

Focal Point
for the rest of the Caribbean

Yvette Holder

Countries represented by this Focal Point



- From the Bahamas in the north
- To Trinidad and Tobago in the south
- Including Belize in Central America
- And Suriname in South America

AFSM membership in the Caribbean

COUNTRY	Member Retirees	Non-member Retirees
Antigua & Barbuda	1	-
Bahamas	1	2
Barbados	3	?
Belize	1	-
St. Kitts & Nevis	2	-
St. Vincent	1	-
Suriname	1	1
Trinidad & Tobago	9	8

Joys of being a Focal Person for AFSM

- Reconnecting myself with old friends and colleagues
- Being an instrument to re-establish old relationships
- Being able to help old friends with health insurance and pension issues
- Being a mutual support for each other as we age together

Some of our activities

- 2021 virtual Christmas party



Christmas Celebration

VIRTUAL 2021 XMAS PARTY PROGRAMME

Meeting starts at 3 p.m. for Belize, 4 p.m. for USA, Jamaica and Bahamas, 5 p.m. for Guyana, Trinidad, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, 6 p.m. for Suriname and 9 p.m. United Kingdom.

5 mins: Allow for log-ins and ensuing problem resolution, and private chats

5 mins: WELCOME, housekeeping and general guidelines on how we may proceed (Host)

20 mins: WHERE ARE WE NOW? Brief ½ minute personal updates to bio after each introduction by host

5 mins: IN MEMORIAM for our friends that we have lost - Paul Ellis this year. But we still spare a moment to remember old friends like Hal Dyer, Mervyn Henry, Guillermo Troya, Mung, Jonne Warner, Peter Diggory and Patrick Hamilton, Ron Aarons, Ron Williams, Arthur Maul, David Bassett, Harry Drayton, Mardy Mohammed *inter alia*. Feel free to add names (I recall two others whose names I can't remember).

20 mins: CAROL KARAOKE:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dD3I4k0gA2M&list=RDzVXisls3twl&index=38>
It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=banF8NT3ARO>

Silent Night, Holy Night	1:41
Away in a Manger	7:15
Deck the Halls	8:50
The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy	27:58

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAFHVe7wVwY&list=RDzVXisls3twl&index=28>
Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMjIK8Dyf1g&list=RDIT3j6cOCMKk&index=8>
Feliz Navidad

3 mins: Toast

45 mins: Open sharing until farewells. *From this point onward, I will stop officially hosting to allow everyone to chat. The channel will be available for another hour if folk want to continue chatting.*

Challenges of this FP in the Caribbean

- Wide spread of residences over thousands of square miles and separated by water
- Impossible to host non-virtual events
- Difficult to physically check on very elderly retirees who may not be mobile
- Retirees of the PWRs and the two closed centres had different remuneration and separation packages
- Difficulty in recruiting non-P retired staff into AFSM
- As a non-member of UNJSPF and SHI, this FP was ill-informed to advise retirees on such matters.

Suggestions for improvement

- A more equitable membership fee structure to attract other former employees into AFSM
- An “each one call one” mechanism for retirees to check on each other