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# OUR POWER

NEWSLETTER

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# CUEA 2025: A Celebration of Unity and Culture

by Kimberly Alfred



*2025 Country of the Year - Saint Lucia*

## Frolic Overview

Frolic is an Easter festival hosted by the Caribbean Utilities Employees Association (CUEA), held on a different Caribbean Island each year. The festival, designed to unify utility employees across the region, was held this year on the nature isle of Dominica. Participants from Saint Lucia departed on April 16th and returned on April 23rd, 2025.

The St. Lucian contingent, 86 persons strong; including representatives from the LUCELEC Club and WASCO Sports & Social Club, was the largest representation among the participating islands. Attendees were treated to a packed schedule of activities, including an opening night cocktail, sports day, culture night, a pool party, a cookout, an island tour, and a closing ceremony. The cookout stood out as the highlight of the trip, with many participants reeling about the good food and even better company.

## Events & Activities

A key addition to this year's festival was the return of the Cultural Night, reintroduced following the 2023 AGM's consensus that the festival had been lacking cultural depth in previous years. This event featured a traditional wear pageant and a calypso song competition.

## Giving Back

A charity event had been organized as part of the schedule of activities, aiming to give back to the host community in a meaningful way. The initiative involved volunteers from participating islands coming together to repaint and beautify a local bus stop in Dominica, a small but impactful gesture to uplift public spaces and leave a positive mark on the island. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled due to the sudden and heartbreaking passing of a key member of the Dominica Sports Club, whose contributions had been instrumental in planning the activity. While the charity event could not proceed, the spirit of service and solidarity remained strong among participants, and many expressed interests in supporting similar initiatives in future.



*Preparations during the Island Cook Out*

## Sports Day

Sports Day was a vibrant display of Saint Lucian pride. Our cheerleaders and athletes were adorned in national colours, dominating most events to the dismay of the other islands and notably winning the tug of war. On closing night, St. Lucia proudly walked away as the CUEA 2025 Country Champion and the CUEA 2025 Sports Day Champion.

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) provided an opportunity for all sports clubs from member islands to present their efforts and activities over the past year. Clubs across the region vary in development, with some being newly revamped and others hosting weekly events.

As of April 2025, the LUCELEC Club has 126 financial members (49% of our Company's population) and 13 sponsors. It's worth noting that the LUCELEC Club has the lowest employee contribution among the islands at just \$5, compared to \$20–\$50 amongst all other clubs. This difference in investment allows other regional clubs to host more frequent and engaging activities and events. Some clubs even boast near-total employee membership. This is something we can aspire to as we continue to receive your feedback and grow, and with such, we implore you to join the club.

### Frolic Experience

My Frolic experience was truly unforgettable. Witnessing a melting pot of cultures united under "One Caribbean" was special. While many see Frolic as just a fun getaway, attending the AGM revealed the deeper purpose—fostering collaboration among utility companies and making a meaningful impact.



Saint Lucia's Cheerleaders



Excitement at Sports Day of the CUEA Festival

The intention to partner with CARILEC to bring more islands on board reflects the association's commitment to uniting professionals across the utility sector. I especially enjoyed Sports Day, seeing everyone decked out in blue, yellow, black, and white, proudly representing "Juju." I know the other islands were tired of us!

*"It is an experience one would enjoy. Interacting with other utilities around the Caribbean, creating links whether personal or business, whether you're there to relax, unwind or even just for entertainment. The experience is in your hands."* Sports Coordinator James Isidore shared.

After my first experience, I can confidently say that Frolic achieves its goal of connecting people who might not have otherwise met.

We look forward to attending CUEA 2026 in Anguilla, the next host island. Stay tuned to LUCELEC Club updates for more details and remember to sign up for Club membership.

# Reading Month 2025: Inspiring Young Minds, One Story at a Time

by Sydel Charles



*Our team with the principal and students of Lady Gordon Opportunity Centre (Cicero)*

On May 20, the LUCELEC Club brought stories, smiles, and inspiration to the students of the Dunnottar School and Lady Gordon Opportunity Centre, followed by a special invitation to La Guerre Primary School's Reading Extravaganza on June 4.

At Lady Gordon and Dunnottar, students were fully engaged, asking questions, sharing thoughts, and enjoying a refreshing break from their daily routines. These visits were not just about reading books; they were about making the students feel seen, valued, and included.

The selected schools reflected our Club's commitment to inclusivity and encouragement for all children. We wanted to spend time with the students, understand their environment, and show them they matter. I personally enjoyed having conversations with students, teachers and principals gaining deeper knowledge of the institutions and how our mere presence and willingness to assist was impactful. This is something that the students may remember far beyond Reading Month.

La Guerre Primary School's Reading Extravaganza was a vibrant celebration of

literacy which brought together parents and representatives from various organizations including Massy Stores, M&C Group of Companies, the Saint Lucia Fire Service, Royal Saint Lucia Police Force (RSLPF), local farmers, media personnel, and bus drivers. We proudly represented LUCELEC alongside other community leaders.

The LUCELEC Club donated books to the grade 4, 5 and 6 classroom libraries, having readers of each class sign the books left behind, leaving a lasting impact beyond the day's activities.



*Tricia James interacting with students of the Dunnottar School*

The principals jointly expressed deep appreciation. Ms. Vanessa Menal of Lady Gordon thanked LUCELEC for our continued support, noting the Generation Department's regular contributions to the school, and how meaningful it is for students to be remembered and included. "You made our children feel included. It's not always other children getting, but they too are remembered by businesses like yours. You include them and they are grateful for that kind of support and it's very meaningful to them that people from the outside can come and give that level of support so thank you for that," she said.

Ms. Antonia Joseph of Dunnottar, which serves 94 students with developmental differences in 5 different divisions, emphasized how rare and impactful such visits are for Special Ed students. She shared that visits like these make their students feel truly special. "It's always a great feeling when any organization from out there takes an interest in the Dunnottar school. Most times, Special Ed is looked at as the forgotten sector in education so when somebody takes on the task of engaging with our students, bringing something new to them, it's always welcomed" she shared.

Reading Month aims to foster a love for reading and encourage literacy by making it an enjoyable part of everyday life for students. Through this initiative, we wanted to encourage students to fall in love with reading as it is an essential part of everyday life, but also to remind them that they are seen.

Reading Month is just one part of the Club's educational outreach. As the new academic year approaches, the focus now shifts to Operation School Box (OSB), a donation drive that provides school supplies to



Keenan Henry and Lincoln Francis with the Grade 5 teacher and students of the La Guerre Primary School

students across the island. Like Reading Month, OSB is powered entirely by the generosity and commitment of the LUCELEC Club and contributions of you LUCELEC team members.

### How You Can Help Operation School Box:

OSB is currently underway, and the Club is accepting both monetary contributions (\$150 per child) and donations of school supplies. Every pencil, notebook, and backpack helps ensure that students start the school year equipped and confident.

Let's continue to make a difference, one story, one school supply and one student at a time.

The LUCELEC Club presents

# Operation School Box (OSB)

## Donate Supplies

We're collecting generic school items:

- school bag
- notebooks
- pencils/pens
- crayons
- glue
- rulers
- paint
- and more

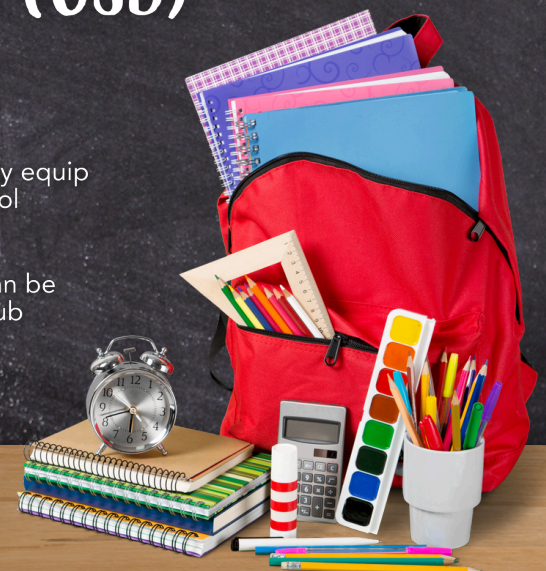
Place your donations in the marked boxes at each depot.

## Sponsor A Child

For just **\$150**, you can fully equip a child with essential school supplies.

Monetary contributions can be made to any LUCELEC Club executive members.

For more details contact Malaika Chester at 1(758)714-8826 or [mchester@lucelec.com](mailto:mchester@lucelec.com)



# Celebrating Excellence: Honouring Our Administrative Professionals

by Tricia Cherubin



*Our Admin Assistants on Admin Professionals' Day*

Administrative Professionals Day is more than a calendar event; it is a heartfelt celebration of the people who keep our organization running smoothly behind the scenes. At LUCELEC, we proudly recognize the dedication, precision, and heart we administrative professionals bring to our roles every single day. Whether coordinating meetings, managing communications, or supporting strategic initiatives, our contributions are invaluable.

This year I celebrated my first Admin Professionals Day, and the celebrations included a dynamic learning session facilitated by HR Business Partner Kedia Daniel, who guided us through the intricacies of the Employee Performance Appraisal Scorecard. We ended the day with lunch at the Pink Plantation Restaurant, offering a moment of relaxation and bonding for our admin team.

An administrative professional is responsible for a wide range of tasks that ensure the seamless operation of departments and teams. We are often the first point of contact for internal and external stakeholders and play a pivotal role in maintaining workflow, communication, and morale. We often wear

many hats and some of our key roles and responsibilities include management of calendars, handling correspondence and communication, procurement processes, making meetings and travel arrangements, document formatting and reporting, maintaining filing systems and databases, supporting project coordination and event planning and acting as a liaison between departments and teams.

At LUCELEC, the admin professionals, Thea Francis-Charlemagne, Martha Felix-Alexander, Cynthia Preville, Karleen Edwin, Niamalikhah Gideon-Marius, Chadia Felix and myself, all contribute to our Company's excellence.

Our role is often underestimated, but its impact is profound. Our presence ensures that the gears of LUCELEC turn efficiently, even during times of change or challenge. We are not just support staff, we are the strategic enablers responsible for improving internal communication and workflow, uphold the company's values and drive initiatives forward by ensuring timely execution and follow ups.

Like many other roles here, we assist in shaping our company's culture, elevating customer service, and streamlining the operations of our respective departments, sections and divisions.

To all our administrative professionals, thank you. Your work may often be behind the scenes, but its impact is front and center. You are essential to LUCELEC's success, and we are proud to celebrate you every day.

# Key Takeaways & Tips from Employee Wellness Program (EWP): Financial Confidence

by Roshayne Cadette



## Budgeting & Savings: Build Your Financial Foundation

- Aim to save 10–30% of your income monthly.
- Set up a 3–6 month emergency fund to cushion against unexpected events. Include both needs and wants in your budget to avoid spending on impulse.
- Avoid spending your savings without a clear, concise plan.
- Review and adjust your budget only during major life or income changes.
- Reassess your financial plan at least yearly to stay aligned with your goals.

## Smart Banking Strategies

- Consider using multiple bank accounts across different institutions.
- Keep savings in a separate account from your salary deposit for better self-control.
- Be mindful of digital banking convenience. Easy access can lead to overspending.
- Remember, as a consumer, you must explore better rates and services.

## Growth Through Income Diversification

- Start a side hustle or freelance gig, even if it's just 15–30 minutes per day.
- Think long-term: create a 5+ year budget plan that supports your financial goals

## Investing & Responsible Borrowing

- Use loans strategically and consider investing in term deposits or bonds for better returns.
- Ensure you have a solid emergency fund and a healthy debt-to-income ratio before investing.
- Don't limit yourself, look internationally for smart investment opportunities.
- Avoid borrowing to pay off other debts; it often leads to a cycle of borrowing.

## Holistic Financial Planning

- Financial planning is continuous. Review your budget regularly and stay flexible.
- Assess risk carefully when investing or borrowing.
- Strive to keep your debt-to-income ratio below 45-50% for long-term stability.

## Understanding Your Money Habits

- Monitor and correct financial deviations before they escalate.
- Include leisure and wants in your budget to enjoy your earning

## Debt Management: Break the Cycle

- Avoid chronic borrowing and resist using loans to cover other debts.
- Consider taking on extra work or side gigs to pay off existing debt.
- Be aware: consolidation loans may be limited for individuals with poor debt history.
- Discipline and sacrifice are key tools in achieving debt freedom.

# Energizing Our Community

## Corporate Social Responsibility - May 2025



*The crowd at Desruisseaux Jazz & Arts Festival 2025*

### Arts & Festival

#### **St. Lucia Jazz Arts & Festival 2025**

- Fringe Events
  - Junior Jazz & Arts Festival (Silver)
  - 11th Annual Jazz Sampler (Gold)
- Community Events
  - Soufriere Regional Development Foundation (SRDF) - Soufriere Jazz 2025 (Silver)
  - Choiseul Jazz
  - Desruisseaux Jazz
  - Hills & Valley Inspirational Jazz
  - Micoud Jazz en Vierge
  - Rainforest Jazz En Babonneau
  - Anse La Raye Fish Fry Jazz
  - Vieux Fort Mouvman Ensamn Jazz 2025

#### **Lucian Carnival 2025**

- Soca & Calypso Tent
  - Kaiso Pros Tent (KPT) – 2025 Tent Season
  - Fire One Calypso Tent – 2025 Calypso Season
  - Take Over Tent (TOT) & Soca Village International – Calypso Tent 2025
  - Soca The Ultimate Tent – Big Bad Soca
  - South Tent Calypso – Grande Launching & Tent Season

### Education

#### **Reading Month 2025**

- District Three Education Office – Reading Month 2025
- La Guerre Primary School – Reading Month 2025: Reading Extravaganza
- Ti Rocher R. C. Primary School – Reading Pageant

### Sports

- Elite Track & Field Club – 9th Annual Track and Field Meet
- Cheetah's Athletics – Southern Champ 2025
- St. Lucia Tennis Association Inc. – 2025 National School Tennis Tournament

### Charitable

- St Lucia Arthritis & Lupus Association (SLALA) – Lupus Awareness Month – Lupus Seminar

### Community Outreach & Other Donations

- Anse La Raye Youth & Sports Council – Once Upon a Brunch
- Royal Saint Lucia Police Force (RSLPF) – Beat de Olympian



*Participants of Beat de Olympian 2025*

# Energizing Our Community

## Corporate Social Responsibility - June 2025

We remain steadfast in our commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR), recognizing the vital role that the community-focused initiatives we sponsor play in our national development. By supporting activities in education, arts and festivals, sports, and charitable causes, we aim to foster environments where creativity, learning, and empowerment can continue to thrive.

Our sponsorships and donations are more than financial contributions, they are investments in the future of local communities. These efforts reflect our belief that when we invest in people and their potential, we help build a stronger, more inspired nation.

### Arts & Festival

#### **Lucian Carnival 2025**

- Ave Maria Girls' Primary School – Ave Clash: 10th Anniversary Calypso & Soca Competition
- Duty Free Pointe Seraphine – Jazz Dwive 2025
- Export Saint Lucia - Export the Runway

#### **Art Events**

- Lighthouse Theatre – 41st Anniversary Celebration of Lighthouse - "Triptych" Production

### Sports

- District Two – Golden Sporting Events: Post CPEA Activities



*Team LUCELEC, organizations and community leaders at La Guerre Primary School's Reading Extravaganza*

### Education

#### **Annual Graduation Ceremonies**

- Bexon R. C. Infant School
- Bocage Secondary School
- Ciceron Secondary School
- Corinth Secondary School Emmanuel SDA Combined School
- Leon Hess Comprehensive Secondary School
- Micoud Secondary School

### Charitable

- Make My Day – Petals & Pours

### Community Outreach & Other Donations

- Kiwanis Club of Castries – Annual All-Inclusive Fundraising boat ride
- Helen's Daughters – A Farm to Round Table Event
- You Are Amazing Academy – IgniteHER Women's Conference

# Watts Up Next



*Team members enjoying the Employee Wellness Program (EWP)'s  
Fit & Fun Fest*

## **Holiday: Emancipation**

August 1

## **Bubbles & Bloom**

August 10

## **Annual Scholarship Awards**

August 16 | 3pm

## **Observance: La Rose Festival**

August 30

## **Contribution & Feedback**

Did you enjoy this newsletter?  
Team Corporate Communications would love your feedback.

To contribute to our internal newsletter:

✉ [corporatecommunications@lucelec.com](mailto:corporatecommunications@lucelec.com)

☎ 758.730.4455

Or drop by the office or just stop us in our tracks!