

# United Way honors efforts, readies for 2010 campaign

BY MIKE AVERILL

World Staff Writer

The Tulsa Area United Way elected officers and board members for its 2010 campaign at its annual meeting and luncheon Tuesday and presented awards for its 2009 campaign.

Don Walker, president of Arvest Bank, was elected chairman for 2010.

"The Tulsa Area United Way faced tremendous challenges during our 85th campaign, but this remarkable community stepped up to help us reach our goal," said Bill Grant, outgoing board chairman and president of the Holmes Organisation. "I turn the organization over to Don Walker with great confidence that we're well-equipped for 2010. I know Don will pro-

vide excellent leadership for the Tulsa Area United Way and our community."

Others elected are Chairman-Elect Dan Ellinor, Bank of Oklahoma; Vice Chairman Robyn Ewing, Williams; Secretary Jim Kneale, retired from ONEOK; Assistant Secretary Mike Messick, Transport Workers Union Local 514; Treasurer Mike Rhoads, Rhoads Advisory Group; and Assistant Treasurer Sandi Westbrook, QuikTrip.

Tulsa World Publisher Robert E. Lorton III was among those elected to serve a three-year term on the board of directors.

The second-annual Live United Spirit Award, given to a volunteer from one of the United Way's 63 partner agencies, was awarded to Alberta "Peaches" Johnson,

"someone described as a pint of power by everyone who knows her," said Mark Graham, president and CEO of the Tulsa Area United Way.

Johnson, 93, has volunteered with Broken Arrow Seniors for 24 years.

"She does everything with a smile on her face, a song in her heart and a twinkle in her eye," Graham said.

It also was announced that Becky Frank of the Schnake Turnbo Frank public relations firm will be the 2013 campaign chairwoman.

She will be the first woman to singlehandedly lead a campaign for the Tulsa Area United Way.

"That is so past due," Grant said.

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Alberta "Peaches" Johnson accepts her Live United Spirit Award from Tulsa Area United Way President and CEO Mark Graham at the agency's annual meeting and luncheon Tuesday.

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