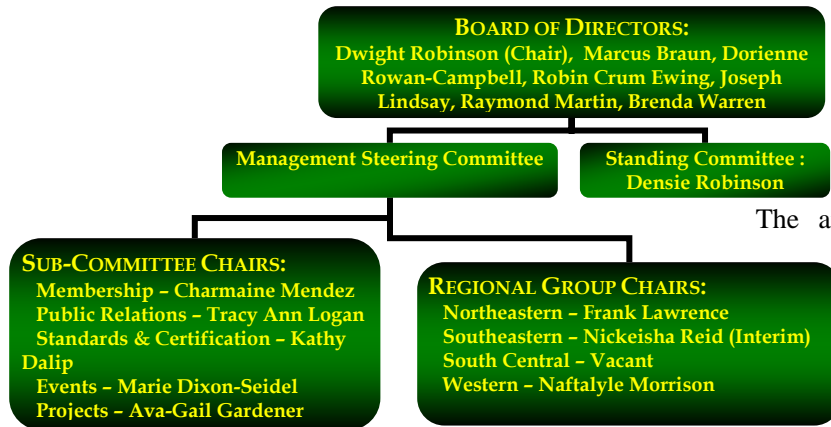


This is a synopsis of the major activities of the JOAM administrative year 2004 – 2005, which is a synopsis of the major activities of the year.

### The Management Steering Committee

The JOAM organizational structure approved at the October 2003 annual general meeting (AGM) was partially filled at the 2004 AGM. This facilitated a separation of powers of the Board of Directors from the Management Steering Committee.

The new dynamism brought by this expansion was welcomed and contributed to a successful administrative year for the movement. The organizational structure is outline below:



Some major achievements of the year include the collaboration of JOAM with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and other stakeholders to develop and facilitate a national organic agriculture enhancement project.

JOAM's participation in

Jamaica Wellfest was a major success and as such, it became popular opinion that JOAM should participate in this show annually.

Organic Agriculture received much public attention, with representatives of JOAM being interviewed on radio and television. There were also several newspaper articles. This public attention highlighted the demand for organic products and the absence of adequate farms and produced in the country to satisfy this demand. One of the major objectives of JOAM is the promotion of and assistance to

farmers to improve this area of the industry.

The annual retreat was held June in 2005 at the Eltham Training Centre in St. Ann. The by-laws and the 2005 – 2006 workplan were finalized. An important aspect of the retreat was an analysis of our performance against the 2004 – 2006 workplan.

**Events:** Marie Dixon-Seidel is the

chair of the events committee (EC). The goal of the committee is to successfully plan and coordinate JOAM events and those in which JOAM is a participant.

The EC helped to coordinate and implement:

- The northeastern regional launch in February 2005
- The extraordinary general meeting held in April 2005
- Jamaica Wellfest in May 2005

The events committee declares a successful year and plans the following as the major activities for the 2005 – 2006 JOAM administrative year:

- Participate in a national festival or show
- Have a fundraising event
- Coordinate the launch of a regional group

**Membership:** Charmaine Mendez served as chair of the membership committee for the last administrative year. Due to commitments to studies, Ms. Mendez had to relinquish the post one year before the end of her two-year term.

The goal of the committee is to strengthen the organization through an increase in membership and maintain the currency of the membership database. The main activities planned for the new administrative year are to:

- Make the database more accessible to regional chairs

### Management Steering Committee Sub-Committees

- Improve contact between committee and general membership
- Contact persons who need to complete registration

**Public Relations:** Tracy Ann Logan is the chair of the PR committee. The goal of the committee is to improve the professional image and visibility of JOAM.

The committee was mandated by the Board of Directors and the MSC to produce the quarterly newsletter and upgrade the website.

Both activities were 50% successful. The main reason for the shortfall was the lack of active volunteers to serve on the committee. It is expected that from the general membership will assist the committee in meeting its goals for the new administrative year by volunteering to serve.

**Standards & Certification:** Kathy Dalip has been the chair of the SC for the last two years. Due to work commitments, Dr. Dalip will not be seeking re-election to the post.

The goal of the SC is to provide a framework within which local certification of farm production and processing can be carried out by JOAM.

The activities planned for the 2005 -2006 administrative year include:

- Develop pre-inspection and inspection application forms for livestock
- Facilitate certification training workshops in each JOAM region

## At long last, Activity in the Regions

**South Central:** This is the only region for which the post of chair is vacant and as such is the only inactive region. It is expected that this position will be filled early in the 2005 - 2006 administrative year.

**South Eastern (SER):** Nickeisha Reid graciously volunteered to serve as the Interim Chair for the SER. She will be seeking election at the next AGM. Though the region is not yet officially launched, it has been very active past year. They had several meetings, farm days and inter-regional outings.

The region plans to educate members of the techniques of organic agriculture and encourage farmers to prepare and apply for certification in the coming administrative year.

### **PLATE 1: Bonding in the river after farm the day in St. Andrew**



**North Eastern (NER):** This region is chaired by Frank Lawrence. The region was launched on Thursday, February 17, 2005 at Glenleigh in Highgate, St. Mary.

Meetings were held in St. Mary and St. Ann where the focus was on increasing the awareness of JOAM and the principles of organic agriculture. Media coverage was obtained which further increased the awareness objectives of the region.

### **PLATE 2: Participants at a regional meeting in Woodside, St. Mary**



**Western:** Naftalye Morrison serves as the Chair of the Western Region. This region seeks to increase the awareness of organic agriculture, work with farmers to practice organic principles and work with schools in the region to establish organic plots.

The plans for the New Year include a continuation of awareness programme, the formation of community grower groups and participation in festivals and agricultural shows.

## The Administrative Year 2005 - 2006

Though the last year was successful, much more needs to be accomplished and can only be achieved through active volunteerism. *Please*, volunteer in your region.

