



Chapter President Report September 12, 2020

LOCAL:

Inquiry from the Portland Textile Month advisory board requested our participation in promoting telling the story about the African American Heritage Bicentennial Commemoration Quilt quilt project and drawing in community partners to it. The celebration is planned for October 1 to November 2, 2020 when Oregon Historical Society agreed to put the quilt on display. The quilt was created in 1974-1976 by 15 Black women of Portland to celebrate the country's 200th anniversary and at the same time educate people about Black history in America. Two of the quilters were Links June Borders Brown and our charter member Mildred Squires Reynolds. There may have been more Links members involved. After a formal dedication of the quilt in July 1976, it travelled to Harvard University, the Department of State, and the Smithsonian Institution in D.C., and now belongs to the Oregon Historical Society. It has not been shown in Portland since 1997. I am awaiting more details from the contact Sheridan Collins regarding how our chapter can assist.

AREA:

The Area Director will request annual chapter pictures this program year despite our virtual environment from the pandemic. She will request photos in November for her holiday video card.

WA 70th Anniversary in September. Celebrations will be throughout September. Initial highlights of our originating chapters Los Angeles (CA), Oakland Bay Area (CA) San Francisco (CA) chapter. Past Area Directors also will be honored. There will be ways to participate every week via social media. The 70th Anniversary commemorative frame is available on social media. Add your picture in the frame with #walinks70thanniverary and #Legacy. A video will be created with all links who use the commemorative frames in social media and post to the WA sites.

The Western Area Leadership Summit is Saturday, October 24, 2020. The theme is "Breaking the Glass Ceiling: And Still I Rise". Friday October 23, 2020 will be a kickoff party as a final wrap up of our September Anniversary celebrations. All members are encouraged to attend and be transformed, especially since registration is free. Look for the registration link later this month.

The Western Area website launch date was planned for Thursday, September 10, 2020!



The Western Area is growing strong. 33 chapters are participating in new member intake with 131 candidates being inducted in 2020.

115 Registered attendees to the When We Vote training sessions. Sept 20-27th Voter Empowerment Week which will include a Links Voter Registration Friendship Calling Chain. Plan to attend and take photos wearing your favorite Links shirt and Black Votes Matter button then post to social media.

Area Foundation - Remember to order items in Amazon through Amazon Smiles and push the button to donate to the Links Foundation as part of our Vision 2020 campaign. The goal for the 45th Area Conference is 100% member participation in Vision 2020. Also, the National Foundation granted the Area \$10K to donate to a non profit organization with a social justice mission. The WA Foundation rep with the Area Director chose the National Black Women's Justice Institute Eliminate racial and justice disparities in the US criminal legal system that are responsible for its disproportionate impact on Black women and girls. They engage in rigorous research to transform the current system and promote policy change to help rather than penalize our Black Women and Girls. The donor has stated they will use our grant funds to fund focus groups with Black parents with adolescent and teenage daughters who have had contact with the juvenile court. Based on the information they will do educational campaigns to promote investment in Black families. They have offices in Oakland, CA and New York.

NATIONAL:

48 hour service requirements will not be relaxed for the 2020-2021 program year because both in person and virtual program options are being provided. Many members already have many hours based on pivoting programming through this pandemic as well as our civil engagement and social justice work. The service hours deadline remains April 30, 2021.

Mission Statement:

“Friends Transforming Communities Through Service”

Humbly Submitted by

Link Serena Ashley