

Portland (OR) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated
Delegate Report
June 20, 2020

Thursday, June 18, 2020

Annual Meeting of The Links Foundation, Incorporated

National Recording Secretary, Crystal Kendrick gave the Linkspiration perfect for the times and uplifting. National Secretary presented the Credentials which were approved:

7,258 members registered for virtual Assembly
2601 present at Foundation Annual Meeting

Minutes from our 41st National Assembly were approved.

Greetings from the 17th National President Link Kimberley Jefferies Leonard. She stated more members attended the 2020 Annual Links Foundation, Incorporated meeting than ever before because it was virtual.

The Links Foundation, Incorporated's budget was based on 11,000 active members and 760 new members. Dues received from 11,390 and 650 new members. \$512,550.00 received from membership dues. Total revenue received was \$8,449,852.00 versus budgeted \$1,710,500.00. Total expenditures was \$1,710,500.00 versus budgeted \$6,923,515.00.

The organization is stable and in good financial standing. \$13,917,557.00 total cash value of our organization. Property market value is \$5M. The Links has a total \$18,917,557.00 net worth. \$1,886,624.00 dues, \$695,859.00 programs, building funds is \$1.2M. \$1,256,581 building fund, Endowment fund \$459,903.00, and national assembly account \$428,200.00, \$5.5M chapter funds in the Links Foundation, PNC Checking and Savings Account totals \$10,412,315.00. Merrill Lynch Investments \$2,549,890.00, Endowment Trust Account is \$549,596,000.00. As of the date of the Assembly, The Links Foundation had a gain of \$126,000.00.

We received \$430,000 in grants in aid due to less new members than anticipated. Capitol Endowment \$76,000 budgeted but collected \$65,000.00. The funds received for building fund was \$405,000. The total restricted funds received was \$1,100,000.00 which was a gain of \$145,218.00. \$682,500.00 financial sponsorships for the National Assembly, Mission trip and Legislative Luncheon.

Total anticipated revenue for 2021 is \$812,000.00, \$818,075.00 in 2022, \$819,250 in 2023. \$150,000.00 expenses budget for the Legislative Luncheon. If \$150 registration fees are collected then the expense would be a wash. The budget reflects a 3% increase in the

Foundation HQ staff wages and salaries for each 2021, 2022, 2023. The total budget for salaries and benefits is \$342,570.73 for 2021, \$351,453.01 for 2022, and \$360,589.76 for 2023. The proposed budget was approved.

Philanthropy Chair and Fund Development Chair. The Vision 2020 Endowment program was successful. Every donation no matter how large or small benefited the success of our Endowment efforts. The 1946 Society members increased from 29 to 35. Grant funds which were unused for programming were allowed to be redirected to COVID-19 efforts. Some future Fund Development goals are develop virtual giving events, re-invigor donor spotlight, promote use of amazon smile.

Links Incorporated enhanced engagement through National partnerships. 34 partnerships secured in the 2018-2020 term. We raised \$910,000.00 in corporate donations in support of the conference. Only \$17K commitments returned to corporations due to changing from in person to virtual conference. \$80,000.00 was raised for the National Assembly. The corporate sponsors were promised acknowledgements during our 75th Anniversary next year. M Financial was among the most recent and top sponsors with CEO, Wes Johnson, husband of Portland member candidate Rosemarie Thompson.

The Annual Meeting concluded with a heart warming presentation from the St. Jude's Hospital representative who highlighted patients' stories and the benefits of The Links's donations. Our 16th National President Dr. Glenda Newell-Harris was acknowledged for her instrumental role in arranging the partnership of The Links, Incorporated and St. Jude's Hospital.

4 service hours awarded for attendance of this Annual Meeting of The Links Foundation, Incorporated.

Friday, June 19, 2020

The Memorial Tribute was beautifully presented. It was still quite tranquil in its prerecorded form. Our departed chapter members Rosemary Anderson and Kimberle Crowell. Our former chapter member Mildred Ollee, and Connecting Link Robert Ned, husband of our former chapter member Charlotte Ned were also listed in the Memoriam.

First Plenary

Roll Call began at 8:25am PST. However, there were technical challenges with getting all the delegates signed in as their chapter name and state rather than individual names. The Plenary was called to order at 9:25AM. Our Poet Laureate Link Mona Lake Jones gave the Linkspiration which will be shared with all members.

287 chapter. Of which 285 delegates were present and voting. A quorum was established.

Initial Credentials Report

7,257 members registered

3,000 members attended

787 Delegates & Alternates
8 past national presidents

Link Tyna Davis, National Parliamentarian and Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee presented the standing rules for the National Assembly following Robert's Rules of Order for electronic meetings. The standing rules were adopted.

Our National President gave her report. The Links, Incorporated is a total of 16,188 members. Over 60% of members serve more than the minimum 48 service hours. We have answered the call to our communities and our people by assuming leadership roles. The organization is poised to make a greater impact going forward. Rep John Lewis honored our organization as an esteemed influential organization for human and civil rights.

Link Ethel Isaacs Williams presented the Vice President and Membership Chair report. Membership encompasses the Platinum & Alumnae Affairs Committee, Next Generation Committee, and Intergenerational Committee. Thank you to all chapter Vice Presidents and Membership Chairs. A virtual bouquet of roses was extended to them. The most valuable asset is the members. We have 3,231 Western Area members, 4,571 Eastern Area members, 4,579 Southern Area, 3,807 Central Area members. The Western Area had the highest increase in membership over the 2018-2020 biennium. Education was the leading sector in which members represent. Alumna members total 4,214 of which 821 were in the Western Area. There are 248 new platinum and 23 new 50 year members. Resignations have decreased from 2018 to 2020. The total resignations nationally in 2018 was 128, 110 in 2019 and 41 in 2020. Western Area decreased from 34 to 25 to 8 over the past two years. Forfeitures also declined in 2019 from 2018. No current forfeiture letters have been sent in 2020 as of the Assembly date. 115 forfeiture letters were sent in 2019. We will celebrate friendship all year leading into our 75th Anniversary next year. There will be friendship awards members can possibly win which are the Medal of Friendship to active members, Emerald Lifetime of Friendship Award to alumna members, and the Circle of Roses Chapter Award.

The National Recording Secretary Crystal Kendricks presented her report. The highlight is information about a new MMS report in the works which will include 25/40/50 year anniversaries. The chapter data dashboard will list every member, induction year, birth year, when their dues were paid, DOL, service hours to date, etc. All activities and status of each member will be searchable in one data platform. Link Crystals report was indicative of the movement towards more efficiency.

The National Treasurer Link Ethelyn Bowers reported on the organization's financial status ending April 30, 2020. The actual budget was presented. Net cash available for future obligations is \$2,267,862. We did not suffer any loss due to the pandemic due to the gains we had in the previous 9 months. Total revenue was \$3,316,682.00 of which membership dues accounts for \$1,549,040.00. Total expenditures were \$3,062,410.00 for a net revenue over expenditures of \$254,272.00.

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-2023 was presented with estimated revenue based on 11,350 members in the first year, 11,375 in the second year, and 11,390 in the 3rd year. All membership figures, take into account attrition. A new line was created for newly chartered chapters with assumption of 0 in the first year then 30 in each the second and third years. The total anticipated operating revenue for year one is \$2,476,000.00, year two is \$2,516,650.00, and year three is \$2,535,100.00. Other revenue from items such as history books, bonding insurance, event registration fees, and membership card replacements is budgeted at \$28,200.00 in year one, \$485,750.00 in year two, and \$501,297.00 in year three. Technology fee expense budget is \$143,000.00 in 2021, \$120,000.00 in 2022 and \$118,000 in 2023. Total expenditures are anticipated to be \$3,004,200.00 in 2021, \$3,004,400.00 in 2022 and \$3,036,397.00 in 2023. The proposed budget was approved.

The National Nominating Chair Link Raynetta Waters presented the certified candidates for office:

National President - sitting President, Link Kimberly Jeffries Leonard

National Vice President - sitting VP, Link Ethel Isaacs Williams

National Recording Secretary - Link Cori Brock Cooper, Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter; and Link Sharon Dixon Gentry, Music City (TN) Chapter

National Treasurer - sitting Treasurer, Link Ethelyn Bowers

National Nominating Chair - sitting Nominating Chair, Link Raynetta Waters

There were no nominations from the floor. For the offices with only one nominee, that Link acquires the office without the need for a vote. The National President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Nominating Chair remain in their respective positions.

Due to the many breaks and pauses the technical challenges caused, plenary 1 concluded at 1:47pm PST, plenary 2 convened at 2:30pm PST.

Second Plenary

Report of the Bylaws Committee presented by the National Parliamentarian Link Tyna Davis. The National Constitution and Bylaws Committee reviewed the bylaws, recused themselves from any possible Executive Council approved a new process wherein a member can submit any request or recommendation to the National level for consideration rather than waiting until the next National Assembly to propose changes. The new process is already in the new Manual of Procedures and uploaded into the documents section of the members only website. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee will direct members to the committee where the new wording should go. If the amendment fails, the process does not stop there. The maker of the amendment has the right to go to the committee where the Constitution and Bylaws committee recommended it be placed.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee is working on cleaning up the National Bylaws and removing inappropriate language. Fundamental rules differ from procedures. The committee

recommended 7 of the proposed amendments and did not recommend 12. Various members/chapters retracted their proposed amendments as they understood the Bylaws was not the proper place for the wording the submitter suggested.

Link Tynda made a motion that the National Constitution and Bylaws committee be given authority to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross references, and make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the membership in connection with these proposed bylaw amendments. The motion passed.

Amendment #1 was withdrawn by the maker of the amendment. There was an objection to withdrawing the motion so a new vote was cast to either withdraw or amendment. The motion to withdraw the amendment passed with a majority vote.

Amendment #2 - The majority vote was not to adopt. The motion failed.

Amendment #3 - The amendment was adopted with a majority vote.

Amendments #4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 - Motion to adopt the mass amendments in one motion. The amendment passed with a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote.

Amendment #10 - The amendment failed with a majority no vote.

Amendment #11 - Motion to amend amendment #11 was made and seconded. The discussion was that the National Parliamentarian was missing from the list of officers, and appointed officers should be trusted to carry out the necessary business of the organization rather than hindering their authority. However, during debate a new motion to defer the matter back to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee which will refer back to the appropriate committee(s). The subsequent motion was seconded. When an amendment is referred, it goes directly to that committee for consideration. It is now the responsibility of that committee to work out all nuances to revise the amendment according to the debate. This was a new motion not discussed by our chapter. However, it made sense to have the intended wording clarified and revised by the Constitution & Bylaws Committee then referred to the appropriate committee. My vote was to refer back to the committee. The motion carried and amendment 11 will be referred back to committee.

Amendment #12 -The maker of the amendment withdrew the amendment. There were no objections to withdrawing so the amendment was withdrawn and not voted on.

Amendment #13 - The amendment failed with a majority vote.

Amendment #14-19: A new motion was made to combine amendments #14-19. The motion was seconded. During debate/questions, Trinity (TX), Potomac (VA) delegates opposed the new motion to combine amendments #14-19. I raised my hand to also voice opposition but the clock

stopped on debate so no other delegates were called on for any further discussion. The motion went to vote on whether to group amendments #14-19 and follow the Constitution & Bylaws Committee's recommendations. I voted against since our chapter identified 3 of the amendments (14,16,17) we wanted to adopt. The motion passed to accept the recommendations of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee concerning amendments 14-19.

Link Jarnell Burks Craig, National Elections Committee Chair outlined the election rules prior to the candidates Cori Brock Cooper and Sharon Dixon Gentry's speeches. The delegates transitioned to the Candidates Forum then into the Delegates Lounge to complete roll call and cast our votes.

Club Links was popping with Spinderella on the turntables from 4pm-6pm PST. Many names scrolled across our Facebook page showing their participation in the Juneteenth party.

Saturday, June 20, 2020

Third Plenary

The meeting began at 8:10am. The New Orleans Chapter President led the Links pledge and sang the Links Song. Link Dolly Doselle Adams presented the Linkspiration.

Credentials Report

7,257 registrants

287 delegates 287 alternates

8 national presidents

Link Shuana Tucker-Sims, Eastern Area Director reported. They realized 100% president roundtable engagement, member satisfaction surveys, transformational programs. They established and collaborated with 14 community partners to implement the programs. Inaugural HBCU program with events on 14 HBCU campuses. They received donors at \$500 and \$1000 levels. The top donors received awards and pins. Education Across the Miles: Linking with West Africa for which more than \$25,000.00 was raised. The Eastern Area aligned with the National Legislative and Public Affairs Take Action Now initiative through public forums.

The Southern Area Director Link Sylvia Perry presented the highlights of their successes. She mentioned they are still mourning the loss of their host opportunity of the 42nd National Assembly. Created an All Star Program for operations and program deliverables to achieve allstar status. White Rose Membership awards established to enhance member engagement. They launched the Southern Area Boutique to increase revenue for the Area and it is run by the Area Treasurer. They developed the ACCESS program to educate links on operational and structural information about the chapter and organization so they are well equipped to serve in any capacity.

Link Monica B. Allen, Central Area Director, presented her report. They reviewed the mission and plans on how they would work to assist their membership. Their priorities were to enhance

membership, strengthen chapter and Area infrastructure, and support programs into our communities. Facilitating a team approach to leadership with collaboration of officers and committees for more efficiency. Increased NSBE Jr. Chapters from 8 to 17, established an HBCU library. \$208,000.00 goal of which they raised half in the first six months. She showed a video to highlight their achievements.

Western Area Director Link Lorna Hankins reported on her theme “Increasing Our Collective Impact by Valuing our LINKED Individuality”. She explained the chapter MVP success in supporting and educating on our core values. The Western Area Greenhouse is pivoting programming during COVID-19 by providing at home curriculum, serving food/nutrition, and other help in the community. The Western Area is committed to promoting fiscal and financial accountability. 90% of chapters passed the financial test. 100% of the Western Area chapters completed all financial charges, activities, targets, and deadlines. The Western Area is sound and stable.

Jarnell Burks Craig, read the final elections report. 266 of 287 chapters responded to the roll call. 268 chapters cast ballots. Link Sharon Gentry was elected as the National Recording Secretary with 168 votes. Link Cori Brock Cooper received 100 votes. Link Glenda Newell-Harris led the installation of all national officers for the biennium 2020-2022.

Link Pamela Freeman Fobbs, National Director of Programs gave her report. Full report is in the members only section of the national website. Design implementation and delivery of programs which meet community needs not our wants. Educate our youth using umbrella programs, mentor children, advocate for social justice with get out the vote activities, 100% increase in 2020, support legislation such as the C.R.O.W.N. Act and others which support our communities of color. A new virtual program toolkit is now available on our website. Webinar training which included Service Delivery Model, Our very own Link Carla Penn-Hopson was given a shout out as one facilitating the national program training. Link Pamela highlighted the Dress for Success Program in which gently used purses were donated with \$20 bills in them and decorated journals for women. Executive council voted to elevate the Links STEM Ready program to a signature program. Therefore, Link Pam stated the motion to approve the adoption of the new Links STEM Ready Initiative as a signature program. Delegates voted and the motion passed with 263 affirmative votes to approve the new program. Post Assembly workshops will be posted and distributed to all members as of June 20, 2020.

Five Resolutions were presented by Link Johnese Howard, Co-Chair of the Resolutions Committee. The resolutions were related to voting rights and representation, gender pay gap and discrimination, police brutality, misconduct of law enforcement on African American citizens, closing the gap in foster care, hair discrimination, and Links supporting Links seeking public office. The committee recommended the adoption of the Resolution report and acceptance of the Resolutions. Delegates voted and approved the recommendations with a 272 unanimous passage.

Link Ernestine Green McNealey chair of History and Archives presented the 2020 finalist of Vision & Legacy award to Charleston (NC) Chapter. 103 chapters participated and submitted documents for the award program.

Link Valerie Wardlaw of the Atlanta (GA) Chapter introduced the Chesapeake Bay Cluster, host of the 2022 National Assembly. The cluster chapter presidents announced and gave welcomes to the 43rd National Assembly. They prepared a video showing the allure of Charm City Baltimore, Maryland.

Link Gwendolyn B. Lee, our 14th National President gave a presentation of roses to Link Kimberly Jefferies Leonard to thank her for her stellar leadership. The roses were delivered to Link Kim's home.

Our Assembly was adjourned at 10:21 AM.

The Programs Presentation was displayed in the Assembly Virtual Lobby. National Health & Human Services Chair Link Nicholette Martin announced the HHS awards. Our chapter's Health & Human Services Facet won the first place award for our HIV & AIDS Awareness Program.

Two workshops were held at the end of the Assembly. I attended the AARP Town Hall "What Do We Do Now", a conversation with CEO JoAnn Jenkins, and Phylicia Allen Rashad, Actress and Stage Director. She gave her thoughts of how the pandemic reminds her of biblical times, people looking for humanity through the current civil unrest, people of all races and ethnicities coming together to protest. Phylicia said she woke up feeling thankful. Juneteenth was her birthday and it was always a celebration for her as well as a time her parents used to educate her and her siblings about black history. Phylicia expressed her hope for the future of the world. She inspired us with her thoughts and perspectives. She expressed that we are all so blessed and have much work to do to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

The M Financial Town Hall "Securing Your Financial Future" with the lead discussion from Wes Thompson. M Financial is a Portland, Oregon based company so of course Wes talked about things he and his wife have done in Portland to contribute to local financial success particularly to benefit black owned businesses. He mentioned partnerships with companies such as Lincoln Investments and Nationwide Insurance which have committed to promoting financial security through investments into Black owned businesses and entrepreneurs. The town hall has been recorded and will be sent to members with ways to connect and use it as a financial literacy resource after June 30, 2020.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent the Portland (OR) Chapter in the delegate to the Assembly.

Humbly Submitted by
Link Serena Ashley