



# JUMP SHOT

## Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 4

November 2010

### NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

If you thought that we were just reflecting and resting during the fall and winter, you are absolutely wrong. Over the course of the fall and winter we are busy developing new and confirming existing venues, understanding and relating new rules, assisting community groups develop programs, and developing partnerships. I recently returned from the AAU National Convention where new rules governing sports programs were confirmed and ideas exchanged for improving and expanding existing programs.

At the end of their football season, the kids in the Old Town community were in need of a safe place in their own community to play basketball. I met with Donald "Ducky" Graves, President of the Old Town Gators Football organization, and his staff along with Reverend Dr. Ricky Spain, Pastor of Waters A.M.E. Church, and his Assistant Pastor, Rev. Harold McFadden, to discuss solutions to their dilemma. Waters A.M.E. Church, which is located at 417 N. Asquith Street, has a gymnasium that has gone unused for 10 years. Reverend Spain committed to making the gymnasium available to the organization for sports and education programs. With the needed repair of a few broken windows, the installation of bathrooms, and the commitment of community volunteers, the gym will open from 6-9 p.m. during weekdays. An opening date is yet to be determined. AAU will sanction athletic events and continue to lend its support to help the Old Town Gators build a viable program. With church coffers shrinking because members can no longer afford to donate as much or as frequently as they use to, turning on the lights and providing heat to the Waters Church gymnasium for kids that have no affiliation with the church is a bold and awesome humanitarian effort by Reverend Spain. Waters has done what churches have always done in our community and that is making a way out of no way.

The human and financial resource needs are just too great for one entity to effectively serve the needs of a large and

diverse community. This partnership reminds me of growing up on Baltimore's east side where the unemployed, the steel worker, the garbage collector, the doctor and the teacher all lived in the same community. If a neighbor needed a cup of sugar, he/she knocked on a neighbor's door or called across the back fence to make the request. The neighbor may have had only two cups of sugar, but never disclosed that when handing over the one cup that was requested. The request was never made with a request for repayment because the following week, the shoe might have been on the other foot or the empty cup might have been in the other hand. That sense of community must return in abundance if we are to nurture, protect, and help our youth participate in organized and safe programs in our struggling communities.



**Benjamin DuBose**  
Director, Boys Basketball

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Every two years AAU holds its national convention to vote on new legislation, to institute new rules governing various sports, to elect officers, to encourage and motivate participants in their roles as volunteers for the youth of America, and to just have fun. After the wonderful experience at the luxurious JW Marriott and Casa Magna Marriott Resort and Spa in Cancun, Mexico in 2008, the location was key to the level of excitement for the 2010 convention. The 122<sup>nd</sup> AAU National Convention was held at the beautiful Caribe Hilton San Juan in San Juan, Puerto Rico where the horizon met the Atlantic Ocean, the breeze off of the water was to die for, and the coffee and hot milk was unusual, but delicious. The months of careful planning by the National AAU staff resulted in the Tuesday Freebe Carnival filled with games, prizes, food and drink, three outstanding speakers in Judge Glenda Hatchett, Len Elmore and Robert F. Kanaby, several receptions, luncheons and dinners, fifty five exhibitors, and over 50 symposiums and committee meetings. Over 800 participants attended the convention representing 53 Districts.

The Boys Basketball Committee instituted new rules that will govern boys basketball in 2011. The first and most significant is the eligibility rule. Eligibility is no longer governed by age. It is now governed by grade, which is not new to most of the country. The west and mid-west regions of the country already conduct grade based tournaments and leagues. Eastern states have some catching up to do. It has been standard procedure across the country for girls basketball to conduct grade based tournaments and leagues. Secondly, prep school exceptions were abolished. Under the old rule senior boys who had graduated high school, but had not turned 19 were eligible to play as long as they were attending or planned to attend a prep school. Those players will no longer be permitted to participate.



**Book Signing** Ryoko Nole is among the 100 conference attendee to receive autographed copy of Hatchett's book



**Book Signing** Tracy Estep receives autographed copy of Dare to Take Charge

There was standing room only for host of the Judge Hatchett Show and best selling author Glenda Hatchett who was the keynote speaker at the Convention's Compliance Seminar. Judge Hatchett opened with the Paul Robeson quote, "The battle is everywhere and there is no sheltered rear." With humor and stories about her children's participation in sports and her reactions to particular occurrences, Judge Hatchett's message emphasized educating, protecting and mentoring our kids. Several statements and examples caught my attention including, "We don't want anybody working with our youth that you wouldn't want spending time with your children, grandchildren, nephew or niece." "We spend more money on locking up kids, she said, than it costs to provide them a college education and if it were not for people like AAU volunteers, a whole lot more children would come before a judge."

Judge Hatchett closed by saying "AAU is in the business of opportunities, possibilities and inspiring our children to sore. You dare to make a difference. There is no sheltered rear." After a standing ovation and a book signing of 100 of her latest publication Dare to Take Charge, which was awarded to audience members by President Bobby Dodd and AAU, Judge Hatchett came back to offer a challenge to the audience. The challenge was to encourage children to have big and bold dreams. She recommended going to the [www.parentpowernow.com](http://www.parentpowernow.com) website and clicking on the million dreams campaign. Print it out and ask each child what is their dream for life and

what are they going to do after they retire. Ask them to tape their answer on the ceiling over their bed. This message should be the first thing they see in the morning and the last thing they see at night. She ended by saying “people who focus on their dreams are less likely to get caught up in the craziness of the streets.”



CEO Elmore enjoys a light moment with McCarroll Nole & Benjamin DuBose prior to addressing audience

Len Elmore, former University of Maryland and NBA star and current ESPN and CBS sports announcer and new Chief Executive Officer of iHOOPS addressed participants of the Youth Basketball Symposium with a focus on the merits of iHoop’s partnership with AAU. As part of the partnership, AAU will promote the iHoops education program and will encourage its member basketball coaches to participate in the online education program through [www.iHoops.com](http://www.iHoops.com). At iHoops.com can be found support services and programs for parents, players, coaches, officials and administrators of youth basketball. iHoops provide training techniques to enhance shooting, passing, ball handling and defense skills; classroom knowledge in areas like rules of the game; educational programs for coaches and officials, health and wellness tips for the body and mind; information on the importance of education, life skills, the value of the game, and much more. Coaches can find a variety of information and best practices for teaching the game, training tips, tools for team communication and other helpful information. “Our goal is to make a real difference within the youth basketball community,” said Elmore.

Among the many salient points made by Elmore, two were quite familiar as they are often made by District Governor, Ben DuBose. He stated that “sports has long been a pathway to education and a platform for teaching and parents too easily turn over the guidance of their kids to coaches, some of whom are the purveyors of delusion and confusion. “

At the Conference’s final working meeting votes were casted to elect officers to lead AAU for the next four years. Keynote speaker at the meeting was past Executive Director of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Robert F. Kanaby. Kanaby served in his position for 17 years and was the driving force behind the production of the NFHS Citizenship through Sports and Fine Arts Curriculum, which helped coaches impart values such as respect and sportsmanship into their daily lessons. The program served as the forerunner of the development of the NFHS Coach Education and Certification program presently endorsed by 43 state associations across the country. “Athletics is part of a young kid’s education, if they are conducted properly. The responsibility for sports in America is that of organizations like AAU and people like each of its members,” said Kanaby.

His address ended with a standing ovation. If you ever have the opportunity to hear this man speak, take it. His soft spoken, but powerful delivery is full of antidotes, humor, history and wisdom.



Awardees Thermon Bell, Bernard Young along with wife Darlene & Joyce Venable display district awards

AAU volunteers give unselfishly of their time, expertise and effort. Each year districts award at least one individual for their many contributions to their district and sports programs. The 2010 recipient from the Maryland District is Joyce Venable, who was presented the award at the Convention Banquet.

Each year the District Governor recommends to the AAU President at least one volunteer for his/her outstanding contributions to their district, sports programs, and the community at large. Bernard “Jack” Young and Thermon Bell were the 2010 recipients of the award, which was presented at the Convention Banquet.



## Bureau of Recreation and Parks, FCA and AAU Hold Clinic



**Clinic Presenters** Benjamin Dubose, Derrick Brown, Fred McCathorine, Mick Daniels & Randy Chambers strikes a pose prior to clinic

The Baltimore City Bureau of Recreation and Parks, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and AAU Boy’s Basketball partnered to hold a coaching clinic entitled Coaching with Excellence. The target audience was high school and youth basketball coaches. Spearheaded by Melvin Vines, Director of the Oliver Recreation Center, Patrick Gaines, Baltimore City Area Director for Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Benjamin DuBose, Director of AAU Boy’s Basketball, the Clinic focused on the business of coaching, skills and strategies, three dimensional coaching and new AAU rules. Derrick Brown, two-time MEAC coach of the year and head coach of Coppin University’s Lady Eagles, Mike Daniels, two time class 2A state champion at City College High School and former coach of NBA star Carmelo Anthony, Fred “Coach Mac” McCathorine, Program Director and coach for the Crusader Nation Youth Program, Randy Chambers, Mid Atlantic Coaches Ministry Director and Head Basketball Coach at Calvary Christian Academy, and Benjamin DuBose, Director of Boy’s Basketball for the Maryland District were presenters. The free clinic was held at the Oliver Recreation Center on Saturday, November 13 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. City Council President Bernard “Jack” Young dropped by to lend his support and said, “This is an outstanding clinic. The coach’s position of leadership and influence is very persuasive. Their influence has the power to change lives.”

*Children who are involved in sports usually do better in school and stay out of trouble.*

## Phelps speaks at Annual Banquet



**Walking & Talking** Debbie Phelps delivers powerful address from the floor at banquet

For months, beginning in early July, Antoinette DuBose met with her banquet committee to develop the District's 2010 Annual Banquet. Of the many tasks associated with developing the banquet, the most daunting was getting a speaker who athletes from any sport and between the ages of eight and nineteen would be interested in hearing. The Committee came to a unanimous decision to ask Debbie Phelps, Baltimore County middle school principal, highly sought after motivational speaker, two-time Science Teacher of the Year, mother of 14 time Olympic gold medal swimmer Michael Phelps, and recent author of *A Mother for All Seasons* to be the keynote speaker. The Committee was elated when Ms. Phelps accepted the Committee's invitation to speak at the 2010 banquet, which was held Sunday, November 14, 2010 at Martin's East. Ms. Phelps came down from the podium and walked down the aisles and between tables as she delivered an up close, personal, and moving address to 440 athletes, volunteers, coaches and parents. She related how her son Michael, as a nineteen year old Olympian, swam the 200 freestyle for the first time ever. He placed third. She was emotional as she told the story of him winning the gold medal in the 200 freestyle four years later in Athens Greece in 2004. Her message was athletes need to step out of their comfort zone and try something different. Ms. Phelps also related the story of her daughter Whitney who trained and competed while injured, only to disclose her injury and ask for medical attention at season's end. She encouraged athletes to tell coaches when they hurt. She urged coaches to listen to their players when they say they hurt and she encouraged parents to take their kids to the

doctor when they say they hurt. "We all make mistakes," she said. "We need to learn and teach from mistakes and not make the same mistake twice." Ms. Phelps closed by encouraging athletes to enjoy what they are doing, do well in school, keep their expectations high, and listen to their parents.

Ricardo Perry, Vice President of Student Affairs at Morgan State University, smoothly and elegantly delivered the program as the Master of Ceremony while former NBA player and current Morgan State University Athletic Director Floyd Kerr, and former NFL Super Bowl champion and current Director of Athletics at Coppin State University Derrick Ramsey presented awards and congratulated athletes, coaches and volunteers on their accomplishments in district, regional, and national competition.



**Awardees** Kevin Yu & Meg Stewart pose with Benjamin DuBose after receiving Mel Parker Award

Special awards were made to two outstanding athletes. Meg Stewart who participated in track and field and Kevin Yu who participated in boys basketball received the Melvin "Mel" Parker Award, which is awarded to one male and one female athlete who have achieved a high standard of performance in AAU-sanctioned and other sporting events. The award is based on participation in athletics, school and community activities, and qualities of leadership, character, and sportsmanship. The awards are presented annually in memory of past Maryland AAU District President and coach, Melvin "Mel" Parker.

**JUMP SHOT NEWSLETTER**

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**Jump Shot is an online publication.  
Printed copies are distributed  
to subjects of and contributors to articles.**

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