

# Membership Matters

Quarterly News from The 501 Alliance

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*June 2009*

## **Unemployment Benefit Program Information**

There are two programs currently available to unemployed workers to collect additional weeks of unemployment benefits. The first program is called Emergency Unemployment Compensation and the second program is called Extended Benefits. Information about each program is provided below.

**Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC)** – The EUC program includes up to 20 weeks of federally funded extended unemployment benefits in all states. As Michigan has a high unemployment rate, a second tier of EUC providing up to an additional 13 weeks of benefits is also available. Therefore, Michigan's unemployed workers may receive up to 33 weeks of EUC assistance. The EUC program is federally funded and employers will not be charged for benefits.

**Extended Benefits (EB)** – The EB program normally provides half the number of weeks that a person received in regular benefits to a maximum of 13 weeks. However, the Governor signed legislation increasing the maximum entitlement to 20 weeks. In addition, EB costs are normally shared equally between the federal government and the state. The state's share comes from the trust fund and is then charged on a prorated basis back to the employer. However, the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act calls for 100% of EB to be federally funded. It's also important to note that governmental employers, Indian Tribes and Tribal units will still be charged 100% for EB.

In total, unemployed workers can now receive up to 79 weeks in unemployment assistance. Twenty-six weeks of regular benefits from the state, 33 weeks from the federal government and 20 weeks of extended benefits through the state. Individuals must exhaust their regular and EUC benefit entitlements before they become eligible for EB. If you have any additional questions about either program, please contact Mike Pennanen at 800-968-9675, ext. 2950.

## **New Board Member Elected**

The Nominating Committee recently reviewed all of the nominations submitted for the vacancy on the board and presented their recommendation for approval. It's my pleasure to report that the directors voted unanimously to elect Ms. Becky Kruger, Human Resources Director, Housing Resources, Inc. in Kalamazoo to become the newest director. The board and staff are both looking forward to working with Ms. Kruger in her new role.

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### Seeking Nominations for the Board of Directors

We currently have another vacancy on our board and are seeking nominations from interested candidates. Individuals only need to be residents of Michigan to qualify. This is a great opportunity for someone who wants to meet and work with his or her peers in the nonprofit community.

As a director, you'll be able to provide input and use your expertise in decisions that impact our members. The board meets in February, May, August and November of each year in Lansing. Each director also participates on at least one committee that provides recommendations to the entire board. The committees include Finance, Marketing, Membership, Nominating, Rate and Scholarship. These committees typically meet from one to four times a year via telephone conference call.

Enclosed is a nomination form that can be completed or distributed to interested candidates. This form needs to be returned to us by July 17, 2009, with the candidate's resume. The Nominating Committee will review the qualifications of all of the candidates and provide a recommendation to the board at their next meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mike Pennanen at 800-968-9675, ext. 2950.

### Officers Re-elected

The current officers of The 501 Alliance were re-elected to serve one-year terms on the Board of Directors at the annual meeting in May. Please join me in congratulating the following individuals:

President:	Mr. Austin Robison Manager, Benefits McLaren Health Care Corporation
Vice President:	Mr. Mike Blau Attorney The Bernstein Law Firm
Treasurer:	Mr. Lary Wells Chief Operating Officer Michigan League for Human Services
Secretary:	Ms. Susan Dittrich Vice President Administration Crossroads for Youth

For a list of all of the individuals on the Board of Directors, please visit our web site at [501alliance.org](http://501alliance.org)



**Board of Directors**  
**Nomination Form**

Please print the requested information. Once completed, return this form to The 501 Alliance at the address provided below **by Friday, July 17, 2009 (attn: Administrator), with a copy of your resume.** All nominees must be residents of the state of Michigan.

Nominee: (Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr.) \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Company Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Company County: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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Director expectations:

1. Attend four meetings per year in Lansing that last approximately two hours each.
2. Participate on at least one committee that reviews information, offers input and provides recommendations to the full board.
3. Participate on committee conference calls once per quarter.
4. Promote The 501 Alliance unemployment program and encourage other nonprofit organizations to become members by providing contact information to the Administrator.