

Central Area Vice-Presidents' Chat

Conference Call, October 7, 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 my sisters, it is 7:00 p.m. and Happy Fall to everyone. I don't know about you all, I love autumn, but it always frightens me just a little bit because I know what's going to come next. But, I'm going to keep a positive attitude. For those of you who are new to the VP chats, I have set up the calls so that the lines are open at approximately 6:45PM to have people dial-in a little early, so the dialing in will not interrupt the meeting as it begins. Also, we continue to have a problem with phones being unmuted, so we are going to try something different tonight. If you don't know where the mute button is on the phone that you are using, you can hit "*6" to listen to the conversation. If you have a contribution or something you would like to be engaged in, just hit "*6" again. I appreciate all of you who are here, as the person who was my mentor at my job used to say, "in honor of those who came on time we are going to start on time."

First of all, our *Linkspiration* tonight is going to be done by Link Linda King from the Ann Arbor, Michigan Chapter.

***Linkspiration:* Link Linda King, Ann Arbor (MI):**

Good evening everyone, I am going to do a *Linkspiration* from *The Confident Woman Devotional*.

"We are His Hands"

If one member suffers, all the parts share the suffering. If one member is honored, all the members share in the enjoyment of it. Now you, collectively, are Christ's body and, individually, you are members of it, each part severally and distinct, each with his own place and function.

1 Corinthians 12:26-27

"Some individuals pass quietly and fearfully through life and never do anything to make the world a better place. They are so concerned with self-preservation that they never reach out to those around them who are crying out for help. Think about the neighbor who just found out she has terminal cancer or the family you heard about at church who is in danger of losing their home because the husband lost his job. The bank is ready to foreclose on their loan and they really have nowhere to go. They are desperate and don't know what to do. Everyone tells them that God will provide, but no one is doing anything to help. We must realize that God works through people. We are his hands, feet, arms, mouth, eyes, and ears. God does miracles, but he does them through people with uncommon courage. Those who forget about themselves long enough will notice that God has placed someone in their path who is hurting and needy. We pray for God to use us and when he tries, we are often too busy to be bothered. Where does God want you to be his hands and feet? Lord, help me to be your hands and to reach out to those in need around me. Help me to do all that I can. Amen"

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: Thank you so much Link Linda. That was absolutely beautiful. As you know, this call is being recorded and our minutes are transcribed and the exact *Linkspiration* will be in those minutes for you to use in your chapters. Thank you very much.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson CAVD:

The next part of the agenda is a very brief overview of the President's Chat that occurred October 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Link Alice is asking all chapters to remember to keep up the push to get community members to the polls, especially women of color. Help those voters to understand who the candidates are and what they stand for. Her message is, "we need to elect individuals who are sensitive to the needs of women, and sensitive to the needs of our community."

The second reminder is for chapters to donate \$1000 to the "Giving from the Heart" Campaign, which is apart of the HBCU Endowed Scholarship. Links can donate \$75 or whatever they can and are willing to give.

The third item is the Fall E-magazine has been completed. If you did not receive the Fall E-magazine, please check your spam or junk mail to make sure that it didn't go in there. Also make sure that your current email address is located on the National web site's "Members Only" under your name. Link Alice gave congratulations to all of the great work that is being done in the Central Area. We continue to, as my Link sister from New Jersey said, "show up and show out." Kudos to you, vice presidents as you engage your membership.

The Leadership Summit is October 24 – 26th in Merrillville, IN. Our registration was at 260 Links just prior to its closing on September 30. We are looking for an engaged opportunity. **Link Sharon Dixon-Gentry** reminded all of the presidents that the number of service hours for participants will be sent out to each chapter president. I will make sure the vice presidents get them as soon as Link Alice has made the final decision. I think, at this point, we are looking at (13) hours if a member participates in everything including the community project. Three additional hours for the community service project, which is a first for our Leadership Summit that will be held at the Sojourner Truth Center. We will be providing new scarves, gloves, and hats for the residents there. The Mayor of Gary, **Karen Freeman Wilson**, is a Link sister, so we thought it would be an excellent idea to leave our footprint in the cities where we visit.

A reminder from the treasurer to make sure that Bonding has taken place and 990s have been sent in. And, of course, the program team is working very hard to make the summit one that will be unforgettable. The PR and communications team headed by **Link Kathy Wade** is having a Team 68 meeting. But right now everybody is engrossed in getting things together for the Central Area Leadership Summit.

Dates to remember on your calendar:

- National Assembly – July 2016, Las Vegas, Nevada Mandalay Bay Hotel & Casino.
- 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. We've had an overflow for projected individuals coming, at the Radisson that will be within a block away from the Westin.

Here is the part of the agenda that I am very excited about, and that is the opportunity for us to have a fireside chat. Let's just pretend that, I think it was President Carter, we have on our comfy sweaters and we are in front of our fireplace with a cup of tea or chocolate or hot toddy, and, we have an opportunity to listen in to one of our peers, **Link Jacqueline Lewis, VP** from the South Suburban, (IL) chapter being interviewed by **Link Kimberly Beasley, VP** from the Tulsa (OK) chapter. So at this time I'd like to turn over the meeting to them. Please hold your questions until the end. Use your phone's "*6." Thank you. Link Kimberly and Link Jacqueline we welcome you to our virtual Fireside Chat.

Fireside Chat: Link Jacqueline Lewis, South Suburban (IL) and Link Kimberly Beasley, Tulsa (OK):

Link Kimberly Beasley, Tulsa (OK): Thank you, Link Glenda. Good evening Link sisters. My name is Link Kimberly Beasley and I've been a member of The Links, Incorporated since 2010. I am presently a member of the Tulsa, OK Chapter. I have the pleasure of interviewing **Link Jacqueline Lewis, Vice President of the South Suburban Chapter.**

Good evening, Link Jacqueline. How are you doing this evening?

Good. Good evening, Link Glenda and Link Kimberly, Link sisters, and fellow V.P.s. I'd like to thank Link Glenda for asking me to participate in this interview.

Thank you, Link Jacqueline. Thank you for being the first interviewee of "Meet the Central Area V.P.s." Link Jacqueline, how long have you been apart of The Links, Incorporated?

I was inducted into the South Suburban Chicago Chapter of The Links in 1997, 17 years ago, along with 13 other women. And there are 10 of us still at the chapter.

Wow, that is quite a long time of service. What positions have you held in your chapter?

My first position in the chapter was Co-chairman of Services to Youth, then, I became Chairman of Service to Youth. I was Fundraiser Chairman, Program Chairman, then Recording Secretary, and currently Vice President. So, I've been a busy Link since 1997.

Sounds like you've worn a lot of hats in your chapter. Will you share with us some information about the South Suburban Chapter?

Yes. The South Suburban Chicago Chapter was chartered in 1976 in University Park, IL. We have an archival cabinet containing our materials and artifacts that are housed at the University Park Library. We are very proud of that. Link Gwendolyn Lee, who was the 14th National President of The Links, Incorporated, is a charter member of the chapter. She, along with two other charter members, continues active participation with the chapter. We have served the South Suburban community for 38 years. Our programs of service and civic involvement have been recognized in the community as being impactful and transformational. We contribute this to having partnerships and relationships with the schools,

community centers, businesses, and community leaders. That has really enhanced our ability to influence change in the South Suburban community.

That is quite impressive Link Jacqueline. How many members are presently active in your chapter to this day?

We have 58 members, which includes two platinum members and ten Heir-O-Links. One of our platinum members was a former chapter president. She currently serves as our archive chairman. The other platinum member who's active with us was our first candidate that we inducted into the South Suburban Chicago Chapter. Her daughter currently serves as our recording secretary. So, we have a pretty rich legacy within our chapter.

It sounds like it, definitely. Now, Link Jacqueline, your chapter was award winning at our last National Assembly. What can you tell me about the awards you've won?

I am proud, yet humbled, to share that we won first place for our Services to Youth program. As many of you know, we were awarded the Chevron STEM Grant and we implemented the STEM curriculum in our elementary school that was underserved low-income. The Link members in that committee prepared and taught the lessons. They provided speakers and enrichment activities twice a week throughout the school year. And we have continued with that for our third year. So, we are very proud of that. We also won second place for our Arts program that's at the Jones Community Center, which is an after school facility, again, in an underserved low-income area. We've had a relationship with that center for close to 20 years. The school in that community cut the arts and music classes. We felt as a Link chapter that we needed to address providing the arts for our students. So we provided, paid for, having visual and performing arts professionals come to the Jones Center twice a week to provide lessons to the students. We've seen tremendous improvement in the children's self-esteem and the cultivation of the rich talent that they have within them. We also won first place for our chapter exhibit. This was an extraordinary effort by all the members and it demonstrated the connectedness of program by all five of our facets. Our theme was "Every South Suburban Chicago Link is an Essential Piece to Quality Service." So we were very pleased at the Assembly and proud that we were able to accomplish this in our Central Area region.

Thank you Link Jacqueline for sharing that information. I'm pretty sure that is very inspirational to the vice presidents who are listening and how we can go back and inspire our chapters as well to do great things. Link Jacqueline, how do you, as a membership chair, keep your members engage in activities of the chapter?

Well, as you all know, the role of the membership chairman is to lead in the development and the strengthening of the friendships within our chapter because we know that relationships build programs. We have a very active membership committee. We call them our "Ambassadors" because they represent the interest and well being of the members. In the summer we have a dinner meeting to discuss the needs of the chapter intake and we plan a calendar of activities that are geared toward strengthening friendships and energizing our Link sisters. Then we also meet monthly. We have monthly conference calls to address business related concerns with members throughout the year, such as "48 hours, one-in-five, meeting attendance, or any special requests. And about a third of our membership serves on the membership, and they promote and lead the activities that we plan. So that strong engagement of the membership committee really facilitates and encourages that involvement of the members.

Thank you. Can you share with us what types of activities your chapter members enjoy having?

Certainly, I'd be glad to do that. Like I said, we have a calendar for the entire fiscal year.

1. At every meeting, after our pledge and song, we conduct a 3-5 minute friendship building activity and that kind of segues us into our business meeting.
2. We also initiated what we call a "Friends-Linked-Together" triad grouping. That was developed to encourage interaction outside of meetings with Link sisters. So we link triads, meaning there are three Links per grouping. We try to link that also with our programs and social events. For example, Link Kimberly, if you were in my triad and you were not able to attend a meeting, but at that meeting we were asking members to bring their community service scarves, hats, etc., I might say to you, "Well, Link Kimberly, since you are not able to come the meeting, I'd be happy to bring those items to the meeting for you." So, we try to make sure that those triads are engaging with each other, that they come up, that they talk to each other about attending programs together, such as PADS, or social events that we may have amongst ourselves.
3. In October we have a "Girl Friends & Games" activity, where each member brings libation and the membership provides snacks and games. We have about 50% of the members participating.
4. In November we have our Chicagoland Cluster National Founder's Day Luncheon. We rent a limousine and we have champagne, chocolates, food, and lots of conversation. And we travel into Chicago for our Founder's Day. We have about 27-30 members participate in what we call "Our Friendship Ride to Founder's Day."
5. And then in November, we will have our 2nd Annual Alumna Luncheon. We invite our alumna members to join us for our meeting. It is truly a reunion and just a wonderful way of celebrating the members upon whose shoulders we stand.
6. In February, we acknowledge our charter members and chapter presidents. We do that by doing fun types of things. One year we purchased crowns for them, another year we gave them gold medals. We want to show the leadership that has helped our chapter to grow and be sustainable our appreciation through the year.
7. In March, we wear a touch of green and celebrate "Women's History Month" by acknowledging our Link sisters and other women who have made a difference.
8. And then, to conclude for the fiscal year, we have what we call a "Links Café" where we celebrate the end of the year and the beginning of the new fiscal year by, again, at a member's home having desserts and libation. We like to have libations with our social meetings. *(Laughter)*

We are very committed to keeping the links of friendship strong and engaged throughout the year and through the chapter meetings and after the chapter meetings because something that's the only time/opportunity that we set aside to meet with each other. So, those are the types of activities we do throughout the year Link Kimberly.

Thank you so much Link Jacqueline. Those are some wonderful activities. And I'm pretty sure that we all are taking notes on how we can include some of those same ideas in our chapters that would help promote the legacy of friendship. Link Jacqueline, I have another question for you. What is the best part of your job as vice president of membership?

Well, I think the best part is getting to know every member on personal bases, and being there to represent their best interest. I think probably of my background as a social worker it's just part of me. I enjoy kind of guiding members toward making sure that they continue to be active and involved with

friendships and in our program activities. And also, helping them to navigate getting their requirements in, their 48 hours and their one-in-five, things of that nature. I see the vice president as the go-to person for membership matters.

Absolutely, and I do agree. Will you be taking in new members this upcoming year?

We voted not to have membership intake this year. We brought in six new members in May of 2013. But, we did receive a letter requesting a daughter of a Link to be considered for membership. Daughters' of Links, that's a whole different category, as we know. But, general membership we did not vote for since we just had a recent intake.

When you do have intake, how do you go about looking for new members?

Every other year, we conduct a membership survey, and it provides us with information on our membership profile. We look at the results and interpret what we may need for our chapter in terms of our growth and sustainability. For example, we might see a need, which we do, to increase our number of members that are in the 31-40 age category. We also ask members to consider the factors that we share from that survey. Also to look at women that are already doing viable things and are visible in their community in their own right. Members ask friends or colleagues to participate in community service programs that we have. This is what I call a quiet way of introduction to what we do and what they do. So, those are things that we do in terms of looking for new members.

Thank you. Link Jacqueline, do you have any suggestions or best practices that all chapters could benefit from in increasing our membership numbers and keeping our membership engaged?

Yes I do. First of all, I believe that as leaders, it's important for us to find a positive in every Link sister, and to share with each Link sister that they are an essential piece. Let them know what they contribute or what they can contribute. I know sometimes that can be challenging, but I think that is a key to maintaining and engaging members who in turn will bring in women that are interested in friendship and service.

Some of the best practices that I think are important is that we do need to respond to emails or calls within 24 hours. I think it's important to be courteous, patient, and respectful. And we need to keep the membership abreast of expectations and communications from the Area and Nationals and keeping them informed of deadlines, etc. It's important to use our governing documents as a guide to understanding and resolutions that may come up with members or within membership. So, those are best practice thoughts that I have.

Well thank you very much Link Jacqueline. I also want to thank you so much for sharing with us some tips from your chapter and allowing me to interview you tonight. And at this time, we will open it up to any of the vice presidents who may have questions at this point for you.

Okay, I would be happy to answer any questions.

Link Linda Holoman, Tri-City (MI): I'm just wondering, do you ever invite any of the Connecting Links to your friendship activities?

Link Jacqueline Lewis, South Suburban (IL): Well, can I answer that in a couple of different ways? We do have a social committee and sometimes what we do overlap and so, yes we have, but generally it's been for the members only. We do involve the Connecting Links in program activities, such as our PADS program. We try to involve them where appropriate in community service programs. That's a great idea; I know that in my 17 years, we did have a luncheon specifically to thank your Connecting Links. We purchased little pins for them that said "Connecting Links." That's a great question and a great idea to pay a little more attention to our Connecting Links when we are involved in our social activities. Link Linda, have you had Connecting Links involved in an activity that you would like to share?

Link Linda Holoman, Tri-City (MI): Yes we did at one time. We all went to a professional baseball game over the summer, and they seemed to like that, but not all the time. I was just curious if that was something that you did.

Link Jacqueline Lewis, South Suburban (IL): Okay. That's a nice idea in the summer.

Link Adrienne Green, Toledo (OH): Good evening Link sisters. I have a question. I understand the intent of Friendship Month. I am kind of going through discussions with different committees around adding fundraising to that and adding outside members. I'm trying to reinforce the need for us to do things socially together because we really don't. We do it usually just in November. I love the idea of the calendar, but I just want to get some insight around what you just talked about "Links only" events versus creating a fundraising opportunity out of a friendship activity where others come in. It just feels like it would change the dynamics around that event. With the collaboration of, let's say, the Fundraising Committee and the Membership Committee, and whether or not you can accomplish both easily. Are there examples that can be shared?

Link Jacqueline Lewis, South Suburban (IL): I personally do not have an example of that, of fundraising and a social event, other than our fundraiser [inaudible] is a very social event, probably most of the chapters are, because we have live entertainment that comes to our fundraiser event. We have men, women, friends, just the whole community in Chicagoland that attend our fundraiser. So, it's a big social event, but a big fundraiser as well, a very successful fundraiser for us. Maybe some other Links might have some thoughts about your question.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: Does anyone else have any feedback for Link Adrienne, who asked the question about fundraisers versus friendship activities, and including Connecting Links?

Link Maxine White, Milwaukee (WI): Is Madison Wisconsin on? Madison has a Brunch coming up and we considering it for a friendship opportunity.

Link Deborah Thomas, Madison Metropolitan (WI): Link Deborah is here too from Madison? Wonderful, I will have to contact you and we can talk.

Link Maxine White, Milwaukee (WI): We have your material, and we are circulating it with our members.

Link Deborah Thomas, Madison Metropolitan (WI): Thank you. For our November brunch we have a Jazz Brunch, and we use that to raise the funds for our scholarships and also the social. Actually the community and corporations who have the money are also involved. We've always added our Connecting Links drafted. They just assume they are drafted from when we had the Fashion Fair. They did a lot of stuff, plus the Heir-O-Links were part of it too. So this replaces the Fashion Fair in a different way. It wonderful, there's only three chapters in Wisconsin and we've known most of each other over the years. So, thank you very much. If you have questions, you can always call me, Link Deborah Garrett Thomas. My phone number is (608) 217-5318.

Link Maxine White, Milwaukee (WI): My president is in touch with your president. I'll send you an email.

Link Deborah Thomas, Madison Metropolitan (WI): Thank you.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: Link Jacqueline and Link Kimberly, you both were awesome. Thank you so very much. You hit on some very crucial elements that have come up repeatedly. Chapters, sometimes individuals join The Links because they are so interested in services, and they happen upon a chapter that is more about partying. And then, you have some Links who are interested in the friendship part instead of partying and they end up in a chapter that is all about working. It is a continuing blend of both because we are established as an organization to keep each other engaged. The conversation between the chapters in Wisconsin, just now, gave me another idea. If you are having an activity that you would like to share with the other V.P.s, if you will just send that to me I will make sure that that is included in the notes with a contact so you can exchange information about your activity, and if you are going to include Connecting Links or if it's fundraising. That's a fabulous idea.

Again, Link Jacqueline, Link Kimberly, thank you very much.

Link Jacqueline Lewis, South Suburban (IL): You are quite welcome. Thank you Link Glenda.

Link Kimberly Beasley, Tulsa (OK): Thank you Link Glenda.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: Now for the other vice presidents, do you have any questions, in particular, for Link Jacqueline?

Link Helen Gordon, Kent Area (OH): I have a question for Link Jacqueline. She shared that immediately following their pledge that they had some friendship building activities that were from 3-5 minutes in length. I was just curious if she might be able to give a couple of examples?

Link Jacqueline Lewis, South Suburban (IL): One of our members, she conducts these 3-5 minute activities. Her expertise is in the area of leadership. For all the activities that we have, we have a lead Link. So each person takes responsibility for conducting those particular activities. At one of our chapter meetings, for example, during Black History Month, there was a listing of African-American women. We were to, as a group at each table, match the person with a list of questions about their accomplishments. So, we did activities that would engage the members for short period of time and yet have historical

perspective on our heritage. So that's one activity, one could do during Black History Month. She does cute little activities. She might say find a Link sister who has shoes close to your style of shoes. So, you go around and find a member who has a similar shoe color. Then she connects it to look at what some of our similarities and some of our differences are. So she makes meaningful connections through situations and activities that show our connectedness. I'm probably not explaining it right because that's not my area. The Area has encouraged the chapters to have some type of interactive friendship activity, so we have incorporated that in our chapter meetings. We do it right after the pledge and song so that we can tend to the business immediately after. So, that's some ideas.

Link Helen Gordon, Kent Area (OH): Thank you Link Jacqueline that was actually quite helpful. It gives me a starting point, and I'm sure for others who may have been wondering too. So, thank you. I appreciate it.

Link Christina Clark, Detroit (MI): We did similar activities at our meetings. We've been doing it for about four years, and it really is a helpful way to start the meetings. It is actually a very good icebreaker because we're split up in tables and nobody's ever seated at the same table. You get to learn your Link sisters a little bit better. One example we did at our retreat that was really great was we made a human Link chain. I initiated it, but I started off with having one Link stand up and say something that they are interested in that maybe nobody knows. So, like line dancing. If another Link likes line dancing, they were to get on either side of them and form a chain, and then they announce something else. At the end, you're one chain. So, you are linked in friendship. It's a perfect example of how maybe you have something in common with somebody that you never knew in the chapter from maybe reading books, to skiing, to travel. It was just a nice way to kind of go through those barriers.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: That's a great idea. Thank you. Anyone else?

Link Maxine White, Milwaukee (WI): We have a retreat in Milwaukee at our September meetings. We have it at Marquette University, and it's about five hours from 8:00-2:00 p.m. We usually try and do something to motivate our membership toward our big fundraiser in December. Because we're going to have the Fashion Fair exhibit that they had in Chicago at our museum in Milwaukee next year, it's going to be a focus of our fundraiser in December at the museum exhibit. The Membership Committee bought six crates of the same material for six different groups of Link sisters. They have the same amount of time to make a fashion statement. We even brought the cardboard cut out of the lady figure. They had 30 minutes to design something. I have photos of what they designed, and it is amazing what these women built within 30 minutes working together. And they had a blast. So, I have photographs that I'll send in for everybody who wants to see how quickly they can design a costume and put it on a figure, produce it and describe how they did it. It's just amazing.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: I think that's called either you're a *Hot Link* or a *Hot Mess*. And usually it ends up being a hot Link because they know how to design on a dime. A great idea, Link Maxine.

I'd like to add one more thing from our Protocol Chair who is the past president of the Central Illinois Chapter. We have a Secret Sister program to get a chance to send a card, a scripture, a poem, and a small gift to someone that you may not have had interactions with. But, this past meeting, she asked everyone if

they would just stand up and say some of the things that they liked. We found out some Links are passionate about coffee, others don't want it anywhere near their mouths. Some Links love T.J. Maxx and other people hate T.J. Maxx. Some people were fond of Subway as a special place for a quick meal and others McDonalds. It was fun getting to hear the different members that you didn't really know well, but to find out what their passions were. So, any opportunity you can get to know your Link sisters a little better, just makes it much, much easier.

These are some great ideas ladies. Great. And, again, I encourage you to send them to me if you would like that to be shared with your other sisters. This will hopefully be a foundation for you to actually pick up the phone or drop an email to one of your counter parts, and just share some of the information.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: At the last meeting I talked about dividing the chapters up into pods so we can get closer together as far as getting a sense of the different chapters in the Central Area. I've just about finished those, and I will be sending them out. I ask if any of you were interested in working in particular with a certain chapter to please let me know. That offer is still open. If not, this is just a great chance to get to know some of your sisters across the Central Area and their chapters, and to find out why there are so many people who want to emulate us. I just love it because we're on the cutting edge of programs, activities, fundraising, and as an Area we like each other.

Is anyone on the line from the Flint, Michigan Chapter? [No response] I'm going to reach out to the Flint, Michigan area because I have not heard from them. I would like to make sure that they are getting the information, so we can embrace them in this movement that we have going on here. I was just checking to make sure. I have one announcement. First of all, Link Kimberly Post, are you on the line? Link Kim just came back from a trip to India. We welcome you back and we know that you have the minutes. How was India? Do you recommend that we all take a quick friendship-building trip?

Link Kimberly Post, Memphis (TN): Well, India is not a quick trip, but it's definitely an experience. You know it's very different from the United State in almost every way possible. And, I went for work, so it was a good experience.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: Very good. If you have any pictures or anything you would like to share, please send it to me and I will make sure that all of the V.P.s get a copy of that. And welcome home. Any good news from any of the vice presidents that are on the line? [No response]

Okay, well I get to say something one time and one time only so that I stay within the boundaries of the rules and regulations of The Links, Incorporated. I just like to let you all know as my base that I intend to throw my hat into the ring to run for Area Director at our 2015 Area Conference. I just want you to be aware of it, and I would appreciate your support. I hope to earn the support of those that I may not have at the moment. That's my attempt as humor and it always fall flat.

Link Barb Atkins, Central Illinois (IL): I'd like to add that our chapter unanimously supports Link Glenda in her endeavor to run for Central Area. It was a unanimous vote, and we are very, very proud of her.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: Thank you Link Barb. I appreciate that.

Link Alma Ivey Clarke, Dayton (OH): Before you complete the role call, would you please tell me how many chapters you plan to put in each pod?

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: Well, because we have 68 chapters, some have more than others. We have one pod that has as many as eight, and that maybe a large amount. Do you have a suggestion? I'm open for suggestions. I just want the conversation to continue.

Link Alma Ivey Clarke, Dayton (OH): No, I don't have a suggestion. I just was trying to find out whether it was going to be geographically based or was there any rhyme or reason or request from a chapter or what. That's all.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: Okay. Let me explain a little rational to that. For example, it would be very easy to put all of the Ohio chapters together. Just like it would be very easy to put all the Illinois chapters together. But, because you are in the same state there are probably business acumen or cultural things that you do anyway that may not necessarily foster the foundation for growing or knowing something different from another area, another geographic location. So, that was really what I was trying to look at. I looked at award winning chapters, chapters that are considered small, chapters that are large, and tried to mix them up because you have different situations, opportunities, and challenges per chapter based on where you are. And, I was trying to get a sense, because most Links have friends in other chapters that if there was a working relationship already established, then I would try to put together. So, that was the only rhyme and reason.

Link Alma Ivey Clarke, Dayton (OH): Thank you. While I have everyone's attention, I'd like to announce that our chapter is celebrating its 65th Anniversary. We will be welcoming Link Alice Strong Simmons to celebrate with us on October 16, and we're going to have a weekend of fun, fellowship celebration, and community activities. I just wanted to share that.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: All right. Thank you.

Roll Call: Link Glenda Masingale Manson CAVD:

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); Christina Clark, Detroit (MI); Link Veronica Simms, Des Moines (IA); Link Alma Ivey Clarke, Dayton (OH); Link Linda Holoman, Tri-City (MI); Link Jan-Nee Sheats-Mathis, Parthenon (TN); Link Terri Sanders, Omaha (NE); 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 Helen Gordon, Kent Area (OH); Link Avice Reid, Knoxville (TN); Link Paula Jones, Lake Shore (IL); Link Kimberly Post, Memphis (TN); Link Renita Harris, Topeka (KS); Link Barb Adkins, Central Illinois (IL); Link Larnell Burks-Bagley, Indianapolis (IN); Link Maxine White, Milwaukee (WI); Link Cheryl Anderson, Minneapolis-St. Paul (MN); Veronica Chapman, Queen City (OH); Link Kimberly Beasley, Tulsa (OK); Link Martha Bester, Twin Rivers (OH); Link Darla Ball, Columbus (OH); Link Melonie Jones, Jackson County (MO); Link Celeste Shelton-Harris, Kalamazoo (MI); Link Adrienne Green, Toledo (OH); Link Fannette, Thornhill-Scott, Wichita (KS); Link Michelle Viera, Hendersonville (TN)

There were 36 chapters present on the conference call.

Closing Remarks: Link Glenda Masingale Manson CAVD

As you can see, my sisters, we have quite a few chapters that are absent. I will probably be sending out a quick survey to see if these chats are of value to you. Instead of monthly, perhaps, bi-monthly because I don't want to take any time if they are not providing information that you need to keep yourself engaged with your chapter. If some of you happen to be friends with some of these chapters that were absent, I would appreciate you reaching out to them to let them know exactly what happens on these calls.

And before I close this chat, if there are no other questions, I would like to make sure that every V.P. is aware of Alumnae Membership, which is found on page 54 in our revised 2013 Membership Manual. I received a number of emails from individuals who are looking to take alumnae status. They don't exactly have the information correct as to what that membership classification means. One member was concerned that her one-in-five would have something to with her taking her alumnae status in 2015. Another one is still interested in being considered an active member, but they do lose some privileges being an active member under alumnae status. So we've had to clarify that. So, if you have any members who are considering that, please make sure that you go to page 54. That answers just about everything that you might come encounter with for a member going on alumnae status.

And for those of you who are going to be taking in new members, I would appreciate it if you would just drop me a quick line to let me know where you are in your progress. If there is anything I can do to assist you in getting the information just let me know, and I will be on it.

Our next V.P. chat is November 5. These minutes will be complete by next Monday. I will follow up by sending them out to all of you with some links. They will also be put on the Central Area web site. Please don't forget that November is Friendship Month. Start planning now, start thinking, have you chapter engaged because even though there is not a separate document for friendship activities that needs to be sent in to Nationals, we are very much interested in what you as individual chapters or collectively are doing. So, thank you very much for your time, and have a good night.

End Time: 7:55:00 p.m.

Minutes by Link Carol M. de la Cruz, Central Illinois (IL)