

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***P R E S S   R E L E A S E***

**Belize Audubon Society Hosts 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

May 28th, 2019; Belize City, Belize. The Belize Audubon Society (BAS) held its 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on the morning of Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at Half Moon Caye Natural Monument. Members from across Belize came together to share in the achievements of the organization for the year 2018, to elect members of the Board, and to celebrate BAS' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Key achievements for the year 2018 were highlighted by BAS' Executive Director Mrs. Amanda Acosta, which were excerpts from the Society's 2018 Annual Report (available on their website), with the Fiscal report presented by Mr. Jose Luis Lopez, BAS' Finance Director.

Following the Annual and Fiscal reports, the current Board of Directors were dissolved for elections to be held. At the close of the AGM, the elected Board of Directors of the Belize Audubon Society for the year 2019 – 2020 are: Ernest Raymond Sr., President; Mike Heusner, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Carlton Young, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Simon Reardon Smith, Treasurer; Rasine Gillett, 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary; Lascelle Tillett, Director; Kevin Geban, Director; Randal Taylor, Director; Francis Canto Jr., Director; Virginia Burns-Perez, Director; Janelle Chanona, Director; Mariana Ancona, Director; Earl Green, Immediate Past President. Newly elected persons were Rasine Gillett, 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary; Francis Canto Jr., Director; the post of 2<sup>nd</sup> Secretary is vacant. Following the meeting, members and guests were free to enjoy the explore and enjoy BAS co-managed Protected Area, Half Moon Caye.

Belize Audubon Society would like to extend its gratitude to former 2<sup>nd</sup> Secretary Jamal Andrewin and former Director Julie Robinson for their years of service. The Belize Audubon Society would also like to extend a special thank you to all past Board of Directors who has served the Society, especially those in attendance at the 50<sup>th</sup> AGM; their support and contribution to the development of the organization is greatly appreciated over the past 50 years of BAS. We would also like to thank all donors who contributed generous gifts for raffle prizes at the event, namely Chan Chich Lodge; Sleeping Giant Rainforest Lodge; James Brodies Ltd.; Spoonaz Photo Café & Bar; Tropic Air Ltd.; Formosa Café Belize; JB's Autowash, Detailing & Autorepairs; Balix Bags by Dalena; and Best Western Plus Belize Biltmore Plaza.

The Belize Audubon Society thanks all its members for contributing to the success of the 50<sup>th</sup> AGM through attendance and encourage all Belizeans to become stewards of the environment by becoming members today!



**(Left to Right):** Amanda Acosta, Rasine Gillett, Janelle Chanona, Mike Heusner, Francis Canto Jr., Randal Taylor, Kevin Geban, Ernest Raymond Sr., Mariana Ancona, Earl Green, Virginia Burns-Perez, Lascelle Tillett.

**Not pictured:** Carlton Young and Simon Reardon Smith.

**Board of Directors 2019-2020**

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