



Summer 2018

Welcoming President J.T. Young

As MLGW moves into a new era with our new President and CEO **J.T. Young**, one thing will not change: MLGW employees' commitment to the community through our volunteer work in Shelby County and beyond.

As volunteers and charitable givers, we offer our warmest welcome to J.T. and his family. I'm sure it will become immediately obvious how dedicated our employees are to giving back to our community, making Memphis and Shelby County a better place to live.

Our stellar charitable and volunteer efforts were recently recognized at the United Way Best of the Best Awards, where MLGW took home the top prize: The Best of the Best for large companies in the Mid-South. That's something we should be very, very proud of. MLGW donated more than \$612,000 to United Way from the 2017 campaign – all from employee donations and pledges. Both President Young and former president Jerry Collins were there to witness this coveted honor.

Our message for the 2018 volunteer season? Keep it up! Ramp it up! Volunteer, give of yourself and time, and make Memphis the best it can be. And congratulations on being the Best of the Best!

Don't forget to send your volunteer selfies, photos and event reports to VIP editor **Dan Hope**, Communications and Public Relations, at dhope@mlgw.org or call me at 528-4557.

Bowled Over

Human Resources VP **Von Goodloe** has some brand new bragging rights, though he's not inclined to brag on himself. Always a stalwart at Junior Achievement's annual Bowling on the River Bowl-A-Thon, Von took top honors for largest donor, raising the most of any individual donor in the 2018 Bowl-A-Thon to help Junior Achievement make a difference in the lives of young Memphians. He also bowled pretty doggone well...

The same goes for everyone who bowled, including several MLGW teams. It's all about helping the kids. Along with the fun came the knowledge that bowlers were supporting Junior Achievement as Bowl-A-Thon stretched over several weekends while teams from local companies competed. MLGW's bowling teams hit the "alleys" at Billy Hardwick's Lanes on Saturday, April 7, and the place was rumbling!

MLGW employees' total contribution (donations, sponsorship, etc.) for the Bowl-A-Thon was **\$16,200** this year, placing MLGW second in our division. The City of Memphis was first, and First Tennessee was third in that division.

Von Goodloe was not only MLGW's top fundraiser, he was also the top fundraiser for JA. He raised a total of \$2,600. MLGW's Top Fundraising team included Von Goodloe (Team Captain); **Al Ware**, Retiree; Emmitt Taylor; and **Percy McClelland**, Sys. Lighting and Maint., with a team total of \$2,817.

The 2nd place team included **Daphne Winston** (Captain), Insurance; **Sherry Reece**, Pension; **Robin Sutton**, Risk Mgmt./Empl. Benefit; and **Angela Stewart**, HR Svcs., with a \$2,000 team total. In 3rd place were **Ben Hamilton**



Posing with President **J.T. Young** are (l-r) MLGW bowlers **Sherry Reece**, Pension; **Angela Stewart**, Empl. Svcs.; **Robin Sutton**, Risk Mgmt./Empl. Benefits; and **Daphne Winston**, Insurance.



Bowling cop **Margaret Harrison**, Insurance, makes sure bowlers behave.

(Captain), Work Mgmt. Proc. Align.; **Cliff DeBerry**, Analysis, Strat. & Perf.; **Sharon Spence**, Prop. Acctng.; **Tyler Whitehead**, Bus. Proc. Engrng.; **Gregory Haerr**, Work Mgmt. Proc. Align.; and **Monica Darby**, Enviro. Engrng., whose team total was \$1,525.

MLGW's bowling thunder struck again, and we bowled over most of the competition in our stellar fundraising. Thanks to all who "bowled a strike" for MLGW and Junior Achievement!



*Tom Mazlowski, Prop. Mgmt. Survey, brought along some young "ringers" to augment his MLGW team. Tom is holding his granddaughter Bryley Ann Mazlowski and challenging his teammates (l-r) **Wintrell Pittman**, retired; Tom's son **Brett Mazlowski** (father of Bryley Ann), Corrosion Cntrl.; Brett's son (Tom's Grandson) **Bram Mazlowski**; and **Patrick Jones**, South Cust. Engrng.*



*Retired Employee Activities Coordinator **Mary White** (ctr) returned to grace Hardwick's Lanes with a team that included (l-r) **Marcus Smith** and **Markus Holt**, Elec. Dist. Engrng.; **Mary** herself; **Sharon Cheeseman**, retired; and **Kenny Mukes**, Bldg. Svcs. and Grounds.*



*MLGW President and CEO **J.T. Young** and Junior Achievement President **Larry Colbert** discuss bowling and fundraising strategies.*



***Marcus Holt**, Elec. Dist. Engrng., shows off his artistic bowling style at this year's Bowl-A-Thon.*



*Stellar fundraiser **Von Goodloe**, VP - HR, and his team of intrepid bowlers (l-r) **Percy McClelland**, System Lig. and Maint.; **Al Ware**, retired; and **Emmitt Taylor** get ready to bowl some strikes for Junior Achievement.*

AABE Shares Black Energy Awareness Month with Students

Several hundred middle and high school students piled into the University of Memphis' University Center with bright smiles ready for a day of learning and exploring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields. Mega Egwuekwe, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Code Crew, and Dr. Christina T. Rosenthal of Paradigm Dental Center were a few of the speakers for the American Association Blacks in Energy's Black Energy Awareness Month event with a focus on new technological innovations.

MLGW and AABE volunteers assisted with invitations to Shelby County-area schools, secured the speakers for the event and coordinated the logistics and planning to host the symposium at the University of Memphis.

Barbara Martin, Credit Operations and President of the TN Chapter of AABE, spearheaded the annual event. "It is so important to get our students engaged in STEM fields," says Ms. Martin. "We want to help aide the conversation and drive interest to those careers. As members of AABE, it is our responsibility and privilege to stimulate that interest in the next generation."

AABE hosts year-round fundraisers to benefit minority high school seniors who plan to major in



Cliff DeBerry (l), Analysis, Strat. and Perf., and President of the AABE TN Chapter Barbara Martin (r), Credit Ops., welcome an area teacher to AABE's STEM BEAM program.

one of the STEM fields for preparation for a career in the energy sector. The organization will donate \$7,500 in scholarships in 2018. If you are interested in membership, contact **Patricia Cook**, Constr. and Maint. VP's Ofc., for an application at pcook@mlgw.org.



*Such wisdom! AABE member **Kevin Watkins**, Work Mgmt. Proc. Align., gets the thoughts of a young student at the AABE lunch.*



A Cat in the Hat hat adds a colorful and fun facet to engage students.



A room full of inquisitive students at AABE's STEM BEAM program at U of M is a good thing.

Volunteer Spotlight

Sharika Hollingsworth: Wonder Woman

Faster than a speeding bullet? More powerful than a locomotive? Wrong superhero! How about jumping tall challenges in a single bound? Juggling multiple roles? Or, able to coordinate a steering committee, key persons and fundraising campaigns while raising two small kids? In other words, she's Wonder Woman!

Sharika Hollingsworth is well known around MLGW as the recent chairperson of our United Way Campaign, an Operation Feed co-chair and one of Treasury Management's leading lights. But she started at MLGW 11 years ago as a Cliff Dates Association (CDA) contract worker in Corporate Security in 2007-8 before becoming a permanent full-time employee in the Transportation department in 2009. Sharika headed back to Revenue Protection before beginning her current stint in Treasury Management six years ago (2012).

"Since I have been at MGLW, I have had the opportunity to meet some great people, enhance my personal skills, become part of various associations, and participate in countless events, projects and charities," says Sharika.

Truly, she started volunteering at MLGW when she was still a contract employee, getting involved with the Bowl-A-Thon and MLGW's United Way Golf Tournament early on. Her Revenue Protection supervisor, David Staggs, retired, was heavily involved in organizing the Golf Tournament for years, and he got her interested in helping out.

When she became a full-time employee, she ramped it up. "Once hired, I transitioned into the role of key person for numerous activities," Sharika recalls. "Operation Feed, United Way, Junior Achievement, Salvation Army Angel Tree... I volunteered for charity events such as the Plus-1 Telethon, Race to Care, and fundraising walks like American Diabetes, Breast Cancer and March of Dimes. After a couple of years, I also joined the planning committees for MLGW's Family Day, our Council of Administrative Professionals (COAP), the International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP)



Sharika Hollingsworth

and most recently, the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE)."

Sharika's main squeeze is United Way. She has been involved since helping out with the Golf Tournament when in Revenue Protection. She just celebrated the end of her term as chair of MLGW's United Way Campaign Steering Committee after several years of involvement in the campaign.

Sharika became involved with United Way through her current manager, Anne Walk, and co-worker, Terrell Davis, in 2012. "They talked me into becoming

Key Person for the department," she remembers. "At first, I was hesitant because I had other volunteer activities, I was in school and I was pregnant with my first child. But my influential co-workers persuaded me. So, I attended Key Person Training and was very interested. During the meeting, one of the Steering Committee members strongly suggested that I become part of the Steering Committee. So I did, the next year."

Leading up to each campaign, the committee meets each week. They get training, plan campaign components, coordinate area meetings, arrange for guest speakers and make appeals for donations through payroll. It keeps you busy. And Sharika had another baby while on the Steering Committee, juggling many responsibilities while pregnant.

"After a couple of years, I figured I'd just rotate off the Steering Committee and get some rest, but during my second year on the committee, a couple of people talked to me about becoming campaign co-chair," Sharika muses. "My response? OH NO! Shortly after, I was asked by the upcoming chair, Juanita Ford-Boothe. Again, I was hesitant because I didn't want the responsibility of becoming chair the following year. So, I told her to let me think about it. My friend, Carolyn Dickinson (retired) strongly encouraged me. I thought and prayed about it and eventually accepted the offer. A year later, I became the chair!"

The chair works the hardest, coordinating training, communications, meetings and speakers; ordering “leadership gifts, step-increase gifts” and giveaways; working with IT and Payroll (for payroll deductions and generating reports); recruiting Key Persons and the Steering Committee and training them from August through October; and choosing special events as fundraisers during the campaign. “The Steering Committee called their training ‘boot camp,’” Sharika recalls with a laugh. “And working as chairperson, it’s like being a CEO.”

Her favorite volunteer event is United Way’s Days of Caring, which became a weeklong event this past year in September. “My co-chair and I had to coordinate that week with different United Way agencies each day. We had to get volunteers for each project, make sure they had the necessary tools, safety equipment, hornet spray, water, snacks, etc.,” Sharika remembers.

“Days of Caring allows us to be face-to-face with the people we help every year. The look of true happiness in the faces of those you impact and the immeasurable level of their gratitude is priceless, heartwarming and inspiring,” she says.

But the campaign was a hard row to hoe. “To complicate matters,” Sharika says, “I was in grad school working on my Masters in Finance which I completed this past December.”

And Sharika’s special event brainstorm proved to be a challenge. “I was sitting in the United Way office trying to figure out how to raise more money when it came to me: A fashion show! I immediately called Jovan Harris and challenged her to assist me in putting together a show in just three weeks. I had to train models (something Sharika has experience with), select retail stores and choose clothes, find a venue and catering (U of M Holiday Inn), cultivate vendors and pull off the show in mid-December.” She even modeled in the show herself. And of course, it was a success, raising \$4,600.

It was also “sapping.” Overworked, after the show and the non-stop campaign, she caught the flu and just shut down.



But Sharika was only off sick for a week. The icing on the cake came at United Way’s Best of the Best Awards on May 1. Sharika, Bryan Hutton (co-chair), the Steering Committee, Campaign Representatives, VP, Engnrng. and Ops., Alonzo Weaver, Michael Starks (Corporate Security, Manager) and two MLGW presidents attended: Our new President and CEO J.T. Young, and recently retired President Jerry Collins. The awards proceeded, with nary a nod to MLGW. Faces drooped as the last award came up, then elation! MLGW’s United Way Campaign had just earned the top award, Best of the Best for a Large Company. The celebrations began...

After wrapping up her chairmanship, Sharika has not stopped for a moment. She is her own renewable energy source.

Recently, she pushed her two daughters in a stroller while walking in the Glynis Cancer Foundation Walk from the Administration Building to Bass Pro and back. She is also serving as one of the co-chairs for Operation Feed this year to help feed hungry people in the Mid-South. She continues to participate in countless charity events, and her volunteering will certainly continue. She has also agreed to thoroughly train and assist the upcoming chair and co-chair of the 2018-2019 United Way campaign.

“I volunteer for my daughter’s daycare center, my church, family events and continuously support United Way,” Sharika says. “I have also choreographed dance routines, coordinated plays and fashion shows with Carolyn’s Finishing Academy, Reflection’s Modeling Agency and F.A.C.E.S, and worked with 103.5 Talk with Middle School Girls to empower girls and discuss bullying. My most recent activities include working with Kids Town, modeling in a fashion show to benefit Arc of the Mid-South and various other activities.”

Her advice to volunteers? “Volunteer from your heart,” Sharika stresses. “Passion is what drives performance.

One person can make a difference in countless lives. What do I get from volunteering? The pure joy of seeing others smile.”

Of her countless volunteer events, Sharika says, “United Way has been my most memorable. I have so many heartfelt memories.”

Volunteer your time and give back to our community.

Volunteer Events Calendar

Join your co-workers and volunteer for these fun and rewarding MLGW volunteer events. Contact information is listed by each event with active, clickable email links.

June 2018

- Mid-South Transplant Foundation's 7th Annual "Ride for Life" Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Bike Ride – June 24, 7 a.m., Memorial Park (5668 Poplar at I-240). MLGW Power Riders will participate. Contact: **Mary White**, Employee Activities, 528-4878 or mlwhite@mlgw.org

August 2018

- MLGW Neighborhood Leaders Conference – August 10, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., MLGW University, 4949 Raleigh-LaGrange. **Beverly Perkins**, Communications & PR, 528-4820 or bperkins@mlgw.org
- Delta Fair – August 31 - September 9, various times. Agricenter International. Contact: **Stacey Greenberg**, Communications and PR, 528-4821 or commrelations@mlgw.org

September 2017

- 43rd Annual WLOK Stone Soul Picnic – September 1, 12-7 p.m. Levitt Shell in Overton Park. Contact: **Stacey Greenberg**, Communications and PR, 528-4821 or commrelations@mlgw.org
- United Way Days of Caring – September 10-14. Volunteer project locations TBA. Contact: **Bryan Hutton**, Reliability and Power Quality, 528-3130 or bhutton@mlgw.org
- American Diabetes Association's Step-Out Walk – Saturday, September 22. Memphis Botanic Garden. Contact: **Tiffany Crumpton**, Employee Activities, 528-4245 or tcrumpton@mlgw.org

Z-Bo Plus-1

Though he's no longer a Memphis Grizzly, Zach Randolph still believes in helping out those in need in his hometown Memphis community, making his annual MIFA/MLGW Plus-1 donation of \$20,000 in January. The donation will provide utility assistance to 100 Memphis-area households.

Randolph now plays NBA basketball for the Sacramento Kings after several years with the Grizzlies. He started making large annual Plus-1 donations to MIFA's Plus-1 program for one-time utility assistance several years ago. Playing for the Kings has not changed Z-Bo's commitment to his hometown Memphis community. He also announced a new partnership with MIFA called the Zach4Families Fund to help prevent homelessness and stabilize families. We say, "Thanks, and go Z-Bo!"



Z-Bo is pictured next to retired MLGW president Jerry Collins Jr. and MIFA President Sally Heinz.

Heart Walk: Warmed Up and Ready

Springtime, when a young person's thoughts turn to the Heart Walk? This year, perhaps so – especially since the American Heart Association changed its annual fundraising walk from November to April. MLGW walkers joined in as participants gathered at AutoZone Park on April 28 to walk and run around Downtown Memphis and raise funds for AHA.



*MLGW walkers prepared for the AHA Heart Walk with a couple of days of warm-ups held in the Administration Building lobby due to inclement weather. **Kenneth Lee**, Mgmt. Actng., and **Kenny Mukes**, Building Svcs. and Grounds, tried a little hula hoop workout to get in shape.*



*Heading up Union Avenue to Front Street in the AHA Heart Walk on a beautiful April morning are MLGW walkers (ctr) **Portia Williams**, System Ops., and **Renee Daniel**, Legal Svcs.*



*Getting ready to start the AHA Heart Walk at AutoZone Park are MLGW walkers (l-r) **Portia Williams**, System Ops.; **Renee Daniel**, Legal Svcs.; **Arnisa Davis**, Customer and GIS; **Liz Williams**, Data Analytics and Software Integr.; and **Natasha Taylor**, Business Proc. Engrng.*

School and Community Speakers Needed

MLGW Communications and Public Relations receives numerous requests for school speakers in the fall. Employees are needed to talk to students at area schools about careers, energy/water conservation, renewable energy, safety, natural gas, electric distribution and many other topics. Days and times vary. Contact **Kim Bond** at kbond@mlgw.org or 528-4639 if you would like to volunteer.



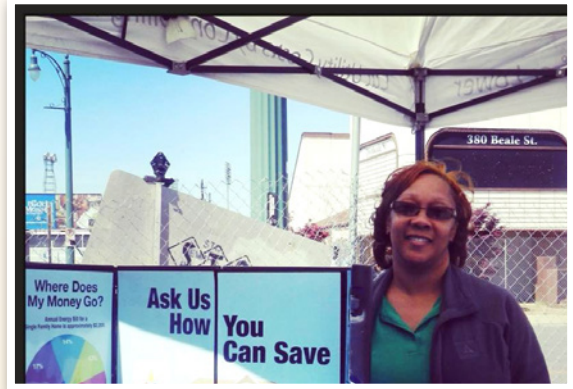
***Jordan Rudolph**, Water Engrng., talks to students at Cornerstone School about utility design and safety.*

Volunteer Views

Photos of MLGW volunteers are viewable on your home computer or mobile device in our volunteer photo albums at www.flickr.com/photos/mlgwpix/albums.



Bartlett High Career Day: Ricky Truitt, Construction and Maintenance Tool Room, talked to students at Bartlett High School on their Career Day about opportunities at MLGW.



Guinea in April: This year's Africa in April Festival held April 18-22 in Church Park honored Equatorial Guinea, and MLGW volunteers like **Verlie Cowan**, Elec. Engrng Ops. Mgr's Ofc., were there to hand out energy-saving information and talk to visitors.



Southern Women: MLGW's Residential Services department presented the EnergySmart program to those attending the Southern Women's Show in March. Energy Techs **Morcellous Harris** and **Vidale Cothran** demonstrate how to improve a home's energy usage through weatherization methods.



Southern Women: The Southern Women's Show is always a great place to share messages about energy savings and lowering utility bills. MLGW volunteers **Tammy Been'e**, Reliability and Power Qual., and **Jackie Williams**, Customer Service North, talk to a customer about thermostat settings and energy usage at the MLGW booth.



Home Show: Staffing MLGW's booth at the Mid-South Home Show February 9-11 is **Joe Byrd**, Cust. Metering/Billing Mgr's Ofc., offering advice on smart energy usage and reducing utility bills.

Volunteer Views



AABE Golf: MLGW's AABE volunteers organize the AABE Golf Tournament in the fall as one of the fundraising events to help fund scholarships for deserving students.



Bon Lin Terminator: MLGW's Terminator, aka **Earnest Holliday**, Elec. Dist. - HHSC, and the Terminator truck visited Bon Lin School, making the day for the kids in school there while teaching them about electric safety.



Bowl-A-Thon: When you hit a strike, you dance. It's that simple, as bowling cheerleader **Glynis Finnie**, Elec. Dist. Suppt., demonstrates.

Volunteer Views



InventHER: MLGW volunteers **Kerry Roy**, Enviro. Engrng., and **Angela Carter**, Work Mgmt. Proc. Align., spoke to groups of female students about careers in utilities and MLGW at the InventHER Conference at ServiceMaster’s new Peabody Place headquarters.



Home Show: A visitor to MLGW’s booth at the Mid-South Home Show in February tries his hand at the spinning energy wheel to win a prize while MLGW volunteer **Chandrika Harrison**, CCC, talks to his wife about energy-saving strategies.



Distracted Driving Walk: In an effort to stop dangerous distracted driving, the fourth annual Mid-South Distracted Driving Walk was held downtown in November starting at AutoZone Park. In the center holding a T-shirt is **TJ Redmond**, CCC, one of the organizers. You can see several MLGW employees scattered throughout. The walk benefits victims of distracted driving car crashes and the C.A.R.E.S. road safety program in local schools.