

Past National Presidents

The Links, Incorporated

Sarah Strickland Scott

First National President & Co-Founder
Philadelphia (PA) Chapter



Sarah Strickland Scott, co-founder and first national president of The Links, was born in Philadelphia, the daughter of Dr. George G. and Minnie L. Strickland. She attended elementary and secondary schools and college in her home city. After majoring in English at the University of Pennsylvania, she began her career as a teacher in the Philadelphia high schools.

Sarah Scott received her master's degree from Columbia University. She was a guidance counselor at the Howard High School in Wilmington, Delaware. Many of her activities were youth or family oriented. She was active in "Jack and Jill" and served a term as national president of that organization. She was married to Dr. Horace C. Scott and was the mother of one daughter, Marjorie Ann Scott Upshur, who pre-deceased her. She had two grandchildren, Robert Scott and Lisa Upshur. Sarah Scott's daughter was the first Black student to attend the Friends Select School in Philadelphia. While her granddaughter, Lisa, was a student at this school, Sarah Scott served on the school's Executive Council. Always sensitive to the need for intercultural and social changes in the lifestyles of her community and her people, she was an active member of the Fellowship Commission in Philadelphia.

During the first year of the Philadelphia Link chapter's existence, Scott served as vice president and continued to hold this office through 1949 when the nationalization meeting was held. At this meeting she was elected the first national president and continued in that office until 1953.

Scott composed the organization's pledge, a promise to support the organization, which members make. Later it was she who arranged and presided over the first Assemblies and meetings of the Executive Council. Under her leadership the group was incorporated; fifty-eight chapters were established; Area divisions were reorganized; and The Links became recognized as the "fastest growing, most interesting group of Black women in the country."

After her term as national president, Sarah Scott served for a time as national director of the "Service for Youth" program facet. For three decades she attended Assemblies and Area Conferences regularly and gave valuable advice and encouragement when officers and leaders faced difficult problems. Even when her health failed and she was confined to a nursing home she would call officers and members to talk about Links.

Her last national meeting was the Twenty-third, in Las Vegas, which she attended in a wheelchair. On Monday, July 4, 1988, a few days after the close of the Twenty-sixth National Assembly, Co-founder Scott died at age 87. Scott, through the years, had continually admonished Link members to love each other and to work for the "common causes in American life—with emphasis upon the needs of Black American."



Past National Presidents

Margaret Roselle Hawkins
First National President & Co-Founder
Philadelphia (PA) Chapter



Margaret Josephine Roselle Hawkins was born on January 12, 1908, in Philadelphia. She was the younger of two daughters of David and Anna Roselle. While attending the Philadelphia High School for Girls, her innate artistic talent was discovered and she entered the special program in the field of art. However, she is probably best remembered at Girls' High for leading her Black classmates in a determined effort to attend the annual and, at that time, all-white senior prom. Rather than yield to the pressure for an integrated prom, school officers cancelled the affair.

This Co-founder and Second National President of The Links was graduated from Girls' High in January 1927, and entered Philadelphia Normal School the following month. In June of that year, the Philadelphia Board of Education awarded her a four-year scholarship to the Women's School of Design, later known as the Moore Institute of Art. After graduating in 1931, she was appointed to teach art in the Camden, New Jersey schools. There she soon became one of the city's demonstration teachers in art techniques.

On May 13, 1933, she married Frederick C. Hawkins. She was the mother of two sons, Frederick, Jr., and Bruce Roselle Hawkins. When Saint Thomas Episcopal Church in Philadelphia was rebuilt after a devastating fire, Link Hawkins painted twelve pictures depicting the Stations of the Cross, which were hung in the Church as a permanent memorial to her parents. This talented, creative woman not only served as the first president of the founding chapter, but she designed the Links bracelet. She was a member of the Eastern Arts Association, the National Arts Association, and the New Jersey Teachers Association. She was active in "Jack and Jill," the Mother's Study Club, the Sunday Nifters, and the Dealers.

Margaret Hawkins was elected second national president of The Links at the Fifth Assembly in Buffalo in 1953. It was during her term in the National office that the now famous Links-NAACP life membership program was begun. Seeds of national programs were carefully nurtured during her tenure, and because of the rapid increase in the number of chapters, certain areas were reorganized. Margaret Hawkins died on October 4, 1963.



Past National Presidents

The Links, Incorporated



Margaret Pauline Fletcher Weeden Maloney, always called "Polly," was born in Annapolis, MD, the daughter of William and Eliza Fletcher. She attended elementary school in Annapolis and Washington, D.C. and received her high school diploma from Morgan Academy (now Morgan State). She earned her B.A. from Howard University and the M.A. from Columbia University.

Her professional career was Education. She began as a Speech and English teacher in Winston-Salem, N. C.; but after her marriage, moved with her husband, Dr. Henry P. Weeden, to Lynchburg, VA. Dr. Weeden opened his dental office and Polly served as teacher, guidance counselor and administrative principal at the city's Dunbar High School. During almost forty years of service, she touched the lives of countless students whom she encouraged and inspired.

She served with the Lynchburg Public Schools as Inter-Administrator and consultant for Lyn-Cay Headstart; and on many other boards including Mental Health, the Red Cross, the United Way, Polio Committee, YWCA, Lynchburg Community Action Group, Friends of the Public Library, the City Restoration Committee, Fine Arts Center, Bethune Child Care Center, Meals-On-Wheels, and the NAACP. She was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and served as Director of the Eastern region-- a subdivision that embraced chapters in nine states.

She was a member of Jackson Street United Methodist Church and was corresponding secretary for the Washington Conference of the Methodist Church. Her community service included service with the Virginia Central Planning District Commission and the Virginia Cultural Laureate Center. She was the first Black woman appointed to the

Lynchburg School Board, the first Black elected president of the Southern Regional School Boards Association where she served several terms as president; and she the first woman rector of the Board of Visitors at Norfolk State University. Maloney received many honors and awards including an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Saint Paul's College in Lawrenceville, Virginia.

In 1957, The Links elected Link Pauline Weeden Maloney as the third national president. A member of the Lynchburg Chapter from its beginnings, she worked untiringly with the chapter in its outstandingly creative and effective programs--particularly the programs for young people. It was her goal to develop a national program in which every chapter would serve needs which no other organization addressed. The decision to focus on identification and support of talented youth led to one of the most exciting and productive efforts in organizational history. She put in place the structure for the continuing pattern of active program involvement in which every member of every Links Chapter participates in some relevant community project coordinated by the stated goals of the national organization. Subsequent actions have modified and expanded. The Links programs, but by the end of her presidency in 1962, the organization had been set on its present course of action.

President Pauline Maloney was a great American woman. She died on June 22, 1987.



Past National Presidents

The Links, Incorporated

Vivian J. Beamon

Fourth National President
Cincinnati (OH) Chapter



The fourth National President, **Vivian J. Beamon**, was the first from the Central Area. She was a charter member of the Cincinnati Chapter of The Link, Incorporated before her election as president in 1962. She served as Central Area Director and National Vice President. The theme "Dynamic Dimensions," used at the 1964 Links Assembly, over which President Beamon presided, might very well characterize her administration. Enthusiastic, gracious, charming are a few of the adjectives used to describe this effective leader who did so much to expand the program horizons of The Links. Her messages, letters, and speeches are evidence of an elegance of expression, which was a rare natural gift.

Vivian Beamon was born in Paris, Kentucky. She graduated from Kentucky College and the Industrial Institute in Frankfort; and she earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati. She held a masters degree from New York University. She did further study at the Universities of Chicago and Michigan and at Columbia University.

As a Rosenwald fellow at New York University, Beamon pursued her interest in developing positive educational programs for inner-city children. She entered the Cincinnati school system as a teacher at Douglass School and soon moved to Jackson School as assistant principal, becoming its principal. After twenty years at Jackson School, Beamon helped open Hayes School in an area where most of the students were considered "culturally deprived." Under her leadership, Hayes School was the site of a number of experimental and innovative programs.

At a testimonial marking her retirement after twenty-five years of service to the Cincinnati public schools, the superintendent cited her distinguished record. Following her retirement from the public schools, Beamon joined the faculty of the University of Cincinnati as an instructor in teacher training programs.

Vivian Beamon was married to Dr. Reginald E. Beamon, a dentist who was also an activist. Dr. Beamon was the first Black candidate to run on the charter ticket as a candidate for the Cincinnati City Council. Vivian Beamon served as the second president of the Women's Auxiliary of the National Dental Association.

A member of the Delta Kappa Gamma professional sorority for women in education and of Kappa Delta Pi scholastic honor society, Vivian Beamon served at various times as workshop consultant at Syracuse University, North Carolina College at Durham, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Beamon was a dedicated community worker, serving on many boards including the Child Guidance Home, the Children's Theater, the Community Chest of Greater Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Urban League. She was the first woman president of the Cincinnati Urban League and carried this responsibility for three one-year terms. The Cincinnati Enquirer saluted Vivian Beamon as one of that City's ten most outstanding women. She died in 1975 and is buried in Cincinnati.



Past National Presidents

The Links, Incorporated

Helen Gray Edmonds

Fifth National President
Durham (NC) Chapter



Helen Gray Edmonds was born in Lawrenceville, Virginia and attended public school there. She earned a B.A. from Morgan State College in Baltimore, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Ohio State University. After short periods of teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary and College, and Saint Paul's College in Lawrenceville, she joined the faculty of North Carolina Central University; and, for more than thirty years she served as professor of history; chairman of the history department, dean of the Graduate School and University Distinguished Professor.

She has been awarded nine honorary degrees and innumerable honors. Among these awards are The O. Max Gardner Award from the North Carolina Consolidated System of Higher Education, in 1975, for the "greatest contribution to the welfare of the human race" and the William Hugh McEniry Award from the North Carolina Association of Colleges and Universities "recognizing the principles of dedication and commitment to the education and advancement of the state."

Helen Edmonds was a visiting professor or visiting scholar at eight different colleges and Universities including her Alma Mater Ohio State, Portland State University, Henry Steele Commager, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Harvard University, Radcliffe College, Western Michigan University, Rochester University and other New York area colleges and universities. Dr. Edmonds has lectured one or more times at eighty-seven different American colleges and universities and in many institutions in Sweden, Germany and Liberia.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed Dr. Edmonds as his representative to the dedication of the capital building in Monrovia,

Liberia. She served as Alternate-Delegate to the 1970 General Assembly of the United Nations. She was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the National Council of Negro Women and the National Council of Women of the U.S.A.

In 1970, the Seventeenth Assembly, meeting in Cincinnati, elected Helen Gray Edmonds of Durham, North Carolina, as the Fifth National President. She gave dynamic and electrifying leadership to The Links, directing and urging the group toward wider horizons in national and international goals for service. Before her election as national president she developed and delineated the National and International Trends and Services program facet. During her term as national president, the chapter establishment program was structured and national Grants-in-Aid became an integral part of The Links' operation. It was Dr. Edmonds who asked the Advisory Council to explore and evaluate the feasibility of a national headquarters for the organization.

As a professional historian, Dr. Edmonds never lets the group forget its obligation to its own heritage. She urged the creation of an organizational archives and the preservation of chapter materials, and emphasized the importance of complete records and reports. More than any other person it was Dr. Edmonds who established the organization's program and structure to make dedication to human service the identifying characteristic of The Links.



Past National Presidents

The Links, Incorporated

Pauline A. Ellison

Sixth National President
Arlington, VA) Chapter



Pauline A. Ellison was born in Iron Gate, Virginia, and graduated from Watson High School in Covington. She is a graduate of Howard University. She began her career in government service as Employee Relations Specialist. She was to become the first Black woman to be named employee relation's officer at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as well as the first Black woman to serve as director of personnel for a federal agency. While at HUD, she was a member of Vice President Hubert Humphrey's Committee on the "Back-To-School Program."

Ellison attended the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and received her M.P.A from the American University School of Government and Public Administration in Washington. She has also received honorary degrees from Wilberforce University in Ohio and Livingston College in North Carolina.

During a two-year residence in Germany Pauline Ellison traveled and studied in England, Belgium, Austria, Holland, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Luxembourg, and France. While living in Germany and serving as vice president of the Hahn Officers' Wives' Club, she developed and implemented programs for American-German orphans and American Girl Scouts.

The 1974 National Assembly elected Pauline Ellison as the Sixth National President. Before her election as national president, Ellison served The Links in numerous ways at the local and national levels.

She was a charter member, vice president; and later president of the Arlington Chapter. In keeping with the rising national visibility of The Links and to better serve its growing membership, Ellison set as one of her priorities the creation of a national headquarters with a paid staff. Before the end of her first term, she was able to report completion of steps in this task as outlined by the transition committee. By the end of her second term, the national headquarters was fully operational.

Pauline Ellison has been honored by many national civic and service organizations for her achievements. She founded the Northern Virginia Chapter of Jack and Jill and served on the board of directors of Burgundy Farm Country Day School and the United Way. She was listed in Ebony magazine as one of America's 100 most influential Blacks. The Arlington County Commissioners appointed Ellison to the Board of Directors of Arlington Community Television where she served as Director and vice president for four years. She also serves as advisor to the Board of Directors of Arlington Hospital, and as secretary of the Women's Committee of the Washington Performing Arts Society. Ellison was the first Black woman to become a member of the Board of Directors of Central Fidelity Banks, Inc.

She received untiring help, support, and encouragement from her husband, Dr. Oscar Ellison, Jr.; and her children, Oscar III, Paula Michelle, and Karla. During the years after their mother's service as National President both Ellison daughters became members of the Arlington Chapter.



Past National Presidents

The Links, Incorporated

Julia Brogdon Purnell, Ph.D.

Seventh National President
Baton Rouge (LA) Chapter



Julia Brogdon Purnell was born in Belton, SC, one of three daughters of the Reverend & Mrs. Richard E. Brogdon. She completed her undergraduate education at Allen University. She received her Master of Arts from Atlanta University and did further study at the University of Michigan, Colorado State College of Education, Louisiana State University, Syracuse University, and the University of Illinois in Urbana.

Julia Purnell is a life member of the National Council of Negro Women and the NAACP. She is a member of the Baton Rouge YWCA, Women in Politics, the League of Women Voters, the local Girl Scouts' Executive Board, and the Steering Committee on the Status of Women in Louisiana. She works closely with the Blundon Home for Orphans,

Retired since 1984 as professor of education at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Purnell's career has included teaching at Avery Institute in Charleston, South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, and Morris College in Sumter, S.C. She has been awarded eight honorary degrees and is a member of three academic honor societies, Beta Kappa Chi, Alpha Delta Mu, and Psi Chi. The professional organizations to which she belongs include the International Reading Association, the American Association of University Professors, the National Association of College Women, the National Reading Association, and the Louisiana Reading Association.

Among her many religious affiliations are membership in the Bethel A.M.E. Church of Baton Rouge and its Missionary Society, Stewardess Board, and Laymen's Organization. She has also served as chairman of the Bethel A.M.E. Building Fund, and is the church organist.

In 1978, the Twenty-first Assembly, meeting in Chicago, installed Julia Brogdon Purnell as the Seventh President of the organization. Julia Purnell brought to the presidency of The Links the experiences she gained as president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Purnell directed moving the national headquarters into larger, more suitable accommodations and coordinated the changes involved in continuing the shift from voluntary leadership to the current partnership of voluntary elected leaders supported by an expanded professional staff funded by the organization.

Julia Purnell is the widow of Clifton A. Purnell, long-time athletic director at Capitol Senior High School in Baton Rouge. She has one son, Clifton, Jr., and two grandchildren. Not long after the death of her husband, she was joined in Baton Rouge by her sister, Christine Brogdon Gilchrist, also a Link and a retired psychologist from teaching in Detroit. The two launched the idea for a Service Center at Bethel A.M.E. Church. Open on Saturdays, the Center serves hot meals, has a food pantry, a clothing center and offers counseling services for people of all ages. After the death of Christine Gilchrist, the Center was renamed "The Scott-Gilchrist Quality of Life Center" and Julia Purnell became the Director. Each week she takes her turn cooking for the approximately 250 people who come.



Past National Presidents

Dolly Desselles Adams, Ed.D.
Eighth National President
Atlanta (GA) Chapter



Dolly Desselles Adams, was born in Marksville, LA and reared in New Orleans, LA. She was the only child of Moses J. and Thelma Tucker Desselles. She graduated from Xavier University Preparatory High School in New Orleans, LA. She received her B.S. degree from Southern University, her M.S. degree from the University of Michigan, and her Ed.D. degree from Baylor University in Texas.

As an educator, Dr. Adams has held a variety of positions – elementary teacher and administrator; college dean, and university professor at the University of Michigan, Albany State College, Paul Quinn College, Howard University School of Law, and the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta.

A woman of deep commitment to community service, Dr. Adams has held outstanding leadership positions in community service organizations. She served for five years as the National President of the Black Women's Agenda, Inc.; on the board of directors of the UNCF, and the board of directors of WHMM-TV (Howard University) in Washington, DC. Dr. Adams now serves of the board of directors of the Black Women's Agenda, Paul Quinn College, the Southern University Foundation, and the Sisters of Charity Foundation. From 1982-1986, she was cited as one of the 100 Most Influential Black Americans by Ebony Magazine; and Dollars and Sense Magazine names her as one of the Top 100 Black Business and Professional Women in 1986 and 1987. Dr. Adams is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the NAACP.

Dolly Adams is the wife of the Right Reverend John Hurst Adams, 87th Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Her role as Episcopal Supervisor of the Women's Missionary Society and the Minister's Wives of the Tenth (Texas), Second (Mid-Atlantic States),

Sixth (Georgia), Seventh (South Carolina), and Eleventh (Florida and the Bahamas) Episcopal Districts covered a span of 32 years.

Dr. Adams is the eighth National President of The Links, Incorporated and the first President of The Links Foundation, Inc. She was initiated into the Seattle Chapter of The Links, she organized the Waco (TX) Chapter, and held membership in the Angel City (CA), Arlington (VA), Atlanta (GA), Columbia (SC), and Jacksonville (FL) Chapters. She served as Western Area Services to Youth Chairperson before becoming National Chairperson for International Trends and Services. During her term as national president, The Links formed a partnership with Africare which resulted in over 75 water wells being dug in rural African villages. She led the organization in purchasing its first

headquarters building in Washington, D.C.; the building was dedicated debt free. During her term, the first \$1 million gift from The Links Foundation was completed to the United Negro College Fund and 40 new chapters were established.

Bishop Adams and Dolly are the parents of three Link daughters – Gayle Adams-Massey, Esquire; Dr. Jann H. Adams; and Madelyn R. Adams. They are also the proud grandparents of eight grandchildren.



Past National Presidents

The Links, Incorporated

Regina Jollivette Frazier, R. Ph.

Ninth National President
Greater Miami (FL) Chapter



Regina Jollivette Frazier is a lifelong resident of Miami, Florida where she attended elementary and secondary schools. She is a graduate of Howard University in Washington, D.C. with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy. She received the Master of Business Administration from the University of Miami. She is a Registered Pharmacist in Florida and in D.C.

Returning to Miami, she served as a volunteer coordinator in the Economic Opportunity Program, Inc. She joined the staff of the University of Miami Hospitals and Clinics as senior pharmacist and Director of Pharmacy. She continues in that position.

Frazier is the national parliamentarian for the Association of Black Hospital Pharmacists. She holds membership in four other pharmacy-related groups, the Hospital Consortium, Inc., and the Florida Pharmaceutical Association. She serves on the Advisory Committee of the Florida/Georgia Cancer Information Service and is a member of the Women's Chamber of Commerce of South Florida, Inc. and the Miami Forum.

Her many community services include the Board of Trustees of the Greater Miami United Way, American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters, the Board of Directors of The Girl Scout Council of Tropical Florida, Board of Directors of the National Coalition on Black Voter Participation, Inc., and the Orange Bowl Committee. She is a Life Member of YWCA of Greater Miami and Dade County, Inc. and a member of the Board of Directors.

She has served on the Planning Committee of the Florida Governor's Conference on Libraries and Public Information Services; she served on the Metropolitan Dade County Zoning Appeals Board and from 1982 to 1988 was Board Chairman. Regina is a member of the Carats, Inc., Leadership Miami, Just Us, Jack and Jill of America and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Regina Frazier has received many honors recognizing her civic and community services. She was cited as one of Ebony Magazine's 100 Most Influential Black Americans and by Dollars and Sense Magazine as one of America's Top 100 Black Business and Professional Women.

Frazier's service in Links began with her induction into the Greater Miami Chapter in 1970 where she held several offices. She was elected to the Executive Council as Member-at-Large and later became Southern Area Director and National Vice President. She was elected Ninth National President of The Links, Incorporated.

Regina married Ronald Eugene Frazier, an Architect and Urban Planner whose independent firm is one of the best known in this field. The Frazier's have three children – Ronald II, is a business major at Howard University and Robert Christopher and Rozalynne Suzanne who attend schools in Miami.



Past National Presidents

The Links, Incorporated

Marion Schultz Sutherland

Tenth National President
Greater Seattle (WA) Chapter



Marion Schultz Sutherland has been actively dedicated to The Links, Incorporated since 1965. In addition to serving as National President, other offices she has held have been National Vice President, Western Area Director, Vice Director, Program Coordinator, President of the Seattle Chapter and President of The Links Foundation.

Her leadership capabilities have been demonstrated in her many other affiliations; President of Seattle Jack and Jill of America; President of Seattle First Baptist Church; on the Board of Managers of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society; on the Board of Trustees of the Seattle Opera Association; and on Washington State's Governor's Committee on Youth. For two years she was chair of Seattle's United Negro College Fund's Telethon and served on the National Board.

During the four years of her national presidency in The Links, she was listed in Ebony Magazine as was one of our nation's most influential citizens. She was given the "Woman of Achievement" award by Seattle's Matrix Table, an organization consisting of members of the press and literary fields.

Professionally, Ms. Sutherland was a licensed Nursing Home Administrator in the State of Washington and managed two nursing homes. She was editor of a community newspaper, The Pacific Leader. Marion Schultz Sutherland has a Bachelor of Science degree from Portland State University. She also studied Music Education at Howard University and did graduate work in Christian Ministries at Seattle Pacific University

In recognition of her services as a "consummate volunteer" who had dedicated her life to giving service to mankind, The Honorable Norman B. Rice, Mayor of Seattle, proclaimed November 4, 1990 as Marion Schultz Sutherland Day.

Born Marion Schultz in Danville, Illinois, she is now married to retired Colonel Earl C. Sutherland, a consulting Engineer in Metallurgy. She has two children, Chrystal Weinberg, also a Link, and Clyde Merriwether, architect.



Past National Presidents

The Links, Incorporated

Patricia Russell-McCloud

Eleventh National President
Dogwood City (GA) Chapter



Patricia Russell-McCloud, was born in Indianapolis, Indiana where she attended Shortridge High School. She graduated from Kentucky State College, Frankfort, Kentucky; attended an intensive study program, sponsored by the Council for Legal Educational Program, Harvard University; and was awarded a Juris Doctorate degree at Howard University School of Law, Washington, D.C.

Russell-McCloud worked as an attorney for the Federal Communications Commission, Broadcast Bureau, Washington, D. C. for ten years, where she became Chief of the Complaints Branch. She was the first African American female to hold the position.

In 1983, she married Rev. Dr. E. Earl McCloud, Jr., and moved to San Antonio, TX where her husband was serving in the United States Army. Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr., is now the 127th elected and consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Office of Ecumenical and Urban Affairs. In the same year, she formed Russell-McCloud & Associates, as a professional orator and trainer. Russell-McCloud's analytical ability to substantively address issues, has made her a speaker of choice. Her client base includes Fortune 500 and 100 companies, government, labor unions, military, colleges and universities, school districts and religious organizations. She has traveled across America, the Caribbean, Europe, South Africa and West Africa. She is known as, "a visual speaking experience."

Russell-McCloud has received sterling awards of achievement, including having her speech, "If Not You, Who? If Not Now, When?" recorded in the Congressional Record of the United States. She has been awarded

more than 275 keys to American cities; participated in the Friendship Force, a good will tour during the Carter Administration; participated in the American-Jewish Committee sponsorship of ten American women on a human relations trip to Israel; was featured in the Black Enterprise Magazine as one of the Top Five Business Motivators in America, ESSENCE Magazine and EBONY Magazine. Her book, entitled: A is for Attitude: An Alphabet for Living, is a best seller. The National Speakers Association selected Russell-McCloud as the cover story for the 2007 July-August issue.

From the year of her induction into The Links, Incorporated, at the Arlington Chapter in 1976, she has served on the Executive Council, ranging from the National Nominating Committee to the National President. As the 11th National President, Patricia Russell-McCloud took the helm of leadership for Linkdom in 1994. Her vision, education, employment, experiences, training and proven track record of accomplishment set the stage for success focused on the timely theme, "Linkages... Toward the Possible."

Patricia Russell-McCloud is a committed church woman, especially to the AME Women's Missionary Society and the young people. She is an entrepreneur; life member of the NAACP; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; and civic volunteer. She resides in Atlanta, Georgia, with her husband. She is an active member of the Dogwood City Chapter of The Links



Past National Presidents

The Links, Incorporated

Barbara Dixon Simpkins, Ed.D.

Twelfth National President
Prince George's County (MD) Chapter



Barbara Jean Dixon Simpkins was born and educated in the public schools of Pensacola, FL. As a young girl, she accompanied her mother, who was pursuing a master's degree at Cornell University (NY), to Ithaca and attended the Cascadilla College Preparatory School at Cornell. She graduated from Washington High School in Pensacola and enrolled at Fisk University at age 15. Barbara received a bachelor's degree from Florida A & M; a master's degree from Temple University; and a Ed. D. from Nova Southeastern University in educational leadership as an accelerated student.

Barbara Simpkins held many responsible positions. She began her career as a music teacher and vocal music educator in Pensacola, at Washington High, where she was "Teacher of the Year" – she wrote the school song and the "pep" song. She authored many projects and initiatives and was the recipient of the U.S. Secretary of Education Exemplary Initiative Award.

Her contributions to The Links, Incorporated over the past 25 years have been most outstanding. She was the organizer and the first president of the Prince George's County Chapter in 1979; she was the eastern area secretary in 1987, and served as the eastern area director in 1991-1995. She was appointed National Vice President in 1995. In her service as the national membership chair, chapter establishment chair, she co-authored the Links' signature program, "Links to Success: Children Achieving Excellence."

As area director, Barbara went with a delegation to South Africa to break ground for the Links/IFESH Schools built by The Links, Inc. in this country. She returned to South Africa as the national president to solidify the construction of the schools and sponsored the South African Chapter of The Links, Inc.

Barbara Simpkins is a grandmother and proud mother of two sons – Monti Lemans Simpkins and Lubara Dixon Simpkins. She is a writer, gourmet cook, and gardener. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Phi Delta Kappa Education Fraternity, the Potomac Chapter of Girl Friends, Inc. and a member of Ft. Washington Baptist Church. She enjoys traveling and entertaining friends. She resides in Prince George's County, Maryland.



Past National Presidents The Links, Incorporated

Gladys Gary Vaughn, Ph.D.

Thirteenth National President
Potomac (VA) Chapter



A 22-year member prior to her historical election to the presidency by acclamation in July 2002, **Gladys Gary Vaughn** had served as Chair of the Grants-In-Aid Committee, Director of the Services to Youth Program Facet, Chair of the Membership Committee and National Vice President. Among her many contributions to the organization, she has been instrumental in securing more than \$2 million in funding for innovative programs leading to the improvement of the life options for children of African ancestry. During her presidency, she led the organization in establishing a leadership/mentoring program for women aged 21-45, a code of ethics, a quantifiable minimum community service requirement, a permanent endowment fund, and numerous other structural and operational enhancements.

In her professional life, Dr. Vaughn is employed as Director of Outreach for the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC. In this capacity, she ensures that the nation's citizens have access to the programs and resources of the Department. During her more than 30-year career in home economics/family and consumer sciences, she earned a reputation for excellence in program design and development, grantsmanship and administration.

Further, she has secured more than \$10 million in grants for visionary programs involving the professional community in cutting-edge issues such as adolescent pregnancy prevention, family planning, promotion of physical activity among African American youth, school-age child care, and recruitment and retention of minority youth in undergraduate and graduate programs. She is a graduate of Florida A&M University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics in 1964; Iowa State University, earning a Master of Science in Clothing and Textiles in 1968; and the University of Maryland-College Park, earning a Doctor of Philosophy in Home Economics Education and Administration in 1974.

In her personal life, she is the widow of Dr. Joseph B. Vaughn, Jr.; their 34-year marriage ending with his death in September 2000. She continues to reside in their home in Cabin John, Maryland. She is a member of Metropolitan AME Church in Washington, DC, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the National Coalition for Black Development in Home Economics, and the Black Women's Agenda. She was recently elected to the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity. During her life's journey, she has traveled to 50 states and 26 foreign countries.

