

2018 Blue Ridge Institute 91st Annual Conference



July 22 — 27, 2018
Fontana Village Resort
300 Woods Road, Fontana Dam, NC 28733



Hi Dee Hi Blue Ridgers,

Welcome to BRI 2018, *What's Going On*? A phenomenal week has been planned for you in professional and personal development. Warning, BRI is like no other conference gathering. It has been labeled as a "happening" by one of my favorite Blue Ridgers. I ask each of you to clear your minds of all that is on your plate before arriving to Fontana Village. Be open to all that is going to be available to you this week.

We here at Blue Ridge, we are a family, a network of some of the most awesome leaders in the world, and my favorite, we are a community. Take advantage of the time allotted for fun activities and seek renewal in the serene and relaxing surroundings. Allow yourself to embrace diversity of thought on the varied topics that will be presented daily from some of the best national and international speakers.

You have probably figured out that our 2018 theme is inspired by songwriter and singer, Marvin Gaye. Much of what Marvin sang about in the early seventies is still applicable today. We hope to push the envelope just tad bit this week. One thing I am already pleased about, the theme *What's Going On*, invites opportunity for dialogue exchange. Come talk to me and tell me, *What's Going On*?

In closing, I am sharing some of the lyrics from some of my favorite Marvin Gaye songs. It is my hope that by the end of this week, each of you will feel the love I have come to cherish at BRI. I hope you leave with new and or renewed friendships that last a lifetime. Come join me on another BRI journey. The journey is the reward.

With love and admiration,

Venita

Venita Garvin
BRI President, 2017-2018

Some of My Favorite Lyrics by Marvin Gay

*Mother, Mother,
There's too many of you crying.
Brother, brother, brother,
There's far too many of you dying.
You know we got to find a way
To bring some lovin' here today.*

*Mercy Mercy Me,
Ah, things ain't what they used to be, no no.
Oil wasted on our oceans and beyond our seas,
Fsh full of mercury.
Ah things ain't what they used to be.
What about this over-crowded land.
How much more abuse from man can she stand?*

*I just want to ask a question. Who really cares?
To save a world in despair.
Who really cares?
Little children today.
Are really gonna suffer tomorrow.*

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MISSION: To provide learning and renewal to community service professionals in order to create more effective leaders.

VISION: To be the premier network providing learning and renewal at a level attracting the best and brightest community service professionals.

VALUES: Leadership Development, Renewal, Unique Culture and Environment, Family-Life Balance, Tradition, Service.

Blue Ridge Alma Mater

*Oh, that little old red shawl,
That little old red shawl,
That little old red shawl my mother wore.
It was tattered, it was torn,
It showed signs of being worn,
That little old red shawl my mother wore.*



In 1928, Judge Walter Criswell, second President of the Institute, enjoyed this little song and thought it would help promote fellowship if sung at the Institute. Everyone seemed to like the words and tune so it was adopted as official Institute song. Mrs. Arthur Jones, wife of the 6th BRI president, made a real red shawl to be worn by each president. The song and the shawl remain firmly a part of the BRI tradition, passed on each year.

Restaurant and Food Options: All meals, other than the dinner provided during Sunday night's Welcome Event and during Thursday night's President's Ball (and the coinciding YLA party), are on your own. Fontana Village Resort offers a variety of dining options throughout the property. Reservations are encouraged for the Mountview Bistro. Call 828.498.2115 to reserve a table. For more information about the menu and hours of operations, call the Front Desk at 828-498-2211.

Mountview Bistro

Hours of Operation



The Mountview Bistro sits at the top of the valley on the west end of The Lodge at Fontana where guests can enjoy breakfast and dinner in an elegant, relaxing atmosphere. The dinner menu integrates fresh and local regional products to offer guests a classic alfresco menu. *Located in the Main Lodge.*

Breakfast

Monday - Friday: 7:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Saturday & Sunday: 7:30—11:00 a.m.

Dinner:

Thursday - Saturday
5:00—9:00 p.m.

Reservations are encouraged.

T. 828.498-2115

Bear's Den Lounge



The Bear's Den offers a food as well as a full bar. Guests seated here may order off the menu from Mountview Bistro or simply enjoy a refreshing afternoon or evening beverage. *Located in the Main Lodge beside the Mountview Bistro.*

Dinner:

Thursday - Saturday: 5:00—9:00 p.m.

Wildwood Grill



Located in the center of the Village, the Wildwood Grill offers guests a warm and charming ambiance for lunch and dinner. Guests can enjoy dining in a casual setting with the choice of dining outside on the lively patio, and can enjoy a beverage from its full bar. The Wildwood Grill also has a limited take-out menu. *Located in the center of Fontana Village Resort.*

Lunch and Dinner

Sunday—Thursday:
11:30 a.m.—9:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday:

11:30 a.m.—10:00 p.m.

Ice Cream Parlor



Offers sweets and frozen treats such as fresh baked cookies, hand dipped ice cream cones, and more. *Located across the street from the Stone Creek Pool next to the General Store.*

Daily: 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Fontana Pitstop



Serves a limited menu of light fare such as hot dogs, nachos, pizza and local craft beers in a casual atmosphere; conveniently located beside a gas station and souvenir shop. *Located at the Village entrance. (11152 Fontana Road, Highway 28 North, Fontana Dam, NC)*

Sunday—Tuesday & Thursday:
8:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.

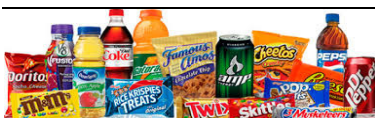
Wednesday:

8:00 a.m.—8:30 p.m.

Friday:

8:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.

Stone Creek Pool Snack Bar



Serves sweets such as candy bars and crackers and cold beverages. *Located poolside at the Stone Creek Pool.*

Open during pool hours

BRI Lunch Plan: For those who pre-purchased the BRI group lunches, the lunch buffet will be served in the **Events Hall from 12:30-1:30pm on Monday and 12:15-1:15 PM on Tuesday and Thursday**. These meals are limited to those who purchased in advance. We regret that no exceptions can be made.

Technology Workspace: A workspace will be available in the Events Hall Lobby for BRI attendees to plug in their laptops or other mobile devices and access the facility's WiFi at no cost. (Note: Computers will not be provided; guests are invited to use the space as a WiFi hotspot for their own devices. Those needing to print documents may use the computers and printer in the hotel lobby or ask the Front Desk staff for assistance.)

Silent Auction: Please take part in this annual fundraiser for the Institute. Members have donated many fabulous items. Visit the auction all week to bid high and bid often! If you have additional questions about the Silent Auction, please see Grace-Anne Alfiero or Judy Anderson during the conference.

Continuing Education Credit: CE credit is available for all general sessions, except the Friday General Session. Attendees who need CE credit should request an attendee CE packet from the BRI Registration Table. The CE credit is provided through the National Association of Social Workers, Florida Chapter. Florida Provider #BAP-321, Exp. 03/19. If you have additional questions about obtaining CE credit at this conference, please visit the BRI Registration Table.

Activities and Events: Almost all of our activities and events are open to everyone, and we encourage all registered guests to attend. Some require reservations - sign up and get more details at the BRI Registration Table. You do not have to have transportation; many of us share rides to get to the activities that are in other areas of the park. You do not need to hike or boat as part of our scheduled activities—feel free to do what works for you. *(See the park brochures or visit the Front Desk staff in the Fontana Village Resort Lobby for information on swimming, disc golf, fishing, picnics, hiking, horseback riding, whitewater rafting, zip-lining, golf, mountain biking, spa visits, local brewery tours, scenic drives, and more.)*

Remember, all Activities are optional and naps are encouraged!

Sales Items: There will be a limited number of 2018 BRI products, along with items from past Institutes, for sale at the Canteen each morning in the Events Hall Lobby. Profits support BRI, and this is a great way to keep the BRI feeling all year long.

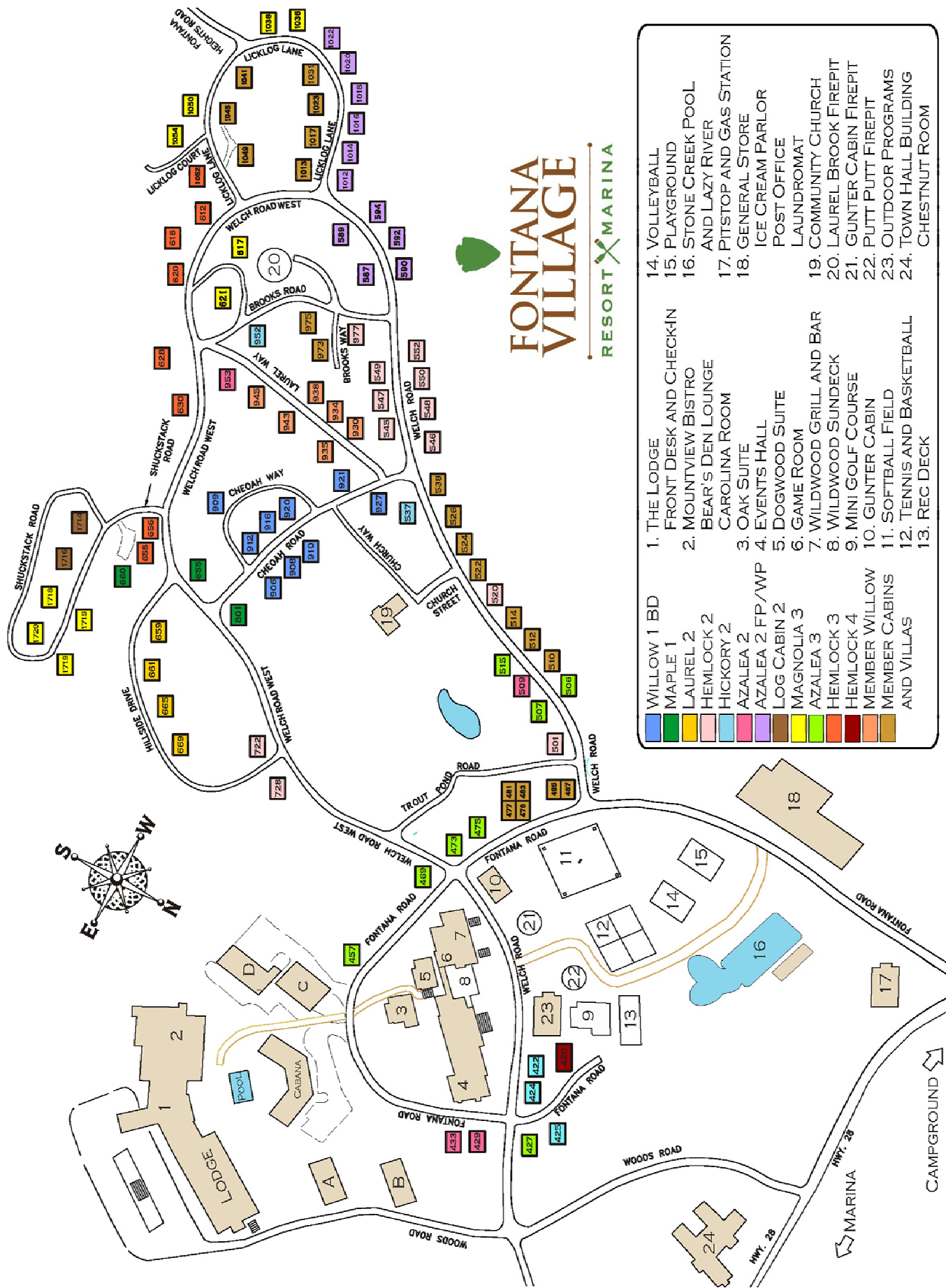
Guest Attendance: We welcome our guests at our regular conference sessions. If a guest attends one, several, or all of the regular sessions, we ask that they consider a donation at whatever level feels appropriate. (The full regular registration fee is \$400 and increases to \$450 after June 1st. The retiree registration rate is \$200 and increases to \$250 after June 1st. Guests are asked to register at the \$50 guest fee, with the option to purchase a ticket to attend the President's Ball at a cost of \$50.) While a single additional person does not have a significant cost impact on us, we are trying to walk a line of fairness since Blue Ridgers have

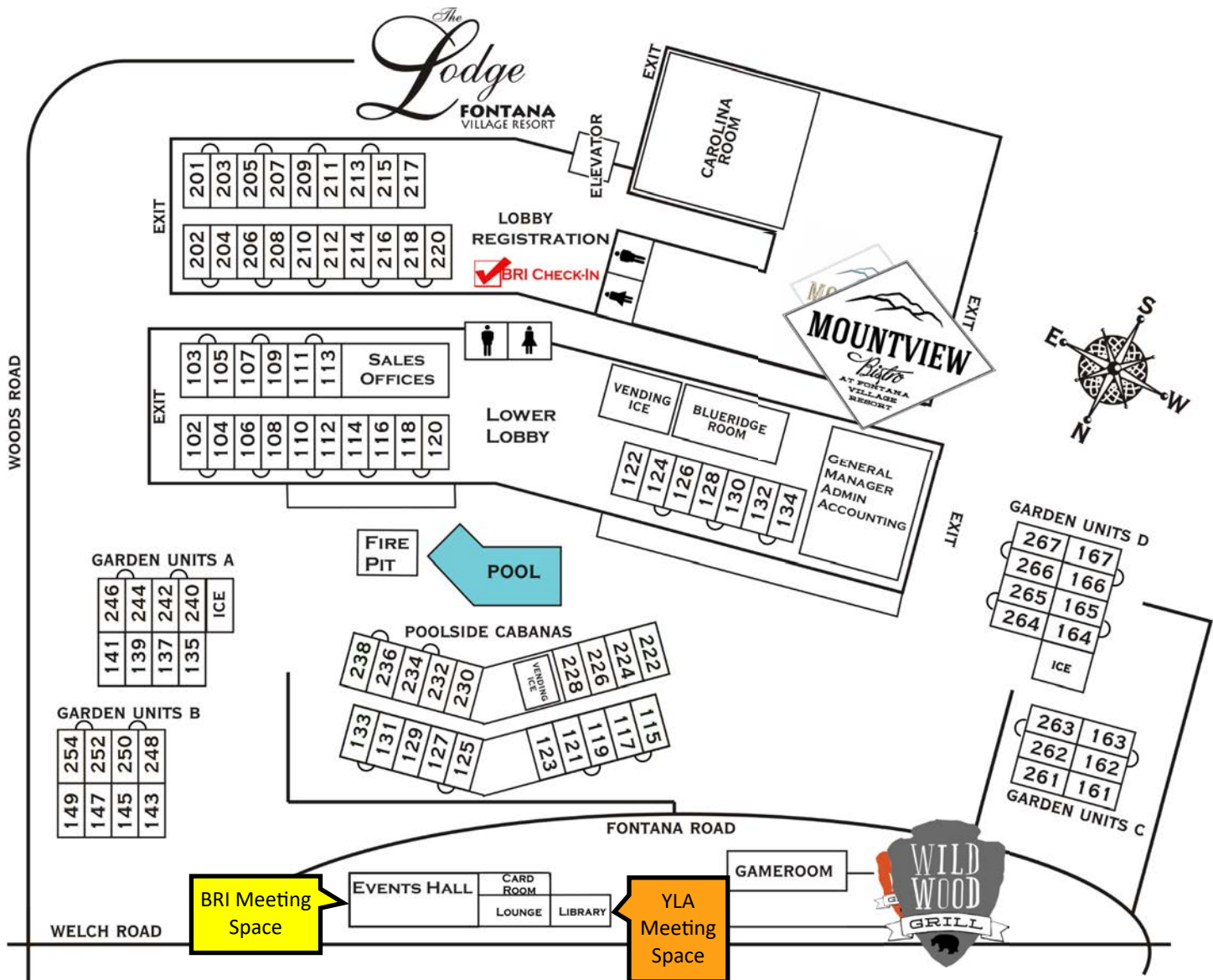


WEAR YOUR BADGE!

We encourage everyone from Blue Ridgers to BRIGS and kids to wear your name badges. Fontana Village Resort is a large facility with other conferences taking place concurrently with BRI. Wearing a badge makes it easy for everyone to identify you, get to know you and remember you.

FONTANA VILLAGE RESORT GENERAL MAP





General Sessions: Will be held in the Events Hall.

Youth Leadership Academy: Will be held in the Library (adjacent to the Events Hall), unless otherwise noted in daily program details.

Technology Workspace: Will be available in the Events Hall Lobby daily from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. These hours are approximate and may change without notice.

Silent Auction: Will be located in the Events Hall and will be open Monday through Wednesday from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM and Thursday from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM. These hours are approximate and may change without notice.

Thanks to Fontana Village Resort, especially Tabitha Henry, and the facility staff and managers, the Front Desk staff, and the setup crew who worked tirelessly so BRI could have an amazing experience in our first year at Fontana Dam. Please consider extending your thanks in person this week.

Schedule at a Glance

All activities are optional. Blue Ridgers and guests are invited to participate in the activities being offered, explore Fontana Village Resort and the surrounding area on their own, or take naps and lounge.

Sunday, July 22nd *(see page 10 for a detailed schedule)*

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Optional Breakfast for Board of Directors
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	BRI 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Board of Directors Meeting
2:00–5:30 p.m.	Registration
3:00–4:00 p.m.	Freshperson Orientation
4:00–5:00 p.m.	Youth Leadership Academy Information Session for Parents and Children
5:30–9:00 p.m.	Opening General Session and Dinner
5:30–6:30 p.m.	- Welcome Dinner (all included)
6:30–9:00 p.m.	- Opening General Session / Youth Leadership Academy & BRI Guests Gathering

Monday, July 23rd *(see page 12 for a detailed schedule)*

7:15–7:45 a.m.	Morning Yoga
8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Youth Leadership Academy
8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	General Session featuring Tony Porter
12:15–12:30 p.m.	Annual BRI Group Photo
12:30-1:30 p.m.	BRI Lunch Buffet
1:30-2:00 p.m.	BRI Discussion Group
2:30-4:30 p.m.	<i>The BRI World Series:</i> 165 th Annual Softball Tournament
2:30-4:30 p.m.	Group Lounge by the Lazy River and Pool
5:00–6:00 p.m.	<i>Friends of Bill W.</i> Meeting
6:30–9:30 p.m.	Youth Leadership Academy
6:30–10:00 p.m.	BRIapalooza 2018

Tuesday, July 24th *(see page 15 for a detailed schedule)*

7:15–7:45 a.m.	Morning Yoga
8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Youth Leadership Academy
8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	General Session featuring Sister Simone Campbell
12:15-1:15 p.m.	BRI Lunch Buffet
12:30-1:30 p.m.	BRI 2017-2018 Board of Directors Meeting
1:30-2:00 p.m.	BRI Discussion Group
2:00–5:00 p.m.	Talent Show Rehearsal
	*Note: The YLA will meet for rehearsal from 2:00–3:00 p.m. in the Library.
2:00-5:00 p.m.	Visit Fontana Dam
2:00-5:00 p.m.	Create a Stress Reduction Toolkit
7:00–9:00 p.m.	Annual Talent Extravaganza!

Wednesday, July 25th *(see page 16 for a detailed schedule)*

8:00–9:30 a.m.	6 th Annual Rockin' 5k and Fun Run
9:45–10:15 a.m.	Yoga and Post-Run Stretch
10:30–11:30 a.m.	Hike Hoor Hollow
1:00–4:30 p.m.	Youth Leadership Academy
1:00–4:30 p.m.	General Session featuring Dr. Debra Harris Nixon
6:00–7:30 p.m.	Scenic Lake Tour
7:30–9:30 p.m.	Bonfire and Smores with <i>Giving Tree Music's</i> Drum Circle

Thursday, July 26th *(see page 19 for a detailed schedule)*

7:15–7:45 a.m.	Morning Yoga
8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Youth Leadership Academy
8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	General Session featuring Dr. S. Atyia Martin
12:15–1:15 p.m.	BRI Lunch Buffet
1:30–3:30 p.m.	Guided Hike of Lewellyn Cove
2:00–3:00 p.m.	Imagine Clarity Guided Meditation
6:00–11:00 p.m.	President's Ball at the Dam
6:00–10:00 p.m.	Youth Leadership Academy Party

Friday, July 27th *(see page 20 for a detailed schedule)*

8:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.	Youth Leadership Academy
8:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.	Closing Session featuring Dr. Debra Harris Nixon

Interested in guided nature hikes, outdoor movies, karaoke, volleyball, tennis, basketball, softball, disc golf, mini golf, shuffleboard, billiards, horseshoes, cornhole, ladderball and more? See the brochures at the Fontana Village Resort Lobby or speak with the Front Desk.

ZIPLINE CANOPY TOURS

KAYAK LAKE TOURS

HIGH ROPES COURSE

WHITE WATER RAFTING

Available through Wildwater

wildwater rafting.com

Reservations@wildwater rafting.com

Reservations Office: 866.319.8870

HIKING AND BIKING

Fontana Village Resort maintains 20+ miles of hiking and mountain biking trails that connect to the USFS trails in the Nantahala National Forest and to the Appalachian Trail. Trails vary from casual to rigorous. Trail maps and descriptions are available at the FV and on the Fontana Village Resort website at <http://www.fontanavillage.com/.html>.



FISHING GUIDE & CHARTERS

TROUT FISHING • LAKE FISHING

GUIDED HIKING • FLY FISHING

Available through Steve Claxton of Smokey Mountain Adventures

steveclaxton.com

Steve@SteveClaxton.com

Cell: 828.736.7501

STONE CREEK POOL AND LAZY RIVER

Opens 10:00 a.m. and closes 8:00 p.m. daily

**Closes at 6:00 p.m.*

on Wednesdays

LODGE POOL

Open 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily

Sunday, July 22nd

- | | |
|--|--|
| 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Bear's Den Lounge | BRI Board of Directors Meeting
Breakfast will be available in the meeting room for Directors from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. |
| 2:00–5:30 p.m.
Fontana Village
Resort Main Lobby | Registration
All BRI attendees must check in at the start of the conference. Once registered, they are encouraged to stop by the BRI Registration Table daily to review the day's announcements and activity sign-up sheets. <i>Please note, the BRI Registration Table will be located in the Events Hall Lounge Lobby Monday through Friday.</i> |
| 3:00–4:00 p.m.
The Library | Freshperson Orientation
This meeting is mandatory for all Freshpersons. Guests are welcome to participate. Children may attend if they don't have another option. For more information, see Lise Landry Alives and Harold Watts. |
| 4:00–5:00 p.m.
Card Room | Youth Leadership Academy Information Session
All parents and YLA attendees should participate. For more information, see Dave Parker or YLA Faculty Leader Susan Bryant. |
| 5:30–9:00 p.m. | Opening General Session and Dinner |
| 5:30–6:30 p.m.
Events Hall | Welcome Dinner for Everyone |
| 6:30–9:00 p.m.
Events Hall | Opening Keynote Session "'Impacting the Life of a Child in Need" by <i>New York Times</i> Best Selling author Regina Calcaterra |
| 6:30–9:00 p.m.
The Library | Youth Leadership Academy |
| 6:30–9:00 p.m.
Meet in Lobby by the
Fireplace | BRI Guests Gathering
After dinner, BRI Guests (BRIGs) will enjoy a Welcome Gathering with coordinators Phoebe Ezell, James Boyle and David Rice as they learn tips to navigate the wild wonder that is BRI! |

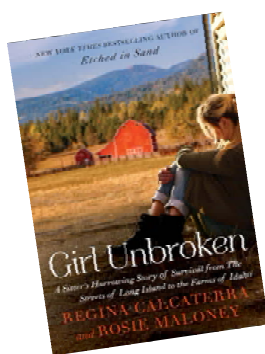
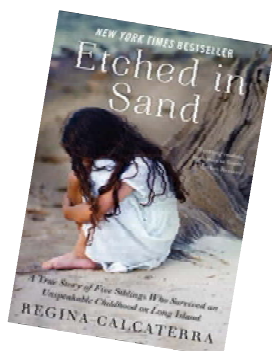


Back by Popular Demand.... BRI Discussion Groups!

Take advantage of the chance to connect in person with BRI colleagues!
Enjoy a facilitated dialogue about the day's speaker, share something you heard that intrigued you, or an "A-ha! Moment" you experienced at BRI.
For more information, see Christina Delzingaro.

Opening Keynote Session with Regina Calcaterra

Impacting the Life of a Child in Need



Regina Calcaterra's memoir *Etched in Sand, A True Story of Five Siblings Who Survived an Unspeakable Childhood on Long Island* (HarperCollins Publishing, 2013) is a #1 international best-seller and a New York Times best-seller. She is also co-author of *Etched in Sand's* sequel which she wrote with her younger sister Rosie Maloney, *Girl Unbroken, A Sister's Harrowing Journey from the Streets of Long Island to the Farms of Idaho* (HarperCollins Publishing, 2016). Both books have been integrated into college curricula nationwide. While sharing her journey of childhood homelessness, foster care, abandonment, abuse and neglect, Regina will highlight her story's messages of resilience, optimism, perseverance; how kind acts can forever impact a child in need; the plight of foster children; that no child is a lost cause; the vital role of the public library system, public education and the public university system on impoverished children; how educators can forever impact transient children; the power of sibling bonds; and breaking the cycles of addiction, alcoholism, child abuse, homelessness and incarceration.



About Regina Calcaterra

Professional Bio

Regina is a partner at the law firm of Wolf Haldenstein where she practices securities, consumer and federal civil rights litigation. Prior to joining Wolf Haldenstein, she served as Executive Director to two of the New York State Governor's statewide investigatory commissions, Deputy General Counsel to the New York State Insurance Fund, Chief Deputy to the Suffolk County Executive Steven Belone, Deputy General Counsel to the New York City Employees' Retirement System, Director of Intergovernmental Relations to the New York City Comptroller and a partner in a securities litigation firm.

Board Positions

Regina serves as the second vice chair to the SUNY New Paltz Foundation Board; on the Board of Believers to You Gotta Believe, an organization that works to get older foster youth adopted; on the Advisory Board of The Felix Organization, which provides impactful opportunities and experiences to youth growing up in foster care; on the Advisory Committee of the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; and, as an Ambassador to Library for All, a global effort to eradicate childhood illiteracy in third-world countries.

Honors & Awards

She has received awards and honors such as the: Lifetime Achievement Award, Primi-Dieci Society and the Italy-American Chamber of Commerce; Speak Out for a Child Award, CASA-NYC; Geraldine Ferraro Award of Courage; The Children of Bellevue Award for serving as a role model for foster children, Tom Collichio, Chair Children of Bellevue; Woman of the Year Award, East End Women's Network; and the Maxine Postal Humanitarian Award.

For more about Regina Calcaterra, visit <http://reginacalcaterra.com>, email regina.calcaterra@gmail.com or find her on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Calcaterra.Regina/> and Twitter at <https://twitter.com/rcalcaterra>.

Monday, July 23rd

7:15–7:45 a.m. Dogwood Suite	Morning Yoga Start your day from a ZEN place! Beginner level, novice-led gentle stretches to wake up the body and settle the mind. Bring a yoga mat or towel. For more information, see Susan McGrath.
8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. The Library	Youth Leadership Academy
8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Events Hall	General Session featuring author, educator, and activist Tony Porter Includes sing along, business, announcements, and featured presentation.
12:15-12:30 p.m. Location to be announced	Annual BRI Group Photo <u>EVERYONE</u> is included in our group photo! After the session, quickly gather up your colleagues, family, friends and BRIGs, and join us for the group photo BEFORE we break for lunch. For more information, see Patrick Jinks.
12:30-1:30 p.m. Events Hall	BRI Lunch Buffet For those who pre-purchased the BRI lunch for Monday, the buffet will be served in the Events Hall from 12:30-1:30 p.m. This meal is limited to those who purchased tickets in advance. See Katherine DyReyes for more information.
1:30-2:00 p.m. Card Room & Events Hall	BRI Discussion Groups No speaker panel, presentation or PowerPoint here! BRI facilitators will lead small groups in lively reflection on the day's speaker. Participants are encouraged to share their ideas, thoughts and reactions to the day's presentation with the goal of engaging in meaningful conversations and exploring key takeaways and how to apply those takeaways to their daily practice. For more information, see Christina Delzingaro.
2:30-4:30 p.m. Softball Field	<i>The BRI World Series: 165th Annual Softball Tournament featuring the Best-Worst Cheerleading Squad</i> The outcomes and outtakes of this game are sure to make The News. Play is typically upstaged by the cheering. Equipment provided but bring a glove if you have one! See Patrick Jinks for more information on softball and Carrie Theall for information on cheerleading.
2:30-4:30 p.m. Stone Creek Pool and Lazy River	Group Lounge by the Lazy River and Pool Informal gathering at the perfect place to cool off with friends old and new, talk shop if you desire and catch a little sun while sipping on a festive beverage from the snack bar. Some of the BEST learning at BRI happens in settings like this! See Marisel Losa for more information
5:00–6:00 p.m. Card Room	<i>Friends of Bill W. Meeting</i> Meeting open to anyone. For more information, please see Eileen Coogan.
1:30–6:30 p.m. Anywhere	Nap By the pool, in your room, wherever! Or explore the area on your own. Whatever suits your mood!
6:30–9:30 p.m. The Library	Youth Leadership Academy
6:30–10:00 p.m. Wildwood Deck	BRIlapalooza 2018 Join us for BRI's own summer music festival (technically it's a reception, not a festival! Interactive entertainment by Giving Tree Music will help us experience the magic of making music together. Cash bar provided. For more information, see Susan McGrath.



Keynote Session with Tony Porter

Breaking Out of the Man Box: A Discussion on Healthy Manhood



The purpose of this session is to increase awareness regarding the important role men (and women) can play developing and promoting healthy and respectful manhood in the lives of boys and young men. Topics of discussions will include Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention, Healthy and Respectful Relationships, Developing Men of Character and how we as adults can use our influence and platform.

About Tony Porter

Tony Porter is an author, educator and activist working to advance social justice issues and Chief Executive Officer of A CALL TO MEN. Porter is internationally recognized for his efforts to prevent violence against women while promoting a healthy, respectful manhood. He is a leading voice on male socialization, the intersection of masculinity and violence against women, and healthy, respectful manhood. Porter's 2010 TED Talk has been named by *GQ Magazine* as one of the "Top 10 TED Talks Every Man Should See."

Porter is an adviser to the National Football League, National Basketball Association, National Hockey League, Major League Soccer and Major League Baseball, providing policy consultation, working extensively with player engagement, and facilitating violence prevention and healthy manhood training. He is an international lecturer for the U.S. State Department, having extensive global experience including Brazil, India and Africa, and has been a guest presenter to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Porter has worked with the United States Military Academy at West Point and the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis.

He is sought after for his in-depth understanding of the collective socialization of men, and has served as a script consultant for the Emmy Award-winning television series "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit." Porter is the author of "Breaking Out of the Man Box" and the visionary for "NFL Dads: Dedicated to Daughters."

For more about Tony Porter, visit <http://www.acalltomen.org>, email info@acalltomen.org or find him on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ACALLTOMEN> and Twitter at <https://twitter.com/liverespect>.

A SPECIAL NOTE TO ALL BLUE RIDGERS ABOUT OUR YLA COUNSELORS

Please join us in welcoming and supporting the young adults who are serving as YLA Counselors this year. As college students, they are giving a week of their time for this field placement, and have already spent many hours in planning a wonderful camp experience for our youth. Please take the time to say hello to them, to show interest and to consider ways you can support them this week or in the future as they consider their next steps in education and career.

MONDAY, JULY 23RD

Tuesday, August 24th

7:15–7:45 a.m. Dogwood Suite	Morning Yoga Start your day from a ZEN place! Beginner level, novice-led gentle stretches to wake up the body and settle the mind. Bring a yoga mat or towel. Contact Danielle Rottenberg for more information.
8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. The Library	Youth Leadership Academy
8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Events Hall	General Session featuring Sister Simone Campbell, SSS, JD, Executive Director, NETWORK Includes sing along, business, announcements, and featured presentation.
12:15-1:15 p.m. Events Hall	BRI Lunch Buffet For those who pre-purchased the BRI lunch for Tuesday, the buffet will be served in the Events Hall from 12:15-1:15 p.m. This meal is limited to those who purchased tickets in advance. See Katherine DyReyes for more information.
12:30-1:30 p.m. Oak Suite	BRI 2017-2018 Board of Directors Meeting
1:15-1:45 p.m. Card Room & Events Hall Lounge	BRI Discussion Groups No speaker panel, presentation or PowerPoint here! BRI facilitators will lead small groups in lively reflection on the day's speaker. Participants are encouraged to share their ideas, thoughts and reactions to the day's session with the goal of engaging in meaningful conversations and exploring key takeaways and how to apply those takeaways to their daily practice. All questions to Christina Delzingaro.
2:00–3:00 p.m. Events Hall	Youth Leadership Academy Talent Show Rehearsal
2:00–5:00 p.m. Events Hall	Talent Show Rehearsal A highlight of the week! Unique, silly, funny, serious talents all welcome to perform for the most loving, supportive audience in the Smokies. You must sign up for your act and rehearse but are NOT required to stay the entire three hours. See Andrea Smith for more information.
2:00-5:00 p.m. Meet @ Front Desk Lobby	Visit Fontana Dam The 480-ft. tall Fontana Dam is the highest dam east of the Rockies (the equivalent of a 50-story skyscraper). We will stop at the Fontana Dam Visitor Center, staffed by knowledgeable TVA retirees. They offer maps, videos and displays about the TVA and the construction of the dam in the 1940s. We can then walk (or drive) across the dam for beautiful views of Fontana Lake. Participants will travel by car to the Dam, tour the visitor center and walk the dam. See Britney Sink for details.
2:00-5:00 p.m. Dogwood Suite	Create a Stress Reduction Toolkit RENEW! Danielle will guide us in creating a toolkit full of items we can use to bring a bit of that BRI renewal to our daily lives back home. You will learn simple yoga poses, create an essential oil blend specific for your needs and learn several Ayurvedic practices all designed to help reduce stress and anxiety and allow space for clarity and peace in your life. Reach out to Danielle Rottenberg with any questions you may have.
7:00–9:00 p.m. Events Hall	Annual Talent Extravaganza! Come watch the best music, dance and comedy acts the Fontana Village Resort has ever experienced! Contact Andrea Smith with questions.

Keynote Session with Sister Simone Campbell SSS, JD

Race, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice

About Sister Simone Campbell, SSS, JD



Since 2004, Sister Simone Campbell has served as executive director of NETWORK, a Catholic leader in the global movement for justice and peace that educates, organizes, and lobbies for economic and social transformation. She is a religious leader, attorney, and poet with extensive experience in public policy and advocacy for systemic change. In Washington, D.C, she lobbies on issues of economic justice, immigration reform, and health care. Around the country, she is a noted speaker and educator on these public policy issues.

During the 2010 congressional debate about health care reform, Sister Campbell wrote the famous “nuns’ letter” supporting the reform bill and got 59 leaders of Catholic Sisters to sign on. Many cited this action as critically important in passing the Affordable Care Act. She was thanked by President Obama and invited to the ceremony celebrating its being signed into law.

In 2012, Sister Campbell played an instrumental role in organizing the “Nuns on the Bus” tour of nine states to oppose the “Ryan Budget” approved by the House of Representatives. This budget would have decimated programs meant to help people in need. “Nuns on the Bus” received an avalanche of attention across the nation from religious communities, elected officials, and the media.

Sister Campbell has led five cross-country “Nuns on the Bus” trips, focused on economic justice, comprehensive immigration reform, and voter turnout. She has been featured regularly in the national and international media, including appearances on 60 Minutes, The Colbert Report, and The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.

Sister Campbell has received numerous awards, including a Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Award and the Defender of Democracy Award from the international Parliamentarians for Global Action. In addition, she has been the keynote or featured speaker at numerous large gatherings, including the 2012 Democratic National Convention.

Prior to NETWORK, Sister Campbell served as the executive director of JERICHO, the California interfaith public policy organization that operates like NETWORK to protect the interests of people living in poverty. She also participated in a delegation of religious leaders to Iraq in December 2002, just prior to the war, and later (while at NETWORK) became part of a Catholic Relief Services delegation to Lebanon and Syria to study the Iraqi refugee situation there.

Before JERICHO, Sister Campbell served as the general director of her religious community, the Sisters of Social Service. She was the leader of her Sisters in the United States, Mexico, Taiwan, and the Philippines. In 1978, Sister Campbell founded and served for 18 years as the lead attorney for the Community Law Center in Oakland, California. She served the family law and probate needs of the working poor people of her county.

Sister Campbell is the author of *A Nun on the Bus: How All of Us Can Create Hope, Change, and Community*, published in April 2014 by HarperCollins.

For more about Sister Simone Campbell, visit <https://networklobby.org> or follow NETWORK online via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/NetworkLobby>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/NETWORKLobby>).

TUESDAY, JULY 24TH

Wednesday, July 25TH

- 8:00–9:30 a.m.**
Race Tent in Resort Parking Lot
- 6th Annual Rockin' 5k and Fun Run**
Calling all racers and walkers: this course looping around the around the Resort is a great way to start your day! Special Fun Run for children of all ages, especially those under 12. Cheerleaders and spectators are ENCOURAGED! Registration forms available at the BRI Registration table. See Eileen Coogan for more information.
- 9:45–10:15 a.m.**
Dogwood Suite
- Yoga and Post-Run Stretch**
Post sleeping-in or post-run, everyone can benefit from some beginner level, novice-led gentle stretches to work out all the kinks! Bring a yoga mat or towel. (Questions? See Susan McGrath.)
- 10:30–11:30 a.m.**
Meet @ Front Desk Lobby
- Hike Hoor Hollow (*Easy 1 mile walk*)**
This 1.1 mile trail is the easiest the Resort has to offer and would be a great way to start your morning, or cool down from the 5K! Details available from Tim Ervolina.
- 1:00–4:30 p.m.**
The Library
- Youth Leadership Academy**
- 1:00–4:30 p.m.**
Events Hall
- General Session featuring Dr. Debra Harris Nixon, LMFT**
Includes sing along, business, announcements, and featured presentation.
- 6:00–7:30 p.m.**
Meet at the Marina
- Scenic Lake Tour (*Pontoon Boat*)**
Hop aboard one of Fontana's pontoon boats for a scenic cruise on Fontana Lake in the beautiful Eagle and Hazel Creek waterways. You'll get a view of the trails, forests, and mountains near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park that few people get to experience. \$20 per person, limited to first 20 who register at the BRI Registration Table. See Genevieve Megginson with questions.
- 7:30–9:30 p.m.**
Putt Putt Fire Pit
- Bonfire with Smores and Giving Tree Music's Drum Circle**
All are welcome as we gather around the fire for Smores, drumming, games and more as we wind down and mark the mid-point of our week together. Contact Amar Patel for details.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25TH

Please stop by the
Wish You Were Here table
this week and sign postcards
for Blue Ridgers who
couldn't make it this year.

We want them to know we
miss them and hope they'll
return in 2019!



Keynote Session with Dr. Debra Harris Nixon, LMFT

What's Going On?: A Question For The Emergent Inclusive Leader

About Dr. Debra Harris Nixon, LMFT



Debra Nixon, Ph.D., a former graduate professor (15-years) at the largest and most diverse private university in the southeast United States, Nova Southeastern is an impassioned scholar, therapist, lecturer, and author. Dr. Nixon is a native of Dallas, Texas. Nixon has aptly distinguished herself with her fresh, innovative approach to

diversity and inclusion training. Besides being the principal diversity instructor within the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Nixon was the university's inclusion and diversity facilitator, designing and managing the university-wide initiative, "Do Something Different" a grassroots, campus inclusion movement and the seminal research Campus Inclusion study where she designed and validated the Nixon, Campus Inclusion Survey. Both projects were initiated to encourage the campus community to more effectively engage its diverse population.

Patrons: Over the years, as I have worked with diverse university communities in South Florida. I have had several opportunities to work with athletic organizations (See below). As an inclusion and diversity researcher my primary aim in each environment was helping to create inclusive communities—the hallmark of my inclusive research (See publications below).

- Nova Southeastern University (NSU): Diversity Professor, Graduate School: College of Humanities and Social Science: Inclusion Researcher, Author, Campus Inclusion Survey Assessment Developer.
- Miami Dolphins: Consultant to the Dolphins' Chaplin; Therapist/Personal Coach for Chad "Ochocinco" Johnson in his case of domestic violence and anger management.
- Stetson University: Keynote Unity Week Celebration
- Florida Atlantic University: Keynote and panel discussion facilitator for Upward Bound Program
- Broward College: Coordinator/Director College Reach-out for underserved communities

For more about Dr. Debra Harris Nixon, visit www.drdebranixon.com, email drdebra@drdebranixon.com or contact her via phone at (800) 394-8095.

DR. DEBRA NIXON
America's Family Therapist
Inclusive Leadership Coach
Inclusion & Diversity Researcher
Diversity Dialogue Facilitator, Moderator, & Keynote

CNBC Vh1 FOX BET

Dr. Debra Ann Nixon, Inclusion & Diversity Consultant & Researcher.

"Diversity is easy to achieve; Inclusion, now that's the real work." -D. Nixon

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25TH

Thursday, July 26th

7:15–7:45 a.m.
Dogwood Suite

Morning Yoga

Start your day from a ZEN place! Beginner level, novice-led gentle stretches to wake up the body and settle the mind. Bring a yoga mat or towel. Contact Susan McGrath for more information.

8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
The Library

Youth Leadership Academy

8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Events Hall

General Session featuring Dr. S. Atyia Martin, CEO and Founder of All Aces, Inc. Includes sing along, business, announcements, and featured presentation.

12:15–1:15 p.m.
Events Hall

BRI Lunch Buffet

For those who pre-purchased the BRI lunch for Tuesday, the buffet will be served in the Events Hall from 12:15–1:15 p.m. This meal is limited to those who purchased tickets in advance. See Katherine DyReyes for more information.

1:30–3:30 p.m.
Gather @ the Putt Putt Building (in front of the Events Hall)

Guided Hike Lewellyn Cove (3.5 miles)

This 3.5 mile, moderate loop through beautiful woods includes water features and views of the dam. Contact Amar Patel for more information.

2:00–3:00 p.m.
Dogwood Suite

Imagine Clarity Guided Meditation

Take a few moments before the mayhem of the "Ball at the Dam" to get grounded with this guided meditation designed to inspire your imagination and open new perspectives. Bring a yoga mat or towel. See Grace-Anne Alfiero for more information.

6:00–10:00 p.m.
Dogwood Suite

Youth Leadership Academy Party

6:00–11:00 p.m.
Events Hall

President's Ball at the Dam

Dinner, dancing, Ridgers dressed to impress, general mayhem—need we say more? Cash bar. Please direct all questions to Upendo Shabazz.

#BRIROCKS!



This year we will be interacting with the hashtag: [#BRIROCKS](#) again! Make sure to use this hashtag when posting on social media. Additionally, a limited number of painted BRI rocks will be placed for discovery during the conference. We hope to see selfies with your rock, hear stories about how you spotted your rock, and what valuable merchandise you were able to trade for your rock! It's all about connecting, encouraging and becoming engaged...so be on the lookout for some beautiful rocks and we will see you at the Fontana Dam! [#BRIROCKS!](#)

THURSDAY, JULY 26TH



Keep the BRI glow all year! Join your BRI colleagues on
Facebook and LinkedIn!



Keynote Session with Dr. S. Atyia Martin

What's Going On? Resilience, Racial Equity, and Social Justice for Today's Nonprofits

About Dr. S. Atyia Martin



Dr. S. Atyia Martin has spent the last 16 years in federal and local government within intelligence, homeland security, emergency management, public health preparedness, and ultimately resilience. Prior to her career in public service, she worked in the private sector (for profit and nonprofit) in technology, business development, and administration. She has led many teams and major initiatives to consistently achieve their mission and goals while building the capacity of those around her to grow into their best selves.

Dr. Martin is currently the CEO & Founder of All Aces, Inc., a social enterprise that provides a range of products and services to put clients and participants in control of difficult conversations and situations. All Aces mission is to activate the power of consciousness and critical thinking to manage the ways our unconscious mind can interfere with personal and organizational resilience. Additionally, she serves as a Distinguished Senior Fellow at Northeastern University's Global Resilience Institute.

Dr. Martin was the first Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Boston as part of 100 Resilient Cities. She led the development and implementation of Boston's first resilience strategy which was the first one in the 100 Resilient Cities network to make racial equity, social justice, and social cohesion the foundation of building resilience across the city. She engaged over 12,000 people across government, community, businesses, and nonprofits to develop Resilient Boston: An Equitable, Connected City. Smart Cities magazine selected Resilient Boston as the best resilience strategy of 2017 and the Center for American Progress featured it in its report A Framework for Local Action on Climate Change.

Prior to her role as Chief Resilience Officer, Dr. Martin was the director of the Office of Public Health Preparedness at the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC). In this role, she was responsible for coordinating public health, healthcare, and community health emergency management including oversight of the Stephen M. Lawlor Medical Intelligence Center to coordinate response and recovery efforts; and education and training through the DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness. She led the expansion of the DelValle Institute from the greater Boston area to the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Additionally, she increased their reach and capacity by facilitating the development and implementation of a learning management system to support in-person training and expansion into online learning. During her tenure, she led the public health and healthcare response to the Boston Marathon bombings, the winter snow storms of 2015, trolley crashes, train crashes, the Long Island bridge closure and evacuation, and dozens of smaller scale emergencies.

Her previous professional experience includes adjunct faculty in the Master of Homeland Security at Northeastern University; the Boston Police Department's Boston Regional Intelligence Center; City of Boston's Mayor's Office of Emergency Management; the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI); active duty Air Force assigned to the National Security Agency; and Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC).

Dr. Martin holds an Associate of Arts in Serbian Croatian from the Defense Language Institute (DLI), Bachelor of Science from Excelsior College, a Masters in Homeland Security Leadership from the University of Connecticut, and a Doctorate in Law and Policy from Northeastern University.

Dr. Martin and her husband were born and raised in Boston where they currently live. They have five children, three still at home.

For more about Dr. S. Atyia Martin, visit <https://allacesinc.com/>, email her at atyia@allacesinc.com or follow her on **Twitter at https://twitter.com/AllAces_Inc**.

THURSDAY, JULY 26TH

Friday, July 27th

8:00–11:00 a.m.
The Library

Youth Leadership Academy

8:00–11:00 a.m.
Events Hall

Closing Session featuring Dr. Debra Harris Nixon

Includes business, announcements, and featured presentation. YLA will join the general session at about 10:00 a.m. for certificate presentation, the final 2018 BRI video, and the singing of *The Old Red Shawl*.



To all the Blue Ridgers who worked tirelessly
behind the scenes all year to plan BRI 2018...

Thank you!

BRIG Welcome
Coordinators
James Boyle
Phoebe Ezell
David Rice

Strategic Engagement
Committee
Andrea Smith, Chair
Patty Dissell
Julie Smithwick
Caroline Robertson

Marketing Committee
Caroline Robertson, Chair
Dave Parker
Sara Parker

FRIDAY, JULY 27TH

Freshperson Liaisons
 Lise Landry Alives, Co-Liaison
 Harold Watts, Co-Liaison
 Mary Dell Hayes
 Edward Perry
 Benjamin Bullock
 Elizabeth Bunbury
 Amar Patel

Program Committee
 Steve Bogus, Chair
 Venita Garvin, Ex Officio
 Andrea Moore
 Anne Kilpatrick
 Carrie Gerard
 Carrie Theall
 Christina Delzingaro
 Genevieve Megginson
 Lynn Blanchard
 Rob Rains
 Upendo Shabazz

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 Mark Cruise, Chair
 Suzie Foley
 Amar Patel
 Britney Sink
 Tina Young

Development Committee
 Grace-Anne Alfiero, Chair
 Maria Martin
 Cheri Wright-Jones
 Chris Steed
 Judy Anderson, Silent Auction Leader

Youth Leadership Academy
 Lila Anna Sauls, Chair
 Dave Parker, Chair Elect
 Susan Bryant-Nelson, Camp Director

YLA Junior Counselors
 Casey George
 Nick George
 Emma Kilpatrick
 Cameron Mudd
 Grace Smith

President's Ball Committee
 Upendo Shabazz, Chair
 Cheri Wright-Jones
 Susan McGrath
 Allison Gant
 Brittney Frazier
 Estrellito Berry

Activities Committee
 Susan McGrath, Chair
 Amar Patel
 Carrie Theall
 Patrick Jinks
 Marisel Losa
 Eileen Coogan
 Tim Ervolina
 Genevieve Megginson
 Grace-Anne Alfiero
 Upendo Shabazz
 Danielle Sangita
 Andrea Smith
 Britney Sink

Recruitment Committee
 Julie Smithwick, Chair
 Heather Adams
 Lise Landry Alives
 Benjamin Bullock
 Carrie Gerard
 Daniel Gibson
 Dave Parker
 Caroline Robertson
 Harold Watts

Management Task Force
 Heather Adams
 Venita Garvin
 Andrea Smith
 Eileen Coogan
 Grace-Anne Alfiero

Data Guru
 Lynn Blanchard

Photojournalists
 Patrick Jinks
 Grace-Anne Alfiero
 David Brubaker
 Lise Landry Alives
 Rob Rains
 Caroline Robertson
 Carrie Theall

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 Eileen Coogan, Acting Chair
 Harold Watts
 Cheri Wright-Jones
 Lynn Blanchard
 Chris Steed
 Venita Garvin
 Andrea Smith
 Sue Buchholtz, Chair

BRI Location Task Force
 Andrea Smith
 Tim Ervolina
 Lila Anna Sauls

Retention Committee
 Patty Dissell, Chair
 Britney Sinks
 Corinne Danielson
 Rob Reifsnnyder
 Susan McGrath
 Dave Parker
 Heather Adams

Reflection Leaders
 Carrie Gerard
 Weldon Mikulik
 Anne Walker
 Tim Ervolina
 Jane Walker

Administrative Folks
 Jim Akin, Historian
 Phil Acord, Registered Agent

The News
 Chris Steed, Editor in Chief & Grand High Executioner
 Daniel Gibson, Senior Reporter & BRI Liaison to the White House
 Lila Anna Sauls, Senior Reporter & Cultural Attaché to Dollywood
 Carrie Theall, Cub Reporter & Cat Enthusiast
 Benjamin Bullock, Cub Reporter & Garrison Keillor Wanna-be
 Sara Faircloth, Editor Emeritus & Cougar on the Prowl

Board of Directors

	<i>2017-2018</i>	<i>2018-2019</i>
President*	Venita Garvin	Andrea Smith
President Elect*	Andrea Smith	Heather Adams
Secretary/Treasurer*	Heather Adams	Heather Adams
Immediate Past President*	Sue Buchholtz	Venita Garvin
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Program Chair-Elect	Robert McFalls	Corinne Danielson
Activities Chair*	Susan McGrath	Britney Sink
Activities Chair-Elect	Grace-Anne Alfiero	Carrie Hepburn
Engagement Chair*	Andrea Smith	Susan McGrath
Recruitment Chair*	Julie Smithwick	Julie Smithwick
Marketing Chair*	Caroline Robertson	Caroline Robertson
Retention Chair*	Patty Dissell	Patty Dissell
Development Chair*	Grace-Anne Alfiero	Carrie Gerard
YLA Chair*	Lila Anna Sauls	Lila Anna Sauls
YLA Chair-Elect		Dave Parker
Past Presidents Representative	Tim Ervolina	Rob Reifsnnyder
Secretary/Treasurer-Elect		Chris Steed
Members-at-Large	Denise Bentley	Upendo Shabazz (2019)
	Lynn Blanchard	Mark Cruise (2019)
	Mark Cruise	Amar Patel (2020)
	Brian Edwards	Phil Acord (2020)
	Daniel Gibson	Andrea Moore (2020)
	Carrie Hepburn	Daniel Gibson (2020)
	Andrea Moore	Carrie Theall (2020)
	Upendo Shabazz	Harold Watts (2020)
	Britney Sink	Allison Gant (2020)
	Carrie Theall	

**These individuals also comprise the Operating Committee.*

**Please join us in thanking the Blue
Ridgers who are completing their service
on the BRI Board of Directors this week:**

Denise Bentley
Lynn Blanchard
Steve Bogus

Sue Buchholtz
Brian Edwards

Tim Ervolina
Bob McFalls



Donations & Pledges

*A million thanks to the following members who have made donations or pledges this past year.
We couldn't do it without you!*

Phil Acord	Eileen Coogan	Carrie Gerard	Dave Parker
Heather Adams	Kelly Callahan Cruise	Daniel Gibson	Edward Perry
Lise Landry Alives	Mark Cruise	Carrie Hepburn	Caroline Robertson
Grace-Anne Alfiero	Corinne Danielson	Patrick Jinks	Lila Anna Sauls
Estrellita Berry	Patty Dissell	Anne Osborne Kilpatrick	Britney Sink
Wanda Bertram	Karis Engle	Gladyeane Lee	Andrea Smith
Lynn Blanchard	Tim Ervolina	Joyce Lavery	Julie Smithwick
Steve Bogus	Sara Faircloth	Marisel Losa	Thomas Starling
Lisa Booze	Suzie Foley	Robert McFalls	Christopher Steed
Stephanie Braxton	Allison Gant	Susan McGrath	Carrie Theall
David Brubaker	Venita Garvin	Genevieve Megginson	Kevin Tomson-Hooper
Sue Buchholtz	Carissa Gephart	Andrea Moore	Sara Tomson-Hooper
			Anne Walker

Donations & Pledges



Platinum Sponsor

Trinity Health



Gold Sponsor

Allegany Franciscan
Ministries
Mutual of America



Silver Sponsor

Evergreen Life Services



Bronze Sponsor

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Glen Raven
The Jinks Perspective
Namesake Creative
Qbix Accounting
Solutions
United Way of Greater
Cincinnati

Supporting Sponsors

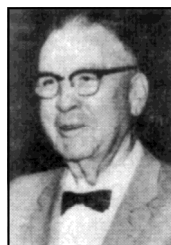
AverageJoe Trading
United Way of Brevard
Together SC
Giving Tree Music
NASW, Florida Chapter
Bess the Book Bus
Rhythm Changes
Yoga Service Movement
University of Tennessee, Knoxville College of Social Work

Friends of BRI
Eileen Coogan
Phil Acord
Corinne Danielson
Robert McFalls

Don't forget to check our sponsor ads in the back of this Program Book!



Arthur A. Guild
1927-1938



Walter S. Criswell
1939-1940



Florence Adams
1941-1942



Sherwood H. Smith
1943-1945



Fred L. Huffman
1946-1947



Arthur J. Jones
1948



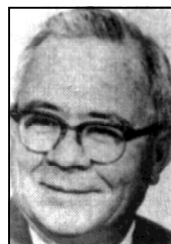
George E. Rice
1961



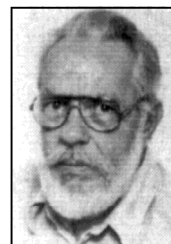
Helen J. Lewis
1963



William Kaufman
1965



Charles W. Fruit
1966-1967



K. C. Latimer
1968-1969



Mary Free
1970-1971



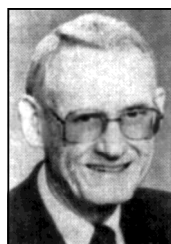
Edwin C. Cotten
1978



Elizabeth Gower
1979



Dwyer C. Sump
1980



Tommy R. Perkins
1981



Myles MacDonald
1982



Joe Medlin
1983



Marcia Parker
1990



**Lt. Colonel John
Mikles** 1991



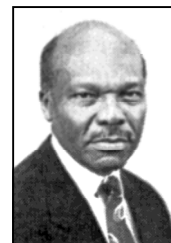
Cecil Hayes
1992



Phil Acord
1993



William J. Knowles
1994



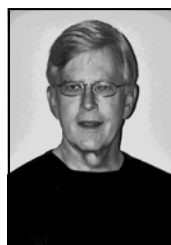
Harrison Reardon
1995



Robert Reifsnyder
2002



**Ricardo "Ric"
Perez** 2003



James E. Oliver
2004



Terry S. Tolan
2005



Gwen Monroe
2006



Jim Morrison
2007



Patrick Jinks
2014



Tim Ervolina
2015



Eileen Coogan
2016



Sue Buchholtz
2017



Olin W. LeBaron
1949–1950



Lester H. Robb
1951–1952



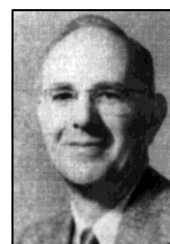
Dr. Ruth Shiffmann
Bescherer 1953–1954



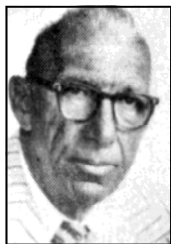
Harold J. Weekley
1955–1956



John G. Strohecker
1957–1958



William L. Leap
1959–1960



Martin R. Barnes
1972



Commissioner John
D. Needham 1973



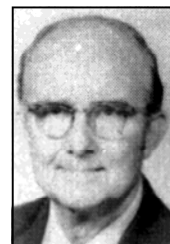
Eugenia Dobson
Henry 1974



Irene H. Burnett
1975



Ashton Brisolaro
1976



Paul E. Parks
1977



Charles Fleming
1984



Wanda B. Phibbs
1985



Wayne R. Davis
1986



Leo O. Dees
1987



A. G. Spizzirri
1988



H. Gene Herrell
1989



Dr. Jay Childress
1996



Larry G. Betts
1997



Edward Garrison
1998



Nan Selz
1999



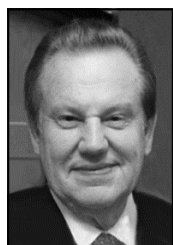
Leon Matthews
2000



Anne Osborne
Kilpatrick 2001



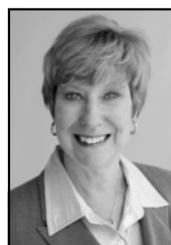
Louise Burgess
2008



Ronald Lee
Logsdon 2009



Joe Tolan
2010



Mary Jo Monahan
2011



Paul D'Agostino
2012



Sara Faircloth
2013

BRI YLA 2018

THE GATHERING OF THE TRIBE

The Youth Leadership Academy will be a "tribe-themed" camp this year, structured around the following seven tenets of leadership and how they may appear differently in tribes versus a large society: Communication, Teamwork, Problem-solving, Negotiating, Planning and Forecasting, Serving Others and Becoming an Example. We will explore and honor various tribal cultures across the world, in an attempt to broaden our traditional understanding of leadership. The academy/camp is developed and managed this year by Susan Bryant, Steven Turner, and two student counselors from the University of Tennessee, College of Social Work. We will have the support of five outstanding junior counselors as well. Please review their biographies in the program.

Our thirty children will be divided into three small age-based "tribes" during much of our sessions, where we will have lessons and activities about leadership in the context of drumming, outdoor games to practice the leadership skills, and arts and crafts that involve the skills, including building a real West African drum. We will take hikes, forage for food (snack scavenger hunt), prepare a drum performance, and have a "tribal council" party, complete with bonfire food, drumming, dancing, and games.

Our tribe colors will be red, blue and yellow. We will make costumes at camp.

We intend to build a tribal village for the indoor portion of our part. Our movies this year will be *Moana* (for younger children), and *Black Panther* (for older children who have parent permission).

Siyabonga! (Zulu for Thank You to many people)

Susan E. Bryant, MSSW
Camp Director



Susan E. Bryant, MSSW
Camp Director

My name is **Susan Bryant-Nelson**. I have worked with the University of Tennessee, College of Social Work for 5 years in the role of Director of Student Recruitment and Student Affairs. Prior to that I had a 10-year career in a tiny "heart of Knoxville" elementary school, inspiring community change through youth leadership development, flipping the models that say leadership comes from the top down. During my time there, the community transformed itself from a place full of crime, division and addiction to a diverse and thriving community, appreciating its membership, attempting to unify previous racial divisions and inequities, and positioning itself to lead the city of Knoxville in advocating against gun violence. The children of the community have consistently led the way.

I believe the answers to community change, quality social development, and adequate service provision come from listening and leadership development, and I look forward to sharing this with the children each year. I am grateful for my BRI family.

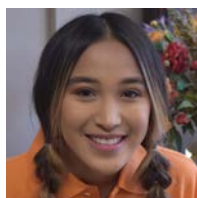
COUNSELORS



Hi! I'm **Makala Johnson**. I am a junior at the University of Tennessee studying Social Work with a Pre-Law concentration, with plans to later attend law school. I am a very fun and energetic person who brings a lot to the table. One of the most memorable things about me is that I am a Jump Rope Instructor. Yes! A Jump Rope Instructor! I have recently been introduced to competitive jump roping and am now a part of a Knoxville locally owned business called Learnin' the Ropes. We do specialized jump rope programs in Knox County schools that have after school programs for youth who need extra opportunities/extracurricular activities. I look forward to working with your wonderful children again this summer.



Hi! My name is **Samantha Ransdell** and I'm originally from northern California, now living in Tennessee. I am a Senior at The University of Tennessee studying social work. I am a world traveler and plan on attending grad school abroad, focusing on international social work. I want to work with nonprofit organizations on the international level. When I'm not in school I'm kayaking and rock climbing with friends. I look forward to working with the kids and I hope they can teach me a thing or two.

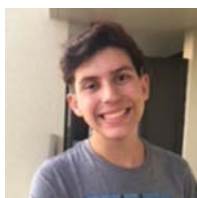


Hi. my name is **Jaden Allman**. I am about to be a sophomore at the University of Tennessee. I am a Pre-med student in the College of Arts and Sciences. I mainly study Biology and Chemistry. I hope to be an anesthesiologist one day. Fun fact I was born in Vietnam, but then I was adopted and raised in Tennessee. In my free time, I love to kayak and hang with my cats. I am so excited to get to know and work with your kids!

JUNIOR COUNSELORS



Casey George (17 years old) is a rising Senior at Jupiter Community High School in Jupiter Florida studying Engineering. Casey enjoys weight lifting, boxing and fitness challenges. He has been a Leader in Training at the YMCA Summer Camp in Boynton Beach Florida for the past four years. This will be Casey's 4th time at BRI.



Nick George (15 years old) is a rising Sophomore at William T. Dwyer High School in Palm Beach Gardens Florida enrolled in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. He is active in Student Government and the Drama Club at school. He has also been a Leader in Training at the YMCA Summer Camp in Boynton Beach Florida for the past 3 years. This will be Nick's 3rd time to BRI.



Emma Kilpatrick is a rising sophomore in the IB Programme at Grimsley High School in Greensboro, NC. When she's not in school or hanging out with friends you can often find her working stage crew for local theater productions. She's also an avid reader and involved in the local March for Our Lives movement. This is her third summer at BRI and her mom, Heather Adams, has been attending since 2010 and her grandmother, Anne Osborne Kilpatrick, since 1975.



2018 will be **Cameron Mudd's** third year attending BRI and YLA. He is 13 years old, and will be entering eighth grade in the fall. Cameron's sister, Sophie, and step-brother, Jack Parker, have also attended BRI and YLA over the years. Cameron likes to listen to music, social media and skateboarding.



This will be **Grace Smith's** 6th year at BRI and her 3rd year as a YLA junior counselor. Grace is a senior at Greer Middle College Charter High School, in Greer, SC. She is very passionate about the topic of leadership. Grace is a member of the Student Leadership Initiative as well as on the Executive Leadership Team and represented her school at the National Consortium Meeting in Houston, TX. She has also been a leader in Students in Action. Grace is undecided on her future career, but loves English, the humanities, and the arts (specifically modern dance). She's excited to serve as a junior counselor for YLA and hopes to be an example of youth leadership for the younger participants.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR BRI 2019.
CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK AND
TWITTER FOR THE LATEST UPDATES ON
NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE.**



This year, we lost two beloved Blue Ridgers, Brian McEwen, who became a member of our BRI family in 2014, and Elizabeth "Ducky" (Grier) Gower, a long standing member and a past president of Blue Ridge.

Known for his charm and big heart (and his bowties), Brian was a visionary who dedicated his life to serve people who were disadvantaged or challenged and was a champion of child abuse prevention.

Ducky was a leader in her community and launched many community initiatives and organizations as part of her long history of devoted civil service. She was known for her unwavering belief in the importance of service and selfless devotion to cause.

Although we are sad to say farewell, we celebrate their lives and keep their contributions close to our hearts.



Brian McEwen



Elizabeth "Ducky" (Grier) Gower
BRI President 1979

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Thank you for your inspirational
guidance and patience this year

and for being an
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BRI's First
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A CALL TO MEN

The Next Generation of Manhood



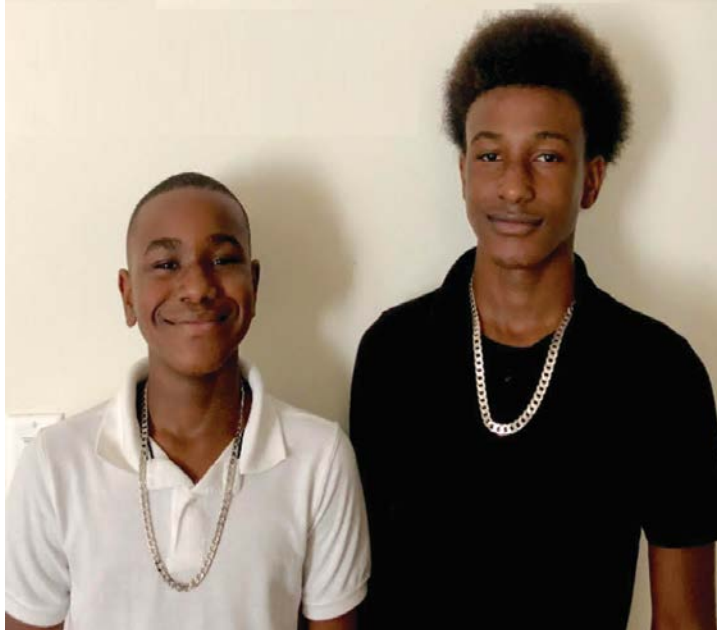
TONY PORTER



*Congratulations
President
Venita Garvin*

***Best wishes to BRI for another
successful gathering under the
leadership of our mom Venita.
We are proud of you!***

Love Joshua & Garvin



**Congratulations
to our “Star”**



2017-2018 BRI President

**With Love & Pride,
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The “A” Team



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Congratulations & Best Wishes

*To
Venita Garvin*

2017-2018 BRI President

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Congratulations Debra!

Thank you for your steadfast leadership of the inspirational
and transformative 2018 BRI "What's Going On" Retreat!



Dr. Debra
Harris
Nixon



United Way of Brevard

The background of this section is a scenic photograph of a calm lake nestled between mountains. The trees on the hillsides are in various stages of autumn, showing colors like red, orange, and yellow. The sky is overcast and grey.

bri **LEARN
LEAD
RENEW**

WHAT's GOING ON?

Wishing everyone an amazing conference experience!

Love your friends on the 2018 BRI Program Committee!

ENJOY!

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2015 BRI President





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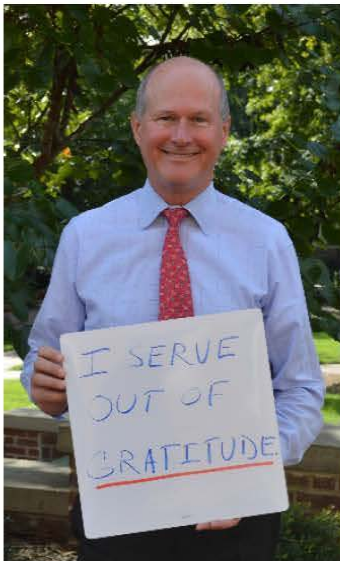
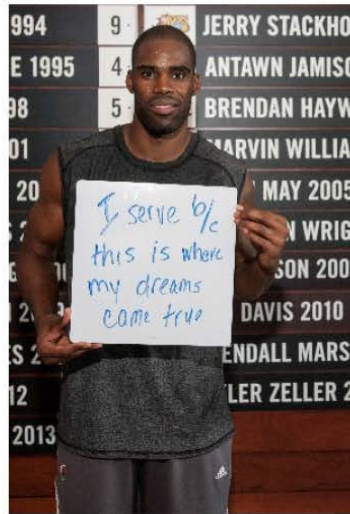
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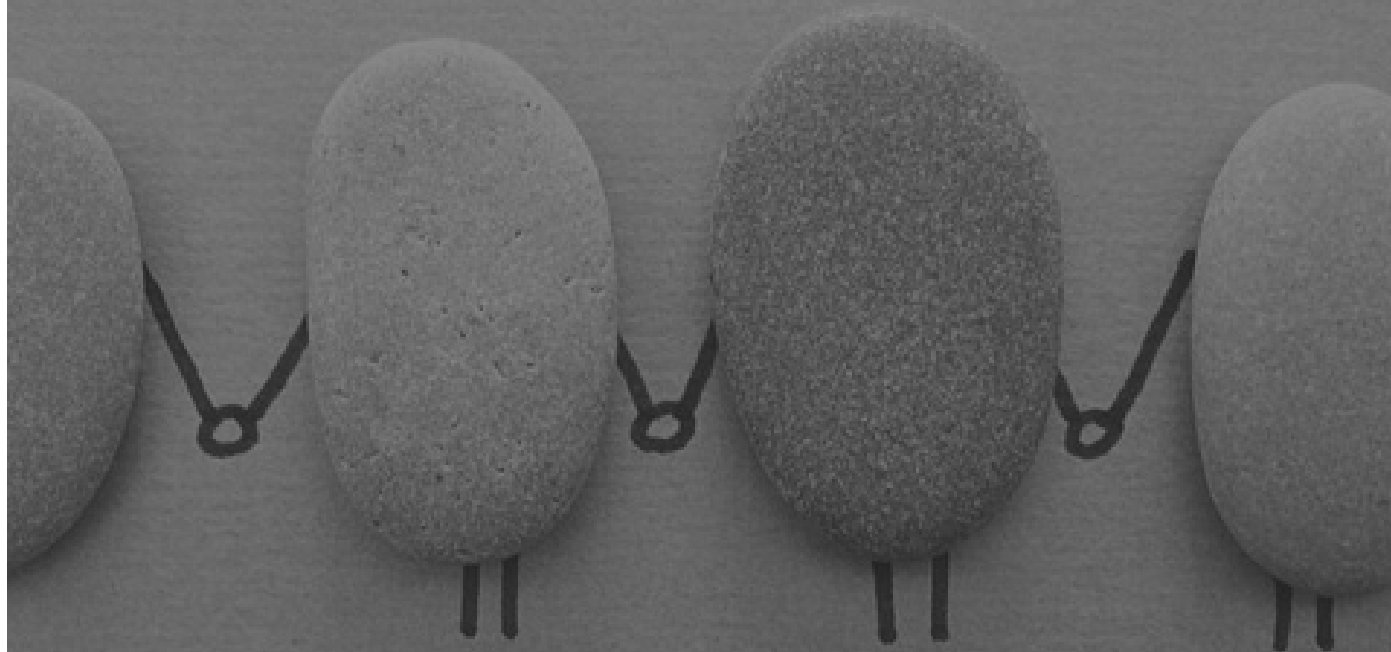
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When: Year Round

Where: via email & conference calls

How: Sign up on the marketing committee sheet OR contact Marketing Chair Caroline Robertson, caroline.robertson@greerrelief.org

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