

**The Links,
Incorporated**

Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service



FOCUS
THE LINKS INCORPORATED SOUTHERN AREA NEWSLETTER

**PASSIONATELY PURSUING
OUR LEGACY**

SPRING EDITION 2018



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AREA DIRECTOR GREETINGS

PASSIONATELY PURSUING OUR LEGACY

Greetings My Link Sisters!

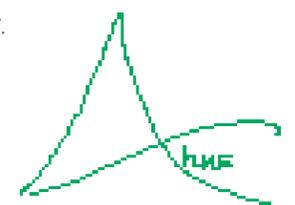
I am passionate about the work of The Southern Area and this edition of The FOCUS reflects your passion as well! May 2018 begins a new service year for us and I can hardly wait to share our 2017- 2018 banner year of service and growth for The Southern Area. I proudly extend congratulations to each member for your dedication to the vision of our organizers.

As with each edition of our FOCUS newsletter, we hope to include a glimpse of our activities over this quarter with featured program initiatives, impactful transformational programming, 'kudos' reflecting a few personal accomplishments of our members; and friendship activities that set us apart from the rest. Links' Chapters throughout the nation have done magnificent work and The Southern Area is no less stellar in impacting lives and transforming communities within our seven states and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

Amazingly, we have supported our communities by mentoring, volunteering, donating, and advocating more than ever before. While our service is documented, the 'heart and soul' we share in these efforts cannot be measured. It maintains our alignment not only with National goals, but also the vision of our organizers. The full impact of our efforts may not be measured for some time to come – from scholarships awarded to students that result in graduation years later; or in gardens planted with food for families which improve their health and safety for generations; or through the encouragement that you share in our facet programs of The Arts, Services to Youth, National and International Trends and Services and, of course, Health and Human Services. Your effect cannot be measured – yet it can positively alter lives for generations to come.

Thank you my sisters for your impact! Thank you for your dedication! Thank you for continuing to remember those four words – "and this I Promise". As we plan this upcoming year of activities with chapter retreats, workshops or in-service training models, do take a moment to reflect and congratulate each other for the stellar work that you have done. Then take every opportunity to be the difference in your community that you hope for and earnestly strive to uphold our pillars of friendship and service by being a friend first and sharing in the work of your chapter.

Congratulations and let's continue to Passionately Pursue Our Legacy.





MIND, BODY & SPIRIT

BE THE ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

Link Elizabeth Jackson, *Southern Area Chair, Mind Body and Spirit*

Throughout the Southern Area this spring, chapters have engaged in Links Day at the Capitol (LDAC) activities. Hundreds of our members visiting each of our area's seven State Capitols are doing much more than taking a photo or making themselves known to legislators. We are engaging in advocacy. Being an advocate for someone who can't speak for themselves or isn't being heard is one of the greatest things we can do in our communities and within our organization.

Contrary to popular belief, advocacy isn't just a once-a-year event for us. Advocacy is woven into nearly everything we do. As we work within neighborhood schools, we are advocates for our youth. When we promote proper diets and exercise, we are advocates for healthy lifestyles. Sharing financial literacy makes us advocates for a fiscally strong community. When we support schools in Jamaica or families in Haiti, we are advocates for people of color who need us all around the world.

Yes, our core principles are friendship and service, but we are also firmly rooted in advocacy. Among the first major efforts undertaken by Sarah Scott and Margaret Hawkins was the call to support the NAACP through lifetime memberships—providing financial security to our advocate in the battle for racial justice and social equality. We are called to continue these efforts.

What does it mean to be one who advocates for change?

As Advocates of Change, we commit our mind, body and spirit to bring issues of public concern to the attention of state legislatures and public officials for the voiceless in our communities of color.

As Advocates of Change, "We are called to speak for the weak, for the voiceless, for the victims of our nation and for those it calls enemy, for no document from human hands can make these humans any less our brothers and sisters," as Martin Luther King, Jr once said.

As Advocates of Change, we are given a mandate to advocate for those who suffer in silence and empower those who are weakened by the abuse of an unforgiving society.

Finally, my Link sisters, as Advocates of Change, God has entrusted our spirits to pray for liberty and compassion for the downtrodden and forgotten and to "Open our mouths for the mute, for the rights of all the unfortunate." (Proverbs 38:1-9)

From the statehouse to the schoolhouse to the jailhouse, let's take up the cause for those who need our aid. Be the Advocate for change in your community.

M

MIND,
BODY
& SPIRIT



STORING MEETING MINUTES

BYOC~ BRING YOUR OWN COMPUTER



Link Vanessa Falls, *Southern Area Secretary*

If you are a chapter secretary hoping to get members to update chapter profiles, try a mini session and a meal. Hosting a BYOC or Bring Your Own Computer-Lunch and Learn session prior to a meeting can help a member conquer her fear of the Membership Management System (MMS). During the BYOC session, I recommend the following methods:

- **Make The Session Fun and Engaging** -Have a fun catchy title for your sessions like BYOC or Mastering MMS. If possible make it a Lunch and Learn and if funds are available, have the chapter sponsor the lunch for the trainees. Make the member comfortable enough to laugh at her anxiety and rejoice in her new accomplishments.
- **Disarm The Link Sister's Fears** - When a member doesn't understand why she is having a technological issue, it often causes them to experience anxiety. Try to reduce the anxiety as much as possible.
- **Foster Understanding. Ask Questions** - Ask open questions about the situation and let them tell you everything that's on their minds. Once they have shared their pain point concerning MMS, acknowledge their trouble and include the solution.
- **Categorize Your Audience. Know Their Learning Style** - Most people fall into one of three categories when it comes to learning style: visual, auditory, or experiential. Teach to the member's learning style.
- **Keep It Simple~ Make it Easy Breezy** - Break the information down into digestible bits.

For information or assistance, please contact Southern Area Secretary Vanessa Falls at:
secretary@salinksinc.org



FINANCIALLY LINKED

NEW CHAPTER FINANCIAL POSITIONS APPROVED

Link Lonnen M. Brown, *Southern Area Treasurer*

If you are a chapter in need of additional financial helping hands, help could be on the way. A chapter president can now appoint an assistant treasurer and/or an assistant financial secretary to assist with financial matters. These positions will help keep chapters on track in the absence of the treasurer and financial secretary. Additionally, the new officers can perform other required financial tasks within the delegation of the duties of the treasurer and financial secretary.

Note: The addition of these officers would require a Chapter By-Law change to incorporate the aforementioned new positions. Additionally, these officers will need to be bonded.

Specific duties and responsibilities of the Assistant Treasurer are as follows:

- Collect money in the absence of the Treasurer from the Financial Secretary
- Provide a report of collected money to the Treasurer
- Assist in preparation of Form 300 to send to the National Office with National Foundation funds
- Assist in preparation for internal/external audits of financial documentation
- Provide other assistance as needed by Treasurer
- **Note: The Assistant Treasurer cannot sign checks or make bank deposits.**

Specific duties and responsibilities of the Assistant Financial Secretary are as follows:

- Collect money in the absence of the Financial Secretary
- Support Financial Secretary with collection and receipt of money collected during a fundraiser
- Prepare and provide receipts to members for money collected
- Provide a report to Financial Secretary reconciling money collected
- Transfer collected funds to Treasurer
- Assist in preparation for internal/external audits of financial documentation
- Provide other assistance as needed to Financial Secretary

This update will be documented in the next release of the Financial Handbook. If you have questions, concerns or need further information or questions please contact the Southern Area Treasurer, Lonnen Brown at: treasurer@salinksinc.org

PROGRAMMING NOTES

STEPS TO PROGRAM SUCCESS

The two pillars of The Links, Incorporated are friendship and service. Under the umbrella of friendship, our organization seeks to serve our community through transformational programs illuminating our legacy of service. Now that program reports have been submitted and the year has come to a close, it is time to renew that commitment. What can you do now to ensure a successful upcoming program year?

See the below 3 action items to close out the program year:

1.
Create a summary sheet for associated program documents and make that available to Chapter members so everyone is aware of current Chapter

2.
Assess current programs and determine opportunities for improvement i.e. evaluation methods, pre and post assessments, new community partners.

3.
Draft addendum to current program report to allow for easy reporting the following year.

Each of these action items not only helps to maintain and grow your current programs, but they also serve to support your Chapter's branding. Each member will be more knowledgeable about Chapter programs via the summary sheet and that same summary sheet can be used to identify new partners in the community. Again, take this time to renew your Chapter's commitment to service and start preparing now to continue to pursue our legacy of transforming communities across the Southern Area. We are all doing amazing work, be proud of your accomplishments, and strive to serve even more. Thank you for passionately pursuing our legacy of service. For more information and assistance with programs contact: programchair@salinksinc.org



Cori Brock Cooper,
Southern Area Program Chair
 2017-2018



PROGRAM NOTES



THE ARTS

NATIONAL POSTER ART COMPETITION 2017-2018 GOING DIGITAL: GREATER ENGAGEMENT, GREATER AWARENESS

Carnetta Davis, *Southern Area Arts Chair*

Let's give a special Thank You to the Chapters that have worked independently or partnered with schools, churches, and other institutions to help the students develop their artistic skills and have provided learning experiences that enabled them to create posters for the National Poster Art Competition centered on the theme Our Vision, Our Future: Healthy and Happy Communities.

This year's national contest voting was conducted online immediately after the April 15th deadline for poster submission. Thirty-nine (39) Southern Area Chapters submitted participation forms through the on-line platform and downloaded the contest guidelines. The Poster Art Competition is for students, grades 1 - 12. The four competition categories are:

Category I:	Grades 1 - 3
Category II:	Grades 4 - 6
Category III:	Grades 7 - 9
Category IV:	Grades 10 - 12

A first-place winning poster in each age group category, or a maximum of four (4) posters, were eligible for submission by each chapter. Some chapters awarded prizes or certificates of participation. Many used judging criteria that they created or the criteria that they downloaded from the national contest website. This criterion will be used by on-line voters who will judge the national competition.

The National Poster Art Competition began in 1995 and was originally focused on healthy, energetic, and active lifestyles. At the origin of the competition, our Health and Human Services Facet did not exist. This year's theme has broadened the focus. Students were encouraged to incorporate sub-themes including, but not limited to a healthy and clean environment, a bully free world, and an inclusive and diverse society as elements related to healthy and happy communities. Chapters had the flexibility to tailor the basic theme to meet the needs of their communities.

The National Poster Art Competition has been a wonderful way to enhance the Links brand and raise awareness of our efforts in the arts. The top twelve (12) submissions, three (3) in each category, were determined by the National Poster Art Committee and judged by a panel of seven (7) national artists.

The National Poster Art Competition winners will be announced at the 2018 National Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana. The first-place winning artist in each category will receive a monetary award for \$1000 along with a certificate of achievement. Semifinalists will receive a certificate of participation and a monetary award of \$250.

A Day With The Artist | New Orleans (LA) Chapter



Twenty-two 7th and 8th grade students from the New Orleans (LA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated's partner school, Mary McCloud Bethune, participated in "A Day with an Artist." Students spent the day touring the Ogden Museum's exhibits with working and teaching artist MaPo Kinnord. Raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Ms. Kinnord earned a BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art, an MFA from Ohio State University and is now an associate professor of art at Xavier University of Louisiana.

She guided Bethune students through the exhibits, exploring abstract works while discussing techniques and inspiration behind the works and her ceramics which are on exhibit. After a tour of these works, students participated in a press conference-style lunch with the students asking the artist questions and sharing what they learned from the tour. Four members of the chapter participated in the discussion and shared their perspectives from their careers in the arts. The day concluded with an art-making workshop conducted by Ms. Kinnord. The activity was a collaborative effort amongst groups of girls. They explored techniques in clay and together created a work of art. They were engaged, focused and excited to see what they could design collaboratively. The activity not only was a creative one but also a lesson in teamwork. For most, it was their first time engaging with an African American artist, and for some, their first museum experience.

Coloring Youth Imagination Through Art | Magic City (AL) Chapter

The Magic City (AL) Chapter's Arts Facet hosted the chapter's National Poster Arts Contest recently at Creative Christian Ministries Daycare Center in Hoover, Alabama. The annual contest, a local version of the national contest begun in 1995, is designed to prompt youth to learn how to express themselves and convey a message through art. This year's theme was "Our Vision, Our Future: Healthy and Happy Communities."



Participants could design their posters around the theme, but incorporate sub-themes which included: an inclusive and diverse society, a bully-free world, and a healthy and clean environment as elements related to happy and healthy communities. The two winners were Eric Mitchell for the Grades 1-3 category, and Aaron Medenia for the Grades 4-6 category. Both were awarded certificates and gift cards. Tasha Guthrie, an art teacher at Bessemer City High School; and Angie Ingram, an art teacher at Glen Iris Elementary School in Birmingham, were the contest judges.

Bringing Dance Back to School | Azalea City (GA) Chapter

While studies show that students benefit from arts education, sadly arts programs are dwindling in schools. To fill that gap, members of the Azalea City (GA) Chapter have worked with Hollis Innovation Academy and its principal, Dr. Diamond Jack, Principal, for the past two years bringing health, education and cultural activities to the children of this low-income community. Just before the Alvin Ailey Dance Company performed in Atlanta, Lisa Johnson-Willingham, Director of Ailey Extension and former Ailey Dancer, joined Azalea City (GA) Chapter Links for an interactive session with approximately 50 Hollis Academy students from grades three through six.



During the interactive session, Johnson-Willingham shared a motivational message aligned with the "Six Habits of Hollis" (collaboration, communication, creativity, empathy, self-discipline and perseverance). She then taught choreography from one of Alvin Ailey's classic and beloved productions, "Revelations." The children were fully engaged and excited with having performed "Revelations."

Hosting The Ritz Chamber Players | Bold City (FL) Chapter



The sounds of beautiful chamber music were in the air as The Ritz Chamber Players joined members of the Lawson Ensemble and the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra for a performance in Jacksonville, Florida. The aptly-named "Creative Collaborators" event warmed the hearts and souls of Bold City (FL) Chapter members and guests, infusing this classic genre of music with a fresh new energy. The Ritz Chamber Players is unique in its dedication

to showcase talented musicians from around the world, especially the works of African American composers.

Through its concert performances in Jacksonville and across the United States, the Ritz Chamber Players continue to build and ignite societal interest in classical music. The musicians demonstrated that commitment by volunteering their time with students at Tiger Academy, an elementary school in the Jacksonville community. Following the concert, chapter members hosted a reception offering guests the opportunity to mingle with performers.

Celebrating Youth and The Arts | Tuscaloosa (AL) Chapter



Members of the Tuscaloosa (AL) Chapter supported one of their partners, The Actor's Charitable Theatre by serving as greeters and ushers at the Theatre's production of "Suessical the Musical." Additionally, the Tuscaloosa (AL) Chapter is completing work on its Young Artists Showcase. This annual

event provides opportunities for minority youth identified with talent, to show their visual art, and perform in the areas of dance, music, drama and spoken word. During this event, our HBCU, Stillman College Choir will serenade the audience. Also, the event will feature a performance from the young actor who played the role of "JoJo."



SERVICES TO YOUTH

Inspiring Big Thinkers | Birmingham (AL) Chapter

Many minority students show greater entrepreneurial aspirations than their non-minority peers, yet just 47% reported that classes about how to start or run a business were available through their school curriculum. To meet that need, Birmingham (AL) Chapter members created an umbrella program for the students at Maranathan Academy entitled, "Link Tank." This program is designed to teach students how to problem-solve, use critical thinking skills, and nurture unconventional talents and skills. The program also provides information and resources on entrepreneurship, self-employment, as well as create opportunities, ensure social justice, instill confidence and stimulate the economy. Each facet conducts sessions with the students as part of this umbrella program.



Cracking the Science Code | Birmingham (AL) Chapter



National Society of Black Engineers Jr. Chapters have been established at all three Birmingham City schools where the Birmingham (AL) Chapter has a STEM initiative. Chapters have also been established at Parker High School and Ramsay High School. NSBE Jr. is one of the largest student-governed organizations based in the United States. Its mission is to increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community. Students at Parker High School built an electric car.

Oxmoor Valley students continue to master the Dash and Dot robots. That school was also the site of eight individual "Hour of Code" classes, reaching more than 183 students. Through a coding exercise, "Star Wars: Building a Galaxy with Code," students learned how animation is used to control the spherical droid BB-8 using computer software. Students made their droid walk and controlled other movements through programming. Inspirational videos like "Coding with Steph Curry" and "Push Yourself, Anybody can Learn" also inspired classes. The "Hour of Code" began as an introduction to computer science aimed at demystifying "code" and broadening participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science beginning with 1-hour coding activities, but expanding to a variety of community efforts.

Transforming Students One Letter At A Time | New Orleans (LA) Chapter

More than 180 of the area's top spellers gathered at Xavier University of Louisiana for an opportunity to become the top speller and participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC. After numerous challenging rounds, Thomas Gross III of LaPlace Elementary School emerged the winner. Excited spellers registered and received logo t-shirts and bib numbers. Co-sponsor, The Times Picayune/NOLA.com, offered opening remarks and spellers were divided into groups. Students went to breakout rooms filled with judges, callers, verifiers, and supporters seeking to see which students would be victorious in their individual school bees. The competition began in full force with words from pundit to embarcadero. As the rounds continued, the crowd size decreased, but chapter members ensured each student knew the value of their participation.



A Project L.E.A.D. component was integrated into the Spelling Bee. Chapter members created a support team to encourage students who were eliminated. They were provided with a one-sheet document that highlighted online resources for middle schoolers to prepare for college, which is the focus of the chapter's Services to Youth work. The sheet also explained the skills spellers gained through their participation including increased vocabulary, improved public speaking, and confidence building. Importantly, they were told that they are better prepared for academic success as well as future ACT and SAT testing. The Spelling Bee is a result of months of meeting and planning by chapter members. More than 30 attended the event to ensure a successful program.



Beautiful ButterF.L.Y.! | Miami Biscayne Bay (FL) Chapter

The ButterF.L.Y. Girls (First Love Yourself) Mentoring Program (BFGMP) helps guide third grade girls through a journey of self-discovery that inspires them to lead honorable lives by walking in love and confidence.

Additionally, the goal is to instill morals and values that will lead to great character. Each young girl is encouraged to use her unique talents, and abilities to pursue excellence and to inspire her peers. The mission of the program, started in 2015, is to encourage girls to explore and celebrate the ideas of self-love and obtain a passion to pursue their dreams while inspiring positive self-esteem and confidence and improving student achievement. Fifteen young girls in third grade were selected from three public elementary schools based on the recommendations from teachers, counselors, and administrators. The girls identified met at least one of the following criteria: struggled academically, received disciplinary actions, or exhibited low self-esteem or self-confidence. The ButterF.L.Y. mentoring program provides girls the opportunity to make new friends, build strong and positive relationships, and develop a well-rounded view as it relates to themselves and others.

Saturday Academy | Dogwood City (GA) Chapter



Members of the Dogwood City (GA) Chapter executed their 3rd annual Saturday Academy program. The program took place in the celebrated Center for Civil and Human Rights Museum. The goal was to help 5th-8th grade students answer questions about their voice in this world. This year's theme was "The Power of Speech in Sports." All facets were engaged with three impactful events which included presentations, tours and activities serving 90 students from 13 Atlanta area schools:

- "Untied We Fight, But Not in Vietnam: Muhammad Ali" and "Equal Pay: The Williams Sisters"
- "Racing Against Race - the Olympics: Jessie Owens, Wilma Rudolph, John Carlos/Tommie Smith/Peter Norman. Activities included a 3D heart simulation.
- "Are We Kneeling For Nothing - The Impact of Colin Kaepernick" - students participated in debate teams to address the question.

The impact was evident to both students and parents. One parent told us, "this series has been absolutely wonderful for my child, for all the kids. They walk away with a bonafied history lesson, a better understanding of the greatness they come from, how to relate it all to current times, and how to use all of this to spring load their own success." Chapter members also manned a voter registration table during all of their events.

NSBE Jr Student Upwardly Bound for Success | Montgomery (AL) Chapter

Since receiving the designation as the first NSBE Jr. chapter, the Montgomery (AL) Chapter has inspired youth from ASPIRE and UPWARD BOUND programs to maintain interest in engineering by sponsoring STEAM and robotics-related programs and by actively participating in NSBE Jr. meetings. The chapter recently sponsored one of its NSBE Jr. Students at the 44th NSBE Convention in March. Lacquez Moore, NSBE Jr. chapter President and a chaperone attended the conference. Moore said that he was impressed and inspired during the convention. His most valuable takeaway from the conference was that "there is no limit to what (he) can be or what (he) can do." Moore was further inspired by the fact that individuals with different passions and focused on different paths can still be engaged and fulfilled in engineering. Moore is a senior at Robert E. Lee High School with a GPA of 3.5. His average designated him as an APEX participant at the conference. Although he desires to attend Georgia Tech to major in business, he plans to enlist into the military as an Information Technology Specialist upon high school graduation.



Keeping HBCUs On the College Track | New Orleans (LA) Chapter

Members of the New Orleans (LA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, participated in “HBCU Night” sponsored by College Track New Orleans. College Track New Orleans is a comprehensive after-school program that focuses on academics, student life, leadership, and getting into college, and works with students beginning as high school freshman and continuing through their college careers and beyond. Specifically, the purpose of “HBCU Night” was to expose students to both the academic and social experiences of attending a Historically Black College and University through the shared narratives of alumni.



As the 5:00 pm bell rang to start the College Track sessions, approximately 20 high school students entered the room to engage in “HBCU Night.” The panel consisted of graduates from Spelman College, Florida A&M, Howard University, and Southern University. During the session, alumni shared their resounding appreciation and powerful educational experience that resulted from attending a Historically Black College or University. The high school students inquired about academic programs and majors, financial aid eligibility, the impact of moving away from home, and tips for encountering a messy roommate. As the session concluded, it was clear that there were more conversations to have, more information to provide, and therefore more work to do. Chapter members will continue to focus on the importance of HBCUs through future programming.

Serving Atlanta Youth | Buckhead/Cascade City (GA) Chapter



The Buckhead/Cascade City Chapter is passionately pursuing our legacy by fulfilling our promise to serve our Atlanta, Georgia community. We have been most effective in supporting the well-being of women and children by integrating the Southern Area HBCU Initiative focus into our “Going Green with STEAM” theme. Our “Ladies First Career Development & Finishing Academy” Umbrella Program, led by Services to Youth, works with Upward Bound girls, many first generation aspiring college students by exposing them to HBCUs and STEAM careers. Health &

Human Services sponsored a Healthy Lifestyle session including mental wellness, and International Trends & Services introduced traveling with a “Passports to Your Future” session. National Trends & Services sponsored a “Going Green: Financial Literacy Workshop” on Spelman College’s campus and distributed 150 “Financial Fornication” books donated by chapter members.

Offering Children in Institutional Care A Day of Hope | Nassau (BAH) Chapter



Members of the Nassau (BAH) Chapter of the Links Incorporated hosted a ‘Day of Hope’ for children at a local children’s home. Often when adolescents at these homes reach legal age, they are not

equipped academically or socially to become productive, self-sustaining citizens. The Chapter has engaged with the Board of Directors and Administrators of the Home, the Ministry of Social Services, religious leaders, health care professionals and various other experts. The result is the design of a 45 day per annum formal curriculum including 30 Saturdays during the school year and 15 days during the Summer Holiday. Additionally, the chapter has retained the services of a trained guidance counsellor. The guidance counsellor conducted individual counseling sessions with the residents and will continue to do so. The goal is that each girl will leave the Home qualified for entry into the Links House, a house built by the Chapter, inter alia, for girls who have resided in institutions, have attained the age of 18 and who are enrolled in tertiary level education. The boys will gain entry into a similar home for boys. The children continued the journey to self-discovery and were led in a Vision Board activity by the CEO of the Training Authority. There was introspection and examination of personal values. The children wrote down their goals and then poured over magazines to find images which fit their vision for themselves and their lives. Before leaving, the children were required to write down a personal goal based upon the discussions during the day. This was not shared with anyone. Each child left the Day of Hope with a vision board, memories, a commitment to self, inspiration and, importantly, hope.



Cultivating a Community | Orangeburg (SC) Chapter

Chapter members are leading Mellichamp Elementary School students in the cultivation of the school’s community garden. The mission is to cultivate the spirit of community and beautify the school by creating and sustaining a garden of flowers and plants. The garden fosters environmental sustainability and stewardship,

advances horticultural and nutritional education all while providing a beautiful and natural retreat for the students. With help from a 3rd grade Science teacher, Chapter mentees, the Rosebuds, will also plant herbs and vegetables with the intention of producing a healthy supplemental food source. The initial planting will be done in a raised bed garden which will be taken to a local greenhouse for the summer and transported back to the school during the fall season and incorporated into the curriculum for the Rosebuds to continue to care for the garden as well as add additional vegetation for the next school term. The project will culminate with a garden reveal in May with a dedication to the Orangeburg (SC) Chapter.

Marriott.
ATLANTA MARQUIS

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SOUTHERN AREA



INTERNATIONAL TRENDS AND SERVICES

International Women's Day Celebration | LeFleur's Bluff (MS) Chapter



On International Women's Day, LeFleur's Bluff (MS) Chapter members decided to help women closer to home. Members collected home and healthcare toiletries and meals to a local domestic abuse shelter which provides assistance to women and children. Butterflies by Grace and Designs helps women and children who are victims of domestic abuse and in need of help. The shelter's founder, Ms. Eva Jones, said the goods and meals provided by chapter members were greatly appreciated and helped the shelter meet its goal of offering practical help to those in need.

Exploring Diverse Worldviews | Triangle Park (NC) Chapter

Members of the Triangle Park (NC) Chapter partnered with St. Augustine University's International Program and the North Carolina Association of International Educators (NCAIE) to host the 2017 Global Leadership Conference themed "Exploring Diverse Worldviews." More than 100 students took part and engaged in cultural awareness activities. They represented the Caribbean, West Africa, Latin America and other regions. Workshop sessions included the following topics: Power and Women Leaders, Understanding Gender Identity for Today's Leaders and Attitude as a Gateway to Leadership that Fosters Opportunities. Before the conference, students participated in global awareness activities. They shared their heritage through culturally-themed games, displayed friendship by crafting beaded-bracelets, discuss their heritage by responding to a cultural awareness bingo activity, and wrapped things up with a "Feast of Nations," featuring the food and flags of the 14 countries representing those registered at the conference. NCAIE officials recognized chapter members with a plaque for their efforts.



International HBCU Students Get Needed Support | Natchez (MS) Chapter

International students pursuing degrees at Alcorn State University, a Mississippi HBCU, will receive support from Natchez (MS) Chapter members. The three year MOU provides for the chapter to serve as community mentor and host family to ASU international students. Chapter members conducted a needs assessment and determined the students' greatest need was access to food during school breaks. Students have received laundry baskets filled with personal hygiene items, water, juice, and healthy snacks. Each student received a basket at the November meeting.



Members also presented a session entitled, "Stress of College Life Affects Healthy Eating Habits" and gave each student a heart healthy bag of fresh fruit. Students were also encouraged to celebrate their communities at a Links International Prayer Breakfast. Ministers from throughout the chapter's service area offered prayers and some of the international students performed native sacred and folk songs.

International Women's Day | West Palm Beach (FL) Chapter



Members of the West Palm Beach (FL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated held their 2nd Annual International Women's Day Lunch. The chapter hosted women from Asia, Eastern Europe, and several islands throughout the Caribbean to discuss ways to work together to realize the 2018 International Women's Day campaign theme: **#PressforProgress**.

Linking International Studies and HBCUs | New Orleans (LA) Chapter

Members of the New Orleans (LA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated provided 7th and 8th grade Bethune Elementary students the opportunity to explore one of that city's revered HBCU institutions, Dillard University, and to learn more about International Studies on the campus. Seeking to instill in the students the importance of HBCU institutions, chapter members incorporated a viewing of the documentary "Tell Them We are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities" into the visit. Young students learned the history of HBCU institutions: why they exist; the role they played in the advancement of civil rights; and their struggles and ongoing accomplishments in affording African Americans throughout the country with educational opportunities and advancement. Students also explored the Dillard campus, learned about the admissions process and university expectations of students as they enter college life. They were also able to hear from and speak with Dillard students, including a panel composed of Dillard University Melton Fellows. The Melton Foundation selects fellows from Chile, China, Germany, India and the United States. Their efforts focus on promoting global citizenship as a way for people and institutions to address today's global challenges. Chapter members shared their experiences and hope to inspire the students to include international options in their post high school and college plans.



NATIONAL TRENDS AND SERVICES

Human Trafficking Awareness | Greater Miami (FL) Chapter

As part of their umbrella program about sex and human trafficking, members of the Greater Miami (FL) Chapter presented a panel discussion entitled, "Human Trafficking Happens Here Too" at the University of Miami, Coral Gables. The panel included Detective Jessica Bermudez, Miami-Dade County Police Department's Special Victims Unit; FBI Agent Victor Williams, Retired ICE Homeland Security Investigations; and Patricia Taboas, CHANCE (Citrus Helping Adolescents Negatively impacted by Commercial Exploitation) Program and Foster Care Clinician, Citrus Health Network. Panelists gave statistics about children victimized by sex and human trafficking and discussed ways the community can identify and assist those impacted.



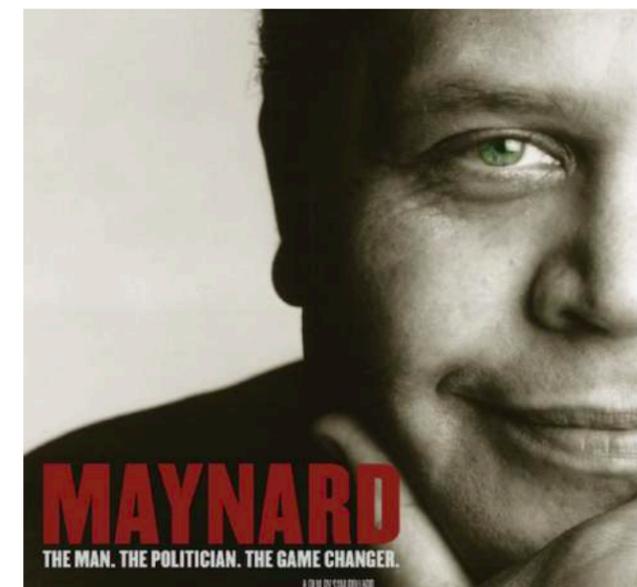
"Every day your child walks out the door—if they haven't been prepared for this—they're vulnerable," said Agent Williams. "If you don't talk to your child about what's going on, they are vulnerable." To reduce the perpetuation of sex and human trafficking trauma through the court process, chapter members participated in a letter-writing campaign appealing to the Florida Bar president for reformation of criminal discovery deposition rules to prevent the compounding of trauma for child victims and witnesses.

Angels Among Us | Elizabeth City (NC) Chapter

Seven years after losing her child, Mrs. Heather Wilson, a daughter of a Link, founded Kennedy's Angel Gowns in honor of the daughter she lost. Elizabeth City (NC) Chapter members support the effort which helps grieving families by providing infant burial gowns, assisting with funeral costs, raising funds for Cuddle Cots and bringing awareness to the silence that often surrounds infertility, miscarriage, still births, early neo-natal loss and infant loss. This idea was formed when Heather's mother, Evelyn Henley could not find a dress small enough to fit Kennedy for her burial. Heather and her husband Demitri now devote their time to honor their daughter's legacy by helping other bereaved families through Kennedy's Angel Gowns. They host two large fundraising events annually, The Angel Ball which is held in April and the Angel Run 5k which takes place in October.

Money Matters | Montgomery (AL) Chapter

Alabama youth had money on their minds, thanks to members of the Montgomery (AL) Chapter. Kathy Shirah, Senior Underwriter of the Central Alabama Title Center, shared her Money Smart program with the students. Each student participant was randomly assigned a career and demographic markers including: monthly salary, marital status and number of children. They then received monthly budget sheets and were required to visit designated booths representing relevant budget items. The booths were staffed by chapter members and included: insurance, life's little surprises, housing, Uncle Sam, childcare and more. Students explained how eye-opening it was to see how quickly their money was spent after taking care of basic essentials. One major lesson learned was the importance of getting an education to secure a well-paying job. Chapter members cited it as an example of transformational programming that positively affected the lives of youth and the community.



"Maynard" Documentary Highlights Past and Impacts Future | Camellia Rose (GA) Chapter

Members of the Camellia Rose (GA) Chapter hosted a movie premiere/fundraiser to ensure the community remembers the impact of one of Atlanta's most influential leaders. "MAYNARD" is a documentary honoring the life and legacy of former Atlanta Mayor, Maynard Jackson Jr, who made national history in 1973 when he was elected the first African American mayor of a major southern city. The film includes interviews with President Bill Clinton, Ambassador Andrew Young, Rev. Al Sharpton, Vernon Jordan, and Rev. Jesse Jackson. The event also included a panel of dignitaries and special guests who discussed the film and Jackson's contributions to the city. Driven by his mantra, "The Ballot, the Buck and the Book," Mayor Jackson believed in the power of education, voter and economic empowerment as a means of achieving equality and opportunity. In his honor, the Camellia Rose (GA) chapter plans to use proceeds from the event to conduct local voter registration drives, provide financial literacy sessions to community partners, award scholarships and donate books to Atlanta schools.

Taking Charge of Your Future | Bold City (FL) Chapter

Members of the Bold City (FL) Chapter in partnership with AARP presented a day of self-empowerment for women of all ages with the "Taking Charge of Your Future" Seminar at WJCT Studios in Jacksonville, Florida. The daylong seminar focused on self, health and wealth. With over 90 guests in attendance, the day beginning with a continental breakfast, showcased vendor's local vendors providing natural beauty and hair products, healthy teas, jewelry, handbags and other accessories.

The highlight of the day included workshops including Zumba classes taught by fitness instructor, Erica Willie; "Your Hair...Your Crowning Glory", a workshop on haircare presented by Ms. Pat Grant Williams from Revlon Corporation; Financial Resilience and preserving your Wealth, presented by Wells Fargo Sr. Vice President, Valerie Hendrix Jenkins and Link Brenda Ezell (Attorney). The State Director for AARP Link Dionne Polite, Broward County (FL) Chapter was the featured keynote speaker for the luncheon.

Gun Violence and School Safety | Fort Lauderdale (FL) Chapter

South Florida Links joined with community members to discuss the effects of gun violence. Broward School Board Representative Dr. Rosalind Osgood sponsored the Town Hall Meeting of legislative representatives, school board members, and students to talk about the impact of school shootings and other gun-related incidents and deaths. African American students were particularly vocal about how shootings in communities of color have received less media attention and that they wanted to ensure that their concerns were addressed as discussion on this issue grows.



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HIV/AIDS Prevention | Greenville (SC) Chapter

Members of the Greenville (SC) Chapter held a 'HIV/AIDS in African American Youth' program. The event was aimed at 17 middle school youth and three high school students. These were the same youth that the chapter has been mentoring and tutoring throughout the year. The goal was to provide information and resources to students and their parents for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. The program contained the following points:



- A.** What is HIV?
- B.** What is AIDS?
- C.** How is HIV/AIDS Transmitted?
- D.** Key facts about HIV/AIDS.
- E.** Prevention of HIV/AIDS.
- F.** Diagnosis of HIV/AIDS.
- G.** HIV/AIDS Treatment.
- H.** Strategies to stay healthy and free from AIDS.
- I.** Parent information materials.

Members noted that students were very attentive to the presentation and asked many questions. The questions asked were about issues that may generate a need for a 'mini' follow-up session. As result of the presentation, students appeared to be more informed and better positioned to avoid HIV/AIDS. Information was not only shared with the students but also with the adults who were in attendance as chaperones.

Healthy Kids Program | Triangle Park (NC) Chapter

Members of the Triangle Park (NC) Chapter created a community partnership with two schools, Reaching All Minds STEM Academy and Burton Magnet Elementary School, to offer a holistic health program for families. In its 3rd year, the Healthy Kids Program included a half-day of workshops for 5th grade students and their parents.



The student sessions featured: Trauma/Stress, Nutrition, Self-Image and Puberty for Boys and Puberty for Girls. The parentsessionswereentitled: Understanding Adolescent Changes; Communicating Effectively with Our Children and Partnership Between Parents and Teachers. Through rotating and interactive small-group workshops, presentations were unique in facilitating self-expression and conversation. The Program brings together a public charter school, a traditional public school and community stakeholders such as BlueCross-BlueShield, AT&T and Duke Health.

Mrs. Tisha Powell, TV-Anchor at ABC11-WTVD, issued the closing charge, "The Importance of Both Student and Parent Involvement in Education." The Healthy Kids Program fosters healthy minds, bodies and relationships and is a model for embracing diversity and inclusiveness in preparing youth to lead healthy lives in the global community.

Fit By 50 | Magic City (AL) Chapter

Magic City (AL) Chapter members strengthened their friendship bonds through exercising, healthy eating, sharing recipes, and providing accountability while encouraging one another to adapt healthy lifestyles during this year's Fit By 50 Fitness Challenge. The chapter's Health & Human Services Facet hosted the challenge for the chapter, awarding points to members who exercised, ate healthy meals, shared options for healthy meals, and consistently posted their information to a private chapter GroupMe or



Facebook page. Link Felecia Dailey won first place and a deluxe food air fryer by being the most active and diligent of the chapter members to work out, eat healthy and post proof of her daily efforts. Link Kecia Chapman won second place and a spa gift certificate while Link Connie Sheppard Harris won third-place and a VISA gift card.

Colgate Dental Van Screenings | Birmingham (AL) Chapter



For Children's Dental Health month, members of the Birmingham (AL) Chapter partnered with Colgate Bright Smiles Bright Future Dental van to provide dental screenings and oral health education to elementary school students in the Birmingham metro area. The screenings were provided by dental professionals who are also chapter members. The chapter was able to provide 420 screenings to students at Princeton Elementary School, Oxmoor Valley Elementary School and Hemphill Elementary School. The children were checked for common oral health conditions, given an oral health report card and dental referrals as needed. They were also provided age appropriate oral health education material.

Colgate Dental Van Screenings | Crown Jewels (NC) Chapter

After four years of hard work, members of the Crown Jewels (NC) Chapter grew their screening efforts from 2 students to 229 students. Children at Sugar Creek Charter School were identified for the screenings. The chapter worked with Colgate with the aim of improving the dental health of those students. About 500 students grades K-4 were slated for the exams. Those who weren't seen in the Spring will be examined later in the year. Chapter members say while other events may reach more children, this screening had significant community impact.



Colgate Dental Van Screenings | West Palm Beach (FL) Chapter



Members of the West Palm Beach (FL) Chapter hosted the Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures® van at the RCMA Child Development Center in Belle Glade, Florida. The goal of the event was to provide free dental screenings and oral health education and awareness to rural, low-income children and their families. More than 50 African-American and Hispanic preschool age children were served through the partnership between The Links and Colgate Palmolive.

Linking Together Against Syndrome X | Treasure Coast (FL) Chapter

Members of the Treasure Coast (FL) Chapter presented their award winning “Linking Together against Syndrome X, Women’s Heart Health” Symposium at the Gifford Youth Achievement Center. The Health and Human Services facet developed this comprehensive program designed to equip women, children and families with essential tools, in making health a top priority in the African-American community. The health symposium focused on nutrition, physical wellness, mental health and a youth showcase on bullying and police encounters. Symposium participants were able to participate in a wide range of free health screenings, offered by representatives from the Florida Health Department. This year’s Health Symposium also highlighted the chapter’s new initiative: Linking to Immobilize Human Trafficking (LIHT) on the Treasure Coast. This program focused on Human Trafficking upon our African American youth and the many ways each of us, as community members could provide support and safety to vulnerable women and children in our community. Over 20 local organizations and business partnered with our chapter to make the event a great success. Attended by over 150 community members and children.



A Visit to the Dentist for Montgomery Students | Montgomery (AL) Chapter

Members of the Montgomery (AL) Chapter joined forces with the Gift of Life Foundation and visited students at two Montgomery Public Schools—Seth Johnson Elementary and Highland Gardens Elementary—to conduct dental checkups and to provide educational materials, hygiene items and



The Bernstein Bear’s A Visit to the Dentist. The Gift of Life Foundation and other partners including the Montgomery Public Schools, Toothbuds and local dentists provided for the screenings targeting 160 students K-2nd Grade. Students went home with a screening report and information on Medicaid assistance that is available. The book *A Visit to the Dentist* was provided by the chapter.

Women’s Wellness Event Promotes Healthy Living | Charlotte (NC) Chapter

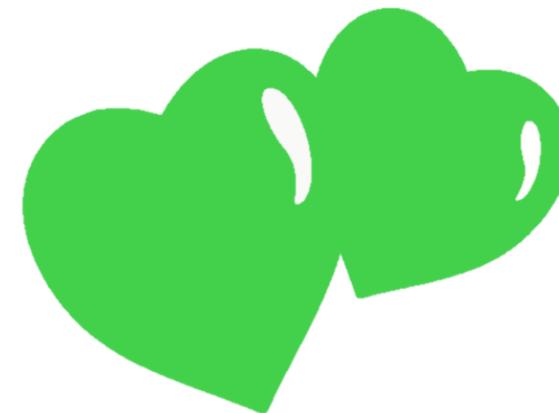
Members of the Charlotte (NC) Chapter conducted a wellness workshop that focused on the “mind, body and spirit” of women living in the Renaissance West community – the chapter’s dedicated community where it focuses several of its programs and volunteer efforts.



As part of the chapter’s program theme: Linking Mind, Body and Spirit: Fit for Life, the informative and educational event included sessions that addressed depression and anxiety (mind), “know your numbers” screenings for blood pressure and BMI and tips on how to live a healthy lifestyle (body), and a session

on how to have healthy relationships based on personality types (spirit). The day also included a workshop and information booth on how the environment can impact your health and several easy things you can do to create a healthy environment at home such as decreasing clutter in your living space, finding ways to bring more natural light indoors and establishing a dedicated place in your home for meditation, healing and prayer.

Workshop sessions focused on a specific area to address the health needs of women and provided information participants could start using immediately. The day started with a presentation on anxiety and depression by Tricia Greer, a licensed clinical social worker from the Charlotte Community Health Center and concluded with a fun and engaging activity about how our personality type can affect our relationships. Both members and attendees learned a lot. The chapter will continue to host educational sessions and engage with women in the Renaissance West community using pre and post-assessment results to demonstrate increased knowledge and awareness of how to live a healthy lifestyle.



AMERICAN HEART HEALTH MONTH CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Greenville (SC) Chapter

Heart Health Event: Link Emma Barksdale presented information from the Heartlinks toolkit "Every Heartbeat is Life". The first segment of the presentation was a review of the session from last time on how to identify the signs and symptoms of heart disease. Prizes were given to the participants who remembered the most information. The second part of the presentation provided information on the session, "Help Your Heart: Control Your High Blood Pressure". We also discussed lifestyle changes that can help to prevent heart disease. The Greenville Links were very attentive and asked several questions. 60% of those present have high blood pressure and truly appreciated the information provided. The best received parts of the session were: the spice recipe they could use instead of salt and the low sodium "Soul Food makeover vegetable stew recipe." They were able to add the information they learned from this segment to the "Love Your Heart" notebook given to them last year.



Tuscaloosa (AL) Chapter

Heart Health Event: The Health and Human Services Facet members of The Tuscaloosa Chapter coordinated an increase health awareness program on risk factors associated with heart disease at a local restaurant on February 23, 2018. During dinner at the Levee Restaurant, a short program presented by Link sisters consisted of distributing literature. The video was not viewed due

to high noise level. Sixteen participants played a game entitled 'Heart Smart' and winners received red heart necklaces as gifts. An invitation was extended to women in Greek letter organizations, churches, families and friends. All participants received a red and silver bracelet gift. Women dressed in red and modeled their outfits as they entered and departed from the restaurant. The event was enjoyable and informative as everyone was reminded of lifestyle choices to promote a Healthy Heart.

Tuskegee (AL) Chapter

Heart Health Event:

- Provided information in the form of pamphlets and brochures and performed blood pressure screening at a chapter sponsored book signing.
- Performed blood pressure screening and gave chapter members heart healthy tips at monthly chapter meeting.
- Spoke on local morning radio program to provide community with information regarding heart attack and stroke; emphasizing steps the individual can take to be "Heart Healthy."



Pensacola (FL) Chapter

Heart Health Event: The Pensacola (FL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, sponsors an annual "Go Red for Heart-Health Red Dress Jazz Brunch," in partnership with Cardiology Consultants an affiliate of Baptist Healthcare, and Boston Scientific, Close the Gap Program. The event featured a panel of healthcare experts who discussed prevention and treatment of heart disease. Additionally, students from the Dixon School of Arts, who we partner with,

were featured as our Poster Art Winners. The students' art work was entered in the Links National Poster Art Contest.

North Broward County (FL) Chapter

Heart Health Event: Members of The North Broward County (FL) Chapter hosted an event that would bring women together, educate them on the importance of being heart healthy and show them a great time. The Red Dress Soiree brought out more than 75 community members and ladies who enjoyed light bites, pink prosecco and short presentations on women's health and pediatric health by Dr. Sylvia Sloane Jones, Joe DiMaggio & Broward Health Pediatric Heart Unit; Dr. Cassan Blake, Cleveland Clinic and Dr. Mutessa Murray, ARNP, West Kendall Baptist Hospital.



Aiken (SC) Chapter

Heart Health Event: The Aiken (SC) Chapter has once again decided to Go Red at its annual Go Red for Heart Health luncheon. After a welcome by Link Pamela Haynes, Link Beverly Clyburn introduced Link Belvia Payne's son, a student at Morehouse, and his dad. Each year, the Heir-o-Link and Connecting Link participate to honor the memory of Link Payne, former member of the Aiken (SC) Chapter, who died of a heart attack in 2015. At the luncheon, keynote speaker and cardiologist, Dr. Gregory Eaves, discussed topics such as hypertension and high cholesterol, and how to remember stroke symptoms with the acronym FAST:

F - Face Drooping

A - Arm Weakness

S - Speech Difficulty

T - Time to Call 911

Two signature programs, HeartLinks to Heart Health and the National Oral Health Initiative, highlight two important aspects of maintaining good health. For example, Go Red health panelist and dentist, Dr. Julius Stephens, explained how periodontal disease can cause heart disease. With closing remarks from chapter President Dorothy Brooks, the Go Red Luncheon continues to provide a trusted place for the community education, health screenings and honest dialogue.



St. Petersburg (FL) Chapter

Heart Health Event: The St. Petersburg (FL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated celebrated American Heart Month by hosting a workshop entitled "The Way to Her Heart...Recipes to Fall In Love With." The workshop, hosted in partnership with St. Petersburg College (SPC) Women on the Way Program, was well attended by SPC students and the community. This interactive workshop received very high reviews and included blood pressure screenings, weight/BMI measurements, waist measurements, and a heart age assessment. Participants learned about heart disease, heart attack symptoms, stroke symptoms and healthy recipes. A local heart health advocate shared, for the first time in public, her moving story on her newly diagnosed heart failure condition. After her presentation, participants engaged in a question/answer exchange with the presenter. The recipe for a healthy heart was shared and included an informative discussion on food choices, exercise tips and stress management. The highlight of the evening was a live healthy meal cooking demonstration by a local chef. All participants received bags with healthy snacks, portion control plates, and health information.



**WELLS
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SOUTHERN AREA



LINKS DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Having Our Say On Our Day: Links Day At The Capitol 2018

Southern Area Links have embraced legislative and awareness and involvement in a significant way this year with members from all seven states participating. With challenges in the areas of education, healthcare, mental health and criminal justice reform, our advocacy may be needed more than ever. For more than 20 years, Links have been working to get the ear of legislators when it comes to improving social welfare throughout the Southern Area. State by state, more than 500 Links joined together this year to tackle important issues and raise awareness. Congratulations sisters, your hard work achieved real results.



Virtual Pumps on The Hill

Freshly infused with the spirit of advocacy, chapters in six of our seven Southern Area states--Baton Rouge (LA), Camellia Rose (GA), Durham (NC), Orangeburg (SC), Mississippi Roses (MS) and Treasure Coast (FL)--also participated in Virtual Pumps on The Hill. Members were asked to voice their support for U. S. House Resolution 4573 which calls for investigating the effects of gun violence on public health, and mental health, including the impact on minority communities and what is being done to address those effects. Social media posts were sent to congressional representatives and included messages like: "Gun violence is a leading cause of death for African Americans ages 1-44"; "In 2018, there have been 8 firearm attacks during school hours" and; "I stand with students who are concerned about their safety at school." Photos and videos posted featured green attire, Links paraphernalia and the request for representatives to support HR 4573.



Alabama

Alabama Links gathered under the theme of "Ready, Set, GO!" on February 20, 2018. Nearly 90 members from eight chapters joined to express concerns to legislators regarding public education, criminal justice reform, juvenile crime, mental health and voter registration. They held a panel discussion which explored the U.S. Senate election and how women's political power was harnessed through grass roots organization. The event's keynote speaker, Dr. Kareem Crayton, is the Interim Director of the Southern Coalition for Social Justice. His work focuses on the intersection of law, politics and race. Crayton offered an in-depth analysis of 2017 Senatorial election results to aid attendees in maximizing their get out the vote efforts in upcoming elections.



Florida

In Florida, members adopted the theme, "Linking Awareness, Advocacy and Action." More than 50 Links attended the two-day event in Tallahassee. Florida Links prepared for their legislative visits with an advocacy workshop. During an informative panel, members discussed challenges involving voter registration and juvenile detention reform. A breakfast, lunch and scholarship gala during their LDAC allowed for socializing with sister Links and networking with partner organizations.



Georgia

Georgia Links drew a sell out crowd of 130 with the theme, "Putting the Missing Links Together: A Conversation about Mental Health, Education and Criminal Justice." Members of all Georgia chapters took part in the event. They were joined by elected officials from state, county and local governments. Also addressing the group was newly-elected Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms who is a member of the Dogwood (GA) Chapter. Finding funding for education and providing mental health within the school system were among the topics discussed. Members also planned to host a statewide voter registration drive in the Fall of 2018.



Louisiana



In Louisiana, Links focused their advocacy on issues that are important to their communities and raising awareness about the work of the Links, Incorporated throughout the state of Louisiana. More than 100 members spent a full day at the Louisiana State Capitol where the day began with breakfast speaker, Ashley Shelton, a member of the LaCapitale (LA) Chapter. As executive director of the Power Coalition, she addressed voter participation and the 2020 Census with attendees. That information sparked the Louisiana LDAC Steering Committee to begin developing a plan of action relating to increasing voter turnout. Members were also given a link to

track bills in the legislature and asked to continue sharing their concerns with legislators. Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards addressed the group for lunch, sharing up to the minute legislative action. Following his discussion, attendees took part in an historic “fireside chat.” Leaders of the state’s two largest cities, Mayor-President Sharon Brooke of Baton Rouge and New Orleans Mayor-Elect LaToya Cantrell answered questions and shared their views on issues ranging from policy to personal development. Members were presented with a resolution proclaiming April 18, 2018 as Louisiana Links Day at the Capitol in the House of Representatives chamber by Representative Katrina Jackson of the Monroe-Grampling (LA) Chapter. A mixer at the end of the day offered time for reflection and more discussion.

Mississippi



Mississippi Links joined under the banner “Linking with Our Legislators.” Sixty members from each of the state’s eight chapters took part. They focused on the issue of lottery support as a means of funding education and ensuring that mental health is available within the State’s school systems. Additionally, the event forums focused on supporting ongoing advocacy efforts. Twenty-five legislators met with the group and answered questions regarding efforts to get out the vote and maximizing advocacy efforts.

North Carolina



North Carolina Links held a “Local Government 101” session to educate attendees about how political systems work. Sixty Links from 12 chapters participated. Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Dozier of Apex, North Carolina and Forsyth County Attorney Davida Martin, a member of the Winston-Salem (NC) Chapter, led an interactive discussion about government services and the role of citizen involvement. Charlotte Mayor Viola Lyles of the Crown Jewels (NC) Chapter also made remarks. Other Links talked about their service on local boards and commissions. Linda Jackson Barnes of the Winston-Salem (NC) Chapter serves as Assistant to the Mayor and coordinates citizen appointments to Winston-Salem’s Boards and Commissions. Sharon K. West of the Asheville (NC) Chapter, serves on the Buncombe County Health and Human Services Board. Kaye Webb of the Triangle Park (NC) Chapter serves on the City of Raleigh Historical Development Committee.

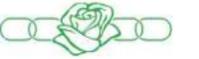
Preparing to run for elective office was also an important topic. An engaging discussion and panel presentation was held featuring Cate Meno of Lillian’s List Recruiting and Training Committee who outlined the various resources available to help prepare women who aspire to serve. A panel of Links who have been Lillian’s List featured candidates discussed their experiences and some practical considerations for running for office. Charlotte Mayor Lyles, North Carolina State Senator Valerie Foushee of the Triangle Park (NC) Chapter and US Congressional Candidate Linda Coleman of the Raleigh (NC) Chapter were featured speakers.

Anita Brown-Graham, Professor of Public Law and Government at the University of North Carolina School of Government, presented an overview of socio-cultural-political generational trends and predictions for the next 20 years and how the next generation’s civic involvement could be impacted. The growing problem of human trafficking across North Carolina was also addressed. Christine Shaw Long of the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission and Karicka Yarbough Smith of the North Carolina Council for Woman and Youth provided statistics and shared several concrete strategies for addressing the problem. The day ended with a reception where attendees had the opportunity to interact with local elected officials.

South Carolina

South Carolina Links answered “A Call to Action: Addressing the Factors Impacting the Healthcare of South Carolinians” at their LDAC activities. Seventy-seven members from seven chapters took on health-related topics including Medicaid expansion and support for increased programming critical for addressing cancer treatment and preventative care in the state. Legislators met with members for lunch to hear their concerns. Attendees also explored how chapters could host community forums to both educate the community and continue the important conversation about healthcare.





LINKING OUR LEGACY, OWNING OUR FUTURE!

BYOC- BRING YOUR OWN COMPUTER



Melissa K. Adams, *Southern Area Conference and Events Chair*

Between work, family and social commitments, the thought of taking a few days away can seem like an impossibility. And top do that for a conference? Even less feasible. To do that for a conference might seem even less feasible. But the 41st National Assembly is much more than a conference. From June 27 through July 1, 2018, Links members from around the world will meet in Indianapolis, Indiana to celebrate our transformative service and experience rejuvenation from our life-enhancing friendships. If that isn't enough, here are five important reasons why you won't want to miss out:

1. This is an election year.

If you attend National Assembly as a delegate, your role is very important and focuses on the future of our organization. By listening to speeches from National Office candidates and reviewing potential national Bylaw changes, delegates directly help shape our future. Official delegates will vote on proposed bylaw amendments and elect the 2018-2019 National Officers. If you are a non-delegate, you have the opportunity to influence the direction of your delegate's vote by providing additional insight on the items that matter most to you.

2. New connections await.

Not only will your voice be heard, but your resume can gain an extra boost as well. Assembly is the perfect chance to get to know members from other Chapters. Often Link Sisters from other regions of the country can become valuable resources for referrals and best-practices. Collaboration is a great way to approach networking. There's no substitution for meeting someone IRL (in real life). You will find that we can help each other uncover ideas and spark inspiration. Not to mention, you will also get to hear from some amazing professionals, including our Assembly Headliners, Workshop Presenters and Award Recipients.

3. "Sharpen the Saw."

Listed as the seventh habit of highly effective people, "sharpen the saw" is the idea that sometimes you have to take a break from the "work" of your profession to sharpen your skills. Working in our own communities can often feel isolating. Without exposure to a variety of points of view, we can miss new ideas and trends that can impact future results. The educational aspect of this conference can expose you to new ways of conducting your chapter business and help you discover how to be more productive in implementing our service facets. Remember, a dull axe won't cut a tree nearly as effectively as a sharp one.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PREPARATION

JAMAICA

By: Kimberly Sweet - Smiling brighter than their orange plaid uniforms, Watford Hill Primary School students are helping to usher in an educational and economic renaissance in their community. With helping hands from their international partners, students have better facilities, enhanced instruction and the personal items they need for success.

Watford Hill Primary School was built in the Hanover Parish area in 1896. In its more than 120 years of existence, population shifts have left its classrooms sparse and resources diminished. However, its history and heart drew partners who stepped in to make a difference.

The Southern Area of The Links, Incorporated's signature initiative, One Mission, One Love joins Unconditional Love for Children, LLC and The Links, Incorporated in patterning with the school and its students and parents. More than just a donation, the gifts are a lifeline for children in need and an institution at risk of closure.

"We do not have enough resources to take care of all of the things we need to do, but because of your generosity we are doing much better." Principal Fania Davis who has served the school for 11 years. WHPS educates 60 students. Generally, Jamaican schools with fewer than 100 students are closed, however, partnerships have given the school a new lease on life.

Watford Hill is a rural community located in Hanover Parrish. Visitors and residents alike traverse the hill by way of a single road. Vehicles honk and flash lights to avoid each other as they race up and down the hill. Pedestrians hug the sides of the road from their hillside-nestled homes. While this area has a strong history, its residents are firmly rooted in the present. Parents who live on the hill often send their children to so-called "city schools" where they believe more opportunities exist. This "flight" left Watford Hill's enrollment diminished.



SPOTLIGHT: 1MIL

Jamaican education officials are working to change that perception. Partners are key in making small schools more attractive, according to Jamaican Ministry of Education Officer Yvonne Hardie, Primary School Supervisor Region 4, Montego Bay. "Without resources, we might not be able to give all we need. We appreciate partners like you." For instance, through the Links, Incorporated and The Southern Area have provided stipends for art, band and chess teachers, as well as a cook who helps prepare breakfast and lunch for the students. Additionally, those students have received literacy, math and technology tutoring plus computers, facility upgrades, school supplies, uniforms and toys. That is making parents give the school a second look. "The community will see that this school has resources that a school in the city does not have," Hardie said. "Although you are in the hills, you are a gem. Although we are in the city, we will send our kids to the hills, to you."

The Jamaican economy cries out for assistance if its educational system is to remain viable. A deeply devalued currency leaves Jamaican buying power diminished. It takes \$129 of its dollars to equal \$1 in American currency. If you add high unemployment, a 16.5 percent consumer tax coupled and rising costs on goods and services to that equation, it is clear why the Watford Hill Primary School Initiative was undertaken. The value of this effort is, "cash, in-kind gifts and most importantly today, you and me-the children can put a face to all that you have given them," Hardie says. Like many places here in the United States, officials are focused on making a difference for the children so that their lives can improve. "Education is a primary goal. Only through education that this person can break that cycle of poverty. Important to come so that children can put a face to the contribution. It also says I do care," Hardie added.

One of those special added benefits is an active vibrant art program. Visiting Art Teacher Donna Spence is retired and helps out. "I'm loving it!" She says. "They (the children) are excited. They want to do it everyday." She has taught all grades at Watford Hill Primary since September of 2017. She follows the government curriculum and employs elements of art and activities to reflect those requirements.



"Partners are important because the funding government gives schools is not adequate," she says. "What the government gives per student can hardly buy them a box of crayons."

Gifts like markers, crayons go along way for students in these situations and supplement the basic materials. Spence uses like paper plates and straws. She also finds help in the classroom from other students.

"In multi-grade teaching, some children teach themselves and teach each other," she said. This helps everyone, she says because students aren't the only ones growing. "You learn as a teacher, too." Fostering their creativity is another important aspect. "I don't touch any of their work." Students are "creative and discover for themselves, (they) discover learning."

The benefits of having motivated partners like The Links, Incorporated and the Southern Area whose focus is on the students, families, facility and community have come to outweigh the drawbacks of a rural school. Many parents now say their children and families are much better off at WHPS.

"We get help (with things) we are not able to do ourselves," parent Suzette Smith said. "This makes a big difference," parent Lisa Wellington added.

The women are able to help their children, families and communities as the result of a cottage industry put into place to help the women raise money. The newly-formed Stitching Queens sells placemats and drink holders and helps mothers learn as much about business as their children learn in class.

"We work together, it's something great. By doing this we can get more parents and students here," parent Belinda Salmon said. "By selling, it is good advertisement in the community. They (the other parents) will get jealous. Something good is going on there and its good for the community."



Another parent, Rose Simpson, said “We got a lot of help from many sponsors, it motivated us to do better.” The cottage industry work we do is “challenging, but we are managing it,” she added. Managing it may be an understatement. The mothers raised more than \$3,000 through the sales, money that was used to support educational efforts at WHPS.

Their efforts along with those from their partners have yielded a tangible list of enhancements that make WHPS a true gem in its community:

- Kitchen built and stove purchased to ensure that children have food to eat during the day.



- Pavilion constructed which creates outdoor learning space and community gathering site events that support the school.

- Chicken coop built to house poultry which is used both for food and income to the school.

Students tend the chickens, clean the coop and gather eggs for sale.

- Garden created so that fresh vegetables could be grown for use in school kitchen. Students and parents also work the garden.



- Bathrooms renovated so that students, teachers and visitors would have clean and functioning facilities.

- Water stations built for hand washing to support cleanliness and proper hygiene. Large vats were placed atop buildings to collect rainwater which is used for both bathrooms and water stations.

- Classroom supplies collected for each student and include pens, pencils, crayons, composition books, personalized backpacks and more.

-Students measured and given uniforms for their use, along with shoes and underwear. Without uniforms, children are not allowed to attend school in Jamaica so families often have to choose which child attends based on clothing availability.

Southern Area chapters also made their mark by supplying items most needed by WHPS students and their families.

- Greater Miami (FL) Chapter members provided funds for an Art Teacher

- Brevard County (FL) Chapter members donated 6 large suitcases filled with hygiene packets including: toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, hand sanitizer, combs, brushes, wipes. Additionally the chapter included infant hygiene kits with baby items, 47 African pillowcase dresses, 20 t-shirts for boys and 75 pairs of socks.

- New Orleans (LA) Chapter members sent 63 bags personalized with each student’s name. Each bag was filled with size and gender appropriate underwear and socks, as well as soap and sunscreen.

- Triangle Park (NC) Chapter members donated African pillowcase dresses for female students.

The Southern Area’s commitment to WHPS is a welcome complement to the efforts of The Links, Incorporated which impact WHPS as well as two other schools, St. Mary’s preparatory School and Mt. Zion Primary School. In the three years that The Links, Incorporated has been involved with the Jamaica mission, together we have contributed \$1 million dollars and 5,000 service hours. On this last of three trips, the contributions were significant:

- 180 Links and their families attended
- 160 Kindle Fire tablets were donated to students at a cost of \$150 each.

Service delivered in five program areas:

- National Trends and Services-Anti-bullying
- The Arts-Read Write Illustrate
- Health and Human Services- Dental screenings and education, hygiene, CPR
- Services to Youth-Kindle Fire gifts/demonstrations
- International Trends and Services-Student coaching, Parent coaching, Healthy eating & Preventing Sexual Abuse

- Dental screenings-2 days of screening-483 checked and screened, over 700 educated. Nineteen percent of those screened had dental conditions that need further treatment. Eighty one percent had teeth in good condition.



Each student received a backpack from Colgate with a standard toothbrush, power brush and other oral education materials.

- \$150,000 ultrasound machine donated to hospital

- 200 students received CPR training

Though The Links, Incorporated identified the January mission as "The Final Frontier," that trip is not likely to be the end of our relationship with Jamaican schools and students. The friendship and service we shared with our Jamaican brothers and sisters have built a bond that won't easily be broken.



HAITI

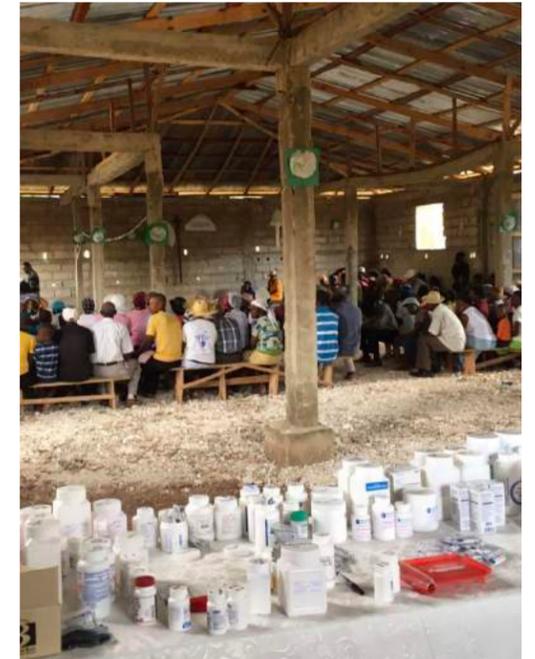
Students who attend Jamaican schools aren't the only ones benefitting from Southern Area international missions.

Brunswick (GA) Chapter members embarked upon a medical mission to Haiti in February. At the outset of their effort, they held a seminar open to the public seeking those interested in volunteering in Haiti. The seminar focused on medical and cultural issues affecting health care delivery in the island nation. Thirty-seven people attended the event with the opportunity to receive 3.25 continuing medical education credits and .3 continuing education credits from Augusta University, formerly the Medical College of Georgia.

A web-based version of the seminar was also created, offering CME and CEU credits. Chapter members partnered with Helping Hugs, Inc. to carry out a second one-week medical mission to Cotes de Fer, Haiti. More than 650 patients were seen during that time. Brunswick Links want to ensure that their visit has a lasting impact. Since many Haitians of all ages are plagued by hypertension and subsequent strokes, the chapter's medical mission team plans to sustain their efforts through a sustainable anti-hypertension program. For those identified during the mission, a one-year supply of anti-hypertensive drugs would be provided. Additionally, a medical assistant would be hired to monitor and electronically submit patient blood pressure rates. The first year's funding is covered by the chapter's partner, Helping Hugs, Inc. and medical mission trip coordinators, including Southeast Georgia Health Center.

In celebration of International Women's Day, members of the Pontchartrain (LA), New Orleans (LA) and Fayetteville (NC) Chapters delivered cash, clothes, toiletries and books to a church, school and orphanage. The fourth annual mission trip to Haiti gave members the chance to put "boots on the ground" for more than 500 children and adults in Port Au Prince, Haiti.

In partnership with the Hope for Haitian Children Foundation, members delivered and distributed clothing, specifically undergarments, and motorized toothbrushes to the orphans at the Ecole Foyer Espoir School. Also, several books in French on self-esteem, conflict resolution, anger management, peer pressure and self-respect, were purchased and donated for





the Pontchartrain Links Library which was founded three years ago at the Ecole Foyer Espoir School. Checks were presented on behalf of the New Orleans (LA) Chapter and the Fayetteville (NC) Chapter to the Founder & Executive Director of the school and orphanage, Marie Jose`Poux.

The mission journey also included a stop at The Pennies for Haiti orphanage where checks were presented on behalf of the Pontchartrain (LA) and Fayetteville (NC) Chapters in an effort to support the institution's summer STEM program goals. Members also stopped at Saint Therese Church where survival kits containing female toiletries were distributed to more than 100 women. Additionally, a monetary donation of \$500 was given to the priest on behalf of the Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter. The mission trip experience was further enhanced by traveling to a chicken coop that's supported by the New Orleans (LA) Chapter.



Members of the Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter hosted a women's luncheon. The gathering featured 20 high profile female professionals from Haitian communities. The guests included CEOs, executives, licensed social workers and attorneys. The luncheon agenda aimed to solicit needs and ideas from Haitians that would result in Links providing more impactful service. Attendees divided into breakout sessions and discussed topics including human trafficking, domestic violence, health, finance and education. Attendees plan to use the information gathered to make their service more transformative and sustainable. Links reported that the mission was the experience of a lifetime and that the Haitian women and children they met were extremely appreciative of the current mission and excited about the efforts to come.




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SOUTHERN AREA

Carolyn E. White Henderson | Triangle Park (NC) Chapter

Triangle Park (NC) Chapter member Carolyn E. White Henderson was recently honored as a Nursing Legend by Pi Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated which is an organization for registered professional and student nurses. Henderson has over forty-five years of nursing experience and is a registered nurse, educational administrator and health consultant. Henderson is noted as a life-long contributor to healthcare. She has worked in the operating room, as a professor, as a clinical site coordinator, as Interim Assistant Department Nursing Chair and student advisor.



Karrie Gibson Dixon | Triangle Park (NC) Chapter

Triangle Park (NC) Chapter member Karrie Gibson Dixon was recently named the Interim Chancellor for Elizabeth City State University. Dixon had served as the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at the University of North Carolina System. Dixon provides leadership for the Academic and Student Affairs division and is the Chief Student Affairs Officer of the University. She leads student success initiatives; oversees efforts to increase student access, retention and graduation; she fosters innovative collaborations among the UNC system, the NC Community College System, the state's independent colleges and universities, and the NC Department of Public Instruction. Dixon has been instrumental in leading many important projects and policy changes that have positively impacted students in the University of North Carolina and statewide.



Katrina Howard Avery, MD | Triangle Park (NC) Chapter

Triangle Park (NC) Chapter member Katrina Howard Avery, MD has accepted the nomination as President-elect of the Medical Alumni Association at the UNC School of Medicine. She has served one term as Secretary/Treasurer and Vice-President of the Medical Alumni Association at UNC School of Medicine and will be installed as the President at the Spring Medical Alumni Meeting. She will be the first African-American to hold this post. Dr. Avery is currently serving a second term on the Medical Foundation of North Carolina's Board of Directors; is a member of the UNC School of Medicine's National Loyalty Fund Committee; In the Duke Department of OB-GYN, Dr. Avery is currently the Division Chief of Harris & Smith, OB-GYN at the Duke Department of OB-GYN; and serves on the Duke Regional Board of Trustees where she is on the Credentialing, Nominating and PQSC Committees.



KUDOS

Jewell Cooper, Ph.D. | Greensboro (NC) Chapter



Greensboro (NC) Chapter member Jewell Cooper, Ph.D. Was honored as an inaugural member of the YWCA's Academy of Heroes. Cooper was recognized for her work offering professional development in local and regional school districts related to the elimination of the "isms" (i.e., racism, classism, sexism, ableism, etc.) and as chair of the Multicultural Education Special Interest Group of the Association of Teacher Educators. For more twenty years, she has guided her UNCC students as they "participate in community-based learning projects where they explore the educational experiences of their students within their learners' home/community environments." Cooper has also led professional development programs focused on diverse learners in order to formulate "culturally responsive teaching, and inclusive practices for both public and private schools."

Gaynell Hendricks and Connecting Link Elias Hendricks | Birmingham (AL) Chapter

Birmingham (AL) Chapter member, Gaynell Hendricks and Connecting Link Elias Hendricks received the Dream Keeper award for their outstanding community service on Saturday, March 31st during the 50th year commemoration of the 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The awards were presented at the Dorothy Jemison Day Theatre where the drama, "Trashing the King", that pays tribute to Dr. King and the 1968 striking Memphis sanitation workers was performed.



Alice Wyche Hurley | Columbia (SC) Chapter



Columbia (SC) Chapter member Alice Wyche Hurley and her late husband Anthony Manigault Hurley were honored for their efforts in founding The Columbia Urban League at the organization's 50th Anniversary Equal Opportunity Gala. Just three years after the 1964 Civil Rights Act was passed, the couple worked together to establish the first League in South Carolina, with a mission to empower communities and change lives. The Columbia League eventually chartered both the Charleston and Upstate Leagues. Mrs. Hurley stated that "It was natural that I started the Columbia Urban League due to the current issues at the time. The NAACP had its place, but when the issues are brought to the surface, organizations like the Columbia Urban League make the mission consistent and ongoing."

Yolanda Copeland | Augusta (GA) Chapter

Augusta (GA) Chapter member Yolanda Copeland was named the 2018 GA State School Social Worker of the Year by the School Social Workers Association of Georgia at their Annual Spring Conference on March 29, 2018. Copeland is employed with the McDuffie County Board of Education as a School Social Worker and has been employed with the school system for twenty-one years. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Tuskegee University in 1988, her Master's Degree in Social Work from The University of Georgia in 1989 and her Educational Specialist Degree in Leadership from Lincoln Memorial University in 2004. She is a Licensed Master level Social Worker in the State of Georgia.



Dr. Gloria Alston McNeil | Columbia (SC) Chapter



Columbia (SC) Chapter member, Dr. Gloria Alston McNeil has been recognized as a North Carolina Central University Distinguished Nursing Alumni for her contributions to nursing. McNeil is a nurse leader with more than thirty five years of nursing leadership experience. She currently serves as the Associate Chief Nursing Officer at Durham Regional Hospital where she is responsible for nursing care for the critical care, medical, rehabilitation, general surgery, behavioral health patient care units. In addition she provides leadership for infection control, accreditation, operation administrators, Nursing Informatics and Magnet.

Judge Helen Shores Lee | Birmingham (AL) Chapter

Birmingham (AL) Chapter Alumna member Retired Judge Helen Shores Lee was honored for her community contributions. Lee is a retired Circuit Judge of the 10th Judicial Court of Alabama and was the first African-American woman to serve in the Civil Division of the Circuit Court of Jefferson County. She is the daughter of the famous civil rights attorney, Arthur Shores and her mother, Theodora, was a founding member of the Birmingham Chapter. "As an adult, I have found that giving of your time and service can be one of the most rewarding experiences in life," Lee said. "If I am to promote the welfare of my community and make my city a better place to live, then I must get involved and I must give of my time, my service and myself to the benefit of others."



Mary Phillips | Triangle Park (NC) Chapter

Triangle Park (NC) Chapter member Mary Phillips was honored as “Woman of the Year” by the North Carolina NAACP Conference of Branches. Her selection marks the first time the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Branch won the competition in its 62 year history. Phillips was chosen because of her work against the state’s regressive voting rights law which includes annual NAACP membership drives and five get-out-the-vote campaigns. Her work with NAACP attorneys helped identify harmed voters in their successful federal case against North Carolina where the state was found to discriminate against African Americans with “surgical precision.”



Jennifer King Congleton | Wilson-Rocky Mount-Tarboro (NC) Chapter

Wilson-Rocky Mount-Tarboro (NC) Chapter member Jennifer King Congleton was included in “The AT&T Heritage Calendar: Celebrating the NC African-American Experience” which honors those who have contributed to the lives and experiences of African-Americans in the state. The 2018 Edition highlights individuals who have excelled in many fields, including law, education, business, community service, athletics and the performing arts. Congleton was at the calendar’s unveiling at the Governor’s mansion in Raleigh, NC. She said, “if I can help somebody as I pass along, if I can cheer somebody with a word or a song, then my living is not in vain.”



Arthenia Joyner | Tampa (FL) Chapter

Tampa (FL) Chapter member Arthenia Joyner has a new library named after her. Joyner is a political trailblazer who has broken many racial and gender barriers throughout her career. She was the first black women to practice law in both Hillsborough and Polk Counties, the first black board member of the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority, a member of the Florida House of Representatives from 2000 to 2006, and the Florida Senate from 2006 to 2016. In addition to holding many other local, state, and national posts and appointments, Joyner remains the longest practicing black female attorney in the history of Florida. The new 9.3 million, 15,000-square-foot library is the 27th in the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library system.



Lolita Jackson and Sharla Jackson | Camellia Rose (GA) Chapter



Camellia Rose (GA) Chapter members Lolita Jackson and Sharla Jackson have been named to the 2019 Leadership Atlanta class. The women are two of 89 metro community leaders selected to participate. The program aims to “move Atlanta forward by delving deeply into the city’s issues.” The nine-month program includes retreats, full-day seminars, service projects, discussion groups and community tours, among other activities

aimed at building knowledge of regional issues and making participants more effective leaders. Lolita Jackson is the Director of Government Affairs for Comcast. Sharla Jackson is the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor for the Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council of Georgia.

Bertha Watson Henry | Fort Lauderdale (FL) Chapter

Fort Lauderdale (FL) Chapter member Bertha Watson Henry received the 2017 International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Mark E. Keane Memorial Award for Excellence and is the first African American woman to achieve the honor. The award recognizes individuals “for furthering the concept of the democratic ideal in local government.” Henry serves as County Administrator of Broward County, Florida and under the auspices of the County Commission, has direct responsibility for the administration of an area with 1.9 million residents and operations for nearly 60 agencies, including the airport, seaport, and Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau.



Danielle Joyner | LeFleur’s Bluff (MS) Chapter



LeFleur’s Bluff (MS) Chapter member, Danielle Joyner, was honored as best in Mississippi business. She is the recipient of the Mississippi Business Journal’s Top 50 Under 40 Business Person of the Year Award. Joyner is a McDonald’s Owner/Operator. Over a 9 year career, she grew her business from one restaurant to three. She received a Master’s of Business Administration in Marketing from the Sybil C. Mobley School of Business and Industry at Florida A&M University.

Allyson Maynard-Gibson | Nassau (Bahamas) Chapter

Nassau (Bahamas) Chapter member Allyson Maynard-Gibson recently took part in the first ever People's Tribunal on Economic Crime in Johannesburg, South Africa. She served as a member of this distinguished panel which received evidence from experts and others on economic crimes, sanctions busting and state capture during the apartheid era up to and including the 1999 Arms Deal.



Wilhelmina Lewis, M.D. | Treasure Coast (FL) Chapter

Treasure Coast (FL) Chapter member Wilhelmina Lewis, M.D. has been appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Florida Community Health Centers, Inc. FCHC is a leader in Florida's primary and preventive healthcare. Lewis has been part of the FCHC team for 15 years. She has received the Medical Care Provider of the Year Award, the Jessie L. Robinson Memorial Award and the President's Award.

Shirley D. Wilson, MD | Brunswick (GA) Chapter

Brunswick (GA) Chapter member Shirley D. Wilson, MD has been named Chief of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Brunswick Campus of the Southeast Georgia Health System.

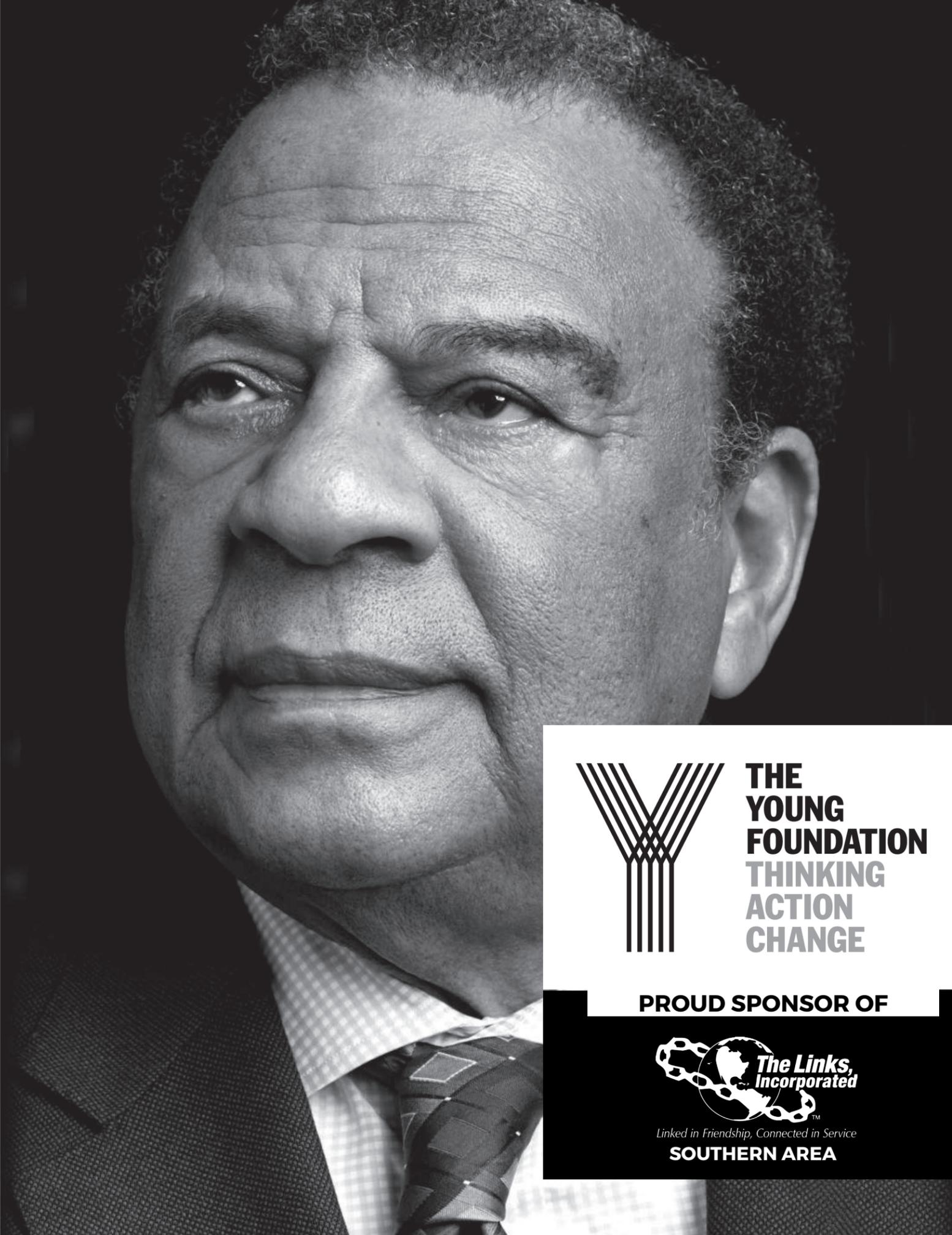


Mia Cowan, M.D. | Birmingham (AL) Chapter

Birmingham (AL) Chapter member Mia Cowan, M.D. was named to Birmingham Magazine's Power 50 List for Birmingham's 50 Most Influential Professionals.

Daagye Hendricks | Birmingham (AL) Chapter

Birmingham (AL) Chapter member, Daagye Hendricks was recently re-elected to the Birmingham City School Board.



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SOUTHERN AREA

Asheville (NC) Chapter

The Asheville (NC) Chapter is one of just 6 chapters to receive The Links, Incorporated's designation of Best Practice Program for this efforts related to Heart Health education. A display featuring their educational sessions will be on display at the 41st National Assembly.

LeFleur's Bluff (MS) Chapter



The chapter's annual Mardi Gras Ball raises funds for Jackson Public Schools Middle School students with reading and other materials essential to assist in their educational opportunities and programs designed for community projects. Alice Tisdale, publisher of Jackson Advocate newspaper and community activist, was honored during the event for her many contributions to the community.

Raleigh (NC) Chapter

The chapter has been selected to receive the City of Raleigh Human Relations Nonprofit Organization Award. The committee noted the chapter's "commitment and passion in having a positive impact on human relations in Raleigh," as well as having "worked for inclusiveness and unity" in Raleigh. Chapter members contribute over 8,000 service hours annually through partnerships with entities and programs that enhance the quality of life for African Americans and others. The Raleigh Chapter is particularly proud of its partnership with the Hope Charter Leadership Academy, a tuition free public elementary school and the Elders Peak Senior Housing Complex where they work to improve the mental and physical health of the residents.



Fort Lauderdale (FL) and North Broward County (FL) Chapters



The chapters, through their partnerships with The School Board of Broward County Florida, received special recognition as part of National Mentoring Month celebrations. Both chapters have maintained a rich tradition of educationally uplifting community youth. Their efforts center on closing the achievement gap from pre-K through college, with the intent of preparing our youth for the global workforce as healthy citizens.

CHAPTER KUDOS

Mississippi Roses (MS) Chapter

The chapter hosted its first fundraiser, A Jazz and Jam Brunch. The event focused on highlighting its community service, specifically the establishment of a National Society of Black Engineers Jr (NSBE Jr) Chapter which encourages interest in science, technology, engineering and math. The chapter signature program-Ambassadors for Health—a program designed to decrease the incidence of childhood obesity was also highlighted. Parents of program participants were recognized by Holly Springs Intermediate School Principal, Susie Brown.



Pensacola (FL) Chapter

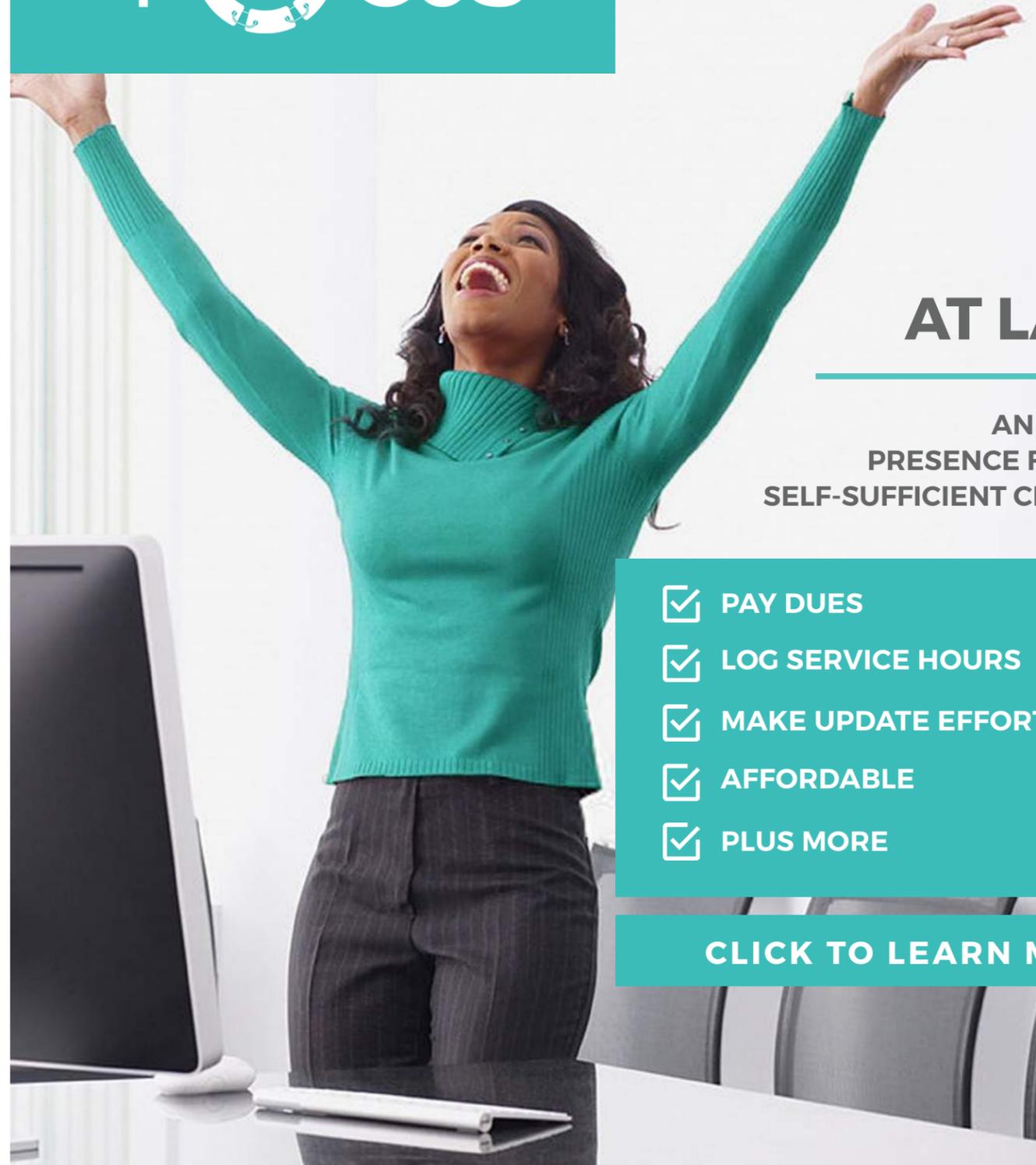
More than 160 guests gathered to celebrate the Pensacola (FL) Chapter's 45th Anniversary. Members, family and community representatives gathered to honor the accomplishment at the "Diamonds & Pearls" Ball. During the event, charter member Mrs. Geraldine Scott was recognized by those at the affair.

Montgomery (AL) Chapter

The chapter celebrated its Diamond Legacy Brunch with 19th Southern Area Director Anne Turner Herriott as the featured guest. Charter members were honored and programming contributions to the community were recognized. The chapter traces its roots to 1958 when leading community women joined the organization at the crest of the Civil Rights Movement. Those activists, educators and leaders reflect the current membership which includes physicians, attorneys and scientists.



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AT LAST

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PRESENCE FOR THE
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- PLUS MORE

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ARCHIVES

KEEP OUR LEGACY STRONG

Link Kimberly Sweet, *Southern Area Chair, Archivist*

For many officers and committee chairs, May is the beginning of the Chapter year within the Links, Incorporated. For Archivists, May is the time when they are wrapping up very important business. The Legacy Keeper Chapter Annual Report and the Legacy Keeper Scorecard are due on May 15 of each year. Be sure to have your chapter's bylaws, membership roster and program reports available to complete the report. Also take this opportunity to ensure that you have an updated chapter history as well as a current and charter chapter photograph. Please contact Kimberly Sweet at: archiveschair@salinksinc.org for further information or assistance.

THE SOUTHERN AREA OF THE LINKS IS 70 YEARS STRONG!

Charter Members of The Wilson-Rocky Mount-Tarboro Chapter of The Links, Incorporated
The First Chapter Established in The Southern Area of The Links, Incorporated
April 18, 1948

Photo reading from left to right:

First Row: Links Addie Butterfield, Grace Artis, Ann Armstrong

Second Row: Helen Quigless, Ethel Hines, Jennie Taylor - President

Third Row: Jessie Pash, Marguerite Armstrong, Sallie Armstrong, Norma Darden, Esmeralda Hawkins, Vera Shade

NOTES
FROM
THE
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Members Elected 2017-2019

Shaniece Bickhan
Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter

Vonda Jackson Colquitt
Saint Petersburg (FL) Chapter

Charlotte Henderson
Baton Rouge (LA) Chapter

Countess Thompson
Natchez (MS) Chapter

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Tamara Curry (2018)
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Sylvia Perry (AVD)
Tracey Morant Adams (AP)

Members by Appointment: TBA

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Candy Moore, Chair
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members by Appointment: TBA

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