

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

Message from the Board Chair



Time management guru Alan Lakein is said to have originated one of my favorite sayings: "Failing to plan is planning to fail." He took the words right out of my mouth. Another favorite: "If you don't know where you are going, any path will take you there." I use both maxims often because they help me focus on goals I would like to achieve. More importantly, they help me make decisions on a regular basis.

For example, if you have an important opportunity in San Francisco and you have no money to get there, you might start by walking. What if two motorists stop to offer you a lift? Let's say one is an old hippie, playing Grateful Dead music in a vintage Volkswagen van headed to Haight Ashbury. The other individual, driving a Bentley, is on the way to the private jet terminal in Santa Monica. He offers you passage on his luxurious jet for a weekend in Turks & Caicos. Which ride would you choose?

The answer to that question will reveal whether you have a plan and if you have set goals.

The goals tell you where you want to go. The plans are methods and tactics you must employ to achieve your goals. I have found that, in life, goals and the plans to achieve them are ever changing.

I grew up in a relatively poor family. My goal was simply to have a bed for my own use, without any of my brothers crowding in with me. As I got older, I wanted to be a baseball player, then a foreign service officer like Ralph Bunche, then a civil rights attorney. Throughout my life, the goals have continued to change. Each time, my plans had to change to empower my new direction.

We each must define what we would like to achieve in the various stages of our lives and devise the right plans to reach our goals. The paths to our life goals will always be littered with obstacles and/or distractions (e.g., the private plane to Turks & Caicos). Successful people focus on the goal and refuse to be defeated by obstacles or waylaid by distractions.

I once had a track coach who gave me advice about running the hurdles. "Keep your eyes on the finish line," he said. "Let all the work you have done in preparing for the race take you over the hurdles, because if you start to look at the hurdles, they become larger and larger and soon, you will hit one." Simple advice, but quite a metaphor for life. If you are prepared (i.e., you have a plan), you can overcome obstacles that might otherwise seem insurmountable.

At AABLI, we devote ourselves to helping individuals make sound, thoughtful plans to achieve some of their life goals. It is the reason for our existence. We invite you to join our family and help us reach our own goal: to make our community and world a better place for everyone.

Stay encouraged,



Virgil Roberts
AABLI Board Chair

Register Now for the Next Board Leadership Program

Registration Closes March 20, 2015 - Don't Miss Out!!!



The poster for the AABLI Board Leadership Program features a background image of a modern conference room with a long wooden table and blue chairs. The text is overlaid on this image. At the top left is the AABLI logo. The main title 'BOARD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM' is in large, bold, blue letters. Below it, a red box contains the dates 'APRIL 10-11, 2015' and the time '8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.'. Underneath the red box, the location 'LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL (Downtown Campus)' and address '919 Albany Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015' are listed. A section titled 'Faculty' in a script font follows, with a red bar labeled 'HEAD FACULTY' above five headshots. Each headshot is accompanied by the name and title of the faculty member. At the bottom left, contact information is provided. At the bottom right, a blue box with white text says 'REGISTER TODAY' and lists early and late registration fees, along with the application deadline.

AABLI AFRICAN AMERICAN
BOARD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE™

BOARD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

APRIL 10-11, 2015
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL
(Downtown Campus)
919 Albany Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Faculty

HEAD FACULTY

LATONYA SLACK
PRINCIPAL,
SLACK GLOBAL CONSULTING
"SUSTAINANCE AND BOARD"

BRICKSON DIAMOND
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER,
EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
"BEST PRACTICES FOR FOUNDATIONS"

PAUL HUDSON
PAUL C. HUDSON CONSULTING
"FINANCE"
"TEAM, FOCUS & FUN"

ZACHARY GREEN, PH.D.
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO
"INVISIBLE WOUNDS OF
BOARD LEADERSHIP"

VIRGIL ROBERTS
BOARD CHAIR,
AFRICAN AMERICAN BOARD
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT OUR OFFICE:
(213) 346-3241
BOARDLEADERSHIP@AABL.ORG
WWW.AABL.ORG

REGISTER TODAY

\$550 - Early registration (before February 20, 2015)
\$650 - Registration fee (after February 21, 2015)
Apply now! Deadline for applications: **March 20, 2015**

[Click here](#) to register and complete the online application.



... for supporting our annual giving campaign!

Albert Davis
Amber Melius
Andrea Jones
Andrea Mack
Andrea Woods
Anne-Marie Jones
Anthony V. Junior
Bonnie Boswell Hamilton
Brent Burton

Kenya Parham
Kimberley Belcher Morris
Krista Phipps
Larry Taylor
Leslie Cooper Johnson
Lewis Logan, II
Lezlee Hinesmon Matthews
Macani Toungara
Madelyn Murray

Brian Williams
Calvin Holmes
Capri Maddox
Carmen Hawkins
Cassandra Wilson
Charles Alexander
Charyn Harris
Chauncey Jones
Christopher Mack
D'Artagnan Scorza
Darla Bryant
Darrell Chappell
Darryn Harris
Debra Hammond
Dorothy Randle
Elaine Best
Eleanor Beasley
Elliot Hinds
Felicia Brown
George Davis
Gregory Scott
Harriet Boyd
Ikiah McGowan
Imani Brown
Jackie Majors
Jane Woods
Jasmine Houston
Jennifer Hopson
Jerold Smith
John Mack
Judy Marshall
Kaci Patterson
Katherine Vinson

Marilyn Cleveland
Marvin Boateng
Michael Johnson
Myeisha Gamino
Paula Bond
Ramona Bragg
Reginald Ingram
Rene Nourse
Richard Baker
Robert Lewis
Robert Pearman
Rodney Walker
Ron Carter
Ron Green
Rose Catherine Pinkney
Royetta Perry
Sally Fairman (The Usual Suspects Theater Company)
Sarah Harris
Shelia McAfee
Sheri Betts
Sheri Dunn Berry
Sherrie Gordon
Sierra Smith
Sonia Isaacs
Suzanne Isabelle Simmons
Tammy Johnson
Thyonne Gordon
Veronica Whitfield
Wendy Gladney Dean (Forgiving For Living)
William Strickland
Yolanda Gorman

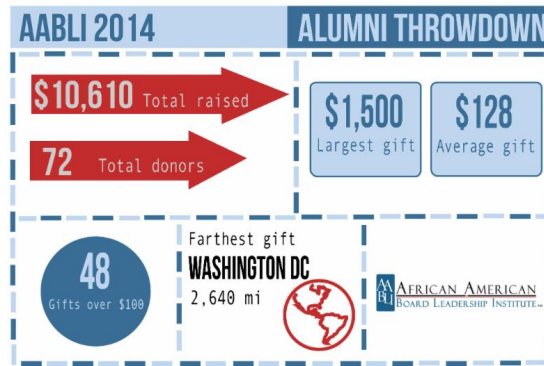
It's official... Class # 5 wins the Alumni Throwdown!



Michael Johnson, D'Artagnan Scorza, Felicia Brown & Brandon Roberson

The Alumni Throwdown results were announced at Rush Street Restaurant, Culver City, on January 29, 2015.
The winning cohorts were presented with the AABLI Cup!
[Click here](#) to see more photos!

Shout out to all alumni - AABLI appreciates your generosity!
A special thank you to the class team captains!



AABLI's 2014 Holiday Mixer



Photo by Leroy Hamilton

The [Craft and Folk Art Museum](#)'s unique, welcoming environment provided the perfect backdrop for our winter holiday mixer. AABLI alumni and guests enjoyed an evening of high spirits and camaraderie. Check out who was there... [click here to see photos!](#)

Placements



Dorothy Randle

Executive Director, Los Angeles City Council District 9 Business Resource Center was elected to serve on the board of [Hands4HopeLA](#)



Zaneta Smith

Founder & Principal Consultant, at Good Works Consultants, was elected to serve on the board of the International Association of Social Work with Groups, Southern California Chapter - Long Beach ([IASWG](#))

Spotlights



Alcoholism Center for Women [ACW](#)

In a recent letter to AABLI, Executive Director Lorette Herman wrote: "On behalf of the ACW Board Chair, Jeannette Bronson, the entire board and I would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for referring Karen Peterkin to ACW. Ms. Peterkin asked very engaging questions about our finances, operations, future goals and board functions, showing her understanding of how nonprofits and boards of directors work. She came to our facility for a tour and enjoyed seeing our buildings and meeting our clients. She genuinely voiced her desire to help our women and youth and support our mission and vision.

"Since Ms. Peterkin has been on the board, she has been very helpful with our fundraising events and building restoration. She is wise, positive and compassionate. We are impressed with her and AABLI's board preparation process. We hope Ms. Peterkin stays on our board for a very long time and AABLI refers other AABLI participants to consider joining our board of directors. We could not be more pleased with Ms. Peterkin or AABLI."

Sincerely,
Lorette Herman
Executive Director

AABLI Class # 3 Alum, Karen Peterkin

Karen is the Vice President of Development, Scripted & Alternative at DuBose Entertainment, in Los Angeles.

Peterkin joined ACW's board in July 2014. "[T]hrough my participation in AABLI's Board Leadership Program," she said, "I gained a better understanding of how to be an effective board member. The placement process for the Alcoholism Center for Women (ACW) board was a smooth one: a phone call with the Executive Director, an invitation to tour the facilities and attend a board meeting, followed by submission of my application. I love serving on ACW's board and am grateful for the wonderful work we do in the community. For anyone looking to serve on a board, I encourage you to consider ACW. We are changing lives for the better."

Staff News

AABLI's President and CEO Receives the Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Leadership & Service Award



PBC President Jonathan Williams,
Y. Chappell-Ingram & Admiral Ponds
Photo by Yolande Hill

Pacific Battleship Center (PBC) selected Yvette Chappell-Ingram as this year's recipient of the Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Leadership & Service Award. The presentation took place aboard the Battleship Iowa, located on the Los Angeles Waterfront, during a brief ceremony on Wednesday, February 18, 2015.

The Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Leadership & Service Award, an annual recognition, salutes African American leaders in Southern California who exemplify the trailblazing, courageous service of the late U.S. Navy Vice Admiral.

"As we celebrate Black History Month, highlighting the accomplishments of great men and women and their contributions to the country we love," said Chappell-Ingram, "I am very pleased to accept the Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Leadership & Service

Award because of the outstanding American for whom it was named." She expressed thanks to PBC President Jonathan Williams, his staff, the crew, Patrick Kohler and other members of the Pacific Battleship Center board of directors "for having the vision and foresight to establish this very noble leadership and service award."

Alumni Happenings!

Class # 3 alum, Thyonne Gordon, Ph.D., recently wrote an article for AABLI entitled "***Want to Land a Seat on a Board?***"

Many think it's nearly impossible unless you know someone, are an expert networker or have a particular type of job experience. In fact, those things are important in the process, but there's a lot more to the equation. With the right guidance, it's not really complicated.



Landing a board position takes initiative and persistence. The African American Board Leadership Institute (AABLI) was formed in 2011 to address the engagement of potential board members to a broad range of governing boards. Traditionally, African Americans and other people of color were under-represented on the majority of governing boards, so AABLI set out to help make the process of joining a board more accessible for this population. Through AABLI's Board Leadership Program, the board engagement process became easier to navigate and alumni were recruited to fill the gap on boards for corporations, nonprofits, foundations and state commissions.

The organization offers these five tips to prepare for a board seat:

1. **Learn what it means to sit on a board of directors.** Academic boards are different from corporate boards and both are different from nonprofit boards. On top of that, each entity's board commitments range in scope. Understand what it means to sit on a board and know what your goal is for that board.
2. **Train yourself to be a good board member.** There are several board leadership training programs available across the country, including AABLI's program. Organizations like the Junior League are national in scope but local board training is normally found by a quick web search. A good training will include informing participants of the fiduciary responsibility of each board member and the process in which this is carried out. Remember, board members are the governing bodies of organizations and with that comes responsibility for those entities. Know what you're responsible for.
3. **Research the organization you've targeted for possible board governance.** You can find most corporate board information on the corporations' websites and in their annual reports. Nonprofit organizations are listed on the GuideStar platform; their program and operational information is public. Call the organization of interest and ask about the policies for joining their board.
4. **Network for connections.** Ask your friends if they know of interesting board opportunities. "Friend" others on LinkedIn and other social media outlets. Volunteer with nonprofit organizations to get a feel for their board presence. Once you make known your desires, you will be surprised at the opportunities that come your way.
5. **Offer your best you.** Boards look for people who can add value to the work they do. Have your résumé and credentials up to date and in their best shape. Finding a good board fit is like shopping for a great pair of shoes: you want to make sure you're comfortable with what's coming your way because you can expect a long term commitment with the entity. Ask questions of your potential board so that you know it's a good fit. What is the organization's financial condition? What is the role of the board? Is there an orientation process? These are just a few questions to help you find the right fit.

For more resources on the board process and board governance, visit AABLI's resource page online ([click here](#)).

Recommended Reading

"All compromise is based on give and take, but there can be no give and take on fundamentals. Any compromise on mere fundamentals is a surrender. For it is all give and not take."
~ Mahatma Gandhi

At the recommendation of Ron Carter, class #1 alum, "*Give and Take*" by Adam Grant provides insight on why helping others is simply the right thing to do!



Engage with us on Social Media!



LinkedIn



[LinkedIn Company Page](#) - [LinkedIn Public Group](#) - [LinkedIn Private Alumni Network](#)



Thank You to Our Supporters



the James Irvine foundation



THE
RALPH M. PARSONS
FOUNDATION



A Sempra Energy utility™



ECONOMIC
Resources Corporation



Contribute to our mission!