

THE FACAA IMPACT: COMMUNITY ACTION AT WORK

MEET OUR BOARD CHAIR

Dr. Verdree Lockhart: Portrait of a Serviceman

Written by Sheronde Glover for FACAA Monthly Newsletter



At the helm of any great non-profit organization is its Board of Directors, a member committee devoted to ensuring that the mission, vision, policies and procedures are intact and incorporated on a daily basis throughout the organization's programs and services. For the Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority (FACAA), that board is made up of a 12-member committee headed by Dr. Verdree Lockhart, a dedicated, soft-spoken man that has a passion for the needs of

people.

Dr. Lockhart has served as board chair for five years but his connection to FACAA spans nearly 15 years, with his initial involvement with EOA, the predecessor to FACAA. That's almost as long as the time Dr. Lockhart spent in the halls of numerous schools systems, serving as an educator for almost 18 years before retiring in 2000. As an educator, Dr. Lockhart worked with the Georgia Department of Education in Guidance Counseling and Testing. He also served as Dean for Phillips College, Lead Counselor at North Fulton High School and VP of Student Loan Affairs for Atlanta University.

Some might say Dr. Lockhart is a lifelong serviceman because in addition to his career as an educator wherein he served the needs of students, he is also a retired Masters Sergeant. But like any good serviceman, Dr. Lockhart's work doesn't end with retirement. From his college days to the present, Dr. Lockhart has been concerned and involved with organizations and programs that are in the business of helping people. His background and experience, he states, have made him more aware of the needs of youth and families, particularly those who may be labeled "underdogs" whose lives reflect the harsh realities of what happens when people such as themselves have not had the support they need. For this reason he continues his work of serving the people. He has done that with the NAACP, serving as the VP of the collegiate chapter at Tuskegee University and giving more than 20 years of his time, talent and resources with the Atlanta Branch. He has done that with his ongoing involvement with the Boy Scouts of America, serving from 1955, bringing the program to minority youth, until the present, serving at various times as Scout Master, Executive Board Member, and fundraiser throughout his long serving commitment to the organization. And he is doing it with his continuous work with FACAA.

As the chair of FACAA's board, Dr. Lockhart's primary role is to carry out the responsibilities of the board, which include setting and approving policy, approving programs and services, and working with all committees including the executive committee. For those that may be wondering what fuels this passion, Dr. Lockhart states that he has always been very concerned about the needs of people. What drives him is the impact the organization has on improving the livelihood of thousands of citizens throughout Fulton County and Atlanta.

But serving as board chair is not without challenges. Finding dedicated, knowledgeable individuals to serve as board members, maintaining capable staff and management, and servicing the community with limited funds are everyday issues that have to be addressed. FACAA, like most nonprofits continues its quest to find additional funding sources, which include federal, state and county funding, along with their goal of becoming more self-sufficient as an agency.

The role of chair is not without its moments of accomplishment, too. The thing that Dr. Lockhart is most proud of is seeing individuals (participants of FACAA programs) who receive services make progress towards their goals, becoming more self-sufficient, owning their own businesses, graduating and obtaining general education degrees, diplomas and other skills.

"Dr. Lockhart participates on all levels as a Board Chairman, from attending meetings to representing the organization to advocacy with public officials on the local, state and national levels. Dr. Lockhart has, undoubtedly, been the most active and purpose-driven Board Chairman in the history of the organization," states Dr. Dorsey, FACAA CEO.

Dr. Lockhart is a man that is continually giving of himself, his time, resources, and knowledge. And for that, FACAA salutes this serviceman of the people.