

## Central Area Vice-Presidents' Chat

Conference Call, August 5, 2014

**Scheduled Start Time:** 7:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time

**Actual Start Time:** 7:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time

### Link Glenda Masingale Manson CAVD, Central Illinois (IL)

Good afternoon, my Link Sisters or good evening. It is 7:00 p.m. and I welcome you to our first vice presidents chat of the year. First of all, congratulations to all newly elected V.P.s and any returning vice presidents that are on the call. I must ask you to first and foremost mute your phone for the benefit of all of the callers listening. I know this is a busy time of the evening, but for those of you who came on time, promise to get you out of here on time. I'd like to start off very briefly with a *Linkspiration* that was shared with me by a member of my chapter, Link Pam Starks.

#### Things a Link remembers . . . and 1 Thing SHE will [should] Never Forget

A Link's presence is a present to the world.

She is unique and one of a kind.

Her life can be what she wants it to be.

She will take her days just one at a time.

She must count her blessings, not her troubles.

She will make it through whatever comes along.

Within HER are so many answers.

She has understanding, she has courage, she is strong.

A Link does not put limits on herself.

She has many dreams waiting to be realized.

Decisions are far too important for her to leave to chance.

She reaches for her peak, her goal, her prize.

Nothing wastes more energy than worrying.

The longer one carries a problem, the heavier it gets.

A Link does not take things too seriously.

She will live a life of serenity, not a life of regrets.

She remembers that a little love goes a long way.

She remembers that a lot . . . goes forever.

She remembers that friendship is a wise investment.

Her Life's treasures are people . . . together.

She realizes that it's never too late.

To do ordinary things in an extraordinary way.

She has health, hope, and happiness to bask in each day.

She takes time to wish upon a star.

And the one thing a LINK [SHOULD] never forget . . .

How very special you [all] are.

I am excited to be working with you all this year. For those of you who have not been on our calls before, the purpose of the vice presidents chat is to basically share information that has been given to your presidents as another point of contact for you to be able to support her with the goals and objectives of the chapter, of the area, and of our national organization. As I was reviewing the *Roberts Rules of Order*, the second edition, and believe it or not that is right by my bed, I looked up the definition for the office of the vice president. The office of the vice president, according to *Roberts Rules of Order*, might be called the president in training. One of the specific parliamentary duties of the vice president is to preside with the president if the president is unable to be at a meeting or when the president is to step down from a chair because she wishes to debate an issue. The vice president also presides if the president is being censured or a motion is being made that concerns only the president. Most importantly in our organization, if you are the vice president of membership it is your obligation and a very important duty and obligation to insure that your chapter is engaged, active, and positive. You set the tone for your chapter and for new members that are coming in.

So to start off I'm going to do just a brief overview that the Sunday, August 3 presidents chat started off with our Area Director Link Alice Strong-Simmons congratulating and welcoming the newly elected chapter presidents. She was extremely pleased at how many program awards that the Central Area won at the National Convention. She is asking that all chapters be present at the Central Area Leadership Summit which will be held in Merrillville, Indiana, October 24 – 26. She's asking three to five members of each chapter to be present. This is a great opportunity for the leadership in your chapter and any of your members who are actively engaged; your program facet chairs or even members who are considering office at a later time to get the cutting edge information that is being presented to all the chapters from the Central Area.

August is the month that most executive committees come together as a retreat for chapter programs and operations to complete the planning for the chapter so you're ready to hit the ground in September and start running. We've asked members of the chapters to rest and sort of lay back in the summer, but as you all know if you are involved in Links there is always something to do even during the summertime. We will have vice presidents chats the first Tuesday after the first Sunday of the month. One of my sisters found an error. It said the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. Actually, it is the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. So, all of the chats have been scheduled. You will get a notice from Free Conference Call about the upcoming chats. You will have on the Free Conference Call invitation the call-in number, the agenda, and at the very beginning the commits. I was speaking with Link Christina earlier this afternoon. I said "You know Link Christina I thought I had a good idea. Have you ever had a great idea, but it doesn't exactly turn out the way you want it to?" We're so busy and so active, just for telephone etiquette we ask that the V.P.s call in at least 10 minutes before the scheduled time of the call. So, our scheduled time is 7 o'clock CST. The lines will always be open a minimum of 15 minutes before the 7 o'clock start time. We will not start at that time; seven is the start time. Even though the recording says introduce yourself or announce yourself when you dial-in, you don't have to do that because if someone is speaking, if we have a guest speaking, it interrupts especially if members are call in late. Roll call will always be taken at the end of the call. We please ask repeatedly to place your phone on mute. The background noise is very disturbing, and other members miss out on some of the questions or discussions that are taking place. If you have a problem finding out where the mute button is on your phone, if you tell us the brand we will make sure someone calls you to help you because that is one of the biggest complaints that we have when we have these chats. So, you have received from me already the Constant Contact letter for this month. In the body of the letter there are links to the last two meetings we had as a group. For those of you who are new and would like to review some of the topics that we had or some of the discussions, if you go to our Central Area Web site you will be able to open, download, and read all of the minutes from our meetings during the last fiscal year. Know that that is available to you.

Under the Central Area's secretary's moment, Link Sharon Dixon Gentry wanted to make sure that all the recording secretaries were thanked. It is very much appreciated that the profiles have been updated. All positions also need to be updated. There will be recording secretary webinars for new recording secretaries. Now, there is going to be a change in chapter e-mail accounts for presidents. The National Headquarters are looking at the viability and there will be a time when they will go away. So, that's why it's very important for the information to go, not only to the presidents but to the vice president and the secretary. You will have difference points of communication or information contact, so everyone hears the same thing. One of the concerns we heard from a number of V.P.s "My president hasn't shared that information or we didn't know about it." By having these different points of contact, everyone should have the same amount of information.

Our Area Treasurer Link Jackie Morrison has been working with the new National Treasurer. There has been a meeting of the treasurers from all of the areas. They're working on establishing goals for the next two years. Right now the 990 form and the bonding insurance are due in September. Please be of support to your treasurer, and for some reason your president hasn't been able to get the information to her or you are aware of it, let her know that those two forms which are very important are due. There is also a fine if it has not been submitted.

Under Programing, the Programing Co-Chairs Link Monica Allen and Link Vicki Brooks were very proud and send congratulations to the nine chapters in the Central Area who won awards. We did an outstanding job winning 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place Legacy Awards, and I will make sure to list them, and in fact, we will say it before we get off the phone tonight. They are revamping their pearls call because there was a conflict with the vice presidents chat and the program coordinators. So, they are changing theirs to every other month. That way you have more opportunity for information to be shared and we are not bumping up against each other.

Under Our P. R. Communications moment with Link Kathy Wade, there is a Team 68 call on next Wednesday. All chapter logos are now available in the Members Only section. Now what that means is the P. R. Communications group decided for consistency all 68 logos in the proper format as indicated by our style manual have already been set in place. Therefore, if you are going to have an event and you need the proper logo for branding it is right there in the Members Only section. If you decide that you do not want to get e-mails from Links unsubscribe from the Linked Up! E-Mag or even the conference call that I send out e-mail reminders you will not get the information. So, Link Kathy is asking, there were three presidents that had unsubscribed from the Linked Up! E-Mag. and therefore information that will come from the Central Area mailboxes are not being received. Link Kathy is also asking that winning chapters please send one action photo for inclusion in the next E-Magazine.

Link Marie McCarther who is the HBCU Endowed Scholarship Chairperson is asking for support from the "From the Heart" HBCU Scholarship Endowment Campaign. We are attempting to establish a \$25,000 endowment at each of the 17 Central Area HBCUs. The ask is for \$1000 from each chapter; \$75, \$85, \$95, or \$100 from each member. And at this point, we have already met at five of the 17 institutions. So, if this is not on the discussion docket in your chapter, please bring that to your president's attention because we do want to meet our goal. One of the questions from a president was that she is a graduate of HBCU and she regularly gives and would that count toward our endowment. The answer was "no" because ours is separate and that is why it is a request for it. If you have these gifts, you are more than welcome to bring them to the summit in Merrillville.

Link Awilda Hamilton, Nominating Committee Chair, has made it known that the call for new officer nominations has been sent and the cut off is October 15 at 11:59 p.m. CST. More information will be available by August 8. Link Sharon Anderson who is our Ethics and Standards Chairperson wants to remind each chapter that every chapter has to hold an E & S workshop and each member needs to sign

the form every year. The ethics chair and the president also sign the compliance form and return them all to Link Sharon. The parliamentarian and member chairs should be a member of the E & S committee. The president can appoint three others. Link Gladys Hankins who is our Organizational Effectiveness Chairperson made sure to let the presidents know that organizational effectiveness basically is defined as the ability of any organization to meet its goals and objectives. And, to let the presidents know that the OE teams stand ready to come out and hold retreats at the requests of the chapter members. The process is allowing chapter presidents to assist in their leadership role, their friendship retreats where we have the opportunity for engaging in interpersonal experiences to hopefully energize members for their participation in Linkdom. Sometimes we get so focused on service that we forget the friendship part and that is where OE comes in.

Important dates to remember:

- Central Area Leadership Summit - October 24-26, Merrillville, Indiana, Radisson Hotel, hosted by the South Bend and Northern Indiana chapters.
- Central Area Conference - June 17-20, 2015, Cincinnati, Ohio, Westin and Hilton Hotels

That is the information that your presidents received and now you have it. And, I want you to know that this is basically your call. I would be more than happy to take suggestions from you if there are certain topics that you would like to have discussed on these calls. We will have guest speakers, we will have our Area secretary come in to one of our chats, an ethics and standards individual, anyone that you feel could provide information that will benefit you as you work with your chapters during the upcoming fiscal year, please present that. You will probably hear me doing a lot of talking during this first meeting, but not necessarily in the upcoming ones. All of our chats are recorded, so if you have any questions or concerns I ask you to identify yourself before you speak for the record. It holds us all accountable for getting back to each other in support of providing information.

One of the things that I'd like to encourage all of you as V.P.s is to focus on bringing in new members. For those of you, who were at the National Convention, know that the Central Area went down by one chapter. Instead of 69 chapters, we now have 68. Chapters with low numbers continue to be on the radar of our national body. It is a sad time when we have to revoke a charter, but the charter does not belong to individual chapters; it belongs to the national organization. With all the changing demographic, there are a lot of reasons for low numbers, but you need to get very creative and be consistent and have continuing look at potential members to make your chapter stronger and more viable.

So at this point, I would like to open the floor for any questions or any announcements and also to let you know that the next V.P. chat will be September 9. Ladies, the floor is yours. [There were no questions or comments] All right, well I did such an outstanding job. I said this would be abbreviated. It's about thirty minutes and that doesn't happen very often. I'll do like I'm calling for nominations. I'll give one more chance...anymore questions?

*Link Lynette Murphy, North Shore (IL):* I am a new Vice President. I'd like to have information about the Leadership Summit. Is the summit counted in our 1-in-5?

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* No, it is not. You will be allowed to earn service hours, but that amount has not been given to us by Link Alice yet. But, no it is not a part of your 1-in-5.

*Link Lynette Murphy, North Shore (IL):* Well, to follow up with that question...well I guess you already answered it. Link Alice will tell us how many service hours we will receive for attending the summit.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Yes, the amount of hours that you are eligible to earn by your participation in the Leadership Summit. Correct.

*Link Lynette Murphy, North Shore (IL):* Okay. Thank you.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Oh, absolutely. The hotel charges are reasonable at \$92 a night. They are encouraging Link sisters to ride together. If you fly into Midway Airport it's about an hour and half drive. They are encouraging members to double up. Ladies, on the letter that I sent out there was also a link to the [parameters for service hours](#). That is always an interesting conversation with your chapter members. We have found that it's a conversation particularly with those chapters that are not necessarily as busy or ingrained in their programming as other chapters. That being said, you can look at a document that was presented by the Area directors. It was written in 2010. The Area director who prepared the document with the input of all four Area directors was Link Eneid Frances from the Southern Area per Link Gwendolyn Lee. That document will give you in-detail parameters for chapters to look at service hours. So if you get those questions..."If I go pick up donuts before the meeting, does that 15 minutes count?", if you look at that document it will answer those questions.

Any other questions?

*Link Krishmu Shipmon, Youngstown (OH):* I'm doing reverse order as President for two terms, and now I'm back as Vice President. Will we receive minutes from all of the telephone conferences?

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Yes, you will receive them. One of the things we've found with some V.P.s is "If I can read the minutes why do I have to be on the call?" We want there to be engaged conversation between the chapters V.P.s. And also, I'm going to break up the meetings and have chapters working together on some of these calls. But, yes. All chapters will be located on our Web site after they are transcribed. That is why all of our meetings are recorded to make sure we have the correct information and the correct individuals who are requesting information or asking questions.

*Link Krishmu Shipmon, Youngstown (OH):* Thank you, my dear Link sister.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* All right, anytime. Anymore questions? You all had me sweating today. I thought this was going to be a rough meeting. I want you to know I'm very, very happy.

*Link Jean Harper, Springfield (OH):* We are a small chapter. We're not in danger, but we are still a small chapter. I was just wondering if there are ideas from other chapters on how best to locate [prospects]. Most people are saying, "Well, we don't know anyone." Surely there are people here. I think we are missing them. I would love to hear some strategies that others are using to recruit if not for this call, perhaps in a future call.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Absolutely. I'm putting that down. I am making a notation by your name and after this call I will send you individual V.P.s that I know have been very creative and working to build their chapters just for sharing information. Also that will be a major topic for an upcoming meeting especially now that you can start looking for individual and they can be voted on before the end of 2014. I think that is a very solid question and there are some creative people on this phone.

*Link Jean Harper, Springfield (OH):* Wonderful. Thank you so much.

*Link Veronica Simms, Des Moines (IA):* The questions about strategies...please put us down because you know we are very concerned about numbers in the Des Moines chapter.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Absolutely. I will do that.

*Link Veronica Simms, Des Moines (IA):* Another question I had is that you had the calendar file .ice. I could not download that so, I don't know what that is.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* That's for adding a new event to your personal calendar. If it won't open for you then perhaps you don't have the operating system for that to happen. In other words, it's not that important because I will make sure you get all the dates way ahead of time. In fact, they are in the Constant Contact letter with the correction for December. It is December 9<sup>th</sup> instead of December 5<sup>th</sup>.

*Link Veronica Simms, Des Moines (IA):* I don't have a Constant Contact letter.

[Some other link sisters did not receive letter as well.]

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Everyone should have received a letter from me. I will make sure to go back to the Link sister that is assisting me and to make sure that that letter is sent back out. I didn't have any bounces, but that doesn't mean anything. I will make sure that you get it tonight.

*Link Alma Ivey Clarke, Dayton (OH):* I am online for the registration for our Leadership Summit. You might want to remind our Link sisters that there's an early registration and a late registration. And the cost would probably make sure that we would register early.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Would you share that with us Link Ivey?

*Link Alma Ivey Clarke, Dayton (OH):* The fee for the early registration is \$215. After September 16 it goes up to \$250. So, you just want to plan for that.

*Link Deborah Thomas, Madison Metropolitan (WI):* I find all these conference calls very valuable to me and the different people and their various aspects on how they do things. I know you did one conference call concerning the attendance, so we're working with chapter members on their individual cases on attendance even though they're active in the chapter with the financial and when there are events. We have one person who works for a university and she travels all over the world. Sometimes she's in China, sometimes she's here and there. There is another person who is a funeral director of the first Black funeral establishment in Madison. Now she has funerals on weekends and that's when we have our meetings. She contributes when she can when she is not doing a funeral. Looking at the things that you look at for exceptions, we don't want to lose these two individuals or anybody else who have similar problems. I know there are guidelines and you also gave us guidelines. In that situation, I'm not sure how we can determine who is in compliance and who isn't in compliance to be physically at a minimum of six of the meetings during the year.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* I will make sure that I connect with you offline and we can go into detail. Also, we can have that as an action item point of discussion for an upcoming meeting. I think that is very important, the different classifications of membership. Thank you for bringing that up as a suggestion. I appreciate it.

*Link Jacqueline Lewis, South Suburban Chicago (IL):* There is the new status, the Affiliate Travel status, for members who travel or perhaps you may be looking at members that travel. This is a status for a person who travels about 80% of the time. Would you be able to give us more information about that because it relates to what the previous Link was talking about?

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* I will absolutely do that. As a matter of fact, I will get that point of information and send that out. Ladies, I don't want to bombard your band with e-mails, but sometimes it's easier to get it all out to you at the same time. And for those of you who did not receive my letter, I

would appreciate it if you would just drop me a quick e-mail after this meeting so I can make sure that it is updated. We got the list of the 2014-2015 V.P.s, but if you didn't receive anything from me I need you to reach out to me so I can add you because I will make sure that that is sent out also tonight. That is a great idea Link Jacqueline. I don't have my membership manual right in front of me, but I can refer you directly to the page so you will be able to go and look at it yourself. And we can discuss it in detail also. My e-mail address is [angelgm1gm@gmail.com](mailto:angelgm1gm@gmail.com).

**Roll Call: Link Glenda Masingale Manson CAVD**

Well, I've bombarded you enough, and I tell you what, I'm giving you the gift of time. Trust me ladies, as this year goes on, this will be one of the few times that you will actually get off a V.P. chat early. So, I'm going to let you enjoy this. I'm going to do the roll call now, and I have disabled the chime so you can hang up. Let me give you the name of the chapters that I know that are on because I've heard it. And then, I will go back and call everyone else.

**In attendance:** Links Glenda Masingale Manson CAVD; Link Krishmu Shipmon, Youngstown (OH); Link Lynette Murphy, North Shore (IL); Link Vera Chatman, Nashville (TN); Link Tiffany Johnson, Music City (TN); Link Deborah Thompson, Madison Metropolitan (WI); Link Brenda Henderson, Lansing/East Lansing (MI); Karla Houston-Gray, Greater Kansas City (MO); Christina Clark, Detroit (MI); Link Veronica Simms, Des Moines (IA); Link Alma Ivey Clarke, Dayton (OH); Link Edna Verna, Chattanooga (TN); Link Janice Rucker, Wilberforce (OH); Link Fannette Thornhill-Scott, Wichita (KS); Link Gina Eanes, West Towns (IL); Link Linda Holoman, Tri-City (MI); Link Adrienne Green, Toledo (OH); Link D'Anne Shelton, St. Louis (MO); Link Dara Davis, Shelby County (TN); Link Jan-Nee Sheats-Mathis, Parthenon (TN); Link Terri Sanders, Omaha (NE); Link Angela McFadden, Northern Indiana (IN); Link Linda King, Ann Arbor, (MI); Link E. Smith, Archway (MO); Link Karen Williams, Charleston-Institute (WV); Link Jacqueline Lewis, South Suburban Chicago (IL); Link Risa Davis, Chicago (IL); Link Shelley Hamler, Cincinnati (OH); Link Yvonne Perkins, Circle City (IN); Link Sheree Dallas Branch, Cream City (WI); Link Darla Bell, Columbus (OH); Mary Fields, Frankfort/Lexington (KY); Link Cheryl Jones, Gateway (MO); Link Edna Harper, Springfield (OH); Link Amy Parker, Greater Wayne County (MI); Link Melonie Jones, Jackson County (MO); Link Margaret Rogers, Jackson (TN); Link Celeste Shelton-Harris, Kalamazoo (MI); Link Helen Gordon, Kent Area (OH); Link Avis Reid, Knoxville (TN); Link Paula Jones, Lake Shore (IL); Link Carolyn Tandy, Louisville (KY); Link Kimberly Post, Memphis (TN); Link Renita Harris, Topeka (KS)

There were 43 chapters present on the conference call.

**Closing Remarks: Link Glenda Masingale Manson CAVD**

I will be putting the attendance on the Constant Contact, so you can get a running sense of your attendance at the meetings. And, again, I look forward to working with all of you. I have an open door policy. You can call me during the day. I'm sort of a night owl up until about midnight most nights. I try to get back to my e-mails within 48 hours if not sooner. Feel free to ask any questions, any suggestions. We are going to have a great year ladies. Have a wonderful evening and I'll talk to you next month. Good bye.

End Time: 7:48:32 p.m.

Minutes transcribed for Link Sharon Gentry, Central Area Secretary, by Link Carol M. de la Cruz, Central Illinois (IL)