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First
Class
Postage



NOUVEL FONDWA

ASSOCIATION
P A Y S A N
F O N D W A

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1997 APF Elections Held

The organizing of regularly scheduled elections within the APF remains an integral part of the consolidation of our structure and contributes greatly to the struggle for the advancement of the democratic process in our country.

The appointment of the new Central Committee, composed of 26 members, including one woman, took place March 1 at the APF Community Center in Fondwa. The new committee members elected the same day a Coordination Unit of 5 members from the association for a term of one year. In addition, a temporary Directing Committee of 5 members was formed. It was drawn from the elected Central Committee, and represents some of the oldest members of the association who have shown a dynamism and willing participation that goes beyond the call of duty.

As a whole, these elections represent a decisive step in the progress of the association. They have given the small groups the opportunity to show their maturity in the socio-collective vein by placing represen-

tatives in positions of responsibility as liaisons between the collective base and the authorities of the association. It should be pointed out that women, who make up at least 30% of the association's members, are not motivated to assume positions of authority. Therefore, the administrative and technical personnel of the APF must think about ways to mobilize and encourage women to take positions of responsibility, for their contribution to the so-

cial and economic life of the community is not in doubt.

Dear Friends,

We are very happy to bring you news again. Please excuse the the delay. We are still looking for someone to help us put out this newsletter on a regular basis. Our hope is to find sufficient funds to publish Nouvel Fondwa as a quarterly. Some of you have not received issue no. 9. We will try to send it to you shortly.

Once again we would like to thank our friends at the First United Methodist Church of Germantown (FUMCOG) who have helped us in translating, printing and distributing Nouvel Fondwa. They have managed to expedite the distribution of the newsletter so that you receive it shortly after it has been compiled at the APF office in Port-au-Prince.

We thank you for your support and solidarity and wish you good reading.

-- Joseph Philippe, CSSp

- Jean Marie Desilus, Agronomist, APF

Students Return From Trinidad

As you know, we sent four students to Trinidad in preparation for opening a Technical and Professional Education Center in Fondwa. They returned to Haiti in April and one student, Anselot, recounts his story below.

"I arrived in Trinidad in September at 2:50 in the morning and attended class in Servol the very same day. I immediately spoke with the program director and, for the first 3 weeks, he asked that I observe, listen and watch what went on in the class. Afterwards, I went to the region of Diego Martin and then returned to Servol to give my report.

"Next I took courses in Chaguanas. During my last weeks I worked at Servol and also went to Maraval in the western part of Trinidad. In January I took informatics and electrical courses, after which I taught electrical classes to students in the ADF Adult Development Program for a few weeks. I trained them in basic techniques and later went to work with the professor.

Due to a lack of funds, I was unable to buy books and tools, so this hampered my ability to take advantage of my electrical courses as much as I would have liked.

I would like to take more courses in Haiti, if possible, to study solar energy installations, generator repair and informatics. I believe that I can already put my training to work for the APF without additional courses, although I will need certain materials and equipment, and will soon submit a proposal to the APF.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all those who contributed directly or indirectly to my training in Trinidad.

-- Anselot Philippe

School Financing Program Initiated

Right now it costs us about \$1,200 per month to pay our teachers salaries for the three sections (primary, secondary and technical) of the Ecolè St. Antoine in Fondwa. We would have had the salaries covered if all of the primary students had paid their fees, but this was not the case and we ended the year with a deficit of \$7,000.

To consolidate the student financing program we must raise about \$125/year for each of the 115 secondary students for the next five years. If you would be able to help us, please contact us. We can send you more details on the program, which includes the pig project and other activities.

Veterinary Training at Veterimed

Our agricultural technician, Ogèroi Joanis, and committee member Lyonel Etienne, attended veterinary training sessions for 6 months, from February to July, at Vètèrimed. They learned to treat

several animal diseases, as well as how to manage a veterinary pharmacy and will receive certification as Veterinary Specialists in August. We will benefit greatly from their services.

Student Tuition Project

As we mentioned in issue no. 9 of Nouvel Fondwa, there are a number of stages in this project, and for the time being we are concentrating on the pig-raising project. We have reorganized the student groups, formed education seminars, constructed a pig pen and bought 8 pigs to launch the project.

We have sent two of the supervisors to training seminars in veterinary health at Vètèrimed and we will be sending another supervisor, Edrix Alcimè, to France for two years to study pork processing.

APF Seeks to Reverse Deforestation in Fondwa

The deforestation of Fondwa and its environs is a typical and revealing example of the degradation of the mountainous rural landscape of the country. Larger trees are found mainly in the cool hollows and in the immediate vicinity of dwellings where they mix well with shade-loving plants such as the taro and banana trees. Mountainsides, by contrast, are generally cleared to make way for crops such as peanuts, sweet potatoes, beans and manioc.

At the end of 1996, the APF began a vigorous reforestation campaign, within the framework of the Job-Creation Project, to install a natural, as well as man-made, soil and water conservation infrastructures. Close to 60,000 seedlings, both fruit and forest trees, were planted over an area of about 300 hectares.

In anticipation of finding financial partners to fund the Job Creation Project, the APF is pursuing reforestation activities by making approx. 40,000 seedlings available to Fondwa farmers during the rainy season of March to May this year. They can be obtained for a nominal fee of 10-25 cents each, depending on the plant variety.

The APF hopes to ensure the continued availability of agricultural means and methods for the production of crop and tree resources. The two-fold objective is to restabilize the ecological balance of the environment and both the short- and long-term improvement of our economic conditions, through the rational use of our natural resources.

-- Jean-Marie Dèsilus, Agronomist

A New Truck For the APF

We bought our original truck in January 1994, during the period of the coup and embargo, for about \$33,000, including insurance. Our initial goal was to charge user fees, putting aside the profits, and replace it after four years.

Thanks to rigorous management, we have been able to buy a new truck in just 3 1/2 years! We received it on June 30 at a cost of \$38,300, including taxes and the first years insurance.

We plan to sell the old truck and use the proceeds to finish the third floor of the Community Center and to purchase furniture and equipment for our hospitality program.

We are doing some repairs on the old truck and hope to be able to sell it for about \$17,000.

A big thanks to Jean-Claude Tibèrice, who is currently in charge

of the truck, to his predecessors, and to all those who contributed to the purchase of the truck, as well as those who have worked to maintain and manage it.

Fondwa Education Center Set to Open

The APF will soon open an Education Center for Integrated Rural Development for farmers, especially young people, who wish to learn theory and practical skills enabling them to work as leaders in community development.

The courses will last 3 to 6 months and be planned to accommodate the farmers schedules as well as possible. The courses will be taught by the APF's technical team.

At the completion of each course, participants will receive a certificate and will eventually be eligible for full- or part-time work with the APF. They will also be able to obtain positions with the ONG and other organizations working in rural areas.

-- Jean-Marie Dèsilus, Agronomist

— Fondwa News in Brief —

• *Goodbye to Louise Vis...*

We would like to sincerely thank Louise, who's stay with us in Fondwa came to an end in April, for all her time and effort and wish her success in her new activities.

• *...and Welcome Susan Conlin*

A warm welcome to Susan Conlin who arrived in April and will give us a hand at the Fondwa Clinic and at the APF Center. Susan is an American nurse and she will teach English to Sister Carmella and Gina in preparation for their trip to Trinidad at the end of August.

• *Eco-Tourism in Fondwa*

In June we hosted a group of about 20 young people from the First United Methodist Church of Germantown in Philadelphia. They stayed in Fondwa for a week and planted more than 750 trees. We thank them for their friendship and solidarity with the people of Fondwa.

• *Anselot Joins APF Office*

We are very happy to welcome Anselot to the APF office. He replaces Edrix, who left on July 24 for two years of training in France, and will be in charge of our public relations.

Our thanks to Edrix for all he's done for us during his two year stay at APF and we wish him much success in France.

• *Clinic Improvements*

We are in the process of painting the clinic and we will open a doorway on the wall facing the road providing better patient access to the clinic.

Dr. Tania Sint Dic, a dental surgeon, has been working with us at the clinic once a week since June 25th.

And we will soon be opening a Nutrition Center at the clinic, with financial help from some friends in Switzerland.

• *Telecommunications Training*

Two members of our Radio Fondwa staff, Dorèlian Cadet and Emmanuel Beauvais, a week of specialized training in programming and management organized by 'Centre Point' in the Dominican Republic

• *Reforestation*

During the Agricultural Fair last May we organized a seminar on ecology and the need to reforest Fondwa and its environs. We've made available 40,000 seedlings and have planted about 3,000 along the Fondwa road in the last few months.



At sunrise, a Fondwa farmer heads over the hill beside the Community Center for a days work in the fields.