

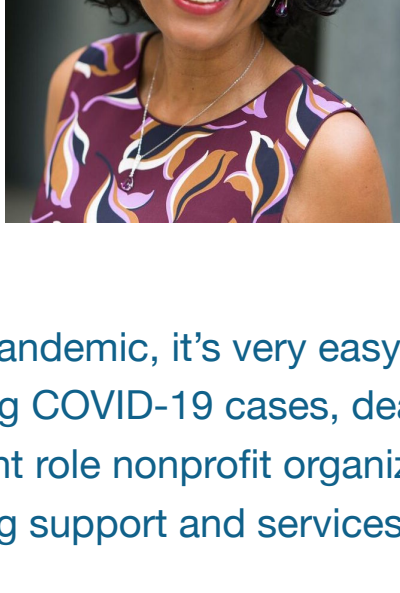
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Summer 2020 Newsletter

Leading with Hope in a New Landscape

President's Message



Dear Community,

"Every crisis has both its dangers and its opportunities. Each can spell either salvation or doom." --Martin Luther King, Jr.

Who could have imagined a world such as this? As we move through this

global pandemic, it's very easy to become unsettled (and even shaken) by mounting COVID-19 cases, death tolls and financial turmoil. If we ever doubted the important role nonprofit organizations and government agencies play in providing support and services to those in need, we need doubt no more.

As I shelter in place, working from my home office, I am reminded of just how valuable the African American Board Leadership Institute (AABLI) is to our community at large. It gives me hope and makes me proud that our AABLI alumni will play such pivotal roles in our region's recovery process.

More than ever, organizations need skilled, qualified, diverse leadership to meet the needs of our community's most vulnerable members. Once the health crisis has passed, the vital work we do will be even more important.

We know that communities of color will be most negatively impacted, not just by the disease, but by the resulting economic downturn. And we know for sure that board members will be called upon to make critical decisions during these unprecedented times.

My hope is that every AABLI alum will take up the challenge to serve as an active board member. Dr. King said "Every crisis has both its dangers and its opportunities." We are facing a crisis like no other, with dangers like no others. We also have an opportunity to serve where we are needed most, using the skills acquired here at AABLI. As members of the AABLI family, it's what we do.

My very best,

Yvette

Yvette Chappell-Ingram
President and CEO

Following former President Barack Obama's voice of support for peaceful protests and to urge young people to keep the pressure on those in power (if you missed it, [click here to watch](#))-- **ABC7 Los Angeles Eyewitness News invited Virgil Roberts to continue a recent on-air discussion and to talk about "letting democracy breathe". Watch and hear Virgil's voice.**



(video airdated 8/3/20 video source ABC7)

THANK YOU!

To our alumni, donors, sponsors, funders, member organizations, and volunteers: You ROCK!

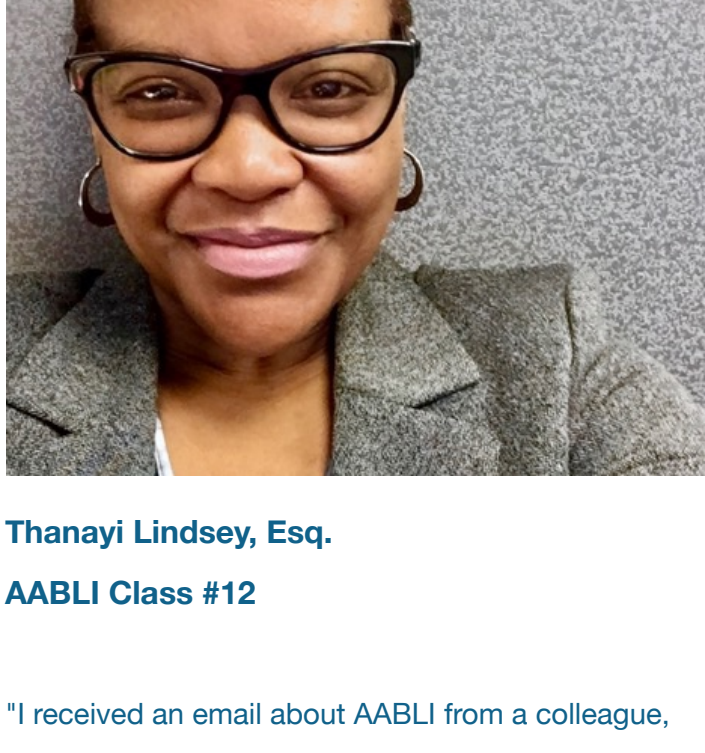
#GIVINGTUESDAYNOW (May 5, 2020) was a global day of unity and giving, sparking activity in more than 145 countries.

Your generosity allows us to enhance our programs, especially in the digital space. It helps us ramp up our outreach to member organizations seeking African American professionals. It supports our board recruitment efforts and leadership initiatives throughout the State of California.

GIVING TUESDAY NOW

[Donate to Support AABLI](#)

Shining A Light!



Thanayi Lindsey, Esq.
AABLI Class #12



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

Crisi Avila, Co-President
League of Women Voters of Los Angeles

"I received an email about AABLI from a colleague, Michelle Kazadi, Class # 10. She said, "Thanayi, you must complete this course."

So I enrolled in AABLI's Board Leadership Certificate Program. This program provides a golden opportunity for African American professionals to expand their leadership skills and networking landscape.

Course topics include governance, finance and fundraising/development. The course also assists with board matching. AABLI matched me with the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles. I met with the co-president, Crissi Avila, who explained the League's need to have more diversity on the board. We discovered we shared similar goals and core values. I was introduced to the nomination committee and invited to attend a board meeting. My nomination was approved in 2018.

AABLI's Board Leadership Program prepared me to be an active, contributing member of the League of Women Voter's Los Angeles board. The program provided me with the foundation I needed to be comfortable in the position of Board Director, and to confidently participate in the areas of governance and finance. I have been on the Los Angeles League's board for two years, and during that time my responsibilities have expanded to include chairmanship of Membership. I am also a proud founding member of the Los Angeles League's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Taskforce.

Like my colleague Michelle Kazadi, I urge each of you to complete AABLI's Board Leadership Certificate Program. Now is the time to be prepared to join a board. AABLI is the organization that will connect you to your next professional board position. I do not regret my decision to complete AABLI's courses. THANK YOU, AABLI!"

"I joined the Board of Directors for the League of Women Voters, Los Angeles (LWVLA), in 2016 and could immediately see the need to bring on new board members from different backgrounds. The reason I reached out to AABLI, after meeting an AABLI rep at a networking event, was twofold.

First: For years, the LWVLA had been pulling board members from our own membership. The main reason was to make sure they understood "the League." However, most didn't have the experience of being on a board, not to mention an understanding of how boards work and how to make the most of their experience. Having AABLI provide a board member who was ready to jump in AND provide guidance to our board helped tremendously.

Second: Diversity. We have been reaching out to the same communities for years and it was clear that we needed input from people with different cultures and backgrounds in order to fully represent Los Angeles. AABLI made it easy for us and expanded our pool of vetted board members tenfold!

After being vetted by AABLI, a simple process, we received our first applicant: Thanayi Lindsey. We met for coffee and I found her engaging, armed with practical experience and connections with other organizations in our orbit. She has been on the board for two years now and has provided us with lots of ideas and new ways of doing things. She is a potent and thoughtful Director for our Board. Thank you, AABLI!"

Writer's Corner



Business Communication in the "New Normal" - Effective Communication for Remote Workers

LaVada English
Founder and Owner, LaVada English Consulting
AABLI Alumna, Class #10

One day you are in the office, happily functioning within your "society-defined" normal. You are scheduling meetings and lunch engagements, preparing to jet off to business conferences and longing for upcoming getaways and milestone celebrations with friends and families.

The next day, the state is jolted by a stay at home order. Your world begins to spin. Like many other organizations whose teams are primarily based in-office, yours must now scramble to set up technologies to keep it running effectively from remote locations.

Communication is one of the top challenges teams face on an average day, even during normal times. Just google *work team communication*: you'll find pages of business expert advice on the subject in the form of books, blogs and magazine articles. Now take most of the workforce and suddenly distance colleagues and teams from each other. Can you visualize a runaway communication freight train? Not a pretty picture.

Let's stop this train before it gains momentum. [READ MORE HERE](#)

Preserving Your Mental Health Beyond COVID-19

Pamela Huley, MSN, RN
Healthcare Business Consultant
AABLI Alumna, Class #11

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus. 'CO' stands for corona, 'VI' for virus, and 'D' for disease.

COVID-19 does not affect everyone equally. As the reported cases of COVID-19 continue to increase world-wide, evidence has emerged that this pandemic is disproportionately affecting people of color, especially African Americans. The sizeable rise in the number of cases in the US is exposing inequities within the healthcare system.

Healthcare is complicated for us. Historically, this has been due to the not always beneficial relationship or adverse actions between the healthcare system and African Americans. The 1932 Tuskegee Experiment, the 1950 Henrietta Lacks genetic discovery and the limited or delayed access to basic healthcare that occurs today, all compose the backdrop to our experiences with the healthcare system. The presence of COVID-19 is shining a spotlight on a problem that's existed for a very long time.

So why us? [CONTINUE READING](#)

ABFE Repost: CONVENING THROUGH PAIN REFLECTIONS ON HARAMBEE 2020 AND WHY ABFE MATTERS

Susan Taylor Batten
President and CEO, ABFE

It is fitting that Association of Black Foundation Executives (ABFE), formed in 1971 as the first affinity group of the Council of Foundations, would be the first philanthropy-serving organization (PSO) in the U.S., to host its multi-day, concurrent-session, annual conference Harambee, as a virtual meeting during a global pandemic April 15-17th of 2020. It was a difficult thing to do: we were set for an in-person meeting in Raleigh, N.C. during the same time period; however, in Mid-March, we made the difficult decision to go virtual rather than cancel as so many PSOs had to do before us. This meant a "second" planning effort that grappling with how to scale down our content from 40+ sessions to 15 at a time when everything that we chose to discuss had to give our community hope in addressing the health and economic crisis that has disproportionately hit our community. If that was the true challenge, it would have been an easier feat; our New York city team has been personally impacted by the virus in the loss of immediate family members and friends. So for us at ABFE, we could not let the heavy lift of re-purposing the conference and the personal loss get in the way; we realized that we are uniquely and divinely positioned to memorialize those who we have lost in this season by giving African people in the sector hope, inspiration and love. In the end, that is what got us through. This is what helped us work through the pain. [READ MORE](#)

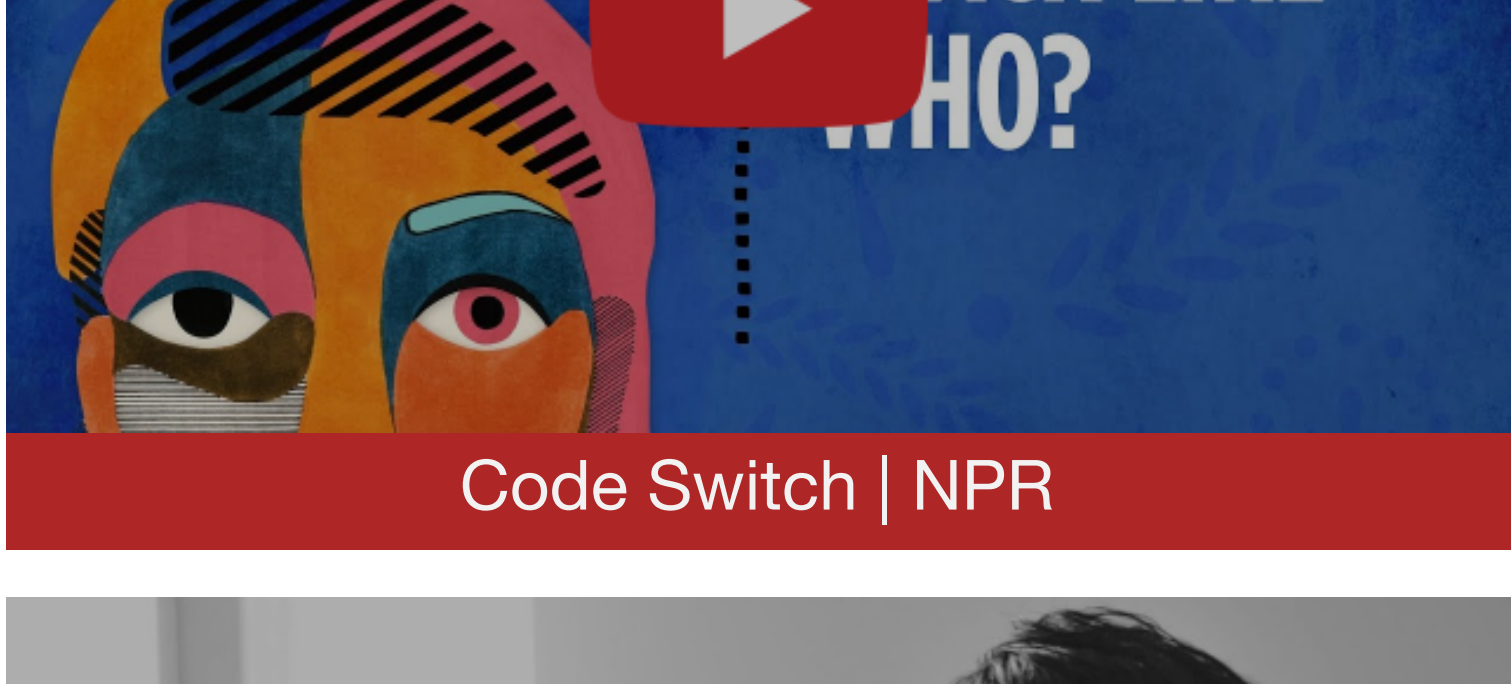
AABLI Board Talks

Watch your inbox for our AABLI Board Talks (Board Talks), a new series of hosted interviews and independent discussions featuring African American professionals, board leaders and alumni-- all experts in their respective fields. They have something to say and, believe it, time shared with them is time well spent. Board Talks is a space where lifelong learners find innovative ideas and solutions for people of color who want positive change in their communities. So if the message says "AABLI Board Talks," be sure to check it out.

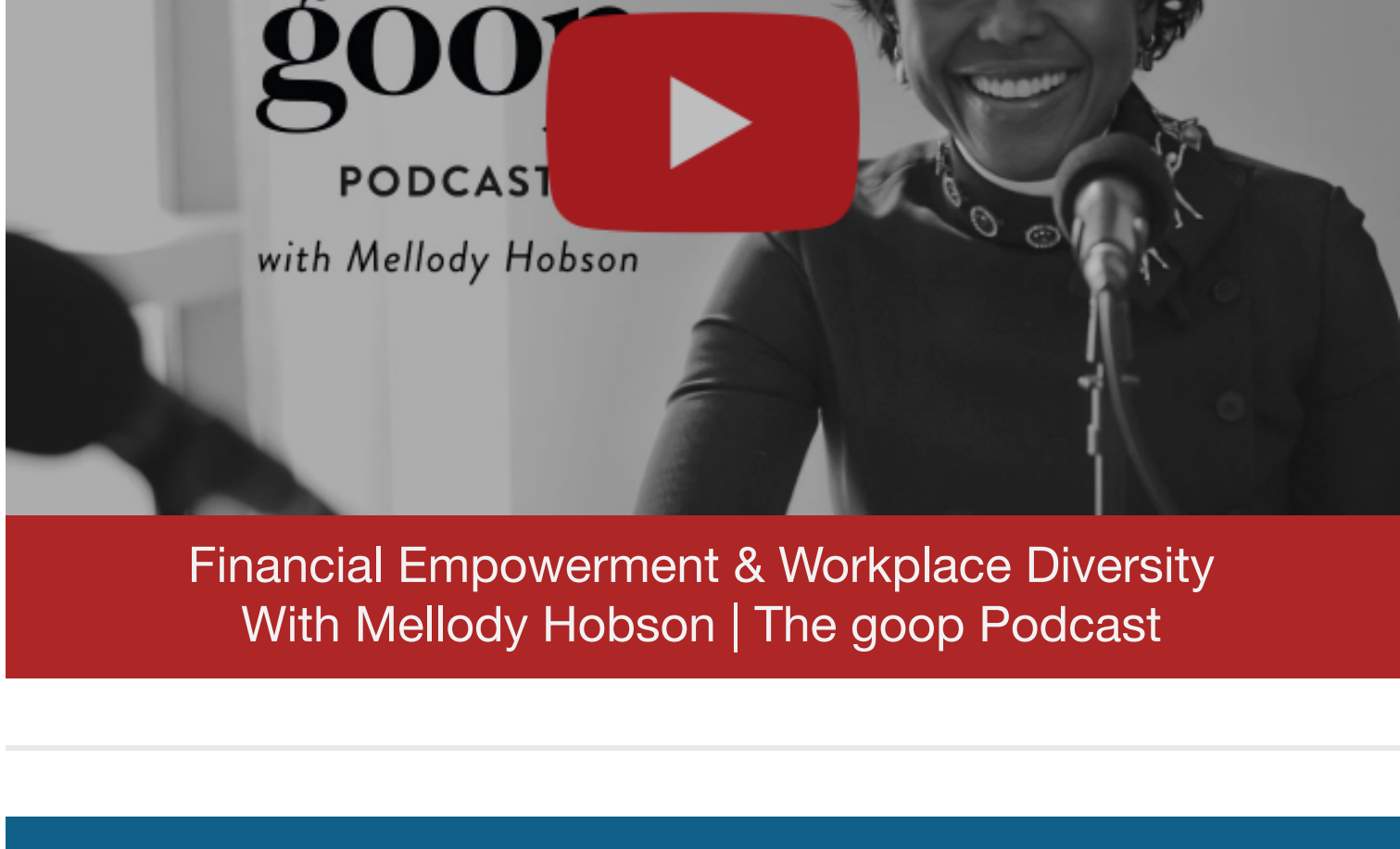


[Watch Previous Episodes](#)

Recommended Podcasts

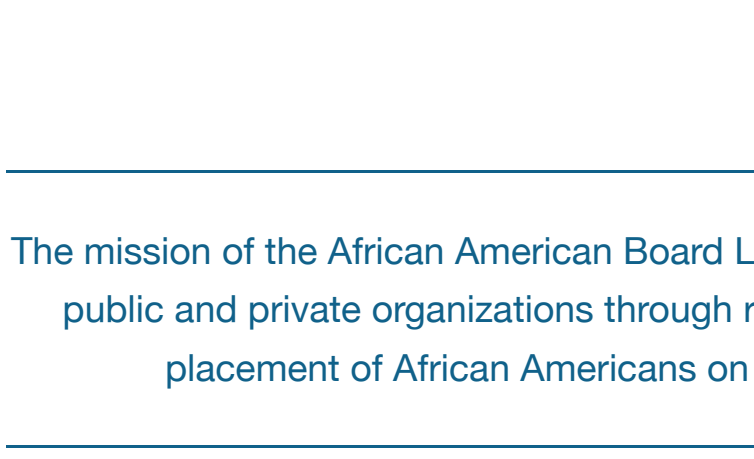


Code Switch | NPR



Financial Empowerment & Workplace Diversity
With Melody Hobson | The goop Podcast

Time + Talent + Treasure = Giving

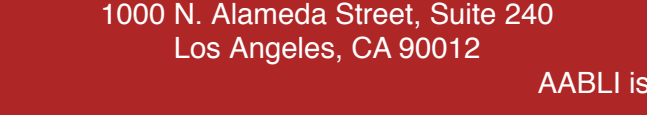


Looking for alternative ways to support AABLI and other causes in the community? Here are some ways you can give back:

- Ask about Planned Giving
- Use Employer Matched Donations
- Volunteer
- Support a Local Organization with In-Kind Services
- Clean Up Your Neighborhood
- Check on Your Neighbors

The mission of the African American Board Leadership Institute is to strengthen nonprofit, public and private organizations through recruiting, preparing and assisting with the placement of African Americans on a broad range of governing boards.

#AABLImoves #Lead #Empower #Aspire #Diversity



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