

THE CHAIN

A QUARTERLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

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VOICE OF YOUR PRESIDENT

Doris A. Johnson

The Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3 expresses the belief that there is a time for everything. It is important to know how to discern the "time" and "season" for every purpose. There is a season for nurturing others. There is also a time for nurturing oneself.

My tenure as your chapter president has been challenging but rewarding. We have laughed and cried together. We have lamented and experienced joy together. We have celebrated and anguished together. It is the "togetherness" that will be most treasured as I exit my role as your leader. Indeed, there is a season for nurturing others, and there is also a time for nurturing oneself.

Each friendship that has grown and flourished during the past four years are unique and will be forever treasured. These friendships developed during the times we spent together after meetings having lunch, during friendship activities, in our communities when we presented programs, etc. I think you get the gist. These were all opportunities for us to nurture the relationships that allow for friendship. You see, "friendships" are hallmarked by each other's desire to engage with the other. You are all valued and are a critical element to my social well-being. So, know that the season for nurturing our friendships will never expire.

(Continued on Next Page)

"KNOW BETTER - DO BETTER"



No doubt we are living in times of unprecedented uncertainties. Life as we have known it has been abruptly altered with no defined end in sight. This global occurrence which is accompanied with mandated social distancing and sheltering in place has limited our ability to serve our community members as planned for the remainder of this program year.

As a result, our "Know Better – Do Better" Women's Health Luncheon was cancelled. This event had a two-fold purpose: (1) to raise awareness about the disparities African-American women face with heart disease and breast cancer and (2) to raise funds to support our programs.

"Thank you" to all chapter members for fulfilling your assessment which is fully tax-deductible.

We rely on the financial support of you, our chapter members, and the generosity of community partners and stakeholders to fund our program efforts. We appreciate your continued trust with your contributions which enable us to address critical needs in various Manatee and Sarasota Counties communities. Be assured, the ability to serve our communities will be greater than ever, once the threat of any possible detrimental exposure has been eliminated.

Refunds are being assessed for guests who purchased tickets which aided you with attaining this assessment. However, we do hope that you will encourage them to consider converting their ticket purchases into donations.

VOICE OF YOUR PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

We have achieved so much together, and the blueprint that was etched during my administration will continue to be realized under the leadership of our new administration. I look forward to the continuity and expansion of some of the programs that we have embraced, as well as some that may be new and fresh. And while we have made many marks in our communities as Link sisters, we know that there is always so much more work to do. Because of this, "I will do my share toward serving my community and my chapter to the best of my ability."

Thank you, officers, members and friends for the opportunity to serve as your chapter president for the past four years. This chapter deserves to grow and prosper, and it will grow and prosper with your continued participation and nurturing.

CONNECTING THREADS



What is the name of the quilt pattern block being used?

Link Barbara, members of The Arts Facet and other chapter members continued to meet with students of the after-school program in Palmetto in partnership with Educational Consultants Consortium, Inc. Quilting Artist, Dana Cunningham facilitated this Southern Area Initiative which incorporated the STEM principles. Several Link sisters, in addition to the students, completed two-nine inch squares. Unfortunately, this project was not completed prior to COVID-19 but will be as soon as it is safe to reconvene. The twin-size quilt was displayed at the 46th Southern Area Conference. Its final disposition will be at the Safe House in Nassau, Bahamas.

The Churn Dash is a very old 9-Patch quilt block pattern, originating between 1800 and 1849. Its name is a result of the resemblance of the triangle and rectangle perimeter of the block to a butter churn and the center square to the stick (or "dash") of the butter churn.

Answer: Churn Dash Quilt Block



OFF THE CHAIN KNOW YOUR BYLAWS (T/F)

(T F) Candidates are required to take part in a minimum of 4 orientation sessions prior to induction.

(T F) An alumna member shall give notice to the President when she plans to participate in any activity requiring a fee or assessment.

(T F) The Assistant Financial Secretary and Assistant Treasurer are not bonded positions

(T F) The Planning Workshop should be coordinated by the Organizational Effectiveness Chair.

(T F) The Executive Board shall consist of the 7 elected officers, the 3 appointed officers, the strategic planning chair and the immediate past president.

National Poster Art Competition

"Transforming Communities by Making Health a Habit"

The artwork created by students at Watford Hill Primary School in Hopewell (Hanover Parish) Jamaica, WI was judged based on creativity, artistic ability and content. Winners in Category 1 (Grade 1-3) and Category 2 (Grades 4-6) are shown below. These posters were submitted to compete in the National Poster Art Competition at this year's National Assembly.



Artist, Rogenia Lysaith, Grade 5

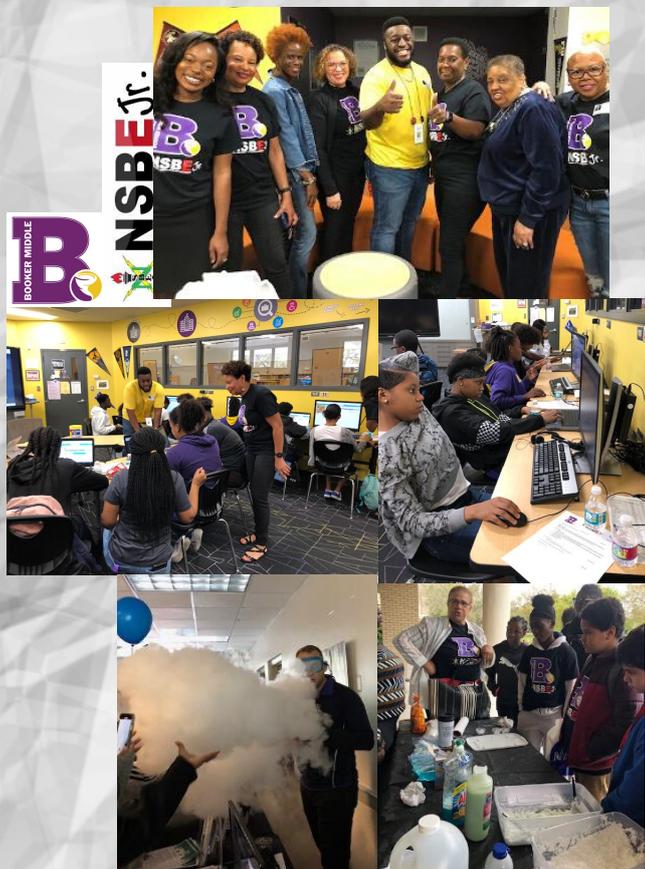


Artist, Lee-Janae Campbell, Grade 2

Services to Youth

While other programs planned by this facet were derailed by the global pandemic, the NSBE, Jr. Chapter Program at Booker Middle School was up and running. Elections had taken place; a meeting to review the NSBE Constitution and how to conduct their meetings was conducted; a representative from the University of Florida facilitated "Pathways to Engineering"; the students participated in our Southern Area-Wide Founders' Day STEAM Conference; a presentation and demonstration by the Sarasota Police Department captured the students' attention; they participated in a field trip to USF's Engineering Expo for the second year and the final session before the unexpected interruption in their robust schedule was an Introduction to Coding. A Microsoft representative, Giovanni Dominique, provided coding instructions to the NSBE, Jr. Chapter Students, as well as Link sisters who were in attendance just prior to the mandate from the governor to close all schools in the state.

The top three photos to the right represent activities during the Introduction to Coding session. The bottom two document students at USF's Engineering Expo in February of this year.



4th Global Delegation to Jamaica

Links LaVerne Green, Brenda Belsito, Betty Easley and Doris Johnson of the Bradenton/Sarasota (FL) Chapter were among many who traveled to Jamaica to continue transforming our communities "Across the Miles" on February 17-20 of this year. Link Carolyn Glenn also traveled with the delegation and was very instrumental in coordinating the visit and the work that was performed at Watford Hill Primary School in Hopewell (Hanover Parish). During this mission trip, Link LaVerne demonstrated to students the proper method of handwashing using acrylic paints, Link Brenda facilitated the NSBE, Jr. Program and continued the curriculum about energy, focusing on solar energy. She also provided instruction to parents on water purification. Link Betty Easley assisted with the Arts class, and Link Doris educated students about "Preventing Sexual Abuse" and taking ownership of their bodies.

National Trends & Services

Link Lois and her facet planned and implemented the first of a three part "AARP; Are You Ready" panel discussions. The first session on February 20, 2020 was moderated by Mrs. Renee' James Gilmore. Topics included **Pharmaceuticals and Health Literacy** with presenters Dr. Gerald Bruce, Dr. Janine James, Dr. Janet Taylor and Dr. Washington Hill. The two remaining sessions were interrupted by COVID-19. They were **Financial Literacy** featuring Dr. Sharon-Elizabeth James, Mrs. Francina Hollaway and Mr. George Quarterman. The final discussion would have been facilitated by Link Kariumu Hill-Harvey, Ronald Futtrell-Hobson, MSPH and Dr. Janet Taylor and would have focused on Dementia/Alzheimer's Caregiving. All panel discussions were scheduled to occur at Selby Library.



Madam President

For Link Doris, a note of thanks
From throughout your chapter ranks
We're grateful for the years you spent
As our distinguished president
You got results, lest you forget
One thousand-plus hours
And big goals met
Just a few are captured here
With hope that you will hold them dear
From the start you roused your team
Shared your vision and your dreams
Rolled up your sleeves and dove right in
And took us where we'd never been
Your chapter sisters heard your call
And proudly tried to do it all
Middle schoolers in Manatee
Learned to eat more healthily
And then we helped them be their best
Through mental health and mindfulness
We partnered with AARP
And Habitat for Humanity
A NSBE Jr. chapter started
And new careers in STEM were charted
Symposiums sparked conversation
About "Black Lives Matter" and "Immigration"
We flew to Jamaica to serve up smiles
And "Education Across the Miles"
And students and their school were blessed
With our poster art contest
Then there were breast cancer screens
For women with no financial means
At the Area Conference in Orlando
We helped to make all systems go
Your entire team stayed busy
And led or served on each committee
And your sisters led the way
When Sarasota welcomed Founder's Day
So thanks, Link Doris
For four long years
Of friendship, service, sweat and tears
You made us proud
You did your best
And now we wish you love ...
And rest

Dianne Earley 4/10/20



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Candidates Announcement

by Link LaVerne Green

It is a privilege to be selected as a candidate in The Links, Incorporated. The Membership Committee is proud to introduce you to our largest class of candidates of The Bradenton/Sarasota (FL) Chapter: Margaret Coleman, Jennifer Lewis, Jeanette Planes, Towanda Redmond, Florence Shelton-Clark, Ericka Sheppard, Tia Sheppard, and Asa Thomas. Thanks to all members who sponsored these ladies into a sisterhood where there is no doubt they will contribute significantly to our chapter and our community.

All candidate inductions and celebratory post-induction events are suspended until further notice. Please support the candidates as they begin their journey into Linkdom. We are planning an open session where Chapter Members can have a Zoom face to face experience with the candidates in May. Please stay tuned for further details. The Membership Committee of 2018-2020 thank you for your friendship, service and support.

March HONORS

Charter Members Honored



L-R: Charter Members Sharon -Elizabeth James, Karen Chester, Chapter President Doris Johnson, Charter Members Laura Ward and Yvonne Brown.

Retirement Congratulations!



Link Dianna Smith retires from UF-IFAS Extension

CONGRATULATIONS 2020 - 2022 ELECTED OFFICERS

President

Link LaVerne M. Green

1st VP/Membership

Link Brenda C. Belsito

2nd VP/Programs

Link Marilyn Thompson

Recording Secretary

Link Elma Browning McKay

Corresponding Secretary

Link Tamara Williams

Financial Secretary

Link Adrienne Ward Paramore

Treasurer

Link Shirley Michaud

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April
06 M. Thompson 14 N. Boxill-Thompson
21 P. Greer 25 T. Miles-Brown 30 S. Michaud

May
05 T. Brown 14 J. Ray 24 B. Sturdivant

June
12 D. Johnson 14 P. Mezile 18 E. Oldwine
28 C. Glenn

