



Facet Meeting Summary: September 2026

Facet Name: Services to Youth
Meeting Date/Time/Location: Thursday, September 3, 2026, 7p via Zoom
Meeting Attendees: Raven Hill, Chair; Carol Ann Smith, Vice Chair; Regina Little Hollis, Program Director; Chinyere Watson, Scholarship Chair; Melanie Brown, Nikiah Dawson, Vivian Lawyer,

SUMMARY:

National Updates

- *Where Friendship and Service Connect* (2026-2028 biennium theme)
- *Connect 5* National Program Vision: Unite five program facets, 304 chapters, and more than 18,000 Link sisters around a shared commitment to friendship, service, and transformational impact. Each facet features a distinct *connection* aligned with three focused program goals that reflect national priorities while giving chapters the flexibility to address their unique community needs.
 - STY Goals: Increase early childhood literacy, expand STEM education access, support HBCUs
- Five guidelines: Align, Innovate, Collaborate, Measure, Transform
- National leadership:
 - Shaun Hunter-Green and Sonya Simril, National Programs Co-Directors
 - Dr. Tresa Dunbar Garrett, National Services to Youth Director; Natalie Nagthall, Co-Director
 - Racquel Oden, National HBCU Chair; Dr. Autumn Jeter, Co-Chair; Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy, Honorary Chair; Dr. Mamie Parker, National STEM Chair
- REGISTER | [Sept. 14: Connect 5 — Where Every Connection Creates Impact, 8:30p Webinar](#)
- ATTACHED | 2026 National Programs Overview, 2026-2027 National Programs Calendar

Area Updates

- REGISTER | [Sept. 23: Linked in Civics! | 8p Zoom](#)
- Oct. 15: EA STEM Toolkit Release, HBCU Presidents Video — Delaware State University
- HBCU Presidents Video Series: Delaware State University (Oct. 15), Morgan State University (Dec. 15)
- Jan. 18: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service
- ATTACHED | [Eastern Area Program Calendar](#)

Chapter Updates

- Masonville Cove Links WildSTEM Internship Program: Thanks to all who supported the program over the summer and participated in the debrief. Finalizing next steps for partnership.
- Details forthcoming: Linked to Wellness Virtual Series Launch, Linked to Success Mentoring Program
- Chapter Needs Assessment | Sept. 7 deadline: Please respond to the question regarding the age group you're interested in supporting. Responses will help to guide our FY28 programming.

Upcoming Meetings

- Facet meetings are generally held the last Wednesday of month at 7p excluding November, December and the summer months.
- Save the date: September 30, October 28, November 18, December 9
- ZOOM INFO | [Meeting link](#) | Meeting ID: 854 1750 2828 | Passcode: 613505

Key Dates & Deadlines

- October — HBCU Homecoming Month and Fundraising Campaign
- December — National Month of Service: Early Childhood Literacy



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service

CONNECT 5

Where Every CONNECTION *Creates Impact*



National Programs

“Where Friendship and Service Connect”



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service

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Meet the National Program Team



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service

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Where Every CONNECTION *Creates Impact*



National Programs, Co-Directors



SONYA SIMRIL
Alameda Contra Costa (CA)
Chapter



SHAUN HUNTER-GREEN
Buckhead/Cascade City (GA)
Chapter



National Program Team

SERVICES TO YOUTH



TRESA DUNBAR GARRETT

National Director
Chicago (IL) Chapter



NATALIE NAGTHALL

National Co-Director
Harbor Area (CA) Chapter

THE ARTS



SONYA VAUGHN

National Director
San Fernando (CA) Chapter



DEBORAH BEAVERS-WATFORD

National Co-Director
Los Angeles (CA) Chapter

NATIONAL TRENDS & SERVICES



TONYA TISDALE GREEN

National Director
Columbia (SC) Chapter



TAYNA LONGINO

National Co-Director
Bucks County (PA) Chapter

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS & SERVICES



ROBIN H. WILLIAMS

National Director
Greater Hudson Valley (NY) Chapter



LISA SHANNON

National Co-Director
Dogwood City (GA) Chapter

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



ANJANETTE FERRIS

National Director
Greater Hartford (CT) Chapter



TAMMUELLA CHRISENTERY SINGLETON, MD

National Co-Director
New Orleans (LA) Chapter

PROGRAM DATA MANAGER



JATISHA MARSH

West Georgia (GA) Chapter



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National Program Team: Guiding Principles

1 Connection



Ecclesiastes 4: 9 – 10

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

2 Collaboration



Proverbs 27: 7

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

3 Coordination



Amos 3:3

Can two walk together without agreeing where to go?



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National Program Overview



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Friends transforming communities through Service

- In 1946, nine friends established a legacy of Friendship and Service that continues to guide The Links, Incorporated. Their vision is reflected in our Mission Statement: ***“Friends transforming communities through Service.”***
- Today, 18,000+ members commit to promoting and engaging in educational, civic, and intercultural activities designed to enrich communities and strengthen the cultural and economic well-being of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry.
- Our goal is to deliver transformative, sustainable, and measurable programs that improve the lives of the children, families, and communities we serve. We achieve this goal through our five program facets.
- Our National Theme ***“Where Friendship and Service Connect”*** supports this goal by challenging us to connect: (1) connect to our communities; (2) connecting to our national programs; (3) connect to our national and local partners; and (4) connect to our member’s interests and passions.
- Consistent with our tagline, ***Linked in Friendship ~ Connected in Service***, connection and collaboration are essential—within chapters, across the organization, and with strategic partners who share our commitment to serve.



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Connect to Five Facets

- **SERVICES TO YOUTH (STY):** Est. 1962 to empower black youth to leverage their intellect and spirit of achievement to become successful, productive citizens.
- **THE ARTS:** Est. 1964 to expand access to the arts throughout our communities by creating educational opportunities, supporting youth engagement, and showcasing accomplished artists.
- **NATIONAL TRENDS AND SERVICES (NTS):** Est. 1964 to effectively empower communities and families by eliminating disparities and reducing barriers to essential services through advocacy, education, and service.
- **INTERNATIONAL TRENDS AND SERVICES (ITS):** Est. 1978 to improve the quality of life for people of African ancestry globally through transformational programs and services, with a focus on women and families.
- **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS):** Est. 2010 to promote healthier communities by advancing health education, strengthening advocacy, expanding access to resources, and addressing chronic health disparities in communities of color.





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Introducing “CONNECT 5” National Program Framework



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service

CONNECT 5

Where Every CONNECTION Creates Impact



 FACETS	 NATIONAL PROGRAMS	 PROGRAM GOALS
 SERVICES TO YOUTH	THE SCHOLAR CONNECTION: Turning Pages, Building Futures THE SCHOLAR CONNECTION: STEM Pathways to Possibility THE SCHOLAR CONNECTION: Beyond the Yard	P1: Increase Early Childhood LITERACY . P2: Expand access to STEM education and career pathways for students from underrepresented communities. P3: Support HBCUs to improve retention, graduation rates, and career readiness.
 THE ARTS	THE ART OF CONNECTION: Preserving Hidden Treasures THE ART OF CONNECTION: The Power of Creative Expression THE ART OF CONNECTION: Protecting Our Legacy	P1: Promote and preserve ART COLLECTIONS at underrepresented institutions. P2: Showcase and support underrepresented visual, film, vocal, literary, and performance ARTISTS . P3: Preserve HERITAGE AND HISTORICAL SITES (including Africa and the African Diaspora)
 NATIONAL TRENDS AND SERVICES	THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION: Nourishing Futures THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION: Democracy in Action THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION: The Currency of Success	P1: Expand access to nutritious foods to reduce FOOD INSECURITY for our community and children. P2: Increase CIVIC ENGAGEMENT through voter registration, voter education, and get out the vote programs. P3: Increase FINANCIAL LITERACY to empower underserved communities and drive economic growth.
 INTERNATIONAL TRENDS AND SERVICES	THE GLOBAL CONNECTION: Learning Without Borders THE GLOBAL CONNECTION: Building Bridges to Prosperity THE GLOBAL CONNECTION: Women Rising Together	P1: Increase EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES in Africa and the African Diaspora. (Bahamas/Jamaica) P2: Accelerate ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT in Africa and the African Diaspora. (Ghana) P3: Champion WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND EQUALITY in Africa and the African Diaspora. (Global)
 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	THE WELLNESS CONNECTION: Every Heartbeat Matters THE WELLNESS CONNECTION: Beyond the Pink Ribbon THE WELLNESS CONNECTION: Mental Health Is Health	P1: Increase awareness and advocacy to prevent and treat HEART DISEASE . P2: Increase awareness and advocacy to prevent and treat BREAST CANCER . P3: Increase awareness and advocacy for MENTAL HEALTH to reduce the stigma and promote treatment.



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service

CONNECT 5

Where Every CONNECTION Creates Impact



Join us
**Monday,
September 14th
at 8:30pm ET**

for our **1st** National
Program Webinar



to learn more about
CONNECT 5!

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 SERVICE

 FRIENDSHIP

 IMPACT



SEPTEMBER 2026	
Legislative Luncheon • Voting • Healthy Walk	
ALL MONTH	- National Voter Registration Month - National Sickle Cell Awareness Month - National Suicide Prevention Month
7	Labor Day
14	Monthly Program Webinar
16	National Voter Registration Day
16	8th Annual Legislative Luncheon: <i>The State of Our Well-Being: Advancing Black Women's Health, Honoring Leadership and Inspiring Action</i>
26	31st Anniversary of Walk for Healthy Living
OCTOBER 2026	
HBCU • Breast Cancer Awareness • Voting	
ALL MONTH	- HBCU Homecoming Month & Fundraising Campaign - Breast Cancer Awareness Month - Domestic Violence Awareness Month
10	World Mental Health Day
12	Indigenous People
26	Monthly Program Webinar
NOVEMBER 2026:	
Friendship Month • Food Insecurity	
ALL MONTH	- National Friendship Month - National Alzheimer's Month - National Diabetes Month
3	Election Day
5 - 8	Links 80th Anniversary Celebration: "Pilgrimage to Philadelphia" – DC to Philadelphia
7	National Day of Service: Food Insecurity Donations



9	Links Founders Day
11	Veteran's Day
13 - 15	National Day of Service: Donor Sabbath Weekend - Linkage to Life Organ, Tissue, and Blood Donations
23	Monthly Program Webinar
26	Thanksgiving Day
DECEMBER 2026 Early Childhood Literacy	
ALL MONTH	National Month of Service - Early Childhood Literacy: Books, Digital Libraries
1	Giving Tuesday - Invest in the future of the Links Foundation
25	Christmas
26	Kwanza Starts
JANUARY 2027 New Year, New You • Self Care	
ALL MONTH	Selfcare/Wellness "New Year, New You"
18	National Day of Service: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
25	Monthly Program Webinar
FEBRUARY 2027 Black History Month • Black ART • Heart Health	
ALL MONTH	- Black History Month - National Heart Health Month
14	Valentine's/Galantines Day "New Year, New You"
22	Monthly Program Webinar
TBD	Special Webinar - Health Experts: Heart + Diabetes + Obesity + Kidney
MARCH 2027 Women's History • Women's Equality • Women's Health	
ALL MONTH	Women's History Month



2026 - 2028
National Program Biennial Calendar

	National Day(s) of Service: Wellness Month
8	International Women's Day
22	Monthly Program Webinar
28	Easter
31 – 4/4	47 th Eastern Area Conference (Buffalo, NY)
APRIL 2027 Financial Literacy • Food Insecurity/Gardening	
ALL MONTH	- National Volunteer Month - National Garden Month - National Financial Literacy Month
26	Monthly Program Webinar
MAY 2027 Mental Health	
ALL MONTH	- Mental Health Awareness - National Military Appreciation Month
20 – 23	47 th Southern Area Conference “Southern Grace on the Bay”: Legacy, Leadership, Links (Tampa, FL)
24	Monthly Program Webinar
31	Memorial Day
JUNE 2027 Connecting Links - Men's Health	
ALL MONTH	Men's Health Month
9 -13	47 th Central Area Conference (Memphis, TN)
19	Juneteenth
22	Special Webinar: Men's Health (Led by Connecting Links)
23 - 27	46 th Western Area Conference (Hawaii)

NOTE: The dates and times are subject to change.

EA 2026-207 Program Calendar

SEPTEMBER	
1	<i>Celebrate Black History Month 2026-2027</i> (Plan a Chapter Activity each month)
23	<i>Linked in Civics</i> Webinar-Links Only (8pm)
26	“Walk for Healthy Living”
30	Virtual Rally, <i>Maximizing Black Voter Turnout in 2026</i> (Collaborative Event to Get Out the Vote featuring Marc H. Morial and Al Sharpton, moderated by Symone Sanders-Townsend)
TBD	Rollout to EA Community: New Maternal Mental Health Program in Partnership with Mother Zion Church
OCTOBER	
1	Breast Cancer Awareness Month - Release of PSA
1	EA HBCU Capital Campaign Begins- Donation Portal Opens
1	<i>Celebrate Black History Month 2026-2027</i> (Plan a Chapter Activity each month)
2-3	EA Leadership Summit (Gaylord National Harbor)
9	International Day of the Girls Summit at the UN (Introduce girls and Chapters to advocacy at the international level)
14	Link Lisa’s Listening Wednesday – Introduction of the EA Book, <i>Unheard No More</i>
15	Release of EA STEM Toolkit
15	HBCU President’s Video – Delaware State University
15	<i>Flex Our Green</i> – Targeted Reminder to Support Black Businesses
19	Domestic Violence Awareness Month – PSA Release
21	<i>Understanding the Service Delivery Model</i> Webinar
24	UN Day with UN-USA (Intro 8 college students to international careers)

25	EA Joint Webinar with London (UK) Chapter in celebration of UK Black History Month
31	NSBE, Jr. Chartering Deadline
Date TBD	EA Links Curated Learning Trip to UN – Partnership with UNA-USA Women & UNA-USA (bringing together policy holders, partners, and missions)
NOVEMBER	
1	<i>Celebrate Black History Month 2026-2027</i> (Plan a Chapter Activity each month)
9	Founders’ Day
15	Deadline for EA Facets to Submit Program Proposals for Area Conference
19	<i>Beyond the Ballot</i> Webinar (part of the series) – a Post Mid-term Elections Discussion
14-16	Donor Sabbath Weekend (educational activities around organ and blood donations)
DECEMBER	
1	<i>Celebrate Black History Month 2026-2027</i> (Plan a Chapter Activity each month) (NTS)
15	<i>Flex Our Green</i> – Targeted Reminder to Support Black Businesses
15	HBCU President’s Video: Morgan State University
16	<i>Are You Ready to File Your Chapter Program Report?</i> Webinar
JANUARY 2027	
1	<i>Celebrate Black History Month 2026-2027</i> (Plan a Chapter Activity each month) (NTS)
5	Call to Conference (Eastern Area Conference)
18	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Day of community service

FEBRUARY	
1	Deadline for Chapters' Submission of Annual Program Reports to National
1-28	<i>Celebrate Black History Month 2026-2027</i> (Plan a Chapter Activity celebrating the end of the 100th Anniversary)
1-28	Heart Health Month, including Red Dress events (February 5-7)
11	<i>EmpowerHer</i> Webinar (recognizing International Day of Women and Girls in Science)
15	HBCU President's Video: Virginia State University
15	<i>Flex Our Green</i> – Targeted Reminder to Support Black Businesses
16	Release of Heart Health PSA
Dates TBD	Registration Deadlines for College Students and Chapter Members' participation in a local or regional Model UN Simulation Day
MARCH	
8-19	Diaspora Dialogue: Amplifying Black Women's Voices at the UN-Host a dialogue between EA Links and African delegations, CSOs (Specific date during this period TBD)
31	Start of EA Conference (March 31-April 3)
31	Start of NSBE, Jr. Annual Conference (March 31-April 4)
APRIL	
1-3	EA Conference continues
15	<i>Flex Our Green</i> – Targeted Reminder to Support Black Businesses
11-17	Black Maternal Health Week – Daily Release of a PSA
19 tentative	<i>Get Ready for the New Program Year</i> Webinar
MAY	
1-31	Mental Health Awareness Month – HHS Weekly PSAs (dates shown)
3	1st PSA Release
10	2nd PSA Release
17	3rd PSA Release
24	4th PSA Release