

# Area Directors of The Links, Incorporated

## Tereee L. Caldwell-Johnson

Central Area Director  
Columbus (OH) Chapter



Tereee L. Caldwell-Johnson is a highly qualified professional who has spent her entire career in public service. Born and raised in Salina, Kansas, Tereee has a Bachelors of Arts Degree in English from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Kansas. Tereee also undertook graduate studies in Public Policy at Bucknell University as part of the National Urban/Rural Fellows Program.

Currently Tereee Caldwell-Johnson serves as the CEO of Oakridge Neighborhood and Oakridge Neighborhood Services, a housing and human service non-profit agency located in Des Moines, Iowa. Prior to assuming her position at Oakridge, she held progressively responsible positions in local government across the country most recently serving as Polk County Manager from 1996-2003.

Active in the community, Tereee was elected to the Des Moines School Board in 2006. She serves on several non-profit boards including

Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Mid-Iowa Health Foundation and the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation. In addition, Tereee is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and an active member of Jack and Jill of America.

Tereee and her husband, Vernon Johnson, Vice President, Pace Juvenile Center, are the parents of two children, 17-year-old Bailey and 14-year-old Baxtyr.

A 20 year member of The Links, Inc., Link Tereee is an Heir-O-Link and was inducted into the San Antonio Chapter in 1987. In 1988, Tereee moved to the Central Area and affiliated with the Des Moines Chapter. Tereee has held various positions at the chapter, area and national levels; and in 2007, she was elected the 17th Central Area Director. Prior to assuming this post, Tereee served two terms as Central Area Vice Director (2003-2007) and three terms (1997-2003) as the Central Area representative to the Board of The Links, Foundation, Inc.



# Area Directors of The Links, Incorporated

*Mary F. Currie*

Southern Area Director  
Atlanta (GA) Chapter



Mary F. Currie was elected the 17th Southern Area Director in Mobile Alabama on May 5, 2007.

Mary received her Bachelor's Degree from Hampton University (Institute), Hampton, VA, with a degree in Early Childhood Education. She has studied at the American University, Mainz, Germany; University of South Florida (Tampa); and West Georgia University (Carrollton GA). She has taught school in Illinois, Germany, Florida and Georgia. Currently, is the Chair (Emeritus) of MASA Technology, Incorporated, a network design and consulting firm in Atlanta, GA.

Mary was inducted into The Links, Incorporated in May 1975. She has served in several chapters including St. Petersburg/Tampa (FL) Chapter, (her induction Chapter), Atlanta (GA) Chapter (3 separate times), Cleveland (OH) and Durham (NC) Chapter (while living in Sanford). She has also served in a number of positions in local, area and on the national level which include Co-Chair of the Planning Committee for the

National Assembly meeting 2004, Co-Chair of the National GALA held in Atlanta in 2004, serving on the Governance Committee and serving on the Chapter Establishment Task Force in 1973 – 74.

On the Area level, she served as Chair of the Health and Wellness Facet as well as Chair of The Arts.

Mary has served as President of the Atlanta Chapter (three times), chair of Service to Youth, membership and financial secretary. She chaired fund raising on three separate occasions. Mary was honored by the Atlanta Chapter by winning both the Friendship and Service Awards in the same year.

She was Teacher of the Year, Banberry Elementary School, Marietta City Schools and Employee of the Quarter for the Department of Family and Children Services, State of Georgia.

Mary is married to Jim Currie and has three (3) daughters and a grandson.



# Area Directors of The Links, Incorporated

## Bishetta D. Merritt, Ph.D.

Eastern Area Director  
Washington DC Chapter



**Bishetta D. Merritt**, a native of Danville, VA, has been a Link for 32 years, an heir to Link for 54 years, and, is the only child of Link Willette Merritt and the late Bishop Merritt, DDS. She attended public schools in Danville, college at Fisk University (BA) and received her MA and Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. She lives in Washington, DC and teaches at Howard University. A faculty member and coordinator of Telecommunications Management, Link Bishetta is the former chair of the Radio, Television and Film Department and teaches film history, film analysis and criticism, and media studies. Link Bishetta began her professional career at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and, served as coordinator of Radio, Television and Film at Shaw University in Raleigh, NC. Active in her professional organizations, she was president of the Association of Communication Administration and the Black Caucus of the National Communication Association (was Speech Communication Association). She was also elected chair of the National Nominating Committee of NCA.

Bishetta was elected twice as National Nominating Committee chair, completed two terms as Eastern Area Services to Youth chair, and served as vice-president and president of the Washington, DC chapter, and president of the Danville, VA chapter. She was also elected vice president of the Durham, NC chapter of The Links, Inc. Her chapter committee work includes chair of bylaws, the budget, the 50th Anniversary and the Arts Facet. A current member of National Trends and Services, she and facet members raised \$47,000 for the children's dental project, "Links to Happy Smiles."

Bishetta served on the Pastoral Nominating Committee, the Deacon Board, Worship and Music Committee and the Food Pantry for her church. She also serves on the DCTV Advisory Board and committees for her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta. She loves to travel, read, attend live theatre and the movies.

She was elected the 14th Eastern Area Director in April at the 39th Area Conference.



# Area Directors of The Links, Incorporated

## Barbra Ruffin-Boston Western Area Director San Francisco (CA) Chapter



Barbra Ruffin-Boston is the 15th Western Area Director of The Links, Incorporated. She is a member of the San Francisco Chapter where she was Services to Youth Chair, Program Coordinator, Vice-President, and Chapter President. Before becoming Area Director, she served on the Western Area Executive Committee for eight years and Governance for four years. She is a former National Trends & Services Chair and Secretary for the Western Area.

In her professional life, she has more than 30 years experience in human resources with an emphasis in executive, management and organizational effectiveness. She has successfully provided human resource expertise in diverse organizations, including Levi Strauss & Company, Hexcel Corporation, a manufacturer of advanced structural materials, and The San Francisco Newspaper Agency/SF Chronicle. She is a former member of the Adjunct Faculty at the University of San Francisco where she taught classes in Organizational Behavior. She is a member of the Society of Human Resources Management, the Northern California Human Resources Council, and is certified as a senior professional in human resources (SPHR). Most recently, she has worked as facilitator/coach in SPHR/PHR certification and strategic management. Barbra has a B.A. in Psychology from the University of

Kentucky, Lexington, KY, and an MSW from Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. Her personal philosophy is that learning is a lifelong process.

Barbra holds a lifetime membership in the NAACP, and has served on multiple boards in the San Francisco Bay Area. Currently she is a trustee of the California Historical Society and the Museum of the African Diaspora. She is a long-term member of Grace Cathedral, where she was a member of Episcopal Church Women, was elected to the Congregation Council, served as a liaison to Ministries for Families and Children, and for more than 7 years was a member of the Vocations Commission for the Cathedral. She was recently a mentor in the W.I.S.E. Girls Program of the San Francisco Unified School District. She was also instrumental in the fund-raising for establishing the African-American Center of the San Francisco Public Library.

Among the other groups where she is active, Barbra is a past chapter president and current national executive committee member of The National Smart Set, and a past chapter president of The Churns, Inc. She recently completed a four-year term as a member of the National Honorary Members/Awards Committee, and has a current national appointment to the Far Western Region Heritage Committee of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Barbra resides in San Francisco with her husband, Kermit H. Boston.

