Central Area Vice Presidents' Chat

Conference Call, Tuesday, November 5, 2013

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)

Welcome to our November chat. Right now I am in the state of Louisiana. **Link Alice Strong Simons** asked me to represent the area at the Memorial Celebration for our 7th National President, **Link Julia Brogdon Purnell** who was memorialized on Saturday. It was an absolute glorious celebration of her life. There were individuals from each of the organizations that she loved – her sorority, the Links and the missionary group from her A.M.E. church. They sent her home in the style that, for any of you who have ever met Link Julie, you would know that she would definitely have approved. The final anthem before the recessional was Handel's Messiah, the "Hallelujah" chorus, so we all stood as the Bethel A.M.E. choir sang "Hallelujah" and the audience, of course that is something most of us know, joined in. There's a lovely story that each member of the separate groups talked about regarding Link Julia. She believed in showing appreciation and support to her sisters. She believed in sisterly behavior and being glad when there is something to celebrate. She believed the anthem, "what is right is right even when everyone is against and what's wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it". At the end of her chapter meetings in Linkdom, and, I hear, in her other organizations she would say something good about someone, some good news, and then she would say "All right now **clap**."

So in the spirit of her memory before we get started, I am excited to point out that we have had several members from the Central Area in the recent edition of "Links in the Spotlight" that's published and distributed from the national office. Under appointments we have **Link Roslyn Clark Artis** from the **Southern West Virginia Chapter** whose named Interim President earlier this year by the Board of Trustees at Florida Memorial University; Link Millicent Lownes-Jackson from the Hendersonville **Area Chapter** who was recently named Dean of the College of Business at Tennessee University, the first women to serve as dean of the university's AACSB International Accredited College of Business; Link **Camille R. McMullin**, **River City** chapter, Link Camille, made history for the second time in her career by becoming the first African-American woman into the scene to preside over a panel of appellate judges. Link Arlene Lewis, Lake Shore chapter, was elected earlier this year to the executive board of American Society of Public Administration section on International and Comparative Administration. Link Terri B. Sanders, Omaha Nebraska Chapter, was recently named as the Vice President of Marketing Development of the Great Plains Black History Museum. And under accolades we have Link Chalon E. **Anderson** from the **Oklahoma City Chapter** who has been inducted into the 2012-2013 Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame; Link Martha Perine Beard, River City Chapter, a Memphis Regional Executive who was one of 30 civic leaders selected to participate in the inaugural class of Leadership Tennessee Memphis Business Journal, who also named her as the 2013 Super Woman in Business; Link Alicia Boler-Davis from the Oakland County, Michigan Chapter was featured on the front page of the October 7th issue of Automotive News; and Link Laysha Ward from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter whose named to the Non-profit Time's Power and Influence Top 50 List featured in the August issue. For my sisters, "now clap." There, we have a "clap" for all of our sisters who are doing great deeds.

Link Janice, are you on the line?

Link Janice Beachum, Youngstown (OH): Yes I am.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: Will you please grace us with your *Linkspiration*?

Link Janice Beachum, Youngstown (OH): I will.

Linkspiration: Link Janice Beachum, Youngstown (OH)

Good evening sister links. First I want to say I was honored, Link Glenda, when you asked me to give the Linkspiration. I have something that I'm hoping will be a help to each of the sisters that are on the line this evening.

"Although things are not perfect because of trial or pain, Continue in thanks giving. Do not begin to blame. Even when the times are hard, fierce winds are bound to blow. God is forever able. Hold on to what you know.

Imagine life without his love. Joy would cease to be.
Keep thanking him for all the things love imparts to thee.
Move out of camp complaining.
No weapon that is known on earth can yield the power praise can do alone.
Quit looking at the future. Redeem the time at hand.
Start everyday with worship. To thank is a command.

Until we see him coming, victorious in the sky. We'll run the race with gratitude, exalting God most high. Yes, there will be good times, and yes, some will be bad. But Zion waits in glory where none are never sad."

Thank you.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: Beautiful Link Janice, and Amen. Thank you very much.

Link Janice Beachum, Youngstown (OH): Absolutely, absolutely.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson CAVD, Central Illinois (IL)

I would like to ask if we could go around, just so I have an idea of potential induction numbers for upcoming 2014. So, as I call your chapter's name, if you could just give me the number, or if you are planning an induction, so I can get a sense of what we are looking for coming from the chapters in the Central Area.

Ann Arbor – Five Archway – Four Central Illinois - Four Charleston Institute Chattanooga Chicago Cincinnati Circle City Cleveland

Columbus - Four

Cream City (Cream City will be on the line. They are going to be a little late.) – Five Dayton - We are planning our 65th anniversary, so we are taking none in this year.

Des Moines - We are anticipating eight.

Detroit

Flint

Fort Wayne

Frankfort/Lexington

Gateway - Undecided

Well, here I go with my mantra. Please put your phone on mute. If you are driving and you have your phone on speaker and on mute, we will have feedback and will not be able to hear. So if you are driving and it's possible, take us off of speaker and put your phone on mute.

Great Lakes

Greater Kansas City

Greater Wayne County – We will be having our Pink Ball, so we are not doing an induction.

Harbor Lights

Hendersonville

Hoffman Estates

Huntington

Indianapolis

Jackson

Jackson County - Six

Kalamazoo

Kent

Knoxville - Zero. We're not going to have one this year.

Lake Shore

Lansing/East Lansing

Little Rock

Louisville

Madison Metropolitan - We are anticipating four - five

Memphis - Seven

Minneapolis-St. Paul

Music City

Nashville – Nashville is not taking in any new members. We are reinstating two former members.

North Shore

Northern Indiana

Oakland County - Zero. We are not having an intake this year.

Oklahoma City

Omaha - We are anticipating twelve.

Parthenon

Pine Bluff

Ouad Cities

Queen City - Eight

Renaissance

River City

Shelby County

South Bend

South Suburban – South Suburban just did an intake, so we won't be doing one this year.

Southern West Virginia

Springfield – We anticipate two.

St. Louis

Toledo

Topeka

Tri-City - Undecided

Tulsa – Tulsa should have five – eight. We are still waiting for our vote.

Twin Rivers

West Town

Western Reserve

Wichita

Wilberforce

Windy City

Youngstown – Link Glenda, I will be submitting nineteen profiles.

And now "clap". Thank you. Thank you very much. That was also a sneaky way to get in a roll call early too just in case you didn't think there was a method to my madness.

Link_____: I'm sorry, but I'm preparing for open-heart surgery, and I had some things I had to do before I go in tomorrow for the consultation. So that's the reason why I was late.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: No, no, no, no, no, I am not correcting you. I was talking to the other sisters. That's a priority because I can tell you if I were going in for open-heart surgery I wouldn't be on this phone. So my hat is off to you my sister. You know what, some of you do know me and I am in a very strange mood tonight. There is not anything that's going to upset me tonight, and we are just going to get through this and have a good time. This is the month of Thanksgiving and I believe in that. Thank you for giving me the update on your induction numbers, and since this call is recorded, I'll have it in writing, and I'll be able to share it with Link Alice.

Link Deidra Edwards, I asked her to join us. She's having a problem, she just texted me, and is now getting on the telephone. Her access code is not working. So we're going to move on and come back to her portion. One of the things that I wanted to do tonight was to just hear from senior vice presidents, women who have been in this role. And talk about things that may happened to each of them in this role, and how we can support each other and how we can lift each other's spirit. So that is what Link Deidra is going to do, but we will come back to her.

I would like to have an update on the friendship activities that have happened around the area. I know there was an outstanding one that was held in Kansas City last weekend. You can start just make sure you say your name and chapter. If you've had an activity or you plan to have an activity, I'd really like to know about it, since November is friendship month.

Link Melonie Jones, Jackson County (MO): I figured I would start, since you mentioned our friendship activity. We did a first ever cluster week, called it the Heart of America Cluster. We invited chapters from Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and Oklahoma, and Nebraska, and Minneapolis; actually we had a Link coming from Minneapolis as well. All the Presidents came from all the chapters that showed up. I can't remember how many, I want to say there were 13 or 14. And we had over 200 Links along with some connecting Links. We had a Friday night even where we had a meet and greet, and then people went out to the casinos and to 18th and Vine which is our historically Black area within Kansas City. And then, Saturday we did Friendship and Founders Day together. We had a luncheon. We took a picture, which I'm sure we will be sharing. It was just a fabulous event and very successful. And I think that's probably why you were in Louisiana because the Central Area president came, Link Alice. It was just a fabulous time.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: Yes, that is why because she had made the commitment to the cluster friendship meeting and she wanted to be there. She said it was absolutely wonderful. So that's fantastic.

Link Melonie Jones, Jackson County (MO): And I think we are going to continue it next year too.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: That's wonderful. Congratulations. Any more chapter activities?

Link Deborah Thomas, Madison Metropolitan (WI): We did two activities. We had a Lemonade Sip, and we invited the past members to see if they were interested in coming back and giving them information on what we have been doing. That was September 28. And as a result, now we are doing a Friendship Luncheon on this Saturday, and we have invited some of the past members again because we want to consider them based on their interest, and also other people who have never been Links that we want to consider for membership. So those are two activities we did; the Lemonade Sip and now the Friendship Luncheon is November 9, this Saturday. So we will have pictures and that kind of stuff that we'll send in. So that's what we're doing.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: That sounds wonderful too. I like the idea of a lemonade sip. That sounds so genteel. Anyone else?

Link Pat Rowles, Greater Kansas City (MO): I just wanted like to tag onto Jackson County because we cohosted that with them. It was Greater Kansas City and Jackson County with our Friendship and Sisterhood Founders Day Celebration in November.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: I would love to see a program too, my sisters. So if you can send me one, I would really appreciate it.

Link Pat Rowles, Greater Kansas City (MO): I have two of them. I will send that to you.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: All right. And any of the chapter, if you have any activities would you send them to me because one of the things I like to do is hear what other chapters are doing as a form of best practices to give some chapters new ideas and/or a way to take an existing idea and personalize it for their chapters. So thank you very much. Anyone else?

Link Susan Buford, Archway (MO): Yes...

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: Hello Link Susan. Let me tell you, my sisters, about Link Susan. I was honored to be invited to, I'm not going to steal your thunder, but I saw her recently and she came back all glowy because she had just returned from vacation from Cabo San Lucas, and she still made it on a red eye flight, got dressed in black and pearls and showed up on time for her chapter's event. My hat goes off to you Link Susan.

Link Susan Buford, Archway (MO): Thank you. We recently, we do it bi-annually, we did a Salute to Outstanding Women Leaders Luncheon, and we also celebrated 20 years of service to the St. Louis community. And that was held Saturday, October 26. We honored, I believe, seven ladies and all of them were honored depending on the various facets that we have. We were very honored to have Link Alice come and attend, Link Glenda as well, and we also had our National Vice President, Glenda Harris. So we were very pleased with the event and it was very successful.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: Yes it was. Congratulations to your chapter. Any more? And I know probably because it's at the beginning of the month some of you are planning it for later, but if you have one please share with us.

Link Deidra Edwards, Cream City (WI): We actually all came together, the Milwaukee chapter and the Cream City, Wisconsin chapter, and we attended a movie on Friday evening "Twelve Years a Slave." The screenplay was written by one of our own Link sister's son, an heir-o-link, John Ridley. Instead of doing our annual Friendship Tea that we normally do, we decided to support one of our own and be there on opening night of "Twelve Years a Slave" which is a movie that's showing in select movie theatres across the country.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: Link Deidra would you give us a brief synopsis of the movie? Is it something that we're going to get angry and want to hurt some people or is it just something that...would you give it a thumbs up?

Link Deidra Edwards, Cream City (WI): I would say that I thought I wasn't going to be able to stay through the movie because the movie is about a free black man during slavery who somehow was drugged and was taken by two white men and sold into slavery and for twelve years his family didn't know where he was. He had two children, a boy and a girl. And while it was a very sad story of him living in slavery, I was also a story about how white people and black people helped people be able to get back to their homes and to get out of slavery. The character that's played by Brad Pitt actually got information to his family in the North and they were able to produce the paperwork that said that he was a free man. Even though he was a black man, he was a free man, and it has a happy ending. He was reunited with his family, but his children are grown, he has a baby grandchild, and it just shows how he missed so much of their lives. But, I was able to make it through, and I'm a person who wasn't able to make it through "Roots" or "The Color Purple." I don't know if it was because my Link sisters were there with me or what, but I would give it a thumbs up.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: All right, well sisters if you are looking for an activity perhaps to go, I think we have the recommendation of one of our own, and especially to support an heir-o-link. Are there any more friendship activities at this point? And, if you have them, if you would just send me a copy and I will make sure everyone gets the information so we can share the good things that are happening in other chapters.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson CAVD, Central Illinois (IL)

Link Deidra since we've moved ahead, would you please give us your take on membership matter? I was explaining to the sisters that I asked you as a seasoned vice president to share with us some of the situations that VPs may find themselves in, and what we need to do to keep ourselves engaged and uplifted because, as you can know, sometimes working with membership it can be a little tiring.

Link Deidra Edwards, Milwaukee (WI)

I would be more than happy to share Link Glenda, and thank you for this opportunity. Link sisters this is my second time being a chapter vice president. I've also been a chapter president. And I know on a fairly regular bases we hear how difficult the role of a chapter president is. But, sometimes I think that it's forgotten how difficult the office of a chapter vice president is. We're responsible for the entire membership process. All that comes with it in terms of the membership induction process and some of the hairy membership issues that we deal with, with our chapter members. I think we probably experienced just about all of them in my chapter. We recently had some issues with reinstating Link sisters and how that process should work, specifically when reinstated Link sisters can come back in the chapter. Link sisters felt like I was not being truthful with them when I said they could only come back in during May through June 30, just as our new members come in. They felt like somehow I was trying to prevent the reinstated Link sisters from being part of the active program year. I had documentation, however, it took e-mail from poor Nia Wood in corporate office, who I think is a little tired of hearing

from me so often, to confirm the information that I had provided Link sisters in writing, but it wasn't something that they had actually done their own research on. In terms of membership issues, you really have to be a good researcher because on our Web site, in order to find answers to questions, and make sure that as chapter VP you're being consistent and fair. But also making sure that you aren't coddling our Link sisters, but educating them on how to go out and find the answers to questions themselves since everyone I think in our chapters feel like they are membership experts, particularly members who have chartered the chapter and feel like they are knowledgeable.

So when Link Glenda called me and asked me to share some of my war stories, I told her she must have E.S.P. because I was just having my own day of "Now, why am I doing this for a second time?" "What would make anybody do this job for a second time?" But she talked me up. And that's what I think is important, Link sisters, to find the positive Link sisters in your chapter and have them lift you up and lean on them when the times get tough because we all know they will. They get tough more often than not. And you have to be encouraged and reach out to positive Link sisters who will support you when times get tough. She shared with me today, we need to make sure that we don't water the weeds, but we water the flowers. That's really my perspective to share with you this evening. I know you all have your own war stories to share as well, but as chapter president I lived through the implementation of 48 hours of service, and the true implementation, and I would say, really reinforcement of one-in-five attending conferences. And I have the war wounds to show for it Link sisters, so hang in there, and know that the documents are on your side. The documents will hold you up when your Link sisters are telling you you're just doing something to be spiteful. Sometimes we want to create our own rules, in spite of the rules and documents that Links provides for us. We sometimes want to use those when they are convenient for us, and when they're not, we want to turn our back on them and pretend like they don't exist. But know that you have a Link sister in Milwaukee that's holding you up even when you may not have great support in your own chapter.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: Thank you very much Link Deidra.

Link Janice Beachum, Youngstown (OH): I have a question. As far as reinstated members, I have an alumna that wants to be reinstated. Question is what month does she need to be reinstated? In other words, when I do my 19, hopefully, when I do my 19 new people should she have already been reinstated?

Link Deidra Edwards, Cream City (WI): There is no reinstatement except May 1 – June 30. Now, I am not familiar with an alumna, and I would advise you to call Nia Wood, but when I talked with her, reinstated and new members come in May 1 – June 30. They enter at a program here. They can't come in willy-nilly during the year because it's tied to your membership dues. May 1 is the date.

Link Janice Beachum, Youngstown (OH): She did tell me that. I talk to her also, so I'm sure I'm one of those people who worried her to death, but if you have questions about membership, she's the person with the answers.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: Right, and make also sure that you refer to your membership manual, Link Janice, because it will have it in there. And depending on how long the alumna member has been out...

Link Janice Beachum, Youngstown (OH): Ten years.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: Well then, she would have to go through all of the orientation again because things have changed. So, she would go through the orientation just like your new members. You need to be aware of that.

Thank you Link Deidra.

Link Deidra Edwards, Cream City (WI): Link Glenda if I could just interject her, I would tell you to look at your membership manual, membership basics, and the membership frequently asked questions because I will tell you that that's where I was able to find the document that said May 1. The membership manual is kind of confusing. It says that you need to vote on them when they're reinstated within the first two months, and two months after they have their reinstatement request, and they can only request reinstatement from September through May. So, I got reinstatement requests in July and August and then we went through all that nonsense of them saying, "You're just trying to keep them out." Link Nia Wood said "no" there is a reason for that because they can't come back in until May 1. So, what I try to do is alert Nia Wood that she may be receiving calls from my chapter members because they don't necessarily like the answer that they get from me, so that she's aware that she may get a call.

Link Janice Beachum, Youngstown (OH): Right. Okay, thank you.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson CAVD, Central Illinois (IL)

One of the things that Link Deidra said which I think is very important -- you can stand by what is written, but also your consistency with those Link sisters that you love to embrace versus the ones that can be a little cold prickly is very very important. So if the rule is the same for, like I said, those sweet ones that personify Links, they're also the same rules for the ones that sometimes you like to say, "Mmm, okay." I just want to share that with everybody. Thank you Link Deidra. I appreciate it.

You know sometimes I feel like I give you all so much information and I do want to hear from you. If you read the document that I sent out earlier, it gives you an overview of the information that was shared on the president's chat. Your president should have shared that information with you. If not, and you have questions, please check with your president, and then if you haven't received it be sure to let me know and I will get that to you.

I have a reminder that you will be getting a request from our communications P.R. chairperson about the holiday card. If you have images of your chapter working together, friendship month, not the staged pictures where you're all look gorgeous and flashing those pretty 32s, but actually working in your communities, please make sure you get that because that is a part of Link Allison's holiday card. You are also able to include video if you have that available to you. So I just want to remind you that when you get that request, please be responsive.

Are there any Best Practices that you and your chapter would like to share for the good of the order? I will tell you as one of my favorite runners used to say, Renaldo Nehemiah. He was very self assure, and he said "False humility is just that; false." And that always tickled me. So if you are doing something great out there, please share it with the rest of us because we want to know, and we want to celebrate you and you're your chapters. Okay, you're all shy. I have gone through, by basically getting your induction numbers you have stated your name, so I know that you are on the call. Is there anything else for the good of the order before I do the important dates?

Link Janice Beachum, Youngstown (OH): I'd like to talk to you after the call.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: That will be fine because I will be on the line after eight o'clock or after the call is over, so if there are any questions. There's a meeting after the meeting, but it's a good meeting. Is there anyone who did not give their potential induction numbers when I called for them? Link Deidra you were not on the line. Do you have a number for potential inductees into the organization?

Link Deidra Edwards, Cream City (WI): After we conducted our chapter member assessment and chapter assessment, what we are striving for is ten. We know we're really marking a high number because we've had difficulty, but we are looking for at least to secure five - six, we're going to be happy. But we are recognizing that shortly four of our members will become alumnae members and not as active, so that's why we were trying to shoot high and say ten from the membership committee. And the chapter informed us that we probably should stick with half of that, so five.

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: All right, thank you very much. I think everyone who is on the phone has given their induction numbers.

The important dates to remember, the National Assembly. Please make sure your dates are at the bottom of your agenda for your monthly meetings. That way that will keep it in front of your members, so when it comes to one-in-five they will not say they didn't know.

Also there was a good discussion on the president's chat about the Central Area Summit. Link Alice asked the presidents if they felt the Central Area Summit was still relevant and that people wanted to be a part. From the feedback from the presidents who contributed, there was still an interest in having the Central Area Summit. One of the comments was if gives members an opportunity to be in a smaller setting, even though it doesn't count for your one-in-five because you have to attend an area or national assembly area conference, but it does give you recent information. I received a question from a chapter because there was a member who had been on leave, I think for two years, and then her name was being submitted for president for that year she came back in. My recommendation was, in two years things have changed and a person need to be updated on the changes in our organization. So even though it may appear that "well this is my organization I know, and we are doing some of the same things," there are subtle changes that if you are going to be a leader, you have to be up-to-date on.

The Central Area Summit is scheduled to be hosted by the Northern Indiana chapter in Gary October 2014. And the Central Area Conference is June 17-19, 2015 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The next VP chat or communiqué will be December 3. Unless you hear otherwise, it is always the Tuesday after the presidents' chat, which is usually the 1st Sunday of the month. So unless you hear differently like you get an e-mail from Link Sharon or myself, you can anticipate that we will have a call. And I will get out the information from the presidents' chat just as quickly as I can.

Link Deidra Edwards, Cream City (WI): Link Glenda, quick question, we receive service hours for the summit though, right?

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: You do earn hours, and before the summit we send something out to let you know hour many hours can be earned if you attend the summit from the very beginning until the end. Yes.

Link Deidra Edwards, Cream City (WI): Right, and I know that but I was just thinking that might be a way to... [Tape went silent].

Link Glenda Masingale Manson, CAVD: Okay. Thank you. Is there anything else for the good of the order my sisters?

Roll Call: Link Glenda Masingale Manson CAVD

Well, I have a listing by your voice, your identification of your chapters that you are on the line.

In attendance: Links Glenda Masingale Manson CAVD; Linda King, Ann Arbor (MI); Regina Peal, Columbus (OH); Mary Madison, Des Moines (IA); Amy Parker, Greater Wayne County (MI); Deborah Thomas, Madison Metropolitan (WI); Veronica Chapman, Queen City (OH); Jacqueline Lewis, South Suburban Chicago (IL); Michelle Gentry Anderson, Tulsa (OK); Janice Beachum, Youngstown (OH); Kimberly Post, Memphis (TN); Susan Buford, Archway (MO); Melonie Jones, Jackson County (MO); Amy Parker, Greater Wayne County (MI); Lisa Ingram, Tri-City (MI); Michelle Gentry Anderson, Tulsa (OK); Cheryl Jones, Gateway (MO); Pat Rowles, Greater Kansas City (MO); Deidra Edwards, Cream City (WI);); Valerie Jones, Dayton (OH); Billye Sanders, Nashville (TN); Avice Reid, Knoxville (TN); Edna Harper, Springfield (OH); Terri Sanders, Omaha (NE); Winifred Green, Oakland County (MI)

There were 24 chapters present on the conference call

Closing Remarks: Link Glenda Masingale Manson CAVD

You may hang up. I give you a gift of 15 minutes of time. For those of you who have questions or would like to discuss something in a little more detail, please feel free to stay on the line. Good night to everyone else.

End Time: 7:45 p.m.

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