



Our Presidents



TLOD TRANSFORMING

Lives

Teen Mariah Liedy
National TFA President
2021-2023

Lady Sharon J. Beard
National TLOD President and CEO
2019-2023



The TLOD STORY

A HISTORY OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE

Motto: "Serving Youth and Adults"

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. was chartered in the state of Texas on September 8, 1964 as a non-profit educational, humanitarian organization with the following as charter members: Mrs. Franchell Boswell, Tyler, Texas; Mrs. Ina Bolton Brown, Houston, Texas; Mrs. Augusta R. Cash, Memphis, Tennessee; Major Ozell M. Dean, Washington, D.C.; Mrs. Willie Lee Glass, Tyler, Texas; Mrs. La Verne R. Madlock, Tyler, Texas; Mrs. Ruth Payne Smith, Navasota, Texas; and Mrs. Georgia B. Presswood Nelson, Dallas, Texas. The vision and service of these eight dedicated women created the TLOD Story.

In 1964 while serving as "first lady" at Texas College in Tyler, Texas, Mrs. Willie Lee Glass was the recipient of a luncheon invitation from Mrs. Lyndon Baines Johnson, "First Lady" of the United States of America and a fellow Texan. Mrs. Glass, with her wisdom, summoned a former student, a Texas College graduate and a Major in the United States Air Force, to represent her at this power luncheon. Major Ozell M. Dean, a resident of Washington, D.C., answered the call to represent one of her mentors; and she was among a multi-disciplinary bevy of outstanding women from all over the world to attend the luncheon.

Major Dean was impressed and inspired as a result of what took place at the luncheon. She shared her enthusiasm with Mrs. Glass and also contacted a relative in Tyler, Texas, Mrs. Franchell Boswell. These trailblazers assisted Major Dean in contacting other persons to ascertain if enough concern, interest, and strength could be generated among distinguished women (who would agree to work cooperatively) to help alleviate the myriad of problems confronting youth in our respective communities. A group of distinguished and respected women answered the call. It is from this idea and nucleus that Top Ladies of Distinction, Incorporated has developed into an internationally known and respected public service organization.

The first meeting to establish policies and to enact governing laws for the organization was held June 4, 1964 at Texas College in Tyler, Texas. The purpose of the organization was to marshal the talents, energies, and skills of women nationally in a collaborative effort to help alleviate the moral and social problems confronting our youth in the mid-sixties. Thus, the organization was born.

Since its inception, the organization has expanded its objectives to include its focus on youth (known as Top Teens of America), improving the status of women, service to senior citizens, community beautification, and community partnerships. Chapters nationwide support the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), United Negro College Fund (UNCF), and the awarding of national scholarships to at least one in each of TLOD's six geographic areas. Moreover, TLOD has included in its program, a cooperative peer education facet with Top Teens of America and the National Foundation, March of Dimes.

Membership in TLOD has grown to include thousands of dedicated, concerned, hardworking members. The Ladies represent a cross-section of resourceful woman power, all of who work in the interest of the more than 4,000 Top Teens. Top Ladies support other major thrusts of the organization geared toward enhancing the quality of life for our fellow human beings.

Ongoing programs and projects are important to the fulfillment of TLOD's mission. As "shapers of change," members of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. have, through each administration, continued their efforts toward "Serving Youth and Adults."

TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC. THE CROWN

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Top Ladies of

Distinction
Incorporated



**MESSAGE FROM THE
NATIONAL PRESIDENT & CEO**

Lady Sharon J. Beard

***“Transforming Lives One Moment in Time ... Acknowledging the Service,
Recognizing the Traditions, and Continuing the Legacy.”***

My Dear Ladies, Teens, and Lords,

Welcome to the 2023 edition *THE CROWN*. This year’s edition is a celebration of the outstanding work completed by our Ladies, Teens, and Lords during the Transformation Administration as we continue to serve youth and adults during extraordinary times.

Your service and your commitment have continued to propel TLOD forward. We have introduced new Ladies and Teens to our organization and established chapters in new communities. We are continuing to find new and innovative ways to positively impact the communities that we serve.

As we bring the Transformation Administration to a close, we want to salute your efforts and your work as you transformed lives during this very special moment in time. During a time of uncertainty, a time that was unprecedented, you stayed steadfast to our traditions, our values, and our mission and continued our legacy that began with our founders 58 years ago.

Throughout the past four years, our organization’s reach has been documented through your hours and your reports. Every TLOD thrust and project has been successful in transforming our cities, our states, and our country. From the youngest citizen to our most mature seniors, we have made a difference one Teen, one Lady, and one community at a time.

It has been my distinct pleasure and my honor to serve as your National President and CEO. I have enjoyed working with you as we changed the trajectory of our beloved organization and empowered our Ladies and Teens to continue to be TOPS in service. I am in awe of the results that we have been able to accomplish that uplift our Teens, assist women of all walks and backgrounds, take care of our senior citizens, beautify our communities, and partner with like-minded organizations. Even through a pandemic that plagued the world, your service rose to the top bringing hope and resources to many.

Thank you for joining me on this journey to transform lives while serving youth and adults. The work that you did, and continue to do, for TLOD will live on..... and the Best is Yet to Come!

Yours in Service,

Lady Sharon J. Beard

Lady Sharon J. Beard
National President and CEO

TLOD TRANSFORMATION TEAM

2019-2023 PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

“Surviving and Thriving Beyond the Challenges and Realizing the Endless Possibilities”

I deem it an honor and a privilege to serve and represent Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. as National President and CEO. God granted me favor and placed me in this position, at this appointed time for such a time as this. We know that for the past three years, COVID-19 and variations of Covid have increasingly impacted all of our day-to-day lives. But we are still here, and we know that God is still in control. Ladies, your service, and your impact are helping to change this world.

God granted us the privilege to witness Parliamen-Top 2019 wherein our ultimate goal was to design a course of action inclusive of continuous program elements, predictions, projections, dazzling ideas, and some innovation in technologies that would make the transformation administration transition relevant, smooth, transparent, and ultimately serve as a blueprint to meet the needs of youth and adults. And amid everything (the pandemic, the riots, social injustice, and economic turmoil ladies you pushed through, and you made everything happen. I must pause at this moment and thank all the members of the Detroit Chapter for being the host of the virtual Synod 2021. It was a history-making moment, it was phenomenal, and there were 1,425 ladies registered and 578 Top Teens. We tagged the event, “It cannot be explained, it must be experienced and wow, did you allow us to live up to that slogan! Just hopefully Ladies, over the past three ½ years, you have felt the impact of the Transformation team’s contributions and efforts in short order.

Now, since March of 2020, we have lived through this pandemic fulfilling the mission of TLOD. We have been intentional about keeping the members connected and involved until we were back together again. We have pivoted, shifted, and created new ways of conducting business while ensuring that the membership continues to be engaged and the communities continue to be served. We will remain true to the dreams of our eight Founders, as we remain resilient, relevant, and focused on moving our programs and projects forward. I am exceptionally grateful for each new member who made the decision to join our illustrious sisterhood.

Before I get into my report, I wish to pause to thank you for all the cards, texts, phone calls, plants, flowers, gifts, and expressions of condolences extended to me and my family during our time of bereavement. Ladies, you have been so kind to me, and I thank you. Thank you all for your courage, determination, enthusiasm, and dedication to continuing the work of TLOD in these uncertain times. Your service and your work are appreciated. Thanks again to each of you for helping to keep each other engaged and working even closer together throughout this time. The pandemic allowed us the opportunity to re-invent and to re-imagine Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Yes, we were forced to do something that we have never done before. We made history! We took lemons and made lemonade. We have had momentous events and innovative programming. We learned how to pause, transform, adapt, pivot, and shift on our way to the next level of service, adjusting at a different time and place in the history of our organization. What worked for our Founders 58 years ago may not work for us presently. Whenever and wherever there is change, there is uncertainty and a possibility for opportunity. Ladies, we have certainly had our share of change with a purpose clearly in mind. One TLOD, One Voice with endless possibilities. So, we all have been standing on faith, standing on His word. and standing on his promises that we were going to make it over on the other side of the pandemic and be alright. We are living in various times, which calls for different measures. So, while we continued to do the work of TLOD, we witnessed other momentous events all around us. We hit some highs and some low points, and we experienced some trials and triumphs, but we are grateful for the experience.

We have been doing remarkable things in all of our 126 chapters and communities where we have a presence. TLOD status remains not good, but great! Let us look at some of our achievements over the past year 2021 - 2022:

Our membership continues to grow. In January, we were just required to increase our insurance premium because our membership numbers are over 6,500 members. Since February 2022, we have inducted 747 ladies and 689 Top Teens. These numbers have increased since my completion of this report. Since March 2022, we have welcomed four new chapters: and we have two chapters pending. We currently have a total of 13 chartered chapters and an interest group in Hawaii that Lady Eddie Lee, Chapter Establishment Chair, and I are working on. We have completed 47 transfers for the Ladies and 11 for the Top Teens. We have successfully completed all nine sessions of the TLOD Model of Excellence in Leadership. There were more than 650 ladies registered for the class. Certificates have been distributed to those who completed the work. If you participated and you have not received your certificate, please notify Lady Janice Simmons, National Training and Leadership Development Chair. The **strategic growth of the organization** continues to produce positive results. The Electronic Post Event Evaluation Reporting Tool has proven to be an excellent tool, as we continue to look for ways to improve the process. Thankfully, we continue to see record innovation in how chapters work, bringing new service ideas to life and new possibilities, One Teen, One Lady, and one community at a time. The National Strategic Plan is on target, and you may log on to the website to review set goals, and updates, as we move with the agenda to accomplish the 4-year goals of the Transformation Administration. We're so pleased and happy to report that we had a very successful National TTA Vivien Coe Richard Leadership Academy which was held in St. Louis, MO. at Washington State University last summer, in which TTA Area and National Officers were also present.

We've utilized our COVID-19 Task Force, Risk Management, and Emergency Response Committee to assist us in our assessment and review of the COVID-19 situation awareness. We have released our plan in phases. We are currently in Phase III open and conducting business in person keeping the membership informed at all times.

As we continue to strengthen our infrastructure, we must re-evaluate our leadership roles and make sure that there is accountability. If you run for an office, please make sure that you possess the keys (knowledge, skills, and abilities in order to perform the duties of the position for which you are seeking BEFORE you run for that office. As we prepare to elect new officers, please make sure that your support is for someone you know who is equipped and can perform the job.

We have contributed approximately \$37,000 to Sickle Cell awareness. Currently, we are supporting the Sleeve Up writing campaign for Sickle Cell. St. Jude held a Celebration of Hope on January 20 -23, 2023. Because they too had not met in two years, they pulled out all the stops. It was phenomenal. we truly witnessed a celebration, the National St. Jude's Chair and National St. Jude Co-Chair, Lady Rycal attended the celebration along with me. With the support of NCNW and the Good Health Wins grant, we provided funding to chapters who made the request. Funds are currently available, and we are preparing to submit for the next round of funds at \$30,000. Get ready chapters to make the request for those available funds. Thank you to every Chapter, Chapter president, and Chapter 1st and 2nd vice presidents for moving the agenda with the Pink and Blue Service Day. It was and has been a success since its inception and we appreciate all your hard work.

Ladies, our bottom line is good. The operational accounts, TTA, Merchant and investment accounts are all operating in the black. Our Finances are sound. The Auditor is currently working with the 990s for the 2022 tax year.

Since February 2022, I attended Areas I, II, III, IV, V, and VI conferences virtually and in person. Thank you for allowing me to attend, on behalf of the organization, the National Convention of NAACP in Atlantic

City in which we were pleased to have the National NAACP Chairman, Lady Yolanda Avery, join me. I also attended the National Summit for March of Dimes in Phoenix, AZ, along with the National March of Dimes Chair, Lady Kym Elders, and the National NCNW Biennial Convention held in November 2022. In September, I attended the National Congressional Black Caucus and while there, I attended a reception sponsored by Sigma Gamma Rho and the National International Basileus, Lady Rasheeda Liberty. While in DC, I was a part of the March of Dimes National Partners Leadership meeting. I also had the opportunity to attend the National NCNW Biennial Convention held in November 2022.

We must be involved in helping to write the policies. Legislative Action must be at the top of our agenda. Get involved in the legislature system. The reform of the criminal justice system is so important. We must continue to be involved in the lives of our Top Teens. Thank you, Ladies, for investing in their future. We must continue to measure and talk about our work in diverse ways and to inspire confidence among our new and young members who also have new and innovative ideas. We must all function as partners in the work of uplifting youth and adults. It is a heavy load and no one person in our organization can do it alone! Nor can we continue to do everything the way that it “used to be done!” This pandemic taught us that we needed to develop new models, new methods, and new members to ensure TLOD rises to her full stature and has sustained leadership capacity for many years to come. How do you tell your story, whether it is your own personal story or the chapter’s story? How will you create the change that you want to see? Sadly, as our nation becomes more diverse, it is also more divided. We can point to progress in so many areas. At the same time, we must face the reality that we have a long way to go toward creating a true and just equitable society.

Be encouraged, my sisters! TLOD will continue to create the change that we want to see. Ask yourself, what will I do with this moment? When we talk about transformational leadership, we should make sure that we are clear about what we mean. TLOD is a vast network of women from all social classes who are properly mobilized, remarkable, unstoppable, and destined to be great! Our biggest victories are yet to come. We know that we are not as strong as we will be, but thanks be to God, TLOD is still here—standing, with greater stability, stellar leadership within the organization, and a way forward. Thank you for what you have done and what you will do to uphold and build on the rich legacy that we have inherited. What do YOU see? What do you HOPE we will do or become? Together—that is the only way that we will transform TLOD and the lives of youth and adults in our communities.

Yes, we have work to do. We hope something good comes from all of this. America is looking for Hope, Understanding, and Peace. things will get better. Hold on, everything is going to be all right. During SynLod, we will celebrate the accomplishments and achievements we have had over the past four years. And the Best is Yet to come!

The Syn-Lod 2023 theme is Transforming Lives One Moment in Time.... Acknowledging the Service, Respecting the Tradition, and Continuing the Legacy.”

Model of Excellence

TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC.'S (TLOD) MODEL OF EXCELLENCE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM 2022 – CHARTERING CLASS

Goals

- Achieve improvement in management, governance, sustainability and overall ability for all Chapters to deliver impactful service to their communities.
- Strengthen Chapters systemically by creating a strong network of members who are trained and certified on TLOD governance and expectations.
- Consolidate best leadership practices for use by all TLOD Chapter Presidents and members of our organization.
- Develop leaders in TLOD and improve every aspect of their lives.
- Equip leaders/future leaders with the tools needed to manage conflicts and create an atmosphere where sisterly bonds and relationships flourish – COVID-19 perfect example.
- Certify future leaders in TLOD Leadership Development Training Program requirements.

Sessions

- ① Program Overview/Leader Qualities
- ② Before the Oath/Protocol
- ③ Your First Meeting/Communication Imperatives
- ④ Relationship Between the Chapter President and the Chapter/the TTA Advisor
- ⑤ Officers/Leaders as the Face of TLOD
- ⑥ Membership Matters - Recruiting, Retaining and Reclaiming Top Ladies; Embracing New Top Ladies
- ⑦ Embracing New Ideas/No Cliques Allowed
- ⑧ Succession Planning – Securing Your Chapter's Future
- ⑨ Area Directors Forum/Enforcing the Code of Conduct



National Editor of The Crown Message

Greetings Top Ladies,

It is a pleasure to greet you as National Editor of *The Crown*. Sincere thanks to our National TLOD President and CEO Lady Sharon J. Beard for the opportunity to chronicle TLOD's history of service and significance with this second edition during her historic administration.

Orchids and appreciation to the nearly 90 chapters who responded to the call for articles and other information submitted for publication. Commendations to our National President and CEO, National First Vice President, National Second Vice President, National Top Teens Director, and National Area Directors. These officers are a critical link in ensuring that our national program and projects were assembled and accurately documented to showcase the work and accomplishments of more than 115 TLOD and TTA Chapters. Commendations to all and job well done!



Lady Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson

Thank you to *The Crown* Editorial Team who stepped forth to assist once again, with development and production of this second edition of *The Crown* under the Transforming administration. Without their tireless efforts and countless hours, this periodical would not have been possible. Thank you to Ladies: Latricia Woods (Phoenix Chapter), Markita Grant (Atlanta Peachtree Chapter), Kimberly Willis Green (Atlanta Peachtree Chapter) and Tisa Smart Washington (NewRock Chapter) for their hard work on this high quality and informative publication. Warm regards as well to Lady Crystal Davis for her work with *The Crown* membership outreach activities.

Top Ladies, please enjoy this issue of *The Crown*. Sincere appreciation again to all who contributed to its success. This was truly a TEAM effort and I am humbled and grateful to each Top Lady who stepped forth to assist.

Yours in the spirit of gold, silver and pink!

Lady Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson

Lady Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson
National Editor of *The Crown*



2023 *Crown* Editorial Team



OUR **TLOD**
Founders

Clockwise from top left
Lady Willie Lee Glass
Lady Franchell Boswell
Lady Laverne R. Madlock
Lady Augusta Latham
Lady Ruth Payne Smith
Lady Ozell M. Dean
Lady Ina B. Brown
Lady Georgia Presswood Nelson



PAST

T L O D

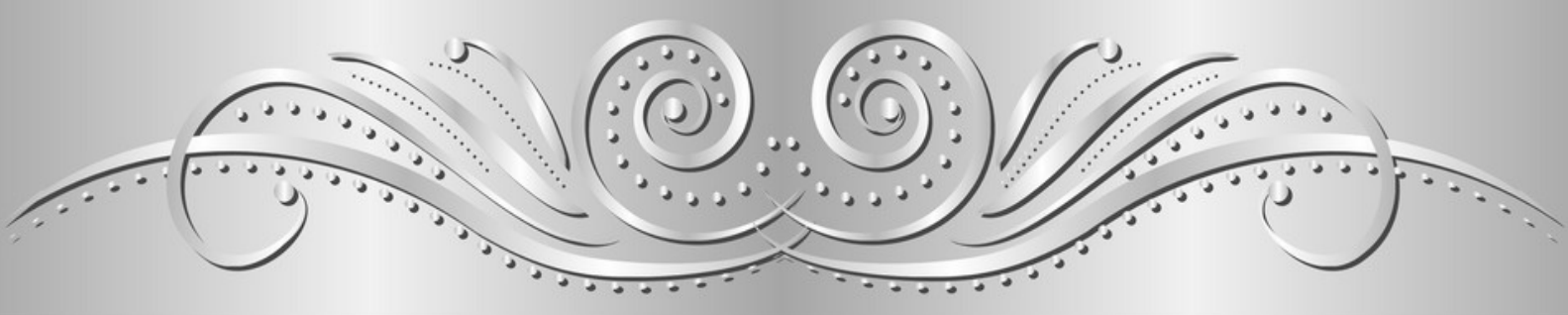


National

Presidents



Past National Presidents



Lady Bobbie Moorehead, 5th National President
Lady Jacquelyn H. Parker, 6th National President
Lady Dorothy Allen Chimney, 8th National President
Lady Peggy Lewis LeCompte, 10th National President
Lady Jackie Pope, 11th National President
Lady Audrie L. Lawton, 12th National President
Lady Drema Lee Woldman, 13th National President

*Lady Franchell E. Boswell
*Lady Faye B. Bryant
*Lady Vivian Crawley
*Lady Marie Stellos
*Lady LaVerne Madlock
*Lady Vivien Coe Richard

*Deceased



HONORARY MEMBERS

Lady Barbara Jordan*
Lady Rosa Parks*
Lady Daisy L. Bates*
Lady Ophelia DeVore Mitchell*
Lady Jacqueline Vaughn*
Lady Dorothy I. Height*
Lady Deborah Cannon Wolfe*
Lady Hazel Brown*
Lady Frankie Muse Freeman*

Lady Margaret Adams*
Lady Gloria Scott
Lady Maxine Waters
Lady Anita Bunkley
Lady Jane E. Smith*
Lady Charlotte Maull
Lady Eunice Dudley
Lady Barbara Shaw
Lady Julianne Malveaux
Lady Yolanda Moore
Lady Myrlie Evers-Williams
Lady Glenda Baskin Glover
Lady Pernessa Seele
Lady Juanita Sims Doty
Dr. Johnetta Betsch Cole
Dr. Thelma Thomas Daley

2021 - 2023 National Officers



Lady Sharon J. Beard
National President and CEO



Lady Eddie Lee Marsh
National 1st
Vice President



Lady Jacqueline Wilcher
National 2nd
Vice President



Lady DiAnn Robinson
National
Recording Secretary



Lady Rhonda Harris
National
Corresponding Secretary



Lady Cheryl Williams
National
Financial Secretary



Lady Kala Walton
National
Treasurer



Lady Betty Edwards
National Assistant
Financial Secretary



Lady Kendra Gillespie
National
TTA Director



Lady Vickie Henry Hughes
National Assistant
TTA Director



Lady Alice Grigsby
National
Historian



Lady Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson
National
Editor of the Crown



Lady Valencia Edner
National
Chaplain



Lady Jacqueline Roundtree
National
Parliamentarian



Lady Crystal Pittman
National
Sergeant-at-Arms



Lady Michelle Smalls
National
Director of Operations



Lady Annie Mouton
National
Area I Director



Lady Hope Ruffin
National
Area II Director



Lady Stephanie Dunn
National
Area III Director



Lady Adrienne Boner
National
Area IV Director



Lady Marsha Wells
National
Area V Director



Lady Wanda Beauman
National
Area VI Director



Lady Sandra Jeffery
National Executive Assistant
to the President



NATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2021-2023

NATIONAL THRUSTS CHAIRS

National Service to Youth Chair – Lady Kendra Gillespie
 National Service to Youth Co-Chair – Lady Vicky Henry Hughes
 National Service to Youth Co-Chair – Lady Karen Brown
 National Status of Women Chair – Lady Dorothy Bryant
 National Status of Women Co-Chair – Lady Patty Edwards
 National Status of Women Co-Chair – Lady Angela Davis
 National Beautification Chair – Lady Lula Patton
 National Beautification Co-Chair – Lady Willmotine Ellis
 National Beautification Co-Chair – Lady Sharon Moseley
 National Senior Citizens Chair – Lady Cherise Brown Easley
 National Senior Citizens Co-Chair – Lady Tara Taylor
 National Senior Citizens Co-Chair – Lady Rosalind Lattier
 National Community Partnerships Chair – Lady Annetra Piper
 National Community Partnerships Co-Chair – Lady Mary Wilkinson
 National Community Partnerships Co-Chair – Lady Deneen Williams

NATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

National Recommendations Chair – Lady Babette DeLay
 National Recommendations Co-Chair – Lady Mary Louise Batiste
 National Resolutions Chair – Lady Doris Brown
 National Constitution & Bylaws Chair – Lady Jackie Roundtree
 National Budget & Finance Chair – Lady Kala Walton
 National Scholarship Chair – Lady Yolanda Smith
 National Scholarship Co-Chair – Lady Chastity Gaither DeVoe
 National Scholarship Co-Chair – Lady Naomi Nesbitt
 National Information Technology Chair – Lady Deloris Brazille
 National Information Technology Co-Chair – Lady Keisha Heard
 National Public Relations Chair – Lady LaTricia Woods
 National Public Relations Co-Chair – Lady Kimberly Willis Green
 National Legislative Action Chair – Lady Kimberly Underdue
 National Legislative Action Co-Chair – Lady Dee Dawkins-Haigler
 National Legislative Action Co-Chair – Lady Bessie Fletcher
 National Nominating Chair – Lady Annette Mitchell
 National Awards Chair – Lady Delois Hall
 National Awards Co-Chair – Lady Mesha Jackson
 National Awards Co-Chair – Lady Johnnie Gales
 National Membership Chair – Lady Mary Hunter
 National Membership Co-Chair – Lady Claudia Lee
 National Membership Co-Chair – Lady Judy Washington
 Director of Operations – Lady Anette Michelle Smalls

NATIONAL PROJECT CHAIRS

National Literacy Chair – Lady Shanita Akintonde
 National Literacy Co-Chair – Lady Phyllis Tarkington
 National Literacy Co-Chair – Lady Nneka Hobbs
 National Sickle Cell Chair – Lady Cherrisse Johnson
 National Sickle Cell Co-Chair – Lady Sophia Hardy
 National Sickle Cell Co-Chair – Lady Shelly Henderson
 National NAACP Chair – Lady Yolanda Avery
 National NAACP Co-Chair – Lady Karlissa Carter
 National NCNW Chair – Lady Melba Ford
 National NCNW Co-Chair – Lady Johnnie Durden
 National UNCF Chair – Elnora Norwood
 National UNCF Co-Chair – Lady Tonya Mosby
 National UNCF Co-Chair – Lady Teresa Dillard
 National March of Dimes Chair – Lady Kym Elder
 National March of Dimes Co-Chair – Lady Barbara Stowe
 National St. Jude Chair – Lady Michelle Bell
 National St. Jude Co-Chair – Lady Rycal Carter
 National St. Jude Co-Chair – Lady Jan Williams
 Vivan Coe Richard Academy Dean – Lady Mavis Merritt
 Vivan Coe Richard Academy Co-Dean – Lady Karen Wince
 Vivan Coe Richard Academy Co-Dean – Lady Katina Wright

*Executive Assistant to the President – Lady Sandra Jeffery

2021-2023 NATIONAL TTA OFFICERS



Teen Asia White
First Vice President



Teen Mariah Liedy
President



Teen Brelyn McDonald
Second Vice President



Teen Zada Washington
Recording Secretary



Teen Danita Carter
Asst Recording Secretary



Teen Ashlee Murphy
Financial Secretary



Teen Akira Brown
Treasurer



Teen Christina-Rae Lucero
Corresponding Secretary



Teen Jada Brown
Asst Financial Secretary



Teen Heleana Moses
Parliamentarian



Teen Gwendolyn Thomas
Chaplain



Teen Kaisse Haynes
Historian



Teen Kayla Luss
Sergeant-At-Arms



Teen Kyla Harper
Director of Operations



PARLIAMEN-TOP 2019
Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.®

The Parliamen-Top Business Meeting of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. convened September 26-29, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Dallas Hotel in Dallas, Texas. The national theme: "Celebrating Our Legacy: Transforming Lives, One Teen, One Lady, and One Community at a Time," was portrayed extensively throughout the agenda.as

Whereas: The 14th National President, Lady Sharon J. Beard, of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. was received with inaugural congratulatory well wishes from community representatives of the city of Dallas.

Whereas: Sincere appreciation was extended to members who accepted duties and responsibilities of leadership as Officers and Committee Chairperson, as said members initiated the processes for the business matters of the organization.

Whereas: The 55th Emerald Anniversary marked the first presentation of "TLOD Living Legends."

Whereas: The concept of Intergenerational Differences was unlocked with wisdom and passion fostering greater understanding of all generations involved in organizational relations.

Whereas: Active Ladies who have one of the following lineages within TLOD, Mothers/Daughters, Mother/Daughter/Granddaughter, Sister/Sister, Aunt/Niece, were celebrated.

Be It Resolved That: Sincere gratitude is extended to the Founder, Past National Presidents, National, Area and Chapter Officers and all Ladies attending this meeting out of the desire to be involved, and to acquire knowledge concerning the affairs and directions of the organization.

Be It Further Resolved That: Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. will continue its commitment to respective communities through volunteering, social actions and leadership.

Submitted this 28th day of September, 2019

Yours in Service,
Lady Marsha Wells
National Resolution Chair



PARLIAMEN-TOP 2019
Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.®

In the wake of the recent tragedies in Dayton, Ohio and El Paso, Texas, the members of the Top Ladies Distinction Inc. determined to establish common sense gun regulations that ensure our communities are safe.

Whereas individuals with guns injure more than 100,000 people a year and kill more than 30,000 a year including homicide, suicides, accidental deaths; and

Whereas far more Americans have been killed with guns in the U.S. than have died in all wars combined;

Whereas America has now suffered more than 60 shooting massacres over the past 30 years and whereas America schools, colleges, churches, and public venues remain vulnerable without our focus on enhanced safety.

Whereas there are minimum safety requirements on the type of weapons available for purchase by private individuals in America, including military style-assault weapons;

Whereas only federally licensed gun dealers are required by law to run background checks yet 40% of gun sales, which equates to 6 million guns a year are sold on the secondary market through unlicensed dealers and are not subject to background checks;

Whereas nearly 2/3 of Americans agree that we should ban the sale of assault weapons and require all gun buyers to pass a criminal background check no matter where they purchase the weapons or from where they buy it;

May it be resolved that the Top Ladies of Distinction Inc. supports greater safety requirements must be implemented to prevent the violence of guns in America by:

1. Banning the sale of military-style assault weapons as well as high-capacity magazines or clips that can hold more than 10 bullets at a time, and;
2. Requiring all gun buyers to pass a criminal background check no matter how they purchased the weapon.

Submitted this 28th day of September, 2019

Yours in Service,
Lady Marsha Wells
National Resolution Chair



Parliamen-Top 2020

The Parliamen-Top Business Meeting of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. convened on October 9 – 10, 2020 to engage in a **Virtual Strategic Planning** meeting with the National Executive Board. The national theme: "Celebrating Our Legacy: Transforming Lives, One Teen, One Lady, and One Community at a Time (TLC)" will be the focus throughout the agenda.

Whereas the 14th National President, Lady Sharon J. Beard, of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. provided precise direction on how she will lead the organization through this period of uncertainty during the global coronavirus pandemic and social unrest with virtual meetings and activities where in-person settings are not advised.

Topics included:

- o Increase Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. membership through Reclamation, Recruitment and Reactivation Initiatives
- o Increase TLOD and TTA membership to reach 5000 by 2021
- o National Program, Project and Committee reports included volunteer hours, donations and awards received for the five programmatic thrusts and national projects
- o Inform communities of the importance of completing the 2020 United States Census
- o Participate in the 2020 voter registration national partnership with "WHEN WE ALL VOTE"
- o Share the Strategic Plan to guide the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. mission for the next five years
- o Plan to conduct a virtual Leadership Development Institute for all members on October 24th

Whereas at the end of the Parliamen-TOP convention, an Executive Summary will be sent to the entire Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. membership;

Whereas sincere appreciation is extended to members with responsibilities of leadership as National Officers and Committee Chairpersons, as said members initiated the processes for the business matters of the organization;

Be It Resolved That Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. will continue its commitment to their respective communities through volunteering and provide leadership through this period of the global coronavirus pandemic and social unrest. Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. will continue the work to remain relevant in the world during these unprecedented times and will continue developing the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. story.

Submitted this 10th day of October, 2020

Yours in Service,
Lady Marsha Wells
National Resolution Chair



RESOLUTION
42nd Syn-Lod National Bi-Annual Conference
Pivot to Virtual Environment

The Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. 42nd Syn-Lod conference convened from June 17th – June 19th, 2021 under the leadership of the 14th National President, Lady Sharon J. Beard as a **Virtual** conference and it was hosted by the Detroit Chapter of Area V.

WHEREAS: In March of 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus a global pandemic. As COVID-19 impacted the lives of people world-wide, the impact to American lives resulted in over 560,000 deaths and each state implemented some level of quarantine with strict guidelines for citizens to stay home and to wear masks and use social distancing in public settings.

WHEREAS: Following this announcement, the 14th National President, Lady Sharon J. Beard directed members to pause in-person functions and to carefully consider rescheduling upcoming public events, practice social distancing and use video and tele-conferencing methods to host meetings and serve our communities remotely.

WHEREAS: Lady Sharon J. Beard worked with the National Finance Committee to explore more cost-effective processes and tools for virtual meetings. She also developed an Emergency Relief Fund for future use, while keeping the organization's finances intact.

WHEREAS: At the time of this announcement, Areas I, III, IV and VI had completed their 2020 annual conferences. Areas II and V initially paused their conferences but later cancelled them.

WHEREAS: Since that time all conferences have been conducted virtually, including the 2020 Parliamen-Top Executive Board Meeting, 2020 Leadership Development Institute, all of the 2021 Area conferences and the 42nd Syn-Lod conference.

BE IT RESOLVED: That in the 2019-2021 term the 14th National President, Lady Sharon J. Beard, provided exemplary leadership as a result of her thoughtful and strategic guidance and successfully led the organization to complete the goals of the national theme: "Celebrating Our Legacy: Transforming Lives, One Teen, One Lady, and One Community at a Time (TLC)" despite the challenges of the global pandemic.

Submitted this 19th day of June 2021.

Yours in Service,
Lady Marsha Wells
National Resolution Chair

Lady Sharon J. Beard
National President



RESOLUTION

42nd Syn-Lod National Bi-Annual Conference Honoring 14th National President, Lady Sharon J. Beard

The Pink Carpet was rolled out for the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. historic 42nd Syn-Lod virtual conference that convened from June 17th – June 19th, 2021 under the leadership of the 14th National President, Lady Sharon J. Beard. It was hosted by the Detroit Chapter of Area V.

WHEREAS: The conference theme: *“Surviving and Thriving Beyond the Challenges and Realizing the Endless Possibilities”* allowed members to temporarily forget about the pandemic and engage with one another to set a clear vision on our guiding principles that reflect our TLOD values.

WHEREAS: During the *“Walking the Pink Rose Carpet”* Joint Awards Program and National Membership Program, New Life Members, Silver Elite Members and New Members, including the Newly Inducted Honorary Members were celebrated. Top Ladies and Chapters received awards and the Top Teens received awards and scholarships.

WHEREAS: The Parade of Chapters recognized all TLOD and TTA chapters in a vibrant virtual presentation. Chapters were also highlighted for achieving 5 STAR Status for reaching the Diamond, Ruby, Sapphire, Emerald and Orchid category levels.

WHEREAS: TTA chapters were recognized for successfully completing the ExCEL program. Top Teens competed in the Dorothy Allen Chimney Black History Bowl, performed in the Talent Showcase and Mr. & Miss Top Teen of America from all chapters were presented.

WHEREAS: The 42nd Annual Syn-Lod culminated on Saturday, June 19th with an extravagant Gala of the National President’s Crowned Jewels.

BE IT RESOLVED: The 14th National President, Lady Sharon J. Beard, of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. provided exemplary leadership through the 2019-2021 term and culminated the term with a successful Syn-Lod.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the members of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. congratulate the 14th National President, Lady Sharon J. Beard on a successful Virtual Syn-Lod conference. She provided superb leadership and fulfilled the national theme: **“Celebrating Our Legacy: Transforming Lives, One Teen, One Lady, and One Community at a Time (TLC)”**

Submitted this 19th day of June 2021.

Yours in Service,
Lady Marsha Wells
National Resolution Chair

Lady Sharon J. Beard
National President

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the National Resolution Chair for the 2019-2021 term



Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

Area I

LADY LUEBURDA MYERS
SHREPORT CHAPTER



Area II

LADY FLORA DISTANCE
BALTIMORE CHAPTER



Area III

LADY JANIE COOPER
LINCOLN PARK CHAPTER



Senior Divas 2022



Area IV
LADY ELAINE SHELTON
WENDALL CHAPTER



Area V
LADY MABLE STROMAN
MICHIGAN METRO CHAPTER



Area VI
LADY CAMILLA WESTENBERG
PHOENIX CHAPTER



Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.®

Area I

LADY LILLIE LACY
SUGAR VALLEY CHAPTER



Area II

LADY PAULINE HUNTER
DALE CITY PW COUNTY CHAPTER



Area III

LADY CATHERINE MILES
MILWAUKEE CHAPTER



Senior Divas 2023



Area IV

LADY MARIE DUNN
NORTH ATLANTA CHAPTER



Area V

LADY GWENDOLYN ROBINSON
CINCINNATI CHAPTER



Area VI

LADY CAROLYN GOODE
LOS ANGELES CHAPTER



Lady Sharon Beard
TLOD National
President & CEO



Lady Ozell Dean
Founder
Area II



Lady Michelle Smalls
Dale City Prince William County
National Director of Operations



Lady Hope V Ruffin
Prince George's County
National Area II Director



Lady Wanda Beauman
Mountain West
National Area VI Director



Lady Shanita Akintonde
Lincoln Park Chicago
Area III



Lady Vynessa Alexander
Lincoln Park Chicago
Area III



Lady Kimberly Beck
St. Louis
Area III



THE
PINK DIAMOND *1.9.64* **MEMBERS**
CLUB



Lady Doris Brown
Nonpareil
Area I



Lady Rachel Burrell
Lake Houston
Area I



Lady Karen Cherry
Dale City Prince William County
Area II



Lady Crystal Davis
Prince George's County
Area II



Lady Juanita Dawson
Inglewood
Area VI



Lady Thereasa A. Dillard
Renaissance
Area V



Lady Emelda Douglas
Lake Houston
Area I



Lady Marie Dunn
North Atlanta
Area IV



Lady Tonette Echols
Phoenix
Area VI



Lady Rona Evans
Central Virginia
Area II



Lady Princetta H. Farries
East St. Louis
Area III



Lady Sylvia Gibson-O'Neal
Humble Intercontinental
Area I



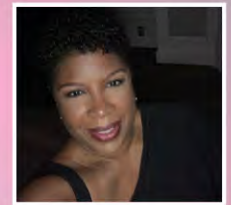
Lady Brenda Granderson
Dale City Prince William County
Area II



Lady Juanita A. Hall
Prince George's County
Area II



Lady Rhonda Harris
River City
Area I



Lady Shawn Jackson
Prince George's County
Area II

THE  **1.9.6.4** MEMBERS CLUB



Lady Angela Johnson
Phoenix
Area VI



Lady Eula Lewis Spivey
North Atlanta
Area IV



Lady Jearlene Miller
Dallas
Area I



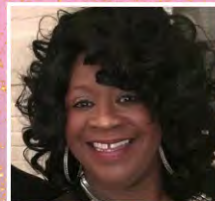
Lady Helen Muhammad Eli
Houston
Area I



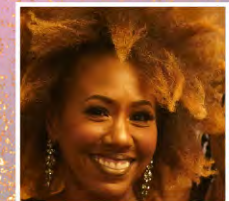
Lady Cynthia Parks
Atlanta Peachtree
Area IV



Lady Constance Denay Parks
Atlanta Peachtree
Area IV



Lady Vickie Peterson
Indianapolis
Area V



Lady Tangie Lafaye Phair
Dale City Prince William County
Area II



Lady Katina Robinson Wright
Prince George's County
Area II



Lady Melissa Rolan
El Paso
Area I



Lady Yvonne Scott
Atlanta Peachtree
Area V



Lady Michelle Bell Smith
Patuxent River
Area II



Lady Mae H Smith West
Suburban Chicago
Area III



Lady Nina Smith
Raleigh
Area IV

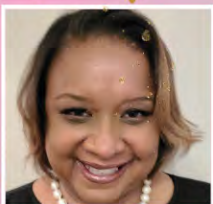


Lady Norvella Smith Bryant
Houston
Area I



Lady Cynthia C. Thompson
Guilford County
Area IV

THE  **1.9.6.4** MEMBERS
CLUB



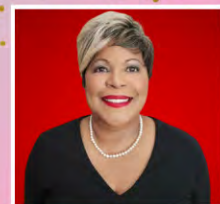
Dr. Lady Tamara Idette Thorn
Bryan-Liberty Counties
Area IV



Lady Ingrid Watson Miller
Hampton Roads
Area II



Lady Jacqueline White
Guilford County
Area IV



Lady Diane Williams
El Paso
Area I



Lady Loretta Gray
Greater Cleveland
Area V

*Thank you for your contribution
and commitment to service!*

Lady Laurie Clark
Lady Gloria Jackson
Lady Sandra Young



Thank you for your contribution
and commitment to service!

GOLD MEMBERS

FAULYN E. BAISEY
LAKENDRA BAKER
ERNESTINE DIGGS
EMELDA DOUGLAS
HELEN MUHAMMAD ELI
BRENDA GRANDERSON

BERNICE HAM
TAMARA HARRIS
TOBIN HAWKINS
PRUDENCE HENDERSON
JULIE HOPKINS
CHARISSA HOWARD



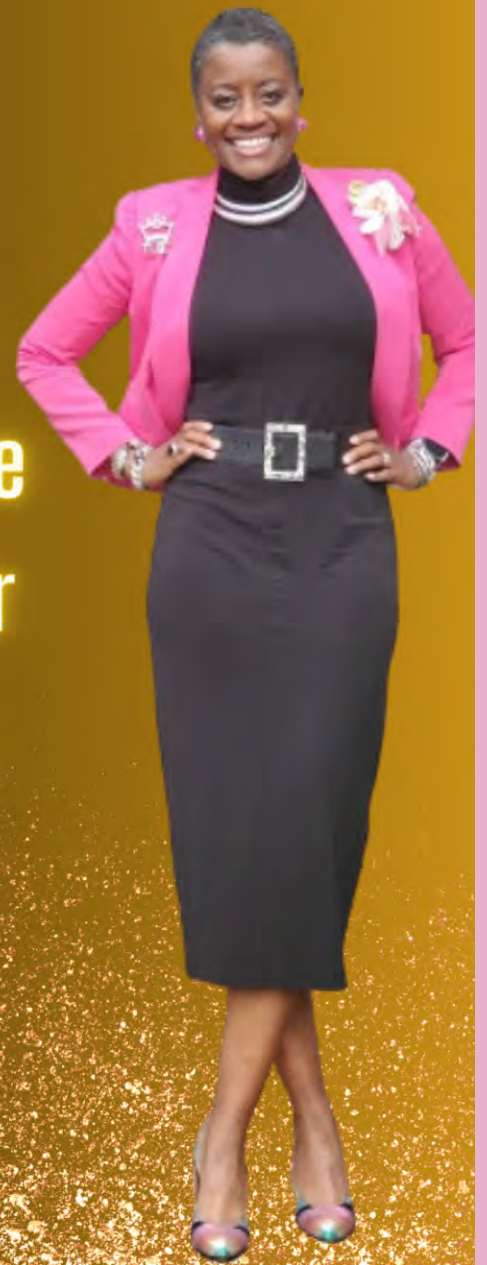
SIMONE HOWARD
CHERRISSE JOHNSON
ARNETTA LAWRENCE
BRENDA KING MURPHY
DIONE MADISON
SAUNDRA MAYNOR

ROSE MARY MCGOWAN
CHARLOTTE O'NEAL
JOYCE PEOPLES
J. ALLISON RILEY
JOANNE SMITH
VERONICA WHITFIELD



Congratulations
Lady Hope V. Ruffin
National Area II Director

**Area II had the most
participants and highest
number of donations at the
pendant level totaling over
\$45,000 in contributions
to the 1.9.6.4 Club!!!**



Parliamen-Top 2022 Executive Summary

TLOD is Transforming, Adapting, Pivoting, and Shifting in a New Day!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2022

The 2022 Parliamen-Top began with a day of “Transforming” and that is what took place, both literally and figuratively. Ladies transformed the Sheraton Music City hotel into a venue that was ready to receive our Parliamen-Top attendees for the first in-person meeting since 2019.

Vendor areas were set up, donations were received, and final meetings were held with the hotel team to ensure that all logistic details were finalized. Parliamen-Top Board Members and the Registration Team also arrived on this day.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022

The pre-con activities continued to include the set-up of the Chapter TLOD and TTA brochures display, pre-con meeting and the meeting of the Protocol, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Director of Operations teams.

At noon, the Parliamen-Top Board meeting convened. The theme of the day was “Adapting.” Lady Sharon J. Beard, National President and CEO called the meeting to order and provided an overview of the meeting. Lady Doris Bazile, IT Committee Chair provided details regarding the Election runner software.

On Thursday afternoon, the “*Straight Outta Office*” workshop for Chapter Presidents and Top Teens Advisors was held that focused on increased chapter operations, successful transitions, and enhanced sisterliness. The workshop reminded us above all else, that when communicating and working with our Chapter members that we “Treat Her Like a Lady.” The workshop was presented by Lady Beverly Copeland and Lady Ja’Niece Bell.

Thursday evening was a night for community celebration. The Community Service Night Program took place providing an opportunity for TLOD to give back to the Nashville community. The theme was “It’s Our Time to Shine.” Honorees included:

- Humanitarian Award: Dr. James E.K. Hildreth, President & CEO of Meharry Medical College
- Humanitarian Award: James Shaw, Jr. Waffle House Hero and Former Top Teen
- Top Teens of America: Lelan Statom, Sr. Meteorologist, Channel 5
- Status of Women & Literacy: Rosetta Miller Perry, Founder and Publisher, Tennessee Tribune
- Senior Citizens: Rocenta Woods, Service Coordinator, Kelly Miller Towers
- Senior Citizens: Dawne Bunn, Regional Director, Alzheimer Association
- Community Beautification: Pastor Robert Hall, Howard Congregational Church
- Community Partnerships: Dr. Cynthia Croom, Executive Director, Metro Action
- NAACP: Attorney Sheryl Guinn, NAACP, Nashville Chapter
- Legislative Action: Representative Harold Love and Senator Brenda Gilmore



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022

The theme for Friday was pivoting as we pivoted from a virtual Parliamen-Top to an in-person meeting. A beautiful demonstration of that was the induction of 15 new Ladies into the Nashville Chapter. Following the Induction Ceremony, there was a Memorial ceremony as we remember the Ladies, Teens, and Lords that transitioned from our TLOD family since Parliamen-Top 2021.

Following an Induction breakfast ceremony. There was a mindfulness prelude and the credentialing to prepare us for the Opening General Session.



Lady Sharon J. Beard, our National President and CEO, officially opened the General Session. Our National Chaplain, Lady Valencia Edner provided the mediation. Greetings were brought by Lady Adrienne Boner, National Area IV Director, Lady July Hopkins, President of the Nashville Chapter and Marina Jelic-Briggs, Catering & Conference Services Manager.

We were blessed to have the presence of several of our **past National Presidents**, Lady Jacquelyn Heath Parker, 6th National President, Lady Dorothy Allen Chimney, 8th National President, Lady Peggy Lewis LeCompte, 10th National President, Lady Jackie Pope, 11th National President, Lady Audrey Lawton, 12th National President, and Lady Drema Woldman, 13th National President.

Highlights from the Opening Session:

- Lady Mavis Merritt provided an overview of the 2022 **Vivien Coe Richard National TTA Leadership Academy** and introduced the Academy participants.
- Lady Marsha Wells, National Area V Director, provided the response to the welcome.
- Lady Jackie Pope, 11th National President and President and Director of the **Franchell Boswell Educational Foundation** provided an update. She encouraged everyone to consider becoming members of the Foundation and to share Foundation information with their Chapters.
- Lady Kym Elder, provided an update on our **March of Dimes** efforts.
- The **St. Jude** update was provided by Lady Michelle Bell. The 2022 fundraiser was held virtually in June 2022. The total amount raised was \$20,650.00.
- **A-TEAAM**: Past National Presidents lady Audrie L. Lawton and Lady Peggy Lewis LeCompte provided an update of the initiative with a video that include Coordinator and Honorary Member Lady Juanita Sims Doty. TLOD is a partner of the Juanita Sim Doty Foundation and the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute. A-TEAAM is in 20 mentoring sites across the country. They unveiled the 5th publication of the I!Can Imagine: Voices of Young Authors. They also welcomed us to their celebration in 2023.
- Lady Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, National Editor of **The Crown**, presented the 2022 special edition of The Crown. Printed copies were provided to Parliamen-Top members and Chapter Presidents.
- National Director of Operations Lady Michelle Smalls closed the session with announcements.



On Friday afternoon, following a sisterly luncheon, Business Session I was called to order by Lady Sharon J. Beard. The National Officers facilitated the Opening Ceremony, followed by the TLOD Prayer. Lady Jackie Roundtree, National Parliamentarian, presented the conference rules for adoption.

Timekeepers were selected and the timekeeping process was presented. Lady Diann Robinson, National Recording Secretary presented the 2021 Parliamen-Top minutes for adoption. Lady Rhonda Harris, National Corresponding Secretary provided correspondence.

Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, National 1st Vice President, provided the introduction for National President and CEO Lady Sharon J. Beard. Lady Beard presented the State of TLOD.

State of TLOD

Highlights from Business Session I

- Lady LaTricia Woods, National **Public Relations Chair**, provided an update on social media analytics and resources that the Public Relations committee provides for chapters.
- Lady Tangie Phair, National Vendor Chair, shared information about our **vendors** and encouraged attendees to take time to shop with them. Vendors pay an annual fee of \$550 to have the opportunity to do business with us. She also shared where to find vendor information on our website, tloedinc.org.
- **Financial Team** reports: Lady Cheryl Williams, National Financial Secretary, and Lady Kala Walton, National Treasurer, provided their respective reports.
- The National Financial Secretary's report provided information on income received, a membership overview, and Chapter status.
- Lady Williams provided an update on the lost transmittal.
- Membership Overview: 5,359 members (Ladies and Teens) as of July 31, 2022.
- Chapter Status: 95 functioning Chapters, as of July 31, 2022.
- **Historians Council**: Lady Alice Grigsby, National Historian, provided an update and presented goals for 2022-2023. Included is the development and preparation of the Synlod 2023 historical display and preparing oral interviews of the Founder and each past National President during the Area Conferences. She closed by showing a wonderful photo taken from Parliamen-Top 1979!
- **Sergeant-at-Arms**: Lady Crystal Pittman provided an update as the Sergeant-at-Arms.



Lady Eddie Lee Marsh provided a presentation on the National program and introduced the National program chairs.

- Lady Vickie Hughes, National Assistant TTA Director, provided the **National Service to Youth (Top Teens)** report on behalf of National TTA Director Lady Kendra Gillespie. This program thrust has more than 28,261 volunteer hours, supporting 347 events, spending/donation \$42,181.
- The **Status of Women** report was provided by Lady Cherise Brown Easley, National Senior Citizens Chair. The program thrust had more than 29,434 hours, supporting 503 events, spending/donating \$30,621.
- The **Senior Citizens** report was provided by Lady Dorothy Bryant, National Senior Citizens Chair. The program thrust had more than 55,178 hours, supporting 351 events, spending/donating \$26,800.
- The **Community Beautification** report was provided by Lady Lula Patton, National Community Beautification Chair. The program thrust had more than 12,440 hours, supporting 233 events, spending/donating \$14,111.
- The **Community Partnerships** report was provided by Lady Annetra Piper, National Community Partnerships Chair. The program thrust had more than 35,730 hours, supporting 310 events, spending/donating \$48,571.



In total, for the 2021-2022 program year:

- More than 243,919 volunteer/planning hours
- 3,354 events supported
- \$370,111 donated/spending
- 100% of the Areas participated in all program thrusts

Lady Jackie Wilcher provided a presentation on the National projects and introduced the National project chairs.

- **UNCF** (Lady Elnora Norwood, National UNCF Chair): The project had 2,255 volunteer hours, supporting 95 events, with \$13,918 donated.
- **NAACP** (Lady Yolanda Avery, National NAACP Chair): The project had 5,022 volunteer hours, supporting 158 events, with \$704 donated.
- **NCNW** (Lady Melba Ford, National NCNW Chair): The project had 5,887 volunteer hours, supporting 152 events, with \$5,065 donated.
- **TLOD Literacy** (Lady Shanita Akintonde, National Literacy Chair): The project had 10,812 volunteer hours, supporting 95 events, with \$13,918 donated.
- **Sickle Cell Disease Awareness** (Lady Cherisse Johnson, National Sickle Cell Chair): The project had 3,933 volunteer hours, supporting 194 events, with \$4,298 donated.

In total, for the 2021-2022 program year:

- More than 71,454 volunteer hours
- 929 events supported
- \$65,926 donated
- Impacting 47,000 people

A **Legislative Action** report was provided by National Legislative Action Chair, Lady Kimberly Underdue. Lady Nadine Beach, **When We All Vote Chair**, provided an update regarding the importance of voter registration and volunteering with the 2022 elections. Following those presentation, Lady Michelle Smalls made some announcements.



The evening was spent reconnecting during an evening of relaxation and fellowship with dinner in the hotel ballroom.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022

Saturday was a day of “Shifting” as we transformed our focus to our future endeavors. The morning began with workshops on member engagement and onboarding, a legislative action workshop entitled, “After Experiencing 2 Years of COVID-19.... What Now?”, and “Self-Care-African American Women Balancing Life.”

Following the workshops and credentialing, the second Business Session began.

Highlights from Business Session II

- Lady Delores Bazile, National Director of **Information Technology** and Lady Michelle Smalls, National Director of Operations presented updates from the National IT Committee including a new workflow structure.
- Lady Mary Hunter, National Membership Chair provided an updated on **membership** initiatives.
- Lady Delois Hall, National Awards Chair, reviewed **award** guidelines.
- Lady Yolanda Smith, National Scholarships Chair provided an update on **scholarships**.
- Lady Carolyn Clemons, National **Standards** Chair, presented the report from the committee.

- Lady Babette DeLay, National **Recommendations** Chair, provided an overview of submitted recommendations and Bylaw updates.

Lady Adrienne Boner, Area VI Director and Chair of the National Area Directors Council, provided an update prior to introducing her counterparts for their reports. Reports were made in the following order:

- National Area Director - Area I - Lady Annie Mouton
- National Area Director - Area II - Lady Hope Ruffin
- National Area Director -Area III - Lady Stephanie Dunn
- National Area Director - Area IV - Lady Adrienne Boner
- National Area Director -Area V - Lady Marsha Wells
- National Area Director -Area VI - Lady Wanda Beauman

Lady Doris Brown, National Resolutions Chair, provided two **resolutions** that provided commendations on the success of 2022 Parliamen-Top and Lady Sharon J. Beard’s leadership during the planning and execution of the meeting. Lady Jackie Roundtree provided an update regarding the **Constitution and Bylaws**. Following that, Lady Pamela Bright updated the body on where we were with the National **Strategic Plan**.



Lady Tangie Phair and Lady Megan McBride provided information on the 1964 Club with its purpose, benefits, and goals. Lady Michelle Smalls closed the agenda with announcements.

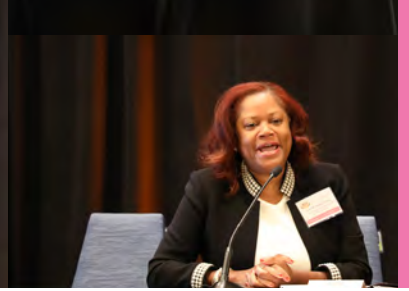
After the last business item, participants closed out the meeting with a beautiful and touching Circle of Unity and the TLOD Hymn.

Saturday evening was spent in the heart of Nashville with a trip to the National African American Music Museum and then dinner on our own.

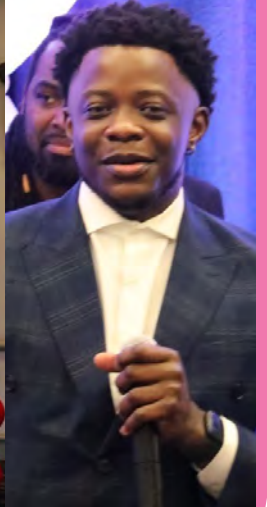
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2022

Sunday was the last day of Parliamen-Top 2022 and it began with a debrief of the weekend. Following that, a Boswell Board Meeting was held. After that, the Ladies wished each other farewell... until next time.

Until then, we will go forth and Transform, Adapt, Pivot, and Shift in a New Day!



Parliamen - Top 2022





NATIONAL PROGRAM OF WORK



Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, National First Vice President

“CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY: TLOD TRANSFORMING LIVES AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE: ONE TEEN, ONE LADY AND ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME (TLC)”

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. declares that the purpose of the organization shall be to advance the standards, ideals and general welfare of the community through service by encouraging, promoting, and extending programs that will be conducive to the betterment and ultimate welfare of all people; to sponsor a youth organization known as Top Teens of America; to provide opportunities for the wholesome development of their potential and to promote their educational, social, spiritual, moral, cultural and economic development; to assist in the promotion of wholesome and meaningful living of Senior Citizens; to improve the Status of Women; and to develop, promote, and support activities that are designed to preserve the physical beauty in our communities. To fulfill this vision is to bring together, through partnerships, many communities, educational, and business-based interests that are conscientiously attempting to assist us in developing better citizens for the globalized technical world.

Programs of Work has through our five programmatic thrusts (*Top Teens of America, Status of Women, Senior Citizens, Community Beautification and Community Partnerships*) focused on strengthening their TTA support creatively of chapters to meet the goals of the TLOD goals remain impactful.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Chairs and Co-Chairs of the Program Committees for their dedication and continued service over these past four years. Their commitment to the organization has been exemplary. Thank you for all the time and planning you have done to impact the Chapters and those we serve.

NATIONAL PROGRAMS

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

TLOD

Top Teens of America (TTA)
 Lady Kendra Gillespie National TTA Director
 Lady Vickie Hughes National Asst TTA Director
 Lady Karen Brown National Asst TTA Director

Senior Citizens
 Lady Dorothy J. Bryan Status of Women Chair
 Lady Patricia Edwards Status of Women Chair
 Lady Angela Davis Status of Women Chair

Status of Women
 Lady Cherise Easley Senior Citizens Chair
 Lady Rosaline Lattier Senior Citizens Chair
 Lady Tara Taylor Senior Citizens Chair

Community Partnerships
 Lady Annetra Pipek Community Partnership Chair
 Lady Mary Wilkerson Community Partnership CoChair
 Lady Deneen Williams Community Partnership CoChair

Community Beautification
 Lady Lula Patton Community Beautification Chair
 Lady Wilmotie Ellis Community Beautification Chair
 Lady Sharon Mosley Community Beautification Chair

NATIONAL PROGRAM OF WORK



Top Teens of America: TTA is TLOD major thrust. Top Teens of America guidance is under the leadership of the supporting team of **TTA Director Lady Kendra Gillespie and Cochairs Lady Vicki Henry Hughes and Lady Karen Brown.** This team has worked strategically with the TTA Executive Board to continue the forward movement of providing programs through Excellence. Emphasis is placed on Cultural, Educational and the development of Leadership skills; this is done through the TTA Executive Board, Town Hall meetings, planning sessions and developing individual leadership skills. Teens are learning the importance of preparation and to be prepared for the unexpected i.e. having greetings or remarks readily available on their phone. As a national officer it carries many responsibilities such as receiving invitations to inductions and programs therefore, Teens are encouraged to practice speaking skills and relaxation techniques to develop and improve their stage presence.

Today Teens are confronted with numerous issues, school, extra-curricular activities, family, other organizations, peer pressure, bullying, technology, self-esteem to name a few. Over the past years the TLOD family were faced with the challenges of the Covid-19 virus, wildfires, floods, family issues, storms and isolation issues. We must realize that it's imperative to acknowledge the challenges and adapt creative ways to accomplish the programmatic goals while observing Teen's stress levels.

Teens took an active role in developing the calendar of events and activities with careful consideration given to current day issues. Areas of concern are Adolescent Suicide Prevention, Human Trafficking, Mental Health, and Stress Disorders. The Teens advocated for members throughout the country to get involved and identify the needs in their individual communities.

They joined in the planning and implementation of events and worked with their Lady counterparts. Teen activities included Round Table Talk, Town Hall Meetings, the Publication of the "Voice" three editions, Halloween Party and Jingle Jam Holiday activities that prove to be successful and entertaining. Teens were empowered to take the lead in planning and volunteering. The TTA Advisors, Top Teens, Area/Chapter Advisors and Ladies are moving forward with partnerships with the Teens to meet the goals of TLOD.

Status of Women:

Lady Dorothy J. Bryant, Chair, Teen Allyson Kirksey, TTA Chair, Lady Angela Davis, Co Chair and Lady Patty Edwards, Co Chair

The focus of SOW is transforming Lives to strengthen families and communities, promote healthier lives and help identify and alleviate problems concerning women in a these challenging times. National Status of Women Thrust for 2021-2023 focused on Mental Health, Self-Care, and the Safety of Women. This thrust has undoubtedly pivoted, due to the continued fallout of the COVID pandemic. Members moved forward in spite of restrictions and adjustments. Chapters have managed to accomplish the mission of TLOD by providing targeted services to their respective communities in collaboration with other thrusts and projects, inclusive of Top Teens and additional positive community partnerships.

NATIONAL PROGRAM OF WORK

The committee reported the following Chapters Accomplishments:

- All Six Areas Supplied Data
- 99 Chapters Reported
- 88,321 Volunteer Hours Reported
- \$82,317 Amount of Money Expended
- \$48,055 Amount of Money Donated

The National Status of Women Thrust presented a virtual webinar entitled “Human Trafficking-In Plain speakers presented information on how to be safe in this ever-changing society. They continued the plan to distribute monthly Health Awareness tips to increase Teens and Ladies knowledge of major health concerns affecting Black families, Teen peers, and the communities served by TLOD. They collaborated with the following organizations to obtain needed resources: American Heart Association, Kidney Foundation, CDC, National Domestic Hotline, American Cancer Society, NAMI, National Institute of Health, Office of Human Rights, National Human Trafficking Hotline and Homeland Security’s Blue Campaign - Fighting Human Trafficking.

Senior Citizens Transforming Lives to assist our Senior Citizens in living a more wholesome life and to aid in their optimal living by increasing their knowledge of new technology, developing a greater understanding of Alzheimer’s, Heart/Stroke Diseases, Mental Health/ Depression/ Stress Disorders, and promoting Eye Care- Cataract/Glaucoma Disease Awareness. This committee is chaired by Lady Cherise Easley and Ladies Roseland Lattier and Lady Tara Taylor Co-Chairs. Emphasis is placed on taking care of our own seniors as they move into this journey of lives. All twelve Senior Divas (2 from each Area) will be recognized at the 2023 Syn Lod in Los Angeles. The special recognition is known as “Senior Diva.” These ladies are over the age of seventy (70), have longevity in TLOD, exemplary service in her community (in and outside of TLOD), and has continuous participation in her chapter. Each Senior Diva was selected by her Area and was honored at her respected 2022 and 2023 Area Conferences. She must also be an active member in her chapter. All twelve Divas will be adorned with crowns and sashes at the recognition program at Syn-Lod.

Special acknowledgements to Areas’ Senior Citizens chairs for logging in over 20,000 volunteer hours, donating or spending \$26,800 and impacting the lives of 3,443 participants.

Community Beautification: Lady Lula Patton, Chair with Lady Wilmotine Ellis and Lady Sharon Mosley Co-Chaired. They implemented nationwide Recycling Day, encouraging participation in Arbor and Earth Day. The committee acknowledges the numerous Chapters who have reported their outreach activities and the implementation of created ways to help beautify communities. The committee reported Chapters provided educational opportunities for Transforming Lives to make the world a cleaner, more beautiful, and eco-friendly economy which will improve the environmental living conditions of citizens through “Keeping America Beautiful.” The Committee continued to encourage the joint participation of Top Teens in activities. The committee implemented nationwide Recycling Day, encouraging participation in Arbor and Earth Day. They acknowledge the numerous Chapters who have reported their activities and the created ways to help beautify communities. The committee reports Chapters provided educational opportunities for children/Book drop off to salons and daycares, participation in MLK Day of Services and parades, Held Pop-Up Shops to distribute brochures and pamphlets, and Chapters utilized social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Chapter websites to assist in branding the TLOD name.

NATIONAL PROGRAM OF WORK



Community Partnership: The committee is chaired by the resourceful *Lady Annetra Piper, Chair and Co-Chair Lady Deneen Williams and Lady Mary Wilkerson, Co-Chair*

The focus of Partnerships is to Transform Lives and build stronger families and communities as we strengthen our mission and brand community engagement and partnerships. The committee provide opportunities for chapters to support their programs and projects through the solicitation of Corporate funding, seeking out collaborations that will enhance our image and brand, investigate a variety of potential sponsors, solicit In-Kind services, conduct Grant Writing Workshops, Research Government Funding, and connect with the Fundraising Committee. Valuable information was provided in applying for grants, announcing Grant Alerts, and assisting Chapters with step-by-step guidance to complete Grant applications. Grant opportunities were introduced such as Healthy, Safety and/or Wellness grant with a value of up to \$500 and AARP Community Challenge Grant of \$12,000 to \$30,000 and others.

March for Babies: A Virtual Pep Rally kicked off the 2022 March for Babies activity to support the fight for the health of moms and babies. The created MOD tel-a-thon included Top Teens from all areas presenting a variety of talent throughout the program. The TLOD Teens and Ladies have raised over \$100,000 to support improving prevention of birth defects and preterm births and assist in the funding of research, advocacy, awareness, and education related to birth defects and prevention. Women of color rank highest in birth related medical issues. The funds raised support bringing awareness, making America a more equitable place for babies and moms and ensure that every family is healthy. The creative MOD Team is chaired by Lady Kym Elder, Chair and Co-Chaired by Lady Barbara Stowe.

Founder's Day Celebration: TLOD will celebrate 59 years of existence in June. The 2021 and 2022 Founder's Day celebrations were held virtually with Ladies Teens and Lords across the country in attendance. Fortunately, the celebration of Founder's Day will be celebrated at the 2023 Syn Lod. The excitement of celebrating with our only living Founder, Lady Ozell Dean. Lady Francell Boswell, Lady Ina Bolton Brown, Lady Augusta Cash Latham, Lady Willie Lee Glass, Lady LaVern Madlock, Lady Ruth Payne Smith, Lady Georgia Presswood Nelson and of course our only living Founder, Lady Ozell Dean.



Pink and Blue Day of Service: The day of service is celebrated in January on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday. Chapters are engaged to demonstrate the TLOD motto of providing "Service to Youth and Adults." Chapters collected hand sanitizers, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, lotion, tissues, shower gel, combs, hairbrushes, personal items and more. The items are counted and donate to a Women, Youth, Veterans or Homeless shelters of their choice. A report of the items collected; hours contributed to the project is forward to their Area Director via the Chapters 1st Vice President. Chapters posted the service outreach activity on social media and input the data in the Electronic Reporting Form and copied to their Area Director. Shelters, Senior Citizen Facilities, Personal Care Homes, and or Families received thousands of personal care items. Baskets were beautifully decorated and delivered to facilities following CDC guidelines. Chapters showcased their support through pictures.

NATIONAL PROGRAM OF WORK



Wear Red Day: Ladies, Teens and Lords were called to action to wear Red on the first Friday in February in recognition of Healthy Hearts. Statistical data reveals women are at higher risk for heart failure and heart attack death than men. Researchers found women face a 20% increased risk of developing heart failure or dying within five years after their severe heart attack compared to men. In addition, women were more likely than men to be older and have a more complicated medical history at the time of their heart attacks. The health disparity was identified and TLOD worked diligently to do our best as women to address Health issues. Ladies wore red to work, on virtual calls, jogging/walking, shopping and more. Chapters confirmed their support by posting pictures to social media, reporting their participation on the Electronic Reporting Form and forward reports to the chapter's Status of Women Chair. She compiled the information and forward to her Area Director who reported to the National 1st Vice President.

Chapter Establishment

The Chapter Establishment Committee is pleased to announce and welcome the following new Chapters to the TLOD Family since Syn Lod 2019.

Area I

Bay Area South Houston (BASH)
Diamond Gulf Coast Dynasty
North Dallas Suburbia

Area II

Manhattan Pearls
Middlesex/Union

Area IV

Broward County Radiance
Central Mississippi
COLA City
Concord

Gwinnett-South DeKalb County Diamond
Low Country Emeralds
Southern Pearls Miami-Dade

Area V

Pittsburgh Steel City Chapter

Special thanks to the Establishment Committee for their participation in the Chartering process. The Committee consisted of Lady Jacquelyn H. Parker, 6th Past National President, Lady Annie Mouton, Area I Director, Lady Hope Ruffin, Area II Director, Lady Stephanie Dunn, Area III Director, Lady Adrienne Boner, Area IV Director, Lady Marsha Wells, Area V Director, and Lady Wanda Beauman, Area VI Director and Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, National 1st Vice President Chair. Acknowledgements to Lady Rhonda Harris, Corresponding Secretary, for her service in sending out invitations to the Chartering events.



Lady Jacqueline Wilcher, National TLOD 2nd Vice President
Teen Brelyn McDonald, National TTA 2nd Vice President

Sum of Our Successes

CELEBRATING OUR COLLECTIVE SUCCESSES OF TLOD NATIONAL PROJECTS: TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC.® AND TOP TEENS OF AMERICA™

The mentoring relationships between the TLOD National 2nd Vice President and the Top Teens of America National 2nd Vice President along with the National Projects Chairs and their TTA counterparts are prime examples of TLOD's commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders. With our vast experiences, wisdom, and dedication, we serve as a guiding force for the Top Teens providing valuable mentorship and support. We share insights, offer guidance on leadership development, and encourage the Top Teens to explore their full potential. This mentorship fosters personal growth, cultivates leadership skills, and instills a sense of purpose and responsibility in the Top Teens that ensured a seamless transition into their leadership roles within the Top Teens of America Program and beyond. In addition, these mentorship relationships have strengthened the bond between the Top Ladies and Top Teens, promoting continuity and collaboration for the betterment of our illustrious organization and the communities we serve.

The National Projects Committee takes immense pride in the collective successes achieved for the 2021-2023 program years not only through the mentorship with our TTA counterparts but through our collaborations with esteemed organizations to include the NAACP, NCNW, UNCF, and initiatives focused on Sickle Cell Disease Awareness, Literacy, Membership growth, Scholarships, and Awards. Our partnership with the NAACP has allowed us to actively advocate for civil rights, equal opportunities, and social justice, making a tangible impact on legislation and community mobilization with 376 events, over 21,345 volunteer hours, and spent or donated over \$26,500. Through our collaboration with the NCNW, we have empowered women, promoted gender equality, and fostered economic empowerment through mentorship programs and workshops with 358 events, over 27,267 volunteer hours, and spent or donated over \$34,000 not including the \$50,000 spent supporting Good Health WINs. Our partnership with UNCF has provided countless underrepresented students with access to higher education through scholarships with 249 events, over 45,800 volunteer hours, spending or donating over \$54,000. TLOD's dedication to Sickle Cell Disease Awareness has raised awareness, improved treatment options, and supported affected individuals and their families with 300 events, over 25,000 volunteer hours, spending or donating over \$35,000. Our literacy initiatives have fostered a love for reading and learning with over 400 events, more than 45,000 volunteer hours, and spending or donating over \$50,000.

Our membership growth has expanded our reach and amplified our impact to include fostering sisterly relations for our current members with over 500 events held, over 70,000 volunteer hours, spending or donating over \$95,000. Furthermore, our scholarships and awards have recognized and supported outstanding individuals, empowering them to pursue their dreams. Together, these successes reflect our unwavering commitment to community service, personal development for our Top Teens and Top Ladies, and creating a positive and lasting impact.

"WEAR Your CROWN"

AN ORIGINAL POEM DEDICATED TO ALL TOP LADIES WRITTEN BY
Lady Shanita Baraka Akintonde, National Literacy Chair



A Top Lady wears her crown with dignity and style
Her class and grace are evident in her stride

Majestic jewels adorn her coveted insignia on allsides--a symbol of service, commitment and pride

Let's begin with the EMERALD which reflects love and success
While the RUBY represents what all Top Ladies know best
How to empower our youth and Top Teens
Supporting and helping them to move in the direction of their dreams
The DIAMOND is splendid and magnifies what only the wearer can see
That is the true distinction of what being a Top Lady really means

These are the jewels that can be found embedded in a Top Lady's crown

One that she wears whether helping women or seniors, partnering with others or planting trees in the ground

A Top Lady wears her crown when she sets examples and exudes high standards
Whether supporting St. Judes, Sickle Cell, Franchell Boswell or otherwise exuding her TLOD talents

She dons her crown with flair like our only remaining living founder Lady Ozell Dean
Her headpiece is in place whether at Parliamen-Top, Syn-Lod or conferences like the ones
held in my very own Area III (aka The heartbeat of TLOD)

A Top Lady's crown elevates her to such illuminated levels

Even her mistakes are not incorrect, only items not handled in a timely manner

Oh, I know what you're thinking--what about the SAPPHIRE and GOLD?
A Top Lady sometimes likes to save the best for last, for that's how a true story is told

The connotation of TOPs is manifest in the Crown that a Top Lady bears
With heads held high amidst numerous stares

Looks of awe and wonder and surprise no doubt,

That a service organization that started over 50 years ago
in Tyler, Texas is now in almost 50 states, 1 country and still growing with no end in sight

WEAR YOUR CROWN, LADIES! WEAR YOUR CROWN, LADIES!

Wear Your Crown Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.® around the world!



National TLOD Literacy Chair: Lady Shanita B. Akintonde
Co-Chairs, Lady Nueka Hobbs & Lady Phyllis Tarkington
National TTA Literacy Chair: Teen Jamison McCall

Let us celebrate our collective successes of the TLOD National Projects as these are a “Sum of Our Successes” aligning with our TLOD National theme of “Celebrating our Legacy: TLOD Transforming Lives and Making a Difference. One Teen, One Lady and One Community at a Time (TLC).”

OVER 2,230 EVENTS COMPLETED BY MAY 15, 2023, REFLECTING ~235,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS WITH OVER \$295,000 DONATED OR SPENT SUPPORTING OUR TLOD NATIONAL PROJECTS FOR THE 2021-2023 PROGRAM YEARS!

TLOD 2022 - 2023 Awards Committee

The great poet, Maya Angelou, shared many things she learned over the years in her writings. One quote she shared stated that she still had a lot to learn. Like Maya Angelou, Top Ladies are always learning. We are always looking for innovative ways to better serve our communities. COVID mandated that we learn how to serve and continue to make a difference in difficult and unusual times in different ways. We were quite content with the way we showcased our service and the accomplishments of our Teens and Ladies with traditional scrapbooks and in person competitions. However, we learned that we could meet through teleconferencing and zoom and accomplish our goals. We learned that creating Electronic Scrapbooks was not an insurmountable task. We learned how to hold virtual TTA competitions.

Over the last four years, COVID mandated that The National Awards Committee learn how to transform, adapt, pivot and shift along with all of the thrusts and committees in our organization. We learned how to do so without missing a beat. We also added to our TTA competitions, The Performing Arts category, thereby giving our Teens another category to showcase their many talents.

Top Teens and Top Ladies are competitive! You only have to look at the competitions from all six of our geographical areas to know that the four-year national theme, “Celebrating our Legacy: Transforming Lives and Making a difference. One Teen, One Lady and One Community at a Time (TLC)” was the driving force behind the completion of all program thrusts, projects, and activities.



Teen Warren Drayton
National TTA Awards Chair

TLOD COMPETITIONS

Top Lady of the Year (2022 and 2023)

(LaVerne Madlock Award, Founder)

TLOD Outstanding Program of Work

(Willie Lee Glass Award, Founder)

TLOD Outstanding Total Program

(Ozell Dean Award, Founder)

Outstanding Print Media

(Lucellestine Wilson Public Relations Award)

Outstanding Area

(National President's Award)

TTA COMPETITIONS

TTA Speakers Tournament

(Ruth Payne Smith Award, Founder)

TTA Performing Arts

Outstanding Top Teen of the Year

(National TTA Director's Award)

Outstanding Print Media

(Lucellestine Wilson Public Relations Award)

TTA Essay

(Augusta Cash Latham Award, Founder)

TTA Outstanding Program of Work

(Georgia Presswood Nelson Award, Founder)



“AN INSIDE LOOK AT MEMBERSHIP”

Newly appointed Chapter Membership Chairs often ask the question, “So, what does the membership Committee do?” This question exploded across the desk of the National Membership Committee. Responding to such a request the committee set forth to answer the question. The first order of business was to initiate a project to get everyone engaged. Thus, the first National Membership Drive, enacting all TLOD Chapters in all six Areas. Incentives were offered to Top Ladies who brought in one or more Candidates who were inducted into the organization. The goal was 5000 New Members by 2021. Today, we salute Lady Adrienne Boner, National Area IV Director and the Area IV members for Chartering seven (7) New Chapters and ushering in more than 600 New Top Ladies.

Next, the development of resources came forth: National TLOD Brochure, and all Chapters were asked to produce TLOD and TTA Brochures, The National Membership Guide Manual, Overview, Orientation and Induction, “Role and Responsibilities of the National Membership Committee”, “Role and Responsibilities of the Chapter Membership Committee”, The Onboarding Process, The Chapter in a Box Tool-kit, “What a Harmonious Chapter Atmosphere Looks Like”, “Developing a Membership Growth Plan - Expanding Humanitarian Services”, “Celebrating The Sheer Awesomeness of Ladies in our Chapters” and The National Recruitment Referral Initiative. To name a few of the projects. Yes, you may include presentations with various webinars, workshops, Area Conferences and Syn-Lod.

A great concern for all Chapters is RETENTION and to it attention was given. The committee put in place a longevity model to recognize our loyal members in addition to the already existing 25 year Silver Elite Award. These include 5, 10, 15, 20, and 30+. However we have discovered a number of 35, 40 45 and 50 Year Members. We look forward to recognizing these Ladies during Syn-Lod 2023.

“AN INSIDE LOOK AT MEMBERSHIP”

BEHIND *the* SCENES



We created The National Recruitment Referral Initiative, whereas, active members are able to invite prospective Ladies from outside their immediate chapter and across the country, to become members of our organization. An award was also created for Top Ladies sponsoring an individual through the Referral Initiative. During Syn-Lod 2023 they will receive “The TLOD Ambassador Award”. Referred Memberships include : Lady Tonya Glenn, Detroit Chapter, Referred by Lady Pasty Herndon, Bryan-Liberty Counties Chapter, Lady Peggy Copeland, Birmingham Chapter, Referred by Lady Cornell Hampton, Broward County Chapter, Lady Rebecca Freeman, Tampa Bay West Central Florida Chapter, Referred by Lady Donna Gainey, Haymarket Gainesville Chapter, Lady Ayanna McClinton, Queen City Chapter, Referred by Lady Nicole Williams, Bryan-Liberty Counties Chapter, Lady Katrina Burruss, Raleigh Chapter, Referred by Lady Nicole Williams, Bran-Liberty Counties Chapter, Lady Kikki Dorsey, Houston or Diamond Gulf Coast Chapter, Referred by Lady Nicole Williams, Bran-Liberty Counties Chapter, Lady Andrea Escalade, Stafford County Chapter, Referred by, Lady Cheeridsse R. Johnson, Bryan-Liberty Counties Chapter and Teen Autum Mallory Columbus Chapter, Referred by Lady Velda Hunter, Detroit Chapter.

Lady Maria Singfield, National Induction Chair and Area IV Membership Chair along with Lady Elois Alex Co-Chair, report that approximately 1500 Top Ladies were inducted nationally, during the current administration.

The Ultimate expression of Retention –“LIFE MEMBERSHIP”, another source of pride. The Life Member Chair, Lady Claudia B. Lee has serviced 108 New Life Members within the last four years.

The last project is a The National Motivational Activities Notebook, filled with “Inspirational Helps”—“Meditations”, “Prayers”, “Favorite Bible Verses”, “Favorite Quotes”, “Favorite Poems”, “Friendly Humor” and “Ice Breakers”. A helpmate for almost every occasion.

My, what a time we have had. We are grateful and thankful to you for this opportunity to serve and be a beacon of light and hope for those in need of an answer to the question, “What does a membership committee do?”

Sisterly Yours,

Lady Mary F. Hunter, NMC Chair, Co-Chairs Lady Claudia B. Lee and Lady Judith Washington

TLOD 2021-2022 National Scholarship Awards

ACADEMIC GRAND AWARD - \$10,000 JOSEPH THOMAS III, AREA IV, MIAMI CHAPTER

Area I

Nia Harris, Missouri City Chapter - \$2,500 (A)
I'Renee Knighten, Nonpareil Chapter - \$2,500 (A)
Crysten Simien, Lake Charles Chapter - \$2,500 (A)

Area II

Jamie Davis, Southern Maryland Chapter - \$2,500 (A)
Nia Jenkins-DePelza, Southern Maryland Chapter - \$2,500 (A)
Mia Cannon, Prince George's County - \$1,500 (V/T)

Area III

Mikayla Godbolt, Midway Chapter - \$2,500 (A)
Syria Lovelace, St. Louis Chapter - \$2,500 (A)
Durrant Wright, North Shore Chapter - \$1,500 (V/T)

Area IV

Kaitlyn Gaines, Miami Chapter - \$2,500 (A)
Nyla James, New Rock Chapter - \$2,500 (A)
Nadrya Godwin, Raleigh Chapter - \$1,500 (V/T)

Area V

Phoenix Davis, Indianapolis Chapter - \$2,500 (A)
Na'Ja Stokes, Detroit Chapter - \$2,500 (A)

Area VI

Ollie Carr, Mountain West Chapter - \$2,500 (A)
Faith Watson, Hub City Chapter - \$2,500 (A)

A – Academic V/T – Vocational/Technical
Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.® at the National, Area,
and Chapter levels have awarded, to date,

\$414,191 for academic school years 2021-2023.

We thank you for your support of the graduating seniors of

Top Teens of America.



Lady Yolanda E. Smith
National Scholarship Chair



Lady Chastity Gaither-Devoe
National Scholarship Co-Chair



Lady Naomi Nesbitt
National Scholarship Co-Chair

THIS IS POWER THIS IS NAACP



Our Top Ladies and Top Teens of America across the United States have been busy continuing the mission of the NAACP to achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate the well-being, education, and economic security of Black people and all persons of color to envision an inclusive community rooted in liberation where all persons can exercise their civil and human rights without discrimination.

WE ARE TRANSFORMING.....

Lives of our youth to strengthen their cultural, educational and leadership abilities. collaborating and creating partnerships to support/sustain blending programs and projects.

Lives to build stronger relationships and more engaged members through improved sisterly relations. Lives to place emphasis on strengthening and increasing the membership.

Lives to positively project our brand profile and image.



The late Lady Barbara Woods
Past National NAACP Co-Chair



Left to Right - Lady Yolanda Avery, National NAACP Chair, Lady Thelma Daly, Immediate Past National NCNW President and Lady Sharon J. Beard, National TLOD President/CEO

TLOD National NAACP Chair:
Lady Yolanda Avery, Co-Chair:
Lady Karlisa Carter

TTA National NAACP Chair:
Teen Taylor Surrell

Some NAACP chapter activities include voter registration and membership drives, being an active WIN (Women in NAACP) member, becoming Life members. Our Teens are placing in the ACT-SO competitions locally and nationally. We are partnering with legislature action, NCNW and others.

We also pay homage to our late National NAACP Co-Chair Lady Barbara Woods who worked tirelessly to blend the NAACP works with our thrusts and projects. Our Deputy registrar's initiative is in memory of Lady Barbara Woods.



Power at the National NAACP Convention

good

HEALTH WINS!

National TLOD NCNW Chair: Lady Melba Ford – National TTA NCNW Chair: Teen Bryanna Lacey

National TLOD NCNW Co-Chairs: Lady Johnnie Durden, Lady Princetta Farries



National TLOD President & CEO, Lady Sharon J. Beard, Lady Kendra Gillespie (National TTA Director), Lady Melba Ford (National TLOD NCNW Chair) and Lady Michelle Smalls (National Director of Operations) attended the NCNW National Convention with Dr. Thelma Daly, NCNW, 8th National President and an Honorary Top Lady!

The TLOD National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) Committees' goals are to work collaboratively with the local and national NCNW organizations to significantly improve the political, educational, social, economic conditions and health of minority women and their families. During the 2022-2023 program years, we continued to lead and collaborated activities to champion civil and humans' rights, reduce health disparities by partnering with Good Health Women Immunization Networks (Good Health WINS), increased NCNW membership, donated money for NCNW Tree of Hope campaign, attended the NCNW Prayer Breakfasts, NCNW National Convention and various webinars to promote strengthening of the African American family.



National TLOD President & CEO, Lady Sharon J. Beard, PSA on voting

The NCNW partnership with Good Health WINS provided an additional \$20,000 grant for 2022-2023 program year for an education campaign supporting routine vaccinations. The NCNW Committee encouraged chapters to incorporate the need for routine vaccinations and healthy choices messages in ongoing chapter and area activities. During the Area Leadership Conferences, health fairs were held focusing on healthy choices, vaccinations, mental health, heart disease, sickle cell, diabetes, and self-care. Our National President distributed a public service announcement (PSA) on the importance of Voting and Vaccinations.



Hampton Road Chapter in Hampton, VA presents health and vaccination information

This PSA was sent to every member of the organization and encouraged all to do two things, go vote and get their FLU and COVID vaccinations. This PSA was also posted to our TLOD National, Areas and Chapters Facebook Pages, estimating reaching tens of thousands of people. The NCNW Committee also sponsored two TTA national events to bring awareness to the importance of vaccination and health disparities. Events include a TTA poetry and essay contest focusing on the teachings of Dr. Mary McCleod Bethune and participated in the TLOD National TTA Virtual Spring Fling Workshop with a GHWs Vaccination inspired Kahoot, web-based game for the Top Teens.

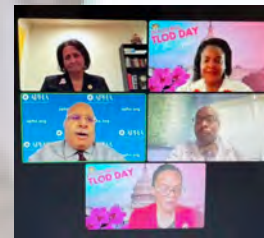


Queens Empire Chapter in Queens, NY donates 768 items to include PPE to the Hollis Family Shelter for the Pink and Blue MLK Day of Service

The online nationwide event was attended by over 200 Top Teens and 30 Top Teens of America Advisors.

TLOD Makes History

Inaugural TLOD Day at the Capitol 2023



On May 3, 2023, TLOD held the Inaugural TLOD Day at the Capitol. This historic event was spearheaded by SCDA and Legislative Action Teams. The theme was “Let’s Talk Sickle Cell and Mental Health.” The three-hour event touched on SCDA, Mental Health and NCNWs Freedom to Learn initiative. Our event began with a history lesson on SCDA in our organization from our 10th National President, Lady Peggy Lewis LeCompte, who began the initiative during her administration. Senator Chris Van Hollen (MD) praised us for our “Pink Envelope” Campaign and encouraged further action. The day was filled with specialists in the field of Sickle Cell to include Dr. Andrew Campbell, Dr. Georges Benjamin and Lady Tracy Holmes Brazil (Scientist). We discussed advocacy with two wonderful Warriors, Ms. Vann and Ms. Hayford and Ms. Hartfield, President and CEO of SCDA. Lady Lois Keith (National Chair for NCNW) came to us live from the NCNW Headquarters in Washington DC to give us updates on the “Freedom to Learn” initiative. Former National TTA President, Dr. Stanley Lewis, Founder and CEO of A28 Therapeutics spoke to us on the importance of advocacy, research and vaccinations, during our “Good Health Wins” segment. To commemorate the festivities, our Teens participated in a PSA Contest. The winners were the Missouri City Chapter Teens, Teen Jayden Davis, and Teen Taylor Gilchrist. This event brought SCDA to the forefront and to new heights in our organization. We are hopeful that this event will continue annually for years to come.

*National TLOD SCDA Chair: Lady Cherrisse R. Johnson; Co-Chair: Lady Sophia Hardy- James
National TTA SCDA Chair: Teen Alana Wilson*

“LET’S TALK SICKLE CELL AND MENTAL HEALTH!”

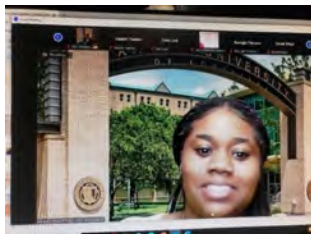
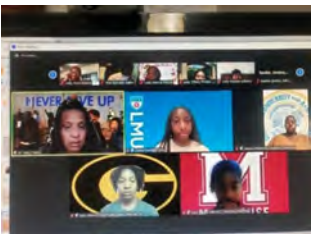
UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND (UNCF)

"A mind is a terrible thing to waste."®

TLOD continues to fulfill our UNCF objective "to provide support for minority education as an investment in better futures for African American students." TLOD believe that WE can't simply believe in equality in education. We have to create it because "A mind is a terrible thing to waste, but a wonderful thing to invest in." Your participation in UNCF Faith Sunday, Walks, Virtual Workshops, various fundraising amongst others project must continue as we keep on supporting and advocating for UNCF one of our five (5) TLOD National Projects.

The TLOD National UNCF Project Team has completed the following:

- Presented UNCF overview to TLOD Chapters 2nd Vice Presidents
- Hosted several virtual calls with TLOD UNCF Area Chairs sharing objectives and strategies
- Provided UNCF Area/Chapter Chairs with monthly UNCF Scholarship information and facts
- Attended Ten UNCF events, virtual and in-person, which included the 2022 UNCF National Virtual Walk for Education and the Annual UNCF Dr Martin L King Jr. Intercollegiate Alumni Council breakfast 2023
- Nashville Capitol City Chapter "PINK Tops and Ties for UNCF" Event
- Participated in the Black Friday! Choose UNCF as your Charity of Choice via AmazonSmile and make a Difference while You Shop event!
- Participated in the TTA Advisor Town Hall 2023
- Five (5) UNCF HBCU Virtual Talks held by Area I, Atlanta Peachtree and Area VI
- TLOD/UNCF Faith Initiative Sunday was held on Sunday, February 27, 2022 and February 26, 2023



All areas participated!

Lady Elnora C. Norwood, TLOD National UNCF Chair
Lady Theresa A. Dillard, Co-Chair * Lady Tonya Solis-Mosby, Co-Chair

National Projects & Affiliates



National Council of Negro Women

TLOD Literacy

Vivien Coe Richard National TTA
Leadership Academy



United Negro College Fund



Sickle Cell Disease Association
of America

Dorothy Allen Chimney Black
History Bowl

Me and My Mentor Program



National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People

National Partnerships



St. Jude
Children's Research Hospital



Keep America Beautiful



American Heart
Association



March of Dimes
Walk for Babies



The Black Women's Agenda



Alzheimer's Walk

TOP TEENS OF AMERICA

Lady Kendra Gillespie, National Top Teens Director

“Participation is our foundation as leaders of tomorrow”



Lady Kendra C. Gillespie
National TTA Advisor
2019-2023



Lady Vickie Henry Hughes
National Asst. TTA Advisor



Lady Karen Brown
National Asst. TTA Advisor

Over the past four years, our Top Teens of America program has been on a mission to “build the next generation of leaders.” With the launch of the new National TTA Program of Work, ExCEL (Excellence through Culture, Education, and Leadership), Top Ladies worked collectively to advance our TTA agenda, while navigating a pandemic. ExCEL provides a platform to help our Teens explore, grow, and thrive through integrated, or blended activities. Activities are identified in three (3) pillars of engagement: (1) Culture, (2) Education and (3) Leadership.

- Increase Teen-to-Teen engagement;
- Expand joint programming efforts;
- Enhance communications;
- Support TTA Advisor development; and
- Identify TTA strategic partnerships.

Ladies leveraged technology, promoted inclusion, and fostered collaboration to share best practices and keep our Teens actively engaged. Teens responded, embracing ExCEL and branching out to other Chapters and Areas, resulting in an enhanced, shared experience coast to coast. There were several goals identified, resulting new TTA initiatives:



We were able to not only achieve our goals but exceed them. ExCEL provided our Top Teens, TTA Advisors and Top Ladies with a host of platforms to connect, collaborate, contribute - and yes, even celebrate!

INCREASING TEEN-TO-TEEN ENGAGEMENT

There were several ways in which we worked to increase our Teens’ engagement. It is important that the “voice” of our Teens is heard and understood. Therefore, several opportunities were provided to ensure our Teens remained connected with each other, but also had a chance to share concerns, ideas and provide input about the future of Top Teens. By empowering our National TTA Executive Board, they led the charge with a host of “Teen-2-Teen” initiatives, resulting in a **total of 20 National TTA-sponsored events**, open to all Teens.

Annual Jingle Jam Holiday Party

Attracting on average 200-250 participants each year since 2020, Teens (and Ladies) gathered to celebrate the holidays in grand style, featuring a holiday movie, bingo, scavenger hunt, musical trivia, Ladies Lounge, and more!

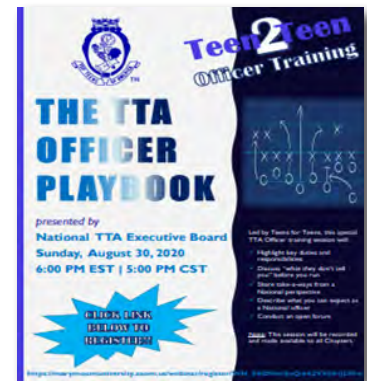
Friday Flix Movie Night

Kicked off by the National TTA Executive Board during the 2020 Memorial Day weekend, the “Friday Flix” Summer Series began, with each Area hosting a movie night. This was a fun way to engage our Teens, recruit new ones, and learn more about the Area TTA leadership. The series ended with a Labor Day weekend double-matinee, hosted by the National TTA Executive Board.



TTA Officer Playbook

Hosted in 2020, this was a unique training session, led by the 2019-2021 National TTA Executive Board, examined the role of both elected and appointed Officers. Teens discussed time commitments, shared duties, lessons learned, and templates for TTA officer use.



Teen-2-Teen Roundtables

With one hosted in the Fall and another in the Spring, Teens gathered each semester to brainstorm workshop topics for Area and National conferences, with a focus on Culture, Education, and Leadership. Their collective input generated conference ExCEL workshops for a shared experience during conferences. In addition, this time was spent to allow for a free-form exchange, while providing a host of educational forums (i.e., parliamentary procedures, health forum) and an opportunity for a little fun (i.e., Halloween party, movie).

These interactive sessions also served as recruiting tools for potential Teens invited to attend. In addition, National and Area TTA leadership visibility increased because of these events.

EXPANDING JOINT PROGRAMMING EFFORTS

Top Ladies and Top Teens joined forces each year to roll out key initiatives, service projects, and programs. Top Teens has successfully collaborated with all National Programs and Project Committees to produce **over 20 joint offerings** such as membership incentive programs, literacy calendars, educational forums, panel discussions, and instructional workshops.

The first major collaborative program was the NAACP “Let Your Voices Be Heard Town Hall,” an idea developed by former Teen Jamie Davis, National NAACP Chair, and led by the National TTA Executive Board. This special inaugural joint program was held on June 1, 2020, in celebration of Juneteenth, with a spotlight on World Sickle Cell Day. With the onset of a pandemic, coupled with police brutality, as seen with the death of George Floyd and others at that time, this publicly broadcast event proved to be a one-of-kind experience for all in attendance.

Since then, Ladies and Teens continued with joint programming efforts to include: two Literacy film discussions/Black History programs; a UNCF “Turn Up Your Mind” workshop; Sickle Cell “Let’s Talk” Town Hall and Day at the Capitol/TTA PSAs; Status of Women Human Trafficking forum; Literacy and NCNW “Good Health Wins” Essay/Poetry Contests; When We All Vote “My School Votes” Campaign; March for Babies Telethon; and “Scholarship Zone” workshop. We’ve come together as ONE TLOD, with Teens and Ladies working alongside each other to deliver quality programs and offerings.



ENHANCING COMMUNICATIONS

Maintaining the highest level of connectivity with our Top Teens, Ladies, and the community at-large was a top priority. During the height of COVID-19, strides were made to connect with our Teens, complete with a TTA presidential address and virtual visits to the Area TTA Executive Board meetings. In addition to enhancing the TLOD website “About TTA” pages and establishing our social media presence with new TTA Instagram and Facebook online accounts, additional communication channels were created to increase communication.

TTA VOICE Newsletter

The National TTA newsletter, the TTA VOICE, is the primary communication vehicle for “all things Top Teens!” During this administration, ten issues were published. The newsletter remains a publication developed by Teens for Teens, where TTA Newsletter Committee members have designed each cover, conducted interviews, and contributed articles. With a fresh, new online submission format and featured columns such as “Ask the Voice,” Area Advisor Salute, New Member Roll Call, Entrepreneur Hall of Fame, and Literacy Café Honors, the TTA VOICE continues to expand its reach with over 8,000 views for 2019-2023.

The addition of the Senior edition and Area representatives further promotes the spirit of the TTA VOICE. This would not be possible without the direction of our newsletter sponsors, National Assistant TTA Directors, Ladies Karen Brown and Vickie Henry Hughes, who work with our Teens to produce this outstanding publication.



The TTA Digest

The TTA Digest is a monthly communication that provides key updates to Chapter TTA Advisors, National Executive Board members, and other TLOD stakeholders. This communication provides a 3-month forecast of upcoming activities, promotes event participation, addresses key issues, and highlights TTA operational items. In addition to this communication, frequent reminders are sent when action is needed by Chapters. The TTA Digest has become a staple channel to share real-time TTA announcements.

TTA Advisor Quarterly Town Hall Series

With 12 town halls held to date, this quarterly series began as a platform to introduce ExCEL to the TTA Advisor community. Open to all Ladies, the town halls have become a popular mainstay with the purpose of providing organization-wide updates directly from our National Leaders. Held on the first Sunday of each quarter, participation has ranged from 100-300 Ladies in attendance per town hall.

Since its inception, topics covered were: blended programming; COVID/risk management policies; awards submission process; TLOD observance days; National service projects and more. Each town hall concludes with a TLOD ‘Members Only’ site virtual tour to learn about available tools and resources.



SUPPORTING TTA ADVISOR DEVELOPMENT

Our Top Teens are only as successful as our Advisors. A major goal is to equip our TTA Advisors with resources to implement plans, instruct our Teens, and guide Ladies. During Area conferences, listening tours were conducted each year to assess TTA Advisor needs and solicit input to better support them. Also, annual planning tools such as the At-A-Glance Activity Calendars and Retreat Planning Guides help our Advisors facilitate Chapter planning. As a result, identified tools and other required actions were identified to provide further assistance.



Online TTA Toolkits

In the 'Members Only' section of our TLOD site, several toolkits were developed and are available for Chapter use. Toolkits include templates, checklists, and scripts (where applicable) for the following: Inductions, Membership, Officers, and Operations to name a few. Six TTA toolkits have been set up and are ready for Ladies to use!

TTA Advisor Institutes

With a newly minted theme “**Sharing Expertise. Building Confidence,**” we continue to conduct at least one offering each year. With a bonus offering, five institutes have been held to date for the 2019-2023 administration. National Service to Youth Committee members and guest speakers have provided key insights on: TTA basics; parliamentary procedures; mental health agenda for teens; creative online engagement; innovative service/project delivery; membership recruitment strategies; and more.

IDENTIFYING STRATEGIC TTA PARTNERSHIPS

We fully recognize that our Teens have a choice, and as we move forward, we must reimagine our organization to sustain growth and excite our membership base. Though we continue to induct an average 1,000 new Teens each year, efforts were made to strategically partner with organizations that align with our vision and mission, providing additional development opportunities for our Top Teens. Identified partners include: The College Board; National Association of Parliamentarians; National Society of Black Engineers; Future Business Leaders of America; and INROADS. With this new TTA Key Alliance Program, we want membership to have its privileges. Orchids to Lady Annetra Piper, our National Community Partnerships Chair, who has provided her expertise to move the TTA agenda into the future.

THE WAY FORWARD

The future of Top Teens of America is a bright one indeed. The diligence and dedication of our Chapter Advisors, Area TTA Advisors, and TTA mentors help our Teens to flourish. As seen during our annual Area Leadership Conferences, 2021/2022 Vivien Coe Richards Leadership Academy, and 2021 Syn-Lod, our Top Teens continue to grow by leaps and bounds. Demonstrated by the return of former Top Teens who participate in TTA workshops and conferences, it is evident that Top Teens of America has made an indelible contribution in their lives.

During this 2019-2023 Transformation Administration, there's no doubt that our Top Teens have not only transformed communities through service – they have transformed their lives through the opportunities provided by Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Our Teens have gained experience, are more than capable, and are ready to serve. Our Teens continue to embody the TTA motto, "Participation is our foundation as leaders of tomorrow."



Orchids to the National TTA Service to Youth Committee, comprised of our Area TTA Advisors. Much gratitude is owed to two very special Ladies, Lady Karen Brown and Lady Vickie Henry Hughes, our National Assistant TTA Directors. To our fearless leader, Lady Sharon J. Beard, thank you for your unwavering support of ExCEL, helping us to fulfill our mission of "building the next generation of leaders." Without you, none of this would be possible.

With outstanding leadership of our National Executive Board, led by our National TTA Presidents, Teens Amari Venzor (2019-2021) and Mariah Liedy (2021-2023), Top Teens of America is not only growing, but thriving. The experience gained by so many will surely last a lifetime.

As a former Top Teen, it has been my distinct privilege, and pleasure to serve as your 2019-2023 National Top Teens Director. Thank you to all for taking this journey of ExCEL-lence!

In sisterhood and service,

Lady Kendra C. Gillespie
2019-2023

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NATIONAL AREA I DIRECTOR LADY ANNIE MOUTON

Top Teens Advisor
Lady Tracy Holmes Brazil

Senior Citizens: Lady Katie Winfrey
Status of Women: Lady Hertha Echols
Community Beautification: Lady Vickie Williams
Community Partnerships: Lady Emelda Douglas
NAACP: Lady Katherine Wilson
UNCF: Lady Carolyn Clemons
NCNW: Lady Jo Beth Harris
Sickle Cell: Lady Myra Nelson
TLOD Literacy: Lady Barbara Smith
March of Dimes: Lady Mary Thomas

ONE AREA I

Area I represents chapters within the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. The Area I theme is: “Transforming Area One through Recruitment, Reclamation, Retention and Recommitment.”

Lady Annie L. Mouton, National Area I Director Teen Mason Thenor, Area I TTA President



Greetings to Lady Sharon J. Beard, National President and CEO, Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., all Ladies, Top Teens of America and Lords!

This is my last greeting and report to The Crown as the 15th National Area I Director. It has been my pleasure to

serve during our years of “Transforming Area I Through Recruitment, Reclamation, Retention and Recommitment.” In Area I, we have collaborated, communicated and partnered to fulfill the mission, goals and objectives of our beloved Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

Area I celebrated its 52nd Area I Leadership Conference March 23-26-2023 in Dallas, TX at the Hilton Anatole Hotel. The conference theme was “People, Purpose and Passion-The TLOD Pathway to Success in Service to Youth and Adults. Lady Brenda King Murphy, served as our Conference Chair. West Cluster Coordinator and EL Paso Chapter President, Lady Diane Williams along with Lady Wavera Sorrells, Co-Coordinator and 2nd Vice President of the Trinity West Chapter, as well as the West Cluster Chapter Presidents, served as our hosts. They are: Lady Jearlene Miller, Dallas Chapter; Lady Wanda Johnson, Capital City Chapter; Lady Deborah Burroughs, Central Oklahoma; Lady Beatrice Dean, River City Chapter; Lady Ian Glenn, San Antonio Metropolitan Chapter; Lady Emile Pendarvis Blaine, Southern Dallas County Chapter; and Lady Dorruth Boyd, Trinity West Chapter.

Four TLOD past national presidents were in attendance: Ladies Bobbie Moorehead, Dorothy Chimney, Jackie Pope and Audrie Lawton, who is also a past national area I director, and six of our seven past area I directors. They are Ladies Lueburda J. Myers, Mary C. Hamilton, Alice Ramsey, Loris Anderson, and Harnell P. Williams. Also in

attendance were National President and CEO, Lady Sharon J. Beard; National 1st Vice President, Lady Eddie Lee Marsh; National 2nd Vice President, Lady Jacqueline Wilcher; National TTA Director, Lady Kendra Gillespie; National Area IV Director Lady Adrienne Boner; National Director of Operations, Lady Michelle Smalls; and our special guests.

Some of the Highlights of the Conference:

- Attendance of 361 Ladies
- Attendance of 289 Top Teens of America
- Attendance of 19 Lords
- Attendance of 31 active chapters-Ladies
- Attendance of 31 active chapters-Top Teens
- Sisterly Relations Workshop, Presenter Lady Cherry Gooden, a member of the Humble-Intercontinental Chapter
- Area I Induction Processional
- Induction of 18 new members (Dallas, Rose City and Trinity West)
- Community Awards Program featuring Michael Selders, PhD and son Teen Khalil of the Dallas Chapter, in a question and answer interview on mental health among teens and adults
- Candidates Corner and Drop-ins
- Me and My Mentor Awards Breakfast with former Area One Top Teen and Officer, Pastor Josef Sorrells, guest speaker
- Election of Area I Officers
- Area I shirt worn during Saturday plenary (first time worn by members as a group)
- Presentation of 48 Ladies in attendance inducted after last year’s conference through March 25, 2023
- Presentation of Area I Mr. and Miss Top Teen
- The Cluster Spirit Presentations
- Director’s Gala with a Mardi Gras theme

A total of 214 new members were inducted into our TLOD Family. A total of 464 Top Teens were inducted. Two of our four Cluster Workdays were in person this fiscal year: Southeast Cluster Workday was held in Lake Charles, LA and Southwest Cluster was held in Houston. The Northeast and West Clusters held a virtual Cluster Workday.

During these four years, we have also enjoyed Thankful Thursday, presented by Lady Lillie Lacy, Area I Chaplain and our Chapter Chaplains. Trilogy in Excellence Training Sessions were offered to chapter presidents and all members who wanted to participate. I implemented the position of administrative programming director to assist thrusts and project chairs in effectively communicating expectations of service projects and their impact in our communities. Lady Joyce Jacquet serves as our programming director.

Thank you, Area I Family, for the opportunity to serve as we impacted our communities through our thrusts: Top Teens of America, Status of Women, Community Beautification, Community Partnerships and Senior Citizens. Our impact was also demonstrated through our projects: NAACP (When WE All Vote), UNCF, NCNW, Sickle Cell Anemia Disease, TLOD Literacy and March of Dimes.

- Lady Annie L. Mouton

BAY AREA SOUTH HOUSTON CHAPTER

Lady Christina Allen, Chapter President

Chapter Ladies and Teens Donate Groceries and Toiletries to Families



The Bay Area South Houston Chapter (also known as BASH) has a very large pink, gold, and silver footprint of service manifested throughout the Galveston County Bay Area and South Houston. In December 2022, the chapter inducted nine new Top Teens at the Houston Public Library location in downtown Houston. The Teens raised funds to purchase warm winter coats for an entire family from the Bondy Intermediate School in the Pasadena Independent School District.

The chapter also purchased food and donated a grocery gift card to a family of children being raised by their grandmother at Hayley Elementary School in

the Texas City Independent School District. They also purchased food and a grocery gift card for a local widowed senior citizen experiencing financial challenges. In observance of the 2023 Pink & Blue Day of Service, ladies and teens donated hygiene items including body wash, deodorant, towels, and detergent pods to the Bay Area Turning Point domestic violence shelter in Webster. The donations were desperately needed for the clients in the residential shelter and were greatly appreciated. The ladies and teens continued their Pink & Blue Day of Service by volunteering at the Galveston County Food Bank where they sorted and packed 750 pounds of food for local senior citizens. The BASH Chapter looks forward to continuing to be “Tops in Service” in the Galveston County Bay Area, South Houston and beyond!



BAYTOWN CHAPTER

Lady Lakesha Harris-Holmes, Chapter President

Chapter Hosts Sisterhood Event & Top Teen Induction

Sisterhood

On February 19, 2023, the Baytown Chapter hosted a sisterhood event with Area I Administrative Programming Director, Lady Joyce Jacquet as special guest speaker. Lady Jacquet graciously shared her knowledge regarding membership, retention, and engagement. Prospective candidates for ladies were present and a lovely reception sister celebration was shared as information was shared the ladies fellowshipped. Present from the Baytown Chapter were Lady Lakesha Harris-Holmes, President, Lady Bertha Harris, 1st Vice President, Lady Chanthena Roberson, Recording Secretary, Lady Saundra Davis, TTA Advisor, Lady Dena Taylor, and Lady Jonell Grace.

Teen Induction

A Top Teens induction was held Sunday, March 19, 2023, at the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Baytown, TX. Eleven teens were inducted under the leadership of Teen Joshua Taylor, TTA President. Ladies who supported the induction process were Lady Lakesha Harris Holmes, President, Lady Saundra Davis, TTA Advisor, Lady Susan Moore-Fontenot, Director of Operations, Lady Bertha Harris, 1st VP, Lady Judy Hunter 2nd VP, Lady Dena Taylor, Treasurer, Lady Mary Sims, and Lady Jonell Grace. The event concluded with refreshments in the fellowship hall.



BEAUMONT CHAPTER

Lady Verlie Nobles, Chapter President

Warming Soles Presented by Beaumont Chapter Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.



The Beaumont Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. hosted its 2nd Warming Soles event. Warming Soles is a sock drive activity done during February 2023 in which the chapter members donated socks and other items to senior citizens who reside at the Spindletop Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Beaumont, Texas. There is a need especially in the winter months to give supplies to our loving Senior Citizens. This Status of Women and Senior Citizen activity was such a success in 2022, the chapter decided to continue the event for 2023.

Status of Women Chair Lady Deshauna Holmes, coupled with other Status of Women and Senior Citizen Committee members executed a distribution plan and program. Members dropped off socks and the committees packaged them in reusable bags coupled with positive affirmations and scriptures. Beaumont Chapter members prepared a beautiful display box to present the socks. Members of Silsbee High School Class of 1997 provided the funds to assist.



The purpose for “Warming Soles” is a heartfelt gesture. The chapter hopes to not only warm the physical soles, but also warm the hearts of the recipients. The event coordinator was very excited about the Chapter’s plans and expressed her gratitude. Letting someone know they are thought of can make a huge impact on their day. There is power in small acts of kindness! The Chapter’s prayer is that each year, they can make a greater impact than the previous years.

CAPITAL CITY CHAPTER

Lady Wanda N. Johnson, Chapter President

Capital City Chapter Provides Holiday Baskets, Care Packages and Backpacks to Community Partners



The Capital City Chapter's yearly retreat brought them renewed energy. As COVID restrictions began to lift, they were excited to serve their community. Chapter meetings, fundraisers, speakers for the Teens and Ladies kept them energized during the pandemic.

Operating virtually, the chapter held two inductions for the Ladies and two for the Teens. Forty-six Top Teens were inducted. The ExCEL Program helped the Capital City teens excel in many ways and allowed them to flourish.

Monthly care packages and beautiful holiday baskets were delivered to the residents of Austin Healthcare and Rehabilitation by the Senior Citizens thrust. The chapter sent homebound senior chapter members and community seniors cards, various presents, flowers and treats.

To ensure student success, the chapter also donated backpacks filled with supplies to students in their adopted classroom each semester. They also supplied the classroom with more school supplies, water, and snacks.

Capital City ladies and teens has an ongoing partnership with the Lady Bird Wildflower Center. They are also working to bring the Pflugerville Black Cemetery back to life. Human trafficking, mental health, adult and teen suicide issues were addressed. Hope for Handbags was an easy project to support women suffering from domestic violence.

Overall, Capital City Chapter's renewed energy kept them busy fulfilling their motto and made them keenly aware of TLOD's national theme "Celebrating our Legacy: TLOD Transforming Lives and Making a difference... One Teen, One Lady and One Community at a Time (TLC)."



CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

Lady Deborah Hill Burroughs, Chapter President

Central Oklahoma Chapter Implements Programs and Projects of Greatest Impact



Top Teens

A total of 14 Teens were inducted into the organization between March 2022 and March 2023. The Teens have worked tirelessly to make an impact on the needs of the community while collaborating with Ladies of the Central Oklahoma Chapter on all thrusts. The Teens have been exceptionally active as a youth chapter of the NAACP, Oklahoma City Branch. They served as

ushers at the 50th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Prayer Breakfast, and participated in quarterly NAACP Youth and College workshops focusing on financial literacy, emergency preparedness, growth mindset, de-stress 101, and social justice and change within the community.

Pink and Blue Day of Service: January 2023

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 's birthday, representatives of Top Teens and Top Ladies distributed products to PIVOT, a nonprofit organization in OKC that provides counseling, prevention education, crisis intervention and emergency youth shelter for troubled youth and their families. Chapter members donated and delivered personal care items and single meal packages worth approximately \$500.00 to PIVOT.



Virtual Black History Annual Celebration



The chapter held its annual Black History celebration, a joint program presented BY TTA and TLOD members on February 26, 2023. The theme was: "Black History Milestones: Shaping our Destiny". The chapter recognized and highlighted the contributions of two (2) icon civil right leaders in the Oklahoma City community. Leonard Benton, prominent, longtime civil rights leader, humanitarian and former director of the greater Oklahoma City Urban League, and noted Humanitarian. Ms. Marilyn Luper Hildreth, participant in the first and historic 1958 Oklahoma City Sit-In Movement. A certificate of appreciation and a gift card were given to Mr. Benton and Mrs. Hildreth. The event also featured a Black History litany written by a chapter member, Black History milestones presented by Top Teens, and

recognition of 21st Century Torch Bearers - a young generation of leaders who are standing on the shoulders of older leaders.

DALLAS CHAPTER

Lady Jearlene Miller, Chapter President

Ladies, Teens and Lords Get Tech Savvy, Serve in South Dallas



Seniors Getting Tech Savvy Workshop

The Dallas Chapter held a “Seniors Getting Tech Savvy” workshop led by ladies, teens, and lords at the Juanita Craft Recreation Center on March 11, 2023. Topics such as smartphone usage, email safety tips, recognition and avoidance of phishing scams were shared with 11 senior citizens. Ladies and teens assisted senior citizens in becoming more familiar and comfortable when using their technology devices.



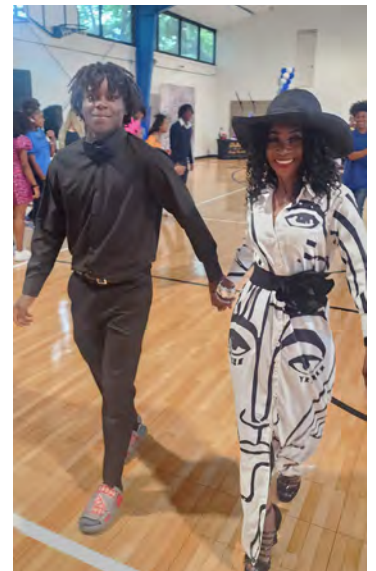
Dallas Chapter Provides Day of Service in South Dallas

Top Ladies and Top Teens graced the South Dallas Community with a full day of service Saturday, April 22, 2023. The day began with a beautification project in partnership with the City of Dallas’ “It’s My Park Day” initiative. Ladies



participated in park clean-up at Beckley-Saner Recreation Center disposing of five large trash bags of debris. The next service project was at the M. L. King Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center. Ladies and teens

enjoyed fun activities including memory games, word searches, and puzzles that stimulated the minds of sixteen senior residents while listening to a variety of music genres. The day of service ended at the Fancy Hat Tea held at St. Philip’s Community Center. Ladies and teens served refreshments to 47 fashionably dressed senior citizens wearing beautiful hats. The highlight was when senior members of the “Soul Inspirational Line Dance Group” taught line dances to 13 teens.



EL PASO CHAPTER

Lady Diane Williams, Chapter President

El Paso Chapter Participates in Texas Trash Off for Community Beautification



With the majestic Franklin Mountains and a gorgeous sunrise as a backdrop, the El Paso Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction and Top Teens of America participated in a highway cleanup. The chapter conducts four highway cleanups a year. The original Adopt-a-Highway program began right here in Texas in 1985. Adopt-a-Highway currently has more than 3,800 participating groups across the state, and TxDOT salutes those thousands of individuals, like the members of TLOD and TTA who dedicate their time to actively make a difference and keep Texas beautiful. The El Paso Chapter has maintained a two-mile stretch of highway 54 for two years. The community beautification chair gave participants a safety brief, distributed

safety vests, gloves, trash collection tools, and trash bags to the Ladies and Teens. During this cleanup, we collected 10 bags of trash and other large debris such as tires and car parts.



The Don't Mess with Texas® Trash-Off is the single largest one-day cleanup event in the state and serves as Texas' signature event for the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest community improvement program. This year's Texas Trash-Off was held April 1, 2023, and every organization with a sign cleaned up their designated areas. The Trash-Off encourages Texans across the state to join forces and clear Texas roadsides of trash. Millions of pieces of litter accumulate on our roadways each year. The El Paso Chapter is working hard to keep El Paso and Texas beautiful!

HOUSTON CHAPTER

Lady Leslie L. Griggs, Chapter President

Houston Chapter Launches NAACP Fundraiser to Support Programming



At the beginning of 2023, members of the Houston Chapter of Top Teens of America (TTA) were very busy and productive. The Ladies and Teens launched a local NAACP fundraiser to donate funds to the local branch. Together, they raised \$500 and donated the funds to the NAACP-Houston Branch to further advance their efforts in the local community.

Additionally, the Ladies and Teens devoted their personal time to take a walk back through history. On Saturday, February 4, 2023, the Teens presented *The Counter Narratives: A Dramatic Interpretation of the Iconic Civil Rights Sit-Ins* during their monthly chapter meeting. The play was written and directed by

Houston Chapter NAACP Chair Lady Christian Winn. “The national Black History Month theme for 2023 is ‘Black Resistance,’ which this play illuminates by retelling the history of the lunch counter sit-ins in Jackson, Mississippi,” Lady Winn stated.

The Houston Chapter partnered with the NAACP-Houston Branch to host weekly rehearsals over the month of January through the first week of February. Each week, either prior to rehearsal or immediately after, the Teens learned new facts and information about the NAACP and the influence of local Black leaders in the greater Houston community.



“We are immensely proud of our Teens for devoting their personal time to this endeavor, and I’m grateful to all the Ladies who helped create such a powerful performance,” said Leslie Griggs, President of the Houston Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

Beautification Chair; Lady Yolanda Jones, Literacy Committee Co-Chair and Lady Kesha McNeil, Top Teens Advisor.



HUMBLE-INTERCONTINENTAL CHAPTER

Lady Sylvia Gibson-O'Neal, Chapter President

Humble-Intercontinental Sponsors Literacy Book Drive for Buckner Family Hope Center



The Humble-Intercontinental Chapter (HIC) Literacy Committee held its second annual book drive on December 17, 2022. Seven hundred forty-four new and gently used books were donated to the Buckner Family Hope Center during their annual Christmas celebration, which aids families unable to provide Christmas presents to their children. The Ladies and Top Teens helped distribute books as gifts; other books donated were used to begin a library in Buckner Center's After-School program. This was an exciting, enjoyable collaboration and networking experience. The cheer and warmth shared the atmosphere, exuberated with spirits of love, joy, and hope throughout the event.

The book donations provided a range of genres and were collected specifically for youth ages 1-18, for a setting encouraging and supporting reading, speaking, listening, writing, and models: "Reading is fun and fundamental." Literature promotes self-esteem and builds important characteristics that encourage and prepare our youth's foundation of thinking and knowledgeable mechanics for building higher-order thinking and those catalysts critical to reaching for success.

"HIC is grateful for everyone who joined the efforts to make our 2023 book drive successful, especially Lady Shwanda Warner, TTA Advisor, and the Top Teens. The Buckner Family Hope Center's Ministry serves 12 schools and approximately 5,000 households, and HIC has created another partnership. This models collaboration in teamwork and expresses the importance of books and Literacy skills in our youth," states HIC Literacy Chair Lady Eve Wallace.



Humble Intercontinental Chapter Inducts New Members

Ten Ladies were inducted on January 15, 2023, and one Lady was inducted on February 4, 2023, along with the Houston Chapter. The following Ladies pictured with National Area One Director Lady Annie Mouton (names are not in order): Ladies Sabrina Alridge-Moore, Amanda Edwards, Winderlyon Hebert, Melanie Johnson,

Marsha Lockwood, LaDonna Malone, Tamara Petty, Geraldine Scott, Lenata Settles, and Pearljunora Zenon.

One Lady was inducted on February 4, 2023. The ladies in the picture are: Lady Annette Joubert, Membership Chair; Lady Annie Mouton, National Area One Director; Lady Sylvia O'Neal, Chapter President; and Lady Stephanie Brown-Elder, newly inducted member.



LAKE CHARLES CHAPTER

Lady Katie Guidry-Johnson, Chapter President

Lake Charles Chapter Celebrates National Walk Day with GirlTrek

In recognition of National Walking Day 2022, the Lake Charles Chapter Senior Citizens Thrust, rounded up a group of energetic Ladies and participated in a 30-minute walking activity in support of and in partnership with the Community Beautification Thrust GirlTrek initiative. The Status of Women Thrust partnered with Southwest Louisiana AIDS Council in an informational forum including guest speakers and resources in an effort to educate and bring awareness to residents on National AIDS Awareness Day 2022. The United Negro College Fund Project received a \$300 donation from the New Sunlight Baptist Church in Lake Charles.



Top Teens, in partnership with TLOD, participated in the “Pink and Blue Day of Service” and helped to collect nearly 600 items that benefited the Potter’s House for homeless women and children and the Lords Place Men’s Homeless Shelter. Top Teens cleaned and beautified their assigned Adopt-a-Spot, Clifton Recreation Center site. The Literacy Committee recently worked to promote a love of reading among elementary age school children.

Top Teens and TLOD participated in a “Reading Glow Night” at Oak Park Elementary and encouraged the students about the importance of reading. TLOD Ladies also partnered with Brentwood Elementary during “Read Across America” by reading books offering positive daily affirmations to students to encourage them to always do their very best. The NCNW Project joined other local community volunteers in packaging 10,600 red beans and rice meals within a two-hour period to stock the Second Harvest Food Bank’s distribution center and prepare to feed the needy of southwest Louisiana.



LAKE HOUSTON CHAPTER

Lady Emelda Douglas, Chapter President

Lake Houston Chapter's Inaugural Masquerade Extravaganza and Brunch



On September 11, the TLOD Lake Houston Chapter hosted its inaugural Masquerade Extravaganza and Brunch, a salute to its community partners alongside 250 guests at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. The event honored Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Oakmont Humble Nursing Home, Santa Maria Hostel, and the YMCA Lake Houston for being strategic service partners for the chapter's Senior Citizens, Status of Women, Top Teens of America, and Community Partnerships programs.



The event was attended by public officials, business owners, family, and friends. Lady Tobin Hawkins, managing chair, welcomed all attendees and introduced an afternoon of entertainment including a keynote speech by award winning author and speaker, ReShonda Billingsley Tate Caradine and R&B greats, The Gentlemen Band. The event grossed \$20,000 for scholarships and programs. Guests included Chapter President, Lady Emelda Douglas, National Area I Director, Lady Annie Mouton and National President and CEO Lady Sharon Beard and Past National President, Lady Bobbie Moorehead. Attendees

wore their jewel-toned colors and masks while experiencing a fun filled event. Everyone danced the afternoon away while connecting with great folks who care about the community and about one another.



Lake Houston Chapter, a 2021 Diamond Five Star Chapter, has extended its service delivery through membership expansion and collaboration for the benefit of youth, adults, and seniors. The chapter is excited to serve with purpose and passion.



LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER

Lady Ashley Swain-Miller, Chapter President

Little Rock Chapter Partners with Arkansas MLK Commission for National Pink and Blue Day of Service Activities

The Top Ladies and Top Teens of the Little Rock Chapter have been making strides toward reaching their “star” potential. Over the last two years, the TTA chapter has experienced tremendous growth, more than doubling in numbers, under TTA Advisor Lady Janay Palmer. Additionally, they have grown in service, ensuring that their Top Teens and Top Ladies are involved collectively in all service projects and activities. The word for their programming year was “collaboration.”



Some project highlights include our jam packed National Pink and Blue Day of Service where they not only donated items to Women & Children First, but also volunteered with the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission for their community food giveaway and candlelight service led by Lady Sylvia “Sy” Smith. The chapter also collaborated with Transforming Life Ministries to provide food to residents of the Con Ivie Gardens senior living facility led by Lady Andress Gray and Lady Phyllis Nichols.

Top Teen Kierra Shelton spearheaded the collaboration with their local veterans association to provide flags for Veterans Day. The chapter also hosted a joint TLOD/TTA Winter Leadership



Roundup and continues to hold a life membership as well as individual memberships and offices in the local chapter of NAACP. And just when things seemed quiet, the chapter quickly banded together to provide supplies for those affected by the F3 tornado that rampaged through their city. Though they are small in number, their chapter is indeed mighty in service.



LUFKIN CHAPTER

Lady Jurlene Menefee Sparks, Chapter President

Lufkin Chapter Participate in Healthy Choices Conference, Partners with Salvation Army



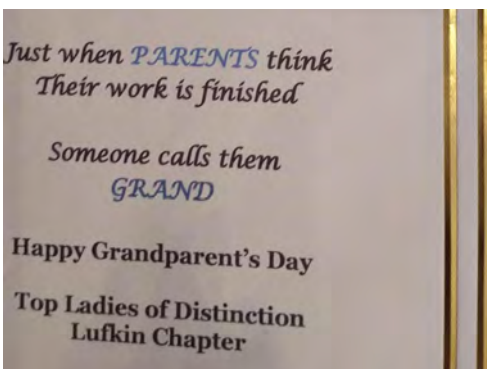
Lufkin Chapter Ladies and Teens shared information with and from community members at the Healthy Choices Conference, held at the Abundant Life United Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall. Information provided included assessing mental health services, bullying, eating healthy, etc.



The Lufkin Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and Top Teens of America, Inc. partnered with the local Salvation Army and assisted with ringing the bell to obtain funds for needy families. The teens spent their Saturday participating in the local Salvation Army Bell Ringing program. Funds were being raised to assist parents with providing food, clothing items, and Christmas gifts for their children. This activity is always noted on the TLOD Program of Work for the Ladies and Teens to participate in.



The Lufkin Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. partnered with the Pinewood Park Complex, utilizing their Conference Room in order to conduct a Top Teens of America, Inc. membership drive. The Teens were very instrumental in bringing in other teens to join their organization. The prospective teens' parents were also in attendance, and learned the various dynamics of becoming a Top Teen, to include leadership training, meeting other teens from other states, becoming a successful and innovative community member, etc.



The Lufkin Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. made cards to send to grandparents. These cards were forwarded to the churches, assisted living facilities, and grandparents of the Chapter's Teens and Ladies. This was just to show an expression of love and gratitude to all grandparents, showing that the Lufkin Chapter was thinking of them on their special day.

MONROE CHAPTER

Lady Gloria Kimes, Chapter President

Monroe Chapter, New Tabernacle B.C. Hosts “Health Is Wealth” Healthy Choice Conference



On March 11, 2023, a “Health is Wealth” Healthy Choice Conference was held at the Tabatorium in Monroe, LA. It was hosted by the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Monroe Chapter, the Top Teens of America Monroe Chapter in partnership with the New Tabernacle B.C. Over 250 people attended the event.

Over 35 vendors participated providing eye screenings, checking blood pressures and glucose levels, and, COVID shots and other vaccination updates. Sickle cell information, March of Dimes information, NAACP membership drive, autism information, cigarette cessation, sexually transmitted diseases information shared and medical recommendations were shared with attendees. A Kid’s Zone was hosted by the Top Teens, food trucks were on site, and a blood drive truck was onsite to accommodate all in attendance.



NECHES RIVER AT BEAUMONT CHAPTER

Lady Lela Rideau-Cormier, Chapter President

Neches River at Beaumont Chapter Partners with Rotary, 100 Black Men and “Sleep In Heavenly Peace” for Bed Donations to Children

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Neches River at Beaumont Chapter and Top Teens of America partnered with other service organizations for a day of making and delivering beds to children in need in Beaumont and Port Arthur, Texas. Lords joined the Ladies and Teens for this event, alongside other organizations including The Rotary, 100 Black Men and LU football team. The children were given beds that matched their personalities. The Teens had a chance to see the 24 children’s faces light up when they



received their own bed. “Sleep in Heavenly Peace” is a nonprofit organization that provides beds. The Teens voted to select this as their main project of the year!

Top Teens and Ladies brought baskets of goods including sleepwear and hygiene items to senior citizens at their adopted College Street Nursing Home and sang Christmas carols along with Mother of Mercy Catholic Church Child’s Choir while the residents enjoyed the show.



NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER

Lady Staphenae Camp Carey, Chapter President

Senior Divas honored at Annual Status of Women Luncheon



New Orleans Chapter Ladies Barbara Bush, Brown and Brenda J. Williams were presented with their 2023 beautiful Senior Diva participant certificates at the New Orleans Top Ladies Annual Status of Women Luncheon which was held on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at The Royal Palm. The theme of the event “Women Empowered to Serve in Uncertain Times,” was expounded upon by Lady Trina E. Williams, Sc.D., Chapter 1st Vice President. Lead guest liturgical dancer, Arainer Antoine performed during the luncheon.



Sacred Movers

Lead guest liturgical dancer, Arainer Antoine is seen here in a praise dance movement during the New Orleans Status of Women Annual Luncheon, April 29, 2023.

New Orleans March For Babies

Lady Rosemary White, Chapter Secretary, Lady Staphenae Carey, Chapter President, and Top Teen Aaliyah Mile, completed the recent March for Babies Walk. Lady Natalie Lewis, was the Captain for their TLOD/TTA team, which raised money via online pledges.



NONPAREIL CHAPTER

Lady Constance Carroll, Chapter President

Nonpareil Chapter Volunteers At Louisiana Leadership Institute and Wellness Expo



The Nonpareil Chapter had a fun time at the Louisiana Leadership Institute that sponsored a Wellness Expo with the Louisiana Department of Health and the Women's Hospital. Ladies Doris Brown, Glennis Gray, Shelia Lewis and Katildra McDonald provided leadership to the Expo, and chapter members provided assistance where directed and worked the registration table. The Teens provide artistic face painting for the children.



Ladies Clonise Stewart, Joan Fisher-Ranel and Teen Kalila Anthony completed a three-mile walk for March for Babies



Lady Cynthia Reed along with 12 other Ladies volunteered at the EBR Council on Aging at the Senior Skip Day 2.0.



Nonpareil Chapter partnered with Love the Booth, a week-long campaign to keep Louisiana beautiful. Teen Kayleigh Dugus, Lady Erin Gaines, Lady Izetta Blake and Teen Jase Gaines.

PRAIRIE VIEW CHAPTER

Lady Sharon Gillum, Chapter President

Prairie View Chapter Top Teens of America and Top Ladies of Distinction, Incorporated Partner with the Marc Thomas Sickle Cell Disease Association



December was quite busy for the Prairie View Chapter Top Teens of America and Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. The Prairie View Chapter along with the Houston and Suburban Bayou City Chapters partnered with the local Sickle Cell Disease Association, Marc Thomas, for the annual pajama party and toy grab December 16-17, 2022.

On Friday, the Ladies and Teens wrapped the gifts for the toy giveaway. The wrapping of the gifts was followed by the annual Sickle Cell Toy Grab and Pajama Party. At the party, the sickle cell recipients dressed in pajama attire to receive their gifts.

In addition to the gifts, the chapter served breakfast tacos, muffins, donuts, and a beverage to the sickle cell participants. They were issued tickets to receive a book and games, and to add to the fun, Santa was present to make sure everyone was nice. Close to 50 sickle cell recipients and their families were well received for the annual event and joyous fun was had by all.



RIVER CITY CHAPTER

Lady Beatrice Dean, Chapter President

Serving Youth and Adults with a Zeal

The River City Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. has been moving forward, striving to enhance the well-being of our services to youth and adults within our community. Even though the chapter had to endure the COVID-19 pandemic for two and a half years, they created community pathways through technology; phones, emails, zoom and virtual meetings, conferences and the works. As the pandemic restrictions were lifted, the chapter was eager to engage in their programs and projects and they have accomplished much.



The River City Chapter served their community partners by participating in the Sickle Cell Walk and a Sickle Cell Christmas Pajama Party, a March of Dimes Prematurity Awareness Month clothing drive at the Stone Oak Methodist Hosp, with thank you cards written by their teens and addressed to the nurses. They also participated in a Dress for Success drive, collecting clothing, shoes, jewelry and purses, to support and encourage the next step back into society. The chapter donated clothing, bedding with furniture, and Thanksgiving dinner to the Empowered Women's Shelter, provided monthly education with fun and prizes for Senior Citizens, created and packaged food boxes for the Childrens Hungry Funds at the Skybridge Community Church, serving not only their community but to Uganda and Africa. For community beautification, the chapter planted seeds to provide food for the community.

Every effort River City has made has been a true blessing to our adults and youth.

ROSE CITY CHAPTER

Lady Sharon Mosley, Chapter President

Former Rose City TTA President Shares Personal Experience Living With Autism



During Autism Awareness Month in April, the Rose City Top Teens received an up close training by a former Teen who with the help of Top Teens involvement beat the odds. Former Teen CJ Faulk joined Rose City Top Teens during his freshman year in high school. His autism diagnosis came full circle as a freshman because he was not aware of it. CJ recalled being left out and no one really wanting to verbalize with him, being mocked and feeling out of touch with his peers.

When he joined TTA, he was made to feel that his opinions mattered and he had someone to listen to his thoughts and ideas for the first time. During his first Area One Conference, CJ experienced the time of his life. He was able to network and meet new people with the same interests that he had bottled up inside.

The next year, CJ had a desire to run for the local presidency for Top Teens, which he recalled as something that he had never done in the past. He always avoided bringing attention to himself in the past. Top Teens helped him to embrace his autism while giving him the opportunity to express himself and feel great about himself.

CJ was the life of any of the Area One events, especially the choir. He would be front and center rocking back and forth to the beat. He attributes Top Teens for helping him to find himself and reach his highest potential. CJ challenged the group of Teens, Ladies and guests to be willing to take risks and dream big. As a college graduate, CJ has been able to acquire a job and start his own motivational speaking about how he overcame his anxiety to be successful. CJ answered questions about what was his biggest accomplishment in which he stated that Top Teens gave him the opportunity to be heard.

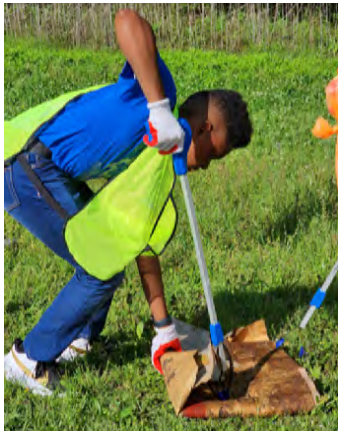
A blue informational graphic for Autism Awareness Month. At the top, it says 'Rose City Top Teens Discuss Autism Awareness Month'. Below this is a small photo of CJ Faulk speaking at a podium. To the right of the photo is a white card with a heart icon and text: 'Autism is a complex neurological condition that affects how the brain works. It is not an illness or a disability. It is a difference.' Below the photo and card is a list of statistics and facts about autism, including: '4.2X MORE BOYS VS GIRLS', '40% OF ADULTS WITH AUTISM WERE NOT DIAGNOSED UNTIL AGE 18 OR OLDER', 'AUTISM RESEARCH: National Institutes of Health estimates that 1 in 54 children are born with autism in the U.S.', 'AUTISM IS TREATABLE: Children who receive early intervention can learn to communicate, play, and live independently.', and 'EVER BLOOD: Children who have autism are at a higher risk for blood clots and stroke.' At the bottom, it says 'DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY' and 'Division of Community Services'. To the left of the statistics, there is text: 'Former Teen CJ Faulks- shares day to day experiences living with Autism! CJ is available to do speaking engagements for groups, churches and organizations.'

SHREVEPORT CHAPTER

Lady Dorthea Palmer Foster, Chapter President

Area 1 Shreveport Chapter Community Beautification

Shreveport Chapter Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., and Top Teens of America spent their last day of Spring Break giving back to the community of Shreveport. This beautification project was a collaboration with Ladies, Lords and Teens led by President Lady Dorthea Palmer Foster, coordinated by Lady Marie Johnson Watts, Beautification Chair and Lady Shelita Hoey, TTA Advisor. Fourteen teens, five Ladies, three Lords and two TTA parents gathered at the corner of Hearne Avenue and Hilry Huckaby III, Hwy. to conduct a much needed cleanup. This section of the highway has been adopted by Top Teens.



The Shreveport Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., partnered with Shreveport Green and the Department of Transportation and Development to complete this endeavor. Cassandra Calloway, neighborhood education program director for Shreveport Green, provided safety vests, litter grabbers and discussed pertinent safety points with the group. The Department of Transportation and Development provided trash bags to collect and dispose of the trash properly. Top Ladies and Top Teens collected a total of nine large bags of trash during this cleanup project. Fulfillment and joy were shared by all in knowing that this section of Shreveport was cleaner than before. The city's slogan says: "Keep It Classy – Not Trashy," Shreveport is HOME!



SOUTHERN DALLAS CHAPTER

Lady Emile Pendarvis Blaine, Chapter President

Southern Dallas Chapter Celebrates Teens and Membership in NAACP and NCNW



The Southern Dallas Chapter Ladies, Lords and Teens continue their service to the Southern suburbs of Dallas County; Duncanville, DeSoto, Glenn Heights, Mansfield, Ovilla, Cedar Hill and Lancaster. The chapter has 100 percent of its members active in the NAACP and NCNW. The chapter also continues providing Service to Youth by support of its Teens and other programs and projects of TLOD. This year, all three of the graduating seniors of Top Teens will receive a college scholarship.

The Southern Dallas Chapter will transition its officers this year. Many thanks to the officers who have served diligently since the chartering in 2019. Kudos to Lady Emile Pendarvis Blaine, Chapter Organizer and President, who will go out of office for her service. Best wishes to the new administration who will be led by Lady Sonja Howard Smith.



SPRING-CYPRESS CHAPTER

Lady Regina Dickson, Chapter President

Spring-Cypress Chapter Turns Pink to Red Raising Heart Disease Awareness



On February 3-4, 2023, the Spring-Cypress Chapter turned pink to red in the suburbs of the greater Houston, Texas area raising heart disease awareness virtually. Through research, the chapter recognized women have a higher risk of hospitalization and death post-heart attack. At the conclusion of our research, the Spring-Cypress Chapter Status of Women Committee was compelled to host an event highlighting women and heart health.

Lady Dawnestel Fodeibou, a healthcare provider and the Spring-Cypress Chapter Status of Women Chair, developed and presented “Go Red 2023 For Heart Disease Awareness” with information from the American Heart Association. She presented critical points of awareness such as: “Why the Go Red Campaign Was Created,” “Know Your Risk Factors!” and “Signs and Symptoms.” Additionally, funds were raised and donated to the American Heart Association.

After the presentation, participants were provided with an opportunity to engage in a question-and-answer session and share their experiences with heart health awareness. The Spring-Cypress Chapter will continue to support raising heart disease awareness for the Status of Women and heart health.



SUBURBAN BAYOU CITY CHAPTER

Lady Jo Beth Harris, Chapter President

Spring-Cypress Chapter Hosts Glaucoma Awareness Event with Local NCNW Chapter



The Ladies and Teens of Suburban Bayou City Chapter decided to take CPR, First Aid and Aiding Training as a Mentor Mentee event. Not only did they learn if you “see something, say something,” they also learned they could also “do something” and save a life as it relates to domestic violence, human trafficking, Alzheimer’s, stroke and breast cancer awareness. Status of Women, Top Teens, and NCNW led the way.

On October 29, 2022, Ladies and Teens joined the Aldine Independent School District in a community partnership and attended the training. They highlighted how to determine if the victim was an adult, child, or infant. They also explained and demonstrated the correct techniques on how to administer CPR on adults and infants. The Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and proper placement of the pads were demonstrated. The trainers explained the proper procedure of how to cool down a person from heat exhaustion, to run cool water over a burn area, and to stop bleeding by applying pressure. How to dislodge an object from the mouth of a choking person, babies and self-choking were also demonstrated. They discussed the signs of stroke - notice the face, listen to the speech, look at balancing the hands and get medical attention immediately.

Teen Gregory Roberts stated that he was renewing his certification. “It is a good feeling knowing what to do, stay calm and do not panic if someone has a medical emergency” exclaimed Teen Gregory.

SUGAR VALLEY CHAPTER

Lady Lisa Brooks, Chapter President

Sugar Valley Chapter Host Domestic Violence Prevention & Toiletry Drive

The Top Ladies of Distinction-Sugar Valley Chapter has executed numerous thrust and project activities during the previous and current fiscal year. The activities are identified below.

Thrust Involvement:

- National Sickle Cell Walk
- Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (Status of Women Webinar)
- National Grandparents Day (Greeting Cards)
- Community Beautification Recycling Day
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month (Care Packages)
- Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure
- National Domestic Violence Month (Webinar)
- National Alzheimer's Disease Month (Webinar)
- National Aids Days Webinar (Senior Citizen Committee)
- National Wear Red Day & Heart Health Webinar
- Senior Citizen Donations to the Terra Bella Senior Facility



Program Involvement:

- NAACP Community Policing, Meet & Greet
- UNCF College Fair
- UNCF Sunday
- National & Area One Legislative Chair Mixer
- Legislative Call to Action



Community Involvement (Civic, Charitable and Religious):

- Community Partnership Backpack Drive with Houston Community College
- Pink & Blue of Service Donations to Angela's House
- Veteran Household Essential Donations to Veterans Choice Home
- Virtual Meals on Wheels & Senior Citizen Calls
- Literacy Adopt a Family & Book Donation to Forester Elementary
- Community Partnership Toy Donation to Southside Community Center
- Community Partnership with Area One Chapters (Thanksgiving Gift Card Donations)
- Community Beautification Clothing donation for Star of Hope
- Pink & Blue of Service Donations to S.H.A.P.E. Community Center



Sugar Valley Chapter looks forward to the next administration.



TRINITY WEST CHAPTER

Lady Dorruth Boyd, Chapter President

Operation Care International

On December 17, 2022, the Trinity West Chapter participated in a local Christmas party sponsored by Operation Care International (OCI) in Dallas, Texas. Established in 1993, OCI has an annual birthday celebration for Jesus, honoring the homeless and impoverished in the Dallas community. Each December, starting in 2020, this event draws thousands to a central location allowing OCI and other community organizations to connect guests to local advocate partners to help escape homelessness and poverty.



Since the event was sponsored by a Top Teen, the Teens were encouraged to invite their mentors to come and participate. In total, Trinity West had eight Top Teens, five Ladies and three Top Teen parents to participate in this annual event. The chapter was responsible for greeting, organizing and distributing shoes to children and adults. Collectively, this event helped generate over 100 volunteer hours.

After volunteering within the community, Trinity West Teens also invited their mentors to lunch to take part in some holiday socializing and games! A fun time was had by all!



TWIN CITY CHAPTER

Lady Barbara Larry, Chapter President

Twin City Chapter Participates in City-wide Backpack Program

The Twin City TLOD and Top Teens have had an active year of service to the Texarkana area. With the COVID-19 restrictions being relaxed, they were able to increase their in-person activities. The 2023 year kicked off with a joint retreat with ladies and teens. They also participated in the City-wide Back Pack Program. Backpacks were stuffed with various school supplies and given to local youth. Other activities included: Top Teens were encouraged to provide pictures of them celebrating their grandparents on “Grandparents Day.” Youth participated in the Greater NAACP annual MLK Day followed by providing personal hygiene items and supplies to a local Women’s Center in observance of Pink and Blue Day of Service. The Blue and Silver Ball was held at the end of January. Food items were donated to a local group. Teens and ladies participated in the Adopt a Highway program. Additionally the chapter partnered with the City of Texas in the Citywide Garden project. Ladies and two teens attended Area One Leadership Conference in Dallas, and a Healthy Choices workshop was recently held with local speakers/presenters. Twin City Top Teens are under the leadership of Lady Sheila Dukes, Top Teens Advisor and Ladies Lashaundra Bradley and Kim Perry, assistant TTA Advisors.



NATIONAL AREA II DIRECTOR LADY HOPE RUFFIN

Top Teens Advisor
Lady Katina Robinson Wright

Senior Citizens: Lady Alicia Dawson
Status of Women: Lady Lisa Charles Jordan
Community Beautification: Lady Sabrina Jones-Smith
Community Partnerships: Lady Alisha Hayes-Cross
NAACP: Lady Shawn Jackson
UNCF: Lady Deborah Daniels-Christie
NCNW: Lady Rhudine Wilkes
Sickle Cell: Lady Christine Harrell
TLOD Literacy: Lady Dennine Powe
March of Dimes: Lady Kathy Waymmann

TWO AREA II

Area II encompasses the states of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania (East), New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Rhode Island, as well as the nation's capital, Washington, D.C.

The Area II theme is: "Our Service is A.I.M ... Act, Innovate, Motivate because Service is What We Do in Area II"

Lady Hope Ruffin, National Area II Director Teen Joshua Solon Davenport, Area II TTA President



Greetings from Area II! I am happy to report that we have 18 chapters in Area II. Area II Top Ladies donated over 47,000 hours; Top Teen donated over 8,000 hours with donations over \$50,000. You will be able to read all of their accomplishments in this section as they wrap up the service year. Our membership is strong and

thriving. There were 112 Top Teens inducted, 13 TLOD inductions were held and 132 Top Ladies inducted. Lastly, seven Top Ladies were reinstated. Area II held two virtual Area II Clusters and hosted our 40th Area II Leadership Conference on April 20-23, 2023 at Westfield Marriott in Dulles, VA with ~530 Top Ladies, Top Teens and Lords in attendance. Area II presented Lady Ozell Dean with the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award and celebrated her 100th birthday.

AREA II SUSTAINABILITY

- Area II is strong and mighty; Financially strong and viable;
- Developing a strategic development plan for growth in states without chapters
- Delaware is a goal for 2024/2025
- Begin a grassroots effort with chapters with less than 30 members to determine impediments to retaining and growing membership
- Interest meeting materials; methods to advertise and attract Ladies; does the chapter have a membership chair
- Hold workshops for non-compliant chapters
- Providing \$10,000 in scholarships in 2023

FREP Endowment for Lady Ozell Dean FLOD

- Area II Executive Board voted unanimously to start an endowment for Lady Ozell Dean via the Franchell Boswell Education Foundation!
- Area II activities gifts will go towards the endowment
- Full capitalization is \$10,000; Area II is providing \$2,000 to get started....

Area Accomplishments FLOD

Act	Innovate	Motivate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established an Area II Endowment for Franchell Boswell Education Foundation Established an Area II Endowment for Franchell Boswell Education Foundation Established an Area II Endowment for Franchell Boswell Education Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established an Area II Endowment for Franchell Boswell Education Foundation Established an Area II Endowment for Franchell Boswell Education Foundation Established an Area II Endowment for Franchell Boswell Education Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established an Area II Endowment for Franchell Boswell Education Foundation Established an Area II Endowment for Franchell Boswell Education Foundation Established an Area II Endowment for Franchell Boswell Education Foundation

SISTERHOOD RETREAT

On November 4-6, 2022, ~One hundred and seventeen Ladies participated in the Inaugural Sisterhood Retreat.

The theme was “Strengthening our Sisterhood Bonds by Reclaiming Our Mind, Body and Soul.” Friday night, we focused on game night as an opportunity to relax and unwind then followed by line dancing with a great instructor, Charita. Saturday focused on fitness and nutrition and started with a fitness panel that focused on nutrition, yoga, running and weightlifting. The panel included speakers Kinyette Newman, Christy Fenner, Angela Johnson and Durrel Davis. Area II had a Day Party with a “Denim & Pearls” theme and bling sneakers. Lady Ursula Williams won 1st place for the best bling sneaker and Lady LaDreda Drummond was runner up.

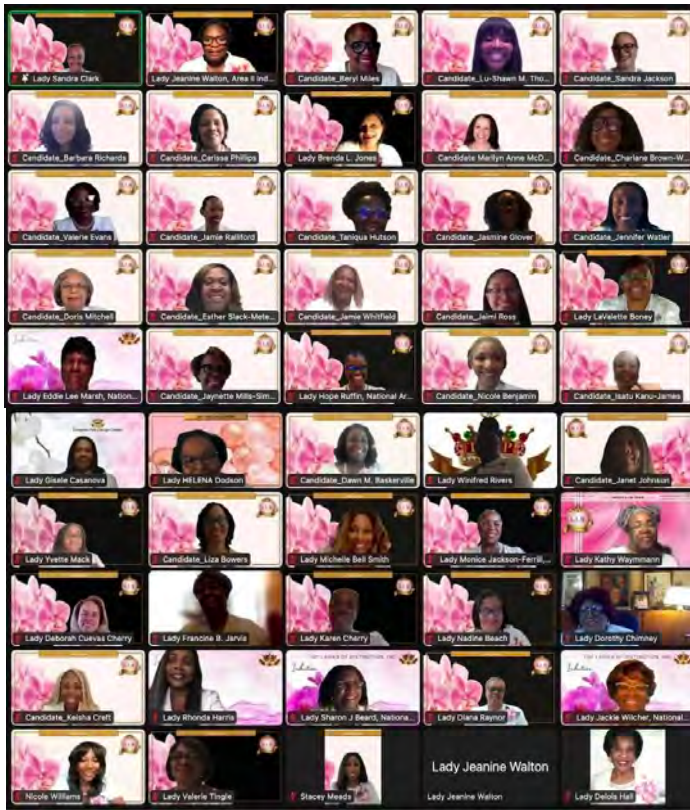


The event ended Saturday night with pajamas watching the movie “The Banker,” snacking on popcorn and candy. The weekend culminated on Sunday with a breakfast workshop entitled “YOU Are Worth It: A Healthier Mind, Body and Soul” led by Dr. Sharon Allison Ottey. It was a dynamic workshop where Dr. Ottey let the attendees know that they are “Worth It” and they have to “Work It” mind, body and spirit.

GROWING OUR SISTERHOOD Manhattan Pearls Chapter Chartering

The Sugar Hill Manhattan Pearls Chapter chartering and induction ceremony was held on June 25, 2022.





40th AREA II LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 40th Annual Area II Leadership Conference was held at the Westfield Marriott Washington Dulles in Chantilly, Virginia on April 20-23, 2023 with more than 530 Top Ladies, Top Teens, National Officers, Lords and special guests in attendance. The theme was “Area II Strong & Mighty- 40 Years of Service with Purpose and Passion”. The conference was packed with informational meetings and inspirational events for our Ladies, Teens, and Lords. Lady Hope Ruffin and Teen Joshua Davenport, Area II TTA President, presided over the Joint Opening Session. Lady LaValette Boney, Area II Director of Operations, served as the mistress of ceremonies, followed by prayer, Area and National greetings. Ladies and Teens conducted the business of Area II during the plenary sessions, establishing the road ahead and the charge for the upcoming program year.



The TTA Blue and Silver Luncheon was presided by Teen Adrianna Stapleton. Teen Joshua Davenport provided a moving testimony on being a stem cell donor for his brother. The Area II Top Teens gave a tribute to the Top Teens Advisors with a finale

showcasing our graduating Top Teens. It was an emotional tribute as the Teens reflected on their Top Teens journey and on becoming a Top Teens Alumni. Lady Marie Bowe Quick, Washington DC Chapter President, presided over the Area II Ladies Luncheon. The luncheon featured Sickle Cell awareness and showcased our newly inducted Top Ladies attending their first Area II Conference presented by Lady Diana (Dee) Raynor, Montgomery County Chapter President.. Lady Christine Harrell introduced the Guest Speakers, Mrs. Marlene Peters-Lawrence, RN and Dr. Andrew Campbell. Lady Michelle Bell Smith presented the over 600 blankets collected for Children’s National Hospital Sickle Cell patients followed by acknowledgements, a hat parade and closing remarks by Lady Hope V. Ruffin. The impromptu “Praise & Worship” to the song, He’s an on time God, led by our Area II Chapter Presidents was an event highlight enjoyed by all.



The All That Glitters gala processional was led by the Area II Protocol Chair, Lady Arnetta Lawrence. National First Vice President Lady Eddie Lee Marsh gave a warm welcome followed by the invocation by Lady Vanessa Watson-Long, Area II Chaplain. The

Mr. & Miss Top Teens of America Presentation was provided by Lady Tia Belton and Lady Trek Powell. The main event, presentation of Presidential Lifetime Achievement Awards and Area II Awards, was led by Lady Dee Dawkins-Haigler and Lady Hope V. Ruffin respectively. Teen Jaiden Burney of the Montgomery County Chapter, winner of the Ruth Payne Speaker Award, blessed us with her speech on Critical Race Theory. The Johnny Steele Band performed for the event and the evening closed with sounds from DY Ezy as the Ladies and Teens danced the night away.

The conference culminated with the Area II Memorial Service led by Lady Faye Ebron, Baltimore TTA Advisor and the Area II Inspirational Moments led by Lady Tamara Harris, Baltimore Chapter President, showcasing the sounds of our Area II Choir composed of Ladies from across all chapters. Rev. Chania Dilliard preached a mighty word from the Lord and prayed over the Top Teens.

Ladies and Teens left the conference inspired and proud of the service and innovative methods used in serving the community; motivated to continue their service, and challenged to find innovative areas to make the organization better as the best is yet to come!



Area II celebrated its 40th Leadership Conference April 20-23, 2023 at the Westfields Marriott Conference Center in Chantilly, Virginia. It was fitting that this ‘Ruby’ conference was curated with special emphasis on fostering collaboration, interaction and celebration of our organization’s first

specific purpose: “TOP TEENS OF AMERICA.” Following the theme, “LEADING CHANGE: TODAY’S LEADERS, TOMORROW’S FUTURE” the conference highlighted the many ways Top Teens are making an impact on our communities. This return to in person conferences brought the highest number of Teen registrants the Area has received. On Thursday, the Area II TTA Executive Board joined their Area II TLOD Executive Board counterparts at a dinner to celebrate the start of the conference and to welcome guests from Area I, III, IV and VI. The welcome dinner hosted by National Area II Director, Lady Hope Ruffin, was followed by the Memorial Service. In support of the National Service Project, Area II Top Teens prepared one hundred (100) meal packs for the Food for Others Power Pack Program (P3). Food for Others is an important part of Northern Virginia’s safety net for those needing food when an emergency strikes and for the growing number of working poor who need to supplement their inadequate food supplies. Power packs are distributed to elementary school students who are in need of supplemental food on the weekends. Additionally Teens used the time to assemble two thousand (2000) swab kits for the Be

the Match organization. Teens and Ladies ended Thursday night with some line dance instruction and showing off their best dance moves to timeless hits.

Friday’s Joint Opening was a fun filled session with the Teens and Ladies from each chapter introducing themselves by showing off their favorite line dances, choreography and chapter spirit. After Plenary Session I, Top Ladies joined the Top Teens for the Blue & Silver Luncheon. Teens paid tribute



to the Area II Chapter Advisors, thanking them for their mentorship, service and love throughout the year. Also, we recognized Teens who are registered voters since they have been highlighting the importance of using their voice to make change. In addition, representatives from Food for Others and Be the Match were present to receive the service project donations. Area II TTA President, Teen Joshua Solon Davenport, a donor for his brother, former Teen Robert Davenport shared his journey of stem cell donation. Forever grateful because God enabled him to give his brother a pain-free life. Friday evening’s activity, Area II’s “The Voice” and Block Party. This was an opportunity for all to share their love and appreciation for literacy and the Arts. Ladies and Teens were invited to share their talents after which we welcomed Kim B. Miller, Prince William County, Virginia’s first African-American Poet Laureate. After her performance, she joined Area II Top



Ladies on “Authors’ Row” for a book signing. The Teens continued the evening with an interactive panel discussion with Area II TTA Alumni, Jamie Davis (Spelman College) and Leanne Waldron (Howard University) moderated by Lady LaToya Copes. They shared their journeys

in life beyond high school and had a frank discussion about mental health and the challenges facing young

people. The teens closed out the evening with an interactive presentation on the history of “Stepping” and the cultural significance to the Black Greek Letter organizations from Brian McCollum (Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.) and a Block Party along “Lady Ozell Dean Way” that featured the “Our Voice



Matters” PSAs created by Area II Chapters in support of Area II’s Youth voting initiative, interactive tables with raffle baskets for some of program thrusts and projects and an artwork display from Teen Chelsea Truesdale, Prince George’s County Chapter and culturally expressive artist

London Goode, daughter of Lady Natasha Goode (Area 1). Her artwork was also featured as part of the Teens workshop “The Diaspora, Where Inclusion Matters.”

Area II Top Teens spent Saturday at Bowie State University. Teens enjoyed a walking tour of the campus that commenced at the student center and that included the business school, entrepreneurs residence, state of the art school of nursing, lunch in the Cafe’ and a tour of the Bowie State Nutrition Lounge. The nutrition lounge is an on campus pantry started during the pandemic that provides supplemental food and toiletry items to students and staff. The Area II TTA Executive Board presented the pantry with a monetary donation. Upon our return we closed out the last plenary session with the election results and installation of the new officers. Saturday evening’s gala included the presentation of the chapter Mr. & Miss TTA representatives and presentation of awards. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award being presented to our National Founder Lady Ozell M. Dean. After the presentation of awards, Teens and Lords serenaded our Founder, Lady Ozell Dean before being dismissed to attend the Blue and Silver Sneaker Ball. The final event of the conference was the Inspirational Moments Breakfast with a salute to the Class of 2023 and turning of the tassels led by Teen Jira Gardner, Area II 1st Vice President. Guest speaker Rev. Chania L. Dillard closed the breakfast with a prayer for the Top Teens.

A RESOLUTION HONORING LADY OZELL M. DEAN ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY



WHEREAS, on November 7, 2023, Lady Ozell M. Dean will celebrate her 100th Birthday; and

WHEREAS, Lady Ozell was born on November 7th, 1923 in Tyler, Texas and raised in Houston. It was here, she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Texas College. She went on to receive a Bachelor of Nursing at Dillard University New Orleans School of Nursing, a Masters degree at Catholic University where she was also a Doctoral Candidate. She continued with her education as a Teaching Fellow in Public Health at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN and went on to receiving additional degrees in Aerospace Medicine at Maxwell Air Force Base in Maxwell, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Major Ozell M. Dean is the first African-American Flight Nurse in the U.S. Air Force Corps; she is the Founder of the Esther Dean Ministry and the Executive Organizing Founder of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and **WHEREAS**, TLOD was conceived by Lady Ozell after she attended a White House Luncheon at the invitation of First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson. Where, Lady Ozell was so inspired that she immediately contacted a relative in Tyler, Texas, Lady Frances Bowell, and together they sought out distinguished women who would work cooperatively in alleviating problems affecting our youth and our communities; and where TLOD, was founded on Lady Ozell's philosophy: "Success in life does not lie in your material wealth, social position, or education level, but what you are able to give of yourself for the good of others"; and

WHEREAS, the first meeting of TLOD, Inc. was held on June 4, 1964 at Tyler Texas to establish policies and governing laws. And since its inception, the organization has expanded its objectives to include its focus on youth - known as Top Teens of America, improving the Status of Women, Service to Senior Citizens, Community Beautification and Community Partnerships, and Chapters nationwide support NCNW, NAACP, UNCF, Sickle Cell Disease Awareness, and the awarding of national scholarships to at least one Top Teen in each of TLOD's six geographic areas; and membership in TLOD, has grown to include thousands of dedicated, hardworking members all of whom work in the interest of the more than three thousand Top Teens and the fulfillment of TLOD's mission: Serving Youth and Adults; and

WHEREAS, Lady Ozell is greatly loved and honored by the members on the occasion of her 100th birthday, and in rightful appreciation of her life and legacy, recognize the dedication of Lady Ozell's efforts to improve the local and the greater global community, and her dedication to Excellence and Continued Service, is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration and commendation of the members assembled at Area II 40th Leadership Conference; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the members assembled at the Area II 40th Leadership Conference of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. that we hereby celebrate Lady Ozell's 100th birthday by acknowledging her many profound contributions as a Founding member of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and by wishing her many years, greater health, wealth, and happiness to come her way. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we honor Lady Ozell M. Dean and offer this birthday prayer; The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life.

Happy Birthday!

ALEXANDRIA CHAPTER

Lady Carrie Johnson Clark, Chapter President

Alexandria City Chapter Making a Difference by Serving the Community and Partnerships



Culminating in a fantastic year, the Alexandria City Chapter triumphantly hosted two local “Adopt-A-Block” Clean-Ups on November 12, 2022, and March 18, 2023, collecting and disposing trash. The clean-up location is adjacent to the facility where the chapter conducts meetings and activities. It is a way of giving back to the community and fostering our partnership with “Keep America Beautiful.” Lady Barbara Bellamy Warren is the Community Beautification Chairman.

Alexandria City Chapter overwhelmingly participated in the “Pink and Blue” MLK Day of Service project on January 16, 2023. The Chapter collected 812 personal items, divided, and donated to two facilities, the Carpenter’s Shelter (one of the largest residential homeless shelters in Northern Virginia) and the Bethany House of Northern Virginia (which empowers women and children escaping domestic violence by providing safe, short-term housing and trauma-informed services).



Under Status of Women, chaired by Lady Deneen Williams and in partnership with the Friends of the Guest House, and the Alexandria Domestic Violence Association, the Chapter successfully orchestrated two coat drives (October 29, 2022, and November 5, 2022) and a purse drive (December 17, 2022). The Chapter donated purses, new, unused, or lightly worn coats, gloves, hats, and mittens to women and children.

Striving to be the “Best of the Best,” the Community Partnerships Committee, chaired by Lady Carrie Johnson Clark, received approval on March 10, 2023, to “Adopt-A-Park.” The Adopt-a-Park program is a cooperative venture between the State of Virginia, the City of Alexandria, and community groups to improve the appearance and condition of Alexandria’s small urban parks and open spaces. Community groups monitor and clean up assigned parks from April through November. The Chapter also donated over 115 pounds of Halloween treats to the Nannie J. Lee Center on October 24, 2022, for their Halloween kids party, supporting elementary school-aged youth in the local community.

Saluting our Seniors within the Chapter, Alexandria City Chapter recognized its “Seasoned” Top Ladies, aged 65 and older, by sending each a book of Black Heritage stamps and a greeting card for the “Sensational Women They Are,” in honor of Black History Month (February 2023), and Women’s History Month (March 2023), respectively. Lady Sandra Hayes chairs the Senior Citizen’s Committee.



In March 2023, Alexandria City Chapter’s increased its TLOD and TTA Membership. Five Top Ladies and five Top Teens were inducted on March 5, 2023, and March 19, 2023, respectively. The Membership Chairman is Lady Patricia Edwards, and the Top Teens Advisor is Lady Tamika McPherson.

BALTIMORE CHAPTER

Lady Tamara D. Harris, Chapter President

Baltimore Chapter Hosts Mental Health, Human Trafficking, and Wellness Workshops



The Baltimore Chapter's Status of Women's Committee has answered the call to serve. Throughout the 2022-2023 calendar year and in collaboration with the Top Teens, the Baltimore Chapter hosted various workshops to meet the needs of the community. As 10,359 situations of human trafficking were reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, the chapter held an educational forum on October 25, 2022, in an effort to prevent human trafficking. National Alliance on Mental Illness reported suicide is the second-leading cause of death among people age 15 to 24. On November 1, the chapter hosted a suicide prevention workshop to educate attendees on warning signs as well as provide informational resources.

To promote healthy living the chapter hosted a women's health and wellness workshop on January 24, 2023. This workshop educated attendees on living a healthier life through diet, exercise and holistic living. On February 28, the chapter hosted a heart health workshop. The attendees were taught warning signs of stroke and heart attack as well as healthy eating choices.

To combat the rising domestic violence crisis, the chapter hosted the "Love Shouldn't Hurt" Workshop on March 28. This informative workshop provided information to aid those experiencing or witnessing domestic violence. On April 25, the chapter hosted the "All About the Money" workshop. Led by Ms. Shan-Nel Simmons, Nel Tax and Services, the workshop provided a wealth of information to assist attendees in preparing for their financial futures. The chapter is excited and has begun planning for the 2023-2024 service year.



Baltimore Chapter Hosts Black History Month Program

Negro History Week was created in 1926 and is the precursor to Black History Month. This annual observance originated in the United States and is one of the most cherished programs hosted by the Baltimore Chapters of TLOD and TTA. On Saturday, February 25, 2023, the Top Teens of America hosted its annual Black History Month program at Union Mill Station in Baltimore, Maryland. This year's program focused on the Top Ladies who lived through the Civil Rights movement and their experiences facing discrimination and segregation. Ladies JoAnne Andrews, Flora Mae Distance, Flora G. Johnson, Yvonne Lawrence, and Alice Faye Torriente talked about their encounters and experiences during the Civil Rights era. It was also a great time when the Top Teens competed two separate rounds of Black History during the Knowledge Bowl. The Teens were victorious against the Top Ladies but fell to defeat against the Lords.



CENTRAL VIRGINIA CHAPTER

Lady Dorian Ridley-Curtis, Chapter President

Central Virginia Chapter Donates Clothing and Workforce Skills to Women's Shelter



Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.®, Central Virginia Chapter, generously donated 15 complete ready-for-work outfits, including jewelry and shoes to the CARITAS Healing Place for Women. The “Are You Ready for Work” activity included tips on resume writing, business etiquette, mock interviews, and more. The goal of the activity was to assist the women in the shelter by providing them with the skills, training, and support necessary to secure employment and, once again, support their families. Some of the ladies had impending job interviews and welcomed the activity, especially the clothing.

CARITAS of Richmond’s mission is to help the most vulnerable neighbors break the cycles of homelessness and



addiction to reclaim their dignity. Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.® Central Virginia Chapter is pleased to provide support to CARITAS of Richmond, and they look forward to continuing to help this worthy organization. Lady Linda H. Gilliam, TLOD Central Virginia Chapter Status of Women Chair, spearheaded the community outreach activity. Lady Sonja Willis-Hill is 1st Vice President and Program Chair, and Lady Dorian Ridley-Curtis is President and Organizer of the Central Virginia Chapter.



DALE CITY-PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CHAPTER

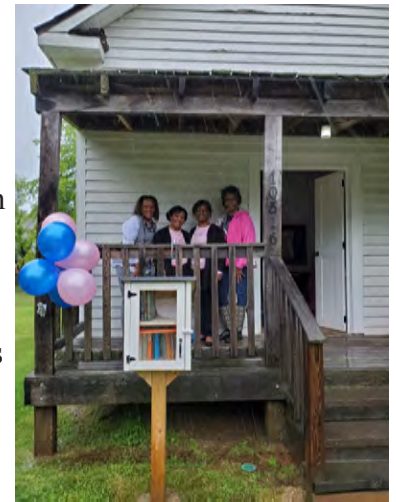
Lady Karen Cherry, Chapter President

Dale City Prince William County Chapter Hosted “Meet the Authors” Literacy Event



In April 2023, the Dale City-Prince William County Chapter (DC-PWCC) hosted its 4th Annual “Meet the Authors” event in support of TLOD Literacy featuring four Ladies. Additionally, the chapter installed two “Little Free Libraries” to include one at Lucasville School Historic Site in Manassas, VA. This entailed building public bookcases to facilitate free book-sharing that is open to everyone. The Lucasville School (1885-1926), according to the Prince William County government, “is a reconstructed one-room schoolhouse dedicated to interpreting post-Civil

War African American education...it reminds us of our earlier County citizens’ efforts to challenge racism and create an effective and lasting public education system.” The historic site manager stated the Little Free Library was “an excellent addition to the site and a complement to the site’s mission of education and literacy.”



In addition to supporting numerous literacy efforts, the DC-PWCC Top Teens remained busy serving numerous needs in the community. In February 2023, they engaged in a suicide prevention workshop, a healthy choices workshop, and a Black History luncheon. Furthermore, in April 2023, they took time to synchronize with other Top Teens on an HBCU field trip to Bowie State University during the Area II Leadership Conference.

The event was coordinated by the Status of Women Committee, in collaboration with the Social Committee. The walk resulted in increasing awareness, celebrating the lives of breast cancer Survivors and those lost to this disease, as well as promoting sisterly relations. Three DC-PWCC Senior Divas engaged in Sisterly Relations as they also celebrated several of their birthdays.

In October 2022, DC-PWC Chapter engaged in trailblazing efforts by hosting their first walk in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



GOTHAM CHAPTER

Lady Jasmine M. Cross, Chapter President

Gotham Chapter Teen Wins Grant; Donates Funds to Start Local High School Garden



The Gotham Chapter of the Greater New York and Long Island area have been serving within Area II of Top Ladies of Distinction Inc. for 31 years, and are still going strong serving their community and Teens. During their tenure, they have become pioneers, making many different partnerships within the community. One of their newest partnerships has been with a local high school, Preparatory Academy for Writers. Teen Samia Cross won the Sodexo Grant to stop youth hunger and she donated the \$500 grant winnings to the Academy.

Collectively, the Gotham Chapter Top Teens helped start a garden program at the school to teach students how to plant, grow, and nurture various fruits, vegetables, and herbs for seasoning. With proper care and knowledge, the garden will help supply fresh food for the school cafeteria and offer health alternatives for the students. The Gotham Chapter has also donated two apple trees that have been planted in the school garden as well. The school will also be the site for the chapter's "Little Free Library" project. The students will have a chance to grab a book to read as they enjoy the fresh air and beautiful garden at the school. The Gotham Chapter absolutely loves their community, and they will continue to answer the call to serve when needed.



HAMPTON ROADS CHAPTER

Lady Ingrid Watson Miller, Chapter President

Hampton Roads Chapter Receives Grant; Fund Projects for YMCA & Senior Center

The 2022-2023 organization year was filled with many activities. In the fall of 2022, Hampton Roads Chapter was the recipient of a TLOD \$500 grant for community projects. The purpose of the grant was to provide stuffed animals for Christmas and to provide school supplies and snacks for the children of the Hunton YMCA Daycare. The 145-year-old William A. Hunton YMCA, which was named for the first Black YMCA director, provides services for one of the poorest areas of Norfolk. Members were on hand to distribute the Christmas stockings and stuffed animals to the children. The Top Ladies also donated school supplies and snacks to assist in replenishing the YMCA's food and school supply closets.



The second half of the grant was used to supply the 218 senior residents of Consulate Health Care Center, in Norfolk, with a pair of clean socks for the winter. The residents are indigent and are in need of constant support. In addition to the socks, the residents were given Christmas stockings and reading material for their bookcase. Both of these events took place between December 15-21, 2022. These events were coordinated by Hampton Roads Chapter First Vice President Lady Jacque Rhodes.

The chapter held its first Christmas gathering since COVID. The gathering of the Ladies and Lords has as its highlight an auction to raise money for sickle cell in memory of Ambassador Keondra Cuffe. The group raised \$800 with this event.

On National Pink and Blue Day of Service, the entire Top Teen group and 12 Ladies came together to stuff 40 bags of toiletries for the Crises Center-Women's Shelter. The Top and Top Ladies brought items like lotion, soap, deodorant, and sanitary items to fill the bags. The donations were abundant enough to donate an additional large box to the shelter's supply cabinet.

As a part of Read Across America, the chapter donated books, as well as art supplies, to the Chesterfield Academy. Additionally, three Ladies read to classes at Portluck Elementary School in Chesapeake, VA. President Ingrid Watson Miller read to the students in English and Spanish.

As part of the Area II Blood Drive for Sickle Cell, Hampton Roads held a blood drive in March with the goal of 15 pints of blood. The chapter succeeded the goal by collecting 17 pints for the American Red Cross. Lady Joan Lynch chaired this successful event.

This year, the chapter also hosted several virtual workshops – one was on human trafficking that was presented by Ambassador Andolyn Medina, a former Miss America contestant. Another workshop was understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia, presented by Lady Vanessa Watson Long, Area II Chaplain.

The chapter's most unique activity with the Top Teens was a workshop on cursive writing, which included "Cursive Writing for Teens." The purpose was to get the Teens to develop a signature. Lady Jameka Hargett is the Literacy Chair.

The Top Ladies and the Top Teens held spring inductions. Four Ladies were inducted on April 1 and two Teens were inducted on March 12, 2023. Lady Alberta Williams served as the Membership Chair.

HAYMARKET GAINESVILLE CHAPTER

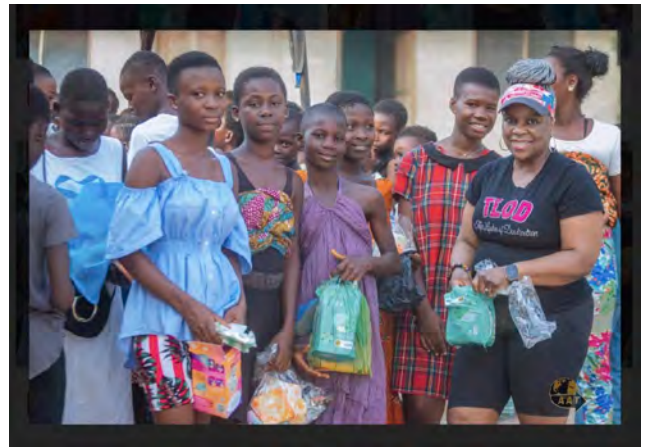
Lady Monice Jackson-Ferril, Chapter President

Haymarket-Gainesville Chapter Donates Hygiene Items to Women and Girls in Ghana



In March 2022 Lady Monice Jackson-Ferrill and Lord Lee scheduled a vacation to Accra, Ghana, Africa for the upcoming Christmas/New Year's holidays. Their travel agency African American Travelers informed the travel group that they encourage US travelers to donate to a village in Accra, Ghana. Lady Monice presented the donation opportunity to the Haymarket Gainesville Chapter during their joint annual retreat as a blended Status of Women and Community Partnership activity. The Chapter unanimously accepted the challenge.

Several Ladies in the Chapter are members of the Prince William County National Council of 100 Black Women. Their chapter decided to join the donation opportunity with us. The donation period was from Tuesday, November 30, 2022 "Giving Tuesday" until Tuesday, December 20, 2022. The Chapter Ladies and Top Teens donated over 3,000 items totaling \$1,003. The donated items included sanitary napkins, panty liners, tampons, incontinence pads, and feminine wipes. The items were packaged on December 22, 2022, and Lady Monice and Lord Lee transported the items in two suitcases on December 26, 2022. The items were delivered to the Adeiso Village, through the Adeiso Foundation (<https://adeisofoundation.org>) on January 1, 2023. The villagers were very happy to receive the items and the chapter was overjoyed about the opportunity to make a global impact for needy young women/girls.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER

Lady Diana Raynor, Chapter President

Montgomery Chapter & Silver Springs Assembly Church Partner for Community Events

The Montgomery Chapter has a great partnership with Silver Spring Assembly Church. Since the chapter's chartering, the church has provided space for their chapter meetings at no charge. In exchange, they volunteer four times a year at the church. In the spring, they volunteered in the Easter community outreach and egg hunt. The Top Teens and Ladies help set up/tear down the outdoor carnival event that included game booths, bounce houses, a petting zoo and food. They manned the arts and craft and face painting tables. Over 300 people were in attendance. In the fall, they participated in the Community Fall Festival. Similar to the spring event, the teens and ladies manned the arts and craft table, the ring toss and the basketball throw games. Again, the event was well attended.



In November, the chapter volunteered for the Senior Thanksgiving dinner, where they serve the dinner, provide a guest speaker and clean up afterwards. This year's guest speaker was Lady Dee Raynor, who presented a talk on mental health in response to coming out of COVID and the upcoming holiday season. In December, the chapter participated in the Toy for Tots distribution of toys to families in Montgomery County. This year they prepped the toys by age group and handed out the toys to families in a drive through manner. Through this partnership, they are afforded opportunities to serve youth and adults, branding Montgomery County Chapter in the community.



PATUXENT RIVER CHAPTER

Lady Michelle B. Smith, Chapter President

Patuxent River Chapter Adopts Community Park in Laurel, MD



The Patuxent River Chapter continues to be purposeful, resilient, and committed to support youth and adults in the Greater Laurel area and beyond. The chapter adopted the Roland B. Sweitzer Community Park in Laurel, MD in support of the National Community Beautification Thrust.

On April 15, 2023, the Ladies and Top Teens of Patuxent River, gathered for the official ribbon cutting of the park in partnership with our community partner, City of Laurel. The new long-term commitment involves Patuxent River chapter's commitment of keeping the park clean and beautiful throughout the year. The ladies and teens painted park tables, benches, and trash cans, and planted flowers.



In addition, the Literacy Committee and Community Beautification partnered with the city to build a community little library in the park to promote and inspire the community to engage in reading. The members of the Patuxent River Chapter donated books to go inside the Little Library.



On December 4, 2022, in Laurel, MD, Patuxent River chapter welcomed 30 new ladies into our sisterhood during a joint induction ceremony with Montgomery County. National Area II Director Lady Hope Ruffin presided over the ceremony. Our Chapter President,

Lady Michelle Bell Smith, presented the Charge and Challenge to the new ladies. We were also honored to have the National 2nd Vice President, Lady Jacqueline Wilcher, in attendance, and more than 30 Area II Top Ladies were in attendance to welcome our newest members.



PITTSBURGH STEEL CITY CHAPTER

Lady Crystal McCormick, Chapter President

Pittsburgh Steel Sponsors Snacks, Marches for Babies



Pittsburgh Steel City Chapter Sponsors Snacks for HBCU Bus Tour

On April 2, 2023, the Pittsburgh Steel City (PSC) Chapter sponsored a HBCU Trip Snack Donation for 55 teens and five adults to support The Sylvester Pace HBCU Bus Tour hosted by the Iota Phi Foundation of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The snacks were purchased and packaged for each student and each chaperone that attended the educational trip for students to increase their awareness and knowledge of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The list of snacks purchased for the trip were developed in collaboration with



Teens that attended the trip to address their varying tastes and avoid allergic reactions. Fresh fruit was also provided to encourage healthy snacking to the trip attendees.



PCS Participates in Western & Central PA March for Babies Walk

On April 16, 2023, PSC participated in the annual Western & Central PA March for Babies Walk. Lady Kelly McCormick serves as the project chairman for the chapter. Members of the chapter raised funds and walked to support the March of Dimes efforts for healthy babies and wellness for all moms. The theme for the walk was “March for Babies: A Mother of a Movement.” This allowed the chapter to be a part of lifting up communities, creating connections and taking action to make America a more equitable place and ensure that every

mom and baby is healthy. With preterm birth and maternal death rates continuing to rise, we’re committed to raising funds so that every family gets the best possible start. Seven PSC members walked and or volunteered for a total of 14 hours and raised \$2,193.00.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CHAPTER

Lady Dawna Dilworth, Chapter President

Prince George's County Chapter and Community Partners Distribute Free Coats and Hats to Students at Magnolia Elementary School

As the cold weather hit the DMV area, the Prince George's County Chapter (PGCC) of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. had an opportunity to spread joy during the holiday season at Magnolia Elementary School in Lanham, MD. On Dec. 16th, PGCC, in partnership with the Prince George's County Office of Community Relations and Enterprise Holdings, the parent company of Enterprise Rent-a-Car, distributed brand new coats and hats to all 600 students from pre-kindergarten through 6th grade. The school received the distinct honor of being the only school in the county's 10 year history of the coat distribution program to receive enough coats for every student in the school.

PGCC nominated Magnolia Elementary to be considered for the coat distribution and providing the warm hats. Chapter members arrived the day before the event to organize stacks of coats to ensure the event ran smoothly. On the day of the event, Chapter President Lady Dawna Dilworth represented the chapter during the morning program that also featured the CEO of Prince George's County School, Dr. Monica Goldson. Lady Dawna was also interviewed

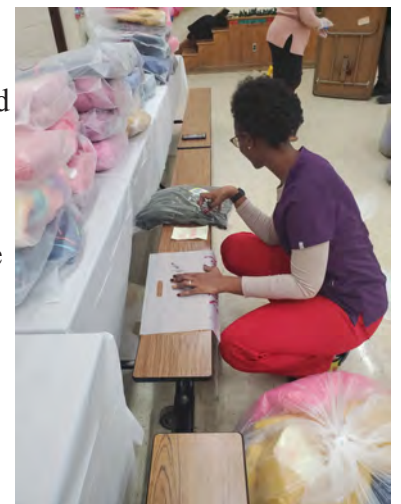


by local media as well. "Coats are a necessity, and we are truly honored to be able to support the school in this way. It was amazing to have the members of the Chapter along with school and county officials onsite to witness the smiles on the faces of the students who were excited to receive their coat," said Lady Dawna Dilworth. Dr. Phyllis L. Gillens, the principal of Magnolia Elementary, expressed her gratitude for the hard work that went into making the coat distribution possible for Magnolia students.

PGCC is continuing efforts to make a difference at Magnolia Elementary School. Earlier in the year, the chapter adopted the school and since then, several committees have coordinated blended projects. The Community Partnerships helped to provide free meals to over 50 families for Thanksgiving while the Community Beautification Committee hosted a community clean up to restore the outside student



courtyard. The Literacy Committee has plans to revitalize the media center/library. And the school is also slated to be the recipient of the chapter's first Little Free Library.



SOUTHERN MARYLAND CHAPTER

Lady Wanda Rice, Chapter President

Southern Maryland Chapter Ladies, Teens and Lords Gather for Adopt-A-Road



The Southern Maryland Chapter (SMC) Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and SMC Top Teens (TTA) are making positive strides. The 2022-2023 term continues the commitment of excellent community service. The Community Beautification Committee Top Ladies, Top Teens and Lords gathered to clean their Adopt-A-Road location in Waldorf, MD. During the annual cancer donation, the Status of Women (SOW)

was able to donate blankets, wigs, hats, scarves, etc. Our Senior Citizen committee assembled approximately 1,000 snack packs and delivered them to our seniors within the community. The Ladies participated in a Black Wellness Expo in March and supported March of Dimes at the event. The chapter worshipped at local church for the Faith & Education Initiative under the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) called "UNCF Sunday." TTA inducted three new members on December 10, 2022 and celebrated their 10th year anniversary on February 13, 2023. SMC will induct our largest group of 29 Ladies on April 1, 2023. The most memorable event this year was celebrating our 10 years of excellent service in the Southern Maryland community on December 5, 2022, with our community partners and friends.



SUGAR HILL MANHATTAN PEARLS CHAPTER

Lady Brenda L. Jones, Chapter President

Sugar Hill Manhattan Pearls Launches Little Free Library at Harlem Hospital



The Sugar Hill Manhattan Pearls Chapter's Little Free Library is helping to eliminate poverty through literacy. The chapter's mission is to eliminate poverty on all levels and literacy is a critical pathway to job opportunities, resources, and skills that allow families to thrive. The approach is to reduce the word gap experienced by children in our communities than those from wealthier households, by providing free books that are written by African American authors that depict black and brown children.

The chapter's Little Free Library was stationed at the pediatric unit at Harlem Hospital. This unit serves the medically underserved communities of Central Harlem and is designated a level 1 pediatric trauma care center. It also provides emotional support for families and encourages the healthy development of children facing a broad range of challenging experiences related to healthcare and hospitalization. Children who are patients are able to take a book and read a book where the main character resembles them, in essence creating healthy self esteem.



The chapter also partnered with The Reading and Writing Project at Teachers College at Columbia University who have committed to donating early reader-decodable books. Decodable books are essential to understanding the relationship between letters and sounds which is vital in developing reading skills. The donated picture books also allow children to point to pictures and describe what they see and the use of descriptive language - thus increasing the households vocabulary, strengthening motivation and creating positive perspectives of learning and their future.

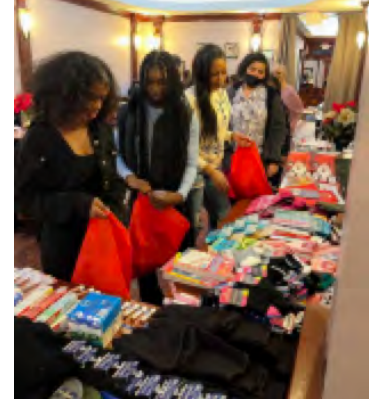
WASHINGTON, DC CHAPTER

Lady Marie Bowe-Quick, Chapter President

Washington DC Chapter Top Ladies and Top Teens Donate Hygiene Products to Senior Citizens

It was a chilly winter afternoon in Washington DC, but the spirit of giving was alive and well as the Washington DC Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc gathered for their annual holiday party. The room was filled with Top Ladies and Top Teens from all over the area who were eager to make a difference in the lives of others.

The mission of the day was to bring hygiene products to donate to the Gilmore Senior Day Center. Everyone came prepared with an assortment of items such as socks, gloves, hand sanitizer, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hats, and other items to help the seniors in need.



The Top Teens and Top Ladies got to work immediately organizing the items into packages to make it easier to present to the seniors later. As they worked, the Top Ladies talked, laughed, and shared stories about their experiences in the organization. They had become like family over the years and it was beautiful to see.

Chapter President, Lady Marie Bowe Quick, told the Top Ladies and Top Teens, “This event was a wonderful reminder of what the holiday season is about giving to those in need.” As the event came to a close, the Washington DC Chapter of the Top Ladies and Top Teens left feeling fulfilled and grateful for the opportunity to give back to their community. They knew that their small act of kindness would have a big impact on the lives of seniors during this holiday season, and they look forward to doing it again.



**NATIONAL AREA III DIRECTOR
LADY STEPHANIE E. DUNN**

**Top Teens Advisor
Lady Michelle Davis**

Senior Citizens: Lady Princetta Farris

Status of Women: Lady Marilyn Green

Community Beautification: Lady Janice Thompson

Community Partnerships: Lady Catherine Miles

NAACP: Lady Rose Mary

UNCF: Lady Patrice Ball Reed

NCNW: Lady Susan Cottrell

Sickle Cell: Lady Yolanda Austin

TLOD Literacy: Lady Carla Cunningham

March of Dimes: Lady Delores Jones

AREA III

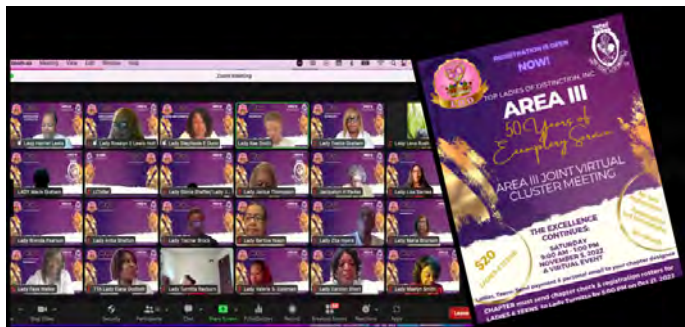
Area III is composed of eight states: Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska.

The Area III theme is: "Working Together with Excellence, Commitment and Integrity to Enhance a Legacy of Service."

Lady Stephanie E. Dunn, National Area III Director Teen Emma Leak, Area III TTA President



Still here, still standing, still committed to providing service to Youth & Adults! Over the last four years, Area III has been challenged to think outside the box in the implementation of thrusts, projects, and partnerships. They became stronger, more creative and engaged as they continued to support the vision and mission of TLOD during the Transformation Program Focus years, led by National President and CEO, Lady Sharon J. Beard. They learned to be flexible, innovative, and patient. Area III is Transforming, Adapting, Shifting and Pivoting into a New Day!



Area III stayed true to their overarching theme and passion for TLOD – Working Together with Excellence, Commitment, and Integrity to Enhance a Legacy of Service, as Ladies, Teens, and Lords successfully implemented the 2023 program year. The year began with the Joint Cluster Meeting, a Virtual Event, which included Ladies and Teens from the North and South Clusters of Area III. All gathered for another opportunity to learn, share, and enjoy seeing everyone’s smiling faces. The planning committee, led by the hardworking cluster chairs, Lady Rosalyn Lewis Holt, North Cluster and Lady Harriet Lewis, South Cluster, co-chair Lady Carolyn Short along with the dynamic Area III Technology Team, and support with teens from Lady Michele Davis, Area TTA Advisor. This team worked fervently to ensure another successful, impactful

experience with informative and timely presentations and exceptional speakers.

Various workshops were held throughout the 2023 program year, aligned with our thrusts and projects, and Area III Strategic Goals. These also included the Area III Leadership Training Module. Topics covered included Membership, ‘Who’s That Lady?’ where

the responsibility of all ladies was shared; Status of Women ‘To Lye or Not to Lye’ led by Area III Status of Women Chair Lady Tischar Brock with a distinguished panel of presenters to discuss the controversial issue of hair relaxers and the impact on women’s health; NCNW Good Health WINS partnership with Area Chapters, moderated by NBC5 News Anchor Art Norman, with the sharing of important health information regarding vaccinations, healthy eating, and mental health awareness. TTA workshops included College Prep and Essay Writing, Financial Assistance for College and more, facilitated by Lady Michele Davis, Area TTA Advisor and Teen Emma Leak, Area TTA President.



Chapter and Teen Sydney Wright of the North Shore Chicago Chapter answered the call to work to support TTA and TLOD media needs at virtual and in-person events. They were also front and center at the 47th Area III Leadership Conference.

Area III introduced the newest members of the Area III Technology Team. Teen Zinn Amos of the Skyline Metropolitan Metropolitan

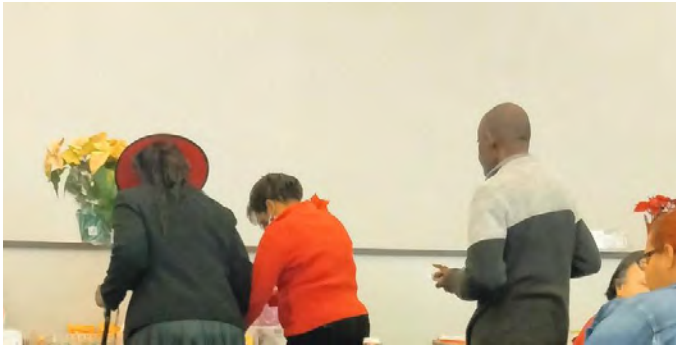
The 47th Area III Leadership Conference was convened on Thursday, March 9, 2023. Approximately 380 Ladies, Teens, and Lords gathered at the Hyatt Regency at The Arch St. Louis after three years of virtual interactions for an engaging and informative weekend. The Conference was hosted by the Cardinal Chapter, Lady Dorothy Fisher, Chairman and Lady Anita Phillips, President. This conference was particularly special as the 50th Anniversary of the Area was also celebrated. Chartered in 1973 by Lady Fredda Witherspoon, Area III, is affectionately referred to as 'The Heartbeat of TLOD,' because of the documents and rituals, that originated in Area III. The Excellence Continues! 50 years of Exemplary Service! Area III, The Heartbeat of TLOD



CARDINAL CHAPTER

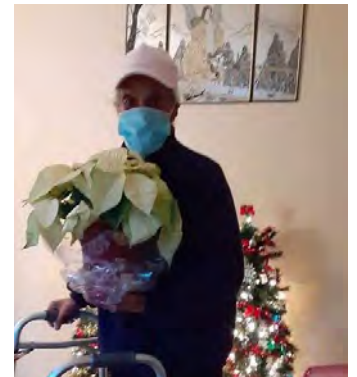
Lady Anita Phillips, Chapter President

Cardinal Chapter Participates in Area-Wide March of Dimes Service Project



Cardinal Chapter Ladies and Teens observed National Poinsettia Day as a Beautification Project opportunity. Poinsettias were delivered to seniors who were shut in, in senior nursing homes or senior residences. Poinsettias were also presented during the Christmas Social at the Heritage House Senior Apartments to residents. Chapter members enjoyed participating in this activity, including Lady Eunice Atkinson, who recently celebrated her 102nd birthday. TLOD's Community Beautification projects continue to make a difference.

The Cardinal Chapter also worked tirelessly to promote Alzheimer Awareness. TLOD and TTA members utilized emails, texts and social media to get the word out about the effects of Alzheimer's Disease on the person suffering, the family and caretakers. On October 18, 2022, the chapter sponsored a virtual workshop, "Alzheimer's Disease: What Do We Need to Know and What Can We Do", presenters were an Alzheimer's Disease Educator and the Walk Manager for the St. Louis Walk to End Alzheimer's. Ladies, Top Teens and family members also served as volunteers and participants in the St. Louis Walk held on Saturday, October 29th.



The TLOD Pink and Blue Day of Service afforded Cardinal Chapter Ladies and Top Teens the opportunity to provide PPE items (hand sanitizers, sanitizer wipes, masks) and hygiene products (soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, Kleenex tissues, hand towels) to in-need members of the community serviced by the New Life Evangelistic Center of St. Louis, MO.

TLOD's Literacy Month was observed on April 19, 2023, with an "Arts and Education" Workshop, an afternoon of information on attending and financing an education at two HBCUs (Gambling and Lincoln University), local Community Colleges, the University of Missouri-St. Louis and other local colleges, becoming an author, spoken word, poetry and a dance exercise completed the session.

CHICAGO CHAPTER

Lady Tonia Humphrey, Chapter President

Chicago Works with Community Partner to Enhance Our Environment



The Chicago Chapter Top Ladies and Top Teens joined the Chicagoland area chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in Tree Planting Day at Calvary Community Complex, located on Chicago's southeast side, to enhance the environment by planting trees. This community beautification event was the groundbreaking ceremony to build a community center to expand the work of the church.

“It was a fantastic collaboration with TLOD, Calvary Church, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority to participate in a beautification project that served as a community builder with the community in the 8th Ward of Chicago,” stated Lady Jashque Moore, the Chicago Chapter Community Beautification chair.

Calvary Church has received a grant to renovate their complex center to turn it into a community center. The church is working to revitalize the community.

Illinois Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton and Cook County Board of Commissioners President Toni Preckwinkle were in attendance for this groundbreaking ceremony. Both Stratton and Preckwinkle are working to meet Governor J.B. Pritzker's agenda to have clean air and water by 2050.



CHICAGO WEST LOOP CHAPTER

Lady LaMonica Jones, Chapter President

Chicago West Loop Participates in Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Awards Program

The Chicago West Loop Chapter (CWLC) has been a part of Top Ladies of Distinctions, Inc. for four years, chartered in the year of TLOD's Emerald (55th) Anniversary on Father's Day, June 16, 2019. Nine months later, the world shut down due to a pandemic, which forced a new chapter of learning the ropes of the organization to pivot, transition and quickly learn a new way of conducting business and finding creative ways to serve the community. The Ladies and Teens of the CWLC work together,



adding jewels to their Crown while striving to achieve 5-star recognition serving the Chicago West Side. The chapter is involved in many projects within our community. Working with their Teens, establishing, and building partnerships within the community is a top priority.

For the Pink and Blue Day of Service in January, the CWLC focused on ending hunger. Inflation is the root cause of food, utilities, and rent prices soaring. The challenges many families face lead to limited access to food during the pandemic, and people continue to experience barriers to having access to meals. So, the

CWLC volunteered to partner up with the Greater Chicago Food Depository to help prepare and package food items for distribution with the mission to end hunger. In doing so, the CWLC prepared 4,290 pounds of pasta for distribution.



As a new chapter, CWLC has endured, survived, and prevailed through a pandemic. They will continue to partner with various organizations supporting the vision and mission of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc

CONFLUENCE CHAPTER

Lady Jacquelyn C. Harris, Chapter President

Providing Greater Impact in our Community



The Confluence Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and Top Teens of America continues its commitment to service to and within the community. The chapter provided a more cohesive effort by blending programs and projects to ensure a greater impact for the services and goods they provide.

The chapter participated with the Sickle Cell Disease Association through their Sickle Cell Stroll, Walk, Awareness Day, Red Event, Fundraiser, just to name some of our active participation, not including donations. Community Women Against Hardship (CWAH) has been the chapter's major partner for 20 years, and they have provided services to women and their children. It's Your Birthday, an organization that provides parties for children in shelters



and incentives for their parents, is another one of their long term partners. St. Patricks Center, a facility that serves the unhoused, has received many services from our chapter. Through a grant the chapter provided many sundry items and clothing to the residents of Scott's Manor, a senior facility. Then, of course, the chapter participated in the major events listed on the TLOD Calendar including Grandparents Day, Blue and Silver Day of Service, and many others. And for sisterly relations,

Confluence Chapter assisted the host chapter during our Area Conference. TLOD and TTA Confluence Chapter are always on the move providing service.



EAST ST. LOUIS CHAPTER

Lady Princetta Farries, Chapter President

Celebrating 38 Years of Service to Youth and Adults

On January 29, 2023 the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. East St. Louis Chapter where Lady Peggy Lewis-LeCompte is the Chapter Organizer celebrated 38 years of services in TLOD at the St. Paul Baptist Church with worship service followed with a Chartering Day Anniversary program. At the program charter members Lady Peggy Lewis-LeCompte, Lady Sylvia Yandle, Lady Vivian Nichols, Lady Jaqueline Settles, Lady Bernice Howze, Lady Burena Howard, Lady Louella Hawkins, and Lady Camille McCaskill were honored along with the past presidents. Lady Vivian Nichols wrote a beautiful skit for the program, and she also served as a chairman of this great occasion.



On Saturday, May 14, 2022, the East St. Louis Top Ladies presented a certificate to United States Senator James Clyburn honoring him as their TLOD National Senior of Year for National Older American Month.

On January 16th, the East St. Louis Top Ladies and Top Teen participated in the Blue and Pink Day of Service. The goal was to complete the refurbishing of the adopted room at

Call for Help, Inc. The Top Teens donated toys and books and Status of Women donated hygiene items. They also donated items to the Touchette Elderly Apartments, II.



The East St. Louis Top Ladies and Top Teens attended the 50th Area III Anniversary/ 47th Leadership Conference. Twelve Ladies and 4 Teens attended the conference. Lady Princetta H. Farries was presented as a lovely lady. Lady Mary Ann Taylor-Crate was presented as a new lady. The East St. Louis Top Teens won 1st place in the Lady Vivian Mays Membership Award.



EBONY CHAPTER

Lady Patricia McFall, Chapter President

Ebony Chapter Partners With Feed My Starving Children



Even though it was April Fool's Day, the Ebony Chapter Top Teens weren't playing any games when they decided to partner up with the Feed My Starving Children organization to supply food and pack boxes for starving children across America! This event took place on a blistering, Saturday morning in Schaumburg, Illinois, where Ebony Chicago Chapter Teens met teens from other Top Teens of America chapters that all had a common goal of feeding homeless children.

The Teens worked very expeditiously to accomplish the goals that had been given to them. They were able to pack nine boxes of 42 food packs all within one hour! If you did the math correctly, that is three-hundred and seventy-eight food packs totally packed and ready

to go in one hour! That's impressive don't you think? Thank you to our Top Teens of America Co-Chairman, Lady Tahesha Wells for facilitating this event for our teens. The Teens learned that it is possible to help people that are in need, and still have fun at the same time!



EVERGREEN PARK CHICAGO CHAPTER

Lady LaRita Wright, Chapter President

Partnering to Uplift our Homeless



The Top Ladies and Top Teens of the Evergreen Park Chicago Chapter (EPCC) have developed a partnership with Mr. Michael Airhart's Taste for the Homeless Foundation of Chicago, IL. Their mission is to "provide services to uplift the homeless on the street and those living in shelters to become contributing citizens by providing hot food, clothing, hygiene items, and social services." To kickoff 2023, Ladies and Teens volunteered with Taste for the Homeless for our MLK Pink and Blue Day of Service. Ladies and Teens collected donations of toiletries for this event. We gathered in the Englewood

neighborhood, on the south side of Chicago, at the corner of 63rd and Ashland Avenue and assisted with packing and distributing groceries, clothing, and toiletries to the homeless. Hot soup was also served to all attendees. EPCC also presented Mr. Airhart with a donation of \$250 for his Foundation.

On February 26th, the chapter participated with their community partner, Taste for the Homeless, in their Winterfest, held on the west side of Chicago at Columbus Park. Ladies and Teens assisted attendees with shopping for free clothing, shoes, and boots. Meals were served, entertainment was provided, and community agencies distributed information about available resources.

Ladies and Teens also facilitated a variety of interactive children's activities throughout the family-friendly event and we're looking forward to volunteering at their "Summerfest" event as we continue to support one of our community partners.



LINCOLN PARK CHICAGO CHAPTER

Lady Vynessa Alexander, Chapter President

Lincoln Park Chicago Chapter Celebrates 20 Years of Exemplary and Award-Winning Service



On January 19, 2003, the Lincoln Park Chicago Chapter (LPCC) of Top Ladies of Distinction Inc. was chartered by Lady Drema Lee Woldman as Chapter Organizer. This year, they celebrated our 20th year of serving youth and adults with their Crown Jewel Awards luncheon. Lieutenant Governor Julianna Stratton was one of the many dignitaries in attendance during the 20th year celebration.

Our major thrust, Top Teens of America, is comprised of astute, outstanding, award-winning Teens. The Teens were honored to be featured in the Black McDonald's Operators Black History Month commercial representing

LPCC. Additionally, our TTA members assisted local alderman with providing toys to young children through Christmas in the Wards.

Lincoln Park continues to enrich the lives of senior citizens through our programs at North Washington Park Senior Apartments. This includes promoting healthy meal choices, along with Alzheimer's and Diabetes awareness programs. To enhance the Status of Women we have provided several conferences and webinars including Releasing the Power in You with Erika Sargent and Can You Afford to Die? We conduct ongoing Beautification efforts that benefit the community through the Keep America Beautiful program and city beautification projects.

LPCC partners with other organizations that share our community service goals. Our newest partnership is with Make-A-Wish Foundation. We continue to support our communities through our Pink and Blue Day of service providing over 1,000 toiletry packages to PRIMO Homeless Shelters.



MIDWAY CHICAGO CHAPTER

Lady Kim Doss-Patterson, Chapter President

Focused on Membership Growth and Quality Programs

Midway Chicago Chapter (MCC) has been working to build a sustainable chapter of quality members and programs. When Lady Kim Doss-Patterson became president of Midway Chicago Chapter in 2019, MCC had a membership of 12 Ladies. Since then, MCC has grown to a chapter membership of 34 Ladies and 27 Teens, seven of which will be graduating from high school this year. MCC hosted a White Party in September, 2022 where they placed interest cards on each table which allowed their guests to see the great things that MCC and TTA do in the community and provide contact information if they were interested in TLOD/TTA.



MCC has adopted a highway for the Community Beautification thrust. The Ladies and Teens spend one Saturday per quarter cleaning up a stretch of land, freeing it of various items of trash that people tend to throw from their vehicles or as they walk on the side of the road. This program not only provides for a cleaner, more beautiful community, but it also allows for bonding amongst the Ladies and Teens.

The Teens collected water bottles, scarves, socks, pink blankets, pens, and butterfly journals. They packed them into pink totes and donated them to the Breast Cancer Survivor Group at the Ray Kroc Center in Chicago. The Ladies also held a clothing and shoe drive and collected 640 bags of clothes and shoes to donate to the Fund Drive for those in need.



MILWAUKEE CHAPTER

Lady Cheryl Buckhanan, Chapter President

Milwaukee Chapter Partners with Highland Garden Apartments as an Official Voting Site



The Milwaukee Chapter adopted the Highland Garden Apartments as a voting site during the 2017 spring election. The chapter was given one ward which included the residents of the Highland Garden Apartments and six surrounding communities. In 2021 the chapter added another ward and now serves over 3000 potential registered voters. The Top Ladies are the only poll workers assigned to the site. The residents and community look forward to each election to say hello to the Top Ladies of Distinction. This is one of the greatest impacts the Milwaukee Chapter has had providing service to our community.

In November 2022 the Milwaukee Chapter inducted 19 Top Teens and another six Top Teens in January 2023. At the March Area III Conference, 13 of the 25 newly inducted teens attended their first Area III Conference. The Milwaukee Chapter had 20 ladies and 23 teens at the 47th Area III Leadership Conference in St. Louis, MO.



In December, The Milwaukee Chapter collected shoes for Africa. The ladies were asked to donate slightly used shoes and the shoes were boxed up and shipped to shoedonation.org for their “changing lives two by two” program.



The Chapter continues to collect toiletries for homeless shelters and non-perishable food for food pantries serving our Senior Citizens and Status of Women Thrust. We are cleaning the Milwaukee River Parkway serving our Community Beautification Thrust and Supporting our Top Teens of America.

The Milwaukee Chapter looks forward to closing out another successful year in 2022-2023.



NORTH SHORE CHAPTER

Lady Brenda Pearson, Chapter President

North Shore Chicago Chapter Hosts Recognition of Chapter Trailblazers

The North Shore Chicago Chapter recently recognized its Chapter Organizer and first Top Teens Advisor for outstanding service provided to the chapter and community.



Lady Lun Ye (Lonnie) Crim Barefield, Chapter Organizer, was inducted into the Chicago Chapter in 1975. Lady Barefield realized that the North Shore Chicago suburban communities could benefit from the prestigious organization. In 1985, The North Shore Chapter was organized in Glencoe, Illinois by Lady Lonnie Barefield, Mabel Bizzell, and Lady Patricia Samuel Corbin. During the 21st Syn-Lod meeting held in Chicago in 1985, Ten Ladies chartered the North Shore Chicago Chapter. In 1986, the Chapter inducted its first four members in Itasca, Illinois. Lady Barefield is still active with the chapter. The Chapter earned its nickname “The Little Chapter with the Big Heart” after it successfully hosted the Area III’s 25th Anniversary Celebration. Lady Barefield was employed at the Evanston Township High School as the College and Career Center Coordinator School from 1977-2000. Lady Barefield is still an active member of the chapter. She was married with children.

Lady Naomi Peters, first chapter TTA Advisor was one of the first four inducted members of the North Shore Chicago Chapter in 1986. She was the first Top Teens Advisor for the North Shore Chicago Chapter. The North Shore Chicago Top Teens of America was chartered on September 13, 1987. There were 12 Teens inducted at this time. The Teens attended their first Area III Conference in 1988 and won many top awards including Scholarship, Speech, Talent, Mr. & Miss Top Teen. Lady Peters worked as a social worker for the North Chicago School District. She was married with children.



SKYLINE METROPOLITAN CHICAGO CHAPTER

Lady Donna Townsend, Chapter President

Skyline Metro Chapter Revives Fashion Show, Establishes Scholarship



Skyline Chapter Signature Fashion Show Luncheon Fundraiser Returns

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Skyline Metropolitan Chicago Chapter revived their signature Fashion Show Luncheon Fundraiser in honor of Heart Health Awareness (Go Red) month! This year's event did not disappoint, with over 320 guests arriving in style adorned in red. The keynote speaker was Dr. Ngozi Ezike, CEO/President of Mt. Sinai Hospital. Over 17 vendors were on hand selling a variety of products including apparel, jewelry and art. This annual event is held every February and raises funds for TLOD programming and Top Teens of America scholarships. Due to the overwhelming support and turnout of this year's event, the Skyline Chapter is considering moving next year's event to a different venue within the Chicagoland area.



Skyline Metropolitan Chicago Chapter Establishes Barbara J. Woods Scholarship

In addition to skillfully implementing service projects, the chapter recently launched a scholarship in honor of one of our beloved members. On February 4, 2022, the Skyline Metropolitan Chicago Chapter experienced a great loss in the passing of Lady Barbara J. Woods, a dedicated TLOD member since 2009. The Lady Barbara J. Woods Scholarship was established with donations received from TLOD members, friends and family and other organizations that Lady Barbara was either involved in or impacted by her passion for TLOD. Over \$7,000 was raised and provided two service-based scholarships to Skyline Top Teens. The 2022 Barbara J. Woods Scholarship recipients were Teens Aria Harrell (University of Miami) and Wynton Wright (University of Wisconsin, Madison). The 2023 Barbara J. Woods Scholarship recipients will be announced during the end of the year program.



SOUTH SUBURBAN CHICAGO CHAPTER

Lady Ebonie Williams, Chapter President

South Suburban Chicago Chapter TLOD and TTA Support UNCF Walk for Education



The Ladies and Teens of the South Suburban Chicago Chapter (SSCC) participated in the UNCF Walk for Education on September 17, 2022. This in-person activity gave Ladies and Teens an opportunity to support fundraising efforts for students attending historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) while also serving as volunteers at the event. The South Suburban Chicago Top Teens greeted participants and directed them to the registration and welcome tents. Prior to the walk, attendees enjoyed a warm-up activity that allowed everyone to stretch and prepare for physical activity. Our TTA Advisor and Teens were also participants in the walk while other Ladies helped with setting up the food and refreshment area.

SSCC Top Teens eagerly served over 200 participants as they completed the UNCF Walk for Education. They were also able to speak with attendees about Top Teens of America. The UNCF Walk for Education was a memorable event that supports education for our young leaders, and the Top Ladies and Top Teens of the South Suburban Chicago Chapter will continue to support this effort.



ST. LOUIS CHAPTER

Lady Kimberly R. Beck, Chapter President

St. Louis Chapter Builds a Legacy of Strong Community Partnerships for Literacy Programs

The St. Louis Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and Top Teens of America have collaborated with community partner, The Florissant Performing Arts Center /City of Florissant to extend non-traditional literacy for the St. Louis metropolitan area for the win!

The literacy partnership led by Literacy Chair, Lady Pamela Greer Hibbler, started in 2017. Studies show the existence of positive relationships between the arts and academic achievement. Theatre exposes young people to new vocabulary and ways of communicating. While reading a story is powerful, watching the story be performed by actors adds a level of realism to the work.



Top Ladies, Top Teens, and Lords work with the St. Louis Family Theater series program and provide a community literacy-based table of crafts, word finds, and crossword puzzles based on the show. All shows are live theater productions of a children's book. The chapter also serves as ushers for the show performances and provides displays of prominent African Americans.

This February the chapter sponsored students from Washington Elementary in Normandy School District to attend a performance during Black History month of Jacqueline and The Beanstalk, a one-woman show by The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati.

Community partner Girl Scouts Eastern MO Troop 1534 facilitated the chapter literacy craft table and Top Teens served as ushers for the weekend performance of Jacqueline and The Beanstalk. A St. Louis-themed gift basket was presented during a private meet and greet to Jacqueline & The Beanstalk performer Brandi.La'Sherrill.



WEST SUBURBAN CHICAGO CHAPTER

Lady E. JaNiece Bell, President

West Suburban Chicago Chapter Tops in Community Beautification Programming

Arbor Day represents a hope for the future. The simple act of planting a tree represents a belief that the tree will grow to provide us with clean air and water, cooling shade, habitat for wildlife, healthier communities, and endless natural beauty — all for a better tomorrow.

To celebrate this important holiday, the West Suburban Chicago Chapter (WSCC) celebrated Arbor Day on April 29, 2023, where their Community Beautification Committee hosted the First WSCC Arbor Day Project-Tree Seedling Planting Program. Twenty-five tree seedlings were distributed to chapter members, Top Teens, family



members and the community. Each recipient received instructions, materials and seedling to get them started on the tree planting. Participants also received a stone plaque, which is to be placed next to the tree, to identify the tree when the tree was planted but also in honor or memory of a loved one. Each person will track and measure the collective environmental impact of tree planting over the next few years. In addition, members were encouraged to create community and home gardens to reduce negative environmental impact and promote sustainable agriculture.

The West Suburban Chicago Chapter is committed to TLOD's national focus of transforming lives to make the world a cleaner, more beautiful and eco-friendly economy which will improve the environmental living conditions of citizens through "Keeping America Beautiful." WSCC is doing what needs to be done for a more resilient world.



WILL COUNTY BLACK DIAMOND CHAPTER

Lady Verleaner Lane, Chapter President

Blending Chapter Programs for Impact



The Will County Black Diamond Chapter (WCBD) continues cultural transformation in an evolving and developing process within our chapter striving on the values and motto of TLOD/TTA. WCBD has promoted a virtual and in-person environment connecting and partnering within a blended program in the chapter.

The chapter received a \$5,000 donation from Hospitality Scholars Foundation Inc. for scholarships to support Top Teens. The chapter also applied for the NAACP Building Community Voice Fund grants program. Applications were approved for a \$15,000 award for the state of Illinois to do voter registration, turnout, education, and protection. Additional partnerships with the NAACP Chicago Far-South Suburban Branch, Governor State University, South Suburban College, Dress for

Success, and NCNW Chicago Central Section were held, to inspire the community through programs/events to get out and vote.

Community Partnership's signature outreach is Hope in a Suitcase which doubled this year benefiting four agencies. Chapter partnerships have yielded the following accomplishments: Collected and donated over 400 pieces of luggage to children in foster care in Illinois. The largest corporate sponsor is Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois. National media coverage was received on two radio stations and one newspaper. Will County now has a new partnership with JASSAC Charitable Foundation Inc. (JCFI) where members were able to complete the "Shine Bright for Kids" project.

"The Diamond View" is an online talk show designed to cover Status of Women initiatives, such as suicide prevention, domestic violence, human trafficking, mental health/depression, financial literacy, and lupus disease. The chapter's projected reach is over 13,748 viewers.



NATIONAL AREA IV DIRECTOR LADY ADRIENNE BONER

Top Teens Advisor
Lady Delta Paschall

Senior Citizens: Lady Bernice Ham
Status of Women: Lady Karen Gipson
Community Beautification: Lady Margaret Adams
Community Partnerships: Lady Eoline Watson
NAACP: Lady Sandra Nethels
UNCF: Lady Courtney Buchanan
NCNW: Lady Lois Keith
Sickle Cell: Lady Deloris Mitchell
TLOD Literacy: Lady Gina Pettis Dean
March of Dimes: Lady Nikinji Macon

AREA IV

Area IV encompasses the states of Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida, as well as the island of Jamaica. The Area IV theme is: “Moving Forward, Making a Difference, Honoring Our Legacy, and Shaping the Future in TLOD & TTA”

Lady Adrienne Boner, National Area IV Director

Teen Kirasten Perkins, Area IV TTA President



Area IV has strived to keep our presence relevant in our various communities and did not let the after effects of the pandemic decelerate over momentum towards Moving Forward, Making a Difference, Honoring our Legacy and Shaping the Future. We have excelled dutifully carrying out

the programs, projects and initiatives of TLOD. We are Reclaiming, Retaining and definitely Recruiting TLOD and TTA members by astoundingly, adding 600+ to our TLOD family since 2020. On December 10, 2022 we chartered and welcomed the Central Mississippi Chapter. This was a momentous occasion as Area IV now has a chapter in every state within the Area IV coverage area.

Some of other accomplishments for the 2022-2023 service year include:

- The Area IV Literacy Committee continued the Area IV TTA Book Club for the 8th year in a row. This year the Top Teens read *Calling My Name* by Liara Tamani and *The Boy in the Black Suit* by Jason Reynolds.
- Held a Christmas in Paris fundraiser event
- Printed the second edition of TTA Book Authors
- Continued the Be Well, Eat Well, Think Well - Wellness Initiative by holding Meaningful Monday Meditation every 1st Monday of the Month, GirlTrek Walks, Skincare Sunday Self-Care workshop and hosting a Health & Wellness Expo at the 41st Area IV Conference.
- Status of Women quarterly recognition through the - Leading Lady initiative

41st Area IV Leadership Conference

For more than 56 years, the Top Ladies and Top Teens of Area IV have worked collaboratively to fulfill the mission, goals, and objectives of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. This year, guided by the conference theme, "Homecoming," we reflected on our legacy of service and gave thanks for our many

accomplishments during the 41st Area IV Leadership Conference Celebration. The conference was hosted by the Tampa Bay West Central Florida Chapter on March 16-19, 2023 in Orlando, Florida.

We carried out the initiatives set forth by our TLOD National President and CEO Lady Sharon J. Beard for our first time in-person three years. Ladies, Top Teens and Lords had the opportunity to attend plenary sessions, a Homecoming Pep Rally, TTA College & Career Expo, Health & Wellness Expo, 90s theme host night, TTA Day Party @ Sea World, Good Morning Gorgeous Brunch, Literacy Blackout event and the Walk the Runway Gala, Lyrically Correct Game Night, Lords Auto Museum tour, Memorial Service and a Unity Prayer Circle led by the Area IV TTA Chaplains.

We also had the opportunity to partner with Lady Dee Dawkins-Haigler, President & Founder, Organization of World Leaders to present 10 community leaders with the 2023 Presidential Lifetime Award from President Joe Biden. The recipients included: Lady Mary Lambert, Lady Ernestine Kelly, Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, Lady Crystal C. Pittman, Lady Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, Lady Sybrina Fulton, Diana Bell, Benjamin Crump, Pastor Damion P. Gordon, Sr. and Pastor Damion Gray.

41st Area IV Leadership Conference Award Winners

Area IV Scholarship Winners

- Teen Madison Agomuo, Jackson Chapter
- Teen Mykenzi Davis-Cowart, St. Petersburg Chapter
- Teen Angelynn Crawford, Tipton County Chapter

Outstanding Top Teen of the Year

- Teen Kirasten Perkins, Savannah Chapter
- Teen Shelby Bond, Jackson Chapter
- Teen Jarvis Hicks, North Atlanta Chapter

TTA Chapter President

- Teen Alana Dawson, Savannah Chapter
- Teen Madison Agomuo, Jackson Chapter
- Teen Brelyn McDonald, Raleigh Chapter

TTA Outstanding Program of Work

- Atlanta Peachtree Chapter
- Wendell Chapter
- Raleigh Chapter

TTA Essay

- Teen John Carey, Florence Chapter
- Teen Joshua Williams, Savannah Chapter
- Teen Miranda Mccullough, Wendell Chapter

TTA Speakers Tournament

- Teen Taylor Gilchrist, Miami Chapter
- Teen Carl Dean, Raleigh Chapter
- Teen Mehki Dailey, Raleigh Chapter

TTA Performing Arts

- Teen Brian Kasongo, Raleigh Chapter
- Teen Leigh Edwards, Effingham Chapter
- Teen Chelsea Jackson, NewRock Chapter

TLOD Outstanding Program of Work

- Savannah Chapter
- Nashville Capitol City Chapter
- Jackson Chapter

TLOD Outstanding Chapter President

- Lady Julie Hopkins, Nashville Capitol City Chapter
Lady Michelle Drayton, Effingham Chapter
- Lady Charnita West, NewRock Chapter

TLOD Top Lady of the Year

- Lady Rycal Carter, Savannah Chapter
- Lady Kala Walton, Atlanta Peachtree Chapter
- Lady Melissa McDonald, Raleigh Chapter

Outstanding Lord of the Year

- Lord Joseph Hopkins, Bryan-Liberty Counties Chapter

March of Dimes Baby Shower

The Area IV March of Dimes committee held a MOD baby shower and donated 300 baby/mommy supply baskets during the Area IV Conference to mothers & babies @ the Orlando Health Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women & Babies. Each Area IV Cluster was asked to bring items to fill the baskets. Mr. Jay Brock, Patient Event and Community Engagement Manager accepted the donations. Thank you to Lady Nikinji Macon, Area IV MOD Chair, for developing this project

and garnering 100% participation from the Area IV Chapters.



ATLANTA PEACHTREE CHAPTER

Lady Kala S. Walton, Chapter President

Providing Top Service to the Greater Atlanta Community

Atlanta Peachtree Chapter Committed to Keeping America Beautiful with The Garden Queen



On January 16, 2023, the Top Ladies and Top Teens of Atlanta Peachtree Chapter (APC) practiced “A Day On, Not a Day Off” by partnering with 2022 APC Orchid Award Community Beautification winner and community leader, Ms. Haylene Green “The Garden Queen” to clean up a local community garden in East Point, GA. The Garden Queen shared her knowledge around the various plant types in the garden as well as the health benefits associated with certain plants. APC’s efforts

helped to revitalize the community garden as cleanup was a must since many of the plants died due to the harsh winter season. The event was sponsored by APC’s Community Beautification Committee, led by Lady LaRita Dalton, chairman.



Atlanta Peachtree Chapter hosts Black Authors Roundtable



The Atlanta Peachtree Chapter (APC) recognized Black Authors during Black History Month by hosting a roundtable on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, via Zoom and Facebook Live. The event focused on the 2023 Theme for Black History Month: Black Resistance. Black Resistance is the foundation of American democracy, and the “fight” continues as we all challenge America to live up to the ideals of equality. The guest panelists were Ms. Rahkia Nance, Dr. Phyllis Gray-Ray, Ms. Kitty R. Green and Dr. Larry O. Rivers. The event moderator was APC’s own Lady Ronda Gedward.

The event highlighted the various challenges (i.e., resistance) experienced by the authors throughout their careers. The panelists discussed their responses to the challenges as well as advice for upcoming authors who may experience some of the same roadblocks. The panelists were asked a series of questions where one focused on “the future of teaching black history in schools”. The panelists shared their viewpoints on this topic and the importance of all students learning about black history because it is American history. The event was sponsored by the APC NAACP Committee led by Lady Geneva Heyward, chairman. The event had over 75 guests on Zoom and 100 guests on Facebook.

Atlanta Peachtree Chapter expands the Reach of the Crown

In February 2023, the Atlanta Peachtree Chapter (APC) inducted 16 community service-based minded individuals. The newly crowned Top Ladies of APC bring a wealth of talent, skills, and dedication to serving youth and adults. The induction not only increased APC’s membership, but also provided an opportunity for the chapter to expand the reach of the crown in the communities we serve. APC officially welcomed the new Ladies with a New Members Celebration that was held on March 25, 2023. The event was sponsored by the Membership Committee under the leadership of Lady Candace Calloway, APC Membership Chairman. Congratulations and welcome to the 16 distinguished Top Ladies!



BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER

Lady Lisa Daniels, Chapter President

Birmingham Metropolitan Chapter Bringing M.A.G.I.C. to Alabama through Community Service



During the 2022-2023 service year, members of the Birmingham Metropolitan Chapter truly fulfilled their goals in the Magic City by Making A Greater Impact in Communities. During the Fall, the chapter served as volunteers with the UNCF Walk for Education, donating over 300 canned food items for the Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive, donated pajamas to women in a local group home, and supported the NAACP Freedom Fund Gala. Chapter President Lady Lisa Daniels met up with Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin at the UNCF Walk for Education.

In the spring, the chapter continued its work to support the community by volunteering for the MLK Day Drum and donating toiletries to local homeless shelters, volunteering and donating to tornado victims in Selma, serving as volunteers at the UNCF Mayor's Masked Ball, and supporting the annual Selma to Montgomery March to Commemorate Bloody Sunday. The Birmingham Chapter is a small but mighty chapter



and they are actively looking to increase connections to chapters around the country. The Birmingham Chapter is working to expand the TLOD presence in their community and beyond.



BROWARD COUNTY RADIANCE CHAPTER

Lady Todra Anderson-Rhodes, Chapter President

Making a Difference - One Lady, One Teen and One Community at a Time

The Broward County Radiance Chapter is committed to upholding the theme of *Transforming Lives, and Making a Difference, One Lady, One Teen and One Community at a Time*. Through each committee member and Top Teen of America student we continue to develop our chapter with community interaction and organizational connections that leaves a mark that cannot be erased.

Our committees are an essential component of our chapter that keeps us unified to shine brightly and provide service excellence within our region. Participating in activities year-round that strengthen and inform others about Sickle Cell Awareness, March of Dimes, Alzheimer's Disease and so much more extends our span of influence far past our demographic compass. Our members intentionally take time to socialize, fellowship and



worship together creating genuine bonds and connectedness, increasing the chapter members' retention.



In addition, bonding promotes high levels of organizational commitment and encourages our chapter members to remain faithful in their diligence of providing impactful service that enhances the communities we serve and guides our next generation through the Broward County Radiance Chapter Top Teens of America

Through our Top Teens Me and My Mentor Program—our mentors pour into their mentees, bridging generations to learn new things, build bonds, and grow professionally. Top Teens work and serve on community clean-up projects to better the environment and provide invaluable life lessons. Our Top Teen programs are aimed at unlocking each Teens potential while harnessing their youthfulness. Together we make a world of difference.



BRYAN-LIBERTY COUNTIES CHAPTER

Lady Saundra Maynor, Chapter President

Bryan-Liberty Counties TLOD and TTA Program Blending Works in our Communities



Bryan-Liberty Counties (BLC) Chapter of TLOD/TTA remains busy implementing meaningful programs of service. The chapter partnered with Keep Liberty Beautiful, Tapestry Connections, Inc. and WGML Gospel Radio, to participate in the Liberty County Earth Day celebration on April 21, 2023. The chapter continues to push the “Pink Envelope” and Sleeves Up Campaigns for SCDA. We had a table set up with Earth Day activities for community beautification and gave out literature regarding TTA, SCDA, and other health information. This blending with thrusts and projects in their community and collaboration

with Tapestry Connections, Inc. and other community partners, provides the opportunity for our chapter to share our skillset on various topics and showcase our brand.



BLC was named the 2023 Volunteer of the Year for their commitment to the Bryan County Health and Rehabilitation Center. The chapter started a community garden and provided gifts for the residents throughout the year. BLC, Tapestry Connections, Inc., NewRock, Atlanta Peachtree and several other Atlanta chapters participated in the Sickle Cell Day at the Georgia State Capitol. BLC also shows their communities that they care by cleaning up a historic cemetery and began their “Perfect Love: Pink Table Talk Series this spring at our local Women’s Shelter. BLC will continue working

hard for all of the communities they serve in the name of TLOD.



COLA CITY CHAPTER

Lady Inger Ferguson, Chapter President

COLA City Boasts Exciting First Program Year



During our first year since being chartered on September 18th, 2021, the COLA City Chapter in Columbia, South Carolina has implemented many successful programs and projects. The COLA City Thrusts, Program Committees, and the COLA City Top Teens of America have all actively supported the community we serve. The Chapter planned, hosted, and participated in a total of 16 local, Area IV, and national programs. We partnered with The Hannah House, one of the local women and children's shelter for our first Pink and

Blue National MLK Day of Service in January 2022. Along with our COLA City TTA's, we donated over 600 individually packaged hygiene related and other supplies. In February, we educated our community and wore red in acknowledgement of American Heart Month. Our first Stay Well Community Health Fair was a phenomenal success. Through our established partnerships with other local community organizations, we were able to provide food baskets, vaccinations, along with COVID education and testing to hundreds of individuals and families.



In April 2022, our COLA City Seniors Thrust hosted a well-attended virtual Seniors Health Symposium where a doctor, nurse practitioner and pharmacist provided current and relevant information on dementia, medication management, and Medicaid and Medicare. In conjunction with our Top Teens, we hosted a very informative human trafficking webinar.

During May 2022, our Status of Women Thrust sponsored our first Mental Health Awareness Forum with local mental health professionals encouraging our community to seek help when needed. The COLA City Top Teens and Top Ladies promoted the advantages and benefits of healthy living by walking and running together during our community's Walk for Life and Famously Hot Marathon. Healthy eating and healthy food preparation was presented by our Senior Citizen Thrust in conjunction with one of our Community Spiritual partners, the Zion Pilgrim Baptist Church of Columbia. Over 30 Seniors were in attendance. In addition to our healthy eating session, our chapter and Top Teens also held a Technology workshop for seniors. The session Senior Citizens were taught how to use various apps on their cell phones. Under the guidance of our Beautification Thrust, we recycled several pounds of cardboard and paper products, and started a community garden. Our Top Teen's joined us as we tilled, weeded, watered, and planted fresh vegetables and flowers. To this day our garden is flourishing, and we are excited to see what crops we will yield this year.



The COLA City Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction is growing stronger each day. Chapter members recently attended their first Area IV Conference where 26 ladies were presented. Three chapter members were elected to Area positions. Chapter Organizer, Lady Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson was elected as National Area IV Director; President, Lady Inger Ferguson-Area Nominating Committee Representative and TTA President, Sonia Baxter was elected Area Treasurer.

EFFINGHAM CHAPTER

Lady Michelle Drayton, Chapter President

Effingham Chapter Hosts Crown Jewel Awards Scholarship Dinner

On Saturday, April 29, 2023 the Effingham Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc hosted their annual Crown Jewel Awards Scholarship Dinner at New Ebenezer Retreat in Rincon, GA. The event recognized four top contributing professionals, in the area of community service. The Crown Jewel Awards were the brainchild of Effingham Chapter Member and Area IV Director, Lady Adrienne Boner. Recipients were selected for their contributions to the local community and partnership with the Effingham Chapter of TLOD. Dr. Torian White, Principal of



South Effingham High School, was the recipient of the Diamond Top Teens of America/Literacy award for his partnership with Wonderful Wednesdays Black History Trivia. Students were given the opportunity to answer questions about black history based on GA Performance Standards.

WSAV Anchor Woman Tina Tyus Shaw was the recipient of the Sapphire Status of Women award for her continued efforts to support Breast Cancer awareness in teens and young adults. She co-sponsored a breast cancer awareness event and sports bra give away for Teens with the Effingham Chapter of TLOD. Rincon City Councilman Levi Scott Jr. received the Emerald Community Beautification Award for



his dedication to environmental protection and beautification. Cofounder of Ready 2 Connect and its Executive Director Destiny Bradshaw received the Crown Community Partnerships Award for her outstanding support of youth and adults. The Crown Jewel Awards concluded with the establishment of a Memorial Scholarship in the names of Lady Margaret Drayton, Lord Necholus Ogden and Lady Elizabeth Pittman.

Following the event anchor woman Tina Tyus Shaw interviewed, for WSAV TV, National Area IV Director Lady Adrienne Boner and Effingham Chapter President Lady Michelle Drayton to discuss the work of Area IV and its impact on the Teens it serves.



FLORENCE CHAPTER

Lady Bernice Ham, Chapter President

Florence Chapter Providing Signature Service to the Community



The signature program thrust for the Florence Chapter is Status of Women. The chapter's focus for the last four years has been to enhance and impact the lives of women in their community in the most meaningful way. The Florence Chapter has sought to pull to the forefront the areas in the Pee Dee that are lacking in services and recognition as it relates to women.

These efforts have been achieved through meaningful and impactful activities through which their lives are impacted. Mothers who are marginalized because of economics, are served along with their newborns from birth. Women

re-entering the workforce are given the opportunity to reenter with dignity. Despite the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic we were still able to give in meaningful ways such as personal articles and clothing. We also partnered with Hope Health for Heart Health Month and The AIDS Project.



All of these things impact women greatly in their community and the Florence Chapter is committed to serving these women by continuing these efforts long-term.

GUILFORD COUNTY CHAPTER

Lady Cynthia Thompson, Chapter President

Guilford County Chapter Forms Partnerships



African American Read-In

In February, Lady Rawiya Nash, Literacy Chair, represented Guilford County Top Ladies in the Annual African American Read-In. The event took place on the campus of NC A&T State University at Bluford Library. Lady Rawiya shared Creation by James Weldon Johnson to an audience of 4,000 students located all over the world. Students from grades kindergarten through fifth grade were the targeted audience.

Heart Health Awareness Month

For Heart Health Awareness Month (Pink Goes Red), Lady Shawnda Warren Coates with a degree in food and nutrition research, certified as a dietitian/nutritionist in Clinical Nutrition and Food Service Management, was the guest speaker for Guilford County Top Ladies and Teens. Her presentation focused on prevention. Other topics included eating healthy and making healthy choices in eating selections. Lady Shawnda emphasized that African Americans are diagnosed at a higher rate with nutrition related diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension, and kidney failure than any other race.



Entrepreneur Awareness

Lady Jacqueline White, MBA, co-owner of African American Art and More, was the guest speaker for Entrepreneur Awareness. Her presentation focused on becoming an entrepreneur and highlighted the pros of owning your own business. Through Lady Jacqueline's retail business, she manages the day-to-day operations of the brick-and-mortar store and the website...GreekSuff.Com. Lady Jacqueline encouraged the Top Teens not to be afraid to take risks—to become a risk taker is an opportunity for growth.

GWINNETT-SOUTH DEKALB COUNTY DIAMOND CHAPTER

Lady Belinda Pedroso, Chapter President

All Hands on Deck-Chapter Day of Service



Spring is in the air and the Gwinnett-South DeKalb County Diamond Chapter rolled up their sleeves to help the Earth and their community. On Saturday, April 29, 2023, 15 Ladies and 17 prospective members of the Gwinnett-South DeKalb County Diamond Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. participated in a comprehensive, “all hands-on deck” Day of Service benefitting the students and stakeholders of DeKalb County School System at Stone Mill Elementary School in Stone Mountain, GA.

Chapter members worked collaboratively to create more than 200 feminine hygiene kits, sorted more than 175 donated garments, and planted dozens of edible plants and seeds in the Stone Mill Elementary STEM Garden. When asked about the service activities, President Makela Hursefield said, “It feels great to know that our efforts and contributions will help students and families in need.” The projects were completed, and a great time was had by all.



JACKSON CHAPTER

Lady Pamela Springfield, Chapter President

Jackson Chapter Partners with Local AKA Chapter for Community Partnership Event

Offering Heart Health Activities to the Community

The Jackson, TN Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction (TLOD) held its *12th Annual Lady Annie Ruth Rogers Go Red for the Heart and Soul Luncheon* on Saturday, February 11, 2023, at the Kirkendoll Student Center located on the campus of Lane College, the chapter's adopted HBCU.



The Jackson Chapter of TLOD was chartered in 1967. In observance of "Heart Month," the Chapter hosted this annual event to increase awareness of the risk factors that contribute to heart disease and to assist in the funding that would reduce the mortality rate of women from heart disease. The venue was filled with approximately 300-attendees, and the room was a beautiful "sea of red" since everyone wore red for the occasion.



The event began with an entrance of the Top Teens and Top Ladies. Lady Lisa Carter Wilkins, and President, Lady Pamela Springfield welcomed everyone. After the door prizes and prayer, everyone enjoyed a delicious heart-healthy meal and had time to participate in a silent auction led by Dr. LaToshia Chism. During the entire event, the musical group "Just Friends" played many great tunes for all generations.

Dr. Sandra Dee, local cardiologist at the Jackson Clinic, was the keynote speaker for the day. She presented a very informative talk about how to recognize the symptoms of a heart attack or a stroke and how to lead a healthier lifestyle to prevent heart disease. Three (3) Survivor Honorees shared their stories. Special Presentations included: "Top Lady of the Year" awarded to Lady Cynthia Early; "Mr. Top Teen" awarded to Teen Caleb McLemore; and "Miss Top Teen" awarded to Teen Londyn Lumas-Harmon.

Jackson Chapter Attends 41st Area IV Leadership Conference

The Jackson, TN Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. accomplished a historic chapter milestone during the recently held Area IV Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida, March 16-19, 2023. Eleven (11) Teens and Twelve (12) Ladies attended the well-planned and informative conference, many first-time attendees! Chapter members participated and competed in the various events. A major highlight was the chapter's musical routine entitled: "What Your Name Is" performed during the conference opening "Homecoming Rally."



The Jackson Chapter received the following awards: First Place: Top Teen Scholarship Award; Second Place: "Outstanding Top Teen Award; Second Place: "Top Teen Outstanding Chapter President's Award", and Third Place: "TLOD Chapter Program of Work" Award. The conference was thoroughly enjoyed by all with each attendee returning home sharing, serving, and working to fulfill TLOD & TTA's mission.

LOWCOUNTRY EMERALD CHAPTER

Lady Jlundia Pinckney, Chapter President

Lowcountry Emerald Chapter Representing TLOD and TTA in Excellence

The Lowcountry Emerald Chapter of TLOD based in Summerville, SC was chartered on April 30, 2022 with 45 ladies who embodied the heart of servanthood fueled with a passion to see every aspect of our community alive and thriving. Probed by love to see their youth productive and successful, the Lowcountry Top Ladies worked diligently to induct 11 Top Teens into the Chapter on December 10, 2022.



This past year, the chapter pushed through unprecedented times to still serve their community. The Lowcountry Top Ladies partnered with Jean's Angels, a non-profit organization which covers a vast number of underprivileged individuals in the Lowcountry of South Carolina. The chapter was able to help serve and feed at this organization's luncheon as well as pack supplies for the Seniors Citizens to take home. They also helped pack and donate school supplies and necessities for disadvantaged children in Berkeley County at Berkeley High School in Moncks Corner, SC.

To commemorate their one-year charter anniversary, the Lowcountry Emerald Chapter is excited about serving the residents of Hallmark Healthcare in Summerville, SC, a Nursing Home and Rehabilitation facility. The chapter will meet to pack toiletries and provide Mother's Day gift packages to each woman resident.



After attending the Area IV conference and with a clear vision in view, The Lowcountry Emerald Top Ladies and Top Teens are working to make a difference for the betterment of their community and will continue to represent Top Ladies of Distinction and Top Teens of America in excellence.

NASHVILLE CAPITOL CITY CHAPTER

Lady Julie A. Hopkins, Chapter President

Nashville Capitol City Chapter Providing Stellar 5 STAR Diamond Service



Nashville Capitol City reigning as a stellar 5 STAR Diamond Chapter, kicked off its year as the host city for the ParliamenTop 2022. The chapter inducted 16 new ladies during ParliamenTop. Nashville Capitol City Chapter felt honored for Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. to support the many community leaders of Nashville at the Community Service Night event. Capitol City Chapter was intentional about providing a fun-filled conference along with the business of TLOD, Inc.

All ladies enjoyed a fun night with a live band and great food and fellowship. Ladies were also given the opportunity to visit the National African American Music Museum located in downtown Nashville.

The programmatic thrusts and projects were all busy in the community this year. Senior Citizens in partnership with TTA, celebrated Grandparent's day at Kelly Miller Smith Towers and Fifty Forward Madison. The teens prepared handwritten cards that were presented to the residents of all facilities as well as gift/goody bags.

Status of Women led the "You Matter, Healthy Choice Sisterly Relations Walk. Community Beautification organized the National Clean-up Day. TTA held a mentoring event at their October meeting and had a Mentor/Mentee Pumpkin Carving Contest. Community Partnership and Legislative Action partnered to schedule a Voter Registration Drive on the campus of Tennessee State University and 31 young adults were successfully registered. Senior Citizens Thrust participated in The Alzheimer Walk. Donation for 2022 was \$645 to date. Ladies and Teens walked from various locations. Pink and Blue Day of Service: 500 items were donated and 75 families received free food. Community Partnership organized a Glencliff Elementary coat drive with 60 coats collected. TTA hosted a Human Trafficking forum. Through participation in the annual Walk for March of Dimes, this chapter continues to draw community support with donations. NCNW purchased 25 trees for NCNW Trees of Hope in conjunction with the Arbor Day Foundation.



These are some of the many programs and projects that the Ladies of Nashville Capitol City Chapter participated in during 2022-23.



NEWROCK CHAPTER

Lady Charnita West, Chapter President

Addressing Community Needs Through Partnerships

NewRock Chapter continues to plan events that simultaneously address TLOD's thrusts and projects while meeting the needs of our communities. One goal established for 2021-2023 was to secure grants and partnerships to increase NewRock's community impact. As a result, NewRock was awarded the following grants earmarked for the Senior Citizens Committee:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Grant – written in collaboration with Girls First, Inc.; The City of McDonough, GA; NAACP – Henry County Branch; and NCNW – Henry/Clayton Section to create and maintain the Girls First Community Garden.
- Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Community Partnerships Grant
- United Healthcare Grant

The Senior Citizens Committee, under the leadership of NewRock's 1st Vice-President, uses the blended program model to include other project and thrust committees in hosting programs geared toward wellness at the Girls First Community Garden. Thus far, NewRock's Health and Wellness, Service to Youth, and Community Beautification Committees have all either facilitated workshops or participated in activities at the garden in partnership with the Senior Citizens Committee.



NewRock was one of two recipients of the TLOD, Inc. Community Partnership Grant. These funds were used to host a 50s Tech Sock Hop for residents at The Oaks living facility. Senior Citizens, TLOD Literacy, and Top Teens of America collaborated for an afternoon of bingo, dancing to 50s music, fellowship, and food. Rockdale County Fire and Rescue provided attendees with tips concerning where to place important medical information in case of an emergency; a cyber security specialist demonstrated how to recognize features of spam email and text messages; and the Teens taught several of their new friends how to take selfies in the 50s photo booth and send them to friends and family using their smartphones. Each attendee received a refrigerator magnet that can be used to list emergency contacts, doctors' names and phone numbers, and cyber safety tips.

United Healthcare is partnering with NewRock to purchase stationery and postage for the Passionate Pen Pals Initiative. Seniors can sign up for a Lady, Teen, or Lord to be their pen pal in order to exchange letters and positive messages monthly. We are looking forward to this initiative growing during the next service year and our partners at United Healthcare have volunteered to be pen pals.

NewRock's Teens continue to offer unique community programming and attract new members. TTA hosted their inaugural HBCU College Fair at The Mall at Stonecrest which featured representatives from 18 HBCUs and was attended by 276 students and parents. On January 22, 2023, Teen Zada Washington, President inducted 18 Teens who are ready to serve the community.



NORTH ATLANTA CHAPTER

Lady Alline Clancy, Chapter President

North Atlanta Collaborates with NCNW Gwinnett Section

Top Ladies of Distinction Inc. North Atlanta Chapter Status of Women Committee in collaboration with the NCNW Gwinnett Section's Health & Wellness Committee partnered to offer Pink Meets Purple Table Talk - A forum on Domestic Violence to include a self-care workshop. This hybrid event focused on factors that challenge and promote the EMOTIONAL, physical, psychological and overall wellbeing of women as well as protecting against intimate partner violence and creating an atmosphere of self-love and happiness. The topics included: a domestic violence survivor story, intimate partner violence (IPV) claims investigator tips to include resources to assist those in need, Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV) representative ensuring that attendees are aware of resources and services that are provided to children who have encountered or lived thru domestic violence situations, and finally a workshop on "Recalibrating your Happiness."



IPV resources were shared for all attendees included:

- National DV Hotline - www.thehotline.org
- 211 (Just ask for help and they'll direct you!)
- www.gcadv.org/get-help/
- www.austintylerfoundation.org/about-us-cktc
- <https://padv.org/>
- <https://cjcc.georgia.gov/>

Status of Women Chairman, Lady LaTasha Mack, along with her Co-Chairman led this outstanding event to bring awareness to our community surrounding domestic violence. Lady Alline Clancy serves as the Chapter President



QUEEN CITY CHAPTER

Lady Cynthia Moore, Chapter President

Top Ladies and Top Teens = Top Service in Charlotte, NC



The Queen City Chapters' (QCC) thrusts and projects committees have been active in providing service to the community, seniors, and youth. With much enthusiasm and compassion, chapter members kept the momentum of service going strong in 2022-2023.

The chapter's number one thrust, Top Teens, kicked off the year of service in September by making beautiful cards for Grandparents Day and appreciation cards for Ladies of the Chapter. Teens delivered 40 Grandparents Cards to the seniors at Loving Touch Adult Day Care, and they delivered Top Ladies Appreciation Cards at their Chapter Retreat held in September.

Pink and Blue Day was successful! The chapter donated 1,272 items ranging from men, women and children's toiletries to non-perishable food, socks, gloves, masks, and hand sanitizers. Ladies, Teens, and the ladies of Gamma Delta Business Sorority worked together sorting items and packaging them for donation to Little Rock AME Zion Church Evangelism Ministry and Missions Pantry.



The Queen City Chapter Status of Women Thrust sponsored an enlightening and educational Women's Symposium in March on "Presenting Our Best Selves" in which Etiquette for a Lady, Caring for the Body, and Importance of Excellence from "within outward" was presented.

The Senior Citizen's Thrust served 140 residents of PEAKS Senior facility in December. Teens and Ladies delivered gifts and a beautiful basket of Christmas cards to residents for Christmas.



Top Teens served lunch to participants at Loving Touch Day Care Center's Annual Caregivers Christmas Luncheon. Teens also helped with cleaning up and assisting where needed. They gave hoodies, sweaters, and scarves to forty senior men and women.

The chapter participated in the following Charlotte walks: Sickie Cell Walk, St. Jude Children's Walk, and the March of Dimes walk.



The chapter had a successful UNCF Sunday in which the Top Teens and Ladies discussed the history of UNCF. Top Ladies encouraged Teens to attend college and take advantage of the opportunities afforded by UNCF.

On April 29, QCC Community Partnership thrust partnered with Charlotte Mecklenburg Library to distribute 1000's laptops to eligible families to help decrease the digital divide in Mecklenburg County. 2022-2023 has been the best year of service to date for the Queen City Chapter!

RALEIGH CHAPTER

Lady Nina Smith, Chapter President

Raleigh Chapter Programming for Success with the Status of Women Committee



The Raleigh Chapter Status of Women Thrust had a very productive year. During 2022-2023, the SOW Program included several activities that uplifted women and teens in the community. The program work started in September 2022, when a Sisterly Phone Tree and Calendar was established to encourage members' bonding through purposeful communication. These spirited conversations helped reconnect, reclaim, and rebuild sisterhood within the Chapter. In October 2022, a Breast Cancer Survivor Celebration was held for Chapter members, family and friends who are not just survivors but thrivers as well. The celebration included a reading of Maya Angelou's Phenomenal Woman and gift presentations. The survivors' stories were posted on social media to help inspire and support other women. And each month, information on health and wellness was distributed and discussed among chapter members, including the Teens, and shared with family, friends, and peers.

The program work continued through collaboration with the Capital Area Section-NCNW. This partnership resulted in the Chapter volunteering at the Wake County Women's Center on several occasions. Activities at the Center included creating vision boards, cataloging clothes, and serving meals. The SOW Program signature project was the Blessings in a Bag Project for the Helen Wright Center for Women. This project, held in March 2023, marked the fourth year the Chapter has donated hundreds of items consisting of toiletries, clothing, linens, and supplies to the Center (see photo). All work performed and partnerships established reflect goals of the SOW Program and TLOD, Inc. as a servant-leader in the community.

SAVANNAH CHAPTER

Lady Beverly Copeland, Chapter President

Top Ladies Sponsor Stay Well National Vaccination Day



The Savannah Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Top Teens of America and Lords partnered with the Stay Well/We Can Do This National COVID-19 Vaccination Day event. The event was held at the West Broad Street YMCA on April 22, 2023.

The Savannah Chapter was responsible for locating a vaccine provider to provide a number and type of vaccines administered to adults and children immediately after the conclusion of the event. The chapter was also responsible for advertising the event, distributing campaign swag, providing accommodations to any US Health and Human Services personnel, securing local VIP's who could drive traffic to the event and help with attracting media coverage. The chapter provided a final report with a description of the activity, vaccines provided and pictures. It had been determined that Savannah has a low COVID-19 vaccination rate, and this project was designed to increase the number of vaccinations and boosters to African American children ages five years of age and adults. At the event, 13 adults and one child received boosters during the event.



SOUTHERN PEARLS MIAMI-DADE CHAPTER

Lady Regina Sandilands, Chapter President

Southern Pearls Miami Dade Chapter Serving with Love, Family and Community



The Southern Pearls Miami-Dade Chapter was chartered and hit the ground running with God's word in their spirit and a love for service, sisterhood, family, and community in their hearts. Their presence in the community is making a positive difference.

Their First Annual 5K Race for Thyroid Disease and Cancer Awareness Scholarship Fundraiser resulted in nearly 200 participants and 10 community sponsors. The day culminated with a Top Teens of America beautification project where participants received 50 community service

hours for their efforts. Secure the Bag FAFSA and Scholarship Awareness Seminar was another highly successful event. It provided high school students and parents with exposure to several university partners such as Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU); Florida International University; Hampton University; Florida Memorial University; Miami-Dade College; Keiser University and Army National Guard; along with much needed scholarship information and resources.



Ladies and Teens participated in the St. Jude Mentor-Mentee Health Walk in support of childhood cancer and Sickle Cell awareness. This event also helped to strengthen the bond between mentors and mentees. The chapter's first retreat entitled, "It's an HBCU Thang" highlighted and exposed Top Teens to HBCUs, their history and contributions. The retreat also included a Back-to-School Drive where they collected and donated supplies to local elementary schools in high-risk areas.



The Southern Pearls Miami-Dade Chapter is committed to their community and shall continue to partner with other organizations to make a positive impact.

TAMPA BAY/WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER

Lady Janette Spencer-Davis, Chapter President

More Than 100 Youth and Adults Attend Tampa Bay's Human Trafficking Awareness Event



The Ladies and Top Teens of the Tampa Bay/West Central Florida Chapter presented a “Human Trafficking Awareness” event on January 21, 2023, in partnership with Allen Temple A.M.E. Church, the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, and the United States Attorney’s Office. Days before the event, 97 people registered to attend via Eventbrite. Including unregistered guests, there were 123 in attendance.

In 2020, Florida ranked among the top three states after California and Texas in reported cases of human trafficking. Tampa, Florida, ranks as the 5th worst city in the U.S. for human trafficking. Those statistics were enough to motivate the Tampa Bay Chapter to join the fight against human trafficking.

The target audience was Teens ages 13-17 years old. The guest speaker was Minister Shawn Saxton, author of *A TRIBE Out of Domestic Violence*. The book provides hope and encouragement for those that feel trapped. A panel of four representatives from law enforcement (human trafficking division) and the Office of the State Attorney shared statistics and real-life cases of trafficking. They answered questions from the audience.



Teen Bascia Proctor, TTA President, and Teen Jordyn Anderson, TTA Vice President served as MC and facilitator. Other Top Teens and their guests did a “Break the Chain” presentation. Wrist bands, brochures, and posters were available for attendees. Event attendance and the lively Question and Answer session confirmed that the program was much needed and appreciated. Accordingly, the chapter has committed to repeating the event next year. Awareness is the key to winning the fight against Human Trafficking.



WINSTON-SALEM CHAPTER

Lady Yuvongala Howell, Chapter President

Winston-Salem Chapter Hosts National Reactivation Month Campaign Calendar Tea



The Membership Committee of the Winston-Salem Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. hosted a Calendar Tea on Saturday, February 18th. This campaign was designed to stimulate interest for inactive Top Ladies. The theme: Ain't No Stopping Us Now... We're On The Move!! All Top Ladies, active and inactive were invited to participate. The chapter was divided into 12 groups, and each assigned a month of the year. There was a table host and three Ladies on her committee. There was an incentive for the best table that carried out the theme and presentation.

First Place: February-Black History Month. Table Host Lady Annie Lassiter and Lady Marva Roberts. Second Place: November-Family Gathering Thanksgiving Day. Table Host Lady Sebrina Anderson, Lady April Broadway and Lady Anita Samuels. Third Place: December-A Celebration of the Birth of Christ and Family. Table Host Lady Sharon Debnam, assisted by Lady Nadiya Debnam and Lady Darlie Dudley. Honorable mention-Mother's Day-Remembering Mother: Table Host Lady Evelyn Sanders and Lady Evelyn Terry. All Ladies did a remarkable job showing creativity with their presentation. The attendance at this event was truly successful.



NATIONAL AREA V DIRECTOR LADY MARSHA WELLS

Top Teens Advisor
Lady Velda Hunter

Senior Citizens: Lady Clara Petty
Status of Women: Lady Cheryl Williams
Community Beautification: Lady Lula Patton
Community Partnerships: Lady Loretta Gray
NAACP: Lady Sandra Parker
UNCF: Lady Tresa Rice
NCNW: Lady Darlene Hardimon
Sickle Cell: Lady Fran Jackson
TLOD Literacy: Lady Marlo Thigpen
March of Dimes: Lady Phyllis Hogue Thompson
St. Jude: Lady Kemberley Jones

FIVE
AREA V

Area V represents chapters within the states of Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania (West), Kentucky and West Virginia.

The Area V theme is: "Building the Future of Area V on the Legacy of Continued Commitment and Service, One Lady, One Teen at a Time."

Lady Marsha Wells, National Area V Director Teen Marco T. Chambers, II, Area V TTA President



Area V Theme:

“Building the Future of Area V on the Legacy of Continued Commitment and Service, One Lady, One Teen at a Time”

Accomplishments:

Area V Executive Board

- Successfully appointed all Area V Officers and Committee Chairs who were not elected to office.
- Developed an Area V Toolkit that included the roles and responsibilities of all the Area V Officers and Chairs.
- Conducted monthly Area V Executive Board Meetings with Area Officers and Committee Chairs.
- Conducted monthly Area V Finance Committee meetings with Area V Treasurer Lady Ayeshah Douglas and the Financial Secretary, Lady LeChelle Mabry.
- The Charter Chapter Chair, Lady Claudia Lee and Co-Chair, Lady Roxyanne Burrus conducted orientation sessions for new charter chapter members.

Area V Chapters

- Supported chapters with the thrust activities for Top Teens of America, Senior Citizens, Status of Women, Community Beautification and Community Partnerships with community partners as well as the NCNW, NAACP, UNCF, March for Babies, Sickle Cell, Literacy, and St. Jude.
- All Area V Chapters participated in and successfully completed the PINK & BLUE DAY OF SERVICE on February 16, 2023. A total of nine (9) out of 10 chapters reported their results. Over 1040 package items (over 8000 individual items) were donated to 15 shelters, there was a

total of 1629 hours volunteered and \$2,390.77 donated.

Area V North and South Cluster

- Conducted joint North and South Area V Virtual Clusters in 2022 with great attendance. Topics included: 5-STAR Electronic Reporting Process; Award Winning Scrapbooks; Membership: Recruitment, Retention, Reclamation; Leave Your Letters at the Door; TLOD Protocol and TLOD & TTA Branding.

Area V Leadership Conference

- The 2023 Area V Leadership Conference was held from March 30th – April 2nd, 2023, in Detroit, Michigan. It was hosted by the Renaissance Chapter and was held at the DoubleTree Detroit-Dearborn Hotel. Program highlights included:
 - Induction and Chartering
 - Inducted 23 Top Ladies from the Greater Cleveland, Michigan Metro, Renaissance and the Pittsburgh Steel City Chapters.
 - Chartered the Pittsburgh Steel City Chapter.



- Prayer Breakfast
 - Guest speaker, Rev. Myra C. Tyler, Associate Minister of the Triumph Church in the Metro Detroit Area
- Memorial Program
- Community Recognition Program
 - Recognized Community Partners
 - Honored eight (8) Top Ladies with the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Crowns Leadership Luncheon
- Blue and Silver Ball

- Mr. & Miss Top Teens were presented.
- Performing Arts and The Spoken Word contests were conducted
- Top Teens Awards were announced.



Mental Health.

- Participated in virtual TTA events: National Jingle Jam, National Halloween Celebration, National Top Teen Officer Training, National NAACP Symposium and the Me and My Mentor Chapter Challenge.

TLOD Awards

- The Area V Crowns Leadership Recognition Program was a special event at the 2023 Area V Leadership Conference which was held from March 30th – April 2nd, 2023.
- The program was facilitated by the Area V President’s Chair, Lady Cynthia Perkins from the Indianapolis Chapter. The theme was “It’s coming up Orchids” and the attire was Pink, Gold and Silver.
- 1st Place Top Lady of the Year: The LaVerne Madlock Award: Lady Kemberly Jones, Greater Cleveland Chapter
- 1st Place The Willie Lee Glass Award: Greater Cleveland Chapter
- 1st Place The Roberta Pickett Award: Greater Cleveland Chapter
- 1st Place Outstanding Total Program: The Ozell Dean Award: Greater Cleveland Chapter
- 1st Place TLOD Outstanding Print Media Lucellestine Wilson Public Relations Award: Greater Cleveland Chapter
- 1st Place The Senior Diva Award: Lady Gwendolyn Ivory Robinson, Cincinnati Chapter
- 1st Place TLOD Carolyn Utz – Highest Conference Attendance: Detroit Chapter
- Exemplary Sisterhood & Lordship: The Jeffrey P. King Award:
- Lady Pam Garrett, Columbus Chapter and Lord James Perkins, Indianapolis Chapter; Lady Cecilia Murphy, Indianapolis Chapter, Lady Wanda Terrell Galloway, Toledo Chapter, Lady Mary McKinney Reed, Toledo Chapter
- 1st Place The Pride Award: The Mary F. Hunter Award: Indianapolis Chapter
- The Gwendolyn Ivory Robinson Award: Recruitment, Reclamation and Retention: Indianapolis Chapter
- Community Outreach: The Roxyanne Cartier Burrus Award
- 1st Place Small Chapter - Saginaw Chapter
- 1st Place Medium Chapter - Cincinnati Chapter
- 1st Place Large Chapter - Columbus Chapter

Membership

- Conducted 15 TLOD Inductions for 11 chapters and inducted 56 new members into Area V from 2021-2023, which increased the Area V TLOD Membership by 26%.
- Chartered the first chapter in Area V since 2011, the Pittsburgh Steel City Chapter with 19 newly inducted Top Ladies. The Chapter Organizer is Lady Crystal McCormick.
- All chapters conducted TTA Inductions and increased the Area V TTA Membership by 45%.
- Increased the Overall Membership of Area V by 32%.

Technology

- Enhanced Area V technology skillset by establishing a Technology Committee with five members who supported virtual meetings and in-person conference presentation needs.

Fundraising

- Conducted TLOD Fundraisers during the Leadership Conferences by selling the TLOD Hombre Tote Bag, TLOD Hombre Crossbody purse and a newly designed Area V Logo Pin.

TTA Highlights

- Conducted a TTA Fundraiser during the 2022 Joint Cluster by selling popcorn and raised \$1,022.00 that was used for Area V programming.
- TTA held a Virtual Healthy Choice Conference with approximately 40 active Teens in attendance, the topics covered were March for Babies, Sickle Cell, Financial Literacy, College Preparations, and

- Chapter Bonus Recognition Award: Detroit Chapter, Columbus Chapter, Indianapolis Chapter, Dayton Chapter, Michigan Metro Chapter, Saginaw Chapter

TTA Awards

- 1st Place Augusta Cash Latham TTA Essay Contest: Teen Travier Woods, Detroit Chapter
- 1st Place TTA Carolyn Utz – Highest Conference Attendance: Greater Cleveland Chapter
- 1st Place Ruth Payne Smith Speakers Tournament: Teen Travier Woods, Detroit Chapter
- 1st Place TTA T-Shirt Competition: Toledo Chapter
- 1st Place TTA Performing Arts Award: Teen Tracy Thomas, Detroit Chapter

Scholarships

- Area V will award \$3,000.00 in Scholarships in 2023 to three graduating High School TTA members in Area V.
- These are the Top Teens High School Seniors who were awarded scholarships:
 - 1st Place Angebell McCloud Scholarship, Teen McKenzi Tatum - \$1,500.00
 - 2nd Place Ethel Kuykendall Scholarship, Teen Eugene Smith III - \$1,000.00
 - 3rd Place Justin Lofton Scholarship, Teen Chelsea Harmon - \$500.00
- The 2023 Gwendolyn Ivory Robinson NOVA Award for Middle School students.
 - Teen Aalyich Goodline, Detroit Chapter - \$250.00
 - Teen Ajani McCollough, Renaissance Chapter - \$250.00

Branding

- Created Area V TLOD and TTA Logo
- Created a new TLOD Inc. Area V Facebook page,
- Published a Monthly Area V Newsletter
- Designed an Area V Conference Polo Shirt and a Bling T-Shirt from a Vendor at the 2022 Area V Conference.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve!!
 Lady Marsha Wells, National Area V Director
 Areavdirector15@gmail.com

CINCINNATI CHAPTER

Lady Janel Chriss, Chapter President

Cincinnati Chapter Members Recognized with Distinguished Service Awards



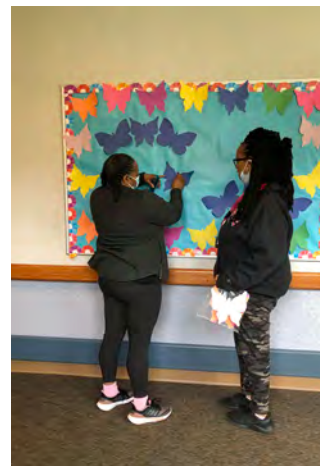
The Cincinnati Chapter was pleased to see several chapter members recognized with Presidential Lifetime Achievement Awards during the program year.

Top Lady Gwendolyn Ivory Robinson was presented with the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for the 50 plus years she has dedicated to education and administration, legislation, voter's education and more. Lady Gwendolyn Ivory Robinson has also served as an Area V Director, and many years as officers and chairman of committees in the Cincinnati Chapter of TLOD. Lady Gwen has also served more than 60 years of providing service through her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Sigma Omega Chapter.

In addition to the service recognition, Cincinnati Chapter members also provided strong programs of service to local residents. The Senior Citizens Committee – chaired by Lady Dorothy White has been exceptionally busy throughout the year. Members include: Ladies Vicke Crook, Janice Pennington, Angelita Jones, Tonya Howard, Tonya Best, Marlo Thigpen, Christine Whaley and Barbara Kennedy.



Senior citizen initiatives for the program year included: hosting a seniors luncheon, beautifying the local facility, care for seniors, partnerships with Top Teens of America, Glendale Rehabilitation and Nursing Center (GRNC) and programming with Shiloh Garden Adventist Apartments for seniors (SGAAS.)



COLUMBUS CHAPTER

Lady Pamela Garrett, Chapter President

Members Participate in UNCF Walkathon and Receive Service Recognition

The Columbus Chapter participated in the Ohio UNCF Walkathon on Saturday, September 17, 2022. This was our first in person major event since COVID-19.

The Columbus Chapter set up a TLOD table with information about our organization and TTA. Several ladies participated in the actual walk. The Walk is a primary fundraiser for UNCF, which assists students in reaching their goals. Supporting UNCF and networking with the community was a win for the community and UNCF.



In addition to serving the community, chapter members also received recognition for their significant contributions to the community. Lady Roxyanne Cartier Burrus, Immediate Past National Area V Director was recognized with a Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award.



She has been a member since April 6, 1996, when she was inducted into the Columbus, Ohio Chapter. In 2021, she proudly celebrated 25 years of service to Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and became a life member with the organization. Lady Burrus has held many offices with TLOD at the local and Area level but is most proud of her service to TLOD as the National Area V Director. She was elected at Syn-Lod 2021 as the National Nominating Committee member representing Area V.

DETROIT CHAPTER

Lady Victoria Jackson, Chapter President

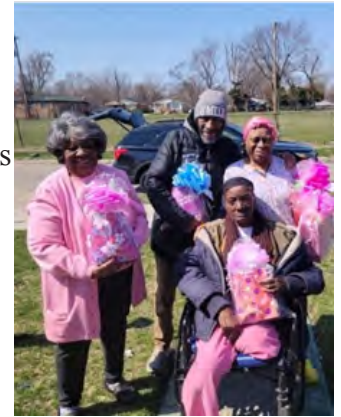
Detroit Chapter Actively Engaged in Making Our Community Better



The Detroit Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. have actively been engaged in making their communities better in 2022-2023 through a variety of programs and projects with our five thrusts: Top Teens of America, Community Beautification, Community Partnerships, Status of Women and Senior Citizens, leading the way.

The Senior Citizens Committee actively provided Easter baskets, blankets, socks, and many other items throughout the year to Elicia's Angels Group Homes. The Easter baskets

contained food goodies and fun activities like crossword puzzles and games. In the winter months, blankets and socks were provided to allow the senior citizens to feel loved. Over the year, 56 – 65 residents were serviced with well deserved love, attention and care.



For the Pink and Blue Day of Service, Ladies and Teens donated and packed care packages of shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, and brushes were provided to over 30 individuals at Alternatives for Girls. Alternatives for Girls provides care for homeless young ladies and survivors of human trafficking.

The Ladies and Teens provided over 300 lunches in partnership with Gesu Catholic Church for the Noah's Project. The Noah's Project provides lunches and hygiene kits along with temporary shower facilities for

individuals who are homeless. Earlier in the program year, Top Ladies and Top Teens provided 150 hygiene kits.



Several workshops were sponsored including Alzheimer's/Dementia Awareness, technology, and identification fraud and prevention.

The Detroit Chapter looks forward to continuing our efforts.



GREATER CLEVELAND CHAPTER

Lady Ayesah Douglas, Chapter President

Greater Cleveland Chapter Commemorating 2023 Pink and Blue Day of Service



The Greater Cleveland Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and Top Teens of America commemorated the 2023 Pink and Blue Day of Service with blended programs of service. Lady Kemberley Jones, 1st Vice President, set up an Amazon market to purchase toiletries and other items with a goal of completing 100 bags. Ladies, Teens, and Lords surpassed the goal, purchasing over 2,300 items and spending upwards of \$1,900. Chapter members gathered at the Bedford Heights Library to assemble the donations into 113 bags for people in need across Northeast Ohio. In addition to the bags, participants donated 153 children's books.



Donations were made in three waves, with the first wave of books and hygiene kits going to The Haven Home, the largest overflow shelter for women with children experiencing homelessness in Cleveland. The second donation wave brought the remaining books and kits to Family Promise of Greater Cleveland, another temporary shelter for women with children. The final donation wave benefitted Fairfax Place, a black-owned senior living facility on the city's east side. Pink and Blue Day of Service addressed the Top Teens of America, Senior Citizen, Status of Women, and Community Partnership Thrusts, as well as TLOD Literacy. The assembly event also allowed Teens the opportunity to work side by side with their Top Lady mentors as they assembled kits.



In February 2023, Greater Cleveland Chapter focused on the United Negro College Fund's (UNCF) mission to educate black students through scholarships to the college of their choice or to one of the 37 UNCF member colleges or universities. On February 3rd, six Ladies attended the 2nd annual Mayor's UNCF Luncheon at the Huntington Convention Center. Over 700 attendees, including 100 local high school students, were treated to musical selections from the Cleveland School of the Arts Concert Choir and John Marshall High School drumline. Wilberforce University President, Dr. Elfred Anthony Pinkard, Wilberforce Alumna and Ohio 11th District

Councilwoman Shontel M. Brown, and Mayor Justin Bibb spoke on the impact of the UNCF on young men and women of color. Although final numbers are pending, the event raised more than \$220,000 for scholarships.

Nineteen Ladies, two Teens, and one Lord commemorated UNCF Sunday on February 26th, worshipping with members of the historic Antioch Baptist Church, Rev. Dr. Napoleon Harris V, Pastor. Teens Eugene Smith IV, chapter President and Kailyn Robinson, Area V TTA chaplain, delivered the UNCF Litany, while TLOD President and Morris Brown College Alumna, Lady Ayesah Douglas made a plea to the congregation in support of UNCF. A total of \$1,195 was raised by the congregation in support of UNCF, in addition to a \$500 donation from Greater Cleveland Chapter.



INDIANAPOLIS CHAPTER

Lady Cynthia Perkins, Chapter President

Indianapolis Chapter Promotes Community Partnerships with Status of Women & Top Teens



The Status of Women and Top Teens Committees of the Indianapolis Chapter engaged chapter members, churches and community partners in an outreach program for girls 8-18 years old. Lady Euliza Mays-Status of Women Chair, began collecting underwear for the March event, last fall. Her goal was to collect enough new bras for attendees to leave with a swag bag that included several bras for each attendee. Through the Chapter and Trinity CME Church, more than 150 bras were collected for distribution.

Other chapter activities included talking to this group about the possibility of joining TTA. Lady Jeri Shepherd helped TTA in their endeavor as Teen Lael, Bickham, our Top Teen of the Year, welcomed participants and parents to the TTA table to offer information and opportunities to explore Top Teens of America. Another Top Teen brought her younger sister to the information session to make sure the pipeline for future Top Teens is strong.



There was a plethora of vendors that provided financial literacy, beauty tips, girl scouts opportunities, swag for the bags and mental health resources along with Top Ladies of Distinction. The event was held at the Edna Martin Center, an ongoing Community Partner of TLOD/TTA service projects. After line dancing and Lunch, Ladies, Top Teens and community participants enjoyed an inspirational session with Trinity Missionary Society. The event served 44 registered girls and any walk-in who wanted to participate.

Indianapolis Chapter Celebrates 50 Years of Service at Annual Jazz Brunch



The Indianapolis Chapter of TLOD, Area V, celebrated its Golden Anniversary and 50 years of serving the Indianapolis Community at the Annual Jazz Brunch. Lady Cynthia Perkins, President, and Lady Marsha Wells, Area V Director, brought greetings to attendees. Mayor Joe Hogsett proclaimed April 5th, TLOD Day in Indianapolis Indiana.

Guests came from as far as Virginia, Texas, Ohio and Kansas, to celebrate the occasion. 90 year-young Lady Barbra Boyd, the first African American news anchor in the state of Indiana was present, along with two City Council candidates and two people running for mayor of the city.

Indianapolis dawned their finest gold apparel to help commemorate the occasion. African American vendors included authors, clothiers, artists and a printing company and several others. Each vendor donated for a gift draw, and attendees had a chance to join in the March of Dimes fundraising raffle.

Live music at this event had participants swaying, singing and dancing, all in the name of TLOD fundraising and fun. Please check out our Facebook page for more photos.

RENAISSANCE CHAPTER

Lady Arnetta Pinkard, Chapter President

Renaissance Chapter Hosted 48th Area V Leadership Conference with Impact

The Renaissance of Top Ladies of Distinction hosted a successful 48th Area V Conference in Detroit Michigan. Top Ladies and Top Teens in attendance enjoyed a productive, highly organized and efficient Area V Meeting under the leadership of our esteemed National Area V Director Lady Marsha Well. Ladies Teens and Lords worked nonstop to ensure the conference exuded the warm hospitality the Renaissance Chapter is known for.



SAGINAW CHAPTER

Lady Brenda Beard, Chapter President

Saginaw Chapter Engages in Community Service and Conference Participation



The Saginaw Chapter of TLOD is small in size but mighty in deeds of service. The Top Ladies and Top Teens work tirelessly to implement TLOD's programs of service. TLOD and /TTA members are known for working together in serving our community. National impact days and community projects have been implemented, including the City Clean-Up on May 13, 2023, sponsored by Saginaw Mayor Brenda Moore.

Top Ladies and Top Teens were busy outside the community as well, attending the recent Area-V 48th Leadership Conference in Detroit Michigan. Attendees included Teen Jalen Tinker-Area V-TTA President. He served as an exemplary presenter at the TTA Blue and Silver Ball.



Lady Enzell Burden conducted the TLOD New Inductee and First Conference session at the conference. The emphasis was on sharing with attendees how important it is to be a part of their chapters doing TLOD programs and projects in the community.



TOLEDO CHAPTER

Lady Mary McKinley Reed, Chapter President

Toledo Chapter Continues to Lead with Community Beautification Projects



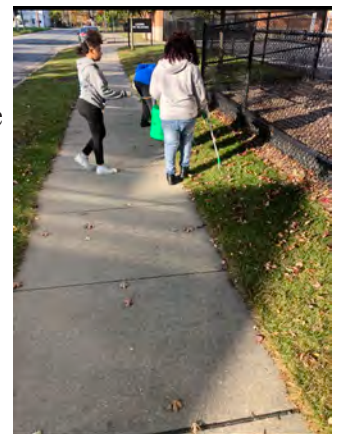
The Toledo Chapter of Top Ladies, Top Teens and Lords are actively involved in community beautification efforts of Top Ladies of Distinction. Recently, chapter members cleaned and refreshed the playground at their adopted facility– Sherman Elementary, an inner city school located in North Toledo, Ohio.

The Top Teens worked in partnership with the Top Ladies to complete this task. The Toledo Lords assisted as needed to make sure all went well in an orderly and timely manner.

Much debris was removed from the playground, thus enabling it to return to the intended presentation for use by the students. Principal Winfield was pleased with the results and commended the chapter on a job well done.

The school provided the pickers, gloves, and buckets used for this project. The chapter provided all other supplies needed as well as lots of volunteer Top Ladies, Top Teens and Chapter Lords.

From this partnership, the Toledo chapter will now establish a reading program to help further the minds and expand the skills of students in this community, many of whom are young and underprivileged.



**NATIONAL AREA VI DIRECTOR
LADY WANDA BEAUMAN**

**Top Teens Advisor
Lady Eboni Cotton**

Senior Citizens: Lady Jacqueline Pippeon Swope

Status of Women: Lady Elnora Norwood

Community Beautification: Lady Kim Martin

Community Partnerships: Lady Essie McSwine

NAACP: Lady Camilla Westenberg

UNCF: Lady Engrid Smith

NCNW: Lady Camilla Westenberg

Sickle Cell: Lady Cassandra Lewis-Walker

TLOD Literacy: Lady Beverly Byrd

SIX

AREA VI

Area VI encompasses the states of Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, California, Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Alaska and Hawaii. The Area VI theme is: “Serving the Community with Innovation and Safety”

Lady Wanda Beauman, National Area VI Director Teen Christina-Rae Lucero, Area VI TTA President



We are proud to report that the 42nd Area VI Leadership Conference has been completed successfully. The venue was the beautiful Hyatt Regency Hotel Denver Tech Center, Denver Colorado. It took place from February 23-26, 2023. The Mountain West Chapter Hosted the

Conference and they did a wonderful job making all attendees feel welcome.

There was a reactivation of one Lady from the Mountain West Chapter , and we held the TLOD Rededication Service for all Ladies. Other Conference highlights included a special addition to the awards program on March 24, when Lady Dee Dawkins-Haigler from Area IV presented five Presidential Lifetime Achievement Awards to members from the community. And it was an honor to have National TLOD President, Lady Sharon J. Beard along with National First Vice President, Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, National Second Vice President, Lady Jacqueline Wilcher , and National TTA Director Kendra Gillespie join us for the weekend.

Area VI looks forward to a great turn out for Syn-Lod, July 5-9. Please mark your calendars and begin your plans to bring Ladies, Teens and Lords to Los Angeles.



CARSON CHAPTER

Lady Belinda Hayes-Springer, Chapter President

Carson Chapter Serving Our Community with Effective Programs



The Carson Chapter joined forces with our partner NCNW and their Vote America Quest Campaign “Rock the Vote” for the Midterm election held November 8, 2022. Members of the chapter created and distributed a “Rock the Vote” flyer for community residents and assisted with voter registration efforts.

Other chapter program activities included bringing Christmas cheer to the Carson Senior Citizens Assisted Living Center. The Carson Chapter has visited the center over the past 17 years until 2020. During COVID-19, the chapter’s visits were limited to a drop off event. This year, they were able to spread their cheer and interact with the 175 residents, present them with information about Top



Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Top Teens of America and the reason for the season. Ladies and Teens sang carols, distributed Christmas decorated gift bags filled with toiletry items which included socks, toothbrushes, soap, hand lotion, tissue packs and various other personal care items for both men and women.

Chapter community partnership efforts continued throughout the year with implementation of the annual TLOD and TTA Pink and Blue Silver Day. Top Ladies and Top Teens collected personal care items, clothing, gas gift cards, gift cards from Target for grocery and clothing purchases that were donated to Family Promise of South Bay, a community-based and faith-based organization with the approach and to effectively remedy family homelessness. Families in the program receive shelter/housing through donations and resources to provide assistance with food, clothing and basic needs as well as employment assistance.

CITY OF ANGELS CHAPTER

Lady Engrid Smith, Chapter President

City of Angels Chapter Serving and Growing In Our Community

The City of Angels Chapter is out and about, serving and growing with the addition of new Top Ladies and Top Teens. On March 17, 2023 we welcomed three new Top Ladies to the chapter with a virtual Induction and in person celebration and meeting. Welcome to Lady Patricia Moore, Lady Nakee Cooper and Lady Rosemary Lino. The chapter held a Top Teens Induction later in the month. Teen Caleel Smith joined the City of Angels Chapter March 25, 2023.



Chapter community partnerships remain strong. On November 19, 2022, TLOD partnered with Children's Institute Choice Neighborhood Program Health & Wellness Festival chaired by Lady Mary Starks, Community partnership Chair. Over 250 community members joined eight Top Teens and 10 Top Ladies in Health awareness, healthy food, community exercise, vaccines, dental hygiene and mental health awareness. Children from the community participated in fun zone and literacy activities. The City of Angels members provided health and wellness packages, advertisement and opportunity drawing gifts due to money awarded from the chapter's TLOD Grant.



HUB CITY CHAPTER

Lady Nakia Thierry, Chapter President

In Loving Memory of our Chapter Organizer, Lady Margaret Reed

The Hub City Chapter remains excited to be able to continue growing and doing magnificent work in the community. Our mission remains the same, SERVICE! Hub City Chapter is committed to aiding, supporting the community, and accomplishing all our goals. We are proud to have facilitated and participated in the following TLOD and TTA activities/events:

- Co-Hosted the 2022 Area VI Cluster
- Fall Prevention Summit & Wellness and Resource Fair at the Willowbrook Senior Center
- Decorating the Compton VFW Post in recognition of Veterans Day
- Walk to End Alzheimer's
- Compton Breast Cancer Walk
- Thanksgiving Food giveaway at the Compton VFW Post
- Donation of Holiday Baskets to the Los Angeles Sickle Cell Foundation
- Christmas Toy and Food Drive at Bel-Vue Church
- Pink & Blue Day of Service
- Black History Month Go Red for Heart Health Awareness

In addition to providing strong programs of service, seventeen Hub City Chapter Top Ladies and 13 Top Teens continue to be visible in the Hub City community while expanding the chapter's presence with new members.



INGLEWOOD CHAPTER

Lady Hope Hampton-Crawford, Chapter President

Inglewood Chapter Celebrates 46 Years of Distinguished Community Service

The 2022-23 program year for the Inglewood Chapter was stellar as it emerged from pandemic restrictions. With 40+ members, it is the largest chapter in Area VI.

Chartered in December 1977 with 15 members, the chapter recently celebrated 45 years of steadfast service to the community. Two of the chartering members, Ladies Laura P. Farwell and Alice B. Grigsby are still active. Both are past Area VI Directors. An open celebration was held for community members. The activity highlighted events of the chapter over the years. A significant number of donations for the Blue and Silver day were also collected at the luncheon.



Execution of the TLOD National Program provides opportunities for collaboration between the Ladies and the Teens. In several activities, a strong community partnership was triggered with two community health fairs over the past year. The spring fair in collaboration with County of Los Angeles Public Health brings together many community health providers. The activity was in collaboration with the City of Angels Chapter, Hub City, and Ladera Heights.



The long-awaited Status of Women luncheon was held with nearly 200 participants. Outstanding honorees in each program area, including a teen recipient, were recognized. The program was capped with awards given to all honorees by James Butts, Mayor of Inglewood. The Inglewood Chapter of TLOD...like the City of Inglewood...is on the move!



LADERA HEIGHTS CHAPTER

Lady Lisa Sweeney, Chapter President

Ladera Heights Serving in Faith, Hope and Love



The Ladera Heights Chapter is on the move! We started the year off with our number one thrust – Top Teens of America. Under the leadership of our TTA Advisor, Lady Michelle Grundy, eight teens with the heart to serve, were inducted into the chapter. Top Teens participated in various service projects, including preparing toiletry kits for the TLOD and TTA National Pink and Blue Day of Service.

The chapters' Senior Citizen thrust is also on the move serving the View Park Convalescent home on Grandparents Day with tokens of flowers from the ladies and teens.

Other program activities included the annual Christmas Toy Drive, sponsored by the Sickle Cell Committee and its Chairman, Lady Ann Lincoln. That team keeps the chapter and community mindful of our contribution to children with Sickle Cell Disease.

The Ladera Heights Chapter is indeed a chapter on the move, while firmly grounded in TLOD's tradition of service to all. We are serving in faith, hope and love in the Ladera Heights Community.



MOUNTAIN WEST CHAPTER

Lady Gloria Wright, Chapter President

Mountain West Chapter Working With Soles4Souls to Serve Others



The Mountain West Chapter of TLOD partnered with Soles4Souls and Area VI to lead a major collection drive of shoes. With the help of chapters across Area VI shipping shoes to the S4S warehouse and local collection drives sponsored by Ladies and families of the Mountain West Chapter, approximately 600 pairs of shoes were collected and \$150.00 donated to this worthwhile organization. Area VI partnered with the Soles4Souls(S4S) organization in Denver Colorado for the Area VI Leadership Conference Service Project.

The Soles4Souls organization turns unwanted shoes and clothing into opportunity, by keeping shoes from going to waste in landfills and putting them to good use – providing relief, creating jobs and empowering people to break the cycle of poverty. There programs are focused on making measurable impact on people and the planet by the following:

- Providing relief. Collecting new shoes and clothing to distribute to people in need across the U.S. and around the world.
- Fighting poverty. Helping people, primarily women, launch and sustain their own small business selling donated shoes and clothing.
- The Planet: Protecting the environment by putting used goods to good use, instead of wasting away in a landfill.
- Empowering women. The aim is to empower women, ensuring they have the opportunity and recognition they deserve.



For the Earth Day Project, Mountain West Top Ladies and Top Teens, took the lead in separating and bagging-up all local donations which numbered in excess of 350 pairs of shoes. Lady Annie Howard, along with Teen Jaiah Shields-Triplett and other Denver metro area volunteers, assisted at S4S on Loading Day by filling a truck with over 25,000 pairs of donated shoes enroute to positively impact the lives of thousands on our planet.

PHOENIX CHAPTER

Lady LaTricia Woods, Chapter President

Phoenix Chapter Back in Action and Building a Strong Foundation



The Phoenix Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. began the new program year with a virtual Chapter Retreat held in conjunction with the Phoenix Chapter of Top Teens of America. The Chapter Retreat committee planned an engaging day that included strategic planning workshops, an inspirational playlist, and a virtual TLOD fashion show. The theme for the program year was “Level Up.”

The Chapter attended the 2021 Area VI Cluster and 2022



Area VI Conference taking the top attendance awards. Lady Camilla Westenberg, Chapter Historian, received the inaugural Area VI 2022 Senior Diva Award. Two new Ladies were inducted into the Chapter during the conference.



For the 2022 Pink and Blue Day of Service, Ladies and Teens collected hundreds of items for two nonprofits in the Phoenix area, Hope’s Crossing and The House That Love Built. The donation collection was spearheaded by the Status of Women committee. The Senior Citizens committee delivered hundreds of cards to seniors for various holidays and held a Holiday Bingo for seniors, Ladies, and Teens.

In November 2021, the Phoenix TTA Chapter inducted 10 Teens. Teens attended the virtual Area VI Conference in February, where they took home the award for Top Attendance. Throughout the year, the Teens participated in various activities raising funds for St. Jude and the March of Dimes. In May, the Teens celebrated the graduation of two members. Teen LaToya Gear applied for the Vivian Coe Richard Teen Leadership Academy and was selected to attend the weeklong academy in St. Louis.



STARLIGHT CHAPTER

Lady Kim Mitchell-Martin, Chapter President

Starlight Chapter Welcomes New Members and Top Teens Salutes Graduates

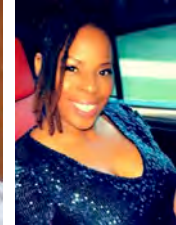
The Starlight Chapter welcomes new members Lady Karen Coleman, Lady Leah Augustine and Lady Courtney Livingston.

Starlight Chapter Top Teens of America attends 42nd Area VI Leadership Conference

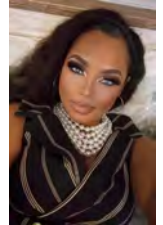
The Starlight Chapter Top Teens of America attended the 42nd Area VI Leadership Conference held in Denver, CO on February 23-26, 2023. The Teens enjoyed meeting other Teens in Area VI; they participated in workshops, and field trips at the University of Colorado and the Osborne Center for Science and Engineering, along with meeting with a few STEM Engineers. The Teens attended the presentation ball, and they volunteered as hostesses for the ball. Teen Giovanni Pinkney won 1st place in the Speech Tournament, Teen Sterling Thomas won 1st place in the essay contest, and Teen Alberto Lucero won 2nd place in the essay contest. The Starlight Chapter Top Teens also won 2nd place in the Program of Work Scrapbook.



Lady Karen Coleman



Lady Leah Augustine



Lady Courtney Livingston



Christina-Rae Lucero

Starlight Chapter's 2023 Graduates

Teen Christina-Rae Lucero is a member of the Starlight Chapter, and she has received six scholarships thus far. She believes being part of Top Teens of America and serving as National Corresponding Secretary, Area VI TTA President, and Starlight Chapter President, along with over 500 hours of community service, Teen Christina-Rae feels this has helped her tremendously. Teen Christina-Rae has received many scholarships; however, she is hoping to receive a scholarship from Notre Dame which is her number choice of schools she would like to attend. Teen Christina-Rae will study Pre-med and Biology. Her goal is to become a doctor of medicine. Teen Christina-Rae has a 4.7 GPA.

Teen Faith Garcia is a member of the Starlight Chapter and she has received three scholarships. Upon graduation, Teen Faith will be attending College of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas, Nevada for two years, after which she will attend the University of Colorado in Denver, CO. Teen Faith will be studying the following in school: Nursing, Education and Marketing. Teen Faith's ideal job is to become an actress. During the summer, Teen Faith will be directing an entire summer camp program in Las Vegas.



NOTES



Thank You

LADIES AND TEENS
for your service

**"CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY:
TLOD TRANSFORMING LIVES,
MAKING A DIFFERENCE,
ONE TEEN,
ONE LADY AND
ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME"**



Lady Sharon J. Beard
TLOD National President and CEO

2019-2023

The CROWN



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