



St John

Island News

Training to a Caribbean beat

www.orderofstjohn.org

June 2008

Caribbean Training Team comes together

This month, representatives from 9 Caribbean Associations participated in a Continuous Professional Development event in St Lucia.

After many years and numerous attempts, this was the first time representatives from the “training community” on the Islands have had an opportunity to meet, work together and share information and resources.

Facilitators from the UK and Canada joined the group to update first aid training content and practices and then challenge participants to step “out of the box” as they participated in activities designed to enhance training programs. There is no doubt there is a great deal of work to be done, but this group proved to be committed to the task and approached every activity with enthusiasm.



Participants designed programmes based on learner attributes and designed training aids – looking at the experience from a new perspective.

Perhaps the most important conclusion of this event was the understanding that participants from the various Caribbean Associations share more common interests than do they have “differing needs.

St Lucia trainers honoured at British High Commission

On the first evening, the British High Commissioner, Karl Burrows and his wife graciously hosted a reception for the workshop participants. At this event, the Governor General, Her Excellency Calliopa Pearlette Louisy along with the former Chairman (now St Lucia’s High Commissioner in London) Eldridge Stephens, took the opportunity to recognize the contribution of a number of local trainers and outstanding volunteers.



Her Excellency Pearlette Louisy presents Christopher Emmanuel with the certificate of Commanding Brother

Among those to be recognized at this event were:

- Christopher Emmanuel - Commander Brother
- Penelope Hackshaw - Officer sister
- Jane Augustin - Officer Sister
- Alicia John - Officer Sister
- William Gardiner - Officer Brother
- Wilfred St Clair Daniel - Officer Brother

Congratulations to all!

Don't forget to check the Order's website for the latest information and resources - www.orderofstjohn.org

We are pleased to present this first issue of the Island News but we need your feedback and ideas. Send your news, comments and suggestions for an official name for this newsletter to Gemma Mullick at gemma@orderofstjohn.org

Automated External Defibrillators Bring New Life to First Aid Training

In response to participant requests for training on the use of AEDs, a skills based session was conducted using generic AED trainers and manikins supplied by the Priory of Canada.

A number of Associations have expressed an interest and readiness to proceed with this level of training.



Mia Nagasaki-Kelly (Priory of Canada) watches as participants practice AED protocols

Inter- Island Support Begins Immediately

In order to offer immediate support to the Caribbean Associations, the training equipment donated by the Priory of Canada was distributed to participants to take back to their training locations.

In the spirit of the event, and as evidence of the mutual support between program participants, the representative from Bermuda made a donation of their training manikin to their colleagues from Guyana.



Team Bermuda (left) donates ACTAR manikin to colleagues from Guyana (centre). The manikins were given to the Caribbean by the Priory of Canada (Josephine Hall, right).

'Think Outside of the box' - training tips on the run!

Relationships established in this initial exercise have already begun to reap specific results. Within days of the return home a call for help went out looking for ideas to present basic concepts of the circulatory system in a new way.

Immediate response came from Dawn Upton of the Priory of England & the Islands.

Use chairs with a gap between rows big enough for people to walk between easily (see below, each square represents a chair).



Next get the students to walk from the lungs though the heart up to the brain and back again – they must touch the chairs at either end each time (or you could use a student at either end). This will represent the circulatory system simply and gives an idea of what happens when all is working ok.

Do this a few times at a steady pace.

Now get them to do it walking more quickly – represents how rate increases through exercise etc

Get them to do it very quickly. Now take own pulses – can actually feel what happens.

Now.....Move the chairs closer together so it is difficult for all to pass through at same time – represents narrowing arteries in heart and how 'traffic jam' or slower blood flow occurs.

You can discuss angina here. Then make chairs very close together and lead on to heart attacks and cardiac arrest. You will have to manage this exercise tightly to make sure no-one gets injured when they all start running through.

A special thank you to everyone who participated in the first Caribbean Training Event. The support of the Order Secretariat, the Priory of England and the Priory of Canada are appreciated. We look forward to news of ongoing progress from our new friends in the Islands.