



*The Dream. The Promise. The Foundation.*  
Delta Presents Outreach Foundation, Inc.

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# THE DPOF DIGEST

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## The power of Ward Six Director's love and will is transforming neighborhoods



Director Doris Jones Wright during a recent interview with Delta Presents Foundation, Inc. (DPOF) Board Member Betty Scull.

BETTY SCULL  
DPOF BOARD MEMBER

In today's society, there are reasons to think that some public officials who serve, do so without the sweetness of love in their hearts motivating and driving their will to serve. There are too few like Ward Six Director Doris Jones Wright.

I had the opportunity recently to interview Director Wright, and came away clearly convinced that the work she does in Ward Six derives from her very passionate desire to do good for constituents of her Ward, the City of Little Rock, but ultimately, a Higher Power. From our conversation, I was able to discern a spiritual radiance that is so brilliant and beautiful in her spirit. Nonetheless, I also detected a heart that knows something about bruises,

but seems angered by little, and offended by even less; a heart that bears and endures a lot, absent bitterness; instead, a heart that is filled with compassion and love of neighbor. How delightful it would be if we could have more in our neighborhoods like her as public servants.

In this powerful interview, the Lake Village, Arkansas native really took me behind the scenes of her reign (since November 2006) as City Director of Ward Six, and shared intimate details about her sources of energy, beliefs, hopes, likes and dislikes, accomplishments, leadership styles, work ethics and philosophies.

For example, Director Wright understands that Ward Six's pilgrimage from perceived economic static and decline to the desired state of revitalization and stability will be a difficult one. However, she firmly believes that it is a pilgrimage that can be successfully finished. She believes that she is called to be instrumental in helping to lead the pilgrimage in a caring, loving, but effective manner, for all concerned. About 13% of Little Rock's population resides in Ward Six-West Central Little Rock.

See **Director**, Page 3

# Forty Complete R. E. N. E. W. Summer Academic Enrichment Program

Forty students successfully completed the R. E. N. E. W. (Removing Every Negative Emotion and Word) Summer Academic Enrichment Program designed for students ages 13 and up. Success of the program marks a significant win-win for a community partnership effort between Marquis Cooper, Sr., The Delta Presents Outreach Foundation's Community Based Counseling Center, and The West Central Community Center, made possible through a Summer Academic Enrichment and Recreation Program. This program receives funding from the City of Little Rock's Prevention and Intervention Funds. The Delta Presents Outreach Foundation Center was the site of the eight weeks Program which culminates for the Summer on Friday, July 27, 2018 with a Summer R. E. N. E. W. Closing Session.

The R. E. N. E. W. Program, envisioned by Marquis Cooper, Sr., and piloted under agreement with the City of Little Rock, is designed to promote five core principles in students who are selected to participate in it. The efforts to close the "communication gap" in order to decrease the "achievement gap" which continues to plague middle and high school and some college students, parents, and teachers across the County.

The R. E. N. E. W. Program is not limited to, but focuses on nurturing students who are at risk of academic failure, challenged in developing skills that will allow them to successfully perform in traditional environments, and may cause them to face excessive personal and social issues. Sponsors of the Program assembled a star-studded lineup of speakers over the eight weeks that included: Kevin Williams, Daryl Dandredge, Alfred Warren, Philip Hood, Tyler Iverson, Dollie Foundation, Deon Aaron, Jacinda Jones, Duane Clayton, James Williams, Monique Hickman, Corrigan Revels, LaTonya Sproles, Brittany Reese, Kapriisha Fields, Andrea Presley, Anthony Smith, Greg Jones, Sgt. Strutz, Jamie Scott, Anthony Tucker, A. Hill, Jamille Rogers, Anthony Hampton, Emily Heard, Amari Briggs, and Kandi Hughes.



Above: Vision Board Sessions.



R.E.N.E.W. Group Session.



Above: Participants in the Lecture Series.



R.E.N.E.W. Group Picture.



End of Summer Cookout.



Field trip to Heifer International.



## Meet the Board Members



**Phillip A. Hood**  
DPOF, Inc., Treasurer

Phillip Hood is a product of the Little Rock Public Schools system. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing from Grambling State University in Louisiana.

Returning to Arkansas after graduation, Hood obtained several licenses and certifications, including a multi-line insurance license and a Series 7 securities license. He has operated as a professional in the insurance and financial services industry in the state of Arkansas since 1995.

In 2007, Phillip Hood was appointed Commissioner of the Workers' Compensation Commission as the labor representative. Hood was appointed at another state agency, the Workforce Investment

Board, which links employers and jobseekers through a statewide delivery system. He has been there since 2004.

Hood is a member of the Office Professional Employees International Union, Local 105, where he presently serves as president. Previously, while affiliated with the air transportation industry, he was a member of the Internal Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, where he served as president for more than a thousand members of his local.

Phillip currently serves the membership of the Arkansas AFL-CIO as an executive board member and committee member for both the Pension and Legislative

Committees.

In addition to his previous affiliations, Hood serves as Chairman for the Better Community Development organization, which focuses on rebuilding lives and restoring communities. He also serves as a board member for the School for Integrated Academics and Technologies (SIAtch), which is a high school dropout recovery charter school in Little Rock.

Phillip is a member of the Prince Hall Family, and a member of the Omicron Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated.

See **Hood, Page 4**

### Director

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Further, Director Wright appears to be engaged in a mission that is about more than just policies, buildings, programs and projects. While she most readily acknowledges the importance and needs for buildings, policies, programs and projects, she believes that these should be about the making of better places where users can be empowered, sustained, healed, guided, educated, and nurtured. For example, one future project that she considers to be a "burning project" is the complete development of the 12 acres of land that Mr. John Barrow, a Caucasian man and his wife, Katherine, sold to 52 Black churches back around 1902, where Union Park is located. Ms. Wright advocates for restoration of the existing pavilion back into the cabin that was destroyed by fire in the late 60's, and making it the Park's centerpiece, as the Union Park Historical District Museum.

An additional wish, is to partner with the Central Arkansas



From left to right: Children, Mable Donaldson and Director Doris Wright, participants during the C-Span Bus Tour visit to the West Central Community Center.

Library System (CALS) to develop a genealogy research center in the proposed new Union Park structure. Based on the Director's overview of the City's Ward Six Transformation Plan, the area certainly seems to be one step closer to ending its pilgrimage to revitalization and stability, successfully.

When love and will are awoken in the heart, the power to make things happen often is the result. Accordingly, Ms. Wright has been instrumental in the development of: a marketing strategy to rebrand Ward Six as West Central Little Rock, uniting 24 neighborhoods under a central name; the

West Central Community Magazine; the Ward Six Transformation Plan; the community radio station, KWCP (West Central Pride), 98.9 LPM; placement and construction of the Sidney S. McMath branch of the Central Arkansas Library System, and establishment of the West Central Senior Activity Center for residents age 55 and above. But, the project of which she seems proudest, is the West Central Community Center. The three term elected city director, also served as the first female African American Vice-Mayor of

the City of Little Rock from 2012-2014.

When asked to tell us something that we do not know about her, Director Wright said the following: "I am a very simple person who tries to be a peacemaker, strategist, navigator, and thinker who is unafraid to work on a bipartisan, diverse, and team basis to get things done. I love God, and I enjoy Bible study and research, flea markets, and Marvel Movies."

She urged fraternal, foundations, and other organizations to step up, and help raise the standards, values, hopes, expectations, and self esteem levels among young people in the neighborhoods. "Organizations such as the Delta Presents Outreach Foundation, with which we partner already, have means to help. If I can inspire this partnering unity to meet needs, then I will come closer to being the frontline leader of change that I hope to be," she said.



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## Contact us:

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## PLANNING OF THE 2018 INAUGURAL ANNUAL DELTA PRESENTS HALL OF FAME GETS UNDERWAY

Excitement is building as Rose Barnes and Mary Guinn, Co-chairs of the 2018 Delta Presents Hall of Fame Committee ramp up plans for the inaugural, annual event. This year, 15 Former Delta Presents Honorees will be honored along with one Individual Sponsor Recognition, and one Corporate Sponsor Recognition. The Hall of Fame Honorees are: Sidney Moncrief, Brian Egeston, James Ronald Rogers, Darius Nelson, Timothy R. Pruitt, Jr., Jonathan Evans, Austin Porter, Jr., Scott Hamilton, Eric Payne, Orville Abrams, Eddie Armstrong, Darren Peters, Darrin Williams, Reggie Johnson, and Roosevelt Thompson, Posthumously.

The Individual Sponsor is V. Dexter Doyne, and the Corporate Sponsor is Baptist Health.

The event will be held on November 17, 2018 at the Chenal Country Club. The venue will accommodate 400 people. The keynote speaker will be announced as soon as negotiations are complete. General information about the event follows:

### CORPORATE OR INDIVIDUAL SPONSORSHIPS

Businesses or individuals desiring to provide corporate sponsorship may do so based on the plan listed as follows:

- **\$5,000 Platinum**—Receive a full page ad, complimentary table, prominent signage and display at and during the event, including video, special media advertising, prominent program book recognition, i.e., front inside cover.

- **\$4,000 Diamond**—Receive a full page ad, complimentary table, special signage and display at the event, including video presentation, social media spotlight, special program book recognition, i.e., back cover.
- **\$3,000 Gold**—Receive a half page ad, complimentary table, and program book recognition.
- **\$2,500 Silver**—Receive a quarter page ad, 5 complimentary tickets, and program book recognition.
- **\$2,000 Pearl**—Receive program book recognition, and 5 complimentary tickets.

past honorees, and includes a ticket, if requested. The category is intended for past alumni who are not able to attend the event, but still would like to contribute.

### INDIVIDUAL TICKETS FOR THE BANQUET

- Tickets are \$100 each.

Please make checks payable to: **Delta Presents Inaugural Hall of Fame**, and mail to: ATTN.: Virginia Abrams, C/O Delta Presents Outreach Foundation, Inc., P. O. Box 24636, Little Rock, Arkansas 72221-4636.

### Hood

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Philip is active in his church and community. He also currently serves as the Delta Presents Outreach Foundation, Inc.'s treasurer. He resides in Little Rock with his wife and two children.

### ADVERTISEMENT PRICELIST

- Full Page—\$1,000
- Half Page—\$500
- Quarter Page—\$250
- Friends of Delta Presents Alumni Gift—\$100 (a special category available for past

Questions or messages should be directed to: Delta Presents Hall of Fame Co-Chairs at 501-562-0923, OR, email at: [chair@deltapresentsoutreach.org](mailto:chair@deltapresentsoutreach.org)