



Jamaica Teachers' Association
REPORT OF THE
AWARDS COMMITTEE
PRESENTED TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE
REPORTING PERIOD
SEPTEMBER 2025- AUGUST 2026

Committee Members

- Ms. Marsha Johnson (Chairman)
- Ms. Melicia Mattison (Secretary)
- Mrs. Michelle Barnes
- Dr. Latoya Reeves
- Mrs. Andrea Bryan Hughes

Officers

- Mr. Mark Malabver (President)
- Mrs. La Sanja Harrison (President-Elect)
- Dr. Mark Smith (Immediate Past President)

Administrative Staff

- Mr. Doran Dixon (Servicing Officer – Assistant Secretary General)

Terms of Reference

The Awards Committee shall consist of five (5) members and shall include the Chairman of the Professional Advancement and Teacher Welfare Committee. The Committee shall recommend members to receive awards from the Association.

The quorum shall be three (3) members.

President's Mandate

- Develop a plan of action to guide the work of the Committee.
- Review the criteria for the following JTA Awards: Edith Dalton James, Roll of Honour, R.C. Tavares, W.B.C. (Ben) Hawthorne, and the Golden Torch Award.
- Explore renaming the Golden Torch Award to the Ray Howell Golden Torch Award and take necessary steps if approved.
- Collaborate with the Secretariat to review nominees for the Golden Torch Award.
- Work with the JTA Secretariat to plan and execute the Golden Torch Awards Ceremony.
- Develop criteria to identify and award four (4) Men in Education across the four regions.
- Collaborate with the PATW Committee to identify sponsors for the Men in Education Conference awards.
- Collaborate to create the Sports Coordinator of the Year Award.



- Submit written reports to the Central Executive and General Council as required.
- The Awards Committee has convened several meetings.

➤ **ROLL OF HONOUR AWARD 2025**

The Roll of Honour Special Committee met in September 2025 for the process of selecting a recipient for the Roll of Honours Awards.

After the selection process was completed, it was recommended that Mr. Howard Issacs, Principal of Moneague Teachers' College and past President of the Jamaica Teachers' Association be the 2025 recipient.

This recommendation was sent to the General Council for ratification. However, due to the passage of Hurricane Melissa. The awards ceremony was not held. This ceremony will be held in November 2026.

➤ **THE PRIME MINISTER MEDAL OF APPRECIATION AWARD 2026.**

The committee met on Tuesday February 24, 2026, to facilitate the process of recommending eligible members for the Prime Minister's Medal for Appreciation for Service to Education Award. After the selection process was complete, five (5) members were recommended.

The names of the five members were sent to the Office of the Prime Minister. The Awards Committee Chairman Ms. Marsha Johnson, Assistant Secretary General in charge of Professional services Dr. Margaret Chin and Chairman for the Professional Advancement committee Mrs. Andrea Bryan-Hughes were the J.T.A Representatives on the panel that is responsible for the selection process of this award.

The committee met twice in April. Instructions were given with a charge to select the top forty (40) of the sixty-nine applicants.

The process is ongoing and will be completed and the recipients named for this year's award.

➤ **GOLDEN TORCH AWARDS**

The Golden Torch Award is held annually and is available to teachers who have given thirty-five (35) years or more for the service of education.

The J.T.A on Wednesday July 1, 2026, honoured one hundred and forty-four (144) educators each with at least thirty-five (35) years service with its prestigious Golden Torch Awards.

This Awards Ceremony was held at the A.C. Hotel by Marriot Kingston.



Acting Chief Education Officer in the Ministry of Education Youth and Information, Terry Ann Thomas-Gayle, commended the recipients for their exceptional dedication to the Jamaican Education System.





GOLDEN TORCH AWARDS 2026



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Highlights of the Golden Torch Awards



➤ **JAMAICA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (J.T.A.) NATIONAL AWARDS**

- Fay E. Saunders
- R.C. Tavares
- W.B.C. (Ben) Hawthorne
- Edith Dalton James

The Awards Committee had a series of meetings in May 2026. After an in depth and time-consuming process, the committee has recommended that:

- **Fay Saunders Award**
Georgia Dodd
- **W.B.C. (Ben) Hawthorne Awards.**
Taneisha Reboe
Venesha Brooks
Latoya Calvin Williams
Charmaine Thomas Sewell
Teisha Martin Thorne
- **Edith Dalton James Awards**
Devoney Chambers
Sharon Stultz Edwards
Sharon Black
Roymaine Robinson
Marlene Edwards
- **R.C Tavares**
No Recommendations

These recommendations were ratified at the June 20, 2026, General Council Meeting. The Awards Committee would like to extend congratulations to the members who will receive their awards here at the Jamaica Teachers' Association Annual Conference.



➤ **THE JAMAICA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NATIONAL SPORTS COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD**

As part of the mandate, the Awards Committee collaborated with the National Sports Committee to create the National Sport Coordinator of the Year Award.

The J.T.A Sports Coordinator of the Year Award is designed to recognize, reward and motivate parish representatives who demonstrate exceptional commitment, leadership and service in carrying out their duties as part of the Jamaica Teachers' Association (J.T.A) National Sports Committee.

The award highlights excellence in sports administration, organizational involvement and overall contribution to Primary athletes and teachers sporting activities.

This year's awardees for the National Sports Coordinator of the Year Awards are:

- 1st – St. Catherine- Chevaun Powell
- 2nd – St. Mary – Donette Cousins
- 3rd – Trelawney – Ceresa Jenkins





Recommendations

The Awards Committee has acknowledged that these Nominees for the various awards need proper guidance when completing the forms.

- ❖ Documents must be authenticated by a signature. The signatories should read and ensure that each document is filled out properly before signing same.
- ❖ Members need to read each award carefully and note the requirements for the same before applying.
- ❖ Members should ensure that the requested documents be added to their applications so as to verify the information given.
- ❖ Members should at all times try to present factual information. They should ensure that the information given can be proven to be correct.
- ❖ It is therefore recommended that there be a forum to engage and inform members on how to fill out forms for all existing awards.
- ❖ The committee also recommends that the criteria for each award be reviewed.

Acknowledgment

It is with profound gratitude that I express sincere appreciation to the president, Mr. Marck Malabver for entrusting me with the charge of leading this committee. It was indeed a very rewarding and enriching experience.

To my serving officer Mr. Doran Dixon who was always there to guide us in our meetings. His experience and commitment are highly appreciated.

Commendations

It is Lisa Lutoft Perlo who stated, ‘None of us are as good alone as we are with an amazing team of people’. Commendations to the members of the awards Committee, your dedication and hard work must be commended. You have all showed that “Teamwork makes the dream work” as we continue to unite and serve.

Conclusion

The awards committee will continue to operate in a fair and transparent manner while carrying out its responsibilities in alignment with the organizations’ goals.

The Awards Committee, in the words of John F. Kennedy:

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest is not to utter words but to live by them.”

We continue to unite and serve.



Prepared and submitted by: Marsha Johnson.



Members of the Awards Committee