

## **44th Central Area Conference**

**Minneapolis, MN**

**Marriott**

**June 8, 2017**

The First Plenary of the 2017 Central Area Conference was called to order on Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 8:30 am by the Central Area Director, Link Glenda Masingale Manson, in the Chair, and Link Jill Bryant-Veneable, Central Area Secretary, present.

Link Crystal Turner, Chair Protocol introduced the Dias.

The Links Pledge was recited by all.

The Links song was sung by all.

Credentials Report was given by Link Jill Bryant-Veneable. We have 4 National Officers, 1 Past National President, 5 Past Area Directors, 3 Guest Area Directors, 30 Central Area Board Members, 380 Links and 21 Connecting Links. Roll call was done previously and all 69 chapters were present and seated.

Greetings were brought from the Areas from Link Natalie Fant, Eastern Area Director, Link Anne Herriott, Southern Area Director, and Link Roxanne Chargois, Western Area Director.

### **Standing Rules of Order**

Link Sarah Brown-Clark, Central Area Parliamentarian reviewed the proposed Standing Rules for the 2017 Central Area Conference. The rules had been previously sent out and reviewed in the prior days delegates training. Link Brown-Clark moved to adopt the Standing Rules as read. The motion passed.

### **Approval of 2015 Minutes**

The 2015 Central Area Conference Minutes were approved by a Minutes Approval Committee. There were no objections to the approved minutes per the approval committee.

Timekeepers were appointed by Link Masingale-Manson

### **Nominating Report**

Link Joyce Carter, Central Area Nominating Chair, acknowledged the Nominating committee. Link Andreanna J. Dobbs, Link Delta Jones-Walker, Link Inetta F. Rogers, and Link Gina Starling Gunn. Link Carter reviewed the accomplishments, observations, and recommendations.

The 2017-2019 slate of certified candidates were presented as follow:

Central Area Director, Link Glenda Masingale Manson, Central Illinois Chapter  
Central Area Vice Director, Link Monica Boone Allen, Windy City, Illinois Chapter  
Central Area Secretary, Link Jill Bryant-Veneable, Greater Wayne County, Michigan Chapter  
Central Area Treasurer, Link Sheila R. Brown, Lakeshore, Illinois Chapter  
Central Area Representative to the Links Foundation, Link Tara Ravnell Bradley, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma chapter.

Nominating Committee:

Link Cynthia Bryant Welch, Memphis Tennessee Chapter  
Link Joyce A. Carter, South Suburban, Chicago, Illinois Chapter  
Link Andreana J.Dobbs, Harbor Lites, Illinois Chapter  
Link Gail Jones Carson, River City, Tennessee Chapter  
Link Delta F. Jones Walker, Northern Indiana, Indiana Chapter.

Link Masingale Manson opened the floor for additional nominations. There were no additional nominations for Area Director, Vice Area Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Foundation Representative, and the Nominating committee. The nominations were closed.

Link Karlyn Wade-Richardson, Chair of Elections, read Article 3.10b nominations and election items 1 through 6. Each area officer, the nominating committee and area representative of the Links Foundation, Incorporated shall be elected by ballots at the regular meeting of the area conference. If there's only one nominee for the office, five nominees for the nominating committee, or one nominee for the area representative for the Link Foundation, Incorporated, election may be by a method other than ballots, for example, voice vote.

Link Masingale-Manson as Chair declared by acclamation the following persons have been elected for the 2017-2019 term.

Central Area Director, Link Glenda Masingale Manson, Central Illinois Chapter  
Central Area Vice Director, Link Monica Boone Allen, Windy City, Illinois Chapter  
Central Area Secretary, Link Jill Bryant-Veneable, Greater Wayne County, Michigan Chapter  
Central Area Treasurer, Link Sheila R. Brown, Lakeshore, Illinois Chapter  
Central Area Representative to the Links Foundation, Link Tara Ravnell Bradley, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Chapter.

Nominating Committee:

Link Cynthia Bryant Welch, Memphis Tennessee Chapter  
Link Joyce A. Carter, South Suburban, Chicago, Illinois Chapter  
Link Andreana J.Dobbs, Harbor Lites, Illinois Chapter  
Link Gail Jones Carson, River City, Tennessee Chapter

### **Area Vice Director Report**

The report of the Area Vice Director was given by Link Monica Allen Boone.

### **Area Secretary Report**

The report of the Area Secretary was given by Link Jill Bryant-Veneable.

### **Area Treasurer Report**

The report of the Area Treasurer was given by Link Sheila Brown. The 2017-2019 Proposed Budget was sent out 45 days in advance and included in the Presidents Packet.

Link Brown moved that the 2017-2019 Budget be approved as submitted. There was a second from Denise Mustiful Martin, Memphis, TN Chapter. The motion passed.

### **Area Parliamentarian Report**

The Area Parliamentarian Report was given by Link Sarah Brown-Clark.

Link Monica Boone Allen introduced Link Glenda Masingale-Manson, Central Area Director.

### **Area Director Report**

The Area Director Report was given by Link Glenda Masingale-Manson. Link Glenda Masingale Manson reported that from September 2015 to May 2017, we have had monthly meetings with the chapter president and chapter vice presidents. We have had Power of One Chats for the treasurers, secretaries, parliamentarians, and protocol to strengthen our support of our leaders. Our theme for our Leadership Summit in Wichita, Kansas was There is No Place Like the Central Area. This was based on the seven principals of the Wizard of Oz. Link Masingale Manson also discussed the newly created Town Halls, Leadership, Sheroes, her participation in National, Area and Chapter events, and the Support given to Flint regarding the Flint Water Crisis.

### **Legislative Committee**

The report was given by Link Stefania Green. Link Green moved that the Central Area submit a proposed bylaw amendment to allow area executive counsel the authority to review and, when warranted, grant a one in five waiver to members personally experiencing a documented life altering or life-threatening event and/or members with immediate family experiencing a documented life altering or life-threatening event or events. As this was recommended by the committee a second is not needed. The motion passed with a voice vote.

Announcements were made by Link Jill Bryant-Veneable

The first plenary was adjourned at 10:23 AM

**The Second Plenary was called to order by Link Glenda Masingale Manson at 2:31 PM**

Link Alice Strong-Simmons provided a Linkspiration.

Link Jill Bryant-Veneable noted that 68 chapters were seated. Fort Wayne has not been seated and will be fined \$5.

**Program Report**

The Program Report was given by Link Karen Patricia Williams.

**Foundation Representative Report**

The Foundation Representative Report was given by Link Tara Bradley.

Link Jill Bryant-Veneable noted that the Fort Wayne Chapter delegate was seated and the fine was paid.

**Legislative Issues and Public Affairs Report**

Link Stefania Green presented two resolutions. First, an acknowledgement of the Michigan Chapters in support of "Unite for Flint" and secondly, an acknowledgment of the River City Chapter, Tennessee and Tulsa Chapter, Oklahoma International Trends and Service committee's Global Journey to Jamaica.

She moved for acceptance of the resolutions for the committee. No second is needed. It passed with a voice vote.

Link Jill Bryant-Veneable made announcements.

Link Glenda Masingale-Manson adjourned the Second Plenary at 3:13 PM

The Third Plenary of the 2017 Central Area Conference was called to order on Friday, June 9, 2017 at 10:00 am by the Central Area Director, Link Glenda Masingale Manson, in the Chair, and Link Jill Bryant-Veneable, Central Area Secretary, present.

Link Chalon Anderson, Oklahoma City Chapter, Oklahoma led the Links Pledge and Song

Link Jill Bryant-Veneable noted the credentials as having a total of 662 present including two Past National Presidents, 69 delegates, 618 Registered Links, 24 Connecting Links and VSP.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson acknowledged the presence of Link Gladys Gary Vaughn, our 13th National President, and Link Gwendolyn Lee, our 15<sup>th</sup> National President.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson proceeded to make a few announcements and then introduced Link Glenda Newell Harris, our 16<sup>th</sup> National President.

### **National Presidents Report**

Link Glenda Newell Harris gave a report on various aspects of Linkdom including governance, leadership, membership, and the 4 new chapters. She reviewed various programming initiatives including the Flint Water Crisis and in Jamaica. The balance sheet is strong, reviewed Vision 2020 and reported that the Link House is paid off. Some key dates are Oct.26-28 Leadership Summit in San Francisco, Jamaica in January of 2018, and the next National Assembly June 27-July 1 in Indianapolis.

### **Election Committee Report**

Link Karlyn Wade-Richardson reported that the election for the Chair of the Nominating committee was held at 5 PM, June 8<sup>th</sup> by a secret ballot. All committee members were present. Link Joyce Carter received 5 votes and is the Nominating Chair for 2017-2019.

### **Program Awards**

Link Karen Patricia Williams and her Program team gave out program awards for the Arts, Services to Youth, National Trends and Services, International Trends and Services, Health and Human Services, Integrated Programs, and Umbrella Programs.

Link Jill Bryant-Veneable made announcements.

Link Carolyn Lewis, National Treasurer gave a Linkspiration.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson recognized Link Gwen Lee as a 40 year member.

The third plenary was adjourned at 11:36 am by Link Glenda Masingale Manson

The Fourth Plenary of the 2017 Central Area Conference was called to order on Saturday, June 10, 2017 at 8:19 am by the Central Area Director, Link Glenda Masingale Manson, in the Chair, and Link Jill Bryant-Veneable, Central Area Secretary, present.

Link Jill Bryant-Veneable confirmed all 69 Delegates were seated.

Link Tara Bradley lead us in the Links Pledge and Song

A Linkspiration was provided by Link Joyce Turnipseed, National Program Director

Link Jill Bryant-Veneable provided the updated Credentials report. We have 755 Links registered, 739 Links in attendance and 25 Connecting Links.

### **Program Team Reports**

Link Karen Patricia Williams led the program team reports with the various program chairs.

Link Iris Haynes reported on the Arts.

Link Melanie Cates reported on International Trends.

Link Cecilia Sawyer reported on Services to Youth

Link Janice Garnett reported on National Trends

Link Lauren Barton reported on Health and Human Services

**Link Monica Boone Allen presented the 25 and 40 year recognitions.**

**Special Links:** Link Glenda Masingale Manson acknowledged the Special Links that had been nominated by chapters. The individual vases will be mailed.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson presented tokens of appreciations and acknowledgments, and special thanks.

### **Election Committee Report**

Link Karlyn Wade-Richardson reported the officers for the 2017-2019 biennium as follows:

Area Director, Link Glenda Masingale Manson

Area Vice Director, Link Monica Boone Allen

Area Secretary, Link Jill Bryant-Veneable

Area Treasurer, Link Sheila R. Brown

Area Representative to the Links Foundation, Link Tara Bradley

Area Nominating Chair, Link Joyce Carter

**Installation of Officers was performed by Link Glenda Newell Harris.**

### **Resolution Report**

Link Stefania Green presented Proclamations acknowledging regarding their work with Flint Water Crisis:

- Link Reta Stanley, Flint Chapter
- Link Teresa and Connecting Link Lloyd Bingman. Lansing/East Lansing Chapter

Link Stefania Greene Presented the following Resolutions:

Salute to Marriott

Salute to the Minneapolis Chapter

Link Stefania moved for acceptance. Passed by voice vote without opposition

A Resolution was presented as a Tribute to Link Glenda Masingale Manson, 19<sup>th</sup> Area Director. It was moved for acceptance and the motion passed.

**Invitation to the 2019 Central Area Conference was presented by The Nashville Cluster.**

Link Glenda Masingale Manson made closing comments.

Link Jill Bryant-Veneable made announcements.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:39 AM by Link Glenda Masingale Manson.

Submitted by:  
Link Jill Bryant-Veneable  
Central Area Secretary