



Urban League of
The MidPlains

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

For Immediate Release

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News Release

Urban League Elects New Board Members and Presents Awards

Wichita, Kansas- On Tuesday, January 31, 2006 the Urban League of the MidPlains' Board of Trustees and Guild Volunteers held its 52nd annual business meeting of members and supporters at Botanica, The Wichita Gardens.

“Today’s meeting is a time to reflect over the accomplishments we have made as an organization over the past year. It is a time to examine and critique ourselves and ask the question, how we can be even better in 2006,” said Amy Shoemaker, chairperson for the Urban League of the MidPlains.

Tim Richards, chairperson of the Committee on the Trustees, presented the 2006 slate of officers and trustees. The following new trustees were elected:

Dr. Cheryl Adams – Dean of Students, Wichita State University

Mr. Norman Bessac – Vice President of Marketing, Cargill Meat Solutions

Mr. Kent Cornish – Vice President and General Manager, Fox/UPN Kansas

Mr. William Goodlatte – Senior Vice President of Human Resources, LDF Companies

Mr. Garney Hill – Director of Business Affairs, St. Mark United Methodist Church

Dr. James Kallail, Professor – Internal Medicine, KU School of Medicine – Wichita

Mr. William Jackson - Senior Manager, T-Mobile

Ms. Su-Ella McKinzie – Director of Marketing & Public Relations, Dillons Food Stores

Mr. Eric Swenson – Project Manager, Dondlinger & Sons Construction

Mr. Doug Neff – Executive Vice President, Commerce Bank

Arnold Hudspeth, chairperson elect for the Urban League of the MidPlains reported for the year ending December 31, 2005, the Urban League had a positive fund balance in excess of \$1 million.

Teketa Harding, secretary for the Urban League Board of Trustees presented Cox Communications and KOCH Industries the \$100,000 Hall of Fame Award. This award is given to a corporation that has made a multiyear commitment to the Urban League at a minimum of \$100,000. In addition, Wichita Public Schools was presented the “*Collaborative Partner of the Year Award*”, Ms. Tina Smith, assistant vice president of Bank of America was presented the “*Volunteer of the Year Award*”, and Ms. Cathy Delvin, human resource leader for KOCH Industries and Ms. Janet Lloyd Williams, senior vice president for Intrust Bank were present the “*Trustee of the the Year Award.*”

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Mildred Edwards, president of the Urban League's Volunteer Guild presented the Burney/Burns Exemplary Service Award. The award is named for two former Guild Presidents – Mrs. Anita Burney and Mrs. Lillie Mae Burns. The inaugural award was presented to both honorees in which the award is named.

“Mrs. Burney and Mrs. Burns provided outstanding leadership for the Guild during their tenure as president and have remained critical to the continued success of the Guild,” said Brian A. Black, president and chief executive officer for the Urban League.

Black gave the keynote address. He stated that 2005 had been a transitional year for the Urban League and that 2006 would be a year of transformations. Black announced the launch of a new year long strategic planning process for the Urban League that will be led by Wichita State University's Self Help Network. Black went further to solicit the input from the broader community as the Urban League plans its next level of excellence. If you are interested in assisting the Urban League in shaping its new direction for the next five years – please call Ms. Julie Taborsky at 262-2463 or e-mail at jtaborskyulow@sbcglobal.net. A written annual report was given as parting gifts for a 200 plus crowd in attendance.

The Urban League is a non-profit economic development agency committed to the principle of economic opportunity for all citizens in housing, education, employment and economic development without regard to race or socioeconomic status. The League utilizes collaboration as its platform to create economic opportunities in the less affluent areas of Kansas.

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