



THE DPOF DIGEST

VOLUME II ISSUE I

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Improving Community Life Through Powerful Partnerships and Outreach



Board Chairperson Virginia Abrams enthusiastically reported the latest progress with regard to two of The Delta Presents Outreach Foundation's (DPOF) partners that is changing the life of the community.

She indicated that Mr. Mark L.

ARM partner begins work to expand shared parking and install a new electronic gate.

forts. In addition, Pollack indicated that work to complete installation of the electronic gate on our shared parking facility and planned parking lot expansion is nearing completion.

Abrams also reported that City Director Doris Wright's visit to the December meeting of DPOF's Board, and her engagement with the Foundation helps to facilitate information and resources to assist DPOF's community programs and promises to make a difference for the community. For example, through interactions with Director Wright, DPOF has begun efforts to network with the West Central Sports Complex to implement the **LOVE—Ladies/Lads of Value and Esteem Mentoring**

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What's New? A Conversation about Upcoming DPA Association and Hall of Fame Initiatives



Rose Barnes

In a recent conversation, Rose Barnes, who coordinates the efforts of two developing projects for the Foundation, seemed to characterize her role as cheerleader, and intimated that it is rewarding to be able to encourage stakeholders in an

"if-I-can-do-it-you-can-too" mind set. The projects—The Delta Presents Alumni Association and the inaugural Delta Presents Hall of Fame are in a "developing/ continual improvement mode right now, Barnes said. We are seeking, considering and implementing input from past honorees, board members, community volunteers and others.

Stakeholder committees have been assembled and meet frequently, and have offered lots of good suggestions. Among them: a very successful "Mixer" was held last Fall for past honorees; we are in the process of planning the inaugural Hall of Fame and we are already accepting nominations for potential honorees, and we continue contacts

See **Conversation**. Page 4

C.L.E.P. is a big Hit with Members—Highlights



R. J. Anderson
Dance Performance—
Atlas.

The Career, Leadership, Education and Personal and Social Development (CLEP) Program is one of the Foundation's signature community outreach programs for 9th—12th graders, and is already receiving accolades from new members, parents and friends. The program focuses on careers, education, leadership, personal and social development training.

Under the theme, **"Beginning the Dream,"** the meeting was held on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at the DPOF Center, where 20 members of the Program received the C..L..E..P Oath administered by Judge Olly Neal (Retired). Other highlights featured Frank Scott, a 2018 mayoral candidate and First Security Bank Vice President as keynote speaker, who was introduced by Richard Mays, Jr., Esq. of Mays, Byrd and Associates. Mays and Scott are both former Delta Presents Honorees. Mays and Brandon Morgan shared with the students the impact, and empowerment they received from the Delta Presents Program.

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C.L.E.P.
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C.L.E.P. Members and
Chairperson, Karen
Buchanan (far left).



Meet the Board Members



Virginia Morris Abrams
DPOF, Inc., Chairperson

Virginia Morris Abrams currently serves as Chairperson of the DPOF Foundation. She began her career as a mathematics teacher at McClellan High School in 1971. She served 46 years as an educator in the Pulaski County Special School District—five as teacher and 41 as counselor. During her tenure, Abrams served as Counseling Department Chair at McClellan, Oak Grove and Maumelle High Schools. While at Oak Grove, she chartered the first National Honor Society and served as advisor to both the Student Council and

National Honor Society.

Abrams earned a Master's Degree in Secondary Counseling from State College of Arkansas, an Education Specialist Degree in Advanced Guidance Supervision from the University of Central Arkansas and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from Arkansas A. M. & N. College.

Her community service involvement includes: Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; past service: Treasurer of the DPOF, Inc., member of the Ouachita Girl Scout Board of Directors, Camp Aldersgate Board of Directors, a Girl Scout, herself, and Troop Leader

Virginia is the proud mother of three children and seven grandchildren. She considers her children her greatest blessing. Her love of and service to children spans four decades, including establishment of the Foundation's Community-Based Counseling Center where she served as the Center's first director.

Mary Guinn Named Member of the DPOF Board

Dr. Mary Guinn, a Little Rock native and veteran educator from Little Rock began her early career, most notably, as principal of her old elementary school, Carver Elementary. As principal, she reformed the lowest achieving school in the Little Rock School District into a nationally recognized magnet school earning **Redbook's** "Best of the States" and **Business Week's** "Quality School of Choice" awards in the same year. She served as Superintendent of Schools in Gary, Indiana and held the position of Deputy Superintendent for more



than 10 years in four school districts. Currently, Dr. Guinn serves as a leadership consultant with successful experience in leading efforts to close the achievement gap among student groups and schools and as a school turn-around partner. She was educated in the Little Rock Public Schools. She earned a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership with a minor in Special Education and a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Pathology from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and a Master of Science in Special Education from the University of Central Arkansas.

Dr. Guinn is a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Her involvement with Delta Presents began in college. Several of her family members have participated in the Program—most recently her grandson, a 2016 graduate. Her passion for working with young people and underserved communities matches well with the goals of The DPOF.

Community

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Program for Youth Project to engage youth and adult community members to actively address and improve the determinants of life in the communities of West Central Little Rock. Second, DPOF will partner with Marquis Cooper's R. E. N. E. W. Program six weeks during the Summer of 2018. Weekly programs covering 20 lessons over the six weeks will be delivered for male and female students at the DPOF Center. The Program focuses on students at risk

of academic failure, who struggle in traditional environments, and with personal and social challenges. The Initiative seeks to curb specific issues such as high pregnancy rates, gang affiliation, school dropout rates, and personal self-image deficiencies, to improve the overall cultural experience of youth in the West Central Little Rock Communities. "Our community partnerships and outreach efforts are gaining momentum, and are needed in the community," Abrams said.





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to register past honorees for membership in the Association. My phonenumber—501-551-0122 is the contact for any past honorees who have not registered.

As projects' details are finalized, we will spread the word, she added.



C. L. E. P. Committee from left to right: Jonnie Collier, Virginia Abrams, Latricia Henderson, Carolyn Galbreath, Teddi Johnson, Bernie Scott, Marie McNeal and Karen Buchanan (not pictured.)

C. L. E. P.

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