

## Columbia Urban League Guild Announces its 2013 Tower Leadership Awards

Written by Staff Writer  
Friday, 03 May 2013 07:03 -

---



On May 4th, 2013 at 11:00 am at the Downtown Clarion Hotel, the Columbia Urban League will honor 12 extraordinary women with the Guild Tower Leadership Award, which acknowledges the invaluable contributions made by the spouses of Columbia's foremost civic and community leaders.

This honor recognizes the tremendous community contributions made by these 'often behind the scenes' women, who themselves contribute significantly to the overall quality of life of the Palmetto state through their own community work. In addition, they play a pivotal role in supporting their husband's efforts to fulfill their responsibilities as leaders in the Midlands.

The Columbia Urban League President, James T. McLawhorn, applauds the Guild for creating this unique award because it recognizes an important group of people that often go unnoticed, yet their contributions have enhanced the quality of life in our community.

"The Tower Leadership Award recognizes the uniqueness of leadership and that it is usually not a solo endeavor but a partnership shouldered equally by the spouse along with the husband leader," says Urban League President James T. McLawhorn, Jr. "You will find the 2013 Tower Award recipients are career professionals themselves, yet they have the uncanny ability to balance work and family while still maintaining impressive portfolios of community service as well."

Pepsi Beverages Company (PepsiCo) is serving as the presenting sponsor of the Tower Leadership Awards. PepsiCo has a long history of corporate social responsibility and

## Columbia Urban League Guild Announces its 2013 Tower Leadership Awards

Written by Staff Writer  
Friday, 03 May 2013 07:03 -

---

community involvement. Benita Chinn, Plant Director at PepsiCo - Pepsi Beverages Company will serve as the keynote speaker.

The Guild is hopeful the Tower Awards will also serve to uplift the importance of supportive families in our society. "These individuals we are honoring demonstrate a resolve and commitment to foster strong, healthy families in our communities," says Guild President Leslie Wilson.

For tickets or additional information, call Ms. Mary Canty (803) 799-8150 ext128. Tickets are \$35.00 and can be purchased from the Columbia Urban League's office at 1400 Barnwell Street in advance of the event between 8:30am -5:00pm. No tickets will be sold at the door.

---

The following outstanding women will receive the 2013 Tower Leadership Award

Inductee Names and Spouse (Community and Civic Leaders)

**Leslie Archie**, Charles Archie

**Cynthia Bennett**, James Bennett

**Katherine Davis**, Clarence Davis

## **Columbia Urban League Guild Announces its 2013 Tower Leadership Awards**

Written by Staff Writer  
Friday, 03 May 2013 07:03 -

---

**Beverly Gist**, Bobby Gist

**Sandra Glover**, Sam Glover

**Helen Grant**, Tony Grant

**Clara Langley**, Willis Langley

**Shirley Mills**, Heyward Bannister

**Thelma Salmond**, Jasper Salmond

**Joan Scott**, John Scott

**Patricia Swinton**, Dr. David Swinton

**Sally Tryon**, Ron Tryon

### **The Tower Awards Back Story**

It has been said that “a successful team beats with one heart.” This initiative was inspired by former Columbia Urban League Board member, the late Ava Austin and spouse of former Columbia Police Chief and City Manager Charles B. Austin. Ava was a career employee of the United States Department of Social Security Administration, yet, she worked tirelessly for her family, her church and her community. This award furthers Ava's legacy by uplifting the community.

## **Columbia Urban League Guild Announces its 2013 Tower Leadership Awards**

Written by Staff Writer  
Friday, 03 May 2013 07:03 -

---

### ***About the Columbia Urban League Guild aka The Guild***

The Guild is a volunteer auxiliary of the Columbia Urban League, 501(c)3. Guild members are considered to be the volunteer strength of the Urban League movement, and contribute thousands of volunteer hours annually.

The Columbia Urban League Guild is a part of the network of the National Council of Urban League Guilds--there are 85 such organizations aim cities across the country. It helps the League with fund and resource development to fund program and community initiatives. In addition it serves a pivotal role in connecting the Urban League to the community.