

Smith takes over at Alzheimer's group

ANGELA PIDDUCK

ANN SMITH was appointed president of the Alzheimer's Association of Trinidad and Tobago (AZATT's) on January 7 by the group's new board. Smith

replaces Norma Inniss who was at the helm for 21 years, having founded the association in 1996 and was president from its registration as a non-profit organisation in 2000.

Smith sees her appointment as the

start of a new era in the association's life. "This is an exciting but challenging time. The new board will continue to develop and raise awareness of the association while supporting those persons affected by this dreaded disease...

There is a lot of work to be done but the idea is not to change everything radically overnight but to improve how we do, what we do," Smith said. Smith, a past student of Bishop Anstey High School, was revenue accountant at Trinidad

and Tobago Electricity Commission for three and a-half years and worked as an auditor prior to that, before migrating to the UK. She holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Charity Finance and has worked in senior positions in various

non-profit organisations in the UK. In handing over the leadership, Inniss who had forged ties worldwide – for which this country will be eternally grateful, said: "Ann Smith joined the association in 2013 when she returned from the United

Kingdom to care for her mother who is in an advanced stage of Alzheimer's disease. She was elected to the board of directors for the 2014-2016 term; first served as assistant secretary

and later as vice president. She has a keen interest in the welfare and well-being of the elderly and while in the UK, alongside her profession as an accountant, she was an active volunteer in organisations which specialised in befriending the elderly. Now that she is president, I am sure that she will use her experience to work with the other directors, to carry forward the association with new ideas". Other board members who were elected last December for 2016-2018 are Beryl



Ann Smith

PHOTO BY RATTAN JADOO
Stuart – owner/manager of a geriatric home; Joanne Shurland – an educator for the past 23 years; Dr Lorraine Patience – a general practitioner with a special interest in care of the elderly and Brenda Moses – a retired geriatric nurse.

Following are contacts for the association which is based at 15 Nepal Street, St James, Port-of-Spain: 225-8764 – 9 am to 2 pm, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; and 632-4791. For more info: Kristy Seelall, communication officer, 747-9440 or email at alztrinbago@gmail.com.

Session on coping with memory loss

The Port-of-Spain Support Group of Alzheimer's Association of Trinidad and Tobago had originally planned for its April meeting to invite caregivers and their charges to enjoy a few hours of entertainment at a picnic in the Botanical Gardens. This has however been postponed because the group would not be allowed to bring vehicles into the gardens not even to just allow people to get off. Also, there are no picnic tables and the target group of invitees

really cannot picnic on the ground, and there are no easily accessible bathroom facilities. Another setback to the event is the irregular weather being experienced despite it being the dry season. Instead of the picnic, association president Ann Smith will lead a discussion at the Port-of-Spain group meeting on – 15 Simple Things You Can Do To Deal with Persons Coping with Dementia or Memory Loss – on Saturday from 10 am, at 15 Nepal Street, St James.

James.