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What is Your Level of Civic Engagement?

Anyone around for the past thirty to forty years knows how important it is to be involved in your community. The civil rights movement began, what most believe, to be the era of true civic engagement. The sacrifices of our predecessors afforded, not only our communities, but our world the opportunity to see the impact of civic engagement on a lot of diverse people. The immediate question that may come to mind is what exactly does it mean to be civically engaged? Well, according to the New York Times, civic engagement means "working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference."

As young professionals we have the ability to foster change in monumental ways, using all our gifts. In our lifetime we have seen African Americans making monumental strides. From Mae Jemison, the first African American female astronaut, to Ruth Simmons, the first African-American female President of an Ivy League University, to the first African American Secretary of State, Colin Powell. Our community produces great civic engagers. The Metropolitan Board, in my opinion has the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivations that the Times speaks of to make the difference in our communities. The young professional movement exists to produce the next generation of civic engagers. So what is your level of engagement? What is your gift or skill? Why did you join the Metropolitan board of the Chicago Urban League? How do you become a better vessel for civic engagement? The following can help in your quest:

- Assess your level of civic engagement within your Metropolitan board membership.
- Identify those causes that are in line with your interests e.g. the Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League, American Diabetes Association, and Multiple Sclerosis Association.
- Bring your ideas, time, and abilities to your communities and make a difference! The Metropolitan Board has various committees that give people the ability to use their gifts, join a committee and GET INVOLVED! ■ Anne Edwards, Member

Letter from the President

Dear Metropolitan Board,

The 15th Amendment of the United States Constitution states "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation." This amendment was proposed on February 26, 1869 and ratified on February 3, 1870.

The 15th Amendment was the last Reconstruction Amendment, which was designed to protect the civil rights of freed slaves to vote. On March 31, 1870, Thomas Mundy Peterson of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, became the first African-American to vote in an election under the just-enacted provisions of the 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

However for almost a century, African-Americans were intimidated, threatened, physically harmed and often murdered for attempting to vote. It was not until President Lyndon B Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act on March 17, 1965. The Voting Rights Act was too enforce the legal implementation of the Fifteenth Amendment across all the states in the union.

As a non partisan organization, the Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban continues to encourage all of its members to exercise their right to vote in local and national elections. Historically, African-Americans have not always had the privilege to vote, and failing to exercise your right would be in vain to those who died for the cause and the Urban League movement. Voting techniques are increasingly more technical, however it is imperative that we continue to educate ourselves on the voting process, as well as help those individuals that may not understand how the process has changed.

Yours in the movement,

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

Metropolitan Board Presents Civic Engagement Panel

This October, the Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League hosted a panel addressing issues directly affecting Chicago's inner city communities. The panel was designed to create discourse regarding the surge of gun violence in the city. Panelist included Cook County's State attorney candidates Tony Peraica and Thomas O'Brien to discuss their approach reducing gun violence in the Chicagoland area.

As a non-partisan organization, the Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League is committed to stimulating discourse on issues which speak to the core of community empowerment and subsequently prompt membership to engage in their community. ■ Contessa Gibson, Member





Update: Chicago Urban League

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE:



MB Fundraising Update

On September 10th the Fundraising Committee hosted a cocktail reception at Seyfarth Shaw LLP. The reception honored past sponsors for their contributions. Meanwhile potential sponsors were invited to better grasp our demographic, initiatives and the benefits of partnering with the Metropolitan Board.

Our focus now is securing sponsorship for the Ski Trip in January 2009. We are also in the planning stages for our signature Spring 2009 fundraiser. We need you to make it all happen. Please join us every third Monday of the month at the Chicago Urban League (6:30 p.m.) for the Fundraising Meeting.

The Chicago Urban League has a rich history in providing social services and a vision of economic development to promote change in the Chicagoland area. On Saturday November 8, 2008, the Chicago Urban League hosted its 47th Annual Golden Fellowship Dinner at the Hilton Chicago. This year's theme, "Lights, Camera, nextTV!" celebrating the launch of the Chicago Urban League's new television program on FOX Chicago.

This year's chairs for the gala were Bill Daley of JPMorgan Chase and Jim Reynolds of Loop Capital. Also at this year's dinner, the Chicago Urban League presented the inaugural Bill Berry Civil Rights Award to Linda Johnson Rice, President and CEP of Johnson Publishing Company, for her extraordinary contributions in entrepreneurial enterprise in Chicago and the continued positive imagery of African-Americans. The dinner was hosted by Robin Robinson of Fox Chicago and comedian-actor Anthony Anderson with a special musical performance by Grammy nominated recording artist Anthony Hamilton.

A sincere congratulations to the planning team for a phenomenal event, it was an evening to remember. For those of you who missed out, plan for next year! ■ Ronelle DeShazer, Metropolitan Board President 2008-09

The Risks and Rewards of Real Estate

The difference between stumbling and falling in the risky field of real estate is to stay clear of the PUSH. Past pushes may have come from your lender (the best man at your wedding,) your appraiser (the best man at your lender's wedding,) and/or your real estate broker (number one on your speed dial - superseding your mother!) Pushing led to an unbridled optimism in the marketplace which highlighted the upside analysis of your investments without consideration of the downside. Unfortunately, most of the country has its nose to the concrete, but luckily, you're not out of the game yet!

The experts may suggest holding on real estate for 2008/2009; however, many transferee's and young professionals may need to buy or sell this year. If you must get into the game, eliminate the risks by selecting a team of experienced, competent professionals that understand your interests. Make sure they are working collectively to identify and meet your bottom line. Importantly, involve your financial consultant or accountant to reveal both the pros and cons to the investment transaction. The current condition of real estate's tragedy is that both novice and seasoned investors were persuaded that their investments were risk free and the reward guaranteed. Now it's time to push yourself up, keep your advisers close and comprehensive research closer! In the long term, the rewards will be revealed!! ■ Lauren Lowery, MB Member, FindersPlus Real Estate

WINTER HEAT January 23 -25, 2009
3rd Annual Ski Weekend Getaway

The banner features a stylized city skyline with a skier in the foreground and a woman's silhouette on the right. The background is a vibrant mix of blue, red, and yellow diagonal stripes.



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Get Involved with the Metropolitan Board & Community Economic Empowerment

The Metropolitan Board Treasury is responsible for all cash handling, internal controls and financial reporting for the Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League. Also, providing a direct line of contact, Treasury partners with the Chicago Urban League to support their economic empowerment initiatives, including next THURSDAY, nextMOVE.jobs, etc. Treasurer, Dana Kyles, is also the advisor for the MetroBoard's Personal and Professional Development committee and the Chairperson for the MetroBoard's Financial Literacy program (FLiP).

The FLiP committee goes out into the community to teach financial literacy. Plans for the year include programs as local as a West Loop community center and as far as a New Orleans Hurricane Katrina / Hurricane Ike restabalization conference. A FLiP introductory meeting was held September 30, 2008. FLiP recently participated at a training seminar with the Project Etiquette program on October 25, 2008. ■ Dana Kyles, Metropolitan Board Treasurer 2008-09 To learn more about treasury or get involved with economic empowerment initiatives, email treasurer@metroboard.org



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"When the going get's tough"...keep perspective

Lehman Brothers, AIG!!, Merrill Lynch, Government bailout, increase in foreclosure rate, food pantry sees decrease in supply. These are some of the headlines that we have had to grapple with within the past few months. This, compiled with other obligation to fulfill i.e. mortgage/rent payments, higher and higher gas prices we might begin to ponder how we can support our community organizations that need our help the most. Well don't fret because I'm here to give a couple of tips on how to keep finances intact and still make a difference. If you're not able to write a check to an organization you support, perhaps donate some of the time you might spend watching reality TV or sports to help with whatever needs they have. If you work in a large office,

set up a box where people can drop in office items they might not have a use for; you don't know how much non-profits spend on just that alone. Contact your local Make-A-Wish foundation and see what ways you can help a needy child's wish come true. If you get the sudden urge to bake some sweets while keeping warm in your home, make extra and take it down to your local food shelter you will feel instant gratification. If you have some time on your hands perhaps plan a singles auction. Gather some of your single friends and let others bid on them for a prize; it could be for a prize it could be a dinner and a movie date, home cooked dinner or it could be a way to meet your soul-mate you never know. ■ Bolaji Sosan, Metropolitan Board Member





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Visit us online:
www.metroboard.org

Community Service Committee in ACTION

The Community Service Committee committee commenced the MetroBoard year with our second annual September Serve-A-Thon, a community service initiative aimed to engage members in a variety of community service projects and programs.

Members participated in several community service events across the Chicagoland area, including Living Room Café, Goal Power – E-mentor Program, Open Books Literacy program, Ronald McDonald House, Night Ministry, Chicago Cares School Restoration Project, and Deborah's Place (Women's Shelter). The Community Service Committee has taken an active role in Civil Rights Activism and Civic Engagement for the 2008 Election by registering voters to vote and forging a relationship with SteelLife Museum for the 2008 Election Debate Series.

During September, Serve-A-Thon, Metropolitan Board was honored as the recipient of the Open Books Volunteer Organization of the Week by Open Books Literacy Program for our commitment to enrichment of our youth and excellence in the community. On the first Saturday in October, the women of Metropolitan Board hosted twenty-six 2nd and 3rd grade students for the first-ever MB Lab for Girls program at the Museum of Industry and Science.

To receive more information about upcoming community service initiatives and become actively involved in the community service committee planning sessions, please email service@metroboard.org. Thank you Metropolitan Board for your time and dedication to service to meet the needs of our community. ■ Kia Padgett, Metropolitan Board Community Service Co-Chair 2008-09



Metropolitan Board volunteers participating at the Macy's Day of Music.



Metropolitan Board Living Room Café volunteers cooking meals for the community.



Metropolitan Board Lab for Girls, delivering principle, insight, and mentorship to our young ladies.

Professional & Personal Development Committee

Graduate School Forum

The Personal and Professional Development Committee kicked off the fiscal year with a Graduate School Forum. This was an up close and honest discussion identifying what a great graduate candidate looks like, options to financing your education, and picking the right degree program that fits your personal and professional goals.



There were panelists present from a variety of educational institutions including National Louis University, Northern Illinois University, Chicago State University, and Northwestern University. Guests were able to hear perspectives on Law School, Graduate Enrollment, and Career Opportunities. Moderators Imara Canady and Nikisha Hunter were successful in creating a comfortable space of learning, shared ideas, and meaningful exchange of information. Graduate school professionals including a Princeton Review representative discussed their degree backgrounds that included law school, marketing, divinity, business administration, developmental biology, and fine arts management. Panelists also talked about a variety of topics including best practices for getting into law school and various ways of utilizing your law degree; starting and completing the graduate enrollment process; and preparing for a successful career after graduation. ■ Andrea Horton, Metropolitan Board PPD Chair

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Enjoy Marketing, Public Relations, Advertising, Networking?

Consider the Metropolitan Board Public Relations Committee!

The Metropolitan Board Public Relations Committee is taking on the challenge of branding The Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League. The Public Relations committee led by Dr. Renee Matthews and Chaka T. Washington are working hard to ensure that our brand is defined and promoted. As we continue to celebrate our 25th year anniversary, we are looking to take the media world by storm as we reign in 2009! The Public Relations committee is for vibrant, creative, energetic Metropolitan Board members that want to contribute their talents to our organization and committee. If you are a writer, graphic designer, media expert or event planner, Public Relations wants to enlist You! Our committee meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at the Chicago Urban League. We look forward to seeing you.

Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League
Empowering Communities and Changing Lives since 1983

MB
On The Rocks
HAPPY HOUR FOR HUMANITY
NOVEMBER 12, 2008
From 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
NO COVER APPETIZERS
RAFFLE GIVE-AWAY

@ Wabash Tap
1233 South Wabash

All tips go towards the community service initiatives of the Metroboard
www.metroboard.org

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

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.



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Membership: Chicago's Civic Leaders on the Social Scene
Membership Mixer—October 2008



Metropolitan Board
of the Chicago Urban League

Empowering Communities, Changing Lives



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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.

Visit us online:
www.metroboard.org

WINTER HEAT
3rd Annual Ski Weekend Getaway

JANUARY 23-25, 2009
GRAND GENEVA RESORT
LAKE GENEVA, WISCONSIN

MB and NULYP Members*
\$275 - Double Occ. Double Room
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Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League: Empowering Communities, Changing Lives.



collectively empowering communities, changing lives.
Step it UP. Stay INVOLVED. Stay CURRENT.

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 outreach program, Metropolitan Board Lab for Girls



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

step up and share.

Publication Cycle	Submission Deadlines
March 2009	January 15
May 2009	March 15