



The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc.
Helping People. Changing Lives.

community **Action** PARTNERSHIP **QUARTERLY Newsletter**

AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

APRIL 2012 • SPRING ISSUE

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CEO's CORNER

Joining Forces: Volunteering Benefits Everyone

On January 28, 2012, The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. celebrated its 44th anniversary with more than 400 participants in attendance. A few days before this historical celebration, Ms. Arabell Wiggins, who volunteered at ALPI in different capacities for over 40 years, passed away at age 104. Functioning as an ALPI Board Member (Emeritus), Ms. Wiggins attended her final Board meeting in November of 2011 proving that age, as well as other socio-economic labels, should never prevent anyone from serving as a volunteer.

Although Ms. Wiggins' life of volunteerism was an exceptional one, its important to note that the number of Americans who volunteer grew last year at one of the fastest rates in the past 7 years. This defies the popular notion that hard economic times suppress civic participation. In 2009, volunteers donated an impressive 8.1 billion hours of service!

The benefits of volunteering are enormous. Volunteering can even help protect one's mental and physical health. Another benefit of volunteering is the impact on the community. Unpaid volunteers are often the glue that holds a community together. Volunteering allows connection to the community and generally makes it a better place for everyone.

By joining forces with organizations already serving their communities, every individual has the ability to contribute and make a difference in their community. ALPI salutes all its dedicated volunteers, including the ALPI Board of Directors, Agricultural and Labor Housing Development Corporation, Inc. Board of Directors, Regional Advisory Councils, Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council, and Polk County Head Start Policy Committee.

Deloris Johnson

Chief Executive Officer & Editor

2012 ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING AND LUNCHEON

The 2012 Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon was held on Saturday, January 28 at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. This year's meeting celebrated 44 years of service to socially and economically disadvantaged children and families throughout the State of Florida. Almost 400 Corporate partners, Board members, and guests attended ALPI's largest annual event. The theme for this year's event was: "Realistic Strategies to Empower People and Change Lives".

Mistress of Ceremony for the luncheon this year was Queen Townsend, Assistant Superintendent of St. Lucie County (retired). Presentation of Colors was performed by the American Legion Post #201 of Winter Haven, FL. Greetings were extended to all those gathered by Nancy Z. Daley of Lake Alfred, FL (Mayor of the City of Lake Alfred and ALPI Board Member) and Samuel B. Ings of Orlando, FL (Commissioner for the City of Orlando). Words of Inspiration were delivered by Mark Thomas of Lakeland, FL (ALPI Board Member) followed immediately by the message from the ALPI Board Chairperson, William Holt of Vero Beach, FL. Terry Wellington of Avon Park, FL (ALPI Board Member) introduced the Keynote Speaker, Richard D. Davison, Esq. of Tallahassee, FL.

Attorney Davison's message centered around the concept of self-empowerment. He described a childhood that although

took place in public housing, was filled with an optimistic hope for the future. Rick gave statistical information regarding many of the problems (political, social and economic) that are currently affecting African-Americans and Hispanics in the United States. Vulnerable groups have struggled disproportionately more amid the weak

labor market of the past few years. The African-American unemployment rate in December 2011 stayed well above average with a high 15.8 percent, and the Hispanic unemployment rate stayed high with 11

percent. The prolonged economic slump, following an exceptionally weak labor market before the crisis, has taken a massive toll on the most vulnerable populations. Rick stressed that given enough persistence, hard work, and dedication, people can rise above their circumstances and have real

hope for a better future. His own success was not an anomaly, but rather a reality that can be attained by anyone through focused hard work and perseverance. Rick closed by encouraging ALPI staff to continue making a difference in people's lives through the work everyone performs daily to meet the needs of the communities ALPI so proudly serves.

Following the Speaker, Awards and Recognitions were bestowed by William Holt, Deloris Johnson, and Marva Hawkins of Sanford, FL (ALPI Board Member). William A. Sweat, Esq., Sweat & Reed, PA (Lakeland, FL), performed the Board Installations and Closing Remarks were given by William Holt.



ALPI's 2012 Awards Recipients

*The following were awarded during
the 2012 Annual Corporate
Meeting and Luncheon.*

**CEO Recognition Award
DELORIS JOHNSON**

**The Board of Directors
Chairperson's Award
WILLIAM HOLT**

**The Board Chairperson's Award
CHERYL BURNHAM**

**Robert J. Bryant, Jr. Award
PATRICIA GAMBLE
DAVID WALKER, ESQ.**

**Housing Board
Chairperson Award
PHILLIP HOWARD**

**Head Start / Early Head Start
Policy Council
Chairperson Award
EVERETT ROLAND, JR.**

**Head Start Policy
Committee Award
LATISHA SPARKS**

**Community Services Award
BRITT HENDERSON
MELTON CLARKE
LARRY LEE, JR.
SPORTSMAN'S CLUB**

**Corporate Support Award
MICHAEL J. LANNON
SUPERINTENDENT OF ST. LUCIE
COUNTY SCHOOLS**

**Thank You Award
QUEEN TOWNSEND
RICHARD D. DAVISON, ESQ.**

**Certificate of Appreciation
AMERICAN LEGION POST #201
WINTER HAVEN, FL**

ALPI proudly presents the 2012 Board of Directors



William Holt
Chairperson



David Walker
*Vice
Chairperson*



**Josephine
Howard**
Secretary



**Christine
Samuel**
Treasurer



Mark Thomas
Parliamentarian



Melony Bell



Katie Clarke



Dorothy Curry



Nancy Daley



Patricia Gamble



Marjorie Gaskin



Marva Hawkins



Glenda Jones



**Chester
McNorton**



Vernon McQueen



Terry Wellington



Tiffany Wilder



Jonathan Thiele
*ALPI Board
Council*



Grace Miller
Board Emeritus



Arabell Wiggins
Board Emeritus



Robert J.
Bryant, Jr.
Award

Patricia Gamble

PATRICIA GAMBLE is the oldest of two children born to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Gail McAfee on December 30, 1956 in Lakeland, FL. Mrs. Gamble graduated from Kathleen Senior High School. Mrs. Gamble has been employed by the Polk County School Board (working with special needs children at Kathleen High School), the Department of Labor, and currently with the Department of Revenue for the past 12 years (as a Tax Specialist).

Early on in life her love of helping people developed into a personal sense of service that led to her long history of community involvement. Many people do not know that as a young girl, Pat Gamble was a migrant worker who worked alongside her father (he was a crew leader) and for at least 10 years travelled together with her family to different states during different harvest seasons. During this time she grew to understand what true service to others meant. "I love seeing people happy" she stated. The hard work and sense of community she experienced during this time in her young life helped to forge the inner strength and conviction that has motivated her to reach out to so many others.

Mrs. Gamble has volunteered in many different capacities, including the Guardian Ad Litem Program, Juvenile Justice - Tallahassee, Supervisor of Elections, Prison Ministry, 4H Club Extension Program, and the Lakeland Habitat for Humanity. Mrs. Gamble currently serves on The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. Board of Directors as a Board Member. As a member of the ALPI Board she is Chairperson of the Membership Committee and is active on several other committees, including Special Events, Succession Planning,

Fundraising/Resource Development. She also serves as Secretary for the New Horizons Housing Board and is a past member of the Central Region Advisory Council. Mrs. Gamble is involved in her church's outreach programs and regularly visits the Rohr Retirement Home in Bartow, FL.

Patricia Gamble has received many certificates, awards and other commendations during her lifetime. One very special recognition is a Presidential Award for over 250 hours of community service. Her deep belief in service to the community and volunteerism has brought her personal joy and gratification. "It's not about not getting a paycheck, it's about loving what you do for others and enjoying it with all your heart" she happily commented. Advocating for children and families is not work to her, but something that she is passionately driven to do. When asked how she felt about receiving the Robert J. Bryant, Jr. Award she stated, "I am very honored. ALPI's Mission has helped me to become a stronger person and to recognize that everyone, regardless of their station in life, should be treated with respect at all times." Patricia Gamble is a resident of Lakeland, Florida and is married with two children, Yolanda Robinson (a teacher at Winston Elementary) and Rashad Robinson (a self-employed Publix retiree). Mrs. Gamble has two grandchildren, Serenity (Rochelle School of the Arts) and Arlesha (Victory Academy).



David Walker, Esq.

Robert J.
Bryant, Jr.
Award

DAVID WALKER was born in Cleveland, Ohio on December 24, 1948, the oldest of six brothers and sisters. Upon graduating from high school, he enrolled at Shaw University, where he was active in school activities and on the football

team. Upon graduation, he was offered several management positions with some of the top U.S. Five-Hundred corporations, and finally decided on the Armour-Dial Company. Although he received many promotions and was on the fast track to upper management, he decided instead to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming an attorney.

In 1976 Mr. Walker was admitted to North Carolina Central University Law School. While in law school he participated in and was a member of many organizations and other law related clubs, having leadership position in many of them. He graduated law school in 1979 and ultimately opened his own law firm in Stuart, Florida, where he continues to practice today. His law firm specializes in personal injury law.

Attorney David Walker is actively involved in many organizations, including: the Florida Chapter of the National Bar Association, the National Bar Association, Martin County Bar Association, Florida Justice Association (Trial Lawyers), Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Shaw University – Board of Trustee Member and the Martin County Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Sunshine Rotary Club, Volunteers in Medicine, and was legal counsel for the Martin County Chapter of the NAACP. Attorney Walker has served on numerous Boards, including The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. (Vice-Chairperson), Building Bridges, Inc., and Mount Calvary Mission Baptist Church Board of Trustees. He has received the Shaw University President's Career Service Award, the United Negro College Fund Outstanding Alumnus Award, as well as an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Shaw University.

David Walker's motto is "caring and charity respond to the need and not the cause." He tries to live by the profound concept that need has no color, race or religion and fully acknowledges the biblical charge "to whom much is given, much is required." (Luke 12:48) Mr. Walker has been married to Sharon Walker for 42 years and they have one daughter (Noni Walker) and two grandchildren.



2012 Community Action Partnership

Management and Leadership Training Conference

ALPI staff attended the 2012 Community Action Partnership Management and Leadership Training Conference in Miami, Florida on January 5-7, 2012. This year's theme was: Ensuring High Performance in Community Action: Strategies for Leadership, Innovation and Success. CAP holds this conference annually to help CAA leaders network and refresh their training. Community Action Agencies from many states shared their recent experiences, especially as it related to strategic restructuring and other critical issues associated with government funding, etc.



Florida Association for Community Action **LEGISLATIVE DAY CONFERENCE**

This year's FACA (Florida Association for Community Action) Legislative Day Conference was held on February 10, 2012 in Tallahassee, Florida. The conference strives to get all CAA's in the State of Florida to meet with their district House of Representatives and Senators to let them know what CAA's are doing to better their communities and encourage continued support for Community Action Agencies everywhere. This year's principal goal was to have the House of Representatives and Senate better understand and support FACA's "Commission on Poverty" for the State of Florida.



ALPI Attends the **RIVHSA 2012 Annual Conference**

Founded in 1986, the Region IV Head Start Association, Inc. (RIVHSA) is a private not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to improving the quality of early care and education for young children and empowering families in Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) programs throughout the region. RIVHSA represents more than 165,000 children, 30,000 staff and 250 member programs. Its regional network includes a growing alliance of corporate partners and individual members, as well as 8 state affiliates: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

On February 6, 2012 RIVHSA held its 2012 Annual Conference. The conference was a training event in Region IV providing educational enrichment opportunities for hundreds of Head Start policymakers, administrators, service providers, parents, community partners and business leaders, as well as an array of professionals in the field of child development and research. Representing ALPI at the conference were Deloris Johnson (ALPI Chief Executive Officer and RIVHSA Board Member/Membership Committee Chairperson), William Holt (ALPI



Board Chairperson), Terry Wellington (ALPI Board Member), and Elizabeth Young (ALPI Child Development and Family Services Division, Deputy Director).

The educational sessions addressed legislative issues, early care and education, intervention and prevention strategies, as well as quality initiatives and practices. The conference provided a dynamic platform for the exchange of ideas and information with administrators and practitioners from throughout the southeast region.



ALPI 2012 Annual Staff Training Conference

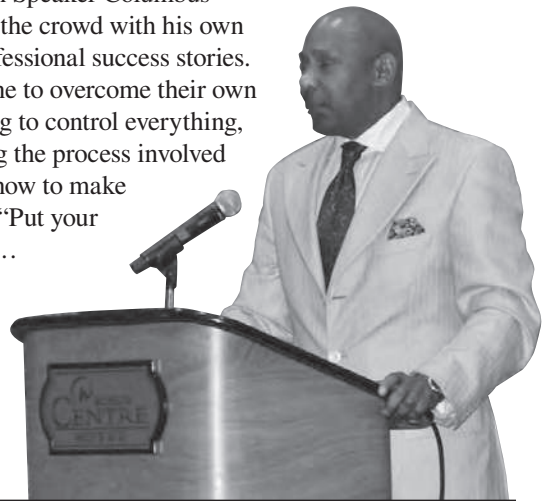


On Friday, January 27, 2012 ALPI held its Annual Staff Training Conference and Luncheon, which lasted through Saturday, January 28, 2012. Regular staff training is critical for professional development and as such ALPI strives to effectively provide practical, relevant and goal-oriented workshops in a fresh and engaging manner. Topics this year included: Leadership Development, Time Management, Conflict Resolution, Diversity Training, Cultural Competence, etc.

The opening session for the Staff Training Conference was the luncheon held on Friday. Cheryl Burnham, ALPI LIHEAP/Community Services Director, presided over the event and welcomed everyone. The luncheon speaker, Mr. Columbus

Copeland, President and CEO of "PEET", was introduced by Twila Smith, ALPI Operations and Quality Control Director. Special recognitions and closing remarks were conducted by Deloris Johnson, ALPI Chief Executive Officer.

Staff Luncheon Speaker Columbus Copeland rallied the crowd with his own personal and professional success stories. He urged everyone to overcome their own fears by not trying to control everything, but rather trusting the process involved and focusing on how to make situations better. "Put your past behind you ... become solution driven and set goals you can and will achieve" stated Mr. Copeland to staff gathered.



2012 SHARED GOVERNANCE ORIENTATION

The 2012 Shared Governance Orientation was held at the Chain O'Lakes Complex in Winter Haven, Florida on February 25, 2012.



HEAD START



NORTHERN REGION



EASTERN REGION



SOUTHERN REGION

Participating in this annual orientation were the following:
ALPI Board of Directors,
Head Start/EHS Policy Council,
Head Start Policy Committee,
and the Advisory Councils.



CENTRAL REGION



Congratulations to
Addie Bennett
and Best Wishes for
a Wonderful Retirement

Addie Bennett retired effective January 2, 2012, after 23 years of service. She held several positions in the Child Development and Family Services Division, in both Center Management and Program Management. At the time of her retirement she was working at ALPI's George W. Truitt Family Services Center as Child Development Services Manager. ALPI wishes to thank Addie Bennett for her tireless commitment and dedication to ALPI and its children and families.

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Early Learning Coalition of Polk County, Lincoln Park Child Care, Inc., the Ft. Pierce Housing Authority, and the Polk County School Board

ALPI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

APRIL 28, 2012

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

LOCATION: CHAIN O' LAKES CONVENTION CENTER
WINTER HAVEN, FL

The ALPI Newsletter is Published by The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. The ALPI Newsletter is a quarterly publication designed to inspire and inform all employees, volunteers, parents, partners, and supporters of ALPI who have helped us through the years to grow the organization into what it has become today. We welcome your suggestions, comments, and ideas. Have a question about a feature? Heard an interesting story? Share it with us by phone, mail, or fax (refer to Contact Information).
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