

The Portland Chapter of The Links, Incorporated
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2023

The Portland Chapter of The Links, Incorporated held the regular chapter meeting on February 11, 2023 at Portland Community College, Terrell Hall in room 200. The meeting was convened by President, Kimberly Matier and Linda Harris, recorder for Secretary, Sylvia Welch.

Members in attendance: Kimberly Matier, Rochelle Hunter James, Krishner Walker, Carla Penn-Hopson, Kymberly Horner, Felicia Wesson, Jackie N. Brown, Serena Ashley, Kismet Mills, Lakecia Gunter, Margie Cooper Stanton, Barbara Ward, Natalie Hooper, M. Yvonne Williams, Estella Brame, Maria Jackson, Harriet Adair, Karin Edwards, Kimberly Ireland, Linda Harris, Rochelle McElroy, Elaine Hartzog, Adriel Person.

The meeting began at 9:17 a.m.

Quorum: Yes

Linspiration: Link Lakecia- Shared an inspirational poem, "Ode to Being Black and Beautiful" by Theresa the Songbird at the TV 2019 Trumpet Awards.

Adoption of Agenda: Linda Harris made a motion to adopt the agenda. Motion was carried unanimously.

Approval of January 14, 2023 Chapter Meeting Minutes. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes with the correction of adding Link Elaine Hartzog as attending the meeting. Motion was carried unanimously.

President's Report: Report presented and filed. **Local:** MLK Celebration – We have a new generation in the space. Link Natalie was thanked for giving the make-up Ethics session for members who had not completed the training. Leadership Moment will resume at the next chapter meeting. Links Johnnie Stokes (47 years of service) and Rochelle McElroy (45 years of service) have both applied for Platinum Membership Status. **Area:** We participated in an Organizational Survey. Results will be shared when received for our next retreat. 46th WA Conference to be held in LA, May 30-June 4th. Call to Conference will be posted on Feb. 17. Fundraiser, "Purchase a Star in the Hall of Fame; three levels of sponsorship: \$5,000 level, \$2500 level and \$1,000. Please send text to Link Kimberly, if interested. Area wants to collect information early. **National:** No news were available.

Correspondence Secretary: Shared by Link Maria. Email inquiring about White Rose Scholarships. A request from student about scholarships. Mossie Oglive, Multnomah County, following up on our MLK table. Is interested in sponsoring a health event. Serena Ashley, thanks for the birthday card. Thanks to Links from Link Rochelle Hunter-James for condolences sent on the passing of her father.

Finance– *Rochelle Hunter-James* reported that we are still in process of taking dues for the program year. So far \$2,180 has been collected with \$12,045 outstanding for the program year. She will follow up with an email to members.

Link Kimberly Ireland –Western Area account was closed with the bank. Dues have increased by \$40. Our accountant, Fred Carter, has all records needed to complete the audit by the March 15th deadline. Link Barbra mentioned that Grant funds should be under Restricted (fundraising) rather than Operations.

Membership- Link Karin reported that two of three *candidates* have accepted our invitation to join The Links. We will meet them on Thursday, March 2nd. “*So Glad that She’s My Sister*”, nominations are due by April 30th. Link Karin will send a portal and help facilitate. Club 100+ for those who achieve 100 service hours by April 30th. Thanks for responding. If 50% of us had achieved 100 *volunteer hours* by January, our chapter will receive recognition. Please get information to Karin or send to Track it Forward. Link Natalie will help Link Karin set up Survey Monkey to capture the *age range* of Link members which is always needed on the annual Data Sheet.

One of *four values is confidentiality*. Keep private information secret. Candidate’s information and personally identifiable information. “It may be the truth, but it is not your truth to tell.” We should have that conversation about how we can be mindful of this. Before you say something, ask if it is kind, uplifting, or necessary? Is it sisterly? Link Kimberly M. said that sometimes health information may be shared, but not with the entire chapter. Before sharing, please give permission. Link Carla asked, “How do you apologize?” Be quick. It is important to repent.

Healthy Moments – Links Linda and Yvonne reported on Heart Health Month. “Take Five”. We have the power to improve our heart health with five simple steps: 1) Know your numbers, 2) Make and keep appointments 3) Take your medicine 4) Manage risk factors 5) Enlist and accept the support of friends. The six “Be a Friend of the Heart “webinars began this month and will end in October. We get service hours for the heart webinars. Kymberly H. mentioned that not everyone knows that you don’t have to use mouth to mouth recitation.

Programs – Link Linda reported that the National Program Report was submitted on February 2nd, with an extension this year of February 8th. The Integrated program includes, The Arts, NTS, STY, with HHS being the lead facet. Black K.A.R.E. was aligned with the health disparities defined in the A6 Oregon Health Authority’s Grant. The program is: Campaigns to Raise Awareness about CKD, HIV and STIs in the African American Community. The Coates Kokes Marketing Company will work with our billboards and digital advertising.

Black K.A.R.E.- Link Margie, stated that the Black KARE report has been Extended to February 15th. The committee meets every Monday. Meeting scheduled February 19 at 2:00 at Link Margie’s to stuff bags which consist of blankets, reading materials to be delivered to dialysis centers. Each Link was given five post cards to send to friends with a CKD message. We need 100% participation for active members to complete the Black K.A.R.E. training. Black Expo is a national activity that all chapters are expected to participate in. Our National President says that Impact is not just showing up, it is making a difference.

Fundraising – Link Margie reported that the first committee meeting is scheduled on March 1st, thirty minutes after the EC Meeting. Committee members are Links: Barbara Ward, Kimberly Ireland, Serena Ashley, Margie, Carla, Sylvia, Rochelle Hunter-James. A proposal is to have an online fundraiser. We can make donations, sell auction items and raffle tickets. Carla and Margie have identified a trip to auction. A second agenda item will be to identify a fundraiser for the next program year.

Announcements- Black Women Empowering Black Women – (BWEBW) - Link Lakecia announced that Helen Giddins from Texas needs thirty participants for a Zoom session. Each chapter is to identify one of two people in the community interested in running for office. It can also be someone who has previously run for office. Identification period has been extended to the end of the month. Link Lakecia would like for us to submit at least one person from Oregon to participate in this college. A reminder will be sent to Links.

Scholarship Meeting – Link Kymberly – The committee has been meeting every couple of weeks. They are identifying counselors and getting additional contacts. Thanks to the committee. Hope to have a bigger pool of applicants. Modified essay question on application. March 13 is the deadline for submission. Plan to host virtual or in-person meeting at the May Chapter Meeting. Want to refine the committee with focus on trade, construction, and health. High demand for construction trades and wrap around services once people are in housing. Thanks to Link Kimberly Ireland for making sure that students are receiving their scholarship checks. There is some difficulty getting people to do the inspection part of construction work. Support Dennis with Albina Construction Company.

Courtesy – Link Natalie - As part of membership, Links' Bingo was distributed. The first nine people who got Bingo received a wine glass. Serena Wesley's father is in Hospice. Link Shemeka is home recuperating following surgery. Happy Birthday to Links: Karin, Elaine and Serena Ashley.

Thanks to Link Carla for serving as hostess for the meeting today. Link Carla gave members roses that should last six months! Link Carla told us to look up the definition of a rose, which defines us all and whenever we are into our feelings, take a look at the rose.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:03p.m.

Linda J. Harris, Recording for
Secretary, Sylvia Welch