

LAS VEGAS

Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 51

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

April 22, 2004

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Sherman Rutledge chats with Unity Council of Nevada coordinator Jim Chaney at the group's award's banquet.

Minority vote clout focus of new group

By Albert C. Jones
Sentinel-Voice

Increasing ranks of African-American, Hispanic and Asian voters who would influence election results state-wide in November was the number one topic during the Unity Council of Nevada's second awards banquet.

"The Unity Council of Nevada will declare war on voter registration in June," said Jim Chaney, the council's African-American coordinator and co-chair of the Voter Registration Committee.

"We will work with 50 community-based organizations," he said. "We intend to register 20,000 new voters between now and the last of August. We have registered to date about 6,000. Our goal is to register, educate and motivate. We know it is important to educate the minority community on the connection between voting and public policy. Voter registration and participation are important instruments of representative democracy."

Operation PUSH, the Ministers Alliance Association of Southern Nevada, the Las Vegas Chapter of 100 Black Men of America Inc., Women for Responsible Government and the NAACP are among the groups UCN plans to partner with to increase minority voter registration in the state, Chaney said.

"We are registering new voters in high schools," he said. "We were in Cheyenne High School last week and registered 400 new voters. Committee members will be at Rancho High School this week. We are going to do all the high schools."

The UCN addresses issues relevant to African-Americans, Hispanics and Asians. The April 17 awards banquet was held in the South Pacific Ballroom of the Tropicana Hotel and Casino.

U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nevada spoke briefly to the gathering. Reid knows the importance of every vote. In 1998, he won re-election by 428 votes.

"Any vote is important to me," Reid said. "Each vote makes a difference. We need minority registration in this state. Minority voters don't turn out. Their voting numbers are terrible."

Marlene Monteolivo, radio personality and columnist for El Mundo, the largest Hispanic newspaper in Nevada, hopes Reid's assessment will be different come November.

(See Unity, Page 7)

Williams eyes top NAACP post

West Las Vegas lawmaker buoyed by support from concerned citizens

By Albert C. Jones
Sentinel-Voice

Standing in front of a statue of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams announced last week that he is putting together a slate with plans to run for president of the Las Vegas Branch of the NAACP.

Williams, who has served 18 years in the Nevada Legislature, said a group of concerned citizens approached him over the past four months and encouraged him to seek office in the NAACP. He is also up for re-election in District 6.

As president of the local branch, Williams said he would address problems with discrimination, youth gang violence, education and access to economic develop-

ment.

"Nothing's more important than to work with the NAACP," Williams said during a news conference outside the Clark County Resource Center, Martin Luther King Blvd. at Carey Avenue. "I'm not afraid to take the lead on any issues. I won't draw back in any way from confronting these issues."

Williams' announcement caught current president Dean Ishman by surprise.

"The assemblyman has a right to run for any position he wants to," Ishman said. "Am I surprised? Yes. I have been involved with the reorganization for three years. Has he been involved with the reorganization? No. But he has a right to run for any position?"

Williams' supporters at

the April 15 news conference were Assemblyman Morse Arberry Jr., talk show host Pat Cunningham, Michael Chambliss, known as the mayor of West Las Vegas, Dianna Saffold, an educational activist, Bonnie Juniell, an agent with Ruthe Realty, and businesswoman Sarann Knight Preddy.

"I have been involved in the NAACP for 45 years," Preddy said. "Wendell has what it takes to make the organization work. He can lead us to the next level. He is a gifted and capable leader. We need to have someone strong out front. He is a great choice. There are plenty of others, but he is the one we reached out to."

Arberry, who heads the Assembly's Ways and Means Committee, would serve as

treasurer on Williams' executive committee. No other positions on the slate were confirmed at the news conference. Zelda Williams, the assemblyman's wife, also supports his branch candidacy.

"I think it is a good thing for the community," she said. "We need it."

"I see this as dividing the community when we should be working together," Ishman said. "I would hope from his assembly seat that Wendell Williams should be working with me to do a more effective job at that level."

The branch election is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 20. Ishman said it was too soon to discuss a slate.

In recent years, the local branch was wrought with in-

(See Williams, Page 2)

Poll: Black doctors not thrilled with career

By George E. Curry
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — More than two-thirds of Black physicians — 70 percent — are dissatisfied with their daily practice of medicine and many plan to retire early, a Gallup Poll conducted for the National Medical Association has found.

Details of the findings are reported in the April issue of the "Journal of the National Medical Association," the official publication of the nation's premier group representing African-American physicians, and were made public at a news conference recently. The magazine article containing the findings was written by Dr. L. Natalie Carroll, president of the NMA, and Dr. Sharon Allison-Otley, an NMA researcher.

"The survey indicates that the majority of physicians are not satisfied with their experience with the daily practice of medicine," the NMA Journal article reports.

Using the NMA membership database, the Gallup Organization received com-

pleted questionnaires from 479 physicians, representing a return rate of 12 percent. Responses were divided into four categories: 1) Fully engaged, defined as loyal NMA members with strong emotional ties to the organization

or profession; 2) Engaged, less loyal but still have a relatively strong emotional attachment to NMA or the profession; 3) Not engaged, indifferent to the services and benefits of the profession or NMA and 4) Actively disen-

gaged, reflecting emotional detachment and antagonism with the organization or profession.

"Less than one in 10 of the physicians surveyed were fully engaged in their chosen

(See Doctors, Page 6)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Albert Jones

LINKS IN THE CHAIN

Part of The Links Inc. "April in Paris" gala Saturday at the Paris hotel-casino included recognizing members of the local Black press. Links president E. Lavonne Lewis presented awards to Sentinel-Voice publisher Ramon Savoy (left). Radio personality Franklyn G. accepted on behalf of KCEP FM 88.1. (See story and additional photos, Page 9)