



Local and National News [www.thetruthtoledo.com](http://www.thetruthtoledo.com)

# The *Sojourner's* Truth

Volume 47, No. 7 "And Ye Shall Know The Truth..." November 15, 2017

## Election Day 2017!



Councilmen-elect Nick Komives and Gary Johnson



Mayor-elect Wade Kapszukiewicz



Council Members Larry Sykes and Cecelia Adams



Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson

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*Opinion \* Perspective*

# Bridging Cultural Differences

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

The Truth Contributor

*[We live in a world] where inclusion is critical and connection is inevitable.*

- Jean Lipman-Blumen



It happened first to Jack Ford. Next it was Michael Bell. Paula Hicks-Hudson's defeat for re-election makes it the third consecutive time that an incumbent African-American mayor has been defeated in a bid to keep his or her job. The common thread is that each black hopeful carried the majority African-American wards by a wide majority but received little support elsewhere.

My take on the 2017 mayor's race?

No Votes/No Power

Obviously, after three consecutive defeats, what sticks out most prominently is that the African-American community will have to find a way to break what has become a type of "cultural winner-take-all" mentality or zero-sum approach to local elections.

Reality says that given our proclivity to hang out at home or somewhere else on election day, there are just not enough African-American votes in Toledo to elect a mayor on black votes alone.

Taking 95 percent of one-fourth of a pie while leaving the rest of the goodies on the table for somebody else just isn't enough to connect across the cultural and generational differences that represent the reality that is Toledo, Ohio. Said differently, when we put all of our eggs in one basket, the math never works.

How do we pursue inclusiveness and racial diversity in Toledo city government given the results of the November 7 election?

African-American leadership will have to continually branch out, working at building partnerships with other branches of government, the business community, nonprofits and our regional neighbors such as suburban mayors. These relationships are in addition to those that need to be nurtured outside of traditional black wards such as in Point Place, Alexis Road and Beverly neighborhoods.

My take on the 2017 council races?

Put the People In The Right Seats

Cecelia Adams, comfortably in a wide variety of cultural settings, performed admirably. Larry Sykes survived and Harvey Savage did extremely well for a first-time candidate.

The voters having the right people on the bus, the challenge will be for council to get them in the right seats. The task is to find a way to work positively with Mayor-elect Wade Kapszukiewicz. The choice of selecting the next city council president will be crucial if council is to write meaningful

policy or legislation, get the votes needed to pass it rather than the gridlock that results from an acrimonious relationship with the mayor. Look for good soldier Matt Cherry to become the next council president.

The second challenge for council, with its two new faces, is to find a way to work together as a group. Policy thinkers such as DAdams and Sandy Spang (the top vote getter) will need to work collaboratively with policy doers such as Lindsay Webb, Gary Johnson or Nick Komives. The point is to eliminate obstructionists or those who might try to "box-in" the newcomers.

Where do we go from here?

Black Dots on White Rectangles

Look for State Representative Michael Ashford to be appointed to take over as Lucas County Treasurer to replace Kapszukiewicz. This appointment will be the impetus for other dominoes to fall in succession.

Ashford's appointment will accomplish three things potentially. With State Senator Edna Brown's approaching retirement, Ashford and Teresa Fedor won't have to slug it out for Brown's seat. So it avoids a conflict and helps the party come back together from the hard feelings generated by Kapszukiewicz's decision to run against the incumbent and endorsed mayor.

Secondly, an appointment to Lucas County Treasurer opens up Ashford's House of Representatives seat for a variety of people, which might also heal the party. The 44th House District seems to be a perfect landing spot for say, Paula-Hicks Hudson.

For certain, the appointment of Ashford could heal the fresh wounds of defeat for the black community and creates an opportunity for either Yvonne Harper, Mayor Hicks-Hudson or even a Tyrone Riley to step up immediately, which in turn will then create an opportunity to keep flowing. It also guarantees that Teresa Fedor goes to the Ohio Senate, which opens up her house seat for Lindsay Webb, and that opens up another new face on council (Savage?).

Ashford has skillfully climbed up the leadership ladder, having performed well on city council and serving in a leadership capacity on the State level. He is currently a ranking committee member in the Ohio House of Representatives. So it makes a lot of political sense for Michael Ashford to succeed Wade, not only because of his record of service, but also because it avoids a fight and creates additional opportunities for others.

Is it enough to bring more inclusion and diversity to the Democratic Party?

"I'm going to keep an open mind," says Jimmie Snodgrass, a longtime Democratic Party official. "There's gonna be change, but if they don't have any color in the new administration I'm gonna call it for what it is."

Amen on that.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at [drlperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org](mailto:drlperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org)

## The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African American  
Owned and Operated Newspaper

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**A Certified MBE**

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## Community Calendar

**November 17**

SeaGate Food Bank 20th Annual Stuff the Truck Event: At Walt Churchill's Markets in Maumee and Perrysburg; 6 am to 6 pm: 419-244-6996 or [cheri@seagatefoodbank.org](mailto:cheri@seagatefoodbank.org)

**November 23**

Thanksgiving Day!

**December 4**

Speed Networking at Club Evolution: 6 to 8 pm; Exchange your business information with potential clients, vendors and collaborators; Free admission

*Opinion \* Perspective*

# Some Things I Will Never Understand

By Lafe Tolliver

*The Truth Contributor*

(1) I will never understand why black, mayoral candidates have a penchant to take photo opps with clusters of smiling and grinning black pastors standing behind him or her.

Is it as if somehow their credibility or prestige will "rub off" ... "or on" the candidate and thus their congregants will vote for the candidate simply because their pastor is in the photograph?

That assumes that the pastors in the photo have enough political heft to sway their voting members to vote for the candidate and as the recent past elections have shown, voting in the "inner city" wards is not at respectable levels to say the least.

So much for black political power when residents of the "inner city" either are not registered to vote or do not vote on Election Day. It goes without saying that if the "inner city" wards do not come out in gangbuster numbers, the "white suburban" voters can rule the day and negate any smiley photo opps of black preachers and black mayoral candidates.

As I have said in past guest opinions, do the smiley preachers, in those worthless photo ops, have the power to get the mayor on the phone and get instant perks for their community, even if it is just a pack of summer jobs for their teen members?

Somebody throw a custard pie in my face but for all the years I have been commenting on politics in Toledo, I have not seen smiley black preachers getting any bang for their photo-op bucks from City Hall.

It is as if by the sheer dint of the presence of such photographs of dozens of black pastors standing behind a black mayoral candidate that somehow that bespeaks of:

"We got the numbers to get this done!"

No...it only says that you were courteous enough to agree to be in a photograph of smiley black preachers and for your graciousness you may have thought that maybe, just maybe, my congregation or the conglomerate black community would benefit from our collective stance with the mayor.

So sorry for your losses! Next time when the photo bus rolls around and you are solicited to stand tall in the photo opp, that you have the political savvy to make sure that you are getting something for your tried and true fidelity.

The unendorsed Democratic Mayor Elect...Wade...opted out of the smiley black photo spread and probably said to himself, "Naw...don't need it. I can win without it!"

The moral of the story? If you and your black mayoral candidate have not run a tight and robust voter registration drive, going door to door, and also having means of delivering thousands of people to the polls, winning the mayor's office will just be a smiley photograph opportunity that will become scrapbook history in a few months.

(2) Why? When you consider that murdering or shooting someone is a desecration of life and an affront to God, why would not the affected neighborhoods cooperate with other affected neighborhoods and start a 10-year campaign to reduce or eradicate senseless

black-on-black violence?

The best resource for such an extended campaign and which has the various locations already in place to launch such an ambitious attack is....wait for it.....the ever present black church.

My hunch is this: If each black church, be it the kind that has maybe five persons that show up for Sunday worship or 500 that show up, there are enough resources to undertake a campaign to reclaim the affected and downtrodden neighborhoods that suffer from gun play and other sorts of crime. No, you will not eliminate it but you can reduce it, if the will is there to reduce it.

I know...I know...there are "start and stop" campaigns both in the past and the present that have the mission statement do such an worthy endeavor, BUT until both David and Goliath come together and each offers his unique resources and talents, nothing will be done.

Now, remember I said that this will be a 10-year campaign at least because you have to change aberrant generational habits and thinking and, without such a commitment, why start it in the first place?

I offered the black church as the focal point of such an initiative because the black church is the biggest but temporary banker in the black community due to the wealth that it accumulates on Sundays and Wednesdays before it dutifully turns its weekly collection offerings over to white folks and their banking system so that white folks can get rich off of those weekly tithes and offerings.

You know and I know that black wealth does not tarry long in the black community but leaves rather quickly and finds a warm reception in white banks, credit unions and merchants who are as pleased as punch to get those bags of money come Monday morning bank counting time.

But...that is how we roll in Toledo.

The black church has the goods and the talents and the skills to take a vibrant and powerful message of hope and change and education to its surrounding communities but will it or will it cling to its stained glass windows as a refuge from the secular storm?

Imagine if you can, that once a month EACH black church selects a day in the week where congregants, among other activities, walk the streets and with both a personal presence and a lit drop, begin to re shape the community into a model that will eschew drugs and violence and adhere to positive community and spiritual values that would advance the current and next generation.

And as to the prior comment about black dollars escaping the black community, recall if in the past 30 days you spent any of your hard-earned money on any of the following services IN the black community: (1) floral shops (2) barber shops (3) beauty parlors (4) credit unions (5) car dealers (6) restaurants (7) carry outs (8) real estate

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# Diversity and Progressive Values Win "Bigly" on Tuesday!

By Dominique Warren  
The Truth Contributor

Last Tuesday, Toledo had its own slew of diverse candidates win in City Council! An Afro-Latino man in Gary Johnson, our first openly gay candidate since Louis Escobar in millennial Nick Komives, and two black experienced candidates in Cecelia Adams and Larry Sykes.

From Virginia, New Jersey to St. Paul's in Minnesota, and all the way in Montana, we saw diverse and progressive democrats win elections. No doubt, their candidacies and victories across the nationwide was in response to President Trump and his white populism that came to power in 2016.

Trump and his band of white populists quieted Democrats in 2016 and beat back the notion of a New American Majority that would lead politics and government in the future. Victories in 2017 and strong candidates in 2018 are sure to bring back the idea that the New American Majority had an off year, but is here to stay.

On the east coast, Virginians and residents of New Jersey decided to buck tradition and elect two black Lieutenant Governors in 38-year old Justin Fairfax of Virginia and the New Jersey Assembly Speaker, Sheila Oliver. Fairfax's win in Virginia signaled that the country is ready for young and qualified candidates to run for major races and the electorate will put them in Office.

In Charlotte and St. Paul, voters elected the several "first." The first black mayors for St. Paul and the first black female mayor for Charlotte. Hoboken, New Jersey elected the first Sikh mayor in Ravinder Bhalla. As progressive candidates, they sought to mend divisions in their campaign, and ran on progressive values of inclusiveness and innovation in governance. With political messaging that signaled forward progress, these local candidates changed the face of leadership in their communities.

Perhaps Election Day's most remarkable result was the election of Wilmot Collins as mayor of Helena, Montana. Collins, a refugee from Liberia, who settled in nearly all-white Helena two decades ago, decried the anti-immigration policies of Trump and still managed to win in a city with a black population of .4 percent.

In state legislatures and city councils, we saw a number of firsts hap-

... continued on page 7



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St. Paul Mayor-elect Melvin Carter



Helena Mayor-elect Wilmot Collins

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# Local 2017 Election Day Results

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Locally, the 2017 Election Day results brought a few new Democrats into office to replace departing Democrats. Not exactly the sort of upheaval that so many communities around the country witnessed in the midst of a Trump backlash. Locally, Democrats ruled as they so often do.

Mayor Pula Hicks-Hudson's bid for re-election was thwarted by fellow Democrat, Lucas County Treasurer Wade Kapsukiewicz, who ran without the endorsement of his party and defeated the incumbent by a double digits margin. Incumbent mayors running for re-election in Toledo have not met much success over the past 12 years. Mayors Jack Ford and Mike Bell, both African-American as well, also lost their re-election bids. Kapsukiewicz, the ultimate political insider having served almost two decades in elected office on the city and council level, ran as an outsider promising change. It was a strategy that proved effective against a mayor who rose to office upon the death of then-Mayor D. Michael Collins.

Kapsukiewicz's candidacy was based on what he sees as a lack of progress in the city. He spoke during his campaign of indications that urban cores, both regionally and nationally are generally on the rebound – increasing population and job growth at a faster rate over the last decade than their suburban counterparts. Unfortunately, Toledo has not been part of this trend, he noted.

He ran a campaign decrying a declining population; a loss of “four percent of our jobs over the past five years;” “ranked one of the sixth worst for children living in poverty” and a city that was recently named “one of the most distressed” in the nation. Moreover, he spoke of his fears that Toledo was losing the opportunity to catch up with other urban areas – Milwaukee; Grand Rapids, MI; Dayton; Indianapolis, to cite a few examples – if city leaders wait too long to act.

There are two new-comers on Toledo City Council – Gary Johnson and Nick Komives – who finished fourth and fifth respectively. Both are endorsed Democrats who will be holding elected office for the first time. Johnson, a business owner, who emphasized the importance of fostering economic growth through small businesses, and Komives, a community organizer and executive director of Equality Toledo, who addressed issues of fairness and equality, will be replacing incumbents Steve Steel, who was term limited from running again, and Kurt Young, who had been appointed to Council in the spring but failed to finish in the top six.

Independent Councilwoman Sandy Spang finished in first place on Election Day, followed by Republican Rob Ludeman, Democrat Cecelia Adam, PhD, Johnson, Komives and Democrat Larry Sykes – rounding out the top six.

In the race for Toledo's Board of Education, incumbents Bob Vasquez, Polly Taylor-Gerken and Chris Varwig, all Democrats, were re-elected. In the Washington Local School Board competition, ousted former Superintendent Patrick Hickey – who had been banned from entering the district's schools' premises by the board, was elected to the board. Presumably the ban will be lifted.

Democrat Joe Howe, a prosecutor with the Toledo Municipal Court was elected, in a tight race, to fill the seat of judge of the Toledo Housing Court to replace Judge C. Allen McConnell, who was aged-barred from running for

re-election. Howe's margin of 144 votes – out of over 40,000 cast may yet be subjected to scrutiny via re-count.

Toledo Public Schools and Metroparks won the approval of voters for renewal levies by wide margins, 69 and 75 percent approvals, respectively.



Mayor-elect Wade Kapsukiewicz



Councilmen-elect Nick Komives and Gary Johnson



Council Members Larry Sykes and Cecelia Adams

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# SSOE Donates \$10,000 to Family House and Challenges Community during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

Bob Howell, CEO, SSOE Group, presented a check for \$10,000 on Thursday, November 9, to Family House and announced that the SSOE Group will help sponsor the first Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in Toledo to benefit Family House, a unique non-profit organization dedicated to helping homeless families find housing.

The check presentation took place at Family House, 669 Indiana Ave. in Toledo.

SSOE contacted Family House after media reports that nearly 2,700, or 10 percent, of the Toledo Public School students are homeless. This represents the highest number among state of Ohio schools.

Family House is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing homeless families in crisis with professional, comprehensive housing and social services in a safe, caring environment. The goal at Family House is to help families in their time of crisis find permanent housing, help them regain control over their lives, and reclaim their independence through education, community resources and compassion.

Faced with an immediate need to raise \$60,000, Family House asked SSOE to help sponsor the first local Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

"The statistics speak for themselves - especially when you consider that every one of those statistics represents a child in crisis. A child for whom school has taken second place to simple survival. When we saw the report of the challenges local students within our own community were facing, we were immediately on the phone asking Superintendent Dr. Romulus Durant how we could help. The first organization he mentioned was Family House because of the unique void they fill within the community --- Keeping homeless families together and successfully transitioning them into housing so that students can get back to focusing on learning," said Howell.

"We are extremely honored that Family House has asked SSOE to be a part of their first local Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. This week, we call upon other community members and businesses across the area to come together to not only raise funds for Family House but also raise awareness about the pressing issues of hunger and homelessness. We can't keep the promise that 'you'll do better in Toledo' until we en-

sure even the most vulnerable among us will do better in Toledo!"

"SSOE agreed to help us during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week by issuing a challenge to the individuals and businesses in our community to help raise money," said Reneé Palacios, executive director, Family House Toledo. "We cannot thank SSOE enough for their donation and for proactively stepping forward to issue a challenge to our community. We hope to raise \$60,000 during this month to invest in homeless facilities."

Family House is the second largest homeless shelter for families in Ohio, noted Palacios. The facility houses 36 families every day, typically including 65 children.

Carty Finkbeiner, former Toledo mayor and current vice president of the Family House Board of Directors, also thanked SSOE for their donation and praised their participation.

"The SSOE Group is one of Toledo's sleeping giants. While internationally known, their donation and participation shows that they care about our community," Finkbeiner said.

Those wishing to make a donation as part of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week have several options. They including visiting familyhousetoledo.org, and clicking on the "donate" icon to make an on-line donation; or mailing a check to Family House Toledo, 669 Indiana Ave., Toledo, OH 43604.

Those interested in a tour of Family House or with questions on donations and donated items, can contact Reneé Palacios, Executive Director, at 419.242.5505 or E-mail: rpalacios@familyhousetoledo.org



Renee Palacios accepts check from Bob Howell



Bob Howell explains reason for SSOE donation

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## Ohio again Exceeds 15 Percent Minority Business State Purchasing Standard

Special to The Truth

For the third consecutive year, the State of Ohio has exceeded the goal of its Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program by purchasing 23.65 percent of eligible goods and services through certified minority-owned businesses, while spending just over \$305 million. Ohio's MBE program mandates that state agencies set aside 15 percent of its annual purchases for goods and services for certified minority-owned businesses.

"During the current administration, Ohio has made diversity among its suppliers standard business, meeting set-aside goals for the first time since the program was established in 1980, when Governor Kasich was a member of the Ohio General Assembly," said Gregory L. Williams, state equal employment opportunity coordinator and deputy director of the Equal Opportunity Division of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, which certifies businesses into the MBE program.

"Our goal is to assist entrepreneurs, through this program and others, to develop their businesses to compete in the broader marketplace," Williams added.

Out of the eligible expenditures for goods and services purchased during Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, a total of 20.80 percent was set aside for MBE-certified businesses. Another 2.85 percent of eligible goods and services was purchased from MBE-certified businesses through open-market contracts.

Ohio's Equal Opportunity Division oversees the MBE program and helps to ensure equal opportunity access to and fair treatment in government contracting. It strives to maximize contracting opportunities through certification of minority-owned, women-owned and socially and economically disadvantaged businesses.

"It's about sustainability and creating more opportunities for all Ohioans," said Jeffrey L. Johnson, chief of the Minority Business Development Division at the Ohio Development Services Agency. "By meeting the law, we continue to move Ohio forward in diversity and inclusion while growing minority businesses across the state."

### Background

On Dec. 17, 1980, House Bill 584 was signed into law, establishing the MBE program, which mandated that state agencies set aside 15

### Diversity... continued from page 4

pen across the country. Danica Roem became the first openly transgender delegate in the Virginia House of Delegates and Andrea Jenkins, the first black transgender elected official won her race to sit on city council in Minneapolis. In Virginia's House of Delegates, the citizens voted in the first Asian American woman and the first Latinas sit on the state legislature. Their victories broke barriers and signaled that in 2017, diverse and progressive candidates are just getting started.

The rise of Trump and his rhetoric that has sought to divide and dehumanize lit a fire to progressive Democrats from all backgrounds to come to run. Instead of fighting the hate speech and policy with hate, they put their names on the ballot and showed the country, what the future holds.

Could the city of Toledo and the state of Ohio see a band of diverse progressives running in 2018? With a turnout of less than 30 percent this last election, maybe fresh new candidates can energize voters, and bring new voices to the stage. The best way to stop white supremacy and white populism in this country is to seek inclusive voices from a variety of candidates. Let's encourage a new crop of civic leaders from diverse backgrounds to run and govern. Many citizens voted for change in 2017, I look forward to seeing more change in 2018.

percent of their annual purchases for goods and services for certified minority-owned businesses.

As a member of the General Assembly in 1980, Governor Kasich voted to support House Bill 584 and after becoming Ohio's governor made its achievement a priority of his administration.

Since 2011, the state has made steady progress in identifying set-aside opportunities, certifying minority-owned businesses and matching them with state contract opportunities. State agencies, boards and commissions now produce annual spending plans that project set-aside contract and procurement opportunities for qualified MBE-certified businesses, the aggregate value for which is at least 15 percent. In 2015, Ohio reached the 15 percent goal for the first time and has continued to do so.

In addition to MBE set-aside contracts, many minority-owned firms have secured state contracts through the open market by bidding against non-minority firms.

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# NAACP: Steadfast and Immovable

The Toledo Branch NAACP would like to extend a THANK YOU to our community, our sponsors, and friends for your support of our 102nd Freedom Fund Banquet which was held recently on October 28 at the Stranahan Great Hall.

We do not take your support likely nor do we take you for granted. The Freedom Fund Banquet is held annually to provide funding for both our local and national NAACP operating expenses. And in addition your support also helps fund our ACT-SO program for local youth giving them an experience of a lifetime as they compete for bronze, silver, and gold awards, potential scholarships and other great opportunities.

Please save the date for next year's banquet, Saturday, October 27, 2018. Look forward to a new format for our banquet. Throughout 2018 we will bring you informative programs to keep you engaged

with issues within our community.

• Also in October, we partnered with the Art Tatum African American Resource Center Citizens' Advisory Board to sponsor an event for candidates for mayor and city council. In 2018, our focus will be on voting and engaging the voting concept. We will continue this theme. **IT'S YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!** We ask that you join us as we advocate and commit to raising awareness for political, educational, social and economic equality of minority group citizens in

... continued on page 9



Freedom Fund Banquet Honorees: Rev. Edward Skip Turner - Amazing Grace Christian Center, Billie Johnson - President/CEO- Northwest Ohio Area Office on Aging, Alicia Smith - Executive Director of Junction Coalition



NAACP Ray Wood, Baldemar Velasquez, President of FLOC, Mayor Paula Hicks Hudson and other community leaders during the signing



Toledo Branch NAACP President Ray Wood at the table for the Black-Brown Coalition signing with Toledo Police Chief George Kral

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NAACP... photos continued from page 8

the electoral process.

With approximately 2,000 adult branches, youth councils, and college chapters in 49 states, five countries and the District of Columbia, the NAACP is actively engaged in increasing the African-American responsiveness of citizens to be fully engaged in the democratic process.

• On Saturday Nov 4, the Toledo Branch NAACP was part of the signing for the Code of Conduct Agreement for the Black/Brown Coalition. This agreement spells out and illustrates ways in which the Hispanic and black communities engage and interact with the Toledo Police and Law enforcement agencies.

In the four-page document, the Toledo Police Department agrees that "officers will be encouraged to spend a minimum of one hour on foot patrol to know members of the community." It also guarantees citizens the right to request a police officer's name and badge numbers and to record a stop on their cell phones.

After nearly two years of negotiations, an agreement was reached and presented to the mayor's office. This agreement allows for Toledo to be proactive and progressive in our relationship and interaction with each other.

Other groups involved in the signing were the Toledo Community Coalition, the AFL/

CIO, Local 500, FLOC and many other Latino and Hispanic groups. We expect this agreement to be precedent setting around the State! Many thanks to all for their sincere efforts... Stay tuned for more to come from the Black/Brown Coalition!

• Remember our monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings for November and December will be held at the Mott Branch Library at 1085 Dorr Street. Please join us! Become a member at \$30 per year! Not registered to vote?? We can get you registered. Your engagement is necessary for the continuing fight for equality and social justice. Review our website at www.naacptoledo.org and contact us at 419-214-1551.



Toledo NAACP Executive Board with Freedom Fund Banquet Speaker Benjamin Jealous – Former National NAACP President



# What do you think would make TARTA better?

We are gathering input from community members to better understand the role TARTA plays in your everyday lives. Please share your unique perspective and ideas about how TARTA can better serve your needs and improve life for residents in our region.

We value your time and ideas, so be open and honest with your answers. The information we collect will help to shape the future of TARTA.

Please visit

## TalkTARTA.com

Thank you for taking part.

TARTA serves the communities of Maumee, Ottawa Hills, Rossford, Sylvania, Sylvania Township, Toledo, and Waterville.



419-243-RIDE | TARTA.com



Economy Section • Economy Section

## Social Security Column

### Social Security Supports Veterans

By Erin Thompson

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Toledo, OH

Supporting veterans and active duty members of the military is a key part of Social Security's mission. Our disability program has helped countless wounded warriors and their loved ones. Every Veterans Day, the nation collectively honors the brave people who risk their lives to protect our country. For those who return home with injuries, Social Security is a resource they can turn to for disability benefits. Social Security's Wounded Warriors website is at [www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors).

The Wounded Warriors website has answers to many commonly asked questions, and provides other useful information about disability benefits, including how veterans can receive expedited processing of disability claims. Benefits available through Social Security are different from those available from the Department of Veterans Affairs; they require a separate application.

Social Security's expedited process is available to military service members who become disabled while on active military service on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurs.



Even active duty military who continue to receive pay while in a hospital or on medical leave should consider applying for disability benefits if they're unable to work due to a disabling condition. Active duty status and receipt of

military pay doesn't necessarily prevent payment of Social Security disability benefits. Although a person can't receive Social Security disability benefits while engaging in substantial work for pay or profit, receipt of military payments should never stop someone from applying for disability benefits from Social Security. You can learn more by visiting our veterans page at [www.socialsecurity.gov/people/veterans](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/people/veterans).

## Kaptur Urges Trump Administration to Listen to the Voices of Ohioans While Renegotiating NAFTA

*In letter to USTR, Kaptur urges action to protect workers and submits testimony from recent field hearing in Brook Park, Ohio*

Amidst ongoing NAFTA renegotiations with Canada and Mexico, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09) sent a letter, along with pages of testimony from Ohioans, to U.S. Trade Ambassador Robert Lighthizer urging that real labor standards and enforcement be included in any new continental trade agreement.

"Millions of Americans have endured relentless job outsourcing and significant downward wage and benefit pressures under NAFTA's rigid provisions. Significant as well, our nation has never achieved a trade balance with our NAFTA competitors in over a quarter century. Indeed, since 1993, America's cumulative deficit with NAFTA partners now totals nearly \$2 trillion. This negative result represents an astounding abdication of economic growth," Kaptur wrote in the letter.

The letter included testimony from Kaptur's August town hall on NAFTA, trade, and jobs in Brook Park, Ohio. This included analysis and perspectives from the National Farmers Union, Teamsters Local 416 in Cleveland, Blue Green Alliance, Sierra Club, Policy Matters Ohio, United Steelworkers, and the United Auto Workers.

"To drive through our district and speak to our constituents provides a daily reminder of the plight these workers face: shuttered factories, hollowed out neighborhoods, chronic economic stress due to diminished employment opportunities in quality jobs. Time and again during the field hearing, participants called for increased worker protections, improved environmental provisions, and elimination of special courts that further enhance already bloated transnational interests. You now have [a great] opportunity to rectify these troubles by focusing on the American worker as you negotiate with Canada and Mexico. To amplify the concerns of the hearing's participants, I am including their prepared testimony so you can read their stories and understand their experiences," Kaptur continued.

Kaptur again called for the inclusion of a tri-party Independent Labor Secretariat, to ensure the labor standards are enforced. An idea that is supported and outlined by the AFL-CIO here.

"Ultimately, the American worker demands fair trade and a level playing field with workers in Canada and Mexico. I have little doubt that you will have the votes from Congress to support your achievement if you negotiate a deal that puts American workers' interests first," Kaptur concluded.

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# Lourdes University Offers Discussion on Homelessness

The Lourdes University Department of Education presents "Homelessness: Approaches to Support Students in an Educational Setting" on Thursday, November 30, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Franciscan Center, 6832 Convent Blvd., Sylvania. The event is free and open to the public.

Expert panelists from Toledo Public Schools, Family House, Leading Families Home, and the Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board will address teachers and social workers in attendance. The discussion aims to educate individuals and the general public about homelessness and, more importantly, provide valuable insight about support available for elementary and high school students who are struggling with homelessness while pursuing their education.

### Panel Participants

- Renee Palacios, Executive Director, Family House
- Mike Badik, Executive Director, Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board
- Evelyn McKinney, Director of Homeless Initiatives, Toledo Public Schools
- Tammy Holder, Chief Executive Officer, Leading Families Home: A Beach House/FOCUS Partnership

For more information, contact Vince Laverick, Ph.D, assistant professor of Education, at 419-824-3840 or vlaverick@lourdes.edu.

# Scholarships Awarded for Students to Attend a Private School

The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund has announced today that they have awarded a total of 670 scholarships including 219 new scholarships for the 2017-2018 school year. The eligibility scale for these scholarships is based on the National School Lunch Program and all of

... continued on page 12

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Economy Section • Economy Section

# Financial Aid Season for College Students is Here: What to Know

Special to The Truth

It's not only football season. For current and incoming college students, it's financial aid season, too, and that means completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA should be the first step families take in the planning-for-college process; it's used by schools to put together financial aid packages, states use it to determine eligibility for state aid, and some scholarships require it as part of their applications.

"Regardless of whether you think you will qualify for funding, don't fumble by simply not completing the application," says Martha Holler, senior vice president, Sallie Mae.

By just completing the FAFSA, students can gain access to more than \$120 billion in grants, work-study funds, and federal student loans.

Sallie Mae is offering six key points to help families move the ball down the field this FAFSA season:

- Get season tickets in advance. Complete the FAFSA as a high school senior — and every year in college, even graduate school. It's the only way to remain eligible for federal student aid, and the amount of aid can vary year-over-year.
- Review the playbook before the game. Before beginning the application, both parents and students should create a username and password, a Federal Student Aid ID, and gather Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers, bank statements, tax returns and W-2 forms. Having this information ready can expedite the process.
- Don't miss the opening kick-off. Some financial aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, or from programs with limited funds, so the earlier families fill out the FAFSA, the better their chances for aid. Additionally, submitting the FAFSA earlier could mean receiving financial aid award letters earlier. Timing varies by school, so families should check

with financial aid offices and school websites for specifics.

- Go for the two-point conversion. Take advantage of the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to import and convert tax information directly into the FAFSA. After some critical changes were made to address privacy and security issues, the tool is back, and more applicants will be eligible to use it this year.

- Watch out for trick plays. The only way to fill out a FAFSA is at fafsa.gov. Filing the FAFSA is always free, so watch out for sites that charge fees or make promises that sound too good to be true. Students can reduce the risk of identity theft by keeping their Federal Student Aid ID confidential and reporting any suspected fraudulent account activity immediately.

- Don't be a Monday morning quarterback. Completing the FAFSA earlier means receiving critical information like the Student Aid Report (SAR) sooner. The SAR provides basic information about student eligibility for federal student aid and answers to the FAFSA questions. The SAR also includes the Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which provides a clearer picture about eligibility for financial aid as families begin applying to colleges. Families who complete the FAFSA online typically receive their SAR within three to five days.

- Make your final draft picks. Families should list at least one school on the FAFSA. Some state aid is based on the order of how schools are listed, so families should consider listing state schools first.

For a full online playbook of tips and resources, visit [SallieMae.com](http://SallieMae.com).

Don't drop the ball this season. Take steps to secure financial aid for your college future.

Courtesy StatePoint

## Scholarships...continued from page 11

the families receiving the scholarship are at the 270% poverty level or below.

The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund (NOSF) provides privately funded scholarships to students from low-income families in grades K-8 to attend a private school or for homeschool expenses. Students can receive up to \$1,500 per year for tuition or \$500 for homeschool expenses. Families must reside in Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot and are required to pay a minimum of \$500 towards their tuition.

Julie Thomas said this about her children's NOSF scholarships to attend Christ the King School, "The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund

has given my children the opportunity to continue their education in an environment that nurtures their spiritual growth and academic excellence. With the help of these scholarships my family can maintain stability in an otherwise tumultuous time of our lives, and we are so thankful for that."

Interested families can find more information about the program and apply online on the NOSF website at [www.nosf.org](http://www.nosf.org). For more information please contact Ann Riddle, Executive Director of the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund at (419) 720-7048.

NOSF is a partner with the Children's Scholarship Fund (CSF). CSF provides scholarships to families in need so they can choose the private school that best meets their children's needs. Every dollar raised locally gets matched by CSF which provides additional dollars for scholarships. Since the program began, more than 14,000 students have been awarded a NOSF Scholarship.

## Tolliver...continued from page 3

agents (9) black doctors (10) black lawyers (11) grocery stores (12) jewelry stores (13) auto repair (14) accountants (15) insurance

agents (16) furniture dealers (17) plumbers and electricians (18) clothiers (19) contractors (20) pharmacists...etc...etc.

If you have noticed by now, some of those categories do not even exist in our commu-

nity or, we do not even know who is who in some categories and which shows the need for a black directory of businesses including all black churches; and the dire need to channel our youth into entrepreneurial businesses...or we will simply continue to exist as a conquered colony for the merchants who live in Perrysburg, Ottawa Hills and Maumee. We export our money and we import their goods and services!

Some things I will never understand.

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

Ed. Note: The Truth is currently compiling a just such a database of black-owned businesses. Please feel free to contact us at [thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com](mailto:thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com) for information about your business.

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# Bound to the Fire: How Virginia's Enslaved Cooks Helped Invent American Cuisine by Kelley Fanto Deetz

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

You've been cooking up a storm for days.

Soon, the whole family will be sitting at your table, which will be loaded down with everybody's favorites. The turkey will be golden. The bread, warm and soft. Pies line your kitchen counter because you've cooked for days. At least, as you'll see in *Bound to the Fire* by Kelley Fanto Deetz, you didn't cook 'round the clock, too.

Most of us, says Deetz, are used to seeing black faces on boxes of our breakfast foods. We might not notice them much anymore but those trademarked figures hide an often misunderstood truth.

The "black community" in Virginia, says Deetz, "is almost as old as the colony itself." In 1619, some 20 "negroes" lived in Jamestown; by 1625, there were 23 "Africans" in all of Virginia. Once slavery took firm hold in the state, there were tens of thousands of enslaved people but Deetz focuses on cooks, beginning with plantation homes.

As slavery expanded, kitchens began to be set apart from the main house, probably because white plantation owners didn't want slaves under their roofs. For enslaved cooks and their families, that was both good and bad: more privacy was gained by living in the building where the kitchen was, and accommodations were usually larger than in the slave cabins – but that proximity meant that cooks were constantly on-call.

It took "a network of enslaved folks" to put food on the table, not only in growing the food, but also in what may have been a house-staff of dozens. Cooks cooked, but they were also bakers, butchers, brewers, distillers, and sometimes, laundresses. A cook

c. 2017  
University of Kentucky Press  
\$29.95 / higher in Canada  
177 pages

was likely taught to read and do "basic math," and she (sometimes, he) taught kitchen chores to new slaves. Despite a constant likelihood of abuse and brutality, cooks often had surprising power over their mistresses and may've even negotiated their own circumstances.

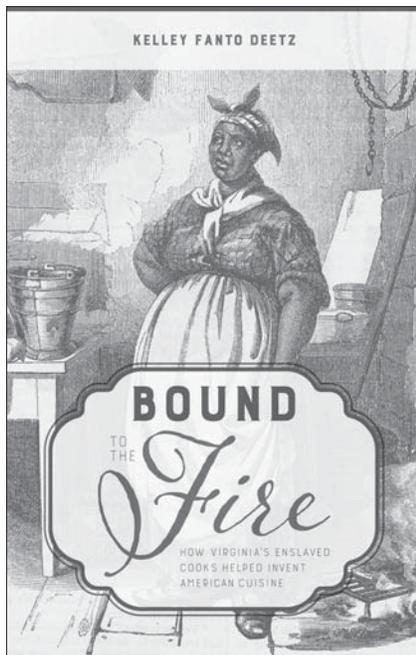
And if things went *really* bad, there was always the danger-filled chance for a cook to tamper with the food...

There are, as author Kelley Fanto Deetz indicates in her introduction,

several myths and misunderstandings related to enslaved cooks. There were, until now, many unknowns. *Bound to the Fire* sets things straight, but cooking isn't the only focus here.

What would "Southern hospitality" be without the influence of enslaved cooks? Not much, as Deetz indicates – and Southern architecture would be the lesser, too. Using documents and research, Deetz explains how this is so, which leads to a fascinating look at day-to-day work of Virginia cooks, the power they wielded, and how they influenced what you'll eat this holiday season. You'll come to eagerly anticipate those tales, and they serve to underscore Deetz's final point: Americans must look beyond stereotypes and be mindful of those who literally nourished a nation.

Be aware that this is not a cookbook. Instead, this is a book of history and a chance to set it straight. Yes, there are old-timey half-recipes in here but really, *Bound to the Fire* is meant for opening eyes, rather than mouths.



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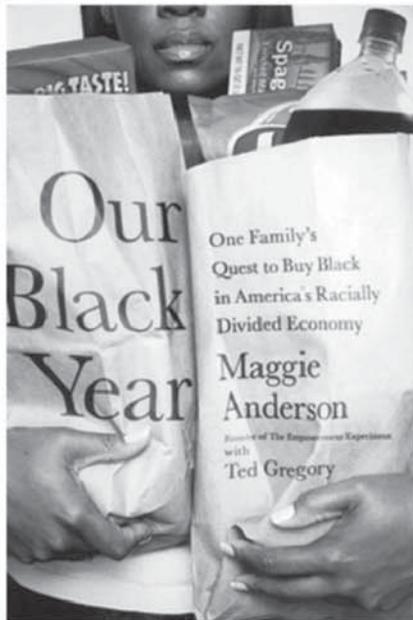
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# CLASSIFIEDS

November 15, 2017

Page 15

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Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County is accepting applications to fill the positions of Manager of Treatment Services until position is filled. Additional information regarding the duties is available on the Lucas County web site ([www.co.lucas.oh.us](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us)). Click on "Apply for a Job" and then select Manager of Treatment Services from the list to read more or apply.

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## GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR TOLEDO LUCAS COUNTY HOMELESSNESS BOARD

Send cover letter and resume to [jobs@tlchb.org](mailto:jobs@tlchb.org). For complete job description please visit [ending-homelessness.toledo.org](http://ending-homelessness.toledo.org). Application deadline November 26, 2017

## FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC), a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp.

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FENOC is accepting applications to fill positions of Assistant Maintenance Serviceman through 11/26/17. Additional information regarding the duties and qualifications is available on the FirstEnergy web site ([www.firstenergycorp.com](http://www.firstenergycorp.com)). Click on Careers, then Search Jobs, then enter Oak Harbor in the Search by Location field. Requisition ID# 7243.

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## ACT-SO MEETING

Saturday, November 18, 2017 the Toledo Branch NAACP will host its first ACT-SO Meeting of the 2017-18 academic year. High school students grades 9-12 interested in showcasing their talents at the local and national level are encouraged to attend.

The NAACP's **Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO)** is a yearlong achievement program designed to recruit, stimulate, and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students. ACT-SO includes 32 competitions in STEM, humanities, business, and performing, visual and culinary arts. Almost 300,000 young people have participated from the program since its inception. For over thirty years the mission of ACT-SO has been to prepare, recognize and reward youth of African descent who exemplify scholastic and artistic excellence.

To learn more, join us:  
Saturday, November 18, 2017  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Kent Branch Library  
3101 Collingwood Blvd.

Parents or a family member are asked to attend this meeting with students.

If you are unable to attend the Saturday meeting, a second meeting will be held Tuesday, November 21, 2017, 5:30 - 7:00 pm at Kent Branch Library, 3101 Collingwood Blvd.

The National ACT-SO competition will be held in San Antonio, Texas, July 12-15, 2018. Qualifying gold medal winners from Toledo will be eligible to compete in Texas.

Questions? Please contact Beatrice Daniels ACT-SO Chair at 419-531-1336 or [beatrice-dan@msn.com](mailto:beatrice-dan@msn.com).



Toledo Refining Company LLC is currently hiring First Class Maintenance Pipefitters.

### Overview

Toledo Refining Company LLC is located in Oregon, Ohio and is owned by PBF Energy LLC. The refinery has a crude oil processing capacity of 170,000 barrels per day. The refinery is currently accepting applications for First Class Maintenance Pipefitter positions. Starting pay is \$37.93 per hour. After completion of a six month probationary period, the rate of pay is \$40.29 per hour.

### Description

First Class Pipefitters will complete assignments relative to the inspection, repair, installation and maintenance of piping within the refinery. Work will be performed in the shop as well as in all weather conditions. Our Company is committed to a foundation of safe and environmentally compliant operations so First Class Pipefitters must follow all procedures and safe work practices. First Class Pipefitters will be scheduled to work five, eight hour shifts in a regular work week; however, mandatory overtime including weekends, holidays and shift work is required as needed.

### Basic/Required Qualifications

Must be at least 18 years of age; be legally authorized to work in the United States without restrictions; hold a High School diploma or equivalent; and hold a current driver's license.

For consideration, candidates must have completed a state approved Pipefitter apprenticeship program with no less than four years work experience OR have equivalent work experience of no less than eight years as a Pipefitter. Successful candidates must possess First Class Pipefitter work experience and First Class Pipefitter skills. Other requirements include: the ability to demonstrate First Class performance; proficiency to read blueprints as it pertains to pipe fabrication and installation; ability to work from written and verbal directions to perform assigned tasks; experience in coordinating work; function as a team member; perform tasks in any craft as incidental work; and participate in training programs to maintain and/or upgrade skills. Candidates must have knowledge of equipment and tools required to expedite the efficient installation and repair of refinery equipment.

Must be willing to perform/comply with the following: working overtime; working on holidays and weekends; working in enclosed/confined spaces, such as tanks and towers; working with large, hot, high-speed machines; lifting a minimum of 50 pounds; working around chemicals; wearing fire retardant clothing and personal protective equipment; maintaining/shaving your face daily so that a respirator/face mask can seal properly; performing fire fighting duties; working outside in harsh weather conditions; and working with petroleum products and support systems that are under high pressure and heat.

### Conditions of Employment

Written tests and assessments; meeting physical criteria for the job; a physical skills demonstration test; ability to demonstrate basic computer skills; pass a background check and drug screening; and be eligible to qualify or hold a Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC card).

In order to be considered for this position, **applicants must submit their resume in Microsoft Word or .pdf format** per the following process. All interested candidates may apply by going to [www.pbfenergy.com/careers](http://www.pbfenergy.com/careers) and select "First Class Maintenance Pipefitter" (Oregon, OH). **All applicants must provide a valid e-mail address where they can be contacted regarding updates on the recruiting process.** Should an applicant be selected for testing, contact will be made via email. All contact information must be accurate and up to date. Relocation is not available for this position. **Phone calls will not be accepted.**

EOE/M/F/D/V

# Murder at the Carver High Reunion

Sojourner's Truth Staff

On November 18, the audience in attendance at the Mystique Dinner Shows production of *Murder at the Carver High Reunion* will have the opportunity, amongst the laughing, applauding, cheering and dancing, to solve the mystery of just whodunit and why was it done.



Angela Barrow Dunlap, Producer, Playwright, Actress

*It's been twenty years, and the Class of 1997 is looking forward to fun, music and memories at their alma mater, Carver High. Complete with fine dining, dessert and dancing, what they didn't anticipate was a side of murder. Which one of these crazy classmates has a secret they'd kill for? After numerous sold-out performances in Detroit, the hit murder mystery, Murder at the Carver High Reunion, is heading to Toledo.*

The hit, interactive dinner theater production, *Murder at the Carver High Reunion*, will be at the Aria Banquet Hall for one night presenting "outrageous personalities, twisted plots, scorching hot secrets and shameful suspects" according to the promotional material provided by the show's producers.

One of those producers, Angela Dunlap, will not be coming from too far away to bring the dinner theater extravaganza to Toledo. Dunlap, a Detroit native and resident, has been involved with theater ever since, as a very young girl, her mother entered her in a Little Miss Michigan talent show. As Dunlap recalls, she went home after the show upset that she had no talent to display. Her mother corrected that situation immediately by writing for young Angela a dramatic monologue.

"I won," says Dunlap. And an actress was born. The writer, producer, director would develop over time. Dunlap attended Southview Public Schools where she had the opportunity to receive extensive drama instruction, then on to Wayne State University, where she studied but briefly before leaving to go on the road with a professional show. It's a profession that has kept her active for 30 years now.

Over the last two decades, Dunlap has risen to the top of the African-American urban theater world as the creator and producer of multi-million dollar grossing stage plays such as *My Brother Marvin*, *It These Hips Could Talk*, *Why Do Good Girls Like Bad Boyz*, *Real Men Pray*, *Gossip Lies & Secrets*, *Church Girl*, among others. *If These Hips Could Talk* was one of the longest-running shows in urban theater history – a two-year run starring some well-know Hollywood actors such as Billy Dee Williams, Robin Givens, Tichina Arnold, among other. It is currently being turned into a feature film.

Her current project, *Murder*, is one she's especially proud of. "It's the most fun you will ever have," she says. "We invite the audience to talk back and become part of the show. Each table becomes an investigative team and the cast members are on the stage, then in the audience."

*Murder at the Carver High Reunion*, starring actor/singer D'etra Hicks (Black Tank) from Tyler Perry's *Madea's Family Reunion*, will be at the Aria Banquet Hall, 5969 Telegraph Road on Saturday, November 18, at 5 p.m. For ticket information, to enjoy an evening of theater, dinner and dancing, call 833-MYSHOWS or go online at [www.mystiquedinnershows.com](http://www.mystiquedinnershows.com).

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