



Volume 55, No. 7

*"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."*

May 8, 2019

## Brains and Body Summer Fitness Challenge Coming Soon!

### HONOR ROLL



*Floella Wormely, Officer Derek Kizer, Anita Madison copy*

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# Melden's Maturity

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.

The Truth Contributor

*Humility is the fruit of inner security and wise maturity.*

— Cornel West



The local political scene will, almost assuredly, look far different in the 2023-24 election cycle than it does today. Current Lucas County office-holders such as Pete Gerken, Bernie Quilter, Tina Skeldon-Wozniak and Phil Copeland will inevitably exit public service at some point and move on.

Who will occupy these political spaces when they become available?

I am told that Mark Wagoner, Lucas County Republican Chair, has been quietly working behind the scenes building a formidable machine that includes scores of new volunteers and fattened the County GOP's coffers in order to "get in front" of the anticipated change.

On the Democratic Party side, keep your eyes on Sam Melden, a rising star who is being supported by such luminaries as Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz. Melden seems to have arrived at his "political postpubescence" since previously finishing some 1,800 votes shy of the final spot for City Council-At Large in the 2017 municipal elections.

I recently spoke with a much more humble and wiser Melden to discuss his current campaign for City Council District 5 as well as his long-term political future.

**Perryman:** How is your campaign for City Council going?

**Melden:** We kicked off last week, we're canvassing this week and every week between now and the election. So right now, its recruiting volunteers, raising money and planning different ways to get our message out there.

**Perryman:** What's the long-term political vision for Sam Melden?

**Melden:** The answer to this question is one that people don't like. They don't believe me and they don't like the answer, but this is the truth. I am focused on the next thing in front of me. I have zero ambition of serving in any elected office outside of my community and let's just say Lucas County. So someday, Commissioner or something like that, maybe, but that's not what I'm focused on right now. I'm excited about serving my neighbors and my neighborhood in District 5 and I'm focused on it and I want to do it for three terms, that's 12 years. I don't spend a whole lot of time scheming and dreaming about someday.

**Perryman:** You've got three children under age eight, and I keep hearing that young people are not running for city council because the pay is so low that it discourages good talent because you can't make a living off of what it pays.

**Melden:** That's a challenge for our community. And as of right now

we're a single income household. My wife works full-time, but her job is raising children. She's at home with the girls that aren't in school and that's important to us. So, I'm with you 100 percent.

The blessing, the opportunity that I have is being a part of an organization that allows me the flexibility to do this. When I joined the team at ProMedica I knew that elected office was an ambition of mine and I'm thankful that they have a very creative and innovative view of what it means to be involved in the community, and I think part of that involvement is encouraging their leaders to be leaders in the community. In my conversations with ProMedica they have been open to that [political candidacy] and I am really thankful for it.

**Perryman:** What is your role at ProMedica?

**Melden:** I work in patient experience and I also work with the volunteer services throughout the metro region. The title technically is the director of volunteer services.

**Perryman:** What did you learn from your 2017 experience running for council and how does the insight inform your current candidacy?

**Melden:** One lesson is focus. I think that a first-time candidate has this feeling of wanting to be everywhere. The first time you do something you don't know what you don't know and I felt like I had to be everywhere and there's this fear of missing out politically. There's an event over here, there's four events on the calendar this day and so you try to run to all of these different events and you're really only half there mentally. The truth is that a lot of the people going to these events and festivals are not going to see you. They are there to enjoy themselves, their family and their friends, and so that's why this year, this campaign is all door-to-door, boots on the ground. That's why we started canvassing in April and it's just direct voter contact, it's aggressive, it's strategic, it's targeted, we're talking to voters. For instance, I'm not going to be marching in the Old West End Parade, I won't be there. I'll be knocking on the doors of my neighbors in District 5 talking to them. So that's one thing that changed.

The other thing I learned is that I really want to do this. I was really encouraged last time, even though I wasn't successful in finishing in the top six. There are people working really, really hard to move this community forward and I think we just have so many opportunities in front of us and I want to be a part of that.

**Perryman:** Well you sound a lot more mature, focused and less scripted than when I talked to you in 2017.

... continued on page 4

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## Community Calendar

### May 16

Family House 2019 Beautification Project: 11 am to 1 pm OR 1 to 3 pm; Help keep the community clean: slanger@familyhousetoledo.org  
Greater St. Mary's MBC Annual Ushers' Board Anniversary; Guests Rev. Robert Bass and United MBC Usher Board and Choir; 4 pm

### May 17-18

The Worshipping Warriors of End Time Christian Fellowship Prayer Conference: "Ignite the Fire;" Friday at 7 pm – Rev. April Sumrow of Leggett Chapel AME of Albion will be guest speaker; Saturday at 10 am – Rev. Shirley Sparks conducts a workshop – "Fire Baptism of the Holy Ghost; Saturday at 11:15 am – Pastor Coretha Williams workshop – "Intercession According to Your Gifts;" Registration and continental breakfast from 9 to 9:45 am: 419-472-5993

### June 1

"Rock the Block;" Junction Neighborhood Cleanup; 9 am to 2 pm; Asking neighbors, community partners to work together: 419-382-1964

### June 3-7

United MBC Vacation Bible School: 5:30 to 8 pm nightly; Free light dinner 5:30 to 6 pm

# Trump ... The Pied Piper of Lost Souls

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

It is a siren call. A call to lull you to sleep. A sleep that results in parts of your spirit being chiseled away by a song that, inwardly, you know better than to listen to and much less obey.

It is a song that lures you to love that which is unlovable or, at the least, unforgiveable. The song has no bass drum or clanging cymbals, but its allure is not in its sonorous metric beat but in how the song makes you feel that you are part of something greater than yourself.

The song whispers to you that you are powerful, intelligent and are worthy of devotion and attention and that others who are not selected for such prominence simply do not understand your attraction to the song.

The Pied Piper of the song, winks and smiles at you as you grasp the subtleties of what the song is demanding of you but yet, you want to be seduced by the song because it is so enticing to see yourself enveloped in its cocoon of power, perks and privileges that few other mortals will ever exercise or know.

You look around and see the few others like you, who also are starry eyed about their being selected for this adventure of power and influence by the Pied Piper.

The Pied Piper sees your soul and takes measure of your character and plays melody after melody that entrances you. And you justify to yourself that all is well and what you are about to undertake is worth it all.

You swallow hard and convince yourself that you are making a rcorrect decision and that one day you will receive praise, glory and honor for following this Pied Piper...a Piper you later find out is a collector of lost souls.

But for now, in the moment, you abandon all rational thought and throw your conscience to the wind and take up your bed and bowl and follow this Pied Piper.

After all, what could be so damaging than obeying your instincts and following your destiny of power and glory and honor?

Others are doing it and they seem to be ra-

tional persons whose resumes are studded with business successes and academic honors and awards!

Surely such a luminous crowd could not be cajoled into doing anything which is repugnant or ill-advised or a cause for shame?

But. The Pied Piper plumbs the depths of your conscience and morality and senses that you are "ripe" for the picking and would be a devout follower. That you would be willing to compromise when necessary and always, without a doubt, to consistently tell yourself and others that the song of the Piper is of value and worth; and since you have hitched your stars to his song, you also are of worth and value.

The Pied Piper deftly and astutely plays his mind-numbing melodies and you swoon to their enticing embrace and as you travel the road of this Piper, you, without discernment, start to shed values and beliefs that have guided you all your adult life.

And yet, this Piper with his powers of charisma and persuasion, transforms you into his liking and image and you, now somewhat lost and without the sure footings of a moral compass, nervously smile and say to yourself for the hundredth time, "It is alright. Every will work out OK."

But it does not work out. And everything is not fine.

You find yourself beginning to parrot the awkward lines of the Piper. You begin to think in gray hues and not clear black and white tones as to what is right and what is wrong.

Situations arise that in your former, "Pre-Pied Piper Days", you would assiduously take a stand against. Now you quibble about what is clearly amoral, unjust or unkind.

Now you let the unkind remark or the bully-like commentary pass thinking you will address it later in private with the Pied Piper but time passes and you fail to do so...just like so many other similar situations that you allow

to sit and fester and rip at your conscience.

The Pied Piper sees this and smirks and laughs at your moral peccadilloes and tells you to that his facts are true and everything else is labeled, "FAKE NEWS" or, "those others" are conducting a witch hunt against him and he is being victimized.

You flinch and winch at being inculcated with such gibberish but you see others are also in lock step with the Piper and you do not want to lose their support and comraderie; and so you quiet the shouting inner voice that says, "Say something now!"

You look up and the Pied Piper has spied you out and the devilish glint in his eyes tells you that he has just devoured a piece of your honor and integrity and he knows (and you do too!) that you will not stand up and protest.

You, in quiet anguish and desperation, look around the table and see that your fellow followers eyes are now empty of compassion or humanity. They are simply sitting and staring in soul less wonder at their Piper, Donald Trump.

At that moment, your memory turns to the Book of Genesis when Satan in the Garden of Eden, corrupted the Word of God by telling Eve, that God lied about the tree of good and evil and she will in fact not die as God told her, if she eats the apple.

The Piper, still taking stock of your moral discomfort, laugh and says, "I alone can fix it!"

Contact Lafe Tolliver at [tolliver@juno.com](mailto:tolliver@juno.com)

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# Jitendra “Jay” Singh Honored by City Council for His Compassion

Toledo City Councilman Tyrone Riley, awestruck by a tale of forgiveness and compassion, reached out to Jitendra “Jay” Singh, owner of a 7-Eleven on the corner of Berdan and Upton, and arranged to have the businessman honored by Toledo City Council on Tuesday, April 30.

Last week, Singh observed on his store’s surveillance camera, a young teenager shoplifting food. When he went out to confront the youngster, he found out that the teenager had stolen because he was hungry. Instead of calling the police, Singh gave the youngster food – at no charge.

Singh’s employee, in fact, was dialing 911 to bring the police to the store and was told by his boss to stop calling. “In light of what’s



Jitendra Singh and Councilman Tyrone Riley

going on in today’s society, I thought [Singh] needed to be recognized for what he was doing,” said Riley. The councilman noted that Singh’s reaction was in stark contrast to the events at a



Singh and Family presented recognition plaque.jpg

convenience store at the corner of Bancroft and Franklin several months ago when employees caught a shoplifter and beat him.

The difference, said Riley, is that Singh feels committed to the community in which his store is located. “He felt like they are part of the community,” said the councilman.

During the City Council acknowledgement, Councilman Peter Ujvagi asked Singh, who emigrated from India more than two decades ago, how long he has been in the United States. Noting his own immigrant roots – Ujvagi’s family left Hungary in the mid 1950s – the councilman told Singh “you are the kind of person we need in our country.”

*Perryman... continued from page 2*

**Melden:** I appreciate that. The name of my game this year is authenticity, and that’s not to say that I wasn’t being authentic last time, but it’s just like everyone knows what’s at stake. And so, I’m all in, because if I go down this time, I want to go down as myself. I don’t wanna look back and say oh I really held back because I was afraid what this group might think, what that group might think. Go out, be yourself, give it everything you have, leave it all on the field, so to speak, and then deal with what happens.

**Perryman:** What specific policies are you proposing?

**Melden:** I plan to roll policies out strategically during the campaign. The framework of the campaign is creating safe, strong, sustainable neighborhoods, that’s the whole game, safe, strong, sustainable. Any policy I roll out fits within one of those themes.

**Perryman:** By 2020 or 2024, the makeup of Lucas County government could be very different as current officeholders possibly age out. What is the Democratic Party doing as far as creating succession?

**Melden:** I think we can’t take anything for granted. Everyone talks about the blue island in a red state, that’s what Lucas County is. However,

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# Ohio Museums Association Recognizes Toledo Museum of Art with Three Awards at Annual Gathering of Museum Leaders

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Ohio Museums Association (OMA) recognized the Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) with three awards at its annual conference held recently in Akron, Ohio. TMA Board Chair Cynthia Thompson was recognized as Museum Advocate of the Year, TMA's Teen Apprentice Program was named the best Education and Outreach Program and the video *Creating Community* at the Toledo Museum of Art received a Silver Visual Communication Award.

The awards recognize institutions and individuals who have gone "above and beyond" the normal call of duty to support their institution, serve their public, and advance the cause of the museum community.

Thompson was recognized for her vision and leadership, which has been transformative for the Museum. She has been instrumental in the Museum's strategic planning process, giving oversight to TMA's 2020 vision and its community-focused Master Plan. Her focus on excellence, using brilliant coaching and mentoring, have improved the organization's capacity to deliver successfully for its visitors and surrounding community. Her relationships with both the business world and other nonprofits have resulted in strong collaborative efforts that continue to position the Museum as a leader in the region and among museums nationally.

Her efforts as part of the campaign committee helped TMA raise more than \$46 million for the *Polishing the Gem* fundraising campaign, which was designed to replenish the Museum's endowment after the 2008 crash and allow it to remain a vital leader in art education. Leading by example, she and her husband, Ronald, are members of the Founder's Circle and established a fund that will support Museum interns, with a focus on high school students from Toledo Public Schools (TPS).

"Cynthia's experiences in the business and nonprofit worlds give her a great deal of insight," said Brian Kennedy, TMA's Edward Drummond and Florence Scott Libbey director. "She's seen amazing success as both an executive and an advisor. Both of those sensibilities have served the Museum well indeed. Her vision and leadership are remarkable, and her accomplishments have been transformative for the Toledo Museum of Art."

The Teen Apprentice Program, which was recognized as the best

education and outreach program for museums of similar size, serves the needs of the youth, the community, and the Museum, and helps develop future community leaders.

As part of the program, Teen Apprentices visit the Museum on a regular basis to collaborate with their peers and TMA staff to design quarterly (Y)our Night events. Additionally, they learn more about museum careers and Toledo's vibrant arts community. During the summer months, participants have the opportunity

to be employed part-time as part of TMA's education and engagement department to engage youth and family visitors and work on projects with visiting artists.

This past year, teens from 33 area high schools—including 8 of 11 TPS high schools—were represented during the (Y)our Teen Night events. The Teen Apprentice experience has included the opportunity for summer employment at the Museum.

The OMA Visual Communication awards recognize creative excellence in printed and digital materials produced and distributed by Ohio museums. TMA received a Silver Award for *Creating Community* at the Toledo Museum of Art, a three-minute film that showcases the popular installation *Rebecca Louise Law: Community*, which was installed in Canaday Gallery in 2018. The video, which was created by Justin Camuso, digital content producer at TMA, includes interviews with the artist, as well as Halona Norton-Westbrook, the Museum's director of curatorial affairs and Maria Iafelice, TMA's youth and family programs manager. An important highlight of the video is showing how volunteers from the Toledo region played an essential role in installing the exhibition.



Cynthia Thompson

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# Kaptur Statement After Federal Court Strikes Down Ohio Congressional Map as Unconstitutional Partisan Gerrymander

Last week, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09), released the following statement after the US District Court for the Southern District of Ohio Western Division struck down Ohio's state and federal legislative maps as an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander:

"Today, Ohio's Southern District Court justly and unanimously ruled for the people of Ohio," said Rep. Kaptur. "Extreme radical partisan gerrymandering is about politicians picking their constituents. In a healthy democracy, constituents should be those who pick their elected leaders. In Ohio, our deeply

partisan and illegally drawn districts were gerrymandered by Republicans and for Republicans, not for the people. These districts were drawn without regard for existing communities or counties and purposefully diluted the votes of millions of Ohioans. I am optimistic that today's ruling moves us one step closer to restoration of a fair electoral system in the Buckeye State. A fair map will create compact districts that respect existing communities and counties in Ohio's home rule tradition. It is our duty to end partisan gerrymandering once and for all, and to restore fair representation for all Americans."

## Ohio Dems Chairman Applauds Court Decision Ruling Ohio Maps Unconstitutional, Calling for redraw Before 2020 Election

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper issued the following statement Friday after a three-judge panel from the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio ruled that Ohio's congressional map is an "unconstitutional partisan gerrymander" and must be redrawn by the 2020 election "We applaud the decision from the federal Southern District court today recognizing Ohio's congressional map as an unconstitu-

tional partisan gerrymander and calling for the map to be changed before the 2020 election.

"As a factual matter, this is a damning decision, confirming what we have said for a long time: through a secretive process, Ohio Republi-

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The Truth

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## They Are Still at It – Still Protecting and Serving the Community

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Former Police Officers Floella Wormely and Anita Madison will once again host the Brains and Body Summer Fitness Challenge this summer at Woodward High School from June 3 to July 3. Students entering the second grade to the ninth grade will be able to participate in a fitness program designed to enhance educational performance and promote physical conditioning.

Three years ago, July 1, 2016, the two long-time members of the Toledo Police Department, Officer Wormely and Sergeant Madison, brought together their families, friends and co-workers and held a joint celebration of their retirement from TPD.

Wormely retired after 32 years on the job. A member of the Police Prevention Team since the early 1990's, Wormely had, and still has, a long history of community service on the job and although she was longer an officer after July 1, 2016, her service to the community continued uninterrupted.

Among Wormely's many accomplishments is the founding of S.T.R.I.V.E. in 1997. S.T.R.I.V.E., a summer educational program, offered students not only the opportunity to study for state-mandated tests but also the chance to actually take the OGT (Ohio Graduation Test) during the summer session in order to complete a key requirement for graduation.

Wormely came upon the idea of starting S.T.R.I.V.E. at the suggestion of her son after she had expressed her frustration to him about the lack of summer educational programs for students of his age. "Why don't you start your own, mom?" he challenged her. She did just that.

Working through the Police Prevention Team process, she drafted certified teachers and a program was born.

After 22 years on the Toledo Police Department, Madison retired on the same day as her good friend. And, as is the case with Wormely, Madison, whose main focus over her years with TPD has been community involvement, continued that interaction.

After spending four years on street patrol, Madison became a school resource officer, then a community services officer (CSO). In that position she was tasked with implementing a senior volunteer program to work with citizens on improving the condition of their neighborhoods.

In 2012, Madison received the assignment that has brought her the greatest degree of professional satisfaction when she was assigned to the Toledo Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (T-CIRV) unit. "The effort to reduce violence among gang members is the most important part of it," says Madison. "And the community aspect is the most important part of that. The community aspect is not a different piece – we are getting the community to help reduce violence in their own neighborhood."

By the time she retired, Madison was also a part of S.T.R.I.V.E. and continued with that work.

In recent years, however, the Ohio OGT has evolved and the summer preparedness program was no longer applicable, so S.T.R.I.V.E. evolved as well. The Brains and Body Summer Fitness Program has become an all-encompassing program for both educational and physical fitness for a wider range of students. Wormely and Madison are the faces of the program.

They have plenty of help, however. The Toledo Police Department is assisting with in-kind funding by providing police officers, such as Officer Derek Kizer, as mentors, particularly for the fitness part of the program. Toledo Public Schools is providing the building (the program has been housed at Woodward High School after its initial two years at Robinson Elementary) and the transportation. Brains and Body uses certified TPS teachers for the educational program activities.

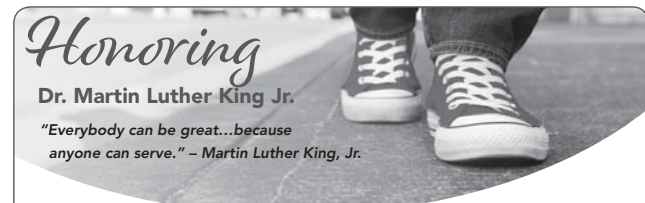
Wormely and Madison also raise funds from a variety of private and public



Floella Wormely, Officer Derek Kizer, Anita Madison

sources in order to continue their efforts. Smallridge Development, LLC; Walk the Word Ministries; Paramount; NOW Building & Construction Trades; Laborers Local 500; UAW C.A.P. Council and Plumbers Local 50 are some of the private donors that have assisted the program. Recently, the program has obtained Title I funding through TPS – federal funds that are designated for use in community programs.

Registration is now open for this summer's Fitness Challenge. The five-week program is held on Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Breakfast and lunch are provided and the cost per child is only \$100. To register, parents and guardians can call S.T.R.I.V.E. at 419-322-8425. Registration is limited and on a first come-first serve basis.



### State Bank GIVES

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# Eight Graduate from Teach Toledo Cohort I

By Lynne Hamer, Ph.D.,

Special to the Truth

Eight students from Cohort I of the Teach Toledo Initiative marched across the stage in Glass Bowl Stadium on May 4 to receive recognition for their graduations and to shake the University of Toledo President Sharon Gaber's hand.

Velvet Saunders described the most memorable moment in her journey to earn an Associate of Arts degree as "when I came to the realization that I could be a mom, student, and work full time all while keeping my grades up. I accomplished this only with the loving support of my family and friends, and their belief that I would achieve my dream to teach."

Bianca Byrd, who had brought many credits into the program, completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. Amber Crystal Alleyne, Robert Earnest Fletcher III, Marisela Aleine Haack, Kaleene Hairabedian, Dawn Marie Merritt, Michael Polk, Velvet Anne Saunders, and Joyce-Ann M. Walker-Pates will all complete their Associate of Arts degree in August (they have one math class left): As summer graduates, they were recognized at this week's spring ceremony.

Significantly, all eight graduates are products of Toledo Public Schools and seven of them currently work for TPS as paraprofessionals, i.e., assistant teachers.

Earning the degree was not an easy accomplishment, but it affirmed the power of personal initiative combined with community support.

"After dropping out of college three times, I'm finally finishing with my first degree. I'm the first in my family to graduate college with a degree, something I'm very proud of. I want my sons to see this and know that it all pays off," said Amber Alleyne.

Alleyne, Marisela Haack, and Michael Polk graduated with the designa-

tion High Scholarship, meaning they maintained a 3.3 (out of 4) grade point average or better throughout their degree coursework.

Haack shared Alleyne's view that setting an example for children is key. She noted, "I am most proud of the personal and educational growth I've experienced these past two years at UT, and the example I have set for the children in my family in getting my degree."

Haack's daughter Lisandra (or "Cita") has clocked quite a few hours herself for a college degree, attending classes several times a week with her mother; however, at five-years-old, Cita is about to embark on her own journey: She will enter kindergarten at TPS's Grove Patterson Academy this fall. One thing is sure: she enters knowing how to study!

The Teach Toledo Initiative employs a "2+2" design: Students complete two years of coursework toward an associate degree, with those courses

... continued on page 11



Seven graduates attended the University College Spring Convocation Dinner on May 3. They are (left to right): Marisela Haack, Joyce Walker-Pates, Kaleene Hairabedian, Dawn Merritt, Robert Fletcher III, Amber Alleyne, Velvet Saunders, and Bianca Byrd



Dawn Merritt, Bianca Byrd, Robert Fletcher III, Velvet Dobosu, and Marisela Haack were five of the eight University of Toledo graduates through the Teach Toledo Initiative recognized in the Glass Bowl commencement ceremony on May 4.



Dawn Merritt and Velvet Saunders summed up the experience on their graduation hats.



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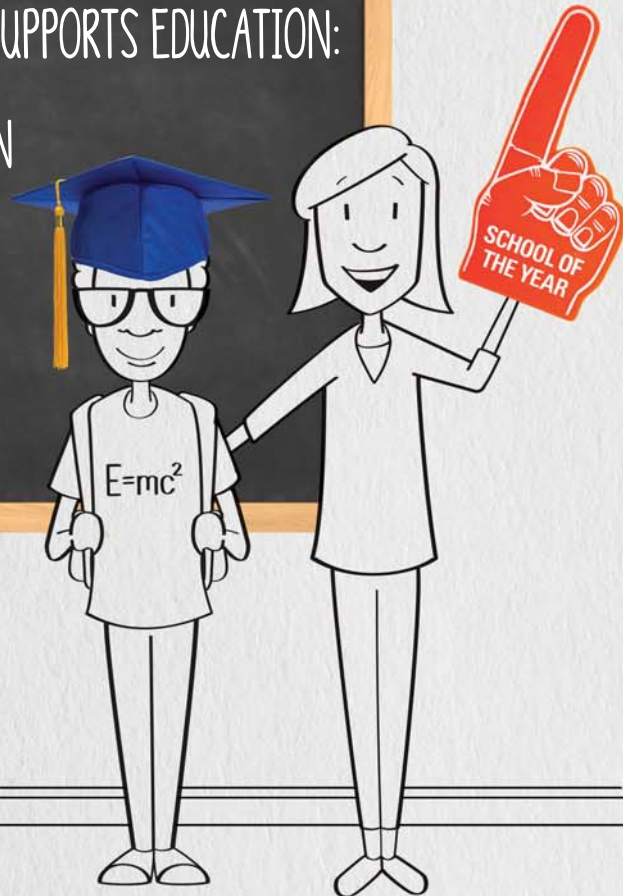
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# House Dems Lead Bipartisan Effort to End School Takeovers, Restore Local Control

House Democrats last week announced the passage of House Bill (HB) 154, a bipartisan effort to end state takeovers of local schools and restore control to local education officials. The bill comes amid questions of accountability, transparency and lackluster results from district takeovers in Youngstown, Lorain and East Cleveland.

"State takeovers aren't working, and we owe it to our kids to get this right," said House Democratic Leader Emilia Strong Sykes (D-Akron). "Ending school takeovers is one of our caucus priorities, and this bipartisan effort stands as a testament to our ability to deliver results for Ohio taxpayers. Today is a real win for our state and it helps restore our promise to taxpayers that, at your Statehouse, we work for you."

HB 154 would dissolve existing Academic Distress Commissions, prevent the creation of new ones, and require local boards of education to establish improvement plans for low-performing schools, including adding more wraparound services like after-school enrichment and social and health services.

"Top-down, unaccountable school takeovers have failed to provide struggling schools with the support they need," said Rep. Joe Miller (D-Amherst), the bill's sponsor. "Today's vote is an important step in giving a voice back to our communities and ensuring that our children receive the quality education they deserve."

The school takeover law, which passed as an eleventh-hour amendment to HB 70 in 2015, has come under fire as unelected academic distress commissions headed by out-of-district CEOs have taken over duties of democratically-elected school board members in East Cleveland, Lorain and Youngstown, which critics say aren't working.

"Failed school takeovers have been bad for students, bad for districts and bad for Ohio," said Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown). "We can't let students continue to fall behind. HB 154 is a collaborative, months-long effort to bring everyone to the table-parents, administrators and education officials-to restore local control and give districts a path

forward to ensure every child receives a good education."

Under the current state takeover system, 10 more districts are in danger of being stripped of local control, including Ashtabula, Canton, Columbus, Dayton, Euclid, Lima, Mansfield, North College Hill, Painesville and Toledo.

"As the state representative who represents East Cleveland and its 181-year-old public high school, I believe that every Ohio child can change the world. Perhaps the next great Lordstown innovation is currently in a Youngstown classroom. Perhaps the solution to the Lake Erie algae crisis is a Lorain student. Perhaps the next great civil rights leader is walking down an East Cleveland school hallway," said Minority Whip Kent Smith (D-Euclid). "These kids, our kids, can do great things. But to help ensure their potential is fully realized, local voters and local school boards should be in control. Passing HB 154 today is good for East Cleveland and good for Ohio."

Democrats, led by Rep. Phillip M. Robinson (D-Solon), the lead Democrat on the House education panel that heard testimony on HB 154, held a series of meetings with school officials, administrators and education advocates throughout the legislative process.

"It was so critical for us to bring everyone to the table to get this right for our children. This bill is a victory for families and students by having local communities be proactive and at the center of addressing the education challenges that face their schools," said Rep. Phil Robinson. "This will give teachers and children the ability to succeed and restore Ohio's Promise that if you work hard, with the right support and equal opportunity, you can get ahead."

After receiving bipartisan support in the House, the bill moves to the Senate for further consideration.

Here is what other Democratic lawmakers are saying:

"As a career educator and former middle school science teacher in the Columbus City Schools, I am very pleased that the Ohio House of Representatives helped us keep our Promise to the 1.2 million children in Ohio and their families by passing Substitute House Bill 154 today," said Rep. Mary Lightbody (D-Westerville). "Keeping control of our school districts in the hands of local elected officials while continuing to improve the quality of our schools and helping prepare all our children for their futures is of utmost importance and a significant win for our schools."

"I applaud this bipartisan effort to overhaul the school takeover process. As elected officials, we have a responsibility to our constituents to reform the failed school takeover process and I believe that HB154 takes a big step toward that goal." -Rep. Richard Brown (D-Canal Winchester)

"School takeovers force administrators into making decisions that are unattainable for staff, students, and communities. If we plan to make change, we must be addressing failing schools through a school-level, holistic perspective, instead of painting a broad stroke and saying all schools and all children have the same needs. I believe real change will happen on a pupil-by-pupil basis, and by making changes that address barriers to success including increased recess time, bringing back the arts to school, providing healthier food choices, on-site laundry, housing stability, and more." -Rep. Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Heights)

"Ending school takeovers is a vital step to give local communities the ability to take the necessary actions to work collaboratively to ensure our children receive a good public education. Supporting our children in their education journey can only take place when the state supports local communities versus working against local communities. House Bill 154 restores local control and provides a path forward for local communities to work with the State of Ohio to provide a good public education for Ohio's children." -Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland)

"CEOs and corporate special interests have no place in the classroom. I'm proud to have helped pass HB 154 before Toledo gets caught in the wake of these state takeovers." - Rep. Mike Sheehy (D-Toledo)

"Having been a school board member for 20 years as well as a trustee and then President of the Ohio School Boards Assn, I applaud the bipar-

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... continued on page 11

# Toledo Library Takes Resources on the Road with Book Bike

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) added two vehicles to its offerings last year - and TLCPL is happy to announce the #Toledo-BookBike is back for the second year! The idea for the Book Bike began as an Innovation Incubator submission by Adult Services Librarian Jennifer Day. TLCPL's Innovation Incubator is an initiative that allows staff to submit creative ideas for improving services and offerings, in support of the Library's strategic plan and value of innovation.

"I am excited to join the local biking community! It's better for the environment, a healthy way to work and I think we will reach a new audience. My first few times out on the bike last year, I met people who had never been in the library! I can't wait to tell them about all the free services we have to offer," said Day.

The Book Bike is an environmentally friendly, people-powered mini library on wheels that can carry up to 400 books at once. TLCPL intends to use the Book Bike to distribute a small, topical selection of materials and information suited to every community event it visits.

"With the Book Bike, we'll be hitting the streets to let our community

know all that a library card offers such as access to live one-to-one tutors for homework and resume help through Tutor.com, over 3,000 expert led courses through Lynda.com, and free music streaming and downloads through Freegal. Like our Library system, the Book Bike is not boring--and I can't wait to see everyone out there--whether it be at the Toledo Farmer's Market, a parade or a local Metropark," said Day.

Look for the #ToledoBookBike at its first few appearances:

Craft & Culinary Art Loop (inside Imagination Station)  
(Th) May 16 15 – 8 p.m.

Toledo Farmer's Market  
(Sa) May 18 8 a.m. – noon

Metroparks Outdoor Expo  
(Sa) May 18 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

## Teach Toledo Cohort... continued from page 8

held at TPS's Jones Leadership Academy of Business, Monday through Thursday, 4:30-7 p.m.

It is a rigorous schedule—especially since most of the cohort works full-time and has family responsibilities, and several work several jobs. However, the off-campus location means they can park two minutes from the classroom, and the set schedule means they are available for first shift employment and can get home in time for a late supper with family.

Oftentimes, however, students reconvened at UT's Carlson Library for late-night study sessions—with late-night sometimes stretching to 3 a.m. If someone was missing from class or needed to get to the library, their classmates blew up their cell phone with texts. "We are a family" is a common refrain, and students cite the cohort model, in which they have all their classes together, as key to their success.

The second "2" of the "2+2" is junior and senior years on campus in the University of Toledo Judith Herb College of Education. If the seven associate degree graduates keep up the same pace they have set, they will graduate with their Bachelor's of Education degrees in May 2021. This will qualify them for an Ohio teaching license. At that point, they will be licensed to teach in their own classrooms.

A key feature of the Teach Toledo "2+2" is its 100 percent match between the plan of study for the associate degree and core requirements for the B.Ed., Intervention Specialist degree, which is the degree for special education licensure. The associate degree is just a bonus: it is nice to complete a degree after two years hard work, and because no credits will be lost toward the goal of the bachelor's degree and licensure, it is a good deal.

Five of the seven associate degree graduates plan to continue on campus in the UT JHCOE to earn their B.Ed., Intervention Specialist. They will be able to continue their fulltime work as paraprofessionals because classes are after 4 p.m., and as Teach Toledo students, they will be able to do required methods and student teaching within their positions.

The transition should be seamless, though it will require rigorous work and long hours on their parts. Kaleene Hairabedian explained, "My plans upon graduation are to switch positions at Toledo Public Schools and become a licensed Intervention Specialist. I've been working as a paraprofessional for the past six years and I am extremely excited for this new chapter in my life."

Two associate degree graduates will take different routes through their junior and senior years to their B.Ed. degrees. Mike Polk has decided to pursue licensure to teach junior high and high school social studies, and says he also plans "to teach abroad at some point—maybe in China or Hong Kong." Robert Fletcher intends to pursue his lifelong dream: licensure as a music educator.

The author is coordinator of Teach Toledo and is very proud of these students and grateful to be part of this collaboration between the Univer-

sity of Toledo and Toledo Public Schools. UT's Teach Toledo is recruiting for Cohort II, with May 31 being the deadline for application. Requirements are a GED or a high school diploma, and all ages are welcome. Classes will begin in August. Contact Hamer at 419-283-8288 or lynne.hamer@utoledo.edu, or go to the website at [www.utoledo.edu/education/teachtoledo](http://www.utoledo.edu/education/teachtoledo) to apply for admission on line.

This article is part I of a three part series: Part II will focus on research characterizing the lack of teachers of color as a civil rights crisis, and part III will offer an assessment of Teach Toledo's progress in addressing that crisis.

## House Dems... continued from page 10

tisan decision today to return the accountability of our school districts' success back to the communities which they serve. We have much more work to do, but H. B. 154 allows us to move forward for Ohio's most vulnerable children. This is another 'Ohio Promise' kept." -Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati)

"Unlike the rushed process for HB 70, HB 154 actually helps our local schools, like TPS, get back on track to improve the educational experience for our children. Instead of the threat of a state takeover and an unchecked CEO, local communities will now be empowered and supported by the state to help struggling schools. Our actions today in the Statehouse live up to the Ohio promise." -Rep. Lisa Sobecki (D-Toledo)

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# Stephanie Howse – Ohio's Inspirational Leader

As president of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, State Representative Stephanie Howse [D District #11] has a clear vision for Ohio's African Americans. She and other members of Ohio's Legislative Black Caucus understand the rich history and significant gifts of African Americans who have made clear contributions to the state of Ohio.

Representative Howse will travel to Toledo on Friday, May 17, 2019 to watch six distinguished citizens be honored by the African American Legacy Project.

Howse understands legacy! She currently holds the seat one time held by her mother State Representative Annie Key who represented the 11th District from 2001–2006.

Howse is vibrant, enthusiastic and committed. Her style is best described as leadership with purpose. She and colleagues in the Ohio Black Legislature are working to address the histories and experiences of African Americans in communities across the state of Ohio. Always engaged and always engaging, in 2002 Howse began evolving as a community and public servant when she developed a program called Footprints which was created to nurture leadership and mentoring opportunities for girls ages 9 – 17.

Howse's formative years were spent developing her love of people

in the historic Ward #7 District of Cleveland [OH]. Ms. Howse studied vocal and instrumental music at the Cleveland School of the Arts, continued her education at Florida A & M and later earned her undergraduate degree in Civil Environmental Engineering from Florida A&M. Howse returned home and earned her Master's degree in Environmental Studies from Cleveland State University.

Howse will witness the induction of six notable Toledoans including: Bishop Robert Culp; Robert Kaplan; LaRouth Perry, PhD; Robert Perry, PhD, and, posthumously, Edrene Cole and Wayman Palmer.

Howse's career experiences include: being selected as a Fellow – Cleveland Executive Fellowship a program of the Cleveland Foundation; Cleveland Field Director – Ohio Democratic Party; Substitute Teacher – Cleveland Metropolitan School District and Consultant – Notable Interactions. She recently served as the Admissions and Community Outreach Coordinator for the Entrepreneurship Preparatory School (E Prep) and Village Preparatory School (Village Prep).

Meet Stephanie Howse the president of Ohio's Black Legislative Caucus Friday, May 17, 2019 during the African American Legacy Project's Legacy of Leadership celebration.

For tickets and additional information call The African American Legacy Project at 419-720-4369.

## *Perryman... continued from page 4*

land mass will shrink if we're not careful and I think the numbers have already shown that that's happening. And so, I think that when you talk about sustainability in the Party there are two things that strike me. One is, within our party, we have to be aggressive with recruiting and making new and accessible avenues to young people to get involved. And that can't just be young people come to work on campaigns, it has to be young people running for office. We're stronger when we have more candidates and stronger when we have more people in the party and it can't just be about self-preservation and holding onto what we have and so we've got to be aggressive with getting new people.

But then the other thing is I think we have to constantly make sure that our message is connecting with real people. For instance, what does the Lucas County Democratic Party have to say to young families? Honestly? What do we have to say to people who are moving out of the community because they don't like the school options? What do we have to say about charter schools? What do we have to say about starting a business and economic development? These are things that young families are thinking about, and I think the Party should be doing more policy rather than the Party being all about creating opportunities for candidates. When we just bank on the candidates coming up with policy, sometimes it works, but sometimes it doesn't.

**Perryman:** Mayor Kapszukiewicz has supported your campaign, which is a pretty high-powered endorsement.

**Melden:** I'm glad to have his support, for sure.

**Perryman:** What other support or endorsements can you claim?

**Melden:** It's May, it's still early. In 2017 I was endorsed by quite a few building trades, Toledo Federation of Teachers, UAW, Local 500, I was really glad to have their endorsements. I'm not suggesting they're going to go with me again but I'm going through all that process now. I also got a lot of support from the voters in District 5 last time and I won't take their support for granted either. So, I'm going out to knock on every door two or three times. I won't take anything for granted. So, we'll see.

**Perryman:** Thank You. And good luck.

**Melden:** Alright. Thank you. I'm really excited to be at this again.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at [drdperryman@enterofhope-baptist.org](mailto:drdperryman@enterofhope-baptist.org)

## Three Major Awards the ELEVATE Program Has Won in Just Five Months

On October 9, 2018, the ELEVATE Program won the **Nonprofit Innovation & Excellence Award for program innovation**. This award is granted by the Toledo Community Foundation and The Blade, in partnership with The Center for Nonprofit Resources, Buckeye Broadband and WTVG-13abc.

On October 19, the ELEVATE Program won the **Ohio Department of Education Statewide Summit for Enrichment and Education, 21st CCLC Summit Award for Academic Improvement in Reading/Literacy**.

On February 22, 2019, the ELEVATE Program won the **Ohio After-school Network Lights, Camera, Action! Video Competition for Best Message/Content**.



# Headcase: LGBTQ Writers and Artists on Mental Health and Wellness, edited by Stephanie Schroeder and Teresa Theophano

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

You had a flu shot this year.

You watch your cholesterol, eat better, stay active, and brush twice a day. So why do you feel so rotten? In *Headcase*, edited by Stephanie Schroeder and Teresa Theophano, you'll see that taking care of your mind is as essential as taking care of your body.

c.2019  
Oxford University Press  
\$29.95 / \$36.95 Canada  
287 pages

If someone on the street saw you today, he might think you were at the peak of health.

He can't see what's inside, though.

"Real or perceived minority status and... disenfranchisement make us vulnerable to being labeled as sick," say Schroeder and Theophano. In other words, living as a member of the LGBTQ community may affect your mental health. Furthermore, Christian Huygen, one of the contributors to this book, says, "Research shows that, while LGBTQ people seek mental healthcare more often than our non-LGBTQ counterparts, we are more likely to leave care prematurely..."

Today, therapy is easier to get, if you feel hopeless or empty but not all practitioners understand LGBTQ health issues. Mainstream healthcare has only relatively recently decided that homosexuality was not a disease in need of a "cure." Too many healthcare practitioners don't understand that insurance is sometimes iffy. Never mind those who believe "conversion therapy" is the right "fix."

Have we evolved, when it comes to mental wellness for the LG-

## Ohio Dems.. continued from page 6

leaders rigged elections in this state for the entire decade, depriving voters of a meaningful choice in almost every legislative election since 2011.

"Going forward, our state's congressional districts must be fair and truly representative of Ohioans, and the redrawing of the map should begin right away. Unfair, partisan maps have poisoned Ohio and national politics for decades. Today's decision is a victory for Ohio voters, a victory for fair, competitive elections and a victory for democracy.

"Now, current state leaders have a choice to make in response to today's historic decision -- they can at long last stand for democracy, or they can keep using taxpayer dollars to protect a shameful, rigged map that has deprived Ohioans of their constitutional rights for close to a decade."

BTQ community? You might think so, after reading the chapters here: of a lesbian who received comfort from a therapist when her long-time friend wouldn't stop bringing religion up. Of veterans who no longer have to conceal their sexuality. On fitting in with the local Mom's Group when you're the only "queer" mother and, by the way, you've already conquered postpartum depression. On being a lesbian daughter of a lesbian mother who was hospitalized against her will decades ago, only because she dared love another woman.

"Mental illness can be scary for anyone," says writer Lance Hicks. "... you choose between asking for help, knowing you're being judged, or suffering alone."

That latter option doesn't sound like so much of an option, does it? No, and *Headcase*, a title that comes from "reclamation" of a negative word, takes a real-life look at the first parts of Hicks's sentiments: mental health, mental help, and the history of it all within the LGBTQ community.

What you'll learn won't come easy, though.

There are several distinct kinds of chapters inside *Headcase*, some easier to read than others. Readers will find arty things, poetry and drawings here. There are mini-memoirs of relevance. You'll find short stories, too, many of which have a disjointed feel, as though you just wandered into a half-conversation. There are chapters that are plainly meant for physicians, which might not appeal to laypersons. And you'll find history in this book, some of which -- fair warning -- will chill you.

Overall, *Headcase* could offer comfort but it's not a substitute for a doctor. It's got subtle advice, but it's not a therapist. It's not even a good stand-in for a sympathetic friend but if you need direction, it's worth a shot.



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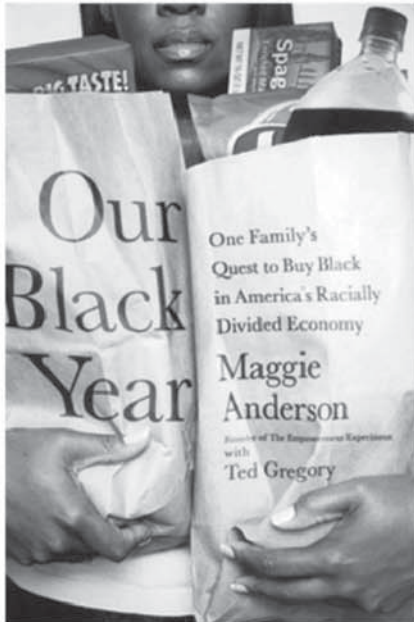
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## NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on **Fort Miamis Improvements** will be received; opened; and read aloud at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 6101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537 **Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.** local time.

THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of park improvements including construction of 312 feet of aggregate path, 100 feet of wooden boardwalk with overlook deck, fabrication & installation of a steel observation tower, and replacement of failed sheet piling with 290 feet of precast concrete retaining wall along the Maumee River with stepped canoe/kayak access. Bidders may obtain copies of plans, specifications, contract documents and plan-holder's list through Newfax Corporation, 333 West Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio 43604 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (check made payable to Newfax Corporation) or via the Newfax Digital Plan Room at [www.newfaxcorp.com](http://www.newfaxcorp.com). Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$20 is required for each set of full-size documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec @ 419-360-9184, [jon.zvanovec@metroparktoledo.com](mailto:jon.zvanovec@metroparktoledo.com).

EACH BIDDER MUST FURNISH either (1) a bond for the full amount of the bid or (2) a certified check, cashier's check or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid with its bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100 percent (100%) Performance Bond and a 100 percent (100%) Labor and Materials Bond.

THIS PROJECT IS FEDERALLY ASSISTED. Contracts to be awarded under this invitation for bids will be subject to all applicable Federal laws and related acts.

No bidder may withdraw its bid within thirty (30) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bidding.

By order of the Board of Park Commissioners  
METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA

David D. Zenk, Director

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY TOLEDO, OHIO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Construct Taxilane Phase 1 and 2 project located at Toledo Executive Airport in Millbury, Ohio 43447, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. The engineer's estimate for the base bid is approximately \$244,000.00, additive alternate #1 is approximately \$84,000.00 and additive alternate #2 is approximately \$105,000.00.

Bids will be received at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, OH 43604 until Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 10:00 AM, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Plans, Specifications, Instructions to Proposers, and Forms of Proposal and Contract are on file and may be obtained by either (1) obtaining hard copies from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, OH 43615, phone 419.385.5303, during normal business hours, or (2) ordering from Becker Impressions, via their website [www.beckerplanroom.com](http://www.beckerplanroom.com) at the cost of reproduction.

Please note that there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Monday, April 29, 2019 @ 1:00 PM at the Port Authority's administrative office at One Maritime Plaza, 7th floor, Toledo, OH 43604. Attendance is suggested, but not necessary. Please submit all questions to the Port Authority, Tina Perkins at [Projects@toledoport.org](mailto:Projects@toledoport.org) by Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 10:00 AM local time. Attendance is suggested, but not necessary. Additional information can be found at [www.toledoport.org](http://www.toledoport.org)

**Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority** Paul L. Toth, Jr., P.E., President & CEO

Call to place your ad: 419-243-0007  
[www.TheTruthToledo.com](http://www.TheTruthToledo.com)

# Deltas Present 41st Annual Breakfast for M'Lady

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

A buffet breakfast, a host of vendors, a salute to scholarship, a presentation to the mother of the year, a fashion show in five scenes ... the 2019 Breakfast for M'Lady had a lot of something for everyone. As usual, the announcement of the "Mother of the Year," to a surprised audience member, was the highlight of the event.

The Toledo Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.'s 41st annual fundraising gala brought together almost 300 attendees at the Hilton Garden Inn in Perrysburg on Saturday, May 4, to celebrate achievement and to support minority-owned businesses. This year's theme was "An Aroma of Fashion to Fit Your Lifestyle."

Saturday's breakfast, organized by co-chairpersons, Michelle McCaster and Joyce Lewis-Johnston, featured Jacqueline Jackson, a Delta Diamond Life member and first lady of Greater Holy Trinity COGIC, as the mistress of ceremonies.

Rochelle Hall-Rollins, PhD, Toledo Alumnae Chapter president, offered greetings to open up the event and breakfast was served prior to the presentation of awards. After breakfast, the sorority delighted many in the audience with door prizes – the most delighted attendee was the one who won a 32" television.

This year's fashion show highlighted designs from three local businesses – Marcia Hopkins' Elegance With Style, Terrie Cooks' Simply D'Vine and Yvette Nickens' La'Mazing Clothing. The show was divided into five segments: "Off to the Derby," "Power of Red," "Summer Time," "Call to Action" and "Masquerade."

This year's scholarships were presented to three high school seniors – Kristyn Hibbett of Notre Dame Academy who will be attending Kent State University in the fall; Whitney Hughes of Jones Leadership Academy, headed for New York University and Naomi Jones of Toledo Christian who will be a freshman at The Ohio State University.

This 2019 Mother of the Year is Diana Minor. Minor is the mother of one daughter and grandmother of two. An auditor with Lucas County for the past 25 years, Minor has served as the local president of the Order of Eastern Star, the national first vice president and platinum member of Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc.

Minor, characterized as a "Woman of God" is a Women's Ministry leader, serves on the Finance Committee and is an usher at her church.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded on the campus of Howard University in 1913 by 22 college women who represented the epitome of sisterhood, scholarship and service. The sorority provides an extensive array of public service through its Five-Point Program Thrust of Physical and Mental Health, Educational Development, Economic Development, International Awareness and Involvement and Political Awareness and Involvement.

The first Toledo area Delta undergraduate chapter was formed in 1937 by seven young women from the University of Toledo, Mary Manse College and graduates residing in the city. The Toledo Alumnae Chapter was established in 1972.



*Mother of the Year with Committee Members*



*Scholarship Honorees (seated) Shaundra Jones (for her daughter Naomi), Whitney Hughes, Kristyn Hibbett, with Scholarship Committee members*



*Chapter President Rochelle Hall-Rollins, PhD with event co-chairmen, Michelle McCaster and Joyce Lewis-Johnston*



*Councilmen Larry Sykes and Tyrone Riley*



*Terrie Cook of Simply D'Vine*



*Mother of the Year Diana Minor*



*Scholarship Honorees (seated) Shaundra Jones (for her daughter Naomi), Whitney Hughes, Kristyn Hibbett, with Scholarship Committee members*



*Yvette Nickens of La'Mazing Clothing*

