

Black Caucus Conferees Network, Gear Up For 2008 Election

With the theme “Unleashing Our Power,” the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation drew thousands of people to its 37th Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) in Washington, D.C., recently to celebrate the past year’s political achievements and to address the challenges that lie ahead the upcoming election year.

Held at the city’s convention center, the four-day conference included seminars, a national town hall meeting and a black-tie gala.

At the gala, the annual Phoenix Award was presented to: U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan; House Majority Whip Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-SC); former Rep. William H. Gray III (D-PA), a past Majority Whip; former U.S. District Court Judge Anna Diggs Taylor of Michigan; and the Rutgers University women’s basketball team and head coach C. Vivian Stringer. Oscar-winning actor Louis Gossett Jr. and actress Gabrielle Union served as the dinner’s emcees.

CBCF Chairman Rep. Kendrick Meek (D-FL) challenged gala attendees to view the event as “an opportunity to talk to your neighbors, to network so that we can make sure that when we get back to our states, we unleash our power.”

Other events included the filming of the PBS series “The HistoryMakers,” which honored the life and career of Quincy Jones. □ —Kevin Chappell

► During the conference, U.S. Rep. John Conyers (top) gives remarks at black-tie gala. Rep. Charles Rangel addresses the gala crowd. The event was hosted by Gabrielle Union and Louis Gossett Jr. Among Phoenix Award honorees were Judge Anna Diggs Taylor and Rep. James E. Clyburn. Democratic presidential hopefuls Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton participate in the conference.



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