

**THE PORTLAND CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED**  
**NATIONAL TRENDS & SERVICES**  
**SEPTEMBER 12, 2020**

**CHAPTER MEETING**  
**9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P. M.**

Links, Incorporated **Voting Squad Training** was held on August 31 and the Czar Zoom Video was held on September 4. Though I attended both webinars, I am reporting on the Voting Squad Training. National President, Kimberly Jefferies Leonard made opening remarks. Former First Lady Michelle Obama spoke about The Links Partnership with *Our Voice, Our Vote, Our Power, Whenweallvote.org*. We want to increase voter turn-out and engagement. We need leadership that honestly reflects who we are and what we care about. We need to spread the word. Make sure that registered voters know their rights, vote early or vote by mail.

100 Million people did not vote in 2016. Links are the best influencers for those in our lives. It's all hands on deck. Of our 2200 members, Links using these strategies can get the job done. We have less than 62 days left to vote!

Our Goals for 2020 are:

1. We are laser focused on increasing voter registration of Black people in our community. We have to ensure that neighbors and friends are voting. The impact in November and changing the culture toward voting.
2. Why this partnership, Why now? "Our Voice, Our Vote, Our Power", We have to help close the age gap and race gap in voter participation.
3. Empower people to have a concrete plan. Have masks, calendars, register to vote early, vote on line and vote on time. Voting should be safe, accessible, and fair.

Voting Squad members all took a Pledge to fight fair. **Step 1** was to attend this training. **Step 2:** Host voting events and log them and **Step 3:** Celebrate reaching our goal.

The Voting Squad is to form a Volunteer Team of at least 3 people in your network. They do not have to be Links. They can be your children, church members, business acquaintances, etc. A brief script was provided to the Squad Captain to use on these calls. States were selected as focus areas where there is low Black voter turn- out. The 2020 goal is to increase registration. Having the registration conversation was outlined, with "trust" leading the list of characteristics needed in reaching out to folks to vote. Several best practices used in voter registration were shared. Some dos and don'ts of voter registration were listed.

The Voter Registration Portal was introduced as a landing page to ensure that they register to vote. This link can be used to register voters. The QR Code is a bar code you can scan with your phone that goes to the portal. You can put it on Zoom, church meetings and register people to vote. We will also connect with OutVote (there is an app) which enables you to: follow whenweallvote.org, check folks' voting history, submit stories and testimonies and participate in voting campaigns.