



DETROIT (MI) CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INC. Consent Agenda for May 13, 2026

- I.** Let's Mingle- Links Arrive & Socialize (5:45 p.m.)
- II.** Membership Moments Activity (6:00 p.m.)
- III.** Welcome & Call to Order - Link Kim (6:30 pm)
- IV.** Chapter Pledge and Hymn (6:32 p.m.)
- V.** Roll Call - Link Khalilah (6:35 p.m.)
- VI.** Call for Approval of May Consent Agenda – Link Kim (6:38 p.m.)
 - Approval of April Meeting Minutes
- VII.** President's Update - Link Kim (6:40 p.m.)
- VIII.** Presentation of the Detroit Chapter Sisterhood Award – Link Kim (6:50 p.m.)
- IX.** Vice President's Update – Link Kristi (6:55 p.m.)
- X.** Treasurer's Update – Link Tyra (7:00 p.m.)
- XI.** Program Chair's Update – Link Roshunda (7:05 p.m.)
- XII.** 75th Chapter Anniversary Ceremony – All (7:10 p.m.)
- XIII.** Installation of New Officers – Link Patricia (7:35 p.m.)
- XIV.** New Business (7:45 p.m.)
- XV.** Amenities (7:50 p.m.)
- XVI.** Adjourn Meeting - Link Kristi (7:55 p.m.)



April 8, 2026 Chapter Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Chapter President Link Kimberly Keaton Williams called the meeting to order around 6:30 p.m.

Hymn followed by Pledge.

Attendance/Roll Call: Link Khalilah Spencer took roll call. A quorum was established. All active members were present except: Link Lynn Adams, Alecia Ashford-Taylor, Gladys Ayala Prempeh, Sandra Bulger, Tamira Chapman, Christina Clark, Shauna Diggs, Tyra Evans. Denise Fair Razo, Deborah Ford, Melanie Harris, Charmaine Johnson, Jenice Mitchell Ford, Shirley Mobley-Woods, Kea Norrell-Aitch, Gail Perry-Mason, Lauren Sanders, Alison Vaughn, Patricia White, Markisha Williams, and Chrystal Wilson.

Approval of Consent Agenda and Minutes: Motions to approve the Consent Agenda and March Chapter Meeting Minutes passed by the body with no hesitancy or abstention.

President's Report: Link Kim Keaton-Williams provided a written report. During the meetings, she noted several important details regarding the upcoming National Assembly

The Call to Assembly was sent via email on April 1st. There will be a separate link for those in the Metro Detroit Link with a \$200 discount on the regular registration fee. It should not be shared outside of the Metro Detroit Links Cluster.

Madame President Ethel Isaacs Williams is arriving in town the Saturday before the National Assembly and she would like to host an informal meet and greet with the Metro Detroit Cluster members with light bites, etc. We should be on the lookout for additional details.

The Little Free Library ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on **Monday June 22, 2026** at 12 noon at Developing K.I.D.S in Detroit. Madam National President Ethel will attend. The LFL planning committee will coordinate details with Developing K.I.D.S. and United Way, in addition to media and refreshments.

The Metro Detroit Council will host a dinner at the Charles H. Wright Museum for the leadership team on **Tuesday, June 23rd**. Tickets will go on sale in April/early May. The executive committee will get first dibs.

We also have two Link sisters who will be graduating from the Scott Hawkins Leadership Institute - Link Kristi Stepp and Link Katrina Marion. That ceremony will be on **Wednesday, June 24th**.



The Metro Detroit Presidents Council has engaged support from the other Michigan Chapters (Greater Southeast Michigan, Flint, Lansing/E. Lansing, Tri-City, and Kalamazoo) to supplement “on the ground” volunteer resources for the following committees: Marketplace, Transportation, Greeters, and Protocol.

There was also a motion by Link Khalilah Spencer and seconded by Link Marcia Turner to support an outgoing gift from Madame President Ethel Isaacs Williams that passed without hesitation.

Link Kim also mentioned that we need to think about the chapter Sisterhood Award and who should receive the award at the May meeting.

Lastly, Link Kim Keaton thanked the executive committee for their service to the chapter over the last two years.

Important Upcoming Dates

- **April 22, 2026:** The Arts Facet Activity. Marygrove H.S. 9:30-11 a.m.
- **May 13, 2026:** Detroit Chapter Meeting. Installation of Officers - *Detroit Golf Club*
- **June 22, 2026:** Little Free Library Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Developing KIDS, Detroit.
- **June 23, 2026:** Links Leadership Dinner hosted by the Metro Detroit Council, *CH Wright Museum*
- **June 24-28, 2026:** The Links, Incorporated. 45th National Assembly. Huntington Place

Vice-President’s Report: Link Kristi Stepp did not have a written report but there was a request for an attendance sabbatical from Link Patricia White due to her work schedule and the commute from Toledo, Ohio. Motion by Link Portia Roberson and second by Link Marcia Turner and the motion carried without hesitancy.

Treasurer’s Report: Link Tyra Evans was not in attendance, so Link Yolanda Bates, Financial Secretary gave a brief update/report. We currently have \$63,929 in our reserved account. And we have \$48,080.35 in operating account.

Program Chair’s Report: Link Roshunda Price provided a written report. Link Roshunda added that the collaboration with the Tri-City Links chapter has been postponed. Our last facet activity of the program year will be on Wednesday, April 22nd, at 9.30 AM at Marygrove for the Arts Facet activity. Link Tiffany Gunter and Link Rose Moten report that they will be the student learn, coping mechanisms, and stillness with sound healing and sound vibration work. They will also have canvases.



Nominating Committee/Elections Update: Link Michele Peterson served as our Elections Chair and will facilitate the election process. The slate for 2026-2028 officers was as follows: President – Kristi Stepp; Vice President – Marlo Roebuck; Recording Secretary – Lesley Fairrow; Corresponding Secretary – Mearon Lewers; Treasurer – Nichelle Mayberry; and Financial Secretary – Angel Austin. A special acknowledgement to Nominating Committee Chair-Link Patricia White. There were no additional nominations and there was a motion to accept and elect that the slate was made by Link Khalilah Spencer and a second from Link Marcia Turner. The motion passed without hesitation.

The Nominating Committee was also elected with Link Shirley Mobley-Woods, Link Alison Martin, Link Marcia Turner, Link Roshunda Price, and Link Kim Keaton-Williams as chair. Motion to accept and elect that slate was made by Link Khalilah Spencer and a second from Link Mearon Lewers. The motion passed without hesitation.

Technology Update: Link Katrina Marion provide and update regarding the chapter website refresh and passed around her laptop so chapter members could view the website. Members will be able to log onto the homepage with a membership only page as well. There will also be a blog/article page which will be all encompassing.

Protocol Pearl: Link Judith McNeely directed chapter member to the written materials regarding “Uninterrupted White” and appropriate attire with images. There was general discussion about appropriate skirt length, appropriate fit and proper foundation garments.

Chapter 75th Anniversary: Link Kim Keaton Williams stated that we will have a special ceremony in May to commemorate our anniversary. We also be taking a chapter trip in the fall of 2026. The chapter will be celebrating with a chapter-wide happy hour on April 29th, 2026, more details will be forwarded.

Amenities: Link Michele Peterson announced that she will be having an open house for *Woofies of Farmington Hills* business at the Longacre House in Farmington, more details will follow. Link Roshunda Price announced that her Delta Sigma Theta Detroit Alumnae Chapter will be having its scholarship fundraiser on Sunday, April 19th, from 3 to 6. Ticket sales go towards their scholarship program. There were several Heir-O-Links updates regarding minority fellowship and exciting news about a new grandchild arriving in August. The chapter also acknowledged April birthdays.

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Link Khalilah Spencer, Recording Secretary.



May 2026 President's Report The Detroit (MI) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated

National Strategic Priorities

- Priority 1:** Amplify our culture of friendship and engagement.
- Priority 2:** Amplify our culture of transformational community service.
- Priority 3:** Amplify our culture of fiscal sustainability.
- Priority 4:** Amplify our culture of operational excellence and alignment.
- Priority 5:** Amplify our culture of brand awareness.
- Priority 6:** Amplify our culture of leadership and professional development.

Detroit Chapter 75th Anniversary Celebrations

- We will continue to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of our Chapter throughout the year.
- Special thank you to the 75th Anniversary Committee for hosting a Hump Day Happy Hour on April 29th at Brix Wine.

Preparation for the 45th National Assembly (June 24-28, 2026)

- The 45NA reached capacity on May 2nd. Link Sisters who have not had an opportunity to register can be added to the wait list by contacting our national office.
- **Monday, June 22nd:** The Little Free Library ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 12 noon at Developing K.I.D.S in Detroit. Madam National President Ethel will attend. The LFL planning committee will coordinate details with Developing K.I.D.S. and United Way. (The mailbox will be installed on June 2nd).
- **Tuesday, June 23rd:** The Detroit Metro Council will host a dinner at the Charles H. Wright Museum for the Links leadership team. Each chapter received 15 tickets that were offered to the E-Board and Facet Chairs first for purchase.
- **Detroit Metro Cluster Scarves:** Custom scarves were designed with the names of our 7 chapters. The plan is to wear the scarves on **Thursday, June 25th**. Scarves were ordered for each chapter member and covered out of our assessment.
- **Motown Links Pin:** Pins are available for purchase. This is optional. The link to order was placed in our Chapter GroupMe. Some members may already have this pin from the 2010 National Assembly that was hosted in Detroit.
- **Proposed Amendments to the Links Bylaws:** There are eight (8) proposed amendments that will be considered at the 45NA. The proposed amendments are included with my report.

Congratulations to our New Chapter Officers and Nominating Committee

- Our new officers will be installed at the May Chapter Meeting:
 - President: Kristi Stepp
 - Vice President: Marlo Johnson Roebuck
 - Recording Secretary: Lesley Fairrow
 - Corresponding Secretary: Mearon Lewers
 - Financial Secretary: Angel Austin
 - Treasurer: Nichelle Hughley Mayberry

- Nominating Committee: Kim Keaton Williams (Chair), Allison Martin, Shirley Mobley-Woods, Roshunda Price, and Marcia Turner

Important Upcoming Dates

- **May 13, 2026:** Detroit Chapter Meeting. **Installation of Officers.** *Detroit Golf Club*
- **May 20, 2026:** The Arts Facet Activity. *Marygrove H.S.* 9:30-11 a.m.
- **June 2, 2026:** Installation of Little Free Library at *Developing KIDS*, Detroit.
- **June 22, 2026:** Little Free Library Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at *Developing KIDS*, Detroit.
- **June 23, 2026:** Links Leadership Dinner hosted by the Metro Detroit Council, *CH Wright Museum*
- **June 24-28, 2026:** The Links, Incorporated. 45th National Assembly. *Huntington Place*

In Friendship and Service,

Link Kim

**THE LINKS, INCORPORATED
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE *BYLAWS*
45TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

AMENDMENT # 1

Amend by striking out “locality” and inserting “Chapter’s membership boundaries.”

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED WORDING	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<p>Article I. Membership. Section 1</p> <p>Membership of Chapters shall consist of women, duly inducted who are residents of the locality (See Article II Chapters Section 1.A. the Chapter is established to serve. Chapters shall be sanctioned for violation of this section.)</p>	<p>Article I. Membership. Section 1</p> <p>Membership of Chapters shall consist of women, duly inducted who are residents of the locality <u>Chapter’s membership boundaries.</u> (See Article II Chapters Section 1.A. the Chapter is established to serve-. Chapters shall be sanctioned for violation of this section.)</p>	<p>Article I. Membership. Section 1</p> <p>Membership of Chapters shall consist of women, duly inducted who are residents of the Chapter’s membership boundaries. (See Article II Chapters Section 1.A. the Chapter is established to serve-. Chapters shall be sanctioned for violation of this section.)</p>

Submitted by: The National Membership Committee nvp@linksinc.org

Rationale: To verify and confirm Members’ residency and align with current practice. Membership boundaries and “locality the Chapter is established to serve” (service area) are not synonymous. Newer chapters may have a service area that is different from the localities from which they may draw members.

National Constitution and Bylaws Committee Recommendation: To Adopt

Rationale: The amendment clarifies that members must reside within the Chapter’s membership boundaries.

THE LINKS, INCORPORATED
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE *BYLAWS*
45TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

AMENDMENT # 2

Amend Article I. Section 4.A.3. by inserting “as verified by a valid driver’s license or state issued ID;” after the word boundaries. Article I. Section 4.B.3. by inserting “as verified by a valid driver’s license or state issued ID;” after the word boundaries. Amend Article I. Section 4.C. by adding “by a sponsoring member who has been an active Links member for a minimum of two full fiscal Links program years. The Vice President” before the word shall.

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED WORDING	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<p>Article I. Membership. Section 4.A, B, & C</p> <p>New Member Intake:</p> <p>A. The daughter or granddaughter (DOL) of a member of The Links Incorporated who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is at least twenty-one (21) years of age; 2. Meets the membership criteria; 3. Resides in the Chapter’s boundaries, and 4. Are granddaughters sponsored by their grandmothers who are members of The Links Incorporated. <p>B. Women shall be eligible for membership in The Links, Incorporated who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are at least twenty-one (21) years of age; 2. Meet the membership criteria and 3. Reside in the Chapter’s boundaries. <p>C. A completed profile form shall be submitted for each nominee for membership. The Chairman of the Membership Committee shall report to the chapter about the profile forms received.</p>	<p>Article I. Membership. Section 4.A, B, & C</p> <p>New Member Intake:</p> <p>A. The daughter or granddaughter (DOL) of a member of The Links Incorporated who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is at least twenty-one (21) years of age; 2. Meets the membership criteria; 3. Resides in the Chapter’s <u>membership boundaries, as verified by a valid driver’s license or state issued ID; and,</u> 4. Are granddaughters sponsored by their grandmothers who are members of The Links Incorporated. <p>B. Women shall be eligible for membership in The Links, Incorporated who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are at least twenty-one (21) years of age; 2. Meet the membership criteria; and, 3. Reside in the Chapter’s membership boundaries, <u>as verified by a valid driver’s license or state issued ID; and,</u> <p>C. A completed profile form shall be submitted for each nominee for membership <u>by a sponsoring member who has been an active Links member for a minimum of two full</u></p>	<p>Article I. Membership. Section 4.A, B, & C</p> <p>New Member Intake:</p> <p>A. The daughter or granddaughter (DOL) of a member of The Links Incorporated who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is at least twenty-one (21) years of age; 2. Meets the membership criteria; 3. Resides in the Chapter’s membership boundaries, as verified by a valid driver’s license or state issued ID; and, 4. Are granddaughters sponsored by their grandmothers who are members of The Links Incorporated. <p>B. Women shall be eligible for membership in The Links, Incorporated who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are at least twenty-one (21) years of age; 2. Meet the membership criteria; and, 3. Reside in the Chapter’s membership boundaries as verified by a valid driver’s license or state issued ID; and <p>C. A completed profile form shall be submitted for each nominee for membership by a sponsoring member who has been an active Links member for a minimum of two</p>

	<p><u>fiscal Links program years. The Vice President</u> shall report to the chapter about the profile forms received.</p>	<p>full fiscal Links. The Vice President shall report to the chapter about the profile forms received.</p>
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Submitted by: The National Membership Committee nvp@linksinc.org

Rationale:

To verify new members’ residency and align with current practice. This provision will also assist in designating sponsoring members who are familiar with the Links chapter, culture, governance, and customs to recommend candidates for membership who can assimilate and embrace the mission, goals, and operations of the Links, Incorporated at all levels of participation, whether it be chapter, Area, or National. Currently, new members who join in May/June at the beginning of the fiscal year can sponsor a member to a chapter after only being in the chapter for a few months. In fact, they may have only attended two or three of their chapter's meetings before submitting a candidate for membership and have not even completed the mentoring phase of their membership, nor have they learned the history and culture of our organization, as well as that of their chapter.

** If adopted, this amendment would necessitate an update to the current MOP Article 1, Membership, second paragraph: Candidates for membership must be recommended/sponsored by a member(s) in good standing in her respective chapter who has been an active member of The Links, Incorporated for a minimum of two full fiscal program years of the organization.

National Constitution and Bylaws Committee Recommendation: Not to Adopt

Rationale:

These proposed changes deal with operational and procedural details — such as specific forms of identification and a two-year sponsor rule — that belong more appropriately in the Manual of Procedures than in the National Bylaws.

The bylaws should set out the lasting principles of membership. The day-to-day administrative details should live in the Manual of Procedures, where they can be adjusted as circumstances change. When those kinds of specifics are placed in the bylaws, the document can become too rigid and harder to amend.

The rationale states that the language reflects “current” practice, which is exactly the concern. Current practice may be appropriate and useful, but practice is not the same as principle. Practices change, and they may reasonably differ by chapter or jurisdiction. That is especially important for international chapters, where a U.S. driver’s license or state-issued identification may not exist. Those kinds of details are better handled in a Membership Manual or Manual of Procedures, where acceptable forms of identification can be listed and updated as needed.

The same is true of requiring a sponsor to have two full fiscal program years of membership. That may be a reasonable guideline, but it is still an operational standard. Placing it in the bylaws would reduce flexibility. The Manual of Procedures can set out the preferred standard while preserving a clear and consistent process for formal exceptions.

**THE LINKS, INCORPORATED
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE *BYLAWS*
45TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

AMENDMENT #3:

Amend Article I Membership, Section 6.A.1.d by adding, “A maximum of 16 hours of the 48-hour minimum can come from webinars.”

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED WORDING	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<p>Article I. Membership. Section 6.1.A</p> <p>d. Has met the minimum forty-eight- (48) hour service requirement of The Links, Incorporated;</p>	<p>Article I. Membership. Section 6.1.A</p> <p>d. Has met the minimum forty-eight-hour service requirement of The Links, Incorporated. <u>A maximum of 16 hours of the 48-hour minimum can come from webinars;</u></p>	<p>Article I. Membership. Section 6.1.A</p> <p>d. Has met the minimum forty-eight-hour service requirement of The Links, Incorporated. A maximum of 16 hours of the 48-hour minimum can come from webinars;</p>

Submitted by: Southern Area Executive Committee

Rationale: With the proliferation of webinars and other educational opportunities, members are leaning toward completing the 48-hour requirement with webinars/educational presentations and meeting attendance. Some chapters are having challenges getting “boots on the ground” for service initiatives. When the service hour requirement was implemented, the number of educational opportunities could not be used to document the total service hour requirement.

National Constitution and Bylaws Committee Recommendation: Not to Adopt

Rationale: Not Adopt for insertion into the Bylaws. If defeated, the amendment will be proposed for insertion into the Manual of Procedures. Bylaws are the foundational, legally binding, and hard-to-change rules governing The Links Incorporated’s structure, while the Manual of Procedures outlines specific, flexible operational details. This proposed amendment is a perfect example of the type of rule which should be included in the Manual of Procedures.

**THE LINKS, INCORPORATED
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE *BYLAWS*
45th NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

AMENDMENT #4

Amend by adding “An active Platinum member shall be included in the total count of members and the quorum for Chapter meetings; can vote; and is entitled to all rights and privileges that her Chapter affords to Platinum members.”

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED WORDING	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<p>ARTICLE I. Membership. Section 6.D.</p> <p>D. Platinum A Platinum member is an active or alumna member who has reached eighty (80) years of age or older and who has given at least thirty (30) years of service, or who has given at least fifty (50) years of active service or who, regardless of age, has given at least forty-five (45) years of active service and has served in an elected position in her Chapter and/or an elected or appointed position on the Area or National level. Members who meet the above requirements by June 30 of any given year and who submit the Platinum Member Notification Form by February 1 of the following year, shall be granted platinum status in the year in which she becomes eligible. Platinum status is the highest honor accorded a member on recommendation of a Chapter and approval by the National Executive Council. An Active Platinum member shall be exempt from the minimum forty-eight (48) hour service requirement. A Platinum member shall not be responsible for National dues and assessments and is exempt from Chapter dues and assessments at the discretion of her Chapter.</p>	<p>ARTICLE I. Membership. Section 6.D.</p> <p>D. Platinum A Platinum member is an active or alumna member who has reached eighty (80) years of age or older and who has given at least thirty (30) years of service, or who has given at least fifty (50) years of active service or who, regardless of age, has given at least forty-five (45) years of active service and has served in an elected position in her Chapter and/or an elected or appointed position on the Area or National level. Members who meet the above requirements by June 30 of any given year and who submit the Platinum Member Notification Form by February 1 of the following year, shall be granted platinum status in the year in which she becomes eligible. Platinum status is the highest honor accorded a member on recommendation of a Chapter and approval by the National Executive Council. An Active Platinum member shall be exempt from the minimum forty-eight (48) hour service requirement. <u>An active Platinum member shall be included in the total count of members and the quorum for Chapter meetings; can vote; and is entitled to all rights and privileges that her Chapter affords to Platinum members.</u> A Platinum member shall not be responsible for National dues and assessments and is exempt from Chapter dues and assessments at the discretion of her Chapter.</p>	<p>ARTICLE I. Membership. Section 6.D.</p> <p>D. Platinum A Platinum member is an active or alumna member who has reached eighty (80) years of age or older and who has given at least thirty (30) years of service, or who has given at least fifty (50) years of active service or who, regardless of age, has given at least forty-five (45) years of active service and has served in an elected position in her Chapter and/or an elected or appointed position on the Area or National level. Members who meet the above requirements by June 30 of any given year and who submit the Platinum Member Notification Form by February 1 of the following year, shall be granted platinum status in the year in which she becomes eligible. Platinum status is the highest honor accorded a member on recommendation of a Chapter and approval by the National Executive Council. An Active Platinum member shall be exempt from the minimum forty-eight (48) hour service requirement. An active Platinum member shall be included in the total count of members and the quorum for Chapter meetings; can vote; and is entitled to all rights and privileges that her Chapter affords to Platinum members. A Platinum member shall not be responsible for National dues and assessments and is exempt from Chapter dues and assessments at the discretion of her Chapter.</p>

Submitted by: Atlanta (GA) Chapter

Rationale: The rationale for the proposed amendment is to clearly specify that Platinum Active members are to be counted in the total number of active Chapter members including but not limited to a quorum and voting.

National Constitution and Bylaws Committee Recommendation: To Adopt

Rationale: The National Constitution and Bylaws Committee concurs with the rationale of the Atlanta (GA) Chapter.

**THE LINKS, INCORPORATED
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE *BYLAWS*
45th NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

AMENDMENT #5

Proposed Amendment to the Definition of Affiliate Member in Art. I, Sec. 6E to expressly include Links employees

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED WORDING	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<p>ARTICLE I. Membership, Section 6.E.2</p> <p>2. An affiliate member is an active member in good standing who:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Moves to a locality where there is no Chapter of The Links, Incorporated;</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. Moves to a locality where the existing Chapter(s) has (have) reached the maximum number of members; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c. Requests a transfer from her Chapter to affiliate status after no longer than six (6) months.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">d. (NEW)</p>	<p>ARTICLE I. Membership, Section 6.E.2 (Adding)</p> <p><u>or d. is a current employee of The Links, Incorporated or The Links Foundation, Incorporated.</u></p>	<p>ARTICLE I. Membership, Section 6.E.2</p> <p>2. An affiliate member is an active member in good standing who:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Moves to a locality where there is no Chapter of The Links, Incorporated;</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. Moves to a locality where the existing Chapter(s) has (have) reached the maximum number of members; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c. Requests a transfer from her Chapter to affiliate status after no longer than six (6) months; or</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">d. Is a current employee of The Links, Incorporated or The Links Foundation, Incorporated.</p>

Submitted by: Leslye Fraser, West Palm Beach (FL) Chapter

Rationale: For over a decade, the practice of our organization has been to place any active member of The Links, Incorporated who becomes an employee of the organization into affiliate status. I believe the rationale is a good one, as employees should not be members of any individual chapter given the potential for actual or perceived conflicts of interest. As such, active members, such as our current and past Executive Directors, and/or staff members, are reclassified as affiliate members. However, as currently written, our Constitution and Bylaws does not expressly support their holding this membership classification. To ensure that we are classifying members properly at the National level, and not placing chapter presidents in the position of signing off on a “transfer” of membership status when the transfer does not meet the definition in our governing documents, we should amend the Bylaws to expressly state that Links members who are employees are to be classified as affiliate members for the duration of their employment.

National Constitution and Bylaws Committee Recommendation: To Adopt

Rationale: This proposed amendment provides clarity regarding the membership classification of a member who becomes an employee of The Links, Incorporated or an employee who joins the organization during the course of their employment.

**THE LINKS, INCORPORATED
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE *BYLAWS*
45th NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

AMENDMENT #6

Amend Article II Chapters, Section 2 by inserting “A.” before Each; by striking “B” and inserting “b” in the word bylaws before own and after these; by inserting subsection B. “The elected officers of each Chapter shall be the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. The appointed officer shall be the Parliamentarian. Additional officers may be appointed as deemed necessary to help transact the business of the chapter.”; by inserting subsection C. “The Chapter Nominating Committee shall be elected at the same time as the chapter officers are elected.”; by striking out “(4)”; by inserting “their” after submit; by striking out “and the National Parliamentarian”; by striking out “in accordance with Article II Chapter Bylaws, and the *Manual of Procedures.*”; and by adding “Upon approval, a copy the Chapter bylaws will be placed on file with the Area and the National Parliamentarian.”

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED WORDING	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<p>Article II. Chapters Section 2. Each Chapter shall have the power to make its own Bylaws provided these Bylaws are not in conflict with the National <i>Constitution and Bylaws</i> of The Links, Incorporated.</p> <p>B and C (NEW)</p> <p>Within a period of four (4) months following chartering, newly chartered Chapters shall submit Chapter bylaws to the respective Area Director and the National Parliamentarian for review in accordance with Article II Chapter Bylaws, and the <i>Manual of Procedures.</i></p>	<p>Article II. Chapters Section 2.</p> <p>A. Each Chapter shall have the power to make its own Bbylaws provided these Bbylaws are not in conflict with the National Constitution and Bylaws of The Links, Incorporated.</p> <p>B. <u>The elected officers of each Chapter shall be the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. The appointed officer shall be the Parliamentarian. Additional officers may be appointed as deemed necessary to help transact the business of the chapter.</u></p> <p>C. <u>The Chapter Nominating Committee shall be elected at the same time as the chapter officers elected.</u></p> <p>D. Within a period of four (4) months following chartering, newly chartered Chapters shall submit <u>their</u> Chapter bylaws to the respective Area Director and the National Parliamentarian for review and approval in accordance with Article II Chapter Bylaws, and the <i>Manual of Procedures.</i> <u>Upon approval, a copy the Chapter bylaws will be placed on file with the Area and the National Parliamentarian.</u></p>	<p>Article II. Chapters Section 2.</p> <p>A. Each Chapter shall have the power to make its own bylaws provided these bylaws are not in conflict with the National Constitution and Bylaws of The Links, Incorporated.</p> <p>B. The elected officers of each Chapter shall be the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. The appointed officer shall be the Parliamentarian. Additional officers may be appointed as deemed necessary to help transact the business of the chapter.</p> <p>C. The Chapter Nominating Committee shall be elected at the same time as the chapter officers are elected.</p> <p>D. Within a period of four months following chartering, newly chartered Chapters shall submit their Chapter bylaws to the respective Area Director for review and approval. Upon approval, a copy the Chapter bylaws will be placed on file with the Area and the National Parliamentarian.</p>

Submitted by: The National Constitution and Bylaws Committee

National Constitution and Bylaws Committee Recommendation: To Adopt

Rationale: To align the elected chapter officers with the elected National and Area officers; to clarify that the chapter nominating committee is elected at the same time as the chapter office and to codify the submission to the Area and National Parliamentarian.

**THE LINKS, INCORPORATED
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE *BYLAWS*
45th NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

AMENDMENT # 7

Amend by striking out “unless otherwise directed or approved by the Executive Council” and inserting “Each chapter may hold up to two virtual meetings per fiscal year, with notice to the Area Director.

<p style="text-align: center;">CURRENT WORDING</p> <p>State ARTICLE, Section number and subsection (whichever is applicable) to be amended.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PROPOSED WORDING</p> <p>Show (i.e., striking, inserting, striking and inserting) how ARTICLE is being amended.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">IF ADOPTED, WILL READ</p> <p>State how ARTICLE will read if adopted.</p>
<p>Article II. Chapters. Section 3.C.3</p> <p>Regular chapter meetings shall be held face-to-face, unless otherwise directed or approved by the Executive Council.</p>	<p>Amend ARTICLE BY...Striking out and Inserting: Regular chapter meetings shall be held face-to-face unless otherwise directed or approved by the Executive Council. <u>Each chapter may hold up to two virtual meetings per fiscal year, with notice to the Area Director.</u></p>	<p>Article II. Chapters. Section 3.C.3</p> <p>Regular chapter meetings shall be held face-to-face. Each chapter may hold up to two virtual meetings per fiscal year, with notice to the Area Director.</p>

Submitted by: The National Membership Committee nvp@linksinc.org

Rationale: Chapters often face time-sensitive circumstances that prohibit them from traveling safely to a meeting location. By allowing all chapters to specify and select two virtual meetings that fit the descriptions outlined in this recommended provision. This recommended provision will allow Chapters to continue chapter operations and conduct business efficiently and fairly, while allowing all members to participate.

National Constitution and Bylaws Committee Recommendation: To Adopt

Rationale: To specify that for a myriad of circumstances that make it impracticable to hold a face-to-face meeting, chapters can hold a total of two virtual meetings per fiscal year. This gives chapters flexibility on holding virtual meetings and lessens the burden on the Executive Council to approve a chapter’s request to hold a virtual mee

**THE LINKS, INCORPORATED
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE *BYLAWS*
45th NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

AMENDMENT #8

Amend Article VIII Nominations and Elections by adding “Section 6. The declaration of members elected to serve as officers shall be made in the following order: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.”

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED WORDING	IF ADOPTED, WILL READ
<p>ARTICLE VIII. Nominations and Elections</p> <p>Section 6 (NEW)</p>	<p>ARTICLE VIII. Nominations and Elections</p> <p><u>Section 6. The declaration of members elected to serve as officers shall be made in the following order: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.</u></p>	<p>ARTICLE VIII. Nominations and Elections</p> <p>Section 6. The declaration of members elected to serve as officers shall be made in the following order: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.</p>

Submitted by: The National Constitution and Bylaws Committee

National Constitution and Bylaws Committee Recommendation: To Adopt

Rationale: This proposed bylaw ensures a consistent process for declaring officer election winners by announcing them in the following order: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. A winner for a lower office will not be declared until winners for higher offices are declared. This approach is especially useful when multiple candidates from the same area or chapter are eligible for election, as it prioritizes higher positions. Adopting this provision codifies current practice and clarifies the election process.

THE LINKS, INCORPORATED
DETROIT (MI) CHAPTER

Vice President

Annual Report

Program Year 2025–2026

Submitted by

Link Kristi Stepp

Vice President & Chair, Membership Committee

Detroit (MI) Chapter

May 2026

A Letter from your Vice President

Dear Link Sisters,

It has been my profound honor to serve our beloved Detroit Chapter as your Vice President and Chair of the Membership Committee for the 2025–2026 program year. From a sun-drenched rooftop in June to a packed ballroom at the Detroit Golf Club in November, this year has been defined by sisterhood, service, and the warmth of being together.

This program year carries a milestone that belongs to all of us: on March 10, 2026 our chapter celebrated our 75th anniversary. Seventy-five years of friendship, service, and impact in our city — and we are celebrating all year long. Every event, every membership decision, every hour of service captured in this report sits inside that legacy.

What follows is a celebration of our year together — the events we hosted, the sisters we welcomed, the alumnae we honored, and the more than 4,500 hours of service our chapter poured into the Metro Detroit community. None of it would have been possible without the dedication of our Membership Committee, the hospitality of our hostesses, and the engagement of every Link sister who showed up, signed up, and stood up for our chapter.

Thank you for trusting me with this work. I look forward to celebrating our 75th year — and closing the program year — strong with you.

In friendship and service,

Link Kristi Stepp

Vice President • Detroit (MI) Chapter

The Year at a Glance

Highlights from May 2025 through the close of the membership reporting cycle in March 2026.

4,574 SERVICE HOURS LOGGED	90+ FRIENDSHIP MONTH ATTENDEES	70+ SUMMER SOLSTICE GUESTS	10 COMMITTEE MEMBERS
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A Milestone Worth Celebrating

Link sisters logged 4,574 service hours in support of the 2025–26 program year — a powerful expression of our chapter's enduring commitment to friendship and service in the Metro Detroit community.

Signature Themes of the Year

- **Sisterhood in motion.** Bringing sisters together in fresh, joyful settings — from rooftops to day parties.
- **Honoring our legacy.** Celebrating 75 years, honoring our long-tenured Links and gracefully welcoming sisters returning home to Detroit.
- **Caring for our sisters.** Walking alongside members through life seasons via thoughtful sabbatical, alumna, and leave-of-absence support.
- **Service that counts.** Channeling chapter energy into thousands of hours of measurable community impact.

Your Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is the heartbeat of our chapter — stewarding membership status, planning fellowship events, and supporting every sister at every stage of her Links journey. Thank you to this remarkable team for their year of dedicated service.

Member	Role
Link Kristi Stepp	Chair
Link Alecia Ashford-Taylor	<i>Committee Member</i>
Link Denise Brooks-Williams	<i>Committee Member</i>
Link Allison Martin	<i>Committee Member</i>
Link Kea Norrell-Aitch	<i>Committee Member</i>
Link Aïda Owens	<i>Committee Member</i>
Link Sherri Pierce	<i>Committee Member</i>
Link Lauren Sanders	<i>Committee Member</i>
Link Marcia Turner	<i>Committee Member</i>
Link Patricia White	<i>Committee Member</i>

Programs & Events

Honoring Our Sisters — May 2025

The program year was beautifully launched at our May chapter meeting, where we honored Links Doris Gartrell Anderson and Beverly Norrell-Aitch as new alumnae and celebrated Link Johna Treadwell for an extraordinary 50 years of service and her elevation to Platinum status. These tributes reminded us why we do this work — because our friendships and service endure across decades.

We also honored, with deep love and overdue ceremony, Alumna sisters whose original ceremonies were delayed by the pandemic: Links Sheila Finney, Kathryn Harrison, Brenda Kee, and Glenda Price. Recognizing and celebrating our sisters was one of the most meaningful moments of the year.

May 2025

Honoring New Alumnae, Pandemic-Era Alumnae & 50-Year Platinum Service

Recognized Links Beverly Norrell-Aitch and Doris Gartrell Anderson as new alumnae; honored Alumna Links Sheila Finney, Kathryn Harrison, Brenda Kee, and Glenda Price whose original ceremonies were delayed by the pandemic; and celebrated Link Johna Treadwell for 50 years of dedicated service and elevation to Platinum status.

Summer Solstice Rooftop Celebration — June 2025

On the longest day of the year, more than 70 Link sisters and guests gathered on the roof of 3439 Woodward to welcome summer in style. The rooftop setting offered sweeping views of Detroit and a relaxed, joyful atmosphere that set the tone for a year of fellowship.

Friday, June 20, 2025

Summer Solstice Rooftop Event • 3439 Woodward

70+ Link sisters and guests • Sunset views, sisterhood, and the official kick-off to the program year's social calendar.

Welcoming Sisters Home

One of the great joys of this year was welcoming our dear sister Link Nichelle Hughley Mayberry back to the Detroit Chapter. Her return, announced in October and celebrated at our November meeting, was a tangible reminder that Detroit will always be home.

October – November 2025

Welcome Home, Link Nichelle Hughley Mayberry!

Announced her return to the Detroit Chapter and welcomed her in person at the November membership meeting.

Metro Detroit Friendship Month — November 2025

Our marquee fellowship event of the year with other members from the Detroit Metro Council. By moving Friendship Month to a Saturday daytime celebration, we opened the door for many more sisters to attend — and they did. Over 90 sisters filled the Detroit Golf Club for an afternoon of vendors, music, and the easy joy of being together.

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025

Metro Detroit Friendship Month Day Party

Detroit Golf Club, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. • 90+ sisters • Vendors, music, and sisterly connections • The schedule shift to a Saturday daytime drove record attendance.

Spotlight: A Decision That Worked

Moving Friendship Month from an evening to a Saturday day-party format was a deliberate choice to expand access for more of our sisters. The result — more than 90 attendees — confirmed it was the right call and is a model worth carrying forward.

New Year Celebration Canceled

When the Detroit Golf Club announced an unexpected closure through mid-February, we made the difficult call to cancel our planned New Year Celebration.

**December 2025 –
January 2026**

New Year Celebration Decision

Canceled the planned event due to venue closure and refunded members who made payments.

Service Hours Submission — February & March 2026

We had a smooth service-hours collection process: forms were distributed in January, in-person collection took place at the February meeting, and we provided an email channel via vpdetroitlinks@gmail.com for any sister who needed flexibility. With your help, we submitted our service hours prior to the required deadline!

Feb. 28, 2026

Service Hours Deadline

Forms collected at the February meeting and via email; members projected planned hours through April.

March 2026

Submission Complete — 4,574 Hours!

Every sister's hours were submitted, totaling 4,574 service hours for the 2025–26 program year.

Thank you, Link Sisters!

4,574 service hours — every one of them a gift to the Metro Detroit community. Thank you for the time, the talent, and the heart you poured into this program year.

Membership Status Updates

A summary of the status changes the Membership Committee processed across the program year. Each request was handled with confidentiality, care, and a deep commitment to honoring where each sister is in her Links journey.

Intake

- After thoughtful deliberation, the Membership Committee did not recommend an intake class for the 2025–26 program year, allowing the chapter to focus on National Assembly planning, strengthening fellowship and engagement among existing members.

New Alumnae (May 2025)

- Link Doris Gartrell Anderson
- Link Beverly Norrell-Aitch

Pandemic-Era Alumnae Recognition (May 2025)

- Link Sheila Finney
- Link Kathryn Harrison
- Link Brenda Kee
- Link Glenda Price

Milestone Recognition (May 2025)

- Link Johna Treadwell — recognized for 50 years of service and elevation to Platinum status.

Returning Member

- Link Nichelle Hughley Mayberry — welcomed back to the Detroit Chapter (October–November 2025).

Attendance Sabbaticals (2025–26)

- Link Shauna Ryder-Diggs (granted September 2025)
- Link Patricia White (granted September 2025)
- Link Deborah Bledsoe Ford (granted November 2025)
- Link Melanie Harris (granted November 2025)
- Link Jeanne Wardford (granted November 2025)
- Link Tamira Chapman (granted December 2025)
- Link Tyra Evans (granted December 2025)
- Link Iris Taylor (granted December 2025)

Looking Ahead: 2026–27 Status Requests

- Link Judith McNeeley — leave of absence granted for the 2026–27 program year.
- Link Patricia White was granted an attendance sabbatical for the 2026-27 program year at our April 2026 chapter meeting.

A Final Thank You

To our Membership Committee — Aïda, Alecia, Allison, Denise, Kea, Lauren, Marcia, Patricia, and Sherri — thank you for your wisdom, your laughter, and your willingness to do work behind the scenes that elevates our sisterhood and holds our chapter together. To every Link sister who attended an event, hosted a meeting, or simply showed up for another sister: thank you.

In Friendship and Service,

Link Kristi Stepp

Vice President • Detroit (MI) Chapter

The Links, Incorporated

Financial Secretary Report

The Detroit (MI) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated

Monthly Report

April 1, 2026 - April 30, 2026

INCOME	AMOUNT
75 th Anniversary Happy Hour	\$1,850
Dues	\$1,278
Meals	\$473
National Assembly Assessment	\$100
Total Income for April 1, 2026 - April 30, 2026	\$3,701