

## Profile of LORNA A. CALLENDER

Although she served as Managing Editor of the weekly *Democrat Newspaper* for six (6) years, this is just a blip in the multi-faceted career of Mrs. Lorna A. Callender; she has been a constant writer and contributor of articles, columns and editorials while working as a freelance journalist for over twenty years.

**LORNA .A. CALLENDER** was born in St. Kitts on The 30<sup>th</sup> July 1943, and is an educator by profession. Her early education was pursued in Basseterre, primarily at the Girls' High School. Having completed 'A' level studies in English, History and French, she went on to undergraduate education at the University of the West Indies(UWI), Jamaica and post graduate education at UWI Barbados. She gained degrees, diplomas, and certificates in Natural Sciences (B.Sc) Education (Dip Ed.) Personnel and Business Management (certificate,) Philosophy of Science and Adult Education Counseling (Certificates) and Strategic Planning and policy formulation (certificate) She has found all areas of study relevant to her occupation as a Teacher and Education Administrator.

A teacher of many years experience, she taught first at the **Girls' High School St. Kitts** and later, after graduating from the University of the West Indies, at the **Basseterre High School**. She then relocated to Barbados with her Barbadian husband and taught 'A' level Biology for 15 years at the **Barbados Community College**.

On her return to St. Kitts, she taught Education Psychology at the **College of Further Education** (now called the Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College) before becoming Deputy Principal at the **Basseterre Junior High School**. After two years she became Principal and was soon promoted to the post of Permanent Secretary in the **Ministry of Education, St. Kitts**. She was later asked to serve as lecturer at the CFB College and gained much respect from the youngsters at the Technical Arm of the College to whom she taught job application skills and whom she motivated to create a Handbook for the Future.

From August 1998 to 2002, Lorna served as **Head of the Education Reform Unit** of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) headquartered in St. Lucia. In this post she was responsible for, among other things, coordinating Projects for Education Reform, creating Education Reform strategies, annually organizing and reporting to the meeting of Ministers of Education for 9 OECS countries.

She also coordinated several projects with CIDA, DFID and EDF related to harmonising grade names, curriculum, school management, integrating technology in education and harmonizing the related legislative framework. In 2000-2003 she briefly held the post of Director of the After School Programme with the Episcopal Church in Stone Mountain Georgia, U. S. A

Lorna maintains that a great deal of her knowledge arose out of her direct experiences within the schools and Education Systems. Her on-going desire is to help the youths to rise to the heights of their potential and to empower teachers to take on leadership roles in shaping their schools' communities with a view to shaping the ideal future society.

Lorna has been active in youth organizations including Girls Guides and Girls' Life Brigade, and in writing cultural reviews and social commentaries. She has also served for many years as Sunday School Teacher, Choir Member and Class Leader in her Church. In the Community she has been called upon to give

motivational speeches to Schools, Clubs and Industrial Site Workers both in St. Kitts and Nevis. She is the mother of two adult children, both graduates of Universities abroad.

**In 2008 she received the International Woman's Day Award for Education, presented by the Ministry of Social and Community Development and Gender Affairs.**

Up to the present time, as a freelance journalist she regularly writes articles, reviews and editorials on social and political topics for both local and regional newspapers and journals. A lifelong learner, she feels she has never left the classroom and seeks in her articles to share what she has learnt.