

## Central Area Vice-Presidents' Chat

Conference Call, March 4, 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 evening Central Area vice presidents. How are you this evening? I'm glad that you could join me tonight. It is exactly 7 o'clock and I would like to get started. Welcome and I don't know about you my sisters, but I have had just about enough of winter and the snow. We are in the countdown 'til spring and I hope all of you are getting just a touch of spring fever. I apologize for the e-mail conference call going out a little late this month. They have changed the system to get that done and it took just a little extra time. We hopefully won't have that problem next month. I'd like to have any additions or corrections to the agenda for tonight.

*Link Adrienne Green, Toledo (OH):* I wonder if we can talk about the new member process.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* The new member process. Alright, I will add that. Is there anyone else? (No response.) Okay with that one addition we will move forward.

The *Linkspiration* tonight was scheduled to be conducted by Link Jacqueline Lewis from the South Suburban chapter. She has been called away for some unexpected business. But, in her usual organized way she has asked a member of her chapter to take her place and give the *Linkspiration* for tonight. Link sister please identify herself for the minutes.

*Link Peggy Braisley, South Suburban (IL):* I am Link Peggy Braisley of the South Suburban Chicago chapter standing in for Link Jacqueline Lewis.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Thank you very much for joining us Link Peggy. We are glad that you were able to participate.

*Link Peggy Braisley, South Suburban (IL):* You're welcome. Good evening Link Glenda Central Area Vice-President.

### **Linkspiration: Link Peggy Braisley, South Suburban, (IL)**

"In this women's history month we give thanks for the Central Area Links and the national organization of The Links, Incorporated. We are indebted to the multitude of thriving service organizations in this nation and abroad that join our cause for humanity. We ask for Divine guidance in our service endeavors and may all efforts be anointed with grace. As we work and join hands with other dedicated women's service organizations and corporations, we hope to gain leverage toward common community goals. In doing so, we will honor the basic tenets of this organization and flourish as a friend of heart. May we meet new friends of encouragement and aim to understand and appreciate, not only our children's friends, but each friend in Linkdom. We will laugh with those who laugh, rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with friends who weep. May each of us live to experience and learn that if we search the whole world over you just may not find a better friend than a friend in Links."

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Link Peggy, thank you very much. That will be in our minutes and will be shared with all of the vice-presidents in the Central Area. And please, you are welcome to stay on the call.

### **Link Glenda Masingale Manson CAVD**

I would at this point do a brief recap of the Presidents' Chat. As you know, we work very deliberately to ensure that all of the vice-presidents have the information that the president has received as another point of contact, and so you are able to support and move forward the goals and objectives of, not only your chapter, but the Area and National. I will go through this very quickly because your presidents have already briefed some of you, and it will be in the minutes. These minutes for March and February will get to you by the end of the week.

First of all, congratulations are in order for the Little Rock chapter and the Lake Shore chapter of Links for their selection to present, for Little Rock chapter their childhood obesity clinic at the 2014 National Assembly, and for the Lake Shore chapter their signature program in the arts. We are proud of you and we know that you will make Central Area look really good. These were the two chapters that were announced on the presidents' chat Sunday. If there had been any more that have been invited to attend that I'm not aware of would you please identify yourself at this time. (No response.) Alright we will move forward.

The Area directors have been asked to put together a workshop that is to be relevant and fun. All the presidents in the chapters throughout Linkdom have been asked to submit topics and a format that they would like the Area directors to include in their workshop. All presidents have been asked to e-mail their ideas and suggestions to Link Alice. I am going to piggyback on that request because the Area vice directors will also be putting together a workshop. If there are any suggestions that you have as vice president over membership in your chapter that you would like to see addressed at the National Assembly, please e-mail that information to me, and I will include my e-mail address again on the notes. I will make sure that that's submitted at the National membership meeting that occurs after this meeting the first Tuesday of the month. Link Alice asked the presidents to again to remember the requests for the six Links sisters in Congress to work hard to elect a minimum of 17 Democratic congressman to return America to the people. Now, we are aware that not everyone in the organization belongs to the same political party. It was discussed during the Leadership Summit that Congress was working very hard in circumventing the work of our President, and these six Link sisters ask that our legislative committees be working within the chapters in their communities to make sure there is some excitement for the 2014 election cycle.

The Central Area Leadership Summit is going to be held October 24 – 26, 2014, and the Northern Indiana and South Bend are the host chapters. The Summit will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Merrillville, Indiana. More information is to come. Link Alice has processed all of the submissions that she has received to date for induction into the respective chapters. The Scott-Hawkins Leadership Institute, which is the Cohort VI's nomination date, was extended until Monday, which was March 3, and that was due to bad weather in the east and the new process. With the new process in place, we wanted to ensure that all the forms were submitted online by Monday to assure that the nominees from your chapter receives consideration. I strongly suggest that these dates are put at the bottom of your agendas because we've had members in the past to say that they didn't realize when the National Assembly was being held, if they had known they would have made, and would not have missed their 1 in 5. So as the head of membership of your chapter, we encourage dates that are important to your membership to be placed at the end of your agenda. Besides the Central Area Leadership Summit, the National Assembly will be held in National Harbor, Maryland, July 1 – 5, 2014. The call to conference is on the Web site. There was some discussion in previous a presidents chat about the request from the National Assembly not be held over

the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend because a number of families hold their family reunions during that time period. Link Alice is quite sure that this may be the last year that it will be held over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend in response to request by the membership.

I don't know if I said this the last time because you haven't received the minutes, but I will repeat it. The Central Area Archivist has been appointed and that individual is Link Lanette Heard who is from the Queen City chapter in Cincinnati. She was appointed and accepted the first of this year. She is working on the Central Area history book, and training chapter archivists during the next 18 months to assist us as an area in improving our maintenance of the Central Area chapters' history. We make history all the time and we need to assure that we are documenting it as we go and not waiting and trying to rely on memories to get the information documented. We were here, are here, and making an impact. So, Lanette Heard is our Central Area Archivist.

There is a reminder for the Links Restore, the Links Revive Boutique. If your chapter is interested in hosting a Revive fundraising weekend, the contact person is Link Desma Coleman. Link Desma is the point person for that. If some of you have forgotten or may be not heard of the Restore, this is the fundraising opportunity where gently used items of quality are put up for sale. If a chapter hosts Restore, then they get a portion of the proceeds to go to their chapters' treasury. There were of course moments from the Central Area treasurer and programs. You all should be commended because the Central Area had 100% participation and the deadline was February 1, 2014. The Western Area is reviewing our programs. Link Monica Allen and Link Vicki Hill Brooks are the co-chairs and they were very, very appreciative of the support that they receive from all of the chapters. With follow up and due diligence and support by the chapters, we also have 100% participation for the Team 69 individuals for the Central Area. We had background information and photos, and therefore, no chapter in the Central Area will be left out of the National Directory. And that's a really good thing.

The other date that is of importance is the Central Area Conference, which will be held June 17 – 20, 2015, in Cincinnati, Ohio at the Westin and Hilton hotels. So, that is basically is the update if you were not privy to the information you know have it so you can support your president in moving the work forward that needs to be done within your chapter. In the Scott-Hawkins Leadership Institute we will begin holding interviews within the next 7 – 10 days after all of the applications have been reviewed, and turn around that information and giving our report to the Central Area Director. Chapters will be notified if their nominees have been accepted.

I'd like to talk briefly about the 48 hours. At this time, of course, when it's time for dues to be sent in there is a question about the 48 hours of service. This is mandatory for all Links who are considered active, and no dues can be submitted without the 48 hours documented on the master form. Now, the good news is we still have over 45 days for those Links who are needing maybe two or three hours or maybe even 10 or 12. We ask the vice presidents to make sure that they are paying close attention to the individuals within their chapters who are in danger of forfeiting their membership because we are continuing to push and pay close attention to chapters with low numbers. And to have members forfeit their membership and then chapter numbers go down when that is within the control and support of the chapters, that's very concerning to Link Alice. So, you as the membership chair should make sure that those sisters are contacted immediately, and make sure they are aware of their hours and where they stand as of today. Advise them of the opportunities and work assignments that will be available to them between today and the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. Now, when hours must be submitted with a late fee, that is another option, but if they are to maintain their membership in the organization they will have to complete those 48 hours. We don't want to lose members because of their failure to meet this requirement. So, again, I encourage you to work with those members and the facet committee chairs who still have outstanding work and activities that are occurring between now and the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, and to assist those members

needing the hours to be successful in meeting that 48-hour service requirement by the last deadline. I can't stress that enough, but I just wanted to bring it to your attention.

The sixth item on the agenda is chapter evaluations. There are chapters who are interested in having more in depth organizational effectiveness sessions if they've had one already. I am working very closely with some organizational effectiveness team builders who are from the west coast, who are willing to come to your chapters, of course there is a fee involved. If your chapter is needing to go to the next level for building trust and reenergizing the chapter for teamwork, we always start with our Central Area team first, but some chapters have had ethics consideration, or they've had members who are resistive to change, and so those individuals, or those chapters we want to make sure that continue to grow and be embraced in new techniques and awareness of individual behaviors that can either make a chapter stronger or bring it to it's knees. I will include in the minutes a new assessment tool that I'm working with that I think may be of value to you as vice presidents in a session team building, maybe in the summer, maybe with your new members, or your prospective new members to give them an idea of your expectations and also applause them for their strength, but also it will give you a snapshot into the kinds of strengths that the individuals you're bring in may be contributing to the chapter.

At the Presidents Chat there was a question about campaigning. As you well know this is a campaign year and there are rules and regulations for campaigning for national office. Some presidents have shared that they have had perspective candidates call them at 10 o'clock at night and just have a nice long conversation. I know for one how that can be very tiring, and in the sense of sisterhood you want to listen, but you're thinking, for some of you, "My goodness, I have to go to work tomorrow." Last night I had a working conversation with a Link sister and it was over at midnight. I went down stairs and told my husband, "New rule, no Links at the house until midnight during a work week." to which he laughed and agreed with me wholeheartedly. So I'm going to send the campaigning guidelines, just so you will have that as apart of your information arsenal, and know what kind of guidelines to fall within. It is very important, and also if you know the rules you can follow the rules.

Before getting into item number eight, will the Links sister who wanted to discuss the new member procedure please identify herself for the minutes tonight, and then we can move into your questions.

*Link Adrienne Green, Toledo (OH):* I had a couple of questions. One, we've changed a few of our practices with new member invitation. In the past, we never identified the sponsor. It was kept very secretive, if you will, throughout the entire process. And we changed that so that the letter of invitation included the sponsor. And than, throughout the process, in the past, most Links in our chapter don't necessarily know who their sponsor was. So, it was very, I don't like to use the word "covert", but it was very concealed. We've decided to change that, and I was just trying to get a sense if other chapters do that or don't do that. The second question about the new member process is around the vote. So we've voted on members, and generally, when I was secretary the practice of the chapter was that we do not put the tally of the vote in the minutes, and our president didn't really disclose the vote number to the chapter. The manual seems to indicate we should share the vote for each of the candidate. So, I'm just again trying to verify what is practiced. I know what is written in the manual, but it seems contradictory to some things, like, around publishing it in the minutes and such. I just wanted to have some guidance around those two points.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Okay, I will leave my comments until the end. Link sisters, do you have any feedback for Link Adrienne. One, on the sharing of the sponsor for new members, and two, your chapter's practice on voting of members. Please identify yourself and your chapter because, as you know, this call is being recorded.

*Link Linda King, Ann Arbor (MI):* We share the sponsor names with the members, and we have the sponsors talk about the person that they are recommending for Linkdom. So the membership knows whom the sponsors are. We don't necessarily make that a big deal with the new member in that process. Most of the sponsors come to the meetings and are very much involved in the process of bring a new member in.

*Link Darnella Robertson, Cleaveland (OH):* The same is true for our chapter. We are aware of who is sponsoring whom, and generally those sponsors speak up for that person, and usually other people who know that person as well. And the same once they are in the chapter. It doesn't become as big of an issue because then we have mentors.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Just a minute Link sisters. I think Link Adrienne is trying to clarify a question. Link Adrienne if you would let me make sure I repeat what you said. I think she's saying that they changed the process. So, in the letter the prospective member knows who their sponsor is. It makes absolute sense that the chapter members would have to know because the name is being brought forth. Is that accurate Link Adrienne?

*Link Adrienne Green, Toledo (OH):* Our members do know. I didn't want many people to chime in thinking we don't tell each other who is sponsoring whom, that's not the case. It's just we don't publicly share who sponsors whom to new members, and we don't talk openly about it, generally even among ourselves, even after the process starts. Surely, doing the nomination of new members we definitely have to bring them forth.

*Link Darnella Robertson, Cleaveland (OH):* Those potential members who are sponsored know who sponsored them in our case.

*Link Deidra Edwards, Cream City (WI):* We have just returned to letting Link sisters know who is sponsoring the candidate. We went away from giving the sponsor's name for a number of years because it was felt that it was hampering individuals from being voted in based on peoples feelings Link sisters in our chapter. We started this year when we voted on the candidates. The Links sisters did know who was sponsoring the candidate, but we do not allow Link sisters to get up and speak to the candidates. We want all the information to be consistent, and so their profile is read, and only the information on the profile.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Link Deidra, do you let the perspective members know who has sponsored them?

*Link Deidra Edwards, Cream City (WI):* Yes we do. We don't do it formally like including the sponsors name on the letter, but they do know who's sponsoring them when they come for the first orientation session, but it's more of a meet and greet social hour prior to our chapter meeting. They are made aware prior to that who their sponsor is. But it's very informal. It's not written on any of the letters that are sent to them.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Alright, thank you. Go ahead please, the next Link sister who had a comment.

*Link Janice Beachum, Youngstown (OH):* Just this year when we sent out the letter of invitation, we include the name of the sponsor. This is the first year that we've done it, but we changed up this year. We did include the name of the sponsor so that the perspective member would know the person who was sponsoring them. And in many cases, they had a talk with the person that was sponsoring them and wanted to know more about Links. I think that it was to our advantage this year to include it in the letter.

We are having a meet and greet next week, but we had 18, I believe, letters that we sent out. And of those 18, we did have seven new members to join. I think the fact that we included the sponsor may have been a drawing card for the perspective members as well.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Thank you, Link Janice. Link Adrienne did that answer your question?

*Link Adrienne Green, Toledo (OH):* It did. It was a change in practice. Everyone agreed to move forward in that direction. I know a few alumnae members that I share it with were surprised that we decided to make that change. We invited seven, one of which had medical issues and couldn't move forward, and five accepted. So I felt like it, everyone believed, it was a good process. Also we did PowerPoints [sic] of the profiles in a visual way. In the past we only read the profiles. It provided a little more transparency in the process, which everyone liked that too. Those are the changes we implemented. Thank you Link sisters for affirming the approach.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* I'd like to just make an observation. In some chapters who have struggles when it comes to new members, we ask them not to put down the names of national sororities. We've found that in some instances that has been a reason to or a reason not to vote for an individual. And Links is not supposed to be following a sororal type process. In my chapter, in particular, we make sure when it is a sorority we specify that the perspective member is a member of a national sorority. That let's the chapter members know that they are used to dealing with national rules and guidelines. Sometimes, and it is written, that you do not have to be a college graduate to be a member of Links. You just have to be a servant of your community, so that is not the most important thing. And if you bring people in who have not been apart of any national organization, whether if be for children, a sorority, public servant sorority, or a fraternal order of something, they are somewhat stun by the amount of money that they are asked to pay. We do that so that there's no bias that because this person is in that sorority or that one it's a reason to bring them in or keep them out. Can I ask a question or let me repeat something for what I think I heard, and if I got this wrong, please, my ego is not involved. I will stand corrected. Are you saying that the advantage of telling someone their sponsors name early is because they are then able to talk to someone that they know and get questions answered, and because if their friend is in the organization then they two want to be in the organization? Is that what I heard?

*Link Janice Beachum, Youngstown (OH):* Not necessarily, if that refers to my comment.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* You as the V.P., would they not come to you for questions?

*Link Janice Beachum, Youngstown (OH):* Well, you would think that. They are supposed to do that because my name is in the letter, and I am the person to whom they should respond. But, one particular person even went online the look at the Web site and the National Web site, and then she talked to her sponsor and asked a billion questions about Links before she made up her mind whether or not she wanted to join. It wasn't just that she went to anybody; she went to her sponsor and asked her sponsor, instead of coming to me. She called her sponsor to ask about Links. She told her she could go on the national Web site and read all about it, and she gave her, she probably used her own number, to have her go on and she did read all about it before she made up her mind.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* You can go on the National Web site without a number, you just can't get into the members only section without a number. When you're trying to solicit money, if you don't have a Web site, most people don't think of you as very creditable. I know my in my company, people who don't know anything about The Links, that's the first thing that they do. They go on the National Web site, but not into the members' only section. That is only for members of the organization.

Okay. So the next question that Link Adrienne had for the forum was information on the voting. Now, according to the membership manual, the break down of the vote should be stated to all of the members voting and present. And, I'm looking to find the exact page at the moment. Link Adrienne's question was having that information documented in the meeting minutes. Can any of you speak to that please?

*Link Adrienne Green, Toledo (OH):* Specifically I'm referring to the membership manual that talks about the tellers report because it makes it seem like you publish it. When you read that sections, that's the part that can be confusing. We did not disclose the vote, nor did we publish the results, obviously of the names of who were approved and voted in. So, we didn't put that in the minutes. I was just clarifying the Teller's report part is the part that I was questioning, if anybody ever referenced that or knows.

                     We do publish the results in our minutes.

*Link Deidra Edwards, Cream City (WI):* We do not publish the result. Our minutes reflect that all candidates received sufficient votes to be invited to be a member of The Links, Incorporated.

Link Cheryl Anderson, Minneapolis-St. Paul, (MN): Our tally is not included in the minutes.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Anyone else, Link Sisters?

*Link Janice Beachum, Youngstown (OH):* Our tally is not included in the minutes either, but what I did, and maybe I didn't do the right thing. What I did, however, was after the vote; I did send an e-mail with the tally on it along with the names, so that each of the sisters could see it. Like I said, we had 18, so I did sent out an e-mail with the tally of the votes that each one got. Good idea or bad idea?

*Link Linda King, Ann Arbor (MI):* Our tally is read to the membership, but it is not included in the minutes. In the minutes, it just says that the following candidates were voted in according to the standards. But we don't send that out in any other public form.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* I think that might be a really good idea. By publishing something or putting it in writing, people now can be very, well we live in a litigious society, and if they see something and they don't understand the process, they could hold that against the chapter. In the membership manual pages 83 – 86, it does say that the Teller's report gives the name of the candidate, the number of votes casted, if there were extensions necessary for election, and what the candidate received so that that individual is voted for membership. And that is to be shared with the membership. It does not have to be in the documents of the chapter. I think it was Link Deidra, or my Link sister, Link Linda in Ann Arbor, you can just document your records as Ms. Jane Doe or Miss Janette Smith did receive enough and is voted for membership. That's what I would suggest, just for consistency in chapters in the Central Area.

Two outstanding issues Link Adrienne, thank you very much for coming up with that, and I really appreciate the vice-presidents who responded because it gives us a chance to see how work is conducted in different parts of the Area, but also as a learning opportunity us. So, thank you, again.

*Link Adrienne Green, Toledo (OH):* You're welcome. Link Glenda the request that I have is on page 53. It does say that the tellers report is enter in full in the minutes, and I would suggest that we may take that for a by-laws change at the top of page 53 because that is very confusing to have it say that the teller should enter in full the minutes.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Great idea. I think it might be too late for this National Assembly, but I would urge you to make sure that somebody on this line when there is a call for by-laws change.     ?     So there is something that we have to fall back on. An excellent idea and suggestion.

## **Link Glenda Masingale Manson CAVD**

Are there any announcements at this point? Is the vice president of the Milwaukee chapter on the line? Milwaukee are you present? [No response.] Okay, well, I received a lovely note from Link Marie Michelle Tucker, who is the president of the Milwaukee Wisconsin chapter. I received that on Saturday. She asked me to share, well she shared it with me and Link Alice and our Area secretary. "Please tune in to the Oscars on this past Sunday night and cheer on Link Terri Ridley of the Milwaukee Wisconsin chapter and her son Heir-O-Link John Ridley, whose movie *12 Year a Slave* have been nominated for an Oscar in a variety of categories." The note says, "We are truly proud of Heir-O-Link John and deeply moved by his film and the dialogue across the country it has inspired. We hope you enjoy the evening." Well, when they named the Oscar going to John Ridley for his screenplay of *12 Years a Slave*, my cat and my husband, and I don't know in which order, thought I had lost my mind. We have an Heir-O-Link who is an Oscar winner. If you are so moved to send a card or a note of congratulations to Link Terri for raising such an outstanding talented son, please feel free to do so. We should celebrate each others accomplishments and the accomplishments of our Heir-O-Links no matter how old they are because there's so much that we get on a daily basis where we are bombarded with supposedly how are children are which is not the case. So I wanted to share that with all the Central Area vice-presidents.

*Link Deidra Edwards, Cream City (WI):* You should have been in Milwaukee. We were all going absolutely crazy. They took Twitter down with the selfie. We took Facebook down in Milwaukee with all the Facebooking [sic] back and fourth and messages and what not. That explains why Link Marie is texting me to say call her when I was trying to get on this call because she probably knew Link Maxine, who is their chapter vice president wasn't going to be able to be on. So, I will share your sentiments.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Well, you tell her that we are proud of him like he is our son. We are celebrating his success and we have to make sure that the mothers and the fathers know that we appreciate all the hard work that they get them from point A to point B. Link Deidra, give her our congratulations and tell her that we're just proud.

*Link Deidra Edwards, Cream City (WI):* I will definitely do that. I have talked to Link Terri Ridley, Heir-O-Link John's mom and they are thrilled. They have been interviewed for every T.V. station here in Milwaukee and out in L.A. So, they are all basking in the glow of the big Oscar win.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Okay, any more good news that you'd like to share?

*Link Cheryl Anderson, Minneapolis-St. Paul (MN):* Good afternoon, Link Glenda. President Tawanda Black has just received a Bush Fellow.

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* Oh, outstanding! Tell her congratulations. That is wonderful! For those of us who are not familiar with the Bush Fellow can you explain a little bit about what that means?

*Link Cheryl Anderson, Minneapolis-St. Paul (MN):* Well she was given \$100,000 to do research...

*Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD:* That's good enough right there. You can stop. We will find out more and also put that in our minutes, so you can share with your chapters. Alright, anyone else?

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

There were 29 chapters present on the conference call.

**In attendance:** Links Glenda Masingale Manson CAVD; Link Linda King, Ann Arbor, (MI); Link Susan Buford, Archway (MO); Link Wilma Bates, Central Illinois (IL); Link Yvonne Perkins, Circle City (IN); Link Deidra Edwards, Cream City (WI); Link Valerie Jones, Dayton (OH); Link Mary Madison, Des Moines (IA); Link Marcia Holland-Turner, Detroit (MI); Link Amy Parker, Greater Wayne County (MI); Link Vanessa Washington, Huntington (WV); Link Larnell Burkes-Bagley, Indianapolis (IN); Link Melonie Jones, Jackson County (MO); Link Celeste Shelton-Harris, Kalamazoo (MI); Link Avis Reid, Knoxville (TN); Link Paula Jones, Lake Shore (IL); Link Teresa Bingman, Lansing/East Lansing (MI); Link Deborah Thompson, Madison Metropolitan (WI); Link Kimberly Post, Memphis (TN); Link Cheryl Anderson, Minneapolis-St. Paul (MI); Veronica Chapman, Queen City (OH); Link Jacqueline Lewis, South Suburban Chicago (IL); Link Dara Davis, Shelby County (TN); Link Ruth Miles, South Bend Area (IN); Link Lisa Ingram, Tri-City (MI); Link Michelle Gentry Anderson, Tulsa (OK); Link Janice Beachum, Youngstown (OH); Link Michelle Gentry Anderson, Tulsa (OK); Link Adrienne Green, Toledo (OH); Link Edna Harper, Springfield (OH)

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

Well, if that's the case, like I said, those of us who came on time, we started on time. I'm going to give you the gift of about 15 minutes to do something. When I came home, my husband had prepared this new dish he wanted me to try, and I kept say, "But, I got a meeting, I got a meeting." So, I have to go in and soothe the savage breast here for a minute, because I don't want him to think that I am not appreciative of him preparing dinner for me ladies. I might even send you a picture of that in our minutes, so you can see what he did. Our anniversary is coming up this month. He was at a shower for me and everyone at the table had eaten my food and He made the announcement, he's such a kidder, that there were only two women who knew how to cook, one was Julia Childs and the other was his mother. \_\_\_\_\_ ?

For twenty-four years, he has done all the cooking and I must admit his much better at it than I am. I won't tell him that, but I think he knows it. So, I am always appreciative when I come home and before I start doing Links work, there's a hot meal for me. I just wanted to share that with you. That will be my good news, okay. Let me go ahead and do the roll call. Since the chimes are disabled, you can go ahead and hang up and it won't be disruptive. Thank you so much for having your phones on mute. We didn't hear any background noise, and we were able to get through it really quickly. Thank you my sisters. Thank you so much for being apart of the call tonight. I will try to get this transcribed before the end of the week. I will also give out the percentages of the chapters that were present on this call. I appreciate everything that you do. If I can be of any service to you, I will have my number put again in the minutes. You can call me during the day, but I will tell you that my cell phone is the worst place to try to reach me because usually I have misplaced it. I don't like my cell phone. I am on e-mail, I have my personal laptop with me at work so I am trying to get back with you as quickly as possible. I appreciate all that you do. Happy Mardi Gras. This is Fat Tuesday and tomorrow starts Ash Wednesday. So, think about what you are going to give up starting tomorrow for 40 days. Thank you my sisters. Have a good day.

End Time: 7:42:32 p.m.

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