

EQUALITARIAN

Shenango Valley Urban League

Welcome Back!

The Shenango Valley Urban League is re-introducing the newsletter published so many years ago. Back in the 1970's the League published a newsletter named the EQUALITARIAN. This newsletter was compiled to get the word out about things occurring within the agency and around the community.

We felt that it was important to revitalize this publication to make the community aware of the events and activities occurring at The League.

The League employs

hard-working people that are dedicated to the services that they deliver at the League.

This newsletter will serve as an opportunity to recognize those individuals that help the League through employment and through volunteer services. The Shenango Valley Urban League relies on those that are committed to improving the community around them.

So...like the old adage, everything old is new again!!!

The EQUALITARIAN

welcomes articles to include within the newsletter. Ideas for possible articles would also be appreciated. You can contact The Shenango Valley Urban League at (724)981-5310



Striving for Equality

Summer, 2007

Volume 1, Issue 1

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From the desk of ... Michael L. Wright, PRESIDENT/CEO

Welcome to you, our valued supporters and friends, as we revive our original newsletter. History has a way of repeating itself and we are excited to revive The EQUALITARIAN for the Shenango Valley Urban League. It is my hope this newsletter will be informative and

educational regarding the work that we do in Mercer County. The sharing of information is essential in helping to change views and perceptions of our community and the services we provide. As we begin this new journey, many of the issues of the past are

still prevalent. Many individuals and families still face an uphill battle to find level ground. The EQUALITARIAN will stand as the voice of the League to bring hope and encouragement to those who stand at the door. I look forward to sharing with you all.

The Shenango Valley Urban League Annual Banquet

On May 3, 2007, The Shenango Valley Urban League held it's 39th annual banquet at The Corinthian Banquet Hall in Sharon. The keynote speaker was Dr. Curtiss Porter, PhD.

Dr. Porter was educated at the University of Pittsburgh. He also completed master's degree coursework in Higher Education Administration and Urban Education while pursuing his PhD.

Dr. Porter returned to Western Pennsylvania in June 1999 to

assume the position of chancellor at Penn State McKeesport. Since his arrival, six new baccalaureate degree programs have been introduced. His leadership has also resulted in the establishment of the University Center for Community Engagement and Partnerships, which



Dr. Curtiss Porter, PhD
Keynote Speaker

focuses on economic, workforce and community development and capacity building for non-profit organizations.

From 1985 to 1997, Dr. Porter served in a variety of leadership capacities for the National Urban League and the Urban League of Southwestern

Founding Board Members Honored

The Shenango Valley Urban League, Inc. is one of 101 affiliates of the National Urban League Movement located in 34 of the 50 states. Referred to as the 'instant Urban League', the agency was organized in 1968 and is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit agency governed by an interracial, professionally diverse board of directors.

The concept of the Shenango Valley Urban League began with motivated members of the community that had taken the initiative to cultivate a fair and equal environment for the people in Mercer County. Among those founding board members honored at the annual banquet include Dr. Theodore Yarboro, Wilbert L. Shannon, William J. White, Walter E. Matthews, and George Pickett.

Dr. Yarboro has been an inspirational leader throughout Mercer County for many years. In addition to being the driving force behind the creation of the

Shenango Valley Urban League, he served on the Board of Directors of the National Urban League from 1973 to 1978. To date, Dr. Yarboro is still operating the CoMes Center to assist in screening for early detection of health problems in newborns, as well as continuing his medical practice.

Wilbert L. Shannon is a funeral director and embalmer licensed in the states of PA, OH, NY, and WV. He is still very much active in community services and has contributed to organizations such as NAACP, Mercer County Frontier, Twin City Elks, Order Eastern Star PHA, Gt. Morris Chapel A.M.E. Church and a board member of Parents of Murdered Children support group.

William J. White is a retired educator and manager with Sharon Steel. He has extensive community involvement to include College Trustee Board, Shenango Valley United Fund,

Urban League, and West Middlesex Kiwanis.

Walter E. Matthews has devoted his time and effort to the Shenango Valley urban League for over a quarter century and assisted in the formation of the Urban League Housing Corporation in the early 1970's. Retired from Sharon Steel, Mr. Matthews presently serves as a Board member of the Community Action Partnership.

George Pickett also contributed to the creative process of the Shenango Valley Urban League, as well as dedicating his time to the Urban League Guild. He was also involved in community services such as Wheatland Little League Program and Farrell Volleyball Program. In 1993, he was presented with the Community Service Award by the Mercer County Frontiers Club. He resides in Hermitage and is retired from Westinghouse and his own hauling business.

Banquet con't...

Pictured from left to right:

Dr. Curtiss Porter, guest speaker;
Dr. Theodore Yarboro, honored
guest; Mr. Michael Wright, CEO
of SVUL; Mr. Wilbert Shannon Sr.,
honored guest.

Missing from picture:

Honored guests—Mr. William
White, Mr. Walter Matthews, Mr.
George Pickett



Meet the Staff...

Currently the Urban League operates four main areas of community service. Each department houses individual programs that are much needed within Mercer County.

Teresa Hall coordinates the transportation programs. Cheryl L. King manages the education and youth initiative services. Mark Thompson heads the

housing programs. Virginia Gibson-Thurman is the fiscal director. Support staff includes Lori F. Graham, administrative secretary, and Isaac Ecker, fiscal/housing assistant.

Elizabeth S. Lampkins heads the WIC department. Her support staff includes: Lauriethel Bloodsaw, Valerie Dixon, Joyce Harrison, Grace Olsen, Rochelle

Odem, Kelly Rodrigues, Linda Rogers, Pamela Shepard, May Liz Smith, Brenda Wells, Sandra Sauerland, Robyn Kovounas, Jodi Gorman, and Doreen Scarmack.

A special salute goes out to the staff for keeping the Urban League running smoothly. Look for future articles that will highlight employees and their gracious contributions.

Pass It On...

The Shenango Valley Urban League welcomes community offerings through annual memberships and donations to the agency.

An annual membership entitles the card holder to receive the agency newsletter and advanced notice of upcoming events hosted by the League.

The donated funds will be

directed toward programs operated by the Shenango Valley Urban League.

You can become a member by contacting the agency and requesting a membership form. Complete the membership form and submit it to:

Shenango Valley Urban League
601 Indiana Avenue
Farrell, PA 16121.

All donations of any amount are welcomed and much appreciated.

Your generosity can assist the Light on the Hill to continue to shine brightly.

Together we can achieve greatness!!

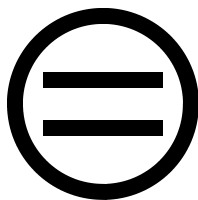
Shenango Valley Urban League

601 Indiana Avenue
Farrell, PA 16121

Phone: 724-981-5310

Fax: 724-981-1544

WIC: 724-981-6154



The Light on the Hill

We're on the Web!!

www.SVUL.org

The mission of The Shenango Valley Urban League is to ensure equal access and opportunity for African Americans and others in need; to empower individuals to cultivate and exercise their full human potential

The Shenango Valley Urban League implements its mission through advocacy, bridge building, program services and research.

Our vision is a community where all citizens have equal opportunity to achieve their fullest potential, where everyone contributes to improving the quality of life and shares in prosperity.

Many Thanks...

After ten years of dedicated service Cheryl L. King will be moving on to pursue other interests. Ms. King managed the education and youth incentive programs. Her passion for assisting the youth of the community will always

be greatly appreciated. She will definitely be missed at the agency and within the community.

We wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

Best wishes and God bless you, Cheryl!



Cheryl King and Michael Wright

Upcoming News and Events...

The League would like to cordially invite you to the Juneteenth Day of Celebration on June 16th at 10am. The parade will launch from the League on Indiana Avenue and proceed to Roemer Boulevard and then to Spearman Avenue. The parade will end at

Veteran's Square, where the festivities will commence. Please join us to commemorate African American freedom and emphasize education and achievement. The observance of African American Emancipation Day is a day of reflecting and rejoicing.

Remember...the deadline to register to vote is 30 days prior to the next election. This year elections are being held on November 6, 2007.

Registration applications are available at the League!!

Be aware, Be a voice....