**The Links Incorporated**

**Middlesex County Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**February 8, 2020**

**HOSTESS/MEETING LOCATION:** Link Shanique Smith, L’Andana’s, 86 Cambridge St, Burlington, MA

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| **ATTENDANCE: Members present – 36 Active / 1 Associate** |
| X | Kaye Allen | X | Julia Cofield | X | Cassandra Lockett | X | Stephanie Robinson |
| X | Earlene Avalon |  | Terri Williams Cohee | X | Kathy Lucas | X | Kim Savoy |
| X | Rebecca Barnett |  | Donna Cramer | X | Juliette Mayers | X | Nikole Skoko |
|  | Vivian Beard\* | X | Barbara Cruz | X | Desiree McNeil | X | Shanique Smith |
|  | Deborah Bernat |  | Terri Cubia | X | Dani Monroe | X | Shelby Smither |
| X | Michele Bingham |  | Jennifer DaSilva |  | Valerie Mosley\* | X | Kathy Taylor |
| X | Clemia Brittenum | X | Chenita Daughtry |  | Angela Motley | X | Kathy Thurman |
| X | Tomiko Brown Nagin | X | Natalie Dixon \*\* |  | Nike Okediji |  | Shawnda Walker |
| X | Kimberly Budd | X | Beverly Edgehill |  | Lisa Owens | X | Pat Washington |
| X | Tamara Cadet |  | Latoyia Edwards | X | Janet Palmer-Owens | X | Terry Wilkins |
|  | Sylvia Carr | X | Juarez Farrington | X | Danielle Pelot | X | Sabrina Williams |
| X | Cynthia Carter | X | Jacqueline Glenn | X | Deloris Pettis |  | Theresa Wilson-Coney |
| X | Petrina Cherry |  | Kimmie Jackson | X | Stephanie Pinder-Amaker | X | Paula Wright |
|  | Elizabeth Clark-Donald |  | Aleta Williams Johnson |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Alumni Members Present: 5*** |
|  | Frances Bernat |  | Carolyn G. Hebsgaard | X | Jackie Benson Jones |  | Donna Norris |
|  | Clemmie Cash | X | Marion Grayer |  | Donna Levy Wray |  | Dorothy Terrell |
| X | Claudette Crouse |  | Donna Hardy | X | Patricia Long |  |  |
|  | Jacqueline Fields |  | Perea Hopkins |  | Veronica Lytle |  |  |
|  | Michele Gibbons-Carr |  | Jean Hurd | X | Julia Monroe |  |  |

\* Members on Leave (2) \*\* Affiliate Members (1)

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

Chapter President, Link Kim Savoy called the meeting to order at 12:30pm and led the National Pledge and Song.

**LINKSPIRATION:**

Link Julia Monroe and Link Jackie Glenn provided this month’s Linkspiration. Link Julia shared how she helped to influence the ‘no smoking, policy (in the Commonwealth of MA’s office buildings) while she was employed by the Commonwealth. Link Jackie’s topic was Dementia and wants members to remember that while this disease is difficult for those who have it, it is also stressful for those who are the caretakers. She asked chapter members keep the caregivers in their prayers and ask that they be patient with those who have this disease.

**HEART LINKS (Link Stephanie/Link Tomiko)**

Link Stephanie and Link Tomiko were joined by Links Natalie, Danielle, members of the Heart Links’s team, who shared their 3-part Heart Linjs challenge with the chapter. They asked members take time to review the Hesrt Links chart that was attached to the email sent prior to the meeting and also pointed out that heart diseases are the #1 Killer for women. They asked chapter members commit to take charge of their heart by doing the following three things each day:

#1. Commit to drinking at least 8 8oz servings of water

#2. Commit to an exercise routine

#3. Commit to a heart healthy diet

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:**

 A motion was made and seconded to approve the December 2019 Chapter Meeting Minutes.

 **CARE AND SHARE (Link Earlene Avalon)**

* Link Earlene asked the chapter to join her in wishing a Happy Birthday to the following members with February birthdays: Link Valerie Mosley, Link Liz Clark-Donald, Link Danielle Pelot, Link Pat Long (Founder), Link Claudette Crouse, Link Carolyn Golden-Hebsgaard, Link Clemia Brittenum and Link Earlene Avalon.
* Chapter members were asked to keep the following Links Sisters and their families in our prayers due to the recent loss of loved ones: Both Link Val Mosley and Link Liz Clark-Donald lost their fathers and Link Angela Motley lost her mother. The Chapter was also asked to pray for our Chapter President’s speedy recovery following her knee recent surgery.
* On March 21st, Link Beverly Edgehill will be honored by Framingham State University with a Women of Courage Award.
* Link Tomiko Nagin Brown, dean of the Radcliffe College Institute for Advanced Study, will chair a new Harvard university committee convened to lead a new a initiative to examine and better understand the university’s historical and enduring connections to slavery on their campus and in their community.
* Link Earlene reminded members that school graduations will be coming up soon. She asked that any member who has a child graduating this year to provide her with the graduating student’s name, address and the name of the school from which they will be graduating. This information should be sent as soon as possible so that they can be acknowledged by our chapter.
* Link Tamara Cadet shared that she was recently awarded a $600,000 research grant
* Link Jackie Benson Jones shared that she had the pleasure of visiting Ethiopia to attend her nephew’s wedding. She expressed how beautiful and welcoming the country was.
* Link Pat Long shared she recalls attending the February 14, 1985 retirement celebration for Opera Singer, Leontyne Price.
* Link Juarez shared she is the proud grandmother of two grandsons who both made the honor roll for this term
* Link Deloris shared her daughter was recently recognized at the by the Commonwealth of MA at State House for her advocacy related to the “N” word and was also recognized by the town of Framingham.
* Link Barbara Cruz shared that on February 28th, she and her husband, John, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.
* Link Terry Wilkins shared that on behalf of the chapter, 15 bags of clothes were donated to the WeBelong program. The program participants were very happy with the of the donated items; she thanked Link Shelby for helping with this effort. Link Terry also offered to organize a clothing drive so that members can bring ‘gently used’ clothing for a second donation to We Belong. She will provide additional information and welcomes any members who would like to help with this chapter project.
* Link Dani Monroe Wright advised the chapter that at a recent Brookview House annual event they publicly acknowledged our chapter for the tremendous level of support that the chapter gave them in the past.
* Link Juliette Mayers shared that Link Jackie Glenn will be honored by the International Institute at an event to be held on March 6th.
* Link Danielle Pelot shared that Morgan Stanley is seeking people of color college students to submit applications for the firm’s Financial Services Program. Information about the program can be found on their website or members can reach out to Link Danielle for a contact name there.
* Ethics Cimmittee Chair, Link Julia Cofield, noted that some members have not submitted their signed Code of Ethics Member Acknowledgement Forms to her yet. She asked that anyone who hasn’t and needs a copy of the form should contact her as soon as possible. All Links members are required to sign and submit these forms before March 31st because she has to send a report to the National Office.

 **TREASURER’S REPORT:**

* Treasurer, Link Deloris Pettis, reported that as of January 31, 2020 the Restricted and unrestricted accounts have been reconciled and balances as of that date were:

 Restricted Account: $17,634.77

 UnRestricted Account: $42,729.59

 **Combined Balance: $60,364.36**

* Financial Secretary, Link Cindy Carter noted chapter membership dues are $350 and payments are due prior to the end of March. Payments can be made at today’s meeting and at the March Chapter meeting. Those who wish to make credit payment can do that online and payments via Zelle transfer will also be accepted.

* Link Deloris presented the proposed Budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. She explained the key assumptions upon which the budget was developed (re: membership count/$350 annual dues, the fundraising gala for which each member will be assessed to sell or purchase 5 tickets and the $150 per member Friendship assessment fee which is due to be paid by March 31st). She noted that at the March meeting chapter members will be asked to approve the budget. She encouraged members who have any questions about the proposed budget or who would like additional information to reach out to her by phone or email before the March meeting so she can respond prior to all inquiries before the next meeting

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:**

* Membership Committee Chair, Link Liz Clark Donald was unable to attend today due to the loss of her father. Link Kim noted the Membership report was distributed via email prior to today’s meeting. She informed the Chapter that Link Kathy Taylor, who has been a member since 1991, has submitted her request to become a Alumni/ Emeritus member. The paperwork required from the chapter for the status change will be submitted to the National office prior to their deadline. She also shared that Link Terri Cubia has requested a leave of absence for the 2020-2021 chapter year. Link Terri has made this request because she wishes to remain a Middlesex County Chapter member but is unable to commit to the annual level of service required at this time due to her move and transition to the Chicago area. Link Terri’s request was approved.

**GALA UPDATE (Link Kathy Lucas)**

* Link Kathy Lucas, Gala CoChair, provided an update on the October Gala. The Gala theme will be the 1900-1943 era of the Cotton Club. Link Beverly Edgehill will conduct a workshop on how to ‘frame the ask’ to sponsors.

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE (Link Trina Cherry)**

* Program chairperson, Link Trina, updated the chapter on activities completed, in process and planned by the Program Committee and advised that our partnership with We Belong is off to a good start. The Youth Facet team will be conducting HBCU workshop at NE University at 40 Leon St and will also be sending students to the college tour in April. Link Kathy Lucas volunteered to speak at an Etiquette workshop that will be conducted in June. A detailed committee report was distributed via email (along with the meeting agenda) prior to today’s chapter meeting. She noted the names of the leads and committee members for each of the five program Facet areas (please refer to the detailed February Committee report for this information). Each of these Facet Committees is seeking additional members; anyone interested in signing up for one of the Facet teams should contact the Facet lead directly. She informed that the Chapter’s Program report, due to the National Office on February 1st, was prepared and submitted prior to the due date.
* Link Chenita Daughtry reported that the Scholarship Committee met to develop their strategy for how scholarships will be handled this year and recapped criteria and deadlines.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

* President, Link Kim Savoy, thanked Link Shanique Smith for hosting this month’s Chapter. She noted that February is Heart Health Month, thanked those who wore red attire and encouraged all members to commit to do the three things that the Heart Links team has challenged all members to do daily to take good care of their hearts. She further noted that although there was no Chapter meeting in January, committee members were still taking care of business: the Finance Committee drafted a proposed budget and the chapter will be asked to approve the budget at our next meeting; the Program Committee has continued to meet and have a lot of good activities planned (be sure to put these on you calendars). 2010 Gala Committee met and brainstormed a lot of good ideas so it’s sure to be another great event.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:45pm.

Meeting minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary, Link Pat