



# Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League

*Empowering Communities and Changing Lives since 1983*

September 2009

MetroBoard  
2009-2010  
Officers

President  
Angela D. Brooks

Vice President  
Rhonda Siggers

Treasurer  
George Dozier Jr.

Financial Secretary  
Natae Evans

Corresponding Secretary  
Kamilah Jones

Recording Secretary  
Contessa Gibson

Parliamentarian  
Latesha Lipscomb

Community Service  
Kelly-Ann Vassell  
Terrence Simmons

Membership Chair  
Sharon Brown

Personal & Professional  
Development Chair  
Andrea N. Horton

Public Relations Chair  
Eric B. Horn  
Bolaji Sosan

Fundraising Chair  
Dr. Renee Matthews  
Brian Stith

## Message from the President

Greetings,

I am so excited to extend my greetings as the new President of the Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League. This is such a great time for the MetroBoard. For the second year in a row we are the National Urban League Young Professionals

Chapter of Excellence, recognizing us for the great work we are doing in Chicago every day.

This is also an exciting time to be a Chicagoan. We have a hometown president, who happens to be a man of African descent and shortly after this newsletter is released we will find out if we will host the 2016 Olympics. There are mixed feelings about the Olympics and this issue will be dedicated to evaluating the pros and cons to allow you to form your own opinion.

On a personal level, I am excited about the potential for Chicago's Southside being the window to the world of the greatness of this city. The 2016 games has the potential of bringing the type of development to an area of the city, particularly the area in which the largest percentage of our membership reside, that we crave and providing resources that many of us complain are lacking. Redevelopment and gentrification do not have to be dirty words in our communities, though they often are.

It is up to each of us to ensure we are getting involved in the process and ensuring from October 2009-Summer 2016 our community receives a portion of the many positive impacts of the Olympics. People who look like you and I must be prepared, qualified and ready to be a partner in this process. This is one of the many endeavors of the Chicago Urban League that MetroBoard will be supporting as the road to the 2016 Olympics is paved in our very own backyard!

Yours in the Movement,

Angela Brooks



## Inside This Issue

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Message from the President.....                                     | 1   |
| Show Me The Money! Financing the Olympic Games.....                 | 2   |
| Chicago Not a "Fit" Host.....                                       | 2-3 |
| Will Southside Residents be Displaced if Chicago Wins the Bid?..... | 4   |
| Mellody Hobson Helps MB Members Get "Unbroke".....                  | 4   |
| Year-End Fun at MB's Annual Summer BBQ.....                         | 4   |
| Fall Committee Synopses.....  | 5-6 |
| State of the MetroBoard .....                                       | 8   |



# Show Me The Money! Financing the Olympic Games

By: Yolanda Douglas

*“Tax money isn’t paying for it. There’s no tax money whatsoever.”* Mayor Richard Daley

Since the beginning of Chicago’s journey towards becoming the host city for the 2016 Summer Olympics, the Chicago 2016 bid committee and Mayor Richard Daley tried to assure Chicagoans “no Chicago taxpayer dollars” would be needed to host the games. With the city facing a \$519.7 million budget shortfall for 2010 and city employees currently taking unpaid furlough days to help with 2009’s budget deficit, the message of not having Chicagoan’s tax money allocated towards hosting the Olympic Games provided sighs of relief.

Now, instead of sighing, Chicago is holding its breath. Mayor Daley,

with the backing of City Council, has signed the standard Olympics host city contract which essentially means Chicago is financially responsible for 100% of any losses at the Games. If Daley tried to amend the terms of the contract or refused to sign it, Chicago would have been out of the running for becoming a host city. The competition for host city also includes Tokyo, Madrid and Rio de Janeiro.

While angst over Chicago’s unconditional financial guarantee of the Games is to be expected, it may be unwarranted. Independent analysis of the Chicago 2016 bid shows it to be sound and reasonable and Chicago 2016 will have \$1 billion in insurance coverage to protect Chicago.

The benefits of hosting the Games outweigh the risks. Some of those benefits include:

- Projects that over 300,000 thousand jobs will be created
- A number of local organizations have been recruited to improve environmental conditions near proposed venue sites
- The closed Michael Reese Hospital would be developed into 21 12-story residential buildings and become mixed income housing after the Games

As the October 2<sup>nd</sup> selection date to determine which city will host the 2016 Summer Olympic games approaches, let’s not hold our breathe in fear of what might go wrong, but rather in hopes we are selected.

---

## Chicago Not a “Fit” Host

By: Jewanna Carver and Andre Edmonds



As the potential host city for the oldest and largest athletic competition in the world, you would think Chicago would be a fitter city. However, our beloved city ranked 13<sup>th</sup> on

Men’s Health “Fattest Cities” in 2009, rising 7 slots since our 20<sup>th</sup> place finish in 2008. Long commute times, lack of running trails and municipal parks, air quality, and mass availability of fast food all contributed to Chicago’s high ranking.

The epidemic is also affecting the city’s children, particularly minority children in low income neighborhoods. According to the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children, Chicago’s kids are overweight at 3-4 times the national average, mostly due to high calorie meals and

lack of physical activity. Each year, through its Personal and Professional Development Committee, the Metropolitan Board addresses health and fitness among its members and the surrounding Southside community by participating in health fairs, sporting outings and other health-related activities. As we approach a season notorious for gluttony and inactivity, MB member and founder and coach of Road Warrior Athletics Fitness & Sportswear, Andre Edmonds, has these tips to keep us all fit for the winter:



# Will Southside Residents be Displaced if Chicago Wins the Bid?

By: Angel Edmond

## Olympics May Add to Chicago's Housing Crisis

Millions of people are waiting to find out which city will host the 2016 Olympics. The International Olympics Committee will make a decision on October 2, 2009 between Chicago, Rio de Janeiro, Madrid and Tokyo. Although many Americans are excited about the idea that the Olympics could be held in Chicago, there are also many concerns about the displacement of Southside residents.

According to an article in *USA Today*, residents of previous host cities Seoul (1988), Barcelona (1992) and Atlanta (1996) were victims of displacement. In these cities residents were forcibly evicted from their homes; homeless people were rounded up and detained in facilities outside of the city; housing prices increased; public housing was demolished while rapid gentrification occurred.

The Chicago 2016 Olympic bid book does not predict any

displacement occurring if the Olympics are held in the city. However, several grassroots and labor groups would like the city council to adopt a binding Olympic legacy plan to address many issues including affordable housing because some displacement among Southside residents is inevitable.



The city of Chicago is already in the midst of a housing crisis with the destruction of the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Robert Taylor Homes, which were once comprised of more than 4,300 housing units. The current site is under development with a projection of 2,550 planned units, of which only 851 public housing replacements will be included. And in less than a decade, a new Olympic Stadium may stand just a few blocks away.

The bid plan also highlights the use of Chicago Park Districts throughout the city, including: McCormick Place, Soldier Field, United Center, UIC Pavilion and the Bronzeville community where the Olympic Village will be located.

---

## Chicago Not a "Fit" Host

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 2

1. Physical activity improves mood and self-esteem and diminishes stress, anxiety and depression.

1.) Make your winter training a social gathering by walking to the park or even around the block. Remember try to keep a fast walking pace.

2.) Exercise for 30 min during your lunch break (climb stairs or power walk around the office space).

3.) Try an online training program for an indoor workout. This type of

program will allow you to customize a fitness and nutrition plan that you can follow from your computer at home or work. For more information go to: <http://www.roadwarriorathletics.com/OnlineFitness>

4.) While watching your favorite TV program, do mini-sets of exercises during each commercial break (sit-ups, push-ups, jumping jacks, running in place or squats). Challenge yourself by adding more repetitions each commercial break. Continue to exercise throughout the entire commercial break to burn more calories.

5.) When going to the grocery store, stick to shopping around the perimeter of the store. The perimeter of most stores includes the produce, meat/protein, grain/fiber, and dairy/soy sections. Remember this fact when making your shopping list. If fresh produce is not in your price range, focus on frozen vegetables.

\*Remember to check with your physician before beginning any training program.\*

## MELLODY HOBSON HELPS MB MEMBERS GET “UNBROKE”

By: Bolaji Sosan

On August 13, 2009, Melody Hobson, President of Ariel Investments, spoke to a packed room of members and guests of The Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League. The topic was very familiar but not often discussed—the crisis facing Americans, specifically, African Americans—investing and retirement in America.

Companies offering pension plans are now the exception and not the rule. This has left many Americans scrambling for a source of income during their so-called “golden years.” The problem of little or no savings among older Americans is particularly disturbing among communities of color.

A groundbreaking study conducted by Ariel/Hewitt, “401(k) Plans in Living Color,” demonstrated how African-Americans and Hispanics were significantly less prepared for retirement than other races. “This pioneering report—the largest, most comprehensive examination of 401(k) saving and investing behaviors of African-American, Hispanic, Asian and white employees—found that regardless of age or income, African-

American and Hispanic workers have lower participation rates and contribute less to their 401(k) plans than their white and Asian counterparts. As a result, their 401(k) account balances are negatively impacted and chances for a comfortable retirement significantly compromised” noted Hobson during her presentation. A research poll showed that only 34% of working Americans had more than \$100,000 saved for retirement; 21% had between \$25,000-\$100,000 saved; and 45% had less than \$25,000 saved for retirement!

A lack of retirement funds will not only be a problem for that individual, but could prove to be a problem and burden to society. In the African-American community especially, it is expected that family takes care of family. The cycle that is perpetuated is that of: parent raises child, and in turn, child takes care of aging parent. It is through that process that younger generations neglect to begin retirement funds due to overwhelming financial responsibilities for the preceding generation. It’s a vicious cycle of overextending. “We must break this cycle and pass down

wealth to the next generation,” says Hobson.

### **About Ariel Investments:**

Ariel Investments was established 26 years ago by John Rogers, Hobson’s business partner and CEO of the company. One of Ariel’s missions is to make the stock market a topic of dinner table conversation especially within the black community.

To increase financial literacy in Chicago, Ariel Investments has developed a community academy where the mission is to not only educate its students on financial literacy, but also help kids develop as philanthropists. Once enrolled as first graders the class is given \$20,000 of real money to invest. Through the days, weeks and school years, each class monitors its investments. Through this the students are able to learn about investing nationally and internationally. Half of their profit goes to a philanthropic cause and the other half is split between the class. Ariel Investments and its partners donate a \$1000 match to the students’ 529 plan for college.



## Year-End Fun at MB’s Annual Summer BBQ

By: Jewanna Carver



On August 1, almost 100 MetroBoard members and visitors to the National Urban League conference attended MB’s Annual Summer BBQ to celebrate the past year’s many successes. Despite the rainy weather, 100 guests enjoyed an afternoon of music, games and food catered by Robinson’s Ribs. As the evening



came to a close, MB found a way to give back to the community by donating the leftover food to an area homeless shelter.

# FALL COMMITTEE SYNOPOSES



Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League  
2009 - 2010 Executive Board

## Community Service Committee

The Community Service Committee (CSC) focuses on five target areas: Civic Engagement, Civil Rights and Racial Justice, Economic Empowerment, Education and Youth, and Health and Quality of Life. Its annual service calendar consists of many unique projects designed to meet the needs of a very diverse community such as: Vital Bridges, MB Lab for Boys and Girls, Living Room Cafe, MBoutique and Adopt-a-Family.

### Upcoming Events:

10/3 Vital Bridges  
10/6 Living Room Cafe  
10/17 Working In The Schools Training  
10/18 Deborah's Place  
10/24 HOME Weatherization (for low income seniors)  
11/7 Vital Bridges  
11/14 Working In The Schools Tutoring  
11/21 HOME Weatherization (for low income seniors)  
11/23 Adopt-a-Family Turkey Delivery

The CSC meets at the Chicago Urban League every 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Fall 2009 meetings will take place on October 20th and November 17<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to attend you may dial-in using the conference call line. The conference line number is published before each meeting. For more information contact CSC Chairs Kelly-Ann Vassell or Terrence Simmons at [service@metroboard.org](mailto:service@metroboard.org)

## Personal and Professional Development Committee

The Personal and Professional Development Committee (PPD) aims to assist MetroBoard members in their professional and personal growth through programming which will help to develop members into well-rounded professionals equipped to lead in an increasingly challenging world.

Among the events planned for 2009-2010 is a seminar on art buying for beginners, which will assist members in understanding how to go about building an art collection. PPD will also host a "fireside chat" to discuss relationships and the state of the black family. This year, the culminating event will be a full day career advancement conference which will include panel discussions on such topics as the importance of professional mentors, utilizing non-profit board service to advance your career, and tools for effective networking.

### Upcoming Events

Art Buying Seminar\*  
State of the Black Family Fireside Chat\*  
Career Advancement Conference\*

The PPD Committee meets at the Chicago Urban League every fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Fall 2009 meetings will take place on October 27 and November 19 (via conference call only.) For more information contact PPD Chair Andrea N. Horton, at [ppd@metroboard.org](mailto:ppd@metroboard.org)

## Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee is tasked with the duty of securing funds, in-kind gifts and sponsorships from local and national businesses. Donations secured by this committee offset the expenses incurred through MB's many community service initiatives.

### Upcoming Events:

10/23 Skating Party\*  
Phantom Tea\*

The Fundraising Committee meets at the Chicago Urban League every 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Meetings occur every third Monday October 19 and November 16. For more information contact Fundraising Chair Dr. Renee Matthews at [fundraising@metroboard.org](mailto:fundraising@metroboard.org)

# MORE FALL COMMITTEE SYNOPOSES

## Membership Committee

The Membership Committee increases the brand awareness of MetroBoard among Chicagoland area young professionals while reclaiming and reactivating past and inactive members. All new members who have never attended orientation are invited to come. It is a great opportunity to meet new members and to learn more about the organization. Please RSVP to [membership@metroboard.org](mailto:membership@metroboard.org) if you are interested in attending.

The Membership Committee also welcomes new members through its New Member Orientation. All members who have never attended new member orientation are invited to come. It is a great opportunity to meet new members and learn more about the organization. Please RSVP to [membership@metroboard.org](mailto:membership@metroboard.org) if you are interested in attending.

### Upcoming Events:

10/8 Post General Body Meeting Social - venue TBD  
Holiday Party\*

## Public Relations Committee

The Public Relation Committee (PRC) promotes programming and initiatives of the MetroBoard throughout Chicagoland, utilizing local media outlets, while recognizing word of mouth and current members are the best form of pr. The PRC also creates and distributes MB's e-newsletter, *Empowerment*, on a quarterly basis.

The PRC meets at the Chicago Urban League every first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Fall 2009 meetings will take place on October 27 and November 19 via conference call only. For more information contact PR Chairs Eric Horn or Bolaji Sosan at [pr@metroboard.org](mailto:pr@metroboard.org).

A special thank you to our many sponsors who made MB Royale a success:

U.S. Cellular

Seyfarth Shaw

Asili Chi Salon  
& Spa

H2O

Equinox Fitness

Chicago White  
Sox

Carnivale

Grey Goose



NOW ON SALE

IN 2009, OVER 400 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY FELT THE

# WINTER HEAT

WILL YOU BE LEFT IN THE COLD?



JANUARY 22-24, 2010  
GRAND GENEVA RESORT  
LAKE GENEVA, WISCONSIN

SIGN-UP TODAY at [www.metroboard.org](http://www.metroboard.org)



**Metropolitan Board**  
of the Chicago Urban League



**Milwaukee Urban League**  
Young Professionals



# Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League

*Empowering Communities and Changing Lives since 1983*

4510 S. Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60653  
773-451-3527  
info@metroboard.org  
www.metroboard.org  
General Body Meetings  
held the 2nd Thursday of  
each month at 6:30 p.m.

Not a member yet? If  
you're looking to get  
involved with Chicago  
inner city outreach  
initiatives, while building  
your personal and  
professional network, then  
we're glad you've found us!  
Visit us online to download  
our  
membership application.  
Feel free to also attend  
one of our meetings.

Are you interested  
in writing for the  
newsletter and/or  
contributing in some  
capacity? If yes, contact  
the editor:  
editor@metroboard.org

## CONTRIBUTORS OF THIS ISSUE:

Jewanna Carver - Editor  
Yolanda Douglas  
Angel Edmond  
Andre Edmonds  
Eric Horn  
Bolaji Sosan

## State of the MetroBoard

*At the September meeting, President Angela Brooks delivered the annual "State of the MetroBoard" address to membership. "We Have Work to Do"*

Good Evening Members of the  
MetroBoard and Friends:

As I thought about what to say to all of you tonight on the State of the MetroBoard, a quote that Whitney M. Young once said came to mind: "support the strong, give courage to the timid, remind the indifferent, and warn the opposed." These 15 words summarize in an instant what we do with the Chicago Urban League and more specifically, the Metropolitan Board. Whitney Young posed the challenge; MetroBoard Family—we have work to do.

In 2007, 23 Chicago Public School students were killed and 211 shot on the streets of Chicago. Last year, the numbers increased to 34 killed and 290 shot! We have entered the worst recession in our lifetimes. Our state's deficit is growing much faster than Al Sharpton's hair, many of our members have been laid off and funding sources to our affiliate have been greatly diminished. We have work to do.

Despite all of this, last year was a phenomenal year for the MetroBoard. More than 160 students participated in National Day of Service; we culminated our first-ever business plan competition by awarding a grant of \$2500 to support the business of a young professional in our community and hosted our first Empowerment conference. We were rewarded for all of our hard work by winning NULYP Chapter of Excellence for the second year in a row. In addition, as an organization, we amassed over 2,500 service hours for the year. However, this was achieved with approximately 75 members earning more than 10 service hours and about 25 additional members with 0-9 service hours. Imagine what we could do if we ALL put more time, energies and skills into the work of this organization.

The state of this organization depends on the commitment of each of our 343 members. When I campaigned for President, I told each of you my goal: to get more of you from your seats at meetings and onto your feet in working. Our committees are working hard. But they desperately need YOU.

In this upcoming year:

- o Our Community Service Committee has adopted 10 families for the entire year, established relationships with six schools, developed a relationship with two new community organization partners, and is ex-

- o panding our partnership with the Chicago Urban League and their many endeavors;
- o Our Fundraising Committee has accepted my goal to raise \$5,000 for scholarships, increase sponsorship for not only our social events, but our community programs;
- o Our Personal and Professional Development Committee is ready to bring us a bigger Empowerment Conference and more quality programs than they produced last year;
- o Our Membership Committee is on deck to provide membership activities and outings that provide an outlet for us to get to know each other, and to expand the new member orientation that ensures our new members transition into committees and find their way in this organization;
- o Our Public Relations Committee is set to bring us a phenomenal *Empowerment* newsletter bi-monthly, increase our brand name in the Chicago community, and keep us informed of the great work we do each day in the name of the organization.

The demand is great, the need is greater.... and we are at the tipping point as an organization that can truly make a difference. **We have work to do.**

The difference is where will you stand? As a bystander or alongside in the trenches? I just listed an extremely aggressive agenda for the MetroBoard this year. But did you know none of our committees have more than 15 members? Did you also know that some of those 15 members are on multiple committees?

Do you mind if I keep it real? Think about this. How many of you present are paid members of the MetroBoard? Leave your hands raised if you are active on a committee? How many of you have participated in a service project in the last 6 months? The strength of the MetroBoard is currently dependent on the number of you whose hands are raised.



As I reflect over the 3.5 years that I have been a MetroBoard member and the seven that I have been a part of the National Urban League Young Professionals movement, I recognize the assets we have in this room. I get that we truly are the best Young Professionals Chapter in this country. But I also have continuously seen the same 60 members carry this organization to great heights and I am humbled at the level of accomplishment that the few have had for the many. But I am challenging each of you today to put your stakes in this fight to better our community.

**Ladies and Gentlemen, we have work to do.**