

The Portland (Or) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated
42st Assembly Alternate Report
June 20, 2020

The Links, Incorporated – Foundation Annual Meeting
Called to Order at 7:12 AM PST on Thursday, June 18, 2020

Link Crystal Kendrick from the Queen City, Ohio Chapter gave the Linkspiration. The Purpose of the Links was stated and shown how it equates to this day. It also stated what has been and must be done now that the intention of injustice has been shown. “This is a movement, not a moment”, she said.

Attendees were helped with navigating the virtual site by providing a virtual environment. It included a navigation video, entrance into a waiting room, events, sponsors, exhibit Hall, a gallery, sessions, Club Links, and a virtual briefcase that housed the 42nd National Assembly Meeting Agenda and additional Assembly related documents, and allowed attendees to add items to the briefcase throughout the Assembly, and a help desk

Over 7,000 sisters viewed this virtual Assembly of 2020. Two minutes were allotted for each speaker and only 2 people from each Chapter could comment. These were the rules stated and voted on. The motion carried and the rules were adopted. The 2020 Agenda and the minutes from the 41st Assembly were approved.

7,258 Links Registered for the Virtual Assembly
2,601 attended the Virtual Foundation Annual Meeting

The Foundation was shown to support good work by transforming communities and presented reports.

Link Ethelyn Bowers – Treasurer – reported that the National cash available for future obligations is \$13,917,557. (The budget was posted in the Virtual Gallery).

Link Rose Coker – Secretary (Finance) - showed that there was \$10,412,315 on hand as of 4/30/2020 and a foundation net worth of \$18,256,581.

Regarding the Building Fund: It amounts to \$1,256,581 and \$428,200 was left-over from the National Assembly. Gains on investments is 8%. Sponsorships as of 4/30/2020 amounted to \$682,500. The 2020-2023 budgets were presented, moved, seconded, voted on, and approved.

The leadership of each Area gave their accomplishments and their focus on continuing the work in our communities, keeping in mind the need for COVID-19 affected families and all that that means. We were shown the Links, Incorporated’s headquarters in Washington, D.C. and treated to a sight of the gardens and the Green Roof Revitalization.

Friday, June 19,2020 – Plenary 1

The Plenary began one and a half hours late due to 3,000 members trying to log into the virtual site. The leadership did a good job of letting us know that they were trying to get all of the Delegates online to assure a quorum. Links understood that this was new territory and used the time to sit still, meditate, text each other, nourish themselves, or pray. The meeting began with Link Mona Lake Jones' Linkspiration: "A Blueprint for Action". A poem for us all at this time, it will be made available for all Links.

National President, Kimberly Jeffries Leonard gave her report. She stated that she accomplished the 5 things she promised: programming, Technology, growing Chapters, recruiting, and I need help with the last one.

She is encouraged that we are "Transforming Lives" and "Fulfilling Our Purpose". She says, regarding membership, "First there were two, then 9, now thousands."

Western Area Links	- 3,231
Eastern Area Links	- 4,571
Southern Area Links	- 4,579
Central Area Links	- 3,807
Total	- 16,188

In 2019, there were 132 new members, and 10 reinstatements. In 2020, there were 145 new members and 8 reinstatements. In the Western Area, 2020, Education is the largest profession represented: 2,174. There are 291 DOLS, 821 Alumna, 27 Platinum members, and 23 members who have been in Links, Incorporated for 50 years. Resignations, 8 in the Western Area have decreased as have forfeitures.

The Linkdom is engaged. Regarding Friendship, 98% of the Chapters are engaged in Friendship activities and are doing more monthly rather than just in February. There are 3 Friendship Awards: Medal of Friendship (active members), Emerald Lifetime of Friendship (Alumna), and the Circle of Roses (Chapter).

There is a commitment to greatly improving the Dual Residence Forms.

The Vice President/Membership, Ethel Issacs Williams, the National Secretary, Crystal Kendrick, Ethelyn Bowers, National Treasurer, gave their reports giving us a look at how we are continuing to work towards becoming even more efficient and where we stand financially. Slides available. The budgets were approved.

The Nominating Committee Candidates were presented. All candidate positions were unopposed except for the position of Secretary, the only position needing a vote. Resolutions were given. Constitution and Bylaw rules were given. The rules follow Robert's Rules of Order. The rules were adopted.

Technical challenges made it necessary to take a break.

Plenary 2, 2:30 PST

The Bylaws Committee was charged with cleaning up the bylaws by removing unnecessary wording and to clarify meanings and procedures. Two Amendments were withdrawn by the Link(s) that proposed them. Amendments withdrawn: #1, 12. Amendments that passed: #3. Motions passed en masse: #4,5,6,8,9. Motions that failed: #2,10,13. Amendments 14 – 19 proved to cause a commotion. A motion was made to combine them. It was opposed but consequently passed to accept them in combination, Amendment #11 was referred back to the Committee.

Link Jarnell Burks-Craig, National Elections Committee Chair, went over the election rules before the speeches of Links Cori Brock Cooper and Sharon Dixon Gentry who were running for National Secretary.

Saturday, June 20, 2020

8:00 AM PST

Plenary 3

7,257 registrants

Committee accomplishments were given (Presidents, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Nominating). It was made known that National has a library of all collected minutes. And, the Master Data Dashboard Report will be available soon. And, a new search option for the Documents section is underway.

Area Reports

Eastern Area – Link Shauana Tuck-Sims reported on having community partners, a HBCU program, a link with Africa, and a Take Action Now initiative.

Central Area – Link Monica B. Allen reported on new plans to assist their membership, they increased their NSBE Jr. Chapters, and showed a video.

Western Area – Link Lorna Hankins reported on Increasing our collective impact by valuing our individuality, helping our communities during COVID-19, and supporting our Core Values. “The Western Area is sound and stable”, she said.

Southern Area – Link Sylvia Perry reported establishing a White Rose Membership award to engage members, ACCESS program to explain chapter organization, and instituted a program to increase funds.

All Areas are looking to enhance membership, partnerships, aligning with National, accomplishing Facet goals, accountability, friendship, communication, fund development, and spirituality. Western Area specifically stated it wanted to increase “Our Collective Impact” and spoke of an accountability core.

Link Jarnell Burks-Craig read the results of the National Secretary race. Link Sharon Gentry won the election with 168 votes to Link Cori Brock Cooper's 100 votes. 268 of 287 Chapters voted.

We were given an introduction and an invitation to the 43rd National Assembly to be held in Baltimore, Maryland in 2022. Thanks and congratulations went to the leadership and were expressed by all. The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 AM PST.

Awards: First Place went to the PORTLAND, OR Chapter for HIV/AIDs Awareness. The program has been in place for 17 years and has 17 community partners. Thank You! Also, Link M. Yvonne Williams was celebrated as a Platinum member.

M Financial Panel

M Financial and The Links, Incorporated are partners. Grace Vandercruz, a Board Member of M Financial moderated. She explained that she received her degree from Pace while living in a homeless shelter. CEO of M Financial is Wes Thompson. He spoke of how important leveling the playing field is by telling us a story about how that related to his days of playing soccer on an unlevel field. The session presenters spoke of the need for financial advising for Black businesses. They are committed and will give a 2 year salary to minorities to learn the business. They are a purpose driven company.

This ends my Alternate report.

Sylvia Welch