

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY CHAPTER
OF
THE LINKS, INCORPORATED
FACET MINUTES & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Final Version-April 27, 2016

COMMITTEE/FACET NAME: Health and Human Services

CALL MEETING DATE AND TIME/ATTENDEES: April 23, 2016 8:45am: Jennifer Lewis, Mary Spells, Janice Shaw, Quay Watkins, Joan Lewis Shepherd, Carol Morales-Riggs, and Claudia L. Edwards

**ACTIVITY/ISSUES DISCUSSED:
SMART GIRLS Event**

Members revisited the process by which we established a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle's for its SMART GIRLS initiative (BGC). At the March facet meeting the group came to consensus on delaying the date of the luncheon until early fall. We had not come to an understanding on our role in putting together the event and we wanted more time to create a quality program. We received notice from the executive director of the BGC a week after our meeting informing us that the BGC had decided to go ahead with hosting the event on May 14th and the expectation was that we keep our commitment to participate. Although we did not have consensus on having made the commitment, we felt it was in the best interest of the chapter to commit to the May event. Declining at this late date might reflect poorly on our image and be a disappointment to the young girls. Members present agreed to move forward and commit to the following:

1. Proceed with supporting the event scheduled for May 16
2. Quay to get back to the committee with the exact time and location of the event. Once we are clear on the time of the event, members will check their calendars and confirm their participation

3. Support the program for the tea that was already established by the BGC
4. As many members as possible, attend the event and participate in a round-robin discussion with the girls.
5. The topics provided by Link Quay were relevant to health and our facet's service model.
6. Link Quay will use her discretion to assign the specific topics to the link volunteers
7. Purchase the friendship bracelet proposed by Link Mary and present as a gift to each girl from the Links.

While All members questioned the process for approving this service event, all present agreed to make a best effort for a successful event in May and take the time to reflect on the process at our planning meeting scheduled for June.

Next Steps

- Link Quay will get back to Link Claudia with exact time and location for the May 14 event
- Link Claudia will get confirmations on who in the chapter will participate
- Link Quay will assign topics to the link sisters participating in the event
- Link Quay will communicate our involvement to the BGC executive director
- Link Mary will proceed with purchasing the bracelets

Eastern Area Initiatives

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer— Members agreed to organize a team to participate in the *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walkathon* at

Manhattanville College on October 16. We agreed to reach out to the Bronx Chapter and the Hudson Chapter to see if there is any interest in a joint venture. A sign up sheet will be circulated at the chapter meeting. Joan Lewis agreed to lead the event and come back with a plan of action in time for the next meeting.

Ambassador Program— Members agreed to further pursue the Ambassador program as a possible local initiative that focuses on breast cancer awareness and hard to reach populations. Mary Graves reached out to her contact at the White Plains Hospital and it was positive. Members agreed to think of other possible providers who might help identify local need. An appeal was made for members to Reach out to perspective partners on local data on gaps in services. Make no commitment, just exploratory. Bring findings to the Planning meeting in June. Olga Diaz agreed to be available to help understand the role we might play in the region.

Planning Meeting

A planning meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2016 at noon. Link Claudia will host the event at her home. This will serve as an opportunity to reflect on all of our partnerships as well as what we do in the community and develop a strategic plan for service for 2017. Tentative working agenda:

- Discussion on National' s strategic plan
- Discussion on Regional Initiatives
- Review of our existing partnerships
- Review of our existing activities
- Discussion on Local needs
- Working Session

Lunch will be served at noon and our meeting session will begin at 1:15 PM to 4 PM. Menu will follow.

Chapter Meeting for April

- Jennifer Lewis will distribute the Newsletter Dawna prepared for the month of April
- Link Joan Lewis Shepherd will pass around the sign up sheet for the October 16, Making Strides Walkathon with the American Cancer Society
- Link Janis will pass around the sign-up sheet for the Westchester Food Bank Service activity—May 7th.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 AM.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION AT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:

None

MOTIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER:

NONE

Submitted by: Claudia Edwards and Dawna Michelle Fields

Date: April 27, 2016