

The Detroit (MI) Chapter of The Links, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2024

Call to Order: 6:41 pm by President Patricia White

Motion to Approve March Meeting Minutes: Link Denise Brooks-Williams moved to approve the March Meeting Minutes. It was properly seconded by Link Alecia Ashford-Taylor. The Motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Attendance / Roll Call: Taken by Link Yolanda Bates. A quorum was established. All active Members were present except: Links Tyra Evans, Jennifer Fuller, Kimberly Gill, Anika Goss, Joanna Wells Masten, Judith McNeeley, Khalilah Spencer, Chrystal Wilson, and Corri Lynn Wofford.

President's Report - Link Patricia White

- The President's Report was received and placed on file.
- Please remember to connect with Alumna once a month. The May meeting would be a great opportunity to invite and host an Alumna.
- Kudos to Kristi Stepp, Chrystal Wilson and everyone who worked on our Black Family Wellness Expo. It was excellent.

Hymn followed by Pledge

President's Report (continued) - Link Patricia White

- It's our one year anniversary of the street sign installation and unveiling.
- We received an invitation to see the performance of *Breaking the Waves* Opera from Links Shauna Ryder Diggs and Denise Lewis. Discounted tickets are available for Detroit area Links Chapters.
- The opening reception for our exhibit is Friday, July 26th.
- Volunteers are needed for the Hat Strut Committee.
- Link Katrina Marion is looking for STEAMM volunteers from our Chapter.
- Detroit is the location of our next National Assembly in 2026.
- Link Tamira Chapman was appointed by the National President as Chair of a brand new Empowerment Committee.
- Link Kimberly Keaton-Williams is soon to be a Links Academy graduate.

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

- The Vice-President's Report was received and placed on file.

- We had 48 Chapter Members this fiscal year. Links Beverly Norrell, Tiffany Gunter, Jackie Johnson, and Jeanne Wardford are returning. Link Doris Anderson was approved for a leave of absence. Link Joanna Wells Masten is on an attendance sabbatical.
- Link Tamira Chapman is asking for an attendance sabbatical for this fiscal year and next fiscal year.
 - Link Marcia Holland Turner moved to grant Link Tamira Chapman an attendance sabbatical for this fiscal year and next fiscal year. It was properly seconded by Link Denise Brooks-Williams. The Motion was adopted by unanimous vote.
- For fiscal year 2024 - 2025, we will have 57 members. Link Anika Goss will be on a leave of absence, and Link Joanna Wells Masten will be on an attendance sabbatical. On Sunday, June 9th, we will add 10 new members.

Treasurer's Report - Link Iris Taylor

- The Treasurer's Report was received and placed on file.
- The beginning balance for March was \$20,658. The income from March, most of which was dues, was \$39,755. The balance is \$60,413. The operating account has an ending balance of \$45,896. At the beginning of the year, the restricted account had a balance of \$30,000. With interest, fees, and other activity, we have a current balance of \$23,338.
- This is the close-out month. If you have any outstanding receipts, please submit them before April 30th.

Programming Report - Link Kristi Stepp

- The Programming Report was received and placed on file.
- Link Kristi provided a written summary of everything the Chapter did this year.
- The Black Family Wellness Expo was very successful. We will probably continue to collaborate with the other Chapters, and we have a framework that we can continue to build upon.

Archives Committee Report - Link Michele Peterson

- The Committee needs the date for the donation we made to the Detroit Historical Museum; photos and any information for the donation we made to the Charles H. Wright Museum; any information or photos related to the 1990's, including signature events, programs, fundraisers, and facet activities.
- Link Patricia White – The Detroit Chapter was featured as a best practice for archiving because of the exhibit we are creating.

Opening Reception Committee Report - Link Sandra Bulger

- The opening reception will be July 26th from 6 pm - 8:30 pm at the museum. The reception will be a strolling event. There will be appetizers and drinks. There will be about 100 of us in attendance, including Chapter Members, Alumna Members, new Members and special guests.

Fundraising Committee Report - Link Denise Brooks-Williams

- The fundraiser will be the closing event for the exhibit. The theme is Dancing Down Memory Lane - Sisterhood and Service. There will be a band on one level and a DJ on another level.
- We would like to raise \$65,000. The ticket price will be \$250 each. \$130 will be tax deductible for our guests.
- We are looking at Friday, September 27th or Saturday, September 28th for the date of the event.

Nominating Committee - Link Denise Brooks-Williams

- Link Patricia White asked for nominations from the floor for each office. There were none.
- Link Portia Roberson moved to accept the slate for the 2024 -2026 program years. The Motion was properly seconded by Link Marcia Holland Turner. The Motion was unanimously accepted.
- The new officers are President - Link Kimberly Keaton-Williams, Vice-President - Link Kristi Stepp, Treasurer - Link Tyra Evans, Recording Secretary - Link Khalilah Spencer, Corresponding Secretary - Link Mearon Lewers and Financial Secretary - Link Yolanda Bates. Officers will be installed at the May meeting.
- Members do not have to wear white for installation of officers.
- Link Denise handed out election ballots for the Nominating Committee.
- Link Patricia asked if there were any nominations from the floor for the Committee. There were none.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- None

Announcements

- Link Portia Roberson informed the Chapter that Link Marlo Johnson Roebuck was heralded as a “Go To Lawyer” in employment law by the Michigan Lawyers Weekly.

- Link Tamira Chapman announced that Former First Lady Michelle Obama connected her with Penguin Random House, where she was able to start a program to demystify publishing for black women. They were able to register 10,000 women for the program in 24 hours. Due to the overwhelming success of the program, Penguin Random House gave Link Tamira the first and only imprint to publish African American stories. In the fall, they will launch another cohort.
- Link Portia Roberson announced that Dr. Sharon Malone recently released her book *Grown Woman Talk* that discusses perimenopause and menopause among other health related topics.

Election Results - Link Denise Lewis

- Links Shirley Mobley-Woods, Allison Martin, Jennifer Fuller, Marcia Holland Turner, and Patricia White were all unanimously elected to the Nominating Committee. According to our bylaws, they will elect a chair amongst themselves.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date of Approval