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From the Desk of the Editor

On January 24, 2009, The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc., Board of Directors convened its 41st Annual Corporate Meeting to report to the community the status of the organization and to validate that all is well as a result of good governance, leadership and management.

A UNESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) article, "What is Good Governance?" defines Good Governance into 8 major characteristics: participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law. It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making. It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society.

As reflected in our 2009 Annual Meeting theme: "Embracing the Power to Change: ALPI's Blueprint for the Future" and as reported to the corporate membership, ALPI is a well governed organization. William Holt and the ALPI Board of Directors are to be commended for their leadership, exemplary service and... their Good Governance.

Deloris Johnson
Chief Executive
Officer & Editor

Celebrating 41 Years of Service 2009 Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon

The 2009 Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon was held Saturday, January 24, 2009 at the Chain O' Lakes Complex in Winter Haven, Florida. This year's meeting celebrated 41 years of service to socially and economically disadvantaged children and families throughout the State of Florida.

Over 300 corporate, board members and guests attended the ALPI's largest annual event. The theme for this year's event was "Embracing the Power to Change: ALPI's Blueprint for the Future" and included a very special dedication and tribute to Grace S. Miller (pictured center), a former ALPI Board Chairperson and Board Member for more than 35 years. Mrs. Miller has also served as Chairperson of the ALPI Northern Region Advisory Council. Mrs. Miller was very touched by this honor and said that she accepts all challenges put before her and is always willing to help others achieve major goals to improve their lives. In recognition of the many, many years Grace Miller has served on the ALPI Board, she was named as ALPI Board Emeritus, an honor she stated "was greatly appreciated and deeply touching."

Mistress of Ceremonies for the luncheon was Katrina Lunsford. Presentation of Colors was performed by the Tenoroc High School JROTC of Lakeland, Florida. Beautiful musical performances were presented by students of the

Harrison School of the Arts in Lakeland, Florida. Yvonne Brooks, Mayor of Winter Haven, Florida (pictured below left) extended greetings and Minister Vernon McQueen gave words of inspiration. Christine Samuel gave a very warm welcome and explained the significance of the occasion to all those gathered. Josephine Howard, ALPI Board Secretary, introduced the keynote speaker, Mr. William

"Sonny" Walker, founder and CEO of the Sonny Walker Group out of Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. Walker's inspiring message addressed many of today's activities that our world will have to deal with in order to help and improve our critical condition. He stressed that change must begin within ourselves if we want to have a lasting impact on the world around us. "We must not accept failure and we must all work as a team." Walker went on to say that "yes we can" should be our response to all challenges we face, because together there is no problem that we cannot solve, no job that we cannot do, and no hungry child that we cannot feed.





From the Chairperson of the ALPI Board of Directors

William Holt
ALPI Board Chairperson

This newsletter is dedicated to the following: ALPI's Chief Executive Officer – Deloris Johnson, her Staff, the Board and Mrs. Grace Miller. With the economy in its current state, the market tumbling, and unemployment at an all time high in America, I am here to say that under the conditions stated above the state of the ALPI program continues to be strong and financially sound and continues to hold its “low risk auditee designation.”

The hard work of our CEO and her management proficiency is the reason that ALPI employees continue

to have employment during these trying times. Indeed, it was the CEO who, in the absence of the Head Start Director, guided the Head Start staff to a very impressive and successful monitoring visit recently completed by the U.S. Federal Government. The Federal monitors indicated the program was being managed effectively, professionally, and accurately. Thanks to the CEO and her staff, the outcome of this monitoring is a direct result of effective leadership and ensuring that the job is done in its entirety throughout the agency. Her taking

the leadership role demonstrates her diverse understanding of the many components that operate within the organization. The ALPI is very proud to have someone with such superior and impeccable management skills.

My thanks to the ALPI Board (pictured below left) for the focused attention you pay to details. This focus insures that the governing of our program is second to none and it further demonstrates that you are dedicated to the task of taking responsibility for the duties of a Board member.

Finally, I would like to thank Mrs. Grace Miller for her many years of leadership in the ALPI organization. Without her this great program, dedicated to changing the lives of so many people, would not exist. I personally thank Mrs. Miller for the “High Standards” she has set ... thank you for all that you have done for the ALPI. Your spirit and work ethic demonstrate that there is truly only one “Amazing Grace.”

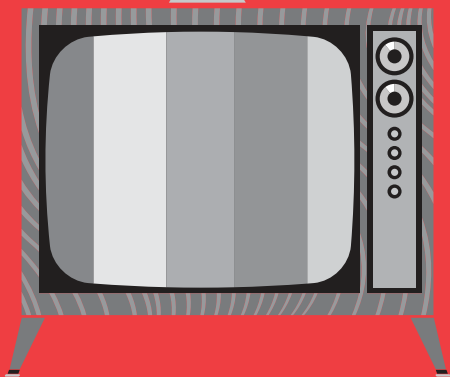


David Walker (ALPI Board Vice Chairperson), Deloris Johnson (ALPI CEO), and William Holt (ALPI Board Chairperson)



Mrs. Grace Miller
(ALPI Board Emeritus) at
2009 Annual Corporate
Meeting and Luncheon

Digital Television Transition



By June 12, 2009, all television stations in the United States will stop analog broadcasts. Digital broadcasting promises to provide a clearer picture and more programming options and will free up airwaves for use by emergency responders. As a result of this, Congress created the TV Converter Box Coupon Program for households wishing to keep

using their analog TV sets after broadcasters stop analog broadcasting. The Program allows U.S. households to obtain up to two coupons, each worth \$40, that can be applied toward the cost of eligible converter boxes. To apply for the coupon, log on to www.dtv2009.gov and follow the directions.





ALPI proudly presents the 2009 Board of Directors



William Holt
Chairperson



David Walker
*Vice
Chairperson*



**Josephine
Howard**
Secretary



**Christine
Samuel**
Treasurer



Mark Thomas
Parliamentarian



Katie Clarke



Nancy Daley



Patricia Gamble



Marjorie Gaskin



Marva Hawkins



Kay Fields



Lester Roberts



Vernon McQueen



Velma Williams



Al J. Hinson

Picture Unavailable
Krystal Greene
Chester McNorton
Ruby Willix



Grace Miller
Board Emeritus



Arabell Wiggins
Board Emeritus



SUNCAP Food Stamp Program

The SUNCAP Program is a special Food Stamp Program for individuals who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI). You may be eligible to receive food stamps through the SUNCAP Program without any additional application,

paperwork or interviews. If you already receive foods stamps, you may be converted automatically to the SUNCAP Program when you become SSI eligible. For more information, please visit www.myflorida.com/accessflorida.



ALPI proudly presents the 2009 Robert J. Bryant, Jr. Award Recipient

MR. VERNON McQUEEN

Congratulations to the ALPI's 2009 Robert J. Bryant, Jr. Award Recipient, **Mr. Vernon McQueen** (pictured right).

This very prestigious award, which is named after longtime Board Member Robert J. Bryant, Jr., who passed away in 1990, is given to one member of the Board who exemplifies the leadership qualities displayed by Mr. Bryant during his tenure. McQueen is the 20th recipient of the award, since it was first introduced in 1989.

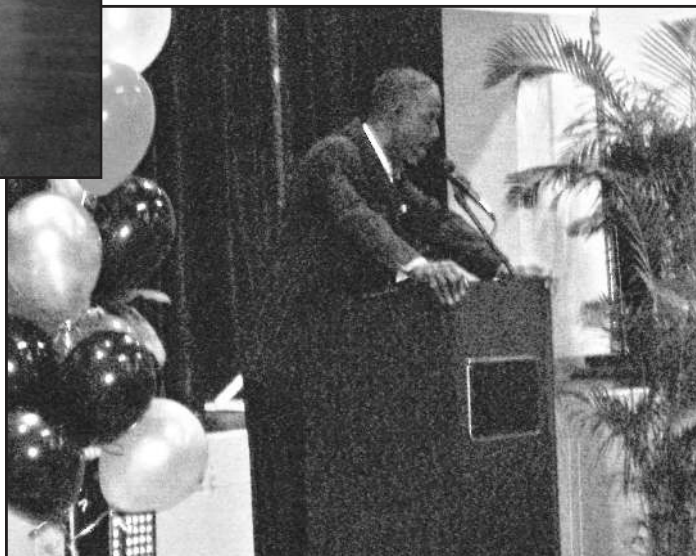
Vernon McQueen was born the eighth child of the late Herman and Naomi McQueen, in Apopka, Florida. He graduated from Phyllis Wheatley High School in Apopka and went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, South Carolina.

Mr. McQueen, a resident of Sanford, Florida, has served on the ALPI Executive Board for many years and has remained steadfast in support of The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc.'s mission statement and guiding principles. He has also served on several other Boards and Advisory Councils, including as Chairman of the ALPI Board Planning Committee, Goldsboro Front Porch Council and Homes-N-Partnership, as well as being a Justice of the Peace. McQueen has sat on the State of Florida Department of Community Affairs Advisory Council and is a dedicated

community activist, for which he has received several awards.

Vernon McQueen taught school in New York City, New York for over 20 years. He has served as Director of Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment at the Grove Counseling Center for 12 years and is currently employed by Progress Energy as a Senior DSM Specialist.

Mr. McQueen is the proud husband of Gail McQueen. They have two children and two grandchildren. McQueen is a member of Allen Chapel AME Church in Sanford, Florida, where he also received his license to preach.



2009 Annual Conference Speaker:

William "Sonny" Walker, Ph.D.

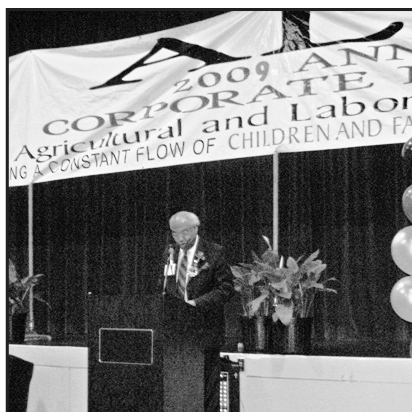
ALPI was delighted to have as its 2009 Annual Conference Luncheon Speaker William "Sonny" Walker Ph.D. Born in Arkansas, Walker attended and graduated from the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff; Arizona State University; The University of Oklahoma; and, the Federal Executive Institute.

Dr. Walker's message was very inspiring and addressed many of the activities that our world will have to deal with in order to help and improve our very critical and delicate condition. Among many of the different points stressed by Dr. Walker,

he emphasized the importance of making changes not only in the world around us, but that change must begin within ourselves. He stated that "more than 40 years ago people were challenged and inspired by the paradox of need in the midst of plenty."

The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. understood that paradox both then and now and continues to work through many different programs to make an impact in the community and toward the elimination of this paradox.

Dr. Walker's professional career has been very diverse, including serving as president of the Arkansas Association of Teachers and serving at different government levels during 4 presidencies. *He is the founder and CEO of The Sonny Walker Group based out of Atlanta, Georgia.*



Awards Presentation

The following awards were handed out by ALPI's Chief Executive Officer, Deloris Johnson, during the 2009 Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon:

Robert J. Bryant, Jr. Award
Minister Vernon McQueen

Corporate Award
Polk County School Board

Chairperson's Award
Al Miller

Outstanding Service Award
Grace Miller

Community Services Award
Sylvia Persons
William Richardson
Johnnie McNair
Organlan Women's Club
Brenda Reddout

Recognition of Outstanding Services and Dedication
Alicia Daniels
William Holt
Phillip Howard
Ronda Matteson

ALPI Recognizes Employee Service

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the Years of Service Award and Educational Achievement Award for 2008-2009. Your continued support of and commitment to the ALPI is greatly appreciated.

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

FIVE YEARS

Brunson, Sabrina
Chaparro, Gloria
Davis, Sheneka
Gayton, Robert
Resendiz, Antonia
Villa, Gloria

10 YEARS

Ceballos, Glenda
Johnson, Glenda
Watts, Stephanie

15 YEARS

Hall, Christine
Snell, Alyse
Watts, Shirley

20 YEARS

Bennett, Addie
Johnson, Deloris
Johnson, Marnita
Ray, Jennifer

30 YEARS

Collins, Sarah
Jones, Mary

EDUCATIONAL AWARDS

Precious Chaney – AA in Early Childhood Education

Shaneka Davis – BS in Education & Child Development

Bertha Lalemand – AS in Early Childhood Education

Katarsha Moore – BS in Professional Studies



Florida Food Security Team

The Florida departments of Children and Families, Health, Agriculture, Elder Affairs, and Education are collaborating with many private, nonprofit organizations to increase food security among Floridians. This searchable database is offered as a resource towards the mission of reducing hunger. It contains both public and private food resources in each of the state's 67 counties. For information about emergency food in your area, visit www.flimpact.org.

SafeLink Wireless FREE Cell Phone and Service for Low-Income Florida Residents

SafeLink Wireless is a government supported program that provides a free cell phone and airtime each month for income-eligible customers. You qualify for Lifeline Service in your area if you already participate in one of the following assistance programs: Federal Public Housing Assistance/Section 8; Food Stamps; Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); Supplemental Security Income (SSI); National School Lunch (free program only); Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or your total household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG). Application is fast and easy – visit www.safelinkwireless.com for more information.



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ALPI's Programs and Services are Funded in part by:



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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

✓ **May 1, 2009**

The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc.
will be holding its Annual Employee Recognition
event, "An Evening of Stars" on May 1, 2009.

More information will be posted on
ALPI's website as it becomes available.



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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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