



St Cyprian's School

**ST CYPRIAN'S UNION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
14 September 2018**

In January 2018 I took over the reigns as SC Union Chair from Sue Townsend. I would like to thank Sue for her continuous dedication and love for St Cyprian's School and for her mentorship through this year.

Union Committee

At the last AGM, Astrid indicated that she would be stepping down from Treasurer this year. However, she has agreed to continue in this role for another year. For this we are truly grateful. We will continue our search for a new Treasurer. In the meantime, the Union Committee has agreed to reinstate the FinCo to support Astrid.

I would like to thank our SC Union Committee members for giving of their time and for their commitment, support and drive. They champion and facilitate the connection of the alumni with each other and with the school. I applaud the dedication and commitment to upholding the good values and traditions of St Cyprian's during these modern times.

Our esteemed Union Committee is composed as follows

1. Union Chairperson – Cebisa Mfenyana 1989
2. Union Vice-Chairperson & Reunions – Carmen Petersen 1988
3. Secretary – Belinda Traverso 1989
4. Treasurer – Astrid Liebrecht- Meyer 1966
5. Senior Union Members Liaison – Sue Townsend (nee Wheeler) 1963
6. PA Liaison – Lynn Mattheyson 1989
7. Social Media - Katherine Langmann 2003
8. Special Events & Projects – Caroline Dorrington (nee Roberts) 1991
9. Special Events & Projects - Shelley Mvulana (nee Schwartz) 1997
10. Special Events & Projects – Monika Veldboer (nee Erhentraut) 1989
11. Special Events & Projects - Giorgina King 2006

Giorgina King, 2006, has stepped down from the Union Committee as she is currently based outside of South Africa. We look forward to having her back on board when she is able to give of her time again. We are grateful for her service over the years.

Branches

There have been alumni gatherings in Gauteng and London, with the annual SCS Union London Lunch which took place on Saturday, 2 June 2018 at the home of the London Branch Secretary, Carol Frankel. Donations were collected which went towards the Union Bursary.

The Gauteng branch is active under Mary Gillett-de Klerk who is working with Bella Mfenyana and Anna MacKenzie-Main (Lello).

I would also like to acknowledge and thank all the branch secretaries in various cities and countries. I think that there are SC Union activities and gatherings taking place but unfortunately there has not been communication to me about these and we would love to hear all about the connections that are taking place and also be able to connect more Union members with each other.

SCS Alumni Network

I am excited about the recent launch of the *SCS Connect*. This is a portal which is dedicated to connecting SCS alumni and growing the Union. This is an example of the partnership that the Union has with the school. The SCS Connect portal will enable us to keep our database updated and ease communication with and amongst members.

I am enjoying seeing all the activity and pictures that have already been posted on the portal.

This year sees the inaugural Union vs School sports matches. We are hoping to make this an annual event around St Cyprian's Day.

In addition to this, for next year, we would like to introduce a SC Union dinner the night before St Cyprian's Day where all the reunions can have dinner together in one venue.

Please be on the look-out for communication about this.

Union Scholarship & Bursaries

I would like to thank Roma Green (nee Brinton) and her late husband Eric, for their generous donation and for the establishment of the Eric Green Scholarship. The inaugural recipient is Lunathi Dalasile. This scholarship is awarded to a pupil that demonstrates academic excellence, has leadership qualities, is diligent and hardworking.

Through the *Sister Hildergarde Bursary*, the Union was able to assist a pupil in financial need with their school fees.

The SCS Union Scholarship was awarded to Alice Gwynne-Evans & Chloe Goodwin. This is awarded to children and grand-children of Union members.

In support of the ethos of Round Square and the opportunities that it offers our pupils, the Union Committee ratified that the *Centenary Bursary* be used to support a pupil in financial need to take part and attend Round Square conferences in other countries.

Kneeler Project

The kneeler project is nearing its completion with only a couple of rows left to be filled with kneelers. Janette Schelpe is and has been successfully and diligently driving this project and uses a group of Rwandan refugees to help stitch for us.

Not only does Janette run the kneeler project, she also oversees the mending and cleaning of St Cyprian's Day banners as well as the repair of broken kneelers.

Matric Breakfast

The 2018 Matric breakfast, hosted by the Union, was held on 19 June. Each matric was presented with a beautiful and symbolic Lily bracelet – a token of our connection to them, to the school and to each other throughout our lives.

This event was organized by Belinda Traverso with the help of Sue Townsend. Belinda shared a few words with the girls about the legacy of the Union and the importance of maintaining those connections with the Alumni and nurturing our community around the world.

Baptismal Font

In response to a request by the School Chaplain, Rev Andrew Weiss, the SC Union has donated a movable Baptismal Font to the school chapel.

Branded Items

We had made a number of SCS branded items that we had made and sold at the SCS Carnival in 2017.

There are still caps, water bottles, mugs and sports cushions available.

We are aiming to add a ladies scarf which will help us in identifying each other and we can wear at Union-related and school-related events. I cannot wait to launch this.

Thank-you

I would like to thank all those Union members who have so generously donated to the Union coffers. We appreciate every Rand – no amount is ever too small.

Our aim is to grow our coffers so that we can continue to support deserving pupils in financial need and those who show excellence and embody the qualities and values of St Cyprian's.

We also use the funds to provide for and look after the school Chapel and the school and support SCS 150 which is the process of upgrading the campus to be in line with current needs and to for the school to remain relevant.

I would like to also thank Colleen Gillett, Angela Andrew and Dawn Katovsky for their service to the Union as well as their mentorship and support of me in my new role.

Finally, I would like to thank Sue Redelinghuys and her team for supporting and accommodating the SC Union. Together we can only achieve great things.

Ms Cebisa Mfenyana (1989)

St Cyprian's Union Chairperson