

National Black MBA Association, Inc. Twin Cities Chapter August/September Newsletter

August 2007, Volume 1

Issue: 4



NATIONAL
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ASSOCIATION, INC.
Twin Cities Chapter

President's Message

Hello, my name is Steffan R. Johnson and I've recently been appointed as your new President. Our Immediate Past President, Victor Patterson, has accepted a promotion with The Target Corporation which required him to re-locate to Jacksonville, Florida.



I'm looking forward to continuing to leverage our relationships with both our corporate and educational partners and continue to concentrate our efforts through each of the NMBBAA five channels: Education, Entrepreneurship, Leadership, Lifestyle and Career. Here's a brief highlight of what we've done and will continue to deliver through the five areas:

- **Education:** Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT): Launched Jan/Feb 2007
- **Entrepreneurship:** 2007 NMBBAA/Wells Fargo Entrepreneur Excellence Award
- **Leadership:** Deliver high-impact leadership development opportunities through our monthly programming
- **Lifestyle:** Partnering with local organizations to co-sponsor 50 Million Pound Challenge
- **Career:** MN Blvd. Consortium at Annual Conference Career Fair Orlando, Florida (Sept 2007); Multicultural Forum - Diversity Career Fair (Feb 2008)

Please join us as we continue our legacy of providing the springboard for economic, intellectual and personal development.

Sincerely,



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Steffan Johnson
President, Twin Cities Chapter
National Black MBA Association

CAREER

Great Places to Work

On August 17, 2007 corporate partners, Ameriprise Financial and Ecolab, Inc. were recognized by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal as two of the "Best Companies to Work For" in the Twin Cities. Winners were selected based on their employees' responses to an independent survey. The survey topics addressed corporate culture, employee benefits, advancement possibilities and more. The Twin Cities Chapter applauds our partners for their leadership in ensuring employee satisfaction, further branding the Twin Cities as a great place to live and work.



With sales of \$8 billion Ameriprise Financial, Inc. (NYSE:AMP) is a leading provider of financial advice. The company offers financial planning, products, and services to individual and institutional investors, primarily in the US. It distributes its products primarily through its more than 12,000 financial advisors.

With sales of \$5 billion and more than 13,000 sales-and-service associates, Ecolab Inc. (NYSE:ECL) is the global leader in cleaning, sanitizing, food safety and infection prevention products and services. Ecolab delivers comprehensive programs and services to the foodservice, food and beverage processing, healthcare, and hospitality markets in more than 160 countries.

Minnesota Boulevard Consortium celebrates it's 10th (Diamond) Anniversary

Twin Cities Chapter members and friends are invited to help the Minnesota Boulevard Consortium, a partnership between the Twin Cities Chapter and the business and educational communities, celebrate its 10-year anniversary at this year's National Conference and Exposition in Orlando, Florida.

The Boulevard has a number of activities planned at the career fair (September 13 -14, 2007) to celebrate this occasion, including: a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday morning, distribution of anniversary cake both days, and a drawing for a diamond ring each day of the fair. The Boulevard is pleased to be featured in a double-page ad in the newly restyled Black MBA Magazine, which will be distributed to all conference participants, available on the national website, and sent to individuals, colleges and members all over the world.

There are seventeen corporate partners on the Boulevard this year: 3M, Ameriprise Financial, Best Buy, Cargill, Carlson Companies,



2007 Executive Board

President	Steffan Johnson
Imm. Past President	Victor Patterson
VP-Administration	Roger McKnight
VP-Operations	Angela Mitchell
VP-Comm. Affairs	Sarina Turner
Treasurer	Robert Ngwu
Corporate Secretary	Kimberly Brown
Dir.-Communications	TBD
Dir.-Corp. Relations	Tracy Moore
Dir.-Membership	Shanequa Williams
Dir.-Education	Jennifer Perkins
Dir.-Special Events	Maya Corey
Dir.-Inform. Technology	Stan Harris

NBMBAA Membership Information

The NBMBAA offers four categories for membership. With Full membership, Associate membership, Student membership, and Lifetime membership, there's a level that provides the benefits you need and the access you want.

Cummins, Ecolab, G&K Services, General Mills, Mayo Clinic, Medtronic, Northwest Airlines, Select Comfort, SUPERVALU, Target, UnitedHealth Group and US Bank. There are two educational partners: University of Minnesota - Carlson School of Management, and University of St. Thomas - Opus College of Business.

Please join the Boulevard in celebrating 10 years of partnership in its efforts to enhance the recruitment, development, advancement and retention of diverse talent within the member organizations.

EDUCATION

The 26th Annual Scholarship Gala

The 26th Annual Scholarship Gala was held at the International Market Square located in Minneapolis, MN. The theme for the evening was "Virtues of Greatness: Defining the Keys to Lifelong Success." Thanks to the support of our corporate partners, local business leaders, members and friends, the event was a grand success! There were over 350 in attendance. The evening commenced with a walk down our red carpet, and a networking reception including a performance by local students and the smooth sounds of jazz performed by the Walter Chancellor Group.



The crowd was graciously welcomed by Barbara Thomas, the President/CEO for the NMBBAA, and Bill Wells, the Chairman for the NMBBAA Board of Directors. The Mistress of Ceremony was Angela Davis, Morning Show reporter with WCCO. The dynamic keynote address was delivered by renowned speaker Dr. Dennis Kimbro. The night ended with the crowd singing the black national anthem, led by Efreem Smith, pastor of The Sanctuary Covenant Church in North Minneapolis.

Over \$35, 000 was awarded in scholarships. Along with the scholarships, the NMBBAA-TC also recognized and awarded Baneker Finance & Mortgage with the Entrepreneur of the Year award, Target Corporation as Corporate Partner of the Year, the University of Minnesota and the University of St Thomas as Education Partners of the year, Victor Patterson as MBA of the Year and Tamika Curry as NMBBAA of the Year.

We thank the following Sponsors for helping make the event a success: Target, General Mills, 3M, Best Buy, University of St Thomas, Wells Fargo, Supervalu, Allianz and GE Capital Fleet Solutions. Stay tuned for information on next year's 27th Annual Scholarship Gala!

Program Rates

Lifetime Membership

\$1,000 one-time payment OR \$350/year (for 3 years)

- Granted to any member that makes the financial committment to the full or associate lifetime status

Full Membership

\$125/

year

- Professionals with a graduate degree in any particular field (MBA, MHA, MPA, MS, MA, JD, etc.)

Associate Membership

\$125/

year

- Includes professionals without a graduate degree but with extensive experience or entrepreneurial success.

Student Membership

\$60/

year

- Includes students enrolled in any graduate degree program (a two year limit). New/Renewing members need to submit evidence of matriculation into a graduate degree program (i.e. a copy of a current school ID card or registration).

Collegiate Student Membership

\$35/year

- Includes an undergraduate student from an approved collegiate chapter. Application will remain pending until approved by headquarters.

All non-lifetime NMBBAA

memberships are for one year long from the date enrollment or renewal.

To join the Twin Cities Chapter of the NMBBAA, please visit the national website to complete your membership application at: <https://www.nbmbaa.org/Membership.cfm>

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Entrepreneur Spotlight

The National Black MBA Association - Twin Cities, proudly presents to you Mr. Paul Dixon, Owner and Co-Founder Matter of Africa America Time Corp. This organization was created to self-publish the "The Adventures of Papa Lemon's Little Wanderers." Paul was born and raised in Minneapolis, MN. He attended school in the Minneapolis Public School System and was the 1982 Class Valedictorian at South High School. After high school, Paul went to the University of Minnesota where he graduated in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business at the Carlson School of Management. The next step in Paul's career was the Target Corporation where he worked for 16 years and he was in Merchandise/ Planning, Hardware, Automotive, Candy, Pets and Toys.



After his Target career, Paul started his own business, U & I Strategies, as a Toy Retail Consultant and in July 2004, he began another business venture with his cousin, author Lehman Riley. Through spiritual guidance and astute knowledge of the toy industry, they created a company in order to publish a series book titled The Adventures of Papa Lemon's Little Wanderers. The company has published four Papa Lemon books thus far (visit www.papalemonedu.com). Working in the toy industry as an entrepreneur was a natural extension for Paul. He is able to leverage the knowledge gained from over 18 years of service in the field with Target Corporation. After working in big box retailing, he wanted an opportunity to help small and medium sized businesses to better navigate in the industry.

Paul has been involved with the local chapter almost two years and has found his experience and involvement to be very positive. The opportunity to meet other like-minded, forward-thinking professionals and entrepreneurs has been a strong hold for him with the Chapter.

As an entrepreneur, he still finds time to attend the National Black MBA Association Annual Conference. "Our goal is to have the Papa Lemon become an education icon for kids all across the country. As we continue to build the brand, our hope is to enter into a licensing agreement for Papa Lemon products. If there are any life lessons I can share with entrepreneurs, it would be the 3Ps: be Passionate, Persistent and Patient. If you live by those three lessons, I do believe the fourth P - Profits - will eventually come your way," says Paul.

Paul currently resides in Minneapolis and has a 21 year-old son, Antoine, who recently graduated from the University of Minnesota.

Committee Spotlight:

PROGRAM

Want to join a dynamic committee in the NMBAA-TC Chapter? The program committee is looking for your skills and talent. The programming committee is responsible for planning and executing all Programs focused on our five National targets:

- Entrepreneurship
- Leadership
- Career
- Lifestyle
- Education

The Program team also works with other committees as well as the leadership team to ensure that we deliver value to our members and business community with relevant topics.

Get involved and join the Program Committee. Please contact Cory Croft at corya.croft@gmail.com to join today!

Upcoming NBMBA events

LIFESTYLE

September Event - NBMBA, Twin Cities Chapter

- **Event:** Corporate Partner & NBMBA Member Reception
- **Date:** September 5, 2007
- **Place:** Babalu Restaurant - 800 Washington Ave.,
Minneapolis
- **Time:** 5:30 - 8:30PM

Join us for a networking event at Babalu's, a culturally eclectic venue where elegant sophistication meets culture. From live Jazz and caribbean music to five-star culinary creations, this opulent surrounding will provide a strong opportunity to network with corporate partners, meet current/prospective NBMBA Twin Cities members and simply relax and have fun. You will not want to miss this event!

Please RSVP by August 31st by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.nbmbaatc.org/corppartnersmembersreception.htm>

CAREER

NBMBA 29th Annual Conference & Exposition

- **Date:** September 11-16, 2007
- **Place:** Orlando, FL

The National Black MBA Association 29th Annual Conference & Exposition, September 11 -16, in Orlando, responds to our member needs through access to front-edge learning opportunities, networking, social activities, new resources and fresh ideas.

Read more: <http://www.nbmbaa.org/conference.cfm>

LEADERSHIP

October Event, NBMBA - Twin Cities Chapter

- **Topic:** NBMBA-TC Membership Drive
- **Date:** Tuesday, October 9, 2007
- **Place:** General Mills
- **Time:** 5:30 - 8:30PM

*Door Prizes and refreshments will be provided

Come join us as we network, mingle and learn about the exciting opportunities within the Twin Cities chapter to get involved and impact our community. The evening will entail networking, interactive

committee games and exciting door prizes.

The Twin Cities Chapter of National Black MBA was formed in 1981 and currently has approximately 125 members with a distribution list that covers over 1,300 professionals. If you are looking for a network of business professionals with a commitment to education, career development and promoting the economic wealth of the African-American community ... the National Black MBA Association is for you!

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

November Event, NMBBAA - Twin Cities Chapter and the Twin Cities Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

- **Topic:** Become Your Own Boss
- **Date:** Tuesday, November 13, 2007
- **Place:** TBD
- **Time:** 5:30 - 8:30PM

Entrepreneurs have a few common traits - a desire to quit the 9 to 5 world, are risk takers to try to become wildly successful and eager to do what is required to become their own boss and have control over their own future. Come learn from a panel of entrepreneurs as they discuss how they chose, financed and overcome hurdles to start their own business. You will learn about how to invest in a franchise, begin a start-up or pursue a home-based business while you may still maintain a 9 to 5.

Do you support Black owned businesses in the Twin Cities?

Never before in the history of Black America has the entrepreneurial spirit been more alive. And, consequently, the need for support of these minority owned business, especially within the black community. Come network with a variety of black owned businesses as they are featured in an expo to showcase their services.

Upcoming Twin Cities Events

The RAYflections Tour

- **Event:** The RAYflections Tour, the Sensation of R&B featuring Twin Cities own R&B sensation Ray Covington and hosted by Walter "Q" Bear Banks, Jr.
- **Date:** Friday, August 24, 2007
- **Place:** Trocerderas, 107 3rd Ave. N - Minneapolis
- **Time:** Doors Open 8PM, Show starts at 9PM

401(K) Plan Seminar

-

Event: Getting Started on your 401(K) Plan

- **Date:** September 4, 2007
- **Place:** Midtown Global Market - Minneapolis
- **Time:** 11:00 - 12:00 PM

BOOK SIGNING after the show: 12 - 2:30 PM same location

The Grammy Award-Winning Sounds of Blackness Are Back With Their Ground-breaking New CD

- **Event:** Kings & Queens: Message Music From The Movement
- **Date:** September 4, 2007
- **Place:** Sabathani Auditorium - Minneapolis
- **Time:** 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Free & Open To the Public - Fun For The Entire Family!!!

Headwaters Foundation Walk For Justice

- **Date:** September 16, 2007
- **Place:** Boom Island
- **Time:** 11:30 - 3:00 PM

You can form a team and/or help to raise money for the Emmett Till Legacy Foundation again this year! <http://walkforjustice.kintera.org/etlf> Sign up online now! We need team leaders, walkers and volunteers: email Teri at: emmett_till_legacy@yahoo.com and cc: terirwatts@yahoo.com

EVENT SCHEDULE

Registration

- Bring your contributions and walker form(s) to the Registration Tent at Boom Island Park, where the Walk begins. 9/16/2007 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Opening Festivities

- Music drumming and a fun brief program to kick off the Headwaters Walk for Justice. 9/16/2007 12:00 - 12:15 pm

Walk and Roll for Justice

- Most people will take about 1.5 hours to complete the 5K (3.5 miles) route. Water will be provided at rest stops along the route. First Aid will be available. 9/16/2007 12:15 pm

Community Picnic

-Join the other walkers for a community picnic and live music at Boom Island Park. Rain or Shine. 9/16/2007 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

For questions/comments on newsletter, contact Angela Mitchell at

amitchell@nbmbaatc.org

National Black MBA Association, Inc. - Twin Cities Chapter



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