information was disseminated to the populace of Trinidad and Tobago. Due to the interest taken by the general population in the concept of cooperativism, Sir Bede Clifford (the Governor), Sir Errol Dos Santos (Colonial Secretary) and Mr. Wilcox Wilson (Attorney General) sponsored the legislative bill to legalize and regulate the status of Credit Unions in Trinidad and Tobago. On December 29th 1945, the Credit Union Society Ordinance, No. 48 of 1945 was passed, and the first Credit Union to be registered was the Health Services Credit Union Society Limited.

The Credit Union Movement in Trinidad and Tobago remains a testimony to the power of a dream, and continues to be the catalyst by which many dreamers in today's society push towards a better economic future for themselves and their families.

By: Keri A Kitson



**Keri A Kitson, Member
Agricola Credit Union
Cooperative Society Ltd.**





CCULTT Salutes the International Credit Union Community on its 73rd Anniversary.

On International Credit Union Day, celebrated on the 3rd Thursday of October annually, Credit Unions join together globally to say 'Thank You' and to connect with its members and each other in a spirit of 'brotherly love' which distinguishes it from other financial institutions.

To commemorate these Celebrations, the Cooperative Credit Union League of Trinidad and Tobago has once again taken to the media along with several known supporters, with special mention to CUNA Caribbean; to highlight the achievements of the Credit Union Movement in Trinidad and Tobago.

SALUTATIONS FROM THE LEAGUE



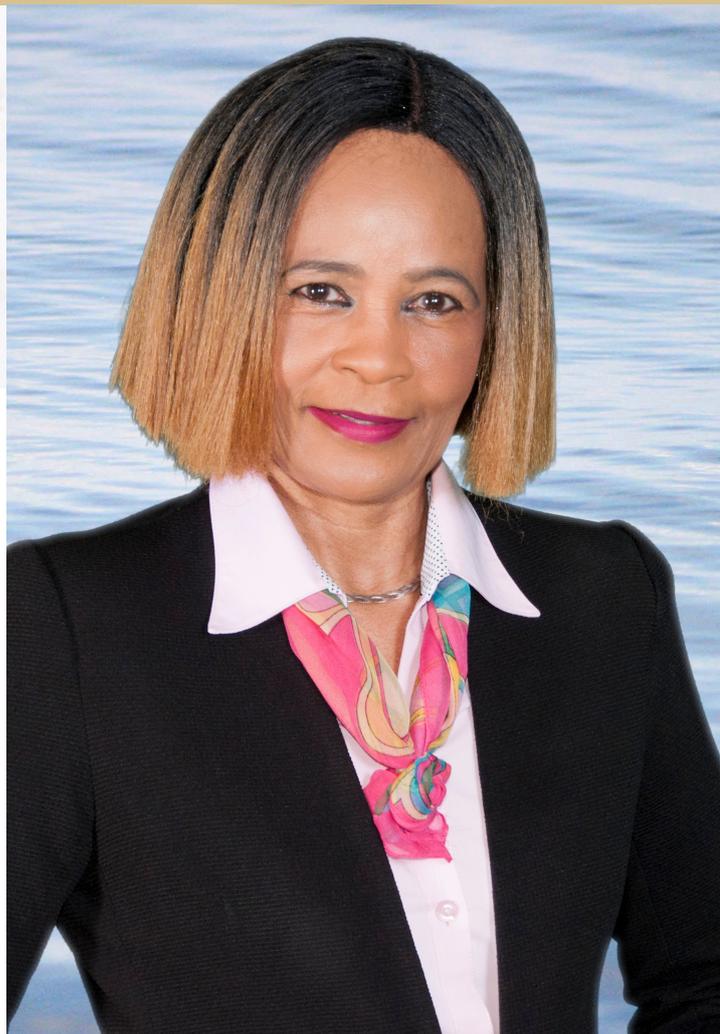
As the Cooperative Credit Union League of Trinidad and Tobago, we pride ourselves on service to our national membership and strive always to achieve our mandate, to effectively serve our Local Credit Union community and to ensure their collective voices are distinguished in the financial and economic landscape.

It is with distinct pride and privilege that we join with the Global movement to celebrate our 73rd Anniversary and we encourage you to 'Serve On' Credit Unions of T&T, as we press towards the mark of a higher calling together.

A CHAPTER THAT IS ON THE MOVE- NERC!

From the Desk of League Chief Operating Officer, Dianne Joseph

Happy International Month to the Board and Committees of the North East Regional Chapter (NERC) – a Chapter that is on the move!



As we celebrate International Credit Union Month 2021 and as I reflect on the work of the dynamic leadership of the NERC over the last year and under the direction of its Chairperson, Ms Janelle Benjamin, I am pleased to have had the pleasure of working with a forwarding thinking group. This month is particular, has been truly outstanding by the many planned and effectively executed activities to highlight the work of our credit unions as we celebrate credit union month under the theme - **"Building financial health for a brighter tomorrow"**.

The jeopardy event, short story and text-to-win competitions held as part of the month's celebrations served to bring the credit union movement together in a manner that is worthy of commendation and emulation by their counterparts. It did in fact brought back memories of the old time days of having fun – similar to seventy-three years ago when the League commenced its operations.

Let me therefore implore the NERC's team to continue to labour in the vineyard and to remain along a path of excellence in pursuing its work in the field of co-operativism so that our 661,000 members, 130 credit unions and TT\$17 Billion Dollars in assets will move from strength to strength and that the NERC, all other Chapters, our League and Movement will remain the force that we have been over the past three scores and ten, plus three. The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed us into a new era and we must take advantage of the opportunity that calls for change – positive change. I believe that, together, we can make that change and further strengthen our resolve.

Again, Happy International Credit Union Month, to the NERC, all credit unions and every credit union member!



THANK YOU TO THE CREDIT UNION MOVEMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO!

Special Recognition to All Credit Unions throughout Trinidad and Tobago, and particularly those who continue to support the efforts of the Cooperative Credit Union League by way of membership, participation, in words and in deeds... Special tribute is also being extended to the League Chapters, for continuing to blaze trails through their efforts, namely:

- NORTH EASTER REGIONAL CHAPTER
- NORTH WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER
- CENTRAL REGIONAL CHAPTER
- TOBAGO REGIONAL CHAPTER
- SOUTH EAST REGIONAL CHAPTER
- SOUTH WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER

'Where would we be without our stakeholders', certainly less equipped to succeed with our very formidable mandate and so we take this opportunity to 'raise our proverbial glass' to the following stakeholders for partnering and/or allowing us to thrive in and out of season:

- **MINISTRY OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONAL SERVICE**
- **OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT**
- **CUNA CARIBBEAN INSURANCE**
- **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO SISTER SOCIETY**

CUNA CARIBBEAN CONGRATULATES THE CREDIT UNION MOVEMENT ON 73 YEARS OF SUCCESS



**Andre Goindoo, Managing Director & CEO,
CUNA Caribbean Insurance Society Limited**

It is indeed a pleasure to celebrate Credit Union Month, a time where we recognize and celebrate the contributions the credit union movement has made in the lives of its members, not only in Trinidad and Tobago, but across the region and the wider global community.

This year's theme "Building Financial Health for a Brighter Tomorrow" is timely as we can attest to the ways credit unions has been responding to the challenges faced during this global pandemic. Credit unions remain a stalwart in protecting the financial well-being and security of its members.

We at CUNA Caribbean continue to reaffirm our commitment to the credit union philosophy of people helping people in our steadfast support of our credit union partners in Trinidad and Tobago and across the region.

On behalf of our employees across the Caribbean, we wish you all a Happy Credit Union month!

Working with Credit Unions to help build the financial health of their members for over 80 years.

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION DAY



NERC CELEBRATES CREDIT UNION MONTH WITH WEEK LONG ACTIVITIES



The North East Regional Chapter celebrated a Week of Activities to commemorate the 73rd Anniversary of the Global Credit Union Movement. As part of its week long activities, the NERC struck gold with this initiative that creatively combined fun, education and innovation, resulting in not only happier patrons but more engaged and empowered supporters.

In addition to this educationally rewarding experience, participants walked away with several prizes, making their efforts all the more rewarding and memorable. Now take a look at some of these activities in celebrating this year with a difference!

NERC THANKS ITS MEMBERS!

The North East Regional Chapter would like to Thank its Member Units and All supporters for their commitment to the Movement and for continuing to support the work of the NERC.

We recognize that service is an action word that requires a lot of heart and sacrifice, and so we THANK YOU most profusely, for investing your time, your efforts and most of all your passion for service, in helping us to improve the quality and capacities of our local membership!

NERC CREDIT UNION MONTH'S WEEK OF ACTIVITIES

BUILDING FINANCIAL HEALTH FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW™

Let's GO!

An October to Remember

PARTICIPATION FREE - DETAILS FOR EACH EVENT TO FOLLOW!

NERC WEEK OF ACTIVITIES 2021

- Monday 11th - Release of Credit Union month Short Story winning piece.
- Tuesday 12th - Text & Win - CU Month Trivia
- Wednesday 13th - Stay fit with NERC - free workout sessions from 11:30 am - 12:00 pm / 5:00 pm - 5:30pm
- Thursday 14th - NERC Jolly Jingle competition
- Friday 15th - Jaunt down memory lane webinar & Credit Union month Jeopardy competition

LOTS OF PRIZES TO BE WON!

NERC
NORTH EAST REGIONAL CHAPTER
of the Co-operative Credit Union League

689-6175 / 754-6525
EMAIL: NERC.CULTT@GMAIL.COM

JEOPARDY!

NERC an October to Remember!

in Celebration of ICU Month...



NERC SHORT STORY COMPETITION

SUBMIT YOUR SHORT STORY ON THE HISTORY OF THE CREDIT UNION MOVEMENT IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Email Submissions by the 08th October 2021, for nerc.cultt@gmail.com

Rules:

- Word Count - maximum 200 words
- Text submissions will not be accepted
- To submit Word & PDF versions

Prizes to be won
Winning Story to feature in our Special Edition Newsletter

Text To Win Competition

12TH OCTOBER 2021 FROM 10 AM - 2 PM

Competition Rules:

1. Register for the competition by Texting "I'm In" to 689-6175 / 754-6525.
2. Participants will be added to a Whatsapp Group, where Credit Union related Questions will be posted every hour between 10 - 2pm on the 12/10/21
3. Winners will be chosen on a 1st in time/1st in line basis
4. Top 3 persons with the most number of correct responses by the end of 10pm will Win Prizes
5. Prizes will be announced at NERC's Finale Webinar on 15/10/21

STAY FIT WITH NERC FOR CREDIT UNION MONTH

WEDNESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2021

SESSIONS @ 11:30am-12:00pm & 5:00pm-5:30pm

You're Invited!

Text To Win Competition

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5. Prizes will be announced at NERC's Finale Webinar on the 15/10/21.

For Further details contact: 689-6175/754-6525 or Email us @ nerc.cultt.com

NERC SHORT STORY COMPETITION



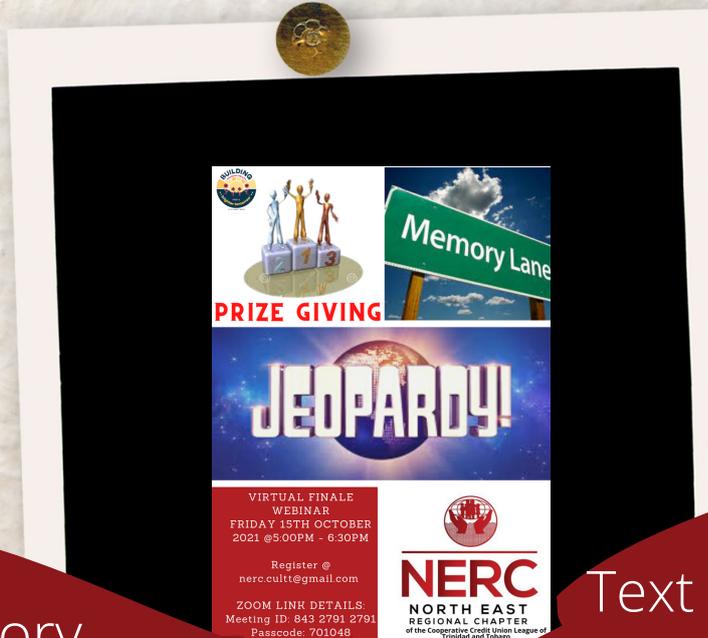
RABBIT'S NEW BREAD

RABBIT COULD REMEMBER THE DAYS WHEN ALL HE HAD TO EAT WAS BREAD AND SALT BUTTER. ON BETTER DAYS, BREAD AND CONDENSED MILK. AND HOW MA WOULD MAKE THIS UBIQUITOUS BUTTER WORK ON ANYTHING! AND WHO DOH LIKE IT, LIE DOWN BY IT. “RABBIT,” HIS STEP-FATHER WOULD SAY. “YOU AND YUH SISTER TOO HOITY-TOITY. ALLYUH DOES ONLY COMPLAIN. IS I WHO WEARING D LONG PANTS IN THIS HOUSE EH!”

RABBIT WAS A BIG, HARD-BACKED MAN NOW. IT WAS THE EARLY 1940S, HE AMASSED A LITTLE MONEY FROM HIS LABOURER “WUK” AT THE AMERICAN BASE, HAD “PLENTY WOMAN” AND OWNED THE NEWEST “BRAND-NEW-SECOND-HAND” BICYCLE IN HIS VILLAGE. BUT HE WANTED MORE. HE’D HEARD OF A NEW SOCIETY CALLED CREDIT UNIONS, INTRODUCED TO TRINIDAD BY A MEMBER OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. AS THE LURE OF “YANKEE DOLLARS” TURNED OUT TO BE A FINANCIAL DISAPPOINTMENT, AND THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR CONTRACTED, A WAVE OF SELF-HELP, INDEPENDENCE AND EQUITY INUNDATED THE LAND. IT MIMICKED “SOU SOU” AND “LEN HAN” AND ENDEAVOURED TO DISPLACE UNSCRUPULOUS MONEY LENDERS. THE GRASSROOTS WERE TIRED OF BEING BROKE AND BUSTED. THEY GATHERED PENNIES HIDDEN UNDER THEIR MATTRESSES, DUSTED OFF THE EGREGIOUS PAST, AND FILLED WITH UNWAVERING ASPIRATION, JOINED THE MOVEMENT

WINNING STORY BY TORSHIA SEALES

NERC WEEK OF ACTIVITIES WINNERS!



Short Story
Winner:
Torshia Seales

Text To Win Winners:

1. **Cyril Barron**
2. **Ann Castillo**
3. **Camille Fraser & Chad**

NERC SHORT STORY COMPETITION

YOUR SHORT STORY ON THE STORY OF THE CREDIT UNION MOVEMENT IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Submissions by the 08th October 2021 to:
nerc.cultt@gmail.com

Word Count - maximum 200 words
Late submissions will not be accepted
Please submit Word & PDF versions

Prizes to be won
Winning Story to feature in our
Special Edition Newsletter

Jeopardy Competition
Winners:

Avinash Bissoondial
Jennlyn Bailey
Don Isaac
Gail Barran
Matthew Durham
Gerard Mathews
Rachel Salandy





NERC

NORTH EAST
REGIONAL CHAPTER
of the Cooperative Credit Union
League of Trinidad and Tobago

NERC says:

*Thank
you*



& Happy Credit Union Month 2021!