



**MPBP, INC.**  
MOTHERS OF PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL PLAYERS INC.

## Quarterly Newsletter | Winter 2023

# I.N.V.E.S.T.

Words from our president,  
Linda Shanklin



It is my pleasure and honor to provide a quarterly update on the state of MPBP, Inc. My tenure started with a relatively new board of directors. They were invigorating

and adaptive to the mantra INVEST. I.N.V.E.S.T. focuses on Integrating all members into equal partnership; **N**ever decreasing the value and power of the organization; **V**aluing and protecting the organization; **E**agerness to fulfill our mission, **S**eeking and securing financial opportunities, and to work as a **T**eam. To achieve **INVEST**, all board and committee seats must be filled with members matching the skill sets necessary to achieve the identified goals. Fifty percent of this objective has been completed with all board of directors' seats filled. Now, committee seats must be filled, and your help is needed.

Here is a synopsis of the accomplishments:

- Appointment of Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Secretary. Filling these two critical positions has helped to provide relief in responsibility, and greater clarity in financial reporting and communications, respectively.
- Formulation of the Executive Committee, ensuring that pressing issues are dealt with efficiently and effectively.
- The communication division is now staffed with two additional volunteer advisors aiding in technology and marketing.
- The Recruitment Director is very active. She has set the tone for a successful 2023 membership year. This arm of the organization is vital.

These are a few of the highlights MPBP, Inc is working on to continue to be an exemplary 501(c) 3. As we move towards new beginnings and opportunities, the board of directors seeks to fill vacant committee positions that include and not limited to; finance, long-range/strategic, governance/bylaws, fundraising/development, membership/recruitment, programs/special events/scholarships, communications and public relations. Remember, an organization is as strong as its governing body and membership. Your skills, time, and investment are needed.

-END-

## Newsletter Highlights

A Message the MPBP  
Inc. President

Chaplin's Corner

MPBP Honors

All-Star Weekend  
Events

Special Thanks

# CHAPLIN'S CORNER

BY SHELBY CLARK, MPBP INC. NATIONAL CHAPLAIN



Ephesians 4:3

Tells us, "To walk worthy of your calling. Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of love. Always to keep the unity of the Spirit and bind ourselves together with peace."

John 17:21

Jesus said, " My prayer is for all them is that they will be one, just as you and I are one."

Unity is very simple but can be very difficult as well. Being that God has given us all a mind and will of our own, that makes it hard sometimes to be on one accord. But nothing is impossible because, with God, all things are possible.

This is just a reminder that we can walk in unity. As we grow in this body, it's imperative we become unified.

## 4 Steps in Walking in Unity

Be One in Purpose

Be One in Spirit

Be One in Sentiment

Be One in Objective

God is honored when we are one. That helps us to fulfill any PURPOSE desired, The SPIRIT as a collective, any SENTIMENT agreed upon, and any OBJECTIVE needed to fulfill any goal.

Philippians 2:1-4

1 "Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy. 2 "fulfill my joy by being like-minded having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 "Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. 4"Let each of your look out not only for his own interests but also for the interests of others"

This affirmation I leave with you;

Our growth as a collective depends on Walking in Unity,  
I'm glad we are One. I need You, so stay strong in the Lord and remember I got your Back!

# MPBP HONORS

## INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY STACY ADAMS WRIGHT, HISTORIAN



### MPBP HONORS: SHEBA COFFEY

Sheba Coffey, a native New Yorker, is a luxury real estate pr. Licensed Realtor in PA, NY & GA, with a Luxury Home Certification and Seller Representative Specialist, Certified International Property Specialist Designations, and an experienced Luxury Short Term Rental Operator. She is a Success Coach and Transformational Speaker. She did a TED TALK entitled #Fearmovement. She was the Co-Chair of the Training Sub-Committee for the 2019 NCAA Minneapolis Final Four. She is the former Publisher of Women's Business Minnesota Magazine. She is a two-time recipient of the Minnesota People's Choice Awards for "Most Dynamic TV Show Host" and Executive Producer of a Movie Trivia Cable Game Show named Reel Experts. She is the author of many published articles and an Event Host. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism from the University of Minnesota along with a Master of Arts degree in Sports Management from Concordia University.

Sheba is involved in many volunteer efforts, including being a long-term volunteer Big Sister, Food Packer for Feed My Starving Children, Contributor to Women Resources of Monroe County in PA, Contributor to the Village of Hope in Ghana, Africa, Food Sorter for Atlanta Community Food Bank, Food Distributor for The Pantry in Atlanta and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She was formerly the Board Chair of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota and enjoyed serving as the Recruitment Director for Mothers of Professional Basketball Players. Having lived on three continents and traveled to 17 countries, she is a world traveler and basketball Mom and loves movies, investing, and life-long learning. She is most proud of being the Mother of 3 professional basketball players.

#### How did you hear about MPBP?

Janice Wofford, the Mother of Lou Williams, was a LA Clipper team Mom and told me about the organization during one of our LA Clippers team Zoom calls during Covid. She sent me a message in the chat, and we exchanged numbers. After we talked, she connected me to Mona Lawton, the president of MPBP at that time.

#### When did you become a member & how important is being a member?

I joined MPBP 3 years ago. With a lifetime commitment to public service, it is important to be a member because I believe in the mission of doing good in the communities where our children live, play, and work. In addition, I love teamwork, and we can do more good together working in larger numbers.

#### What is the most important/exciting thing about serving as the Recruitment Director?

The most important thing about serving as the Recruitment Director is investing in the organization by growing the SISTERHOOD and building relationships. I enjoy recruiting the Recruitment Committee members and the team effort of working with the Recruitment Committee (Daynia LaForce, Natalie Williams & Janet Cook). Never meeting any strangers, I am outgoing, excellent at communication and building relationships, and I enjoy increasing the membership of the SISTERHOOD/MPBP. I also enjoy sharing my experience and serving as a resource and connector so all Mothers of Professional Basketball Players can feel connected and supported by other Mothers who share the uniqueness of being Mothers of Professional Basketball Players and sometimes similar challenges that we can relate to, speak to, offer a shoulder to cry on or cry with, laugh together or listen and share experiences and solutions in a safe space. But, for me, the most important thing is the SISTERHOOD. I'm always ready to talk to anyone, anytime and any place. I have been recruiting as late as 12:34 AM, and even when I have lost my voice and can only whisper, I continue to recruit. The dynamic Mothers on the Recruitment Committee are big on teamwork, always available, and do a fantastic job recruiting and sharing responsibilities and support. The most exciting thing about recruiting is participating in in-person events, having fun, and lots of laughs, spending time getting to know the Moms, deepening relationships, and having new Mothers join right on the spot!

#### Could you tell me a fun fact about you?

I flew a plane (I have pictures to prove it, LOL), and I am the proud Mother of 3 Professional Basketball Players (2 daughters & 1 son).





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# DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOU!

Happy New Year, Everyone!

MPBP, Inc., is very excited about the upcoming year. Our membership has doubled, and our 2023 agenda is filled with exciting and life-changing events.

Be on the lookout for the launching of our first Women's Healthcare Initiative, "Don't forget about you"! Our kickoff will be held AllStar Weekend in Salt Lake City, Utah. Our President, Linda Shanklin, has made "Women Health" a priority for MPBP, Inc., and several events will be held throughout the year. So be on the lookout and join us!

Louise  
MPBP Inc., VP







**MPBP, INC.**  
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# DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOU!

Residents from the program will have a few hours to enjoy, fun, fitness & get information about NOT forgetting about themselves.

Contact:

Gina Johnson  
(510)798-9328

## YWCA

February 18, 2023  
3:00pm to 5pm  
322 E. 300 S  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111  
Lunch will be served





**MPBP, INC.**  
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# DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOU!

With our busy lives, surely it can be easy to forget about YOU. It's time we change the narrative, and make it a point to include ourselves on the calendar.

Our health has taken a back seat to being well. There are several ways we can incorporate a happy, & healthy lifestyle, into our schedules. We can start by creating a plan to be first. It's not selfish, it's necessary.

- Meal prep
- Exercise (Pilates, running, jog)
- Daily walks
- Meditate
- Read a great book
- Plan a weekend getaway
- Journaling
- Daily naps
- Hobbies (painting, knitting, crocheting, crafting, gardening)



Friday  
Meet & Greet  
6pm-8pm  
Marriott City Center  
220 State Street  
Salt Lake City, UT

Saturday Morning  
Mimosas & Shop  
Athleta Women's Sportswear  
500 S Main Street  
(City Creek Mall)  
Salt Lake City, UT

Saturday Afternoon  
YWCA  
Don't Forget About You  
Fitness & Fun  
322 E 300 S  
Salt Lake City, UT

# DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOU!

## FITNESS & FUN UNSCRAMBLE

1. GINDEAR

2. KALWING

3. TATMIAEED

4. SAKINTG

5. NITTKING

6. XINBOG

7. GOJ

8. LAUH PHOO

9. CISEXREE

10. NURNING

11. DINACGN

12. LATEPIS

13. TETSRCH

14. HETCCRO

15. NALJOURNG

16. PANS

17. INGPIANT

18. SERT

19. SHOIEBB

20. GRADEINNG

Answers at the end of the newsletter





## MPBP HONORS: ALBERDER HAMPTON GILLESPIE

**Please introduce yourself.**

Hello, I am Alberder Hampton Gillespie. I currently live in Minnesota. I have lived in MN for 29 years, but I am originally from Mississippi. I am the proud mother of two young adults, Gabriella and Frederick (a.k.a Freddie G.).

**How did you hear about MPBP, Inc?**

I heard about the organization at NBA Summer League 2021 from mothers Wendy Spark and Gina Johnson.

**What advice would you give a rookie mom?**

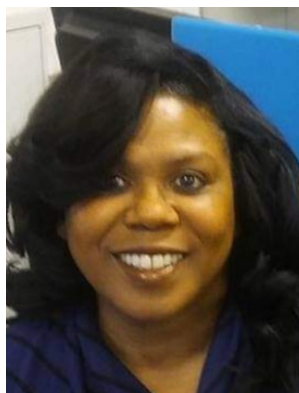
- Ask questions,
- Build a good network
- Remember, this is a business. Treat it as such.
- Prioritize your child's/ professional athlete's emotional health and well-being.
- Most importantly, stay prayerful, keep the faith, and enjoy the journey.

**What has been the most rewarding about being an MPBP, Inc member?**

Meeting and fellowship with a lovely group of women who understand this journey from a mother's perspective.

**Could you tell us a fun fact about you?**

I am Alberder from Aberdeen, and I am named after my great-grandmother.



## MPBP HONORS: DEANDRA WARE

**Please introduce yourself.**

My name is Deandra Ware, I am the Communications Director for the MPBP, and I have been with the organization off and on since 2007. My son is Rodney Carney; he is currently retired. He was drafted in 2006 by the Chicago Bulls, then traded to the Philadelphia 76ers.

**How did you hear about MPBP, Inc?**

I heard about MPBP on draft day. Paulette Smith was passing out flyers about the organization. Linda Shanklin and Janice Woffard talked to me about joining.

**What advice would you give a rookie mom?**

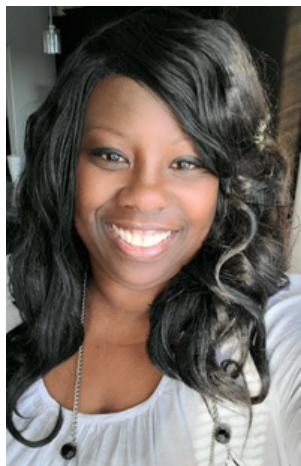
I would tell the rookie moms to become a part of this sisterhood and get busy working.

**What has been the most rewarding part of being an MPBP, Inc. member?**

Getting to meet the different moms and creating a sisterhood with the ladies in the group. I also recently got the greatest memory when I was able to go to TD Jakes church, The Potter House. It was such a great experience for me.

**Could you tell us a fun fact about you?**

In 1978 I broke and set a world record in the 60-yard dash and an American record in the 50-yard dash.



## **MPBP HONORS: LATRILL LOVERIDGE(TRE)**

**Please introduce yourself.**

Hello Sisters,

My name is LaTrill Loveridge, aka Tre, and I'm from Los Angeles, California. I moved to Utah when I was 15 years old, and Utah is where I made my home. I met my husband, Bill Loveridge, when we were 16 years old, and we've been married for almost 30 years. We have two adult children. Our son Jordan Loveridge (married) is an overseas professional basketball player; our daughter, Jazzmine Loveridge Gee (married) is an Elementary Math School teacher. We have two grandchildren, Kingston, three years old, and Zion, 1-year-old. All are our pride and joys. I've worked for the Jordan School District for 23 years, in schools and now in HR as the administrative assistant. I also serve as the District Appointed vice chair for the JEAC committee(Jordan Ethnic Advisory Committee). I do quite a bit for my West Jordan and Salt Lake community. Serving others is in my DNA.

**How did you hear about MPBP, Inc?**

I met Stacy Adams Wright during our boys' college years. Delon and Jordan played together at the University of Utah under the wonderful coaching staff of Coach Larry Krystkowiak, Tommy Connors, Andy Hill, and DeMarlo Slocum. We served together as team moms. I couldn't ask for such awesome support, love, and Sisterhood. So when Stacy mentioned MPBP to me, I figured if Stacy believes in this group, then I do, too; it was a no-brainer to join the MPBP Inc group.

**What are you most excited about as a new MPBP, Inc member?**

I am beyond excited to get to know everyone. I want to build long-lasting relationships, service our sisters and our communities, and learn and grow. I want to share my talents and ideas. I want to provide support, genuine care, and a giving heart to my new MPBP family. I'm so grateful and feel so blessed to be a part of something so unique and special. I want to make an impact, and I want to be a blessing to all whom I serve.

**Could you tell us a fun fact about you?**

My family and friends call me Tre(pronounced Tray), which has been my nickname since I could remember.

I love and have a lot of shoes and purses. I do not have enough closet space for them all.....According to my husband, I have a problem, LOL!!!! Yes, I do!!!!

I love to ride our 4-wheelers, hike, ride bikes, crochet, travel, go to Reggae Concerts, and spend time with my beautiful family.



## **MPBP HONORS: GINA JOHNSON**

**Please introduce yourself.**

Hello, my name is Gina Johnson. I am Damian Lillard's mom. I have three children and six grandchildren, and I live In West Linn, Oregon.

**How did you hear about MPBP, Inc?**

Lea Wilcox introduced me to MPBP.

**What advice would you give a rookie mom?**

Stay in contact with your sons. And make sure your present for you for whatever help they may need because this is a serious transition, and they will need you more than ever. Keep the communication lines open.

**What has been the most rewarding part of being an MPBP, Inc. member?**

Meeting other moms, making lifelong friends, and blessing people where our sons and daughters live, work and play!

**Could you tell us a fun fact about you?**

I love Butterflies .

**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**  
**2023**

**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**  
**24/7/365**

Happy  
*Black History*  
Month.





## **MPBP HONORS: ELIZABETH WASHINGTON**

**Please introduce yourself.**

My name is Elizabeth (Liz) Washington, and I was born in Lake Village, Arkansas. I'm the 5th child of 8 siblings. In 1965, my family moved to Las Vegas, Nevada.

In High School, I played the Alto and Bass clarinet in the Varsity band. During my Senior year, I was a Debutante and named "Miss Congeniality" out of 12 ladies.

After graduating from Clark High School, Las Vegas, NV, I moved to Portland, Oregon, attending Portland State University for two years, then attended the University of Oregon for two years, receiving my Bachelor of Science degree in Education. Three years after graduating from the

University of Oregon, Damon was born. As a single mother, I worked several jobs, never actually working in education, always looking for more money. The last job I worked for 17 years and retired from was with Consolidated Freightways as a Payable Clerk. I worked most of my life, making sure Damon was taken care of and for him to attend as many AAU games as possible.

After retirement, I attended games, traveled, and helped Damon with the kids when he had them. Life for me, in the NBA can be trying because everybody comes out of the woodwork, and for me, I was blamed for things not working in their favor. After a year, I decided, I was only looking out for ME.

**How did I hear about MPBP?**

Charlotte Brandon, former President & Founder of Mothers of Professional Basketball Players, called me one day in 1996. She said (in her Charlotte voice), she said, "I have an idea." Without going into the full conversation, she said she had invited some mothers to New York for a meeting. I don't know how many she invited, but 23 showed up, myself included.

So, I was one of the original founders of MPBP. I've been an active member for 27 years.

I served as the National MPBP Treasurer for 8 or 9 years. It was a wonderful experience. I was able to mingle and communicate with most Members

**Tell us about your son.**

Damon L. Stoudamire was born on September 3, 1973. During his childhood, he was always athletic and competitive. He played baseball, basketball, and some football. He played his first competitive basketball game in the 3rd grade. He has two boys, Damon Jr, 23, and Brandon, 20. Played in the NBA for 13 years as a point guard with four teams: Drafted in 1995- by the Toronto Raptors, Round 1, 7th overall. 1996 NBA Rookie of the Year, MVP Award of the Rookie All-Star Game, 1998-2005 Portland Trailblazers, 2005-2008 Memphis Grizzlies, 2008 San Antonio Spurs.

He spent 13 years in the NBA before retiring, there were some bumps in the road, but as a mother, you take the good and the bad. You have to be there for moral support. After the NBA, Damon started coaching as an assistant with the Memphis Grizzlies, the University of Memphis, and the University of Arizona. He was the head coach for five years at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, where he received "WCC Coach of the Year and Ben Jobe Award" He's presently an Assistant Coach with the Boston Celtics.

Damon has always been a caring person. Doing things in the community, I didn't even know about. Things like paying funeral expenses for friends in the community and many other things his Foundation provided.

**What does Black History mean to you?**

Black History Month means acknowledging, honoring, and celebrating the diversity and culture of our people. It's a reminder of the hard work of Black Americans that came before us. Black History Month is an opportunity to understand the struggles of Black people worldwide and also a time to say "Thank You" to those who labored for the fruits we enjoy today. We still have to continue fighting for equality and justice as we celebrate Black History Month.

**Fun fact about yourself.**

I've been a part of a Bunco group consisting of 12 ladies for over 30 years with the same Members. Sadly, two have passed away. I love to play word games and color by numbers (Happy Color).

# ST. JUDE'S 2022

One of our largest fundraisers is the St. Jude Walk. We raise funds and walk for this awesome organization that focuses on children fighting cancer. The families never receive a bill for treatment, travel, or food. Next year's goal is to have all members of MPBP, Inc. walk & visit St. Jude's Headquarters to Memphis, Tennessee.





# A SPECIAL THANKS

YOUR MPBP INC. NEWSLETTER TEAM



## STACY ADAMS-WRIGHT

MPBP INC. HISTORIAN

I'm the mother of three, two sons and one daughter. I have four grandsons. I'm patiently waiting on my granddaughter.

My oldest son, Dorrell Wright, played professional ball for 16 years. My son, Delon Wright, is in his 8th season, currently playing for the Washington Wizards.

My position on the board is Historian. I collect and record the history of our wonderful organization and moms. I also led in organizing the MPBP Inc. newsletter. It all started with my love for photography.

Please periodically check out our website and Onboard for great news and updates.

Fun Fact about me: Captain of 40+ Double Dutch- Inglewood, CA.



## TATYERRA MIKELL

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Hi, I am Tatyerra Mikell, a Chicago native that fell in love with LA living. I am a creative storyteller focused on creating positive representations of Black girls and women. With ten years of experience as a communications and marketing professional, working in spaces dedicated to creating a better world for children, I realized my passion for children's media. That led to a career at Sesame Workshop, the creators of *Sesame Street*, and writing my first children's book, *The Birthday Princess*. I am focused on utilizing my skills as a storyteller and marketer to amplify Black girls' experiences in the kidlit world and other media platforms.



## **Unscramble Answers**

- 1. Reading**
- 2. Walking**
- 3. Meditate**
- 4. Skating**
- 5. Knitting**
- 6. Boxing**
- 7. Jog**
- 8. Hula hoop**
- 9. Exercise**
- 10. Running**
- 11. Dancing**
- 12. Pilates**
- 13. Stretch**
- 14. Crochet**
- 15. Journaling**
- 16. Naps**
- 17. Painting**
- 18. Rest**
- 19. Hobbies**
- 20. Gardening**