



Education Reform and our Community

Letter from the President

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Education reform may get shaken on the local and national level as new leadership from Chicago take the helms of the Chicago Public Schools and the U.S. Education. Former Chicago Transit Authority President Ron Huberman was recently named as Chief Executive Officer of CPS by Mayor Daley, to replace newly appointed U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Huberman's appointment came as a surprise to many whom have watched him rise quickly in the last five years from Chicago Police veteran to Chief of Staff for the Mayor's Office to leading CTA. Duncan noted that Huberman may be viewed as a "non-traditional school leader" but has a strong management background to lead the nation's third-largest school system. Huberman has Master degrees in Business Administration and Social Services. "Ron brings the ability to achieve our education goals with vision and clarity," Duncan said in a released statement. Duncan comes from a family of educators and has over a decade of experience working within the CPS system. President Barack Obama said his nomination of Duncan to become Secretary of Education was made because of Duncan's abilities and decisions to improve standards and test scores from Chicago's public schools. Under Duncan's watch, a number of low-performing elementary and high schools were closed or combined with other neighborhood schools in the past few years, but the addition of charter schools, new teaching staff and higher standards for education have dramatically boosted test scores. According to a release from Chicago's Board of Education, the higher results has enabled more students to attend higher education. "For Arne, school reform isn't just a theory on a book- it's the cause of his life," Obama said in a released statement. Both Huberman and Duncan have already begun plans to address educational initiatives and are looking at collaboration with other educational leaders to further improve education on a large scale. Duncan has addressed ways in which education can get a positive impact through a turn around of the economy, while Huberman has laid out an agenda to increase school safety, test scores and other related initiatives. ■ Yvette Presberry

Dear Metropolitan Board,

As we enter the second half of this administration, there are many things for which we should be excited and enthused. We have several community service projects being planned and a host of fundraising events to help finance our Metropolitan Board initiatives. With regards to service, I have charged the Community Service chairs to expand our reach beyond the south side and tap into underprivileged areas of the Chicago's west side. We are the Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League, where there are no limitations on service, only opportunities. It is now the year 2009; however, it would be irresponsible for us not to review and reflect upon some of the events of 2008. Chicago sales tax topped the national average, the murder rate reached 500, communities raised their voices against inequitable school funding by boycotting the first day of school, scandal plagued a governor whom eventually would be removed from office and the economic crash of the American financial market. There were a few bright spots in 2008 that are worth mentioning especially since it seems all too often the stories we tell are negative in nature. Chicago became one of the potential host cities for the 2016 Olympic Games, On November 4th freshman U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., son of a Black Kenyan father and a white Kansan mother, was elected the 44th U.S. president and the first Black to do so. Based on the 2008 review, the actions of the Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League are needed more than ever in 2009. Our crusade must not stop, with the election of President Barack Obama. We need to ask the hard questions, go above and beyond status quo to help those in need because that is what we do and who we are. Let us move forward and complete more than 25 service hours per person and exceed the 2500 total hours as an organization.

Yours in the movement,

Ronelle DeShazer
President
president@metroboard.org
Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League

New Year, New You!

The Personal and Professional Development Committee hit the ground running with an interactive discussion on health and fitness with "New Year, New You". This is the year of change and accomplishing our New Year resolutions!

Saturday January 10, 2009 MetroBoard invited expert panelists to share their advice on everything from skin care and how to loose weight to ideas on how to get rid of the Holiday bulge. Dr. Ara-Honare, a board-certified Dermatologist discussed varying skin tones and over the counter products to use for your specific skin type. Nina Franklin, MS, LCMT provided tips on counting calories and setting realistic weight loss goals.

Our theme, "New Year New You", incorporated dancing and a workout demonstration. Lazheta Richardson led the group in the "cha cha slide" and breathing techniques to manage stress levels with laughter, fun, and tranquility. Also Siddiqu Muhammad specializing in weight loss and body toning demonstrated some great exercises that can have lasting results on your health and get you in shape for the summer!

Although it was a snowy morning, moderator La Tonya Smith created an interactive and upbeat atmosphere. The event received a great turn out and the attendees left ready to jump-start their New Year with a new attitude!

PPD is here to serve you the members. Please join us at our next event: "Dining to Impress," where we will brush-up on dining etiquette. The event will take place at the Coopers Hawk Winery & Restaurant in Orland Park on March 14, 2009 the cost is only \$20. ■ EileenWilliamson





Metropolitan Board Members Participate in Largest Chicago Celebration of Service

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Many MetroBoard members were in Washington, D.C. this January to witness the historical presidential inauguration of Barack Obama. However, some stayed behind to commemorate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the man who made that occurrence possible, through the annual Chicago Cares Celebration of Service.

Dr. King once said that "everybody can be great because anybody can serve." More than 4,000 total volunteers braved the freezing temperatures to participate in the largest day of service ever with 51 service activities occurring simultaneously around the Chicago area.



MB members arrived early at the United Center and were treated to a speech by the legendary Civil Rights Movement activist C.T Vivian, as well as musical selections from the Kenwood Academy Concert Choir. They were then transported to the CARC Mock Center, one of Illinois' largest human service agencies serving children and adults with developmental disabilities. Approximately 100 volunteers, including Chicago Public School children interacted with CARC's adults through craft projects, karaoke and assorted games. "This is my third year participating and I love it," said MB member Siovhan Kelley. Prospective member Kayla Labry agreed, "I had a great time dedicating my time and energy to a deserving cause." ■ Jewanna Carter



**Dining To Impress:
An Etiquette Lunch**

March 14, 2009

Dining To Impress: An Etiquette Lunch

Join the Personal & Professional Development Committee for an afternoon with an etiquette coach. Saturday, March 14th, 2009 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Space is Limited, so register now.

Financial Literacy and the Metropolitan Board

To say these are difficult economic times is likely the understatement of the year. Economist estimate that over 500,000 jobs were lost in January 2009 alone. Economic stimulus is on the way, but are you rightly positioned to benefit from it? What to do with your assets, job, budget and investments in the meantime? Are you taking the right precautions?

Metropolitan Board's FLiP committee (an economic empowerment initiative) is stepping-up its efforts, not only to address the questions above, but also to support young professionals with their financial concerns and job transitions. The latest program January 27, 2009, titled "Money Management While In Transition" featured the city's top financial advisors who gave a financial outlook for 2009 and discussed what to do to protect yourself today. FLiP also reaches out to the community of young boys and girls to provide financial education. Last November, FLiP partnered with Junior Achievement to host a financial seminar at "Project Etiquette For Girls".

FLiP programming to look forward to in 2009 includes:

"Coaches Corner: 2009 Keys To Success" an email series with financial tips and tricks

February 24: Financial Seminar, "7 keys to becoming a money smart Chicagoan" presented by keynote City of Chicago Treasurer, Stephanie Neely

March: "What the Rich Know, that the Rest of Us Don't" Seminar

April: Money Smart Kids, Taking a group of young men for a tour and day of education at the Chicago Stock Exchange.

April: Financial Wellness Fair, Harold Washington Library

May: NULYP - National Day of Service. Seminar

June: Calling All Entrepreneurs. A business plan writing contest.



MetroBoard Royale

The Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League invites you to attend MetroBoard Royale: Bet on the Movement. A first class night featuring awards, casino gaming, live jazz, modern beats and urban ritz. Saturday, June 6, 2009, 9PM-1AM at Graham Room at Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Drive

involved?

Or are things simply passing you by...? Get involved with a committee of your choice, and make an immediate difference with the outreach of the Metropolitan Board of Chicago.

Fundraising at the Metropolitan Board

MetroBoard turned up Wisconsin's temperature at our annual ski trip **Winter Heat**. Over 200 young professionals took over Lake Geneva on January 23-25 for skiing, fireside lounging, sports tourneys, a comedy showcase and of course all night parties. Huge thanks to the ski trip planning chairs Barton Taylor and Jamil Simmons for organizing our third successful romp in the snow. And special thanks to our partners Collective Quest Entertainment, In the Zone, Red Bull and Ketel One.

Don't worry if you missed out on Winter Heat. The Fundraising Committee is in the process of planning a night of unprecedented excellence which we're calling, **MetroBoard Royale: Bet on the Movement**. This gala style event slated for June 6, from 9PM to 1AM, will feature casino gaming, live jazz, modern beats and awards recognizing young professionals who exemplify leadership in their profession and community. Please stay tuned for more details.

You can catch up with us at our monthly Happy Hour for Humanity: **MB on the Rocks!** We'll take over Wabash Tap at 1233 S. Wabash Avenue from 6:30PM-9:30PM and collect all the tips. Next MB on the Rocks is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18. Every dollar bill counts so please come out and support!

To ensure our events are executed with the upmost quality, our committee is in need of dedicated members to volunteer or take lead roles in planning. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, March 16 at 6:30PM at the Chicago Urban League. We will discuss upcoming events in great detail. We hope to see you there. Please contact us at fundraising@metroboard.org to inquire further about ways to get involved.





Enjoy Marketing, Public Relations, Advertising, Networking?

Consider the Metropolitan Board Public Relations Committee!

The Public Relations Committee is officially calling on you! If you are an outgoing, energetic, creative person then you should think about joining the Metropolitan Board Public Relations committee. Public Relations is looking to add members to its outstanding committee. Public Relations is the backbone of many of the great events that Metropolitan Board puts on throughout the year. If you have a personal or professional interest in creating flyers, e-blasts, handling media relations or attending awesome events and letting prospective members know about Metropolitan Board then Public Relations is the right committee for you! The Public Relations Committee meets the 1st Tuesday of every month at the Chicago Urban League at 6:30 PM.

Let your creative side show, join the PR committee today!

Urban Dialogue: Food for Thought...

Weeks ago, I had the pleasure of attending 'Urban Dialogue', a chance for folks to just come fellowship and just talk about what's on their mind. The first half was somewhat typical - women complaining about men and men complaining about women - but during the second half there was a question posed that sparked a SERIOUS tone in the conversation.

'Ok, Barack is President, now what?' (well that is the equivalent of what was asked). To my surprise (definitely because of my jaded view) folks did not get on the 'Barack is Our Savior' kick...(Thank God!) But instead talked about how his is only a man and can do what he can do but that the responsibility ultimately falls on in our hands. We went on to talk about what needs to be done, how to get people motivated to act, and who is really the blame...With that, I decided to blog...

I am not sure that we have reached the day where we've (black folk) have stopped blaming them (white folk) for our problems. Slavery was wrong but what we do to ourselves is worse. We demean each other, we don't support one another, and we don't care about one another. You really don't these issues (to the effect that they are affecting us) in any other racial/ethnic group.

So while I won't get on the soapbox and complain about what is wrong with us...I have a question.

How many of you reading this have reached back to others, volunteered, or became actively involved in your community?

More specifically, BLACK MEN what are you doing? We need you most. While I volunteer as a mentor and do other projects that support young black men...there is only so much I can tell or teach a young man. We all know that young black men are suffering at disproportionate levels, so there is no need for me drag on about it.

Instead, I am BEGGING, on BENDED KNEE ASKING for black men to step up and mentor.

I mentor with Chicago Youth Centers and there are more young white men mentoring our young black men than you are. (Let me digress and say that any mentoring is better than none and their efforts are SOOO appreciated, but sometimes these young men can't relate...they need you too, they need to know that you care!) They need a positive image of a black man other than Barack Obama, they need to know that there are other positions/places in life that are attainable other than possibly president...that Barack isn't a fluke because he's mixed (lol...I think I heard that somewhere), that black men are and can be positive contributors to society whether it be a president, an attorney, a garbage man, and more importantly a father.

Many of them don't have fathers in their lives. Many of them come from single mother households and single mother cannot teach their sons to be men....we need our men to do that.

Again, men please mentor and give back it only takes a few hours a month but you CAN make a difference. If you are in Chicago and are interested in mentoring Chicago Youth Centers has a plethora of young men on a waiting list to be mentored.

Contact: Christy Beighe-Byrne, 773-268-3815, christy.beighe-byrne@chicagoyouthcenters.org ■ J. Nicole Knox, MB Corresponding Secretary 2008-9

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**Metropolitan Board
of the Chicago Urban League**

our vision statement

The Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League is Chicago's young professional organization of choice for its distinctive capacity and commitment in providing activities that are characterized by excellence in community service, fundraising, and dedication to the nurturance and development of its diverse members to empower communities and change lives through consistent involvement in the Urban League movement.

Learn more, visit us online:
www.metroboard.org

nexTV with the Chicago Urban League

nexTV is a weekly, 30-minute television news and entertainment program with broad-based appeal for Chicago's African-American community. Hosted by Chicago Urban League President and CEO Cheryl R. Jackson, the show will provide a forum to discuss issues related to economic empowerment and self-sufficiency, social justice, pop culture, current events, even the latest fashion trends.

nexTV also offers:

- Local, regional and national news
- A reality TV-like segment featuring the NEXTOne entrepreneur candidates
- Career makeovers
- Latest trends in higher education
- Advice on financial management and how to get out of debt
- Features on successful entrepreneurs
- Entertainment/lifestyle news

Check your weekly local listings for the series! Learn more online at www.thechicagourbanleague.org



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Winter Heat Ski Trip — January 2009



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interested in writing for the newsletter?
contact the editor:
contessa gibson (editor@metroboard.org)

step up and share.

Looking Ahead: Metropolitan Board Currents

Committee Meetings:

Community Service
Every 3rd Tuesday of each month
Location: for details email
service@metroboard.org

Fundraising
Every 3rd Monday of each month
Chicago Urban League @ 6:30pm

Public Relations (PR)
Every 1st Tuesday of each month
Chicago Urban League @ 6:30pm

Personal & Professional Development
Last Wednesday of each month
Chicago Urban League @ 6:30pm

Membership
Every 3rd Wednesday of each month
Chicago Urban League @ 6:30pm

COMMUNITY VIEW

METROPOLITAN BOARD ON THE SCENE
Snapshots from our recent community Personal & Professional Workshop, "New Year, New You"

