



News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Phyllis Nichols Joins KUB Board of Commissioners

Knoxville, TN – Phyllis Nichols was sworn in as the newest member of the KUB Board of Commissioners at today’s meeting. She succeeds outgoing commissioner Adrienne Simpson-Brown, who had served on the Board since 2018.

Nichols retired in 2022 as CEO of the Knoxville Area Urban League, whose mission is to promote diversity, and economic and social equity in Knoxville. As one of the longest-serving CEOs in the organization’s 54-year history, her leadership has been instrumental in shaping the league’s success and its lasting impact on over 11,000 individuals and families in Knoxville.

Nichols is a graduate of East Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee, as well as a member of Leadership Knoxville's Class of 2003 and Class V of Leadership Tennessee. She has also received numerous awards and recognitions, including the 'Be More' Person of the Year by East Tennessee Public Television, the UT College of Communications Diversity Award, the 2016 Lizzie Crozier French Leadership Award, and the 2022 Jim Haslam Business Leadership Award.

In addition, the Tennessee Human Rights Commission recognized Nichols for her advocacy for civil rights and social justice, and she was honored with the Women of Power Award by the National Urban League. The YWCA of Knoxville’s Tribute to Women recognized Nichols as one of 30 extraordinary women who have made a significant impact on the community in the last 30 years.

Alongside Nichols, KUB’s Board of Commissioners includes Claudia Caballero, Ron Feinbaum, Cynthia Gibson, Kathy Hamilton, Celeste Herbert and Dr. Craig Pickett Jr.

The Board held its annual election for officers of the Board at the January Board Meeting. Cynthia Gibson was elected Chair; Claudia Caballero was elected Vice Chair; and Mark Walker was elected as Secretary to the Board.

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KUB provides more than 501,000 customers in Knox and parts of seven surrounding counties with safe and reliable electric, fiber, natural gas, wastewater treatment, and water services.