**The Detroit (MI) Chapter of The Links, Inc.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 11, 2023**

**Call to Order:** 6:37 pm by President Patricia White

**Linkspiration:** Links Sandra Bulger, Alecia Ashford-Taylor and Angel Austin conducted the Linkspiration centered around Breast Cancer Awareness.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** Link Portia Roberson moved that we approve the May and September Meeting Minutes. Link Marcia Holland Turner seconded the Motion. The Motion passed.

**Hymn followed by Pledge**

**Attendance / Roll Call:** Taken by Link Yolanda Bates. A quorum was established. All active Members were present except: Robbie Archer, Christina Clark, Deborah Ford, Denis Lewis, Allison Wheatley Martin, Joanna Wells Masten, and Khalilah Spencer.

**President’s Report** - Link Patricia White

* The report of the President was received in the October 2023 Reports and placed on file.
* Link Patricia asked that we continue with our tradition of providing our Alumna Members with white poinsettias during the holiday season.
  + Link Shauna Ryder Diggs moved that we purchase poinsettias for our Alumna Members again this year and that the amount of the poinsettias not exceed $400. The Motion was seconded by Link Marcia Holland Turner. The Motion passed.
* We must attend five out of eight meetings this program year. One retreat will count toward a meeting requirement.
* We are in need of a Programming Co-Chair.
* Link Marlo Johnson Roebuck is our Chapter’s new Central Area Ambassador for the Foundation. The 1946 campaign is ongoing.
* Link Chrystal Wilson is the new chair of Black K.A.R.E., and Link Yolanda Bates is the new Co-Chair. We need committee volunteers.
* The MOTTEP Sounds of Saving Life Gospel Concert is Sunday, November 12th at 4pm at Hartford Memorial Baptist Church. Volunteers are needed.
* The Hostess Committee list is out.

**Programming** - Link Kristi Stepp

* The report of the Programming Chair was received in the October 2023 Reports and placed on file.
* The Focus: Hope March 4 Hope event occurred on Sunday, October 8th.
* The Hat Strut at the Detroit International Academy will be Friday, October 20th from 1:30pm - 3:30pm. The parade around the school starts at 3pm. This is a chapter wide event with 1 to 3 service hours available.
  + Link Chrystal Wilson - The focus of Black K.A.R.E. this year is on adults. We will be providing necessary resources and addressing transportation barriers and access to nutritious meals. We will be working with the Detroit Public School Community District where we will have access to 60,000 Detroit based adults through the Family and Parent Engagement Office.

We are partnering with Henry Ford Health System. National is encouraging us to work with other facets to do umbrella programming with Black K.A.R.E.

* + Link Anika Goss - The International Trends and Services trip to Jamaica will be February 8th - 12th in Otros Rios. We need an estimate on how many people are interested in going.

**Treasurer’s Report** - Link Tyra Evans

* The report of the Treasurer was received in the October 2023 Reports and placed on file.
* The unrestricted operations checking account had a balance of $14,543.35 on September 1st. With deposits and expenses throughout the month, the ending balance was $12,824.39 on September 30th.
* There was no activity in the restricted checking account. The beginning balance on September 1st and the ending balance on September 30th were both $30,740.49.
* We met all of our September financial deadlines. We had an external review by Ben Brown CPA.

**Vice-President’s Report** - Link Kimberly Keaton-Williams

* The Linking in Friendship blind date will be Friday, October 27th at Eddie V’s in Troy.
* The Friendship Month activity will be Thursday, November 30th from 6pm - 9pm at Plum Hollow.
* The candidate profiles will be on the website. We vote in December on the candidates.
* Sponsors were given three minutes to present their candidates. A total of 12 candidates were presented.
  + Link Portia Roberson presented candidate Kimberly Trent. Link Denise Brooks Williams presented candidate Shanna Johnson. Link Judith McNeeley presented candidate Carla Burney-Jones. Links Yolanda Bates and Gladys Ayala Prempeh spoke on Carla’s behalf. Link Iris Taylor presented Denise Fair Razo. Link Gail Perry-Mason presented candidate Dr. Rose Moten. Link Charmaine Johnson presented candidate Kea Norrell-Aitch (daughter of Link Beverly Norrell-Aitch). Link Marlo Johnson Roebuck presented candidate Cassandra Willis-Abner. Link Anika Goss-Foster presented candidate Tamika Mayes. Link Corri Lynn Wofford presented candidate Paulina Johnson. Link Chrystal Wilson presented candidate Jenise Mitchell Ford. Link Mearon Lewers presented candidate Lynn Marine Adams. Link Kimberly Keaton-Williams presented Markisha Williams (daughter of Connecting Link Mark Williams). Link Tamira Chapman spoke on Markisha’s behalf.

**New Business**

* Links Marlo Johnson Roebuck and Lesley Fairrow gave an update on the retreat planning. The potential weekend that they identified is February 16th - 18th. The resorts underconsideration are the JW Marriott in New Orleans, the Sonesta Suites in Scottsdale, and the Innisbrook Resort in Tampa (owned by Shelia Johnson).
* Link Katrina Marion will get the candidate profiles on the website immediately. If you need help accessing the website, please contact her. She will send out information on how to change your password.
* Link Shirley Mobley-Woods informed the Chapter that the mandatory Ethics and Standards webinar will be held on October 26th at 9pm.

**Announcements**

* Link Portia Roberson informed the Chapter that Noah Sanders is coming into his own as a standout football player.
* Link Mearon Lewers read Link Joanna Wells Masten’s card thanking Members for their expressions of love following the passing of her husband, Connecting Link Herschell Masten.
* Link Michele Peterson: Nicole Avery Nichols, the Editor-in-Chief of the Detroit Free Press, reached out to ask our Members to volunteer for the Detroit Free Press Marathon on Sunday, October 15th from 6am - 3pm. Please contact Link Michele if you are able to volunteer.
* Link Sandra Bulger recognized Link Tamira Chapman for the numerous professional accolades and awards that she has received.
* Link Kimberly Keaton-Williams and her husband are celebrating 26 years of marriage. Link Sandra Bulger and her husband are celebrating 48 years of marriage.
* Links Tyra Evans, Kim Keaton-Williams, Beverly Green, Deborah Ford, Shirley Mobley-Woods, Lauren Sanders, Angel Austin, and Patricia White all have birthdays in October.
* Link Gail Perry-Mason is chairing the Covenant House Sleep Out on November 16th. Link Gail will be flying to Kenya on November 8th to collaborate and volunteer with the Sisterhood Circle. She asked Members to please consider donating pearl necklaces to be gifted to the women in the program. She will also be participating in the Save a Girl, Save the World Summit November 10th - 11th.

**Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Recording Secretary

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