

The Detroit (MI) Chapter of The Links, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2024

Call to Order: 6:25 pm by President Patricia White

Motion to Approve November Meeting Minutes: Link Sandra Bulger moved to approve the December Meeting Minutes. It was properly seconded by Link Joanna Wells Masten. The Motion was adopted by unanimous vote. Link Patricia White amended the Agenda to include old and new business.

Attendance / Roll Call: Taken by Link Yolanda Bates. A quorum was established. All active Members were present except: Links Angel Austin, Denise Brooks-Williams, Christina Clark, Jennifer Fuller, Kimberly Gill, Mearon Lewers, Judith McNeeley, Shirley Mobley-Woods, Sherri Pierce, Gladys Ayala Prempeh, Marlo Johnson Roebuck, Lauren Sanders, Iris Taylor, Chrystal Wilson and Corri Lynn Wofford.

President's Report - Link Patricia White

- The President's Report was received and placed on file.
- Please check GroupMe for increased Chapter engagement.
- The 2023-2024 Program Report was submitted. Going forward Links Patricia White and Kristi Stepp are asking Chairs to complete a Google form for each program they complete so that we can capture relevant demographic information on the target audience. This will make the information needed to submit the Program Report easily accessible for the President and Program Chair.
- Our Operations Chair, Link Michele Peterson, presented our archives work and forthcoming exhibit at the Detroit Historical Museum. The Area presented her work on the Presidents' Call as a best practice for Chapters.
- The Chapter received 100% participation on the Ethics and Standards training.
- Please complete the Black KARE training, if you have not done so.
- We have identified Developing K.I.D.S. as a potential partner to replace the DIA. We will be able to work with both male and female African American students and do programming during the day and in the evening. The after school option will allow more Members to participate and get service hours.
- Link Joanna Wells Masten informed the Chapter that Interim House is ready to re-engage and is specifically interested in the instructional technology laboratory.
- The Ann Arbor Chapter is hosting a virtual event about black women and fertility on February 22nd.

Hymn followed by Pledge

Vice-President's Reports - Link Kimberly Keaton-Williams

- The Vice-President's Report was received and placed on file.
- Link Doris Anderson submitted her Alumna request form. Link Anika Goss Foster has requested a leave of absence. Link Joanna Wells Masten has requested an attendance sabbatical for the upcoming year.
- Link Kimberly will send out the service hour template after the meeting. Please return it by the end of the month.
- We received approval for our 10 candidates last week from the Central Area and National Office. Candidate responses are due February 23rd.
- The Membership Intake Timeline is as follows: Meet & Greet Reception, March 13th, Orientation Session 1 is March 23rd, Orientation Session 2 is April 13th, Orientation Session 3 is April 27th. We are looking to have the induction ceremony on either May 5th or June 8th.
- If you are interested in being a mentor, please let Link Alecia Ashford-Taylor know.
- **Motion:** Link Allison Wheatley Martin moved that we accept Link Anika Goss Foster's request for a leave of absence and Link Joanna Wells Masten's request for an attendance sabbatical. The Motion was seconded by Link Linda Parker. The Motion passed.

Link Patricia White - The work that the MOTTEP Foundation does is directly related to Black KARE and Linkages to Life, a National initiative. The only local chapter that supports MOTTEP is the Greater Wayne County Chapter. Link Annette Jones of the Greater Wayne County Chapter asked the Presidents Council to join her chapter in supporting MOTTEP so we can collectively have a greater impact. Link Patricia is a past chair, but she has no financial obligation to MOTTEP. She supports the ask listed in the budget, but she gets no benefit from it.

Treasurer's Report - Link Tyra Evans

- The Treasurer's Report was received and placed on file.
- The Area Treasurer informed us that we could lose our PayPal account if we pass the fees on to others. This is a PayPal policy not a Links policy. We have money in the budget to cover the fees, but it would be best to use Zelle to avoid charges. Eventbrite and PayPal are the only two payment platforms vetted by National. We must use Eventbrite for Foundation, i.e. fundraisers and scholarships. As a Chapter, we have to create our own policies and practices around the use of Zelle.
- Our Foundation Account has \$28,042.17. National can send our funds as quickly as every Thursday by ACH. To get the money, we need to fill out the 400 and

400A Forms. Our obligation is to make sure we have all the receipts and proper documentation to show what we used the money for.

- Link Tyra went through the proposed budget line by line.
- **Motion:** Link Alecia Ashford-Taylor moved that we make it a standing line item in our budget to give \$1,000 annually to The Charles H. Wright Museum. It was properly seconded. The Motion carried unanimously.
- **Motion:** Link Roshunda Price moved that the budget be accepted. It was properly seconded by Link Alecia. The Motion unanimously passed.

Election Chair Report - Link Denise Lewis

- In July 2022, there was a change in the National Bylaws that provided for a separate Nominating Committee election for Chapters. The Nominating Committee will select the slate for us in April. Link Denise asked that we elect the past presidents who have been serving as the Nominating Committee.
- **Motion:** Link Denise moved that we elect Links Denise Brooks-William, Christina Clark, Marcia Holland Turner, Allison Wheatley Martin and Iris Taylor as the Nominating Committee. It was properly seconded by Link Khalilah Spencer. The Motion passed unanimously.

Programming Report - Link Kristi Stepp

- The Programming Report was received and placed on file.
- Link Anika Goss Foster reported out on the International Trends and Service Committee's recent trip to Jamaica. The Committee has given \$3,000 to the Jamaica Women in Coffee organization so the women can become coffee farmers.
- There are several volunteer opportunities. Black KARE wellness bags will be assembled and distributed on February 20th. There is a speed career mentoring workshop on March 6th at Developing K.I.D.S.. The Black Family Wellness Expo is March 16th.
- We will start a pilot program with Developing K.I.D.S. in the fall.
- The Hat Strut Committee is planning an event on October 12th to celebrate survivors and support women going through treatment.

Strategic Planning Committee Report - Link Allison Wheatley Martin

- Link Allison presented the Strategic Plan for 2023 - 2025 to the Chapter. The plan was first started by the Chapter at the August retreat. Link Allison has slotted the robust Chapter activities schedule into the plan under the heading "Tactical Actions - How the Goals Will Be Achieved." With this, we are able to fulfill our Chapter Goals and National Priorities and wrap up strategic planning.

Old Business

- Link Beverly Green passed along Link Shirley Mobley-Woods congratulations to the Chapter for obtaining 100% participation on the Ethics and Standards training.
- Link Katrina Marion: Link Katrina is the lead representative for the STEAMM collaborative this year and our Chapter is the host Chapter. There will be a scholarship event on May 15th, and the fair will be on November 2nd at U of D. We need volunteers.
- Link Katrina Marion reviewed updates to the website.

New Business

- Link Marcia Holland Turner: You are invited to support the Great Lakes Chapter's Matters of the Heart Red Dress Affair on February 24th.
- Link Tyra Evans: Dues of \$614 are due March 13th via Zelle.

Announcements

- Link Michele Peterson read a thank you card from Link Kathy Harrison for the Christmas poinsettia she received.
- Link Linda Parker: There will be a memorial service for Link Sharon Harper's husband, Michael, here in Michigan in June.
- Several Link Sisters will be acknowledged as Women of Excellence Honorees including Links Kimberly Keaton-Williams and Jeanne Wardford.
- Link Gail Perry-Mason is facilitating a Secure the Bag Black College Tour starting next Monday.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Link Yolanda Bates
Recording Secretary
The Detroit (MI) Chapter of The Links, Inc.

Date of Approval