



Tabor Meetings

The Tabor 100 General Membership meetings are on the last Saturday of each month. Meetings begin at 10 a.m. and are held at Mount Zion Baptist Church.

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Annual Captains of Industry Gala Recognizes 5 With Crystal Eagle

Tabor 100 presented its annual report to the Seattle community in fine style Sept. 16 at its annual Captains of Industry Gala. The organization's signature fund-raising event held at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center was attended by dozens of industry and political leaders as well as many of the top African American business owners in our city. University of Wash-



Erin Nielsen (left) and Lydia Edwards enjoy the Gala festivities.



Tabor President Dr. Skip Rowland and Vice President Darryl Russell bestow Thelma Jackson with her award.

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Tabor President: Membership Meeting to Spark Dialogue on Critical Issues

Bill Bradford Will Speak on 'The State of African American and Minority Business in Washington'

Enough cannot be said about the 2006 Captains of Industry Gala. The event was divine, splendid, superb, enchanting. The leadership, commitment and professionalism of Lewis Rudd, Terry Johnson, Consuelo Nelson, Ruby Jones, Kevin Washington, Demetria Telemaque, Glenn Gregory, and Christa Peterson has celebrated our values in our community, enhanced our reputation in the region and challenged us to higher performance levels in all future endeavors. For that unselfish service, we most humbly thank our Gala Committee.



Rowland

The Gala is our annual report to the community. As such, it

signals the end of a working year.

Join me in supporting Ollie Garrett, who has agreed to step in as our new Economic Development Committee chair. She succeeds Len Simpson, who has moved to the position of at-large board member.

This month, we will hold our first meeting in September in years. So the purpose, focus and the design of the meeting will be a little different from our regular meeting format. The purpose of Saturday's meeting is two-fold: first to maintain continuous meetings as we move into the holiday season, and second, to provide more time for the membership to speak to its leadership. Our meeting focus will be guided by the following questions:

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Tabor A Step Closer to Ethiopia Presence

By Victor Andino
Tabor Editor

The Tabor 100 International Affairs Committee has been working diligently to develop trade opportunities for members.

Committee Chairman Mat Harris says the deputy prime minister of Ethiopia has given verbal commitment to donate land for Tabor 100 to develop a business and cultural center. The deputy prime minister is also Ethiopia's minister of agriculture, which could further streamline the process.

The committee is developing a timeline for the business and cultural center. If things go well,

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Trade Committee Provides Access to Foreign Officials

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Harris hopes to have design plans by March 2007. The goal is to start construction on the site in 2008.

Plans are under way to arrange a visit by Tabor members to Ethiopia in March.

Ethiopia has been one of the success stories for the African continent and Tabor will be well situated to be part of that story, Harris said. "Ethiopia's economy has increased substantially on a yearly basis for the past three years," he said. "Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa. It's also 85 percent rural. The key in Ethiopia is agricultural development because that's where the people are. Their floral market has been one of the stars of their export economy."

Closer to home, the committee is working on other activities to help Tabor members get plugged into the international community. In October, Ghana's Tourism Minister is expected to attend the Adventure Travel Association's annual conference to be held at Bell Harbor Conference Center. Harris is looking to coordinate a Tabor 100 reception for the dignitary.

"The government of Ghana wants to make a connection with African Americans to make a trip to that country. Next year, they will start the Joseph Project to commemorate their 50 years of independence from colonial rule and the 200th anniversary of the end of the slave trade," Harris said.

Details of the event will be shared with members via e-mail. Speaking to the Masses

Harris is putting plans in place to air a radio show on KKNW 1150 AM that will cover the African Diaspora five days a week. The show will cover news, arts and entertainment.

He and a partner have been able to finance the first 13 weeks of the show but will be looking for sponsors and commercial time. Harris says trade with Africa is part of the destiny for African Americans.

"We have to grow larger black businesses and we have to be international. What we're doing fits in with the understanding that has been researched and confirmed that African American businesses need to figure out how to grow, and the way you grow is to affiliate with larger businesses. And the second way you grow is to become international. The most natural tie is our link to Africa."

Other activities by this committee:

On Aug. 8 Harris met with Congressman Jim McDermott regarding legislation titled The African Entrepreneurship Act of 2006. If it passes, the legislation would promote partnerships between small and medium enterprises seeking to achieve international trade.

On August 9, the committee and guests met with two former ambassadors of Ethiopia seeking humanitarian support for two Ethiopian states.

On August 13, committee member Solomon Tadesse hosted a reception for African American Kenyan Women's Connection (AAKEWO) to get a briefing of their recent trip.

"All of it ties into trying to change the image of Africa, looking at Africa in a positive light. Africa should be viewed by us as a destination point not only as a visit to the homeland but also for investment," Harris said.

Committee Highlights

Tabor Political Forum Needs Your Support

Here is a summary of Tabor committee activities based on reports provided by the chair:

► Business & Legislative Committee

The Committee's focus is on the Political Forum scheduled for October 25. The Seattle Public Schools will host at the John Stanford Center. We are still trying to confirm candidate participation. We need the support of all Tabor members in this effort.

It is in keeping with the Tabor 100 Mission (*to obtain economic power for African Americans, woman and other historically underutilized groups*) to inquire about elected and future public officials regarding their positions on small business, minority owned business, economic development and barriers to business opportunities for African Americans, women and other historically underutilized groups.

► Education Committee

Committee members Kunle Oguneye and Billy Hancock have been working with the Cinema Diaspora/ Reel Youth project with donations of software and/or hardware for their video projects. The Reel Youth project teaches young African-Americans how to record and edit their personal family histories on video.

New Tabor member, Brian Wilson is a district executive for the Boy Scouts of America, Chief Seattle Council. As we welcome him to Seattle, the Education Committee already has some work for him. Wilson will be a perfect fit to partner with Toussaint Myricks to launch a business and entrepreneurship project through Tabor 100 and the BSA. The goal is to help youth learn about business – perhaps even by building and operating a small business venture – plus expose the youth to African-American business professionals and Scouting.



R.C.T. ENGINEERING, INC.

Cos Roberts, P.E.
Regional Manager
Cos.Roberts@RCTEngineering.com
Direct: 206.389.8104 Mobile: 206.255.7133

506 2nd Avenue, Suite 2600
Seattle, WA 98104
Phone: 206.389.8100 Fax: 206.622.7959
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Amani Harris Accepts Position as President of Breakfast Group



Harris

The opportunity to serve as President of the Breakfast Group is an honor that I embrace and accept with excitement and focus. The

organization's deep, rich history reaches back to the early 1980s when first united African American business and professional men for community service and to enhance economic empowerment through leadership.

It is a true honor to work alongside a strong group of community and business members that have been providing leadership by example. These strong, positive role models for our youth provide the images of success and commitment to excellence that are essential in economic empowerment. As Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. said, "having an understanding of economics and ethnicity develops an appreciation for the unique citizenry of all."

I will serve with an excitement and focus derived from more than 10 years of military service that involved discipline, selfless service, loyalty, integrity, courage and honor. I also bring an understanding of economics as a financial advisor who specializes in risk management.

My excitement and focus will also be centered on communication and partnerships with other organizations. Partnerships are the source of successful solutions and sustainable excellence.

The complex issues we face will require many people working together for the benefits of others – selfless service and a commitment to excellence.

Thank you, and I look forward to working with you all.
Amani Y. Harris

7th Annual Gala Continues Tradition of Fun and Fund-raising from Tabor

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ington student Kiyosha Ratliff was presented with the Dr. William Bradford Scholarship.

The evening also included a touching memorial to the late architect Mel Streeter provided by his son.

This year's Crystal Eagle honorees were Seattle Times Publisher Frank Blethen, John Franklin, chief of departmental operations for the mayor's office, education transformation consultant Dr. Thelma Jackson, Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle President & CEO James Kelly, and Fred Stephens, executive director of facilities for the Seattle School District. Tabor 100 Crystal Eagle Awards are the highest level of recognition and appreciation that our organization can bestow. The awards identify leaders who work to create partnerships across cultural, economic, social, political, geographic or educational boundaries.

Keynote speaker of the evening was Steve Reynolds, CEO of Puget Sound Energy.

The Gala and scholarship were made possible thanks to support from hundreds of members and Tabor friends who attended and more than a dozen sponsors, including Microsoft, Boeing and Turner Construction.

After the program, led by emcee Deborah Horne of KIRO TV News, attendees hit the dance floor backed by 12-piece band Type A!



Photos courtesy of Victor Andino and Sergei Khandzhayan

HONOREES



Blethen



Franklin



Jackson



Kelly



Stephens



Banner Cross

Suite 2200
U.S. Bank Center
1420 Fifth Ave.
Seattle, WA 98101

Dr. Leon F. "Skip" Rowland
Chief Executive Officer

Educational,
Human Resources & Leadership
Management Development
Consultants

Phone: (206) 227-7215
Email: skip@bannercross.com



FIRST PLACE

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Doreen Cato
Executive Director

e-mail: dcato@firstplaceschool.org

P.O. Box 22536
Seattle, WA 98122-0536
206.323.6715 ext. 1301
fax 206.323.3709
www.firstplaceschool.org

Tabor Business

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Tabor 100 Leadership

President Dr. Skip Rowland Banner Cross
206-227-7215 skip@bannercross.com

Vice President Darryl Russell
The Russell Group LLC
425-337-1312 darryl@therussellgroupllc.com

Secretary Karen Primeau
Contractor Development & Competitiveness Ctr.
206-323-0721 kkprimeau@hotmail.com

Treasurer Glenn Gregory
Obsidian Investment Group
425-558-5658 ggregory@obsidianllc.com

Business & Legislative Committee Chair
Daniel J. Seydel, II Platinum Group LLC
253-988-4615 dan@platinumbusinessgroup.com

Communications & Technology Committee
Chair Sharon Elizabeth
seemedia@yahoo.com 206-551-6050

Economic Development Committee
Ollie Garrett CCV Corp. 888-452-9194
ollie@ccvcorp.com

Education Committee Chair Kevin Washington
206-935-1228 washinkc@comcast.net

Fund Development Chair William Dudley
J.C. Consulting 425-917-8288
william@jicisreal.com

Gala Committee Co-chair Lewis Rudd
Ezell's Chicken 206-772-1925
lewis@ezellschicken.com

Membership Committee Chair Darryl Bell
Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
206-920-2355 darryl@bell-one.net

Member-at-Large
Leonard Simpson Len/CM
206-725-7051 lenriskout@yahoo.com

Meeting to Cover Challenges Faced by Black-owned Business

"What is our business case?"

"What changes are needed in our business model to meet the challenges presented by our business case?"

"What are our next steps?"

The meeting will be designed to accommodate a two-way communicational exchange between the speakers and our members.

The Business Model statement describes the nature of the business that we are in, or our reason for being in business. I would describe the business nature/purpose of the Tabor 100 as African-American business development, which includes knowledge-building, capitalization and fundraising.

The Business Case statement describes the challenges and opportunities that we face and how we will deal with them. The speakers give us food for thought (discussion of challenges and opportunities), then we discuss, digest, reflect and plan based on our conclusions. So please come to our meeting prepared to listen and share your ideas.

The agenda looks like this: Bill Bradford, Erin Nielsen, George Griffin and Grace Crunican are scheduled to speak at our September meeting. Bill is our most gifted "business guru" and Chairman Emeritus of our Education Committee. He is our guiding light, resides at the heart

of our brain trust and will speak on "The State of African American and Minority Business in Washington."

Erin will speak on "Procurement Opportunities, Challenges, Policies and Practices for Historically Underutilized Businesses."

George Griffin will share his feelings on "Developing Leverage and Infrastructure That Create Political Will To Make Some Changes."

Grace Crunican, The City of Seattle's Director of the Department of Transportation will visit with the Tabor 100 to discuss ways in which minority businesses might be able to participate more fully in the city's "Bridging The Gap Program," which is slated to go to the voters for approval in the November election. The Bridging the Gap Initiative is a \$1.4 million transportation infrastructure program that is intended to repair or substantially restore Seattle's system of bridges, roads and sidewalks to enable the city to continue to grow and prosper.

This agenda is designed to help us create a shared vision, common language goals and objectives that position our organization for the next 12 months and into the future.

So, once again, I thank you all for a wonderful year and ask that we seal our resolve, in commitment to our children, to work synergistically next year, harder and smarter to develop a world class business fulfillment organization in our community.

As Tabor 100 members we learn our lessons, count our blessings and lead the way in doing only what is right. See you Saturday.

Dr. Leon F. "Skip" Rowland
President, Tabor 100



Darryl L. Bell
Financial Representative

720 Olive Way Ste 1900
Seattle, WA 98101
206 920 2355 office
206 777 3508 office
425 825 1604 fax
darryl.bell@nmfn.com
www.nmfn.com/darrylbell

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