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Pastor James H. Willis Sr., and evening service guest preacher, Rev. Cory J. Pruitt of Mt. Enon MBC in Dayton, OH.

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Coalition of Black Trade Unionists celebrate at black history banquet



Toledo Chapter Coalition of Black Trade Unionists officers and members pictured with 2014 Banquet honorees and the guest speaker. Seated from left: Honorees Philip Boles, Williann Moore, and George Sarantou. Guest speaker, Ohio State Rep. Edna Brown is seated next Sarantou.

BY WILLIAM H. ELLIS JR.
 Journal Staff Writer

In culmination of Black History Month, recognized nationwide throughout the month of February, the Toledo Chapter Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) held its 26th Annual Black History Month Banquet on Saturday, March 1, at the Westgate Ramada Inn, 3536 Secor.

The event, is usually held in

early February but was pushed back due to a record-setting winter full of snow and ice, and the theme was "Strengthening Our Ties Through Unity," promoting collective awareness and action as tools of community and cultural advancement.

Attendees gathered to enjoy appetizers and musical selections by Jamie Coleman and the JAMM Band prior to the opening ceremonies. Jamie is the brother of Toledo jazz legend and saxo-

phonist, the late Jesse Coleman. A preacher, musician and father to six, Jesse Coleman dedicated his life to the community he loved and was a staple performer at the CBTU annual banquet before his sudden death last February.

UAW Local 14 member Sharon Roach was the Mistress of Ceremonies and UAW retiree Janice Fryar's opening address served as the official welcome. Toledo Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Romulus Durant fol-

lowed with greetings, then, the audience joined CBTU members in the singing of The Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice," before Rev. Dennis Payne II of Monroe Street United Methodist Church delivered the Invocation.

"Toledo CBTU is excited to host this prestigious event once again," said banquet co-chairperson Cerssandra McPherson. Also serving as banquet co-

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Local teen models launch March of Dimes Zumbathon



The teens—Dana Raye Furlong, Gabrielle Guilliod, Jada Marie Boles, and Justus "J. McCray" McCray—received special permission from The March of Dimes and formed "Models for Ava" to help raise money for donations on behalf of Ava. Photo Credit: Odele T. SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 11.