



SPRING 2022

ANNUAL MEETING & SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

On April 26, 2022, we held our annual meeting and scholarship program at the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn. During the event, we shined a spotlight on Summit County student accomplishments.

The event opened with remarks from president & CEO Teresa R. LeGrair. She discussed the AUL's 96 years of commitment to the Greater Akron community, which included many changes in the past two years! LeGrair also highlighted our board and elected officials for their contributions to the organization and community.

The most exciting portion of the program was the scholarship ceremony. We awarded 26 Summit County high school seniors with college scholarships totaling over \$270,000. It was a joyous day to see these bright scholars shine!

Thank you to all sponsors, donors, board, staff, and parents who support these dedicated students and us.



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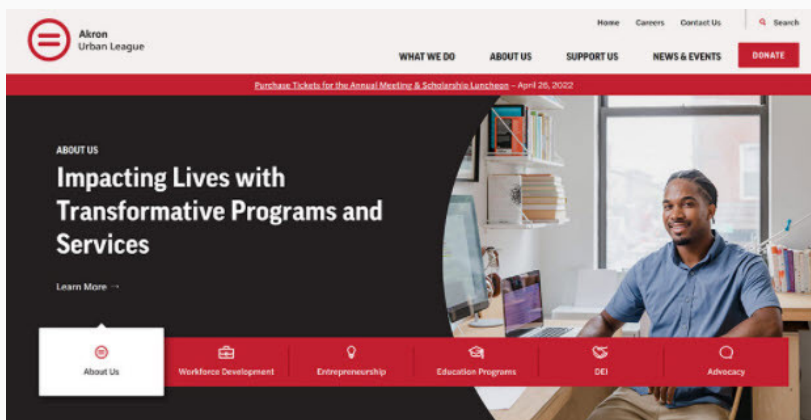
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NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The new akronurbanleague.org was launched on February 24, 2022. The site features a new design, improved navigation, an enhanced user experience, and more.

“As the community changes, we must do our best to grow with it. It was important to us to have a more meaningful dialogue with Akron, and we needed a new website to accomplish that. Our more robust site provides a better overall experience for the people we serve. We are thankful to the team at Evolve Marketing that put in countless hours of pro bono work to make this a success,” said Teresa R. LeGrain, President & CEO.



We invite everyone to look around and see what is new. Visit our latest workshop offerings, make a donation, learn how you can become a volunteer, and follow us on social media! This is the first of many 2022 milestones yet to come. We are delighted to have a more effective and efficient vehicle to help tell our story.



“It was a true pleasure creating a new website for the AUL that would tell their amazing story, showcase all the critical programs and services they provide and highlight their special staff and people they serve. It’s a blessing to do meaningful work and we thank the AUL for trusting Evolve with this important project.”

TODD BERTSCH,
OWNER & PRESIDENT
EVOLVE MARKETING

MBAC SPOTLIGHT

The Akron Minority Business Assistance Center's (MBAC) mission is to identify small disadvantaged, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses in Ohio to cultivate their growth and sustainability. We have helped thousands of small businesses grow by assisting them to scale, adopt new practices, become better marketers, increase customer retention, get further funding, and more. Our job is to be the coach and cheer squad, helping entrepreneurs thrive.

Learn how Shelbra Woolridge used MBAC Akron to expand CodeXcellence by ascertaining her business certifications.



DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

Has MBAC helped you launch or expand your business? We would love to help tell your story and shine a light on your organization. If you are interested in sharing your business journey, contact **Natashia** to set up an interview.

If you are an entrepreneur and need assistance, we have the resources you need. Business counselors are on staff to advise you and identify resources to support and grow your business. We offer services and workshops to take your business to the next level, including marketing plan development, accounting assistance, certification coaching, etc. Contact **Natashia** with questions.

"We're here to help small businesses grow & bring about change in Akron. Our success strategies are intentional & proven."

MISTY ROGERS, REGIONAL
DIRECTOR, MBAC

OUR MBAC TEAM

Pictured left to right

Melanie Korman, Misty
Rogers, Larry
Chadwick, Joy
Gadson & Natashia
Bishop



2022 STATE OF BLACK AMERICA

UNDER SIEGE: THE PLOT TO DESTROY DEMOCRACY



Using data and analysis from research partner, The Brennan Center for Justice, this year's edition of The State of Black America exposes the four main tactics employed in the plot: gerrymandering, voter suppression, misinformation, and intimidation.

“Politicians have used these tactics for generations, to exclude voters of color and to give their parties an edge,” National Urban League President and CEO Marc H. Morial said. “But never before has the nation seen such an insidious and coordinated campaign to obliterate the very principle of ‘one person, one vote’ from the political process.

The Akron Urban League is working closely with the National Urban League to address the concerns raised in this report. [Read the full report here!](#)

HISTORIC CONFIRMATION

The Senate voted to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court, felling one of the most significant remaining racial barriers in American government and sending the first Democratic nominee to the high court in 12 years. [Read the story.](#)



MAY 3, 2022 IS ELECTION DAY

Are you ready to make your voice heard? Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. See the steps to [reclaim your vote.](#)

Support the candidates that can help Summit County flourish. Make your voice heard on May 3rd. It's your right!



25 THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME

Larry Johnson, Maintenance

Larry has served the Akron Urban League for over 30 years as a volunteer, contractor, and employee. Here's Larry's list in his own words.

October 27th 1948, that's when it all started for me. I came into this world at 6 pounds and 4 ounces . My mother told me I was a preemie, but thanks be to God here I am 73 years later still ticking. If God is willing, my plan is to work at AUL for 27 more years , then I'm going to retire and get a part time job. 😊

1. I started at the AUL summer day camp at 8 years old.
2. I went to sock hops and Easter talent shows as a teen at the AUL.
3. The current location of the AUL was on my 1963 paper route.
4. The longest I've been without work was during my senior year in high school.
5. I enlisted in the military at 19.
6. I jumped out of 31 airplanes.
7. I got hit by an airplane once, we were both in the air at the same time.
8. I've been to Germany, Panama , Honduras, Holland, Amsterdam, and Greenland.
9. I've been to 41 states and hundreds of different cities.
10. I worked for Goodrich for 20 years.
11. I drove a tractor trailer for 4 years.
12. I volunteered at the Urban League for 19 years.
13. I was in the U.S. Army for 3 years, the Army National Guard for 11 years and in the Army Reserve for 2 years, totaling 16 years of U.S. Military service.
14. I was once in a truck crash, and the truck was destroyed. I walked away with a small scratch on my neck.
15. I love Talenti Gelato.
16. I did not like pork roast until my wife cooked one. She is the best cook I know.
17. I have 5 lovely daughters and 1 very handsome son. He looks just like his dad.
18. I have 10 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.
19. I am a cancer survivor.
20. I like every color but purple.
21. I just celebrated my 1 year wedding anniversary with my lovely wife Pamela Johnson.
22. I like to dance.
23. I like fishing at the lake until dark.
24. I like jazz and blues.
25. I like chocolate cake from Sam's club.

Larry Johnson





DONATE

Please consider making a small **donation** to support the programs that help the Greater Akron community. Our donors play a huge role in the success of the Akron Urban League. Through your generosity, we create meaningful change that impacts thousands of lives each year.

CORRECTION

In our 2021 Annual Report, the following donors had information that was missed or inaccurate. We sincerely apologize for the error.

Katie Smucker*

Roxia and Stanley Boykin*

*denotes AUL Justice and Equality Giving Society

Thank You!