



Columbia (MD) Chapter
The Links, Incorporated
Seasons 52
January 13, 2018
Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President, Lenaye L. Lawyer at 9:01 am.

Linkspiration

Link Gail Clark's poetry reading, *A Friend*, published by author, Gilliam Jones was shared with chapter members.

Adoption of Agenda

Link Diane Martin moved that the agenda be accepted as presented and the motion was seconded by Link Lisa Loury-Lomas. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of the Minutes of November Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the November 11, 2017, chapter meeting were recorded by Link Myra J. Smith. The minutes were published electronically by Link Lenaye L. Lawyer, President. Two modifications were submitted by Link Vivian M. Lawyer as recorded below:

1. Linkspiration- add Patti LaBelle
2. National Trends – add to the bullet, “Spring Food Drive”

Link Myra J. Smith moved that the November 11, 2017, chapter meeting minutes be accepted with the two modifications. The motion was seconded by Link Sharon Pinder and was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Correspondence

Link Tanya Sellars-Hannibal, corresponding secretary, read a thank you note from Kyia Fields pertaining to tickets donated for Kyia and her mother to attend the 12th Annual Jazz Brunch.

President's Report

Link Lenaye L. Lawyer's report is delineated below:

- Our National President, Dr. Glenda Newell-Harris is encouraging members of The Links, Incorporated to become members of the NAACP which is hosting its annual membership drive. The goal is for each member of The Links, Incorporated to join the NAACP. Link Judy Smith is our NACCP Drive Czar.
- Link Robin Steele is our *Vision 2020* ambassador.

Link Robin Steele, chapter ambassador for *Vision 2020* campaign presented information listed below.

- The goal of *Vision 2020* is to raise \$10 million by 2020.
- Each chapter member is asked to donate \$100.00 by February 28, 2018, and to do so online.

- Link Robin Steele stated that our goal is 100% chapter member participation and that your donation is tax deductible.
- The pins for the various donation levels were displayed during the meeting.
- The *Vision 2020* donation/pledge form is accessible online, the specific categories, and the donation amounts are published on the *Vision 2020* donation/pledge form.

Financial Secretary's Report

Link Vivian M. Lawyer reported income received for the months listed below.

- October 1 – 31, 2017 \$57,460.00
- November 1-30, 2017 \$83,323.00
- December 1- 30, 2017 \$90,949.98

Link Vivian M. Lawyer reported that income received is not finalized for the 12th Annual Jazz Brunch.

Link Vivian M. Lawyer moved that the financial secretary's report is accepted for filing. The motion was seconded by Link Jo Emily Knox and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Link Cestaine Glover's reports are listed below.

Links Proposed Budget and Reports

- *Operating Current Budget* 2017, (\$27,498.94) and *Operating Proposed Budget* 2018-2019, (\$39,431.00)
- *Proposed Programming –Restricted*, 2018-2019, \$39,140.00
- Scholarships 2018-2019, \$13,000.00
- Based on the proposed budget, dues will remain the same for the 2018 program year, \$835.00

Link Cestaine Glover moved that the Columbia (MD) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated accept the 2018-2019 program and operating year budgets. The motion was properly seconded by Link Diane Martin and was approved with the following results: *Favor – 37 Oppose – 0 Abstention- 2*
The 2018 – 2019 budget passed.

Reports

Wells Fargo 7138 is the Special Restricted Account

November 2017 \$28,771.75

December 2017 \$27,708.03

Wells Fargo 6054 Regular Restricted Account

November 2017 \$39,759.95

December 2017 \$33,416.38

M &T - Operating Account

November 2017 \$35,496.62

December 2017 \$35,063.22

Link Lenaye Lawyer lauded Link Cestaine Glover and Link Vivian M. Lawyer for their work.

Vice-President's Report

Link Rochelle Michaux-Conway shared the following membership updates:

- thank you to members of whom attended the holiday brunch at Seasons 52
- four Alumna members attended the holiday brunch
- eight Alumna members are eligible for platinum membership and
- Link Candace Dodson-Reed requested a leave of absence (LOA) for 2017-2018 which was supported by the Executive Committee.

Link Rochelle Michaux-Conway moved that The Columbia (MD) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated approve Link Candace Dodson-Reed's 2017-2018 LOA request recommendation from the Executive Committee. Link Jean Lewis seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

- Link Allyson Owens and Link Shavon Arline-Bradley requested attendance sabbaticals.

Link Rochelle Michaux-Conway moved that The Columbia (MD) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated approve the attendance sabbaticals for 2017–2018. The motion was properly seconded by Link Jo Emily Knox and was approved with the following results: *Favor – 36 Oppose – 0 Abstention – 1*

New Member Induction

- Proposed fees were presented and reviewed with chapter members:
 - The Executive Committee recommends the induction fee of \$2500.00 per new member candidate to cover all costs. Additionally, the fees will alleviate the burden for any Link sisters hosting orientation sessions at their homes. This fee is inclusive of:
 - Induction luncheon fees
 - Chapter dues for 2018-2019
 - Hostess fees for 2018-2019
 - National dues for 2018-2019
 - and the contribution to the National Foundation.

Link Rochelle Michaux-Conway moved that the induction fee for new member candidates is \$2500.00. The motion was properly seconded by Link Jo Emily Knox. The motion was approved with the following results. *Favor – 36 Oppose – 0 Abstention – 1*

New Member Orientation Dates

- Orientation sessions for the new candidates: March 3, 2018, March 17, 2018, and April 7, 2018. 9 am to 12 pm
- Committee is looking for venues and one Link Sister has volunteered her home.
- Induction date, Saturday, May 5, 2018

Link Rochelle Michaux-Conway reminded Link Sisters to submit their *Service Hours Form*.

Fundraising Committee

Link Shanna Travis' report is delineated below.

The recommended proposal and budget for the 13th Annual Jazz Brunch were shared with chapter members.

- Date: Sunday, November 11, 2018
- Ticket cost: \$100.00 per guest and the assessment remains \$1000.00 per chapter member
- Venue: Martin's West
- Entertainment: Lionel Lyles Quintet, cost is \$800.00 to \$2,000.00
- Marketing hashtag will remain the same as last year #Columbialinksjazzin, Link Shanna Travis acknowledged and thanked Link Lisa Lousy Lomas for creating the hashtag.

Proposed Budget for the 13th Annual Jazz Brunch was presented in addition to expenses and anticipated profit.

Proposed Expenses	\$56,000.00
Anticipated Profit	\$62,500.00

Link Shanna Travis moved that the Columbia (MD) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated host the 13th Annual Jazz Brunch, ticket cost \$100.00, assessment fee of \$1000.00 per chapter member and according to the proposed budget. The motion was properly seconded by Link Diane Martin and was approved with the following results: *Favor 22 Oppose 11 Abstention 4*

Archives Committee

The Archives Committee report was presented by Link Veronica Morrow and is summarized below.

- The committee has been busy meeting and are in the process of categorizing and archiving memorabilia.
- The committee will provide guidance and instructions to Facet Chairmen for submitting program materials.
- A protocol will be established for chapter members of whom desire to check-out materials.
- The committee are also identifying how to catalogue artifacts.
- New members are welcome
- Facet Chairmen that have materials, please submit to Link Veronica Morrow, Link Paulette Scott, Link Linda Outlaw, Link Judy Grant and or Link Jo Emily Knox.
- The next Archives Committee meeting is February 3, 2018.

Link Veronica Morrow also shared information about the Black History Expo:

- Location: Long Reach High School
- Date: Saturday, February 17, 2018, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Call for volunteers, service hours opportunity and the Sign-up Genius is forthcoming

Services to Youth

Link Diane Martin's report is listed below.

- December 5, 2017, committee meeting was cancelled

Program Updates

For Girls Only

- *Chat and Chew* session was facilitated by Link Muriel Mitchell, November 9, 2017 and the next meeting is scheduled January 11, 2018
- November 30, 2017 session was facilitated by Link Lenaye L. Lawyer and she presented the topic, *Healthy Habits and Helpful Hygiene*
- Kwanza presentation, December 21, 2017 was cancelled
- January 11, 2018, a *Chat, Chew, & Mentoring* Forum will convene January 25, 2018, Link Vivian Lawyer, will present, *The Community & Me and How Do I Fit In?*
- Copies of the program are available for chapter members
- *Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) Program* at Jeffers Hill Elementary School
 - Dates are: Tuesdays, January 2, 9, 16, 23, 2018, 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm
 - There are twenty-six MESA students.
 - Our students are competing in 4 categories: Effective communications after researching Extreme Weather, The Scratch team's work is related to cybersecurity, and the final team's competition was a Storybook theme park ride developed after reading the text, *The Cat in The Hat*. Lastly, the students are engaged in building bridges that will endure weight.

Scholarships

- Link Robin Steele is updating the scholarship application. All scholarship applications will be disseminated in the next two weeks and will be due back to the committee, March 2018.
- Next meeting, January 9, 2018, 6:30 pm at Seasons 52

The Arts

Link Lisa Cooper-Lucas' report is delineated below.

- Our 28th Annual Peabody Concert is Sunday, February 18, 2018, 3PM, Kossiakoff Center | Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, 11100 Johns Hopkins Road, Laurel, MD
- Flyer will be available Wednesday of next week and will be sent electronically
- There are volunteer opportunities, so please consider volunteering at the Peabody Concert, arrival time for hostesses is 2:00 pm
- Nine students will perform

International Trends and Services

Link Juliet Gilliam shared the following report on behalf of Link Allyson Owens.

- On behalf of our Chapter, the International Trends & Services Facet donated \$3,000.00

in December, 2017 to Lutheran Social Services of the United States Virgin Islands, our *Partner in Progress*, as needed for its use in the hurricane relief, recovery, and programmatic efforts.

- Secret Santa in St. Croix gifts purchased by chapter members were shipped, December 18, 2017 and are in route by boat to the island for receipt and distribution by Lutheran Social Services to the Queen Louise Home (orphanage) and Sister Emma's House (home for disabled children and young adults). Although delayed, the gifts are expected to arrive, Sunday, January 14, 2018. A huge thank you to all Chapter members of whom participated in this effort, particularly given the tight timeframe and turnaround. Kudos!

Service Opportunity in St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands

- Dates of service: Thursday & Friday, March 22 & 23, 2018
- 16 Service hours minimum
- Air travel through American and Delta airlines
- Contact Link Allyson Owens about accommodations and if you are interested in participating
- Next meeting: January 30, 2018, 6:30 pm at the Nordstrom Café

New Business

Tellers Committee Report

Link Judy Smith, Link Roslyn Brock, and Link Valda Christian served as members of the Tellers Committee for the membership candidate voting. In advance of the meeting, members of the Columbia (MD) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated were informed that voting would commence at 8:30 am. Chapter members were instructed to sign their name upon receipt of and for the submission of their candidate ballot form.

After the conclusion of voting, Link Lenaye L. Lawyer reminded members that a two-third favor was required of the votes cast for each candidate.

Link Judy L. Smith presented the Teller's Report published in the table below.

Candidate	Yes Votes	No Votes	Total Votes Cast	2/3 Needed	Accepted: Yes or No
Schedana Lisa Bindra	31	9	40	27	Yes
Lisa Harbour Carter	32	8	41	28	Yes
Laura Crandon	31	8	40	27	Yes
Jewel C. Debnam	38	2	41	29	Yes
Deidra Carr Johnson	33	7	40	27	Yes
Regina Hollis-Little	29	11	40	27	Yes
Shaydra T. Robinson	32	7	40	27	Yes
Tracey L. Lynne Smith-Williams	11	27	41	28	No

Link Lenaye L. Lawyer reminded chapter members, the results of voting were confidential as those voted in must be approved by the Area Director and by National headquarters before an invitation for membership can be sent to them.

Joys and Concerns

- Congratulations, Link Shanna Travis shared news of her engagement, nuptials planned, May 26, 2018, Shreveport, LA
- Link Germaine Bolds-Leftridge shared that *Essence Magazine* is now Black-owned. Mark your calendar, March 29, 2018, 6:30 – 9:30 pm, Ubiquitous will honor the new owner at the Newseum, and all Link Sisters are invited to the event.
- Link Carol Ann Smith announced that the deadline to submit suggested amendments to The Links, Incorporated are as follows:
 - February 26, 2018 for The Links, Incorporated, Bylaws
 - March 26, 2018 for The Links, Incorporated Foundation Bylaws
 - The deadline for amendments to The Links, Incorporated Constitution was December 26, 2018.

Members with amendments should contact Link Carol Ann Smith as soon as possible.

- Link Yvette Rooks', daughter will graduate in December
- Link Cathy Bell's goddaughter is working in production with Steven Spielberg.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am

Submitted by: Link Myra J. Smith, Recording Secretary