

Dear ABC Members,

It is with great pleasure that I hereby present you Management's first monthly article for the ABC Website, whereby I will be sharing with you on a monthly basis, valuable news and events on your Home away from Home as well as other highlights of our "dushi" Island of Aruba.

Our new fiscal year 2009/2010 started on November 1<sup>st</sup> and I am pleased to share with you that our total average occupancy for the past fiscal year 2008/2009 was 85% and same as the prior fiscal year 2007/2008.

Despite the economy situation, 89% of our 2009/2010 total billed Maintenance Fees have been collected so far, and you may rest assured that ABC Management and Employees are doing our utmost to keep our costs as down as possible. Furthermore, besides having one of the lowest maintenance fees on the Island and providing daily maid service except for Sundays at no extra charge, we are the only Timeshare Resort in Aruba that has not had an increase in their 2009/2010 Maintenance fees. Next to the Salaries & Benefits cost, Utilities Expenses is the next expense item that weighs down on our operating budget. However, several measures have been taken to reduce the electricity and water consumption at ABC, e.g. installation of energy saving bulbs, and also of multi aqua air-condition devices in the offices and stores that have proven to be more efficient. Unfortunately, due to the ever fluctuating fuel prices we have not been able to have an actual reduction in our electricity or water bills yet.

However, I have some more good news for you regarding aforementioned subject.

This week our local Water Supplying Company (W.E.B. Aruba N.V.) has just put in operations a \$90 million renewable energy project consisting of a total of 10 giant wind turbines expected to generate an estimated 18 megawatts based on the flow of the island's constant trade winds. Besides producing electricity at a lower cost to the island, this project is one of many recent upgrades in Aruba's effort to be less dependent on fossil fuels, to lessen the ever increasing demand on the local plant, and to help preserve and protect the island's environment. Initially around 20% of Aruba's total electricity consumption will be provided by this new system.

Furthermore, our newly elected Government here has recently announced that the B.B.O. or the cumulative sales tax that was introduced as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 by the previous Government will be reduced by 1.5% starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. It is in their plans to eliminate the BBO completely as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

More important information on our Resort, last month all four ice machines of our East and West wings have been replaced by new ones.

After some major repairs and services, the air-condition chiller system is now in good working condition again. The Board is looking into increased efficiency, upgrading and further reliability going forward of the air-condition system overall.

Last fiscal year we noted a significant increase in demand by our members and guests for the Barbeque grills. These grills are provided upon prior reservation at the Front Desk for a maximum of three hours at a cost of \$10.00 per time. Reason for implementation of this charge by our Board of Directors is the high wear and tear of the grills and new price increase in gas, as well as other costs involved to provide this amenity to our members and guests who make use of this service.

We are also glad to announce the following new activities for your entertainment and enjoyment. Every Monday night from 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. during the All-U-Can-Eat Barbeque Buffet we have a Caribbean Night with Caribbean Music and Limbo Dance Show and on Tuesdays during the Lobster Night a Fun Karaoke Night from 7:00p.m. to 10:00 p.m. , where you can show off your singing talent. Both Activities are held at the Tortuga Pool Bar. Moreover, on Wednesdays from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Soap Flower Arrangement Class for Adults and Teens (\$25 per person) and on Thursdays from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Painting Class for Adults and Teens (\$20 per person. Both activities are held in the Activities Center and all material included in price.

New important information on Airline services to Aruba:

Airtran started last Saturday with a weekly direct flight to Aruba from Atlanta every Saturday.

Continental Airlines also flies every Saturday to Aruba out of La Guardia Airport in New York, while United Airlines out of Washington. Rates are competitive as per information provided by some of our own members.

This week KLM has also announced that they will return to Aruba as of February 2010, with two weekly flights from Schiphol, the Netherlands.

I hope that you enjoyed my first article and I would like to conclude by wishing all our Members and Families a Healthy and Happy New Year on behalf of Management and Staff of your Aruba Beach Club.

Warm regards,

Farida Mansur,  
General Manager