

2020 - Welcome to the Potomac (VA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated's Website!

Welcome! I have the honor and privilege of serving as the 13th president of The Potomac (VA) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated. Our Chapter is comprised of over 80 exceptionally talented women who are committed to volunteering their time to provide transformative programming in the Washington, DC metropolitan area where we serve.

The Links, Incorporated is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946. The membership consists of over 16,000 professional women of color in 288 chapters located in 41 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, and the United Kingdom. It is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations and is comprised of extraordinary women who are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry while remaining Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service. See www.linksinc.org.

In June of 1984, the Potomac (VA) Chapter was chartered as the 206th chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Originally organized as the Beltway Women's League interest group, the Potomac (VA) chapter celebrates over 36 years of friendship and impactful service in the surrounding community. In alignment with our national framework, our chapter's service commitment is implemented through our five programming facets: *Services to Youth, National Trends and Services, Health and Human Services, International Trends and Services and The Arts*. Each facet consists of members of the Potomac (VA) Chapter who are committed to excellence and sisterly service. For the 2019-2020 program year, Potomac (VA) members volunteered in excess of 4,500 documented service hours to implement our transformational programming.

Potomac (VA) Chapter members are also active at the local, area and national level of The Links, Incorporated. We are proud to share that the 13th National President of The Links, Incorporated, as well as The Links' current Eastern Area Treasurer, Eastern Area Protocol Chair, National STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Chair, and National Linkages to Life Chair are members of the Potomac (VA) chapter. Both the LINKS-STEMREADY Program and the Linkages to Life Program are among the eight Signature Programs of The Links, Incorporated, which is our highest level of international programming. In addition to these leadership roles, other members of the Potomac (VA) Chapter serve on National, Area and/or chapter committees.

The Potomac (VA) Chapter's service model follows an umbrella programming structure. In partnership with Cardozo Educational Campus, a combined middle school and high school in Northwest Washington, DC, we conduct educational and cultural enrichment programs and celebrations for the students and other members of the surrounding community. Our programming efforts include:

- ❖ Chartering a LINKS-NSBE, Jr. (National Society of Black Engineers) chapter at Cardozo to increase students' STEM awareness and preparedness for STEM careers;
- ❖ Promoting healthy dietary habits and exercise to address the childhood obesity epidemic;
- ❖ Presenting seminars and workshops that address women's heart health;

- ❖ Celebrating International Women’s Day with featured speakers and topics;
- ❖ Promoting “Pumps on the Hill”, The Links, Incorporated’s National Legislative Day on Capitol Hill, which provides information on legislator access and issues affecting our communities;
- ❖ Increasing literacy and promoting reading among disadvantaged youth;
- ❖ Working with youth to increase and enhance self-esteem;
- ❖ Offering varied explorations of the Arts including dance instruction, DC mural docent tours, and pottery making;
- ❖ Providing scholarships to selected Washington, DC metropolitan area high school students pursuing a college education; and
- ❖ Relaunching our prized “High Expectations” program to provide mentoring, support and guidance to middle school girls as they matriculate through high school.

I encourage you to explore our site and learn more about the Potomac (VA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated!

Sincerely yours,

Jeanette Conrad-Ellis

Chapter President

Potomac (VA) Chapter

The Links, Incorporated