Inside the National Urban League Conference 2012

Data News Exclusive
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Data News Exclusive with NUL President Marc Morial

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By Edwin Buggage

National Urban League: Over a Century Fighting Against Injustice
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Many groups and courageous individuals have fought injustice and racial repression during the journey of African-Americans in this country; and one of those organizations continues to fight the righteous fight after a century of its existence and is still giving the clarion call into action. The National Urban League, headed by Marc Morial is at the forefront of the issues that face African-Americans and people who are disenfranchised. He and leaders from across the country will converge on New Orleans for its annual conference that will take place from July 25th-28th.

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Occupy the Vote: Employment and Education Empower the Nation

“The theme of the 2012 Conference is “Occupy the Vote: Employment and Education Empower the Nation.” Since the beginning of 2011 - more than half a century after the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 - 41 states have passed or are considering legislation that would impose unreasonable voting restrictions or absurd penalties limiting the registration process. As many as 5 million Americans, disproportionately minorities, senior citizens and young people, could be disenfranchised this year,” Morial says of the conference and what he feels is the pressing issue facing African-Americans and other disenfranchised persons during this election year.

As he is in the middle of a heated re-election campaign, President Barack Obama will give the opening address at this year's conference. Morial states that the NUL has had a productive and amiable relationship, “This is the third time we've welcomed President Obama to our Conference. The first time he spoke as a candidate in 2008, and we welcomed him again in 2010 for our Centennial Conference. We've enjoyed a productive relationship with President Obama and I'm proud that he recognizes that the National Urban League Conference occupies a singular echelon in America's cultural and political discourse. He's not only sharing his vision with our Movement, but listening and learning about our vision as well.”

While the country is gradually recovering from the global economic slowdown, segments of Black America are finding the American Dream slipping out of their reach, a point not lost on Morial as he speaks of the major issues facing Black America, “As the nation struggles towards a financial recovery, public investments in education, job training and job growth are more vital than ever. Yet those very investments are targeted for sacrifice in favor of diverting more and more of the nation's resources to those at the very top of the economic pyramid. At the same time, a coordinated effort is underway to exclude from the political process the very citizens whose futures hang in the balance.”

As this nation found itself four years ago celebrating its triumph over negativity and polarization in the political process, and where a nation voted for hope and change. At the end of 2008 what was thought of as a new frontier and spirit of progressive politics has made a 180. This is a troubling trend according to Morial, as he speaks of what the National Urban League is doing to combat this recent spate of events that is trying to keep people away from the polls, “Earlier this year we launched our “Occupy the Vote” campaign to educate the nation about restrictive new voting laws, and to push back against voter suppression. Our Occupy the Vote online election center can be found on www.IAmEmpowered.com. We've brought to light the secretive relationship among the American Legislative Exchange Council, which developed and advocated much of this legislation on the state level, and as a result ALEC has lost a great number of its corporate partnerships. Most recently, the National Urban League Policy Institute released a new report, “The Hidden Swing Voters: Impact of African-Americans in 2012.” The report takes an in-depth look at the effect of the Black vote and how much is at stake.”

Activism in the 21st Century: A Call to Action

The U.S. is a country that still grapples with race. While less so than in the days past, but it is the old ogre that continues to rear its ugly head in attempts to turn back the hands of time. It is vital for the leaders of our Movement to work together with the broad-based community to bring to light issues of injustice or wrongdoing.
National Urban League Empower the Nation Speakers and Honorees

The National Urban League conference this year presents unique opportunities to experience the invaluable perspectives of business, political, and community leaders; connect with companies looking for savvy entrepreneurs and sharp business minds; and learn how to achieve true and lasting prosperity. Here are some of the many national leaders in business, community service, education and politics who will be featured at the event.

Warren Ballentine
Author, Political Activist and Radio Talk Show Host
Dr. Donna Brazile
Founder and Managing Director
Brazile Associates, Inc.
Deirdre Johnson Burel
Executive Director
OPEN NOLA
Dr. Michael Eric Dyson
Professor
Georgetown University
Deborah Elam
Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer
General Electric
Kim Fields
Actress, Television Director/Producer
Sheriff Marlin N. Gusman
Sheriff
Orleans Parish
John D. Hofmeister
Chairman
National Urban League
Mayor Mitchell Landrieu
Mayor
New Orleans
Senator Mary Landrieu
Senator
Tanya L. Lombard
Assistant VP, Public Affairs
AT&T
Dr. Calvin Mackie
Founder
Channel Zer0
Ronald Mason
President
Southern University System
Jon D. Johnson
Councilmember
District “E”, New Orleans
Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.
Founder and President
The RainbowPush Coalition
The Honorable Bernette Johnson
Justice
Louisiana Supreme Court
Alden J. McDonald, Jr.
President and CEO
Liberty Bank
Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League
Sybil Morial
Educator, Community Activist, and Businesswoman
Arthel Neville
Anchor
FOX News
The Honorable Barack Obama
President
United States of America
Congressman Cedric Richmond
Congressman
Louisiana, 2nd Congressional District
Dr. Doris Roché-Hicks
Superintendent
Friends of King School District
Nolan Rollins
CEO
Urban League of Greater New Orleans
Reverend Al Sharpton
Founder and President
National Action Network

Members, associates and friends of the National Urban League welcome to New Orleans for the 2012 National Urban League Conference.

We wish you a safe, successful, enjoyable and enlightening conference.
HERE’S YOUR PASSPORT TO THE N.U.L. EXPERIENCE EXPO HALL

2012 NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE CONFERENCE

Visit the N.U.L. Experience Expo Hall that has fun for the entire family...and it’s FREE to attend and no I.D. is required! It features exhibitors with giveaways, games, information and resources for YOU! Be sure to check out: the Empowerment Zone, complete with the National Urban League Centennial Exhibit taking you on an interactive tour of our 100 year history, an Occupy the Vote Booth, an Empowerment Stage with entertainment and celebrity-filled Empowerment Seminars, and the I AM Empowered Photo Booth.

The Volunteer Zone is where you can give back to the great City of New Orleans by participating in volunteer activities including assembling back packs for students, and the Health Zone is where you can receive screenings. Be sure to enter the Passport Challenge by visiting as many booths as possible for a chance to win an iPad, flat screen TV and more! The first 500 people to complete the Passport Challenge will receive a pair of tickets to see Chaka Khan, Doug E. Fresh and Biz Markie on Thursday, July 26th!

EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR SCHEDULE

**Boys 2 Men: Empowering African American Males with Dr. Alduan Taritt**

**THURSDAY, JULY 26, 3:30 PM–4:30 PM**

In this conversation, hear from men who have achieved their dreams as they reflect upon common struggles and hopes every man encounters along the journey to success. Learn how they surpassed socioeconomic and personal barriers (health, employment, housing and education) and get empowered to reshape your future. This panel is also for women who want to empower the men in their lives.

**Facing Your Financial Fears**

**FRIDAY, JULY 27, 1:00 PM–2:00 PM**

This seminar provides attendees with wealth-building and financial literacy lessons. Join our esteemed panelists to learn essential investment strategies to build your personal wealth, as well as discuss the tools and resources to fund entrepreneurial endeavors and fuel the growth of small businesses.

**Empower Your Mind, Body and Soul with Mikki Taylor**

**FRIDAY, JULY 27, 2:30 PM–3:30 PM**

Women face universal obstacles as well as unique difficulties and challenges. In this inspirational session, a panel of empowered, successful sisters will share their insights and knowledge on health, education, family, and career in balancing it all towards creating a healthier you.

**Fitness Special with Donna Richardson Joyner**

**FRIDAY, JULY 27, 3:30 PM–4:00 PM**

“I’ve a Love Thang” Relationship Seminar

**SATURDAY, JULY 28, 1:00 PM–2:00 PM**

Join our professional panelists of men and women as they discuss what it takes to go from attracting the perfect partner and falling in love to sustaining marriage when faced with money and career challenges. Hear successful love stories and learn where people are meeting their soul mates from online dating and matchmaking services to the local church.

**Transforming Your Life, Reclaiming Your Power with Kim Fields**

**SATURDAY, JULY 28, 3:00 PM–4:00 PM**

The capacity to thrive is within us all. No matter where you are along your journey, whether you’re starting over or living your dream, join our panelists to hear their testimonies on realizinggreater success. From obstacles they have overcome to the wisdom that helped them to achieve their goals, learn their strategies to help you to transform your life. This motivating session promises to set you on the path to reclaiming your personal power.

Empowerment Seminars Sponsored By:

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National Urban League

I am EMPOWERED by the NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

CENTENE Corporation

Shell
If you have photos of parties or events you would like to run in DATA, please send to datanewsad@bellsouth.net for inclusion.

Celebrating “Uncle” Lionel Batiste

Photos by Glenn Summers

People from all over the world are mourning the loss of “Uncle” Lionel Batiste. Recently, there was a local celebration of his life and legacy at Sweet Lorraine’s and Data News Weekly was there.
The MillerCoors Urban Entrepreneurs Series is ready to award $150,000 in business grants. Are you ready to compete?

Enter your business plan for a chance to win and potentially become a MillerCoors supplier.

For official rules and entry guidelines, as well as to learn more about MUES winners, visit www.MillerCoorsMUES.com.
As Publisher of the New Orleans Data News Weekly I welcome those to our great City for the 2012 National Urban League Conference. I begin by saying that we have a lot of work to do, we are in the midst of a Presidential election year and our City and nation are facing many challenges. We cannot allow the hands of time to be turned back for we have come too far. So I advise you to get out and be civically involved. This is not simply a plea to go out and vote, but to stay abreast of the issues that affect your community and become part of the solutions to many of the problems that plague our communities across America.

But while there are things we have to do in addressing the problems in our community, this is also a time for us to celebrate our progress. For today in 2012 African-Americans are doing things that were unthinkable only a half century ago. Today a young African-American can say with some amount of certainty that through hard work they can become whatever they desire in life even the President of the United States. We have made great leaps and bounds and today we can aspire to reach higher.

The question for us today is not only access but ownership. Today economics, education and rebuilding the family unit are the most important issues for us moving forward. These are the things that will lead to us being empowered as a community. We must use this conference as an opportunity to network with one another and begin supporting each other and let monies circulate inside our community and share resources and information. We must begin to lift each other up and understand that if we are unified we are stronger as a people.

We at Data News Weekly continue to be true to our motto, as being The People’s Paper, and we are glad to partner with the National Urban League and hope that this conference bring about a recommitment to us understanding the importance of supporting each other in our endeavors. And I say that because with our collective wealth according to the “Buying Power of Black America” it is estimated at 836 billion dollars per year. So if we were to begin to spend a larger portion of our money with each other there would be no limit to the things we could accomplish as a people. So I say again welcome to New Orleans and please sample the food, music and culture of America’s most African and international City. Have a good time and use this time to be inspired to making a difference.

Terry B. Jones
Publisher

Nielsen applauds the National Urban League’s celebration of empowerment initiatives during their 2012 Annual Conference.

Scan the QR code to join our mailing list. We’ll email you our newsletter, great information, coupons and special offers.
of time where America was a place when all could not dine at the table of liberty and freedom. Morial acknowledges that some of the vestiges of racial intolerance still remain, but is optimistic about the future of African American race relations. “Unfortunately, during the Presidential primary campaign earlier this year, we saw candidates linking race with welfare and food stamps and blaming a lack of work ethic. So I think we have to admit we have some work to do. But I think we’re seeing that racial differences seem to matter less to each successive generation. While we will never forget the harsh lessons of history, those who have grown up in a post-Jim Crow Society have less tolerance for discrimination. The election of the first African-American President has been an enormous milestone, but that alone is not enough to wipe out racism in one fell swoop. I believe we’re achieving a fully inclusive society step by step, from the classroom to the boardroom.”

The struggle for civil and human rights is less of a sprint and more of a marathon. Morial advises that it is important to be very vigilant to organize and stay involved in issues that impact your community and that may make the difference giving voice or bring to light issues of injustice or wrongdoing. “The most important recent example of the importance of civic action has been the tragic death of Trayvon Martin. Civic activism kept the issue of Trayvon’s killing alive, and it was only after months of activism that authorities finally revisited the case and made an arrest. Through civic action, we have inspired states to revisit their “Shoot First” laws, which have resulted in increased gun violence throughout the country. Civic action spurred the corporate partners of the American Legislative Exchange Council to withdraw their support. We can, and do, effect positive change in the world.”

The National Urban League is still relevant after a century and is moving forward addressing and leading the charge into the 21st Century. “For more than 100 years, the National Urban League has been committed to economic empowerment, and advocating for the nation’s underserved communities. Through our network of 98 affiliates, the National Urban League movement empowered more than 2.6 million individuals who avoided foreclosure, found a job or received job training, participated in a wellness program or received lifesaving medical screening, earned a scholarship or found their way toward the economic mainstream,” says Morial of its continued mission.

While the Civil Rights Movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King was centered on public accommodations and access today the social landscape have changed and the issues of the 21st Century are similar yet there are stark contrast from 50 years ago, “The cutting-edge issues for the urban community and the Civil Rights Movement today are economic issues. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King didn’t fight simply for racial equality under the law. He fought for economic equality. His final speech, in which he told us, “I’ve been to the mountaintop,” was delivered in support of striking sanitation workers in Memphis. In a less remembered part of that speech, he mentions that, on the Road to Jericho, the Levite asked, and “If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?” But the Good Samaritan asked, “If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?” An even more important question for our time is: “What will happen to the nation?” As Dr. King said, “Let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge, to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation.”

National Urban League Helps in the Rebuilding of New Orleans

This is more than an annual conference for Marc Morial, it is a homecoming for a man whose family is known for service, his mother Sybil Haydel-Morial and father Ernest “Dutch” Morial were trailblazers in many areas of Civil Rights. His father was a man of many firsts eventually elected the City’s first African-American Mayor and Marc was to also serve as Mayor from 1994-2002. Of his native City he says, “One of the things I miss most about New Orleans is the food! Of course, I miss my family and my friends. The people of New Orleans are the most resilient, community-minded people in the country, and I think the rebirth of the City really reflects that. You’ll recall that in the aftermath of Katrina, the National Urban League issued a Katrina Victims Bill of Rights, calling for a compensation fund, disaster unemployment assistance...
City Departments Teamed With Citizens and Community Organizations to Make Major Improvements

Approximately 200 volunteers joined City agencies, the New Orleans Police and Fire Departments and community organizations for the first “NOLA FOR LIFE Volunteer Day” on Saturday, July 14, 2012. The event was coordinated through ServeNOLA, the Mayor’s service and volunteerism initiative, and is a part of Mayor Mitch Landrieu’s NOLA FOR LIFE plan.

“We put out the call and the community responded,” said Mayor Landrieu. “This event was successful because the City, local neighborhood organizations, local non-profits and volunteers from throughout New Orleans worked together to achieve our goal of revitalizing these communities and making them safer.”

Volunteer efforts targeted the areas around Taylor Playground in the Hoffman Triangle neighborhood of Central City and Har din Playground in the Seventh Ward. Activities included improvements to both playgrounds, and neighborhood beautification along the surrounding streets within the designated borders. In all, volunteers built five picnic tables and four park benches, cleared 21 catch basins, filled 119 bags of trash, collected five tires and three mattresses, painted 12 utility poles and replaced two basketball nets. Volunteers also painted the baseball diamond and power washed the basketball court at Taylor Park.

In addition to the volunteers’ work to improve playgrounds and clean up neighborhoods, the effort included blight eradication and beautification efforts from City departments including Code Enforcement & Hearings Bureau, NOPD (Quality of Life officers), Sanitation, NORD, Public Works, Parks & Parkways, Sheriff’s Office, Office of Neighborhood Engagement and Mosquito, Rodent & Termite Control Board. In all, the City repaired 14 streetlights, towed 16 abandoned cars, towed one boat, filled 290 potholes, cleared 36 debris sites, replaced one street sign and closed out 311 work orders. The New Orleans Mosquito, Termite & Rodent Control sprayed for mosquitoes and treated 42 catch basins. And finally, JOBI offered 30 summer jobs to youth and registered several youth for career centers.

The City also demolished two blighted properties: 1978-80 N. Dorgenois 2715 S. Galvez Rebuilding Together New Orleans, Hands on New Orleans, the Young Leadership Council and Rouse’s partnered with the City of New Orleans in this effort.

Nearly 200 Volunteers Participated In First “Nola For Life Volunteer Day”
President Obama to Open National Urban League 2012 Annual Conference in New Orleans

The opening address at the National Urban League’s 2012 Conference will be delivered by President Barack Obama. The President will address the Conference on Wednesday, July 25, at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. “We’re thrilled and proud to welcome the President to our Annual Conference for the third time,” said Marc H. Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League. “It has become a tradition for Presidents and major-party candidates to address the conference, not only to share their agenda for the nation, but also to hear ours.”

National Urban League Annual Conference occupies a singular echelon in America’s cultural and political discourse, Morial said. The nation’s largest civil rights and social justice conference attracts thousands of the nation’s most influential community leaders, together with top policymakers, academicians, business leaders and artists for three days of dynamic dialogue, intellectual exchange and community service.

The Conference has been the only event of its kind to feature both major-party presidential nominees during each of the last several elections and attracted a majority of primary contenders in 2008, including Hillary Clinton, John Edwards and Mike Huckabee. In 2004, both George H. W. Bush and John Kerry addressed the Conference. Additionally, leading elected officials and cabinet secretaries have chosen to break major announcements at the conference. Education Secretary Arne Duncan, for example, unveiled the administration’s Equity Agenda during the 2010 Conference.

Mother’s Helpers To Dedicate Art To Family Of Slain Kipp Believe Student

Mother’s Helpers, a service agency that provides services to at-risk youth 9-17 years of age, will dedicate a room of art to the family of slain Kipp Believe student, Christine Marcellin, at Mother’s Helpers Learning Center, located at 7301 Downman Road, on Thursday, July 19, 10:00 a.m.

“Mother’s Helpers has hosted a teen camp for the past seven weeks and during our art sessions we have prepared canvases to be presented to the family in honor of Christine,” says Executive Director Jerrelfa Drummer Sanders. “Our curriculum has focused on behavior modifications, crime prevention, and citizen awareness. The profound impact that the student left upon the community was well worth this organization carrying on her message which youth empowerment and the motto ‘Live…Laugh…Love...’,” says Drummer Sanders. Christine’s mother, family, and other members of the community have been invited to attend. Crime Stoppers has also been invited to attend.

For more information, please contact Nakietha Walton at, 504.246.5045 or e-mail mhelpers@yahoo.com.
OPENING KICK OFF! "STATE OF THE URBAN LEAGUE" ADDRESS
With Marc H. Morial and Bishop Paul Morton
Thursday, July 26 at 9:30 AM
(doors open at 8:30 AM)

N.U.L. EXPERIENCE EXPO HALL AND EMPOWERMENT ZONE
Come on out to the N.U.L. Experience for THREE full days of exciting exhibits, giveaways, live entertainment, the National Urban League Centennial Exhibit, volunteer opportunities, and a Health Zone! Thursday, July 26 from 12:00 PM–5:00 PM
• Come to the Expo Hall on 7/26 and get a FREE pair of tickets to see Chaka Khan at the New Orleans arena that evening.
• Veterans Appreciation Day
Friday, July 27 from 11:00 AM–5:00 PM
• Empowerment Store Fashion Preview
Saturday, July 28 from 11:00 AM–4:30 PM
• Youth Empowerment Day

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE PROJECT READY COLLEGE FAIR
Saturday, July 28 from 11:00 AM–2:00 PM
Discover more than 60 colleges and universities as well as scholarship organizations that can assist in the college application and entrance process.

CAREER & NETWORKING FAIR, FEATURING THE "BRAND U STUDIO"
Looking for a new job? Come meet recruiters waiting to hire you!
Thursday, July 26 from 12:00 PM–5:00 PM
Friday, July 27 from 11:00 AM–5:00 PM
Saturday, July 28 from 11:00 AM–4:30 PM

FREE SHUTTLE BUSES to and from the Convention Center on 7/26, 7/27 and 7/28, picking up at the Mahalia Jackson Theater parking lot every 30 minutes from 10:50 AM–3:30 PM. The last shuttle leaves the Convention Center at 5:30 PM.

EMPOWERMENT SEMINARS FREE AND OPEN TO PUBLIC:
Thursday, July 26, 2012
Buy2Men: Empowering African American Males: 3:30 PM–5:00 PM
Friday, July 27, 2012
Facing Your Financial Fears: 1:00 PM–2:30 PM
Empower Your Mind, Body and Soul: 2:30 PM–4:00 PM with Elvin Ross, Kunta Kinteh Island: Coming Home Without Shackles
Donna Richardson Joyner—Fitness Special: 4:00 PM–4:30 PM
Saturday, July 28, 2012
"It's a Love Thang" Relationship Seminar: 1:00 PM–2:30 PM
Transforming Your Life, Reclaiming Your Power: 3:00 PM–4:30 PM with Kim Fields

MUSIC DAILY ON EMPOWERMENT STAGE WITH DJ CAPTAIN CHARLES!

ALL AT THE MORIAL CONVENTION CENTER
JULY 26–28, 2012
MORE INFO AT nul.org/conference
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER @NatUrbanLeague

Presented By:

National Urban League
nul.org/conference

EMPOWERED
I AM THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

Marc H. Morial, President & CEO National Urban League

Chaka Khan, Bishop Paul Morton, Kim Fields

Get a FREE PAIR OF TICKETS TO SEE CHAKA KHAN AT THE NEW ORLEANS ARENA! (FOR THE FIRST 500 PEOPLE TO GO THROUGH EXPO HALL ON JULY 26TH)