

# *The Crown*

Official Organ of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

2017 - 2019



**Lady Drema Lee Woldman, National TLOD President**  
**Teen Benjamin Chapman, National TTA President**

# Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

Founded 1964

Tyler, Texas

## *The Founders*



Top Row (l to r): Lady Willie Lee Glass\*,  
Lady Franchell Boswell\* and  
Lady LaVerne Madlock\*

Center Left: Lady Georgia Presswood Nelson\*  
Center Right: Lady Augusta Latham\*

Bottom Row (l to r): Lady Ina B. Brown\*,  
Lady Ozell M. Dean and Lady Ruth Payne Smith\*

\* Deceased

## - FOREWORD -

**I**n 1964, Major Ozell Dean attended a White House luncheon convened by the then First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson. She did not know at that time that she was about to make history. She did not know at that time that because of her vision and foresight that she would be responsible for enhancing and impacting the lives of so many through the vehicle that she and her seven fellow sisters founded - Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (a/k/a TLOD).

For 55 years, TLOD has made great strides in the communities that she serves through the wisdom, vision and creativity of 13 administrations. These administrations were helmed by enthusiastic, excited, energetic, vivacious, knowledgeable, committed and resourceful women who built on the foundation laid by the Founders and stood on the shoulders of each one before them. They all had one thing in common - Serving Youth & Adults:

### **#1 FRANCHELL BOSWELL\* - (1964-1971) – FIRST NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

As the first National President, Lady Boswell's focus was on incorporation, growing the membership by chartering 14 chapters and adopting the first Constitution. The first Editor-of-the-Crown was appointed. Hers were the **"developmental years"** when the founders concentrated on "spreading the word" and building the foundation.

### **#2 LAVERNE MADLOCK\* - (1971 - 1975) – SECOND NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Lady Madlock's theme was **"Shapers of Change – a Continuing Commitment."** During this administration, the National Program Thrusts: Top Teens of America, Senior Citizens, Community Beautification, and Status of Women, were created and TLOD began support of National Projects UNCF and NAACP. The organization continued to grow, refine and shape its legal structure through its governance guidelines. Eleven (11) additional chapters were chartered and the National Hymn was written by Lady Fredda Witherspoon. The Honorable Congresswoman Barbara Jordan became TLOD's first Honorary Member.

### **#3 FAYE B. BRYANT\* - (1975 - 1979) – THIRD NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Lady Bryant's administration theme was **"TLOD: Shapers of Change – A Continuing Commitment"**. Under her leadership, the National Membership Program was initiated, the first Top Teens National Scholarships were presented, and NCNW was added as an affiliate of TLOD. Nine chapters were chartered.

### **#4 VIVIAN CRAWLEY\* - (1979 - 1983) – FOURTH NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

The Crawley years were devoted to **"TLOD: Shapers of Change – A Continuing Commitment."** Civil Rights Activist Rosa Parks became the second Honorary Member. Fourteen (14) chapters were chartered.

### **#5 BOBBIE MOOREHEAD - (1983 - 1987) – FIFTH NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Lady Moorehead's administration was known as **"The Networking Years – Networking to Serve Youth and Adults."** Thirty-four (34) chapters were chartered including the first International Chapter – Montego Bay. Five Honorary members were inducted: Daisy Bates, Ophelia Devore Mitchell, Dorothy Height, Jacqueline Vaughn and Deborah Cannon-Wolfe. TLOD was invited to the White House and showcased in Jet Magazine. TLOD took up the causes of Assault on Illiteracy (AOIP), National Black Leadership Roundtable, The National Foundation – March of Dimes and the National Urban League.

### **#6 JACQUELYN HEATH PARKER - (1987 - 1991) – SIXTH NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Lady Parker's theme was **"Orbiting Towards the 21st Century."** This administration developed the Program of Work, the ritualistic ceremony for Founders' Day, gained corporate sponsors - Anheuser Bush, Nabisco, Coors, the Regal Foundation and Pepsi, areas and chapters became tax exempt units under National Office,

the TTA pledge of \$25,000 to UNCF was realized, the first scholarship from the Franchell Boswell Endowment Fund was granted, the building fund was established, nineteen (19) chapters were chartered and Honorary Member, Mrs. Margaret Adams, was inducted.

#### **#7 MARIE STELLOS\* - (1991 - 1995) – SEVENTH NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Lady Stellos' theme was **"Programming our Thrusts for Greater Advancement in the 21st Century."** These were the programming years. The first business office was established, marketing brochures were created, TLOD prayer was approved, sixteen (16) chapters were chartered, membership grew to 3,300, all governance documents were revised, an attorney and a tax accountant were hired, and the first TLOD choir was formed.

#### **#8 DOROTHY ALLEN CHIMNEY - (1995 - 1999) – EIGHTH NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Lady Chimney's theme was **"Serving with Unity of Purpose."** This administration focused on unity and the mentoring of our youth. Program directives were initiated, the first leadership academy was held in Greensboro, N.C., the fifth program thrust – community partnerships was initiated, the collaboration with March of Dimes "Healthy Choices: Your Future and You" began, the National Headquarters Campaign was initiated, "me and My Mentor" was initiated, the crown and orchid were trademarked, Honorary members Dr. Gloria Scott and the Honorable Maxine Waters were inducted, and eight chapters were chartered.

#### **#9 VIVIEN COE RICHARD\* - (1999 - 2003) – NINTH NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Lady Richard's theme was **"Continuity of Total Quality Programming: TLOD 2000 . . . Soaring to New Heights of Service."** This administration developed the Program Resource Manual, established the first TLOD website, initiated a TTA Technical Scholarship, established the first National TTA Leadership Academy, chartered four chapters, and inducted Honorary Members Anita Bunkley and Jane E. Smith.

#### **#10 PEGGY LEWIS Lecompte - (2003 - 2007) – 10TH NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Lady LeCompte's theme was **"Mobilizing Youth and Adults to Provide Global Service and 21st Century Leadership."** This administration developed the signature program for Top Teens of America – M.O.M.E.N.T.U.M., initiated Boys and Girls Booked on Barbershops, the 140 Club, placed an historic marker in Tyler, TX, added Sickle Cell Disease Awareness as a Project, held a leadership Summit in St. Louis, MO, solicited funds for Hurricane Katrina, established official headquarters in Houston, TX, hired the first Executive Director, chartered fourteen (14) chapters, and inducted Honorary Members Frankie Muse Freeman, Charlotte Maull, Eunice Dudley, and Hazel Brown.

#### **#11 LADY JACKIE POPE - (2007 - 2011) – ELEVENTH NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Lady Pope's theme was **"Empowering Youth and Adults to Provide Exemplary Service with Passion and Purpose."** This administration developed a relationship with Rice University to host the TTA Leadership Academy for three years, raised outside funding for National programs, developed the first Strategic Plan, donated \$8,500 to the MLK Memorial, instituted National Day of Service, supported Desks and Pencils for South Africa Project, hosted TLOD sponsored event in Washington D.C. for the inauguration of President Barack Obama, initiated a program to restore and preserve African American cemeteries, and chartered eleven (11) chapters.

#### **#12 LADY AUDRIE L. LAWTON - (2011 - 2015) – TWELFTH NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Lady Lawton's theme was **"TLOD: Impacting our Future Through Positive Interventions in the Lives of our Youth, our Community, and our Legacy with Effective Volunteerism."** This administration's focus was on Top Teens and programs versus activities. Chapters captured reporting in a chapter report book, a STEM Program for 9th grade girls was initiated, pilot programs with Keep America Beautiful and ATEAAM/TLOD Teens to Men were initiated, a partnership with Sisters Network was formed, online registration and other technology was utilized, additional scholarships were awarded, dues were increased to support technology and to fund the TTA Leadership Academy, chartered 6 chapters, and inducted Honorary Members, Dr. Barbara Shaw, Dr. Julianne Malveaux, and Yolanda Moore.

### #13 LADY DREMA LEE WOLDMAN - (2015 - 2019) – THIRTEENTH NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Lady Woldman's theme was **"Investing in V.A.L.U.E.S. that Support, Enhance, and Sustain."** The acronym "Values" represented Volunteerism, Advocacy, Leadership, Unity, Empowerment and Social Responsibility. This administration focused on "investing" in our communities as well as the membership with relevant programming, awareness and/or training. The TTA curriculum was enhanced to include a bullying initiative, spelling bees, debate team, the TTA St. Jude Walk, and Blessings in a Backpack. Partnerships were formed with the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child, Health & Human Development (NICHD), AARP, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, The Balm in Gilead and the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America. Diabetes, Clinical Trials and health disparities in African Americans were front and center. STEM became STEAM and an Arts component was added to the TTA Leadership Academy. The first academy took place at NASA and the second was an HBCU bus tour to eight STEAM colleges and universities. TLOD's technology was greatly enhanced with a membership management database, WHOVA app, all forms of social media, webinars, etc. More focus was given to leadership development through institutes, clinics and workshops, standardized the TTA Code of Ethics and developed a Code of Conduct. Moved into new headquarters, chartered seventeen (17) chapters, and inducted honorary members Myrlie Evers-Williams, Dr. Pernessa Seele, Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover, and Dr. Juanita Sims Doty. This administration received over \$175,000 in grants and a \$500,000 pledge over a ten year period to be awarded to students who major in the Fine Arts.

As you can see, TLOD has a rich history of providing service, investing in the communities that we serve, and making a difference in the lives that we touch. Such phenomenal service can only be implemented through a network of dedicated and committed membership - a strong membership of caring ladies who were not sisters at birth, but sisters in service who came together to make this world a better place. Thank you Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. for your sisterly and dedicated service for the past 55 years. Be blessed and continue to be a blessing to others!

13th National President

*Lady Drema Lee Woldman*



\*Deceased



## *Table of Contents*

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Foreword   | 3  |
| National Editor of The Crown Message                     | 7  |
| National President Final Words                           | 9  |
| National President, Founder and Past National Presidents | 11 |
| National Officers  | 12 |
| Reflections  | 17 |
| National Partnerships                                    | 23 |
| Area I   | 31 |
| Area II  | 43 |
| Area III   | 49 |
| Area IV  | 54 |
| Area VI  | 61 |
| Syn-Lod 2019 Highlights                                  | 65 |
| Welcome to Syn-Lod 2019                                  | 76 |



# *The Crown*

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.



*Lady Regina Dickson*  
National Editor of The Crown



Greetings To All,

In 1964 Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. was incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas with the following charter members: Mrs. Franchell Boswell, Tyler, Texas; Dr. Ina Bolton Brown, Houston, Texas; Mrs. Augusta R. Cash, Memphis, Tennessee; Major Ozelle Dean, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Willie Lee Glass, Tyler, Texas; Mrs. LaVerne Madlock, Tyler, Texas; Mrs. Ruth Payne, Navasota, Texas and Mrs. Georgia Bell Prestwood, Dallas, Texas.

In an effort to publish biennially, the community service and activities of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., in 1967 Lady Lucellustine Wilson became the first National Editor of the *Crown*. Since then, the *Crown* has been the official organ of the organization.

Fifty years later in 2017, I was elected as the National Editor of the *Crown* and re-elected in 2019 to serve my second two year term to lift the legacy of our founders, carrying the reign to the next generation and generations to come.

With that in mind, as I stand on the shoulders of our 8 founders and the first National Editor of the *Crown*, it is indeed a pleasure and honor to humbly present to you the 2017 - 2019 edition of the *Crown* with the theme "*Investing in V.A.L.U.E.S. that Support, Enhance, and Sustain*". Thank you for your submissions, vote of confidence, support and the opportunity to serve as the National Editor of the *Crown*. "Let the work that I have done, speak for me". To God be the glory for the great things that he has done and will continue to do.

Serving Youth and Adults with Passion,

*Lady Regina Dickson*, National Editor of The Crown



*National President's Final Words*



*Lady Drema Lee Woldman*  
13th National President



Greetings,

I came before you four years ago and asked for your vote of confidence as the 13th National President of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. I promised, if elected, that we would do the following:

- Ensure that our volunteer efforts are not in vain by developing and implementing programs of service that are relevant and focused on what is important to our communities;
- Develop TTA programs that are of interest that will keep the Teens engaged and will motivate them to recommend their peers for membership into Top Teens of America;
- Provide avenues for membership to receive the leadership development and training they deserve to ensure that their chapters are prosperous and self-sustaining;
- Utilize social media to our advantage to recruit new members, tell our story, and enhance our brand;
- Put mechanisms in place to identify our chapters at risk and provide them with the assistance they need to stay on track;
- Aggressively work with our chapters to develop strategies for quality recruitment and proactive retention so that we can stop the revolving door and grow our membership;
- Strive to ensure that all practices that should be the same across TLODland are the same; in short, we will strive to be **ONE TLOD**;

I summed it up by stating, "With your support, all of the above and more will be accomplished. I promise to give you 125% at all times, but I need you to give me something in return. I need each of you to remember the vow you took, "I endorse the statement of purpose of this organization and shall support its programs to the VERY BEST of my ability."

Promises made, promises kept:

- Programs were put in place, new partnerships were formed, and causes were advocated that touched everyone - young and old - in the communities we served - hunger/homelessness, health disparities, caregiving, cancer, diabetes, clinical trials, job training, etc.;
- Over 250,000+ volunteer hours were documented annually;
- New initiatives were added to the TTA program to make it more interesting and relatable - spelling bees, bullying, debate teams, Blessings in a Backpack, and St. Jude. Membership was increased by 10%;
- A special committee was appointed (Leadership Development and Succession Planning) and in-depth Leadership training was held at every Syn-Lod and P-Top providing Clinics, Institutes, and "This Is How We Do It" Workshops to ensure that our members were well informed and knowledgeable;
- The website and Facebook page was enhanced, a membership management database was launched, Instagram, Google, Youtube, webinars, Go-to-meeting, and skype were utilized;
- Area Directors reached out to chapters at risk and provided assistance and guidance as they guided them to compliance and/or brought them back into the fold;
- A Membership manual was put in place, membership retention initiatives with incentives were launched, the National President sent a letter to all inactive ladies and reactivated over 100 members, 17 chapters were chartered, membership was increased by more than 20%;
- All Areas made an effort to ensure that all initiatives and best practices were implemented the same across TLOD. Bylaws were reviewed to weed out discrepancies and to conform with National; and

Finally, you responded to my request that you remember the vows that you took when you stated "I endorse the statement and purposes . . .VERY BEST of my ability." We did a lot of work during these past four years and it would have been for naught and without little progress if it had not been for the **SIX** hardworking and determined Areas in Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Some Areas may be larger than others, but all Areas have the same big heart and giving spirit of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

When I came before you 4 years ago, I was filled with enthusiasm, energy, and excitement: filled with Enthusiasm for all the opportunities and possibilities, filled with Energy for all the services that would be provided, and filled with excitement to serve as National President. During my tenure, I gave you the best that I had: my heart, my soul, my mind, but you didn't half-step nor did you disappoint. You paid me back two-fold. No matter what, you responded positively, you held office, you chaired committees, you volunteered, you heeded all calls, and you supported me and my vision because you are Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., and because that is what we do.

When Lord Barry was sick, you showered him with hundreds of cards and made him feel loved. When he made his transition, you came out in numbers to support me, donated over \$7,000 to St. Jude in his name, and made contributions to the Drema Lee and Barry Woldman Endowment Fund causing the Fund to be fully endowed. You made a life-changing situation bearable because of your sisterly concern. And I appreciate you.

There are not enough words in the dictionary to express my gratitude for all that you have done to move TLOD forward under this administration with enthusiasm, energy and excitement. I am just a little old country girl from Hilltop, WV, and there is no way that I could have shouldered all of this responsibility by myself, and you made sure that I didn't have to do it alone. It was truly a joint effort, never an "I" situation, but always a "we." We made history, we provided exemplary service and we never wavered in our commitment to serve youth and adults. I joke about wanting to get my life back, but I will miss each and every one of you: the good, the bad and the ugly. ☺

The good times, as well as the challenges, made me a much better person, and I thank you. Let us continue to focus on moving forward as we provide exemplary service to youth and adults.

Be blessed and continue to be a blessing to others!

*Lady Drema Lee Woldman*

13th National President  
2015-2019



# *National President, Founder and Past National Presidents*

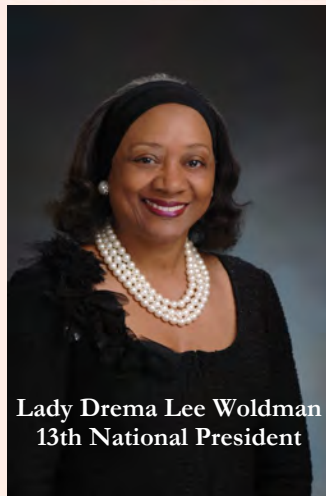


**Standing (L to R):** Lady Audrie Lawton, 12th National President; Lady Jackie Pope, 11th National President; Lady Peggy Lewis LeCompte, 10th National President; Lady Dorothy Allen Chimney, 8th National President; Lady Jacquelyn Heath Parker, 6th National President; Lady Bobbie W. Moorehead, 5th National President and Lady Faye B. Bryant\*

**Seated (L to R):** Lady Drema Lee Woldman, National President and Lady Ozell Dean, Founder

\*Deceased

# *National Officers* 2017-2019



Lady Drema Lee Woldman  
13th National President



Lady Sharon Beard  
National First Vice President



Lady Eddie Lee Marsh  
National Second Vice President



Lady Cheryl Williams  
National Recording Secretary



Lady Sandra Jennings  
National Financial Secretary



Lady Rose Coker  
National Asst. Financial Secretary



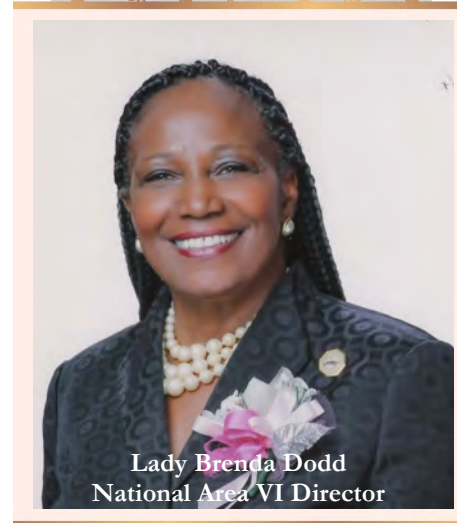
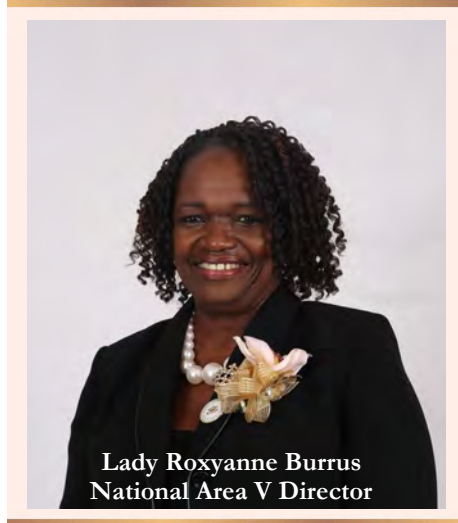
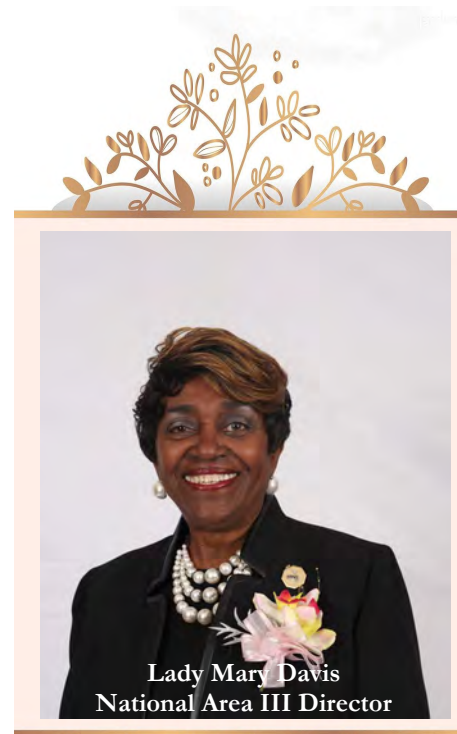
Lady Vynessa Alexander  
National Treasurer



Lady Regina Dickson  
National Editor of The Crown



Lady Janice Scimmons  
National TTA Director

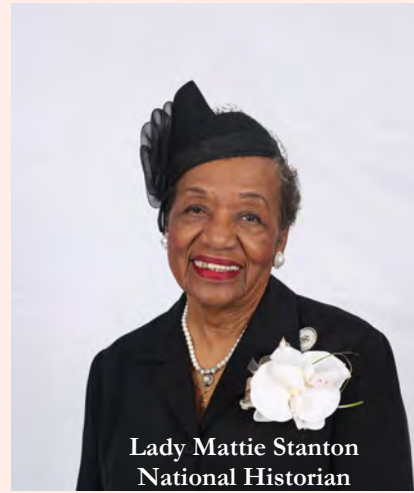




Lady Stephen E. Dunn  
National Corresponding Secretary



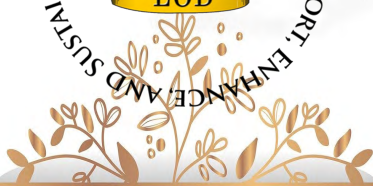
Lady Velda Hunter  
National Assistant TTA Director



Lady Mattie Stanton  
National Historian



Lady Pamela B. Porch  
National Chaplain



Lady Deadra Woods Stokes  
National Parliamentarian



Lady Hope Ruffin  
National Sergeant-at-Arms





Lady Jacqueline Wilcher  
National Director of Operations



The good times, as well as the challenges, made me a much better person, and I thank you. Let us continue to focus on moving forward as we provide exemplary service to youth and adults.

**- Lady Drema Lee Woldman**  
**13th National President**

**Theme:** *"Investing in V.A.L.U.E.S. that Support, Enhance, and Sustain"*

**National Focus:** To invest in our communities, as well as ourselves, through: (1) **V**olunteer service; (2) **A**dvocacy and accountability; (3) **L**eadership development and succession planning; (4) **U**nity and collaboration; (5) **E**ngagement and empowerment; and (6) **S**ocial responsibility and sisterly concern.

**Program Objectives**

**Top Teens of America (TTA) – “M.O.M.E.N.T.U.M.”**

- St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
- March of Dimes/Healthy Choices
- Dred Scott Monument Project
- Debate Teams
- Spelling Bee
- Bullying Initiative
- Graffiti Removal, Recycling, Community Gardens
- Blessings in a Backpack Initiative
- **S.T.E.A.M.** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math)
- Me & My Mentor
- TTA Leadership Academy

**Status of Women (SOW) – “Back to Work”**

- Job Readiness/Preparedness Initiative which includes Resume Writing, Self-Esteem, Networking, Mock Interviews, Dress for Success, Soft Skills Training
- Job Corps Program
- Entrepreneurship Workshops
- Job Fairs

**Senior Citizens – “We Care”**

- Senior Facility Adoption
- I Am a Survivor Initiative
- Clinical Trials
- Computer Training
- Advocate Equity Legislation
- Health Fairs
- "Because We Care" Caregiving Initiative

**Community Beautification – “America the Beautiful”**

- Keep America Beautiful
- Great American Cleanup
- Recycling/Repurposing
- Graffiti Removal
- Block Clubs
- Neighborhood Watch
- Adopt-a-Highway, Street, Planter, etc.
- Community Gardens
- African American Cemetery Clean-Up

*Reflections*

2017 - 2019



## **Community Partnership – “Joining Forces”**

- Collaborations
- Corporate Sponsorships
- Grant Writing
- Brand Promotion
- Expansion of Outreach

## **Traditional Programs of Service**

- Boys and Girls Booked on Barbershops
- Take a Loved One to the Doctor
- Make A Difference Day
- National Days of Service

## **National Partnerships**

- Keep America Beautiful
- Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child, Health & Human Development (NICHD) (new)
- AARP
- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (new)
- March of Dimes
- The Balm in Gilead (new)
- JSD Foundation/Medgar & Myrlie Evers Foundation (A-TEAAM)
- Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (new)
- Black Women's Agenda

## **Initiatives**

- Caregiving
- Clinical Trials
- Health Disparities in African Americans
- Bullying
- Blessings in a Backpack
- S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics)
- Childhood Cancer
- TTA Alumni Council
- This Is How We Do It Workshops and Interactive Clinics
- TLOD Wellness
- Leadership Development and Succession Planning
- Workplace Match Initiative (UNCF)
- NCNW Hungry for Education HBCU Tour

## **Membership**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Ladies</b> | <b>Teens</b> |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| • 2017-2018 | 2794          | 2730         |
| • 2018-2019 | 3078          | 2961         |

### **Relief and Other Efforts**

- Hurricane Relief (over \$12,000.00 dispersed to Ladies affected by the Hurricanes. In addition, clothing, water and other staples were provided)
- Flint Water Crisis (approximately \$5,000 was disbursed to this effort, as well as other items as requested)
- \$13,000 Dred Scott Statue Initiative
- TTA Walk for St. Jude - \$140,000
- March for Babies (MOD) - \$130,000)
- UNCF Walk and Alumni Contributions - Over \$250,000
- NCNW - \$11,435
- WIN/NAACP - \$15,000
- A-TEAAM - \$5,000
- Sickie Cell - \$20,000
- UNCF - \$21,000
- Other - Breast Cancer, Diabetes, etc. - \$50,000

### **Donations Received**

- \$500,000 pledged by the Je'Caryous Johnson Foundation for Fine Arts Scholarships (\$50,000 annually for 10 years)
- \$100,000 from the Anthony J. Hall Endowment for TTA
- \$55,000 in donations and in kind from AARP
- Over \$20,000 in kind from Bayway Lincoln
- \$10,000 from Franchelle Boswell Foundation for TTA
- \$50,000 in kind from the Doty Foundation for the A-TEAAM
- \$8,000 donated to the Building Fund from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in honor of the 8 Founders of TLOD who were AKAs
- \$5,000 from Je'Caryous Johnson Foundation for scholarship presented at SynLod
- Biennial scholarship of \$1,000 from the Anna Conner Kirksey Family
- \$1,000 from Sheraton Atlanta Hotel for Scholarship

### **Honorary Members**

- Lady Myrlie Evers Williams (2016)
- Lady Pernessa Seele (2017)
- Lady Glenda Baskin Glover (2017)
- Lady Juanita Sims Doty (2019)

### **Chapters Chartered**

| <b>Chapter</b>            | <b>Organizer</b>            | <b>Date</b> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Will County Black Diamond | Lady Karen Dilligard        | 9/27/15     |
| Tipton County             | Lady DyKiesha Rankin        | 1/09/16     |
| Effingham                 | Lady Carolyn Stanley        | 8/06/16     |
| Queen City                | Lady Gina Pettis Dean       | 1/07/17     |
| Patuxent                  | Lady Wanda King             | 4/07/17     |
| Central Virginia          | Lady Doran Ridley Curtis    | 11/18/17    |
| Spring-Cypress            | Lady Regina Dickson         | 1/06/18     |
| Stafford County           | Lady Nadine Beach           | 2/03/18     |
| Haymarket Gainesville     | Lady Monice Jackson Ferrell | 5/20/18     |

## Chapters Chartered (continued)

| Chapter                  | Organizer              | Date     |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| North Atlanta            | Lady Versonya DuPont   | 6/02/18  |
| New Rock                 | Lady Sherri Washington | 6/03/18  |
| Sandy Pines              | Lady Teresa Smith      | 10/13/18 |
| Greater Las Vegas        | Lady Rose Coker        | 1/05/19  |
| Montgomery County        | Lady Diana Raynor      | 1/26/19  |
| Neches River at Beaumont | Lady Alice Ramsey      | 2/02/19  |
| Southern Dallas          | Lady Emile Blaine      | 5/05/19  |
| Chicago West Loop        | Lady Susan Cottrell    | 6/18/19  |

## Conferences

| Year   | Conference | Location      | Registrants |
|--------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| • 2015 | P-Top      | St. Louis, MO | 262         |
| • 2016 | P-Top      | Glenview, IL  | 271         |
| • 2017 | Syn-Lod    | St. Louis, MO | 632         |
| • 2017 | P-Top      | Atlanta, GA   | 245         |
| • 2018 | P-Top      | Las Vegas, NV | 326         |
| • 2019 | Syn-Lod    | Atlanta, GA   | 941         |

## In Memoriam:

- Lady LaVerne Madlock, Founder and Second National President of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.
- Lady Vivien Coe Richard, Ninth National President
- Honorary Member Lady Frankie Muse Freeman
- Former Teen Percy Raymond Crawford, Jr., author of the TTA Song
- Lady Rita D. Franke-Bell, author of the TLOD Prayer

## Other:

- Acquired new Headquarters at 2607 S. Prospect, Houston, TX, 5 year lease. Enhancements: new sign, fully furnished, security system, state of the art technology, office staffed from 1 - 5 daily, dedicated phone number, buildings and properties manager
- Implemented membership management database (Club Express)
- Redesigned and upgraded Website and used all forms of media: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Google, Go to Meeting and Webinars
- Introduced the *Scepter* quarterly e-magazine/newsletter and reestablished the *Voice*
- Held HBCU Fundraiser in Houston, TX
- TTA Leadership Academy: NASA (2016); HBCU Bus Tour (2018)
- Trademarks registered and up to date; continued free legal trademark services from Quarles & Brady, LLP
- Developed Code of Conduct
- Updated and streamlined Code of Ethics for TTA into one document
- Standardized Membership Meet & Greet and Orientation
- Reactivated over 100 members with letter writing campaign
- Member Services sold and marketed new TLOD items
- Increased authorized vendors to 13, added TLOD Jeweler to vendors
- Area II received a land donation (Trenton Chapter)
- Official blazer
- Received the Legacy Award and Outstanding Partnership Award from UNCF
- Charter membership to the National Museum of African American History & Culture

- Implemented mandatory TTA Point System for those Teens attending conferences, running for office, etc.
- Top Teens held offices on the Youth KAB Council and MOD Council
- Initiated TLOD Legal Council - a council of lawyers - a rep from each area and a National Chairman
- Donated over 2500 backpacks on the National level and thousands on the local and area levels
- Lady Ozell Dean, Founder, was videotaped for the University of Houston Archives and interviewed in a separate session by the National President, Lady Drema Lee Woldman
- Notable Attendees at conferences: Honorary members Ladies Barbara Shaw, Pernessa Seele, Juanita Sims Doty, Glenda Baskin Glover; Edna Williams-AARP; Tim King - CEO and Founder-Urban Prep Academies; Je'Caryous Johnson - noted author/playwright/producer; Kim Coles - actress and author; Regina Bell -- recording artist; Howard Hewitt - recording artist; Ingrid Saunders Jones, Immediate Past Chair - NCNW; Janis Mathis, Executive Director - NCNW; Maurice E. Jenkins, Jr., Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer - UNCF; Sam D. Burston, Vice President - Clark Atlanta University; Mary Breaux Wright, International President Zeta Pi Beta; Dorothy Buchanan-Wilson, International President Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- TTA Walk for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital - 3rd weekend in May; voted to be a permanent partner
- National President co-chaired the 2018 NCNW National Convention
- Provided over 500,000 volunteer hours annually

### 2019 - 2021 Elected National Officers:

Lady Sharon J. Beard, National President  
 Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, National First Vice President  
 Lady Jacqueline Wilcher, National Second Vice President  
 Lady Diann Robinson, National Recording Secretary  
 Lady Cheryl G. Williams, National Financial Secretary  
 Lady Versonya DuPont, National Treasurer  
 Lady Regina Dickson, National Editor of The Crown  
 Lady Kendra Gillespie, National TTA Director  
 Lady Annie Mouton, National Area I Director  
 Lady Sandra Clarke, National Area II Director  
 Lady Stephanie E. Dunn, National Area III Director  
 Lady Adrienne Boner, National Area IV Director  
 Lady Roxyanne Burrus, National Area V Director  
 Lady Wanda Beauman, National Area VI Director



## Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. National Headquarters

National Headquarters at 2607 Prospect, Houston, Texas is well appointed and begs to challenge any corporate office of its category. Our grand opening was held on July 29, 2017, standing room only. All in attendance had a wonderful time and enjoyed music and light refreshments. I should also mention many had their first introduction to Texas heat, smile. We have had several activities resulting with over 300+ visitors and Top Ladies from all over the country. We open our doors to members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for tours when they were in Houston celebrating their national convention with our Lady Dorothy Buchanan-Wilson at the helm and we applauded the \$8000.00 donation to our Capital Campaign. The NCNW celebrated their Annual Christmas Party, local Top Ladies held Workshops: applicants took their first step in the induction process for the Houston Chapter; and the initial process in the chartering of the Spring-Cypress Chapter took place in the conference room. The Humble Continental Chapter and Missouri City chapter were the other chapters holding events. Here is a glimpse of what has transpired in the last three years. We are growing in activities. To date we have scheduled the Baytown TLOD Chapter for its chapters' retreat as well as the Mo City chapter activity. The headquarters is busy handling the daily business of TLOD, thanks to Lady Vanessa Broussard, National Administrative Assistant. Many thanks to my Co-Chairs Lady Faye B. Bryant and Lady Jackie Pope, Past National Presidents. A very special thanks to Lady Drema Woldman, 13<sup>th</sup> National President for the opportunity to serve. --Lady Mary C. Hamilton

|  |   |
|--|---|
| OPEN HOUSE   | 115+ GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE                 |
| VIVIAN RICHARD TTA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY                  | 5 COMMITTEE MEMBERS                       |
| NCNW BARBARA JORDAN SECTION XMAS PARTY                 | 33+ MEMBERS AND GUEST IN ATTENDANCE       |
| MO CITY SPACE CITY -TLOD XMAS PARTY                    | 61+ MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE                 |
| SPRING CYPRESS TLOD WORKSHOP                           | 16+ NEW MEMBERS                           |
| HOUSTON CHAPTER STEP I INDUCTION PROCESS               | 38 + MEMBERS AND INTERESTED LADIES        |
| MEMBERS OF AKA NATIONAL CONVENTION                     | 66+ MEMBERS OF TLOD AND AKA IN ATTENDANCE |
| HUMBLE INTERCONTINENTAL TLOD                           | 27+ HIC GRANDPARENTS                      |
| NCNW BARBARA JORDAN SECTION INSTALLAION                | 26+ NEW OFFICERS AND MEMBERS              |
| ALPHA KAPPA OMEGA-AKA AND TLOD RECEPTION               | 60+ MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE                 |
| HOUSTON CHAPTER TLOD COMMUNITY PARTNER-SHIPS RECEPTION | 24 + GUEST AND MEMBERS                    |
| HOUSTON CHAPTER TLOD RISK MGT.WORKSHOP                 | 25 + IN ATTENDANCE                        |





TLOD's motivation to join forces with AARP was that TLOD's membership was aging, along with the realization that eventually the majority of the members would either be cared for or providing care for someone else. Therefore, the idea of preparing our membership for that inevitability and providing community awareness as well was appealing. TLOD took on caregiving as a cause.



Our partnership was a limited partnership from 2015-2019. During those four years, we provided the following services in conjunction with AARP:

- National President was the moderator for a "Because We Care" panel with the Black Women's Agenda (BWA) in Chicago, IL in 2015;
- At each National Conference, AARP provided workshops to the membership and maintained Exhibit booths;
- In 2016, at the Parliament-Top in Glenview, IL, all partnerships were showcased and a Caregiving panel was presented. Edna Kane-Williams, Vice President, AARP Multicultural Markets and Engagement, was a part of the panel. Ms. Williams was caring for her 92 year old mother and spoke from first-hand experience. The panel was moderated by another of our partners, (Lady) Dr. Pernessa Seele, CEO and Founder of the Balm In Gilead, Inc.
- At that same conference, AARP provided funding for the luncheon;
- In 2016, TLOD sponsored an HBCU Gala in Houston, TX with the proceeds going to scholarships for Top Teens of America. Outstanding HBCU graduates were recognized. AARP provided Regina Belle as the entertainment which was a \$15,000 in-kind donation. Over \$25,000 was raised for TTA Scholarships.
- At the 2017 Syn-Lod in St. Louis, AARP provided Kim Coles - actress, comedienne and spokesperson - as a featured Caregiving speaker. Ms. Coles had photo ops with the Top Teens and provided a delightful and informative workshop/presentation to the Ladies and Lords followed by Q&A and sharing of caregiving testimonies. Her appearance was a \$15,000 in-kind donation;
- AARP provided funding for the President's luncheon;
- At TLOD's various area conferences and chapter events, AARP and caregiving were always highlighted and given attention. The local AARP offices were very generous in their support of our advocacy and provided us with materials to give out to our members and the communities we serve. In addition, they manned AARP tables and provided workshops locally and nationally;
- TLOD also partnered with Black Women's Agenda throughout the country to support and be a part of their "Because We Care" Agenda with AARP. Chapters in Areas I and IV participated in these activities.
- During the partnership, AARP provided more than \$60,000 to TLOD in cash and services-in-kind.

During this administration, thousands of Top Ladies, Lords, Teens and members of our communities were informed and empowered through the numerous workshops, presentations, featured speakers and panelists provided in the quest to prepare the masses with much needed information to navigate the onset of unexpected illnesses and other changes of normal daily living. We are very proud of the partnership that we shared with AARP and will continue to spread the word about caregiving. We thank AARP for their support.



**Lady Peggy Lewis LeCompte**  
Coordinator



**Lady Audrie L. Lawton**  
Consultant

In October 2014 at the 50th Anniversary, the 12th National President, Lady Audrie L. Lawton, introduced Dr. Juanita Sims Doty and Dr. Myrlie Evers as they presented a pilot program called the A-TEAAM (Ambassadors of the Evers Academy for African-American Males) - an initiative that pairs young African American males with leading role models in the community. It initially was a pilot program, but was continued by the 13th National President, Lady Drema Lee Woldman, during her administration. The A-TEAAM has organized teams of young African American males (called Ambassadors) to participate in a mentoring initiative in partnership with the Juanita Sims Doty Foundation and the Medgar and Myrlie Evans Foundation. TLOD, through his initiative, has sponsored teams in Cincinnati, OH; Houston, TX; E. St. Louis, IL; San Antonio Metro, TX; 2 chapters in Chicago, IL including the North Cluster which is comprised of 9 chapters; River City (San Antonio), TX; Raleigh, NC; Inglewood, CA; Sugar Valley, TX; and Las Vegas, NV. The TLOD Chapters are joined by chapters in Mississippi, Oregon, and Kentucky. A Chapter in Atlanta is on the horizon.

The A-TEAAM-TLOD initiative has included mentors from all walks of life: politicians, sororities and fraternities, policemen, ministers, corporate leaders. More than 600 youth have experienced months of workshops and experiences in mentoring workshops, i.e., Leadership, Community and Civic Engagement, Courage, Integrity, Perseverance, Racial Healing, Racial Equality (Justice and Respect), Responsibility, Teamwork, Anti-Bullying, Career – Purpose and Initiative, Health, Etiquette and Creativity. This consistent and defined mentoring program has produced acknowledged results. The following data has been documented since the program's inception: More than 85% showed an increase in their attitude, behavior, self-esteem, and understanding of Racial Equality. More than 70% showed changes in their behavior in the area of initiative; more than 90% indicated additional knowledge about their culture; more than 60% showed an increase in school attendance.

In honor of its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the A-TEAAM National Youth Leadership Summit was held in Jackson, MS on June 8-10, 2018. The TLOD ATEAAM and other Ambassadors (more than 300) engaged in youth-led sessions, celebrated the life and legacy of Medgar Evers, commemorated the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his assassination and unveiled the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of **I! CAN Imagine: Voices of A-TEAAM Young Authors**. In this 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, more than 150 Ambassadors, of which more than 60 were A-TEAAM-TLOD Ambassadors, penned essays and poems about lessons learned from their experiences in the program. The central and most meaningful activities during this program were the sessions and time spent mentoring the Ambassadors. The results demonstrate that our young African American men were inspired and are inspired by the A –TEAAM-TLOD Movement and that TLOD, Inc. is invested in providing a better future for our youth by promoting, saving, transforming, empowering and endowing them with a stronger foundation, as well as providing a village of mentors that volunteer to enhance their quality of life by precept and example. Thanks to Dr. Juanita Sims Doty, Dr. Karla McCullough, and Dr. Myrlie Evers for bringing this well thought out program to Top Ladies of Distinction, and for providing the training necessary to execute a program of this magnitude. Because of their foresight and vision, hundreds of young African American men who do not have a father presence in their home now have a male presence in their lives. Dr. Juanita Sims Doty and Dr. Myrlie Evers are now Honorary Members of TLOD, Inc.



One of the issues that the 2015-2019 Administration focused on was health disparities in African American communities. TLOD wanted a forum to address disease, cancers, and other health related issues that were pertinent to our community, such as clinical trials, caregiving, research, etc. Thus the partnership with the Balm in Gilead, Inc. was born.

The mission of **The Balm In Gilead** is to prevent diseases and improve the health status of people of African Descent by supporting faith institutions in areas of program design, implementation, and evaluation to strengthen their capacity to programmatically eliminate health disparities.

Annually, the Balm in Gilead organizes and sponsors a Healthy Churches 2020 Conference. The Healthy Churches 2020 Conference provides pastors, ministers, congregational health directors, coordinators, nurses, and members with tools and resources in areas of disease state awareness, management, and prevention needed to establish and strengthen the capacity of Health Ministries. The Healthy Churches 2020 National Conference is the leading training conference for establishing and sustaining Health Ministries for congregations serving African Americans and for increasing an understanding of concepts and models of disease management to improve the quality of life for African-Americans with chronic health conditions. Conference topics include, but are not limited to: diabetes, obesity, heart disease, arthritis, hepatitis, Alzheimer's, cancer, HIV, precision medicine, and clinical studies. Healthy Churches 2020 National Conference is committed to helping congregational-based health ministries to improve the health and healthcare outcomes of individuals and surrounding communities they serve.

Dr. Pernessa C. Seele, Founder and CEO of the Balm In Gilead, Inc. presented relevant and useful information at TLOD Area and National conferences, participated in panels, and we, in turn, attended Healthy Churches 2020 Conferences, manned TLOD booths, recruited new members and participated in the programming. At these conferences, the participants are provided with a wealth of information aimed at educating the communities and the churches to advocate for health concerns. Bishops, Reverends, Pastors and other clergy, many of them well-known, presented workshops. Medical professionals provided necessary information about disease, clinical trials, caregiving, etc. in a format that was relevant and understandable to all. There were many opportunities for TLOD, Inc. to be involved, and we received a wealth of information to use in our pursuit of awareness for obesity, diabetes, mental health, cancer, high blood pressure and strokes.

In addition, musicians, choirs, and authors were in attendance for our enjoyment. One of the highlights was B. Smith and her husband promoting his book regarding his care for her during her bout with Alzheimers. Much was brought to life with real life depictions of the impact that disease has on families and relationships. Ben Vereen advocated for Diabetes. Other celebrities were on the programs as well as many vendors: American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, Alzheimers, Breast Cancer, Mental Illness/Depression, etc. Whatever the health disparity, the Balm in Gilead has it covered.

Dr. Pernessa Seele, CEO and Founder, became an Honorary Member of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. in June, 2015 and Dr. Barbara Shaw, Honorary Member, is the Chairman of the Board of the Balm in Gilead, Inc.



Keep America Beautiful (KAB) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1953. It is the largest community improvement organization in the United States, with more than 600 state and community-based affiliate organizations and more than 1,000 partner organizations. KAB aims to end littering, to improve recycling, and to beautify American communities as it inspires and educates people to take action every day to improve and beautify their community environment.

TLOD's Community Beautification (CB) thrust and KAB's goals and objectives basically mirror each other. So, it was with great pleasure that an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed between KAB and TLOD formalizing our commitment to keeping our communities, neighborhoods, and country beautiful. Below is a timeline of our partnership with KAB:

- Syn-Lod 2013, San Antonio, Texas – TLOD formed a trial partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful.
- 2013 – Partnerships encouraged between TLOD local chapters and KAB Affiliates.
- 2014 – 100 % TLOD Chapter participation with the Great American Cleanup Campaign.
- 2015 – 2016 All Chapters encouraged to join KAB Affiliates. Reporting 100% Chapter participation.
- 2015 – National CB Chair joined Senior VP for KAB Recycling Program at a Recycling Center.
- 2016 P-Top – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) confirmed between TLOD and KAB. First KAB Representative attended and briefed the KAB Agenda, and our first CB walk was conducted.
- 2016 - KAB invited all TLOD Chapters to register with their Re-Trac Program – a reporting tool used to manage, measure and share recycling information.
- 2016 - First Top Teen selected from Will County Black Diamond Chapter, Chicago, Illinois, Area III, to serve on the KAB's National Youth Advisory Board.
- 2017 - Second Top Teen selected to serve on the KAB's National Youth Advisory Board, Lincoln Park Chicago Chapter, Chicago, Illinois Area III.
- 2017 - Area II Leadership Conference Sunday Breakfast- showcased local KAB Affiliate Partnership through "A Celebration of Community Beautification" Breakfast.
- 2017 Syn-Lod - Second CB walk was conducted. Representatives from KAB St. Louis were in attendance for the walk and presented workshops. In addition, TLOD was presented with a plaque for their service. A Teen from Area III won the video contest.
- 2015-2019 - continued to partner in recycling, litter prevention, green living, beautification and waste reduction. KAB presented at the majority of our conferences, local and National.
- 2019 Syn-Lod - Atlanta - Top Teens of America along with the ladies cleaned up the streets surrounding the Sheraton Atlanta during the conference. KAB Atlanta provided the vests, bags and other items needed to complete the task. Top Teens were presented with plaques.
- CB Chair and National 1st VP attended the KAB conference and made a presentation.

Enhancing and maintaining the communities in which we live, work, and recreate is the primary focus of the National Community Beautification Thrust, and we were able to meet all of our goals with the assistance of KAB.

We thank them for their support.



March of Dimes improves the health of mothers and babies through five programming areas: medical research, education of pregnant women, community programs, government advocacy, and support of pregnant women and mothers. The organization provides women and families with educational resources on baby health, pregnancy, preconception and new motherhood, as well as supplying information and support to families in the NICU who are affected by prematurity, birth defects, or other infant health problems.

The organization began in 1938 as the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. In 1976 it became known as the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. In 2007, the formal name became the March of Dimes Foundation. Top Ladies has partnered with MOD since 1985 when Top Teens of America pledged \$25,000, the first Teen African American Group to do so, and met that pledge.

Some activities during 2015-2019:

- Celebrated Prematurity Awareness Month and World Prematurity Awareness Day (November 17<sup>th</sup>) each year in order to raise awareness of the costly and serious problem of premature birth, the #1 killer of babies in our country. Top Ladies and Teens shared baby photos and dressed in purple to support the initiative.
- Members joined the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute as Peer Reviewers.
- Top Teens from several chapters were selected to serve as members of the Student Leadership Corps and the Youth Advisory Council.
- Developed the annual National Campaign for TLOD/TTA to participate in the MOD Prematurity Awareness month.
- Assisted chapters with coordinating or partnering with other organizations to have Healthy Choices Conferences.
- Conducted webinars and conference calls with Top Teens Advisors and March of Dimes Coordinators.
- Assisted chapters with creating fundraising pages.
- Monitored donations collected for March of Dimes.
- Presented March of Dimes Initiative during Advisors Institute during Parliament-Top and Syn-Lod.
- Served as part of the test group to select the new March of Dimes logo.
- Attended all National Service Partner conference calls and webinars.
- Raised funds through Jail & Bail.
- Volunteered for the March of Dimes Fashion Show (2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019) in Houston, Texas.

#### **Fundraising Donations:**

|                    |                    |                    |                     |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2016 - \$33,967.00 | 2017 - \$27,551.00 | 2018 - \$26,781.00 | *2019 - \$32,066.00 |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|

Donation Total: **\$120,365.00**

#### **National March of Dimes Events:**

- Sent representation to the National Service Partner meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, the welcome reception for March of Dimes President Stacey Stewart in Washington DC, and the grand opening of the National March of Dimes headquarters in Arlington, VA.

TLOD remains proud to be partners with MOD and with our commitment and dedication, we can help lead the fight for the health of all moms and babies.



The mission of the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) is to ensure that every person is born healthy and wanted, that women suffer no harmful effects from the reproductive process, that all children have the chance to fulfill their potential to live healthy and productive lives free from disease or disability, and to ensure the health, productivity, independence, and well-being of all people through optimal rehabilitation.

One of the programs that was brought to TLOD, which was very timely and necessary, was the "Bullying: Be More Than a Bystander." This program was perfect for TLOD as TTA has over 4,000 youth. Bullying is a problem for youth throughout the nation. Students are bullied on some level on a daily basis. Sometimes they tell their parents or teachers and sometimes they don't because they are afraid. More often than not, when they tell their parents or teachers, the parent or teacher does not understand, and do not know how to handle the situation. Unfortunately, if not addressed, bullying can be taken to the extreme and end in tragedy such as homicide or suicide. We did not want that to happen to any of our youth; therefore, we embraced the Bullying platform. Through this program, parents, teachers and youth are taught how to recognize the signs of bullying and how to handle them.

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both students who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems. Nationwide, 28% of students in grades 6 to 12 experience bullying. Approximately 30% of young people admit to bullying others. Most bullying happens in middle school. The most common types are verbal and social bullying. Bullying is not usually a simple interaction between a student who bullies and a student who is bullied. Instead, it often involves groups of students who support each other in bullying other students.

The program focused on the prevention of bullying and cyberbullying. It was presented by Dr. Triesta Fowler, Medical Officer, NICHD, National Institutes of Health, at the 2016 Parliament-Top in Glenview, IL. The program was developed as a one day initiative, but we felt that it would carry more weight if it was broken down in modules and presented at the Teens Chapter Meetings. For the next three years, presentations were made at the Teens Chapter meetings starting annually in January with a pre-test, the modules were presented February through May, and a post-test conducted in June. Parents, outside presenters, ladies and the Teens themselves were involved in the interactive presentations. It was an eye opener to many because they were not aware of what was going on with the youth/student/child.

The takeaways were: Be a friend; Tell a trusted adult; Help the person get away from the situation; Don't give bullying an audience; Set a good example; Do not bully others; Protect yourself and others from cyberbullying, and Know when to get help.

This initiative was a welcome addition to the TTA curriculum and we thank the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), Dr. Triesta Fowler, and Dr. Juanita Sims Doty for introducing this program to Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.



**St. Jude Children's Research Hospital**, founded in 1962 by the iconic entertainer, Dany Thomas, is a pediatric treatment and research facility focused on children's catastrophic diseases, particularly leukemia and other cancers. The hospital costs about \$2.8 million a day to run, and there is no cost to the patient to be treated. It is located in Memphis, Tennessee, and is designated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit medical facility.

The “Investing” Administration took on St. Jude as a cause because of the thousands of children that the hospital has helped since its inception. TLOD felt that this would be a good cause because as St. Jude states “no parent should have to worry about how to pay for their child’s medical bills, they should only worry about their child getting well.” This was something that TLOD could sink its teeth into since most of us were patrons of St. Jude.

Once St. Jude was contacted, they were excited to be partners with a group of African-American teenagers. They invited the TLOD National President, Lady Drema Lee Woldman; the TTA National President, Teen Gerra Gi-stand; the TTA Special Projects Coordinator, Lady Mavis Merritt; and the National TTA Director, Lady Janice Scimmons to tour the facility in Memphis and meet some of the children. We also participated in a PSA. It was a liberating and heart-warming occasion. TLOD signed an MOU confirming the partnership and Top Teens of America became the first multi-cultural youth group to partner with St. Jude. TLOD/TTA became one of the many community service based groups – Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Delta Delta Delta, etc. – who support St. Jude.

St. Jude hosts a Give Thanks Walk annually in September. This event is a noncompetitive 5K that is now held in 75 cities across the country. Those participating in the race are encouraged to form teams, invite family and friends, and raise money for St. Jude. One of the conditions of our partnership was that we could have our walk separate from everyone else so that our 122 chapters could all be engaged on the same day for a good cause. Thus, we chose the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of May annually for the “TTA Walk for St. Jude.” The walks proved to be a time to put our creativity to the test. Not only did we raise money, we had some creative ways of doing it, and we had fun. Some walks took place in the park, some at the stadium track, some had after parties, barbeques, some chapters dressed in chapter and/or flamboyant attire. The walk truly gave way to caring and sharing with friends and family for a good cause.

Under our partnership agreement, TLOD/TTA agreed to raise \$30,000 annually. Over the 4 year period, TLOD/TTA raised approximately \$140,000.00. TLOD/TTA met and exceeded their goal.

St. Jude proved to be an excellent partner. They sent representatives to make presentations at the Area and National Conferences, they hosted representatives from TLOD/TTA twice, all at no cost to TLOD. They set up an online TTA Walk for St. Jude presence and held training sessions so that the coordinators would be able to assist in the online campaign. They presented plaques and certificates to the top three fund raising chapters annually and supported TLOD/TTA every step of the way with the “TTA Walk for St. Jude.” They were very hands-on and showed their appreciation for our support.

At the 2019 Syn-Lod in Atlanta, TLOD voted unanimously to make St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital a permanent partnership.



The Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. (SCDAA) is a nonprofit organization with the sole purpose of supporting research, education and funding of individuals, families, and those who are impacted by sickle cell disease. Their mission is to advocate for and enhance the ability to improve the quality of health, life and services for individuals, families and communities affected by sickle cell disease and related conditions, while promoting the search for a cure for all people in the world with sickle cell disease.

Under the 10<sup>th</sup> National President, Lady Peggy Lewis LeCompte, she chose to advocate Sickle Cell Disease and it became a National Project. Under the “Investing” Administration, an MOU was signed with SCDAA to partner with the National organization for the next four years to address issues on a global level and participate on the National stage. Lady Teresa Norton, National Sickle Cell Chair, was appointed to the SCDAA Board and was a guest at the National Conventions where she presented abstracts. We participated in the National Sickle Cell Walk with the Stars and raised thousands of dollars. TLOD also sponsored a booth at the Conferences.

TLOD provided leadership to Chapters through conference calls, one-on-one consultations, follow-up, coaching, and group and individual emails. We participated in monthly conference calls with SCDAA to build a partnership that specifically addresses the needs of patients and created a strategy for a joint Clinical Trial Awareness Campaign. We solicited local medical experts, and executive leaders in the Sickle Cell Community to provide professional information as well as opportunities to interact with patients. Members of TLOD are Board members of local Sickle Cell Associations, and volunteer for administrative functions at local Sickle Cell offices.

TLOD collaborated with local Sickle Cell Agencies, local physicians and politicians, churches, local blood centers, local Children’s Hospitals, Howard University, Jackson Memorial Diagnostic Treatment Center, The American Red Cross, Sororities, Fraternities, Urban League, New York Life, St Louis Sickle Cell Stroll, Miami Dolphins, University of Miami, Tiki Barber, and Vanderbilt Medical Center to increase awareness and support families with Sickle Cell.

TLOD Chapters created awareness by educating the public and passing out literature, water, juice, and fruit to more than 7000 attendees at various community events throughout the year. Each chapter has volunteered at support group meetings for Sickle Cell patients.

TLOD worked in conjunction with SCDAA and representatives from Pfizer Pharmaceutical to secure funding for Sickle Cell Research and clinical trials.

Over the years, TLOD has worked diligently to spotlight Sickle Cell Disease. During this administration, each Area sought out a Sickle Cell Ambassador (a youth with sickle cell disease), and the Ambassador advocated for Sickle Cell at each conference with testimony of personal experiences. Putting a face on the Disease is powerful. Even though we do our best, there is still much work to do.

In addition to consulting with SCDAA, TLOD Chapters, and Sickle Cell families provided verbal feedback and completed surveys to ensure that all activities and programs were relevant and met the needs of Sickle Cell families.

# Area I

National Area I Director,  
Lady Harnell Williams



Area I Top Teens Advisor,  
Lady Lynette Smith



*Baytown Chapter ~*



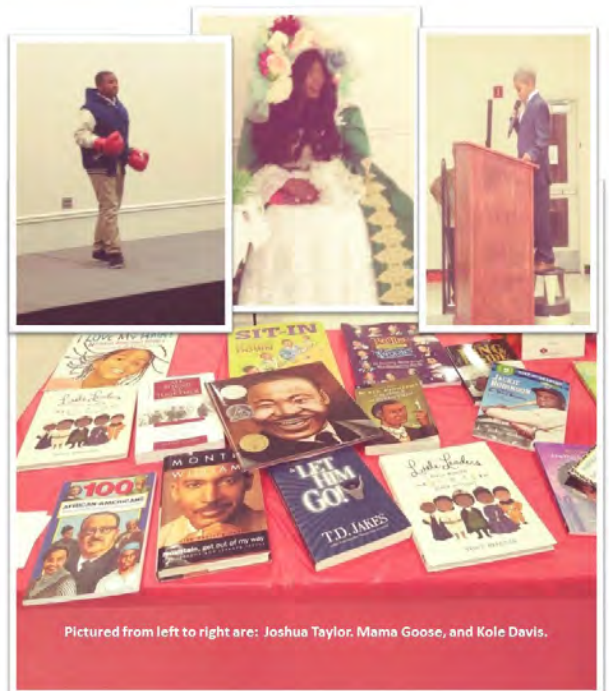
*Baytown, Texas*

Lady Saundra Davis, Baytown Chapter President  
Lady Bertha Harris, Baytown Chapter Top Teens Advisor

## AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN-A-HUGE SUCCESS

On February 25, 2019, the Baytown Chapter sponsored its first ever African American read-in at the Walker Center in McNair. Children participating ranged in ages from 8-12. The youngest Kole Davis (Lady Saundra's grandson) stepped proudly up on the steps behind the lectern and read fluently and with spirit "Who was Frederick Douglas" by April Jones Prince. Joshua Taylor, son of Lady Dena Taylor, performed and recited from memory the story, "Who Was Muhammad Ali" while donning red boxing gloves. All total there were about 12 readers who proudly showcased their skill and talents in reading. An audience of about 100 people were in attendance to witness the awesomeness of talent projected by these readers. The books were donated by TLOD and members of the community. Enhancing the read-in with their presence were local author, Mama Goose who made a colorful presentation from a book that she has authored; and the Harris County Stratford Library staff were on hand to provide library cards and books to interested readers. In addition, there were local authors, Chara Bowie, Gladys Bullcock, and J. Warren Singleton who introduced their writings.

Lady Saundra Davis, stated this event ties nicely into our national literacy project and the Baytown Chapter TLOD is positioned to repeat the winter read-in event in 2020 and also organize a summer reading program. Event sponsors were Lady Latrice Merchant, Dot's Catering, Writer/Historian, J. Warren Singleton, Lady Susan Moore Fontenot, Lee College Regent, and Mandy Sheffield of the Stratford Public Library.



Pictured from left to right are: Joshua Taylor, Mama Goose, and Kole Davis.



## Lady Katherine Wilson, Houston Chapter President Lady Valerie Leverett, Houston Chapter Top Teens Advisor

### HOUSTON CHAPTER'S 2nd ANNUAL COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

With horns blowing, bands playing, rolling racks of clothing, giveaways and partners in tow, the Houston Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. journeyed to Third Ward Multi-Services Center, located in Houston, for its 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Resource Fair. The chapter's Status of Women Committee serves as the spear-heading force for the event. This year will definitely rank high in our history with a record turnout of thirty-seven vendors partnering to provide resourceful information and services to individuals desiring to return to the workforce that included resume writing and tips and clothing promoting dressing for success. Additional information included safety information, financial planning and resources to college bound teenagers and their parents, free prom dresses, care and safety for senior citizens, as well as information on a total healthy lifestyle and so much more. The fair also provided an opportunity for our Thrusts and Project committees presenting and employing its purposes to the visitors. Some of our partners included, Texas Southern University Outreach, Harris County Sheriff Dept., Houston Police Department, Angels Surviving Cancer Inc., Change Happens, Houston Public Library, American Heart Association, Texans YMCA, Wells Fargo, Sterling Staffing, Representatives Medicare/Medicaid/Insurance, Maximus, Texas Health Steps/Star/Starr-Plus, HPD - Drug & Alcohol, Nan Cramer - HHS Dietician, DePelchin, Ashley Jadine Foundation (Suicide Prevention), Girl Trek, Walgreens, College Excellence, AARP and more.

Ladies Marie Webber and Reeda Pittman, serve as chairperson and co-chairperson of the Status of Women Committee. Lady Katherine Wilson, Houston Chapter President.



**Lady Raven Williams, Lake Charles Chapter President**  
**Lady Bridgett L. Williams, Lake Charles Chapter Top Teens Advisor**

---

**LAKE CHARLES CHAPTER HOLDS UNSUNG SHEROES LUNCHEON**

*“Women in Education: Living Luminaries – Part II”* was the theme of the 10th Annual Unsung Sheromes Luncheon held on Sat., Jan. 19. It was sponsored by the Lake Charles Chapter and honored the following Southwest Louisiana women for their dedicated service in education.

- Elaine Johnson Brown of Garyville, La., is a graduate of Southern University/Baton Rouge with a major in business education and a minor in Library science.
- Lady Martha Marcelle Gray, a graduate of Southern University and a charter member of the TLOD Lake Charles chapter, retired in 2016 at age 80 after 57 years in the system.
- Lady Dolores Hicks of St. Landry Parish is a charter member of the TLOD Lake Charles chapter, and graduated from McNeese State University.
- Linda LeBert-Corbello attended McNeese State University where she acquired various degrees including a Master’s in Educational Technology.
- Lake Charles native, Thail Pete, received her Bachelor’s Degree from McNeese State University in Biology Education and her Master’s and Specialist degrees from McNeese in Administration and Supervision.
- Hattie Marie Ferguson White of New Orleans graduated from Grambling State University where she received her Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education and Special Education.

Lady Theresa Garrett, first vice president, Lady Roma Mitchell, Lady Maudry Alfred, and Lady Christine Mandubourg, immediate past president presented awards. Lady Katrina Evans served as emcee. Lauryn Sweet, TTA President, announced the winner of its chapter’s raffle/fundraiser. Other Teens served as escorts. Lady Annie Mouton is chairman of Status of Women Thrust; Lady Raven Williams is chapter president.



*The Lake Charles Chapter’s Unsung Sheromes honorees from left to right include Elaine Brown, Linda Lebert-Corbello, Lady Martha Gray, Lady Dolores Hicks, Thail Pete and Hattie White. Gray and Hicks were charter members of the chapter.*

**Lady Virginia Thomas, Lufkin Chapter President**  
**Lady Kathleen Richards, Lufkin Chapter Top Teens Advisor**

**FIVE STAR PROGRAM “HEALTHY CHOICES PROGRAM”**  
**TOP TEENS “BIG TEXAS SIZED SERVICE”**

The Lufkin Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. now in its fifth year of the Healthy Choices Program in conjunction with a Grant from the TLL Temple Foundation, continues to review the increase in the number of students who are sent to Lufkin ISD Alternative Educational Center and juvenile programs in the Lufkin area. There continues to be a need for TLOD to provide these teens with an opportunity to develop some meaningful coping skills that will enable them to navigate their teen years in a more positive manner. The major goals of the Healthy Choices Program are to reduce the number of students who return to Alternative Center of Education (ACE) setting by providing them an opportunity to develop some meaningful coping skills would enable them to navigate the teen years in a more positive manner, to provide additional leadership opportunities for the ACE students and the Lufkin Chapter of Top Teens of America. The Healthy Choices Program offers students a wide range of structured learning experiences designed to : build trust, facilitate honest communication, promote wellness, self-respect, tolerance and personal insight, develop leadership, explore healthy lifestyles (i.e., drug free) and provide the structure for teens to interact with adults and peer men The program also include a Transition from ACE to Home Campus (Lufkin Middle School) Component that is designed to assist students with their adjustment to home campus. In addition, the ACE students and Top Teens of America are provided leadership opportunities, a Healthy Choices Camp, Healthy Choices Conference, Fine Arts, Cultural and historic field trips, college tours, peer and adult mentoring.



**Chamber Banquet**

**Don't Mess  
with Texas  
Trash Off**



**Salvation Army Bell Ringing**



**Special Olympics**



**Larkspur Nursing Home**



**Lady Tiffany Williams-Parker, Neches River Chapter President**  
**Lady Nicole Kyles-Burton, Neches River Chapter Top Teens Advisor**  
**Lady Alice Ramsey, Neches River Chapter Organizer**

---

To our Founder, Lady Ozell Dean, Lady Drema L. Woldman National President, National Officers, Lady Harnell Williams National Area I Director, and ladies of TLOD: The words from our visionary Lady Alice Felix-Ramsey: "My intuition is my inner voice that pressed me to give birth. When given a vision after asking for guidance, the best thing to do is to on it, and positive action is the key that unlocks desires." "My desire is to serve my fellowman as well as I can as long as I can, not necessarily in the same capacity."



*Chapter Organizer,  
Lady Alice Ramsey*

The City of Beaumont has over 19,000 children enrolled in our various schools. THERE CAN NEVER BE ENOUGH ADULTS to help them reach their goals. Therefore, more boots on the ground is needed to give them a hand up! TLOD has been and is that group. Sitting at the feet of our founders, I learned that, "The TLOD way is acting and doing so, because we care." Do the unimaginable, dreams can't be too big or too high, in order for me to teach that, we had to find young women with like minds! Young because they would need energy, stamina and open minds. Able bodied women who can do what some now have difficulty doing. Women who want to help other women excel. Women who are caring for their aging parents and their children. Those of us who've been in the TLOD battlefield need to teach and pass the baton on to these younger women to keep the dreams of our TLOD founders alive! The women chosen for the Neches River Chapter at Beaumont, possess all of these qualities and so much more. In order to show or help someone else achieve, it helps if you have achieved some form of success. Every one of these women are awesome and ready to serve by helping others become successful. As she has given grace to age and see others with health problems not able to attend meetings and do the work, she felt the need to get someone to do the work. Lady Ramsey says "I can still hear Founders Glass, Matlock and Dr. Ina Bolton Brown saying, "If you want something done, do it, then TEACH others younger to carry the baton. TLOD's presence should be felt and seen in every city where there is a chapter. Everyone should know that there is a group of women who will roll up their shirt sleeves, pick up trash to clean our surroundings, write grants, sell cookies, and wash cars for scholarships to educate our young, and can still dress up in our finest and represent the citizenry from the local church house to the White House and Parliament. These ladies are called **Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.** The Neches River at Beaumont Chapter is equipped to serve under the leadership of our President Lady Tiffany Williams-Parker; Instructor at Lamar Institute of Technology, 1st Vice President Lady Sherry Ulmer; Director of Health for the City of Beaumont, 2nd Vice President (Dr.) Lowra Harrison; Environmental Scientist, Recording Secretary Lady Ariana Sears; Childcare business owner, Corresponding Secretary Lady Helen Francis; RPA Registered Professional Appraiser, Treasurer Lady Celia Scott; CPA and owner of Scott Wealth Management Company, Financial Secretary; Tiffney Lewis; Tax consultant and Paralegal, Top Teen Advisor; Lady Nicole Kyles-Burton; College Career Advisor at Lamar University, Parliamentarian Lady Beverly Miller Professor at Lamar University, Sergeant-at-Arms; Lady Vera Berry retired, Historian Lady Melanie McZeal; Certified Pharmacy Tech, and Lady (Dr.) Nina Stelley; Chaplain and Pastor, Senior Citizens Lady Cheryl Williams; Edification and Equipping Coordinating, UNCF Lady Kristyn Hunt Cathey; Media/Communications Specialist for Port Arthur ISD, Sickle Cell Lady Kimberly Kyles Murphy; Real Estate Development, Scholarship Lady Yolanda Wherry; Administrative Assistant, NAACP Lady Tiffany Hamilton; Texas Department of Criminal Justice. For forty-three years, Lady Ramsey have given her best in service to this organization and will continue to do so as long as she is mentally, and physically able to. We are co-creators with God giving us a gift that will help continue shaping the TLOD world which is still BECOMING!

# *Nonpareil Chapter ~ Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

**Lady Doris Gray Brown, Nonpareil Chapter President  
Lady Nikki Honore', Nonpareil Chapter Top Teens Advisor**

---

## **HONORING KINGDOM STEPPERS**

The Nonpareil Chapter of TLOD, Inc., in Baton Rouge, LA, presented A “Hats On” Event-Honoring Women in the Ministry. The Event’s Theme: **“Honoring Kingdom Steppers”**-which honored 10 women who were either Pastors or First Ladies in their respective Churches. The Honorees- entered the Celebration, parade style. with the Glen Oaks Magnet High School AIROTC escorted by their designated other. During the Celebration, a delicious meal was enjoyed; entertainment included inspirational musical selections; a motivating keynote speaker expounded on: “Servant Leadership”; and, beautiful flowers and special personalized gifts were received from the chapter and their families. In addition, all previous Honorees were recognized and presented a beautiful pink rose by the Nonpareil Top Teens of America. It was truly an Evening of Celebration!



*Top Row: Co-Chairperson-Lady Rochelle Eli; Pastor Vermonica S. Haynes; First Lady Dana Cathey Williams; First Lady Lora Beckham; First Lady Clonise Stewart (Nonpareil); Pastor Cristan Hardy; Nonpareil President Doris Brown. Front Row: First Lady Fannie Brown; First Lady Jaqueline Dixon; First Lady Florence Johnson; Pastor Dr. Mertbell C. Sanders; First Lady Willie M. Jackson; and, Co-Chairperson-Lady Errin W. Gaines.*





**Lady Patsy Jackson, Prairie View Chapter President**  
**Lady Burnest Carter, Prairie View Chapter Top Teens Advisor**

**PRAIRIE VIEW CHAPTER TOP LADIES  
WORSHIP AT JONES MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



On Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019, the Top Ladies and Top Teens Prairie View Chapter along with the Houston, Humble, Missouri City, Spring-Cypress, and Suburban Bayou City Chapters worshipped at Jones Memorial United Methodist Church for what was designated as United Negro College Fund Sunday. At the worship service, the Top Teens showed a video highlighting the different scholarships and also presented an informational skit. In addition, Lady Carolyn Clemons, the Area I UNCF chair for Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. presented a check to Jones Memorial on behalf of Area I Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. In return, Jones Memorial United Methodist Church made a donation payable to the United Negro College Fund for \$500 dollars.

*Pictured from left to right: Ladies Patsy Jackson, Gwendolyn Carter, Minnie Thomas (SBCC), and Burnest Carter.*

**PRAIRIE VIEW CHAPTER  
TOP TEENS AND TOP LADIES  
GATHER FOR HOLIDAY OUTING**

Over the holiday, The Prairie View Chapter Top Teens and Top Ladies shared time together as the group met at the Main Event Amusement Center in Katy, Texas for lots of fun and game. The teens enjoyed playing games in the arcade area along with an activity called gravity roping. The Teens continued the fun and games as they played laser tag. The Teens and Ladies finished the outing with some much needed grub. The Prairie View Chapter participants were Lady Burnest Carter, Teens Keshanna and Keshawn Hawkins, Lady Patsy Jackson, Teens Dionna Mayes, Jeremiah and Joshua Milton, Ayeshia Smith, Ashley and Robert Watson, and Lady Kimberly Williams-Watson. The parents attending were Mrs. Dolores Hawkins and Mrs. Anita Milton.





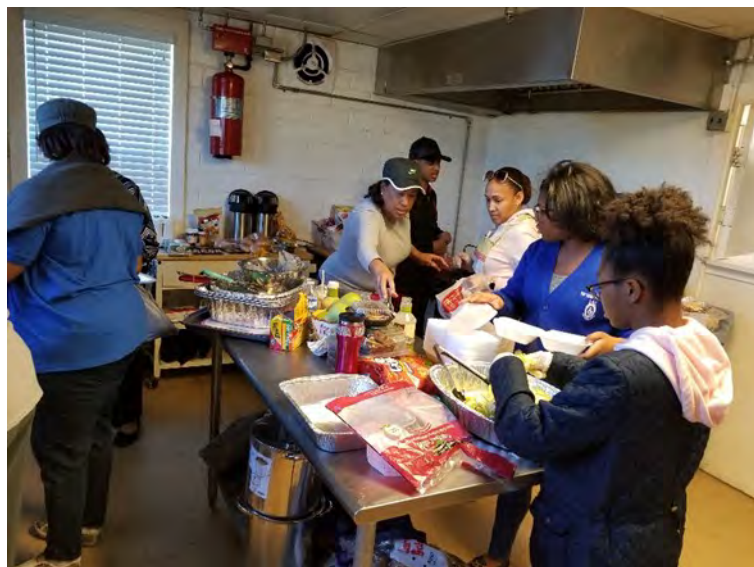
Lady Tandelyn Lott, River City Chapter President  
Lady Beverly Small, River City Chapter Top Teens Advisor

## RIVER CITY CHAPTER TOP TEENS OF AMERICA Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

During the River City Chapter Top Teen January 5, 2019 meeting, the teens suggested a fundraiser of selling Spaghetti Dinners to help with expenses for the annual Area One Conference to be held on February 28 - March 3, 2019 in Houston, TX. The fundraiser also benefited our Community Partners and Status of Women thrust partners at The Newly Empowered Center, whom graciously allowed River City and the Top Teens full use of their state-of-the-art kitchen facility to prepare the meal. The TTA efforts provided over 30 dinners to Women housed and mentored at The New Center and over 75 dinners to our surrounding Community. The fundraiser was huge success due to the support from our Ladies, TTA, parents, and family members for donations and support in the kitchen.



*Right front Teen Christian Myles, Teen Chance Adamson, Lady Tandelyn Lott, Teen Analise Walker, Lady Sara Drake, Ms. Myles, Lady Rhonda Harris, Rear left- TTA Advisor Lady Beverly Small, Lady Beatrice Dean, Ms. Adamson, Lady Claudette Taylor, Lady Tamu Banks, Right rear back Teen Trinity Fludd, Teen Jasmine Forbes, and TTA Assistant Advisor Lady Sylvia Mitchell,*



*L-TTA Advisor Lady Beverly Small, TTA Assistant Advisor Lady Sylvia Mitchell, Back-Teen Christian Myles, Lady Claudette Taylor, Teen Jasmine Forbes, and Teen Chance Adamson*

**Lady Sharon Penson, Shreveport Chapter President**  
**Lady Darlene Rossum, Shreveport Chapter Top Teens Advisor**

---

### **TLOD SUPPORT SICKLE CELL AWARENESS PROJECT**

Sickle Cell Disease is one of the five major Projects supported by the TLOD family. The TLOD objectives are to bring awareness of the impact of the disease, to increase financial support and improve the quality of life for individuals and families affected by Sickle Cell Disease. The Shreveport Chapter has continued its annual support with a donation of \$650.00 to the Northwest Louisiana Office of Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. Ladies participated in the annual Sickle Cell Radio-thon Fundraiser and donated time at the local Sickle Cell Office.



*Pictured are Lady Frances Williams; Lady Cynthia High; Lady Sharon Penson, President; Lady Shirley Brown-Tucker, Sickle Cell Chair; Lady Darlene Rossum; Lady Hattie Abner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Lady Shirley Davis.*



**Lady Emile Pendarvis Blaine, Southern Dallas Chapter President**

**Lady Jamie Polk, Southern Dallas Chapter Top Teens Advisor**

**Lady Emile Pendarvis Blaine, Southern Dallas Chapter Organizer**

The Southern Dallas County Chapter was chartered on Sunday, May 5, 2019 at St. Philip's School and Community Center. Lady Drema Lee Woldman, National President of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and Lady Sharon Beard, National First Vice President of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. were in attendance. They led workshops with the newly inducted Ladies on Saturday, May 4, 2019 and Saturday, May 5, 2019 respectively.



*Chapter Organizer,  
Lady Emile Blaine*

Also in attendance was Lady Veronica Nesbitt, former National Area V Director. Lady Harnell Williams, National Area I Director, led the induction, chartering and election of the chapter. The elected and installed officers of the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Southern Dallas County Chapter were: Lady Emile Pendarvis Blaine- President, Lady Lachon Jacobs-First Vice President, Lady Shanette Francis-Second Vice President, Lady Sonja Howard-Smith-Recording Secretary, Lady Rosundra Smith-Financial Secretary, Lady Leah Gibson-Treasurer, Lady Jamie Polk -Top Teens Advisor.

Lady Emile Blaine-Chapter Organizer and President, appointed these Ladies to office: Lady Jasmine Hudlin-Corresponding Secretary, Lady Regina Tucker-Chaplain, Lady Carol Hampton-Director of Operations, Lady Raphael Taylor-Mallard-Sergeant at Arms, Lady Tara Blackmon-Historian, Lady Darlisha Oliver-Assistant Top Teens Advisor and Lady Tavoya Oliver-Publicist. Other charter members include: Lady Teresa Pierre, Lady Cheryl Gibson, Lady Brandi Morrison. The Southern Dallas County Chapter will serve Duncanville, DeSoto, Cedar Hill, Lancaster, Glenn Heights and Ovilla.



# *Spring – Cypress Chapter* *~ Spring & Cypress, Texas*

**Lady Kathryn Roberts, Spring-Cypress Chapter President**  
**Lady Elizabeth Carswell, Spring-Cypress Chapter Top Teens Advisor**  
**Lady Regina Dickson, Spring-Cypress Chapter Organizer**

Spring-Cypress Chapter was chartered on January 6, 2018 at the Hilton Garden Inn Houston Cypress Station in the greater Houston, Texas area. The chapter was organized by Lady Regina Dickson, National Editor of the Crown and National Editor of the Newsletter - The Scepter. Lady Drema Lee Woldman is the National President and Lady Harnell Williams is the National Area I Director. The Spring-Cypress Chapter organizing committee members are: Lady Regina Dickson and committee members Lady Fatima Abdullah and Lady Rene Joseph. The Spring-Cypress Chapter was chartered with 18 ladies becoming charter members of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and 10 youth becoming charter members of Top Teens of America. Since the chartering of this new chapter, the chapters TLOD membership increased to 22 Top Ladies with 4 Ladies in waiting and 21 Top Teens including membership transfers. The Spring-Cypress Chapter since chartering is busy serving the greater Houston, Texas; Spring-Cypress communities.



*Chapter Organizer,  
Lady Regina Dickson*



**Lady Mildred Robinson, Suburban Bayou City Chapter President**  
**Lady Phillippa Smith, Suburban Bayou City Chapter Top Teens Advisor**

Suburban Bayou City Chapter - TEAMWORK was key to their overall success. Their partnerships with the National Projects demonstrated their teamwork collectively, as they included the NCNW, NAACP, Literacy and UNCF committees of Suburban Bayou City Chapter Top Ladies and Top Teens in executing our “Back to Work” program. Each of the projects played a pivotal role in the implementation of the work.

The committees invested in the Volunteer Deputy Voter Registration Training and collaborated with the Status of Women Thrust in providing voter registration drives; and valuable educational and community resources for updating work skills and career advancement at the Job Fair free to the community.

In addition, literature from the “When We All Vote” National Voter Registration Initiative adopted by Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., and endorsed by former First Lady Michelle Obama were offered. The message highlighted the importance of voting. Participants were reminded that their vote was their voice especially on critical issues such as minimum wage, equal pay, affordable health care, and much more!

The Guest Speaker was Dedra Davis, ESQ., currently newly elected Harris County Civil Court Judge. She was one of nineteen African-American female candidates for judge that made national history as they campaigned together and all won under the slogan “Black Girl Magic.” She introduced her new Money Management/Business Class targeting Teens and encouraged everyone to pursue their dreams and seek economic advancement.



# Area II

**National Area II Director,  
Lady Sandra Clark**



**Area II Top Teens Advisor,  
Lady Patricia Cason**



During Fiscal Years 2017 – 2019, Area II held their 36<sup>th</sup> Annual and 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Leadership Conferences, celebrating Awesome and Amazing years as a result of working together and providing service in our communities. Continuing on with Enthusiasm, Energy and Excitement, Area II accomplished a lot. They were honored to have Founder and former Air Force Major Lady Ozell Dean in Area II, which gave them the opportunity to host the 95th Birthday Celebration of our Founder! She loves Top Teens and they love her back!

Area II Teens competed for, and several won, the opportunity to engage in the 2018 Vivien Coe Richards TTA Academy that took to the road touring HBCUs. And all of the Top Teens continued to shine and show leadership by earning Area II the title of Top Fundraiser for March of Dimes. In addition to 11 well-established chapters that provide the Area II foundation, the Area's growth continued to be impressive with the chartering of five Awesome and Amazing Chapters. All of those organizations brought new Top Ladies of Distinction, Top Teens of America, and Lords that provide tremendous support! Those chapters are: Central Virginia, Virginia; Haymarket – Gainesville; Montgomery County, Maryland; Patuxent River, Maryland; and Stafford County, Virginia. Area II will continue to make a difference in communities that includes answering the TLOD Call to Action to support initiatives like "When We All Vote". This effort is focused on bringing people together and sparking a new conversation around the responsibilities of registering and voting.

## **NATIONAL AREA II DIRECTOR**

Lady Sandra R. Clark, Dale City – Prince William County Chapter

## **AREA OFFICERS**

Director of Operations, Lady Jacqueline Wilcher-Prince George's County Chapter  
Recording Secretary, Lady Felicia Hackett-Dale City – Prince William County Chapter  
Corresponding Secretary, Lady Joan Lynch-Hampton Roads Chapter  
Financial Secretary, Lady Tracy Brandon-Dale City – Prince William County Chapter  
Assistant Financial Secretary, Lady Samaria Lett-Prince George's County Chapter  
Treasurer, Lady Shadowna Jones-Prince George's County Chapter  
Top Teens of America (TTA) Advisor, Lady Patricia Cason-Hampton Roads Chapter  
Assistant TTA Advisor, Lady Angela Thompson-Southern Maryland Chapter  
Historian, Lady Aaliyah Wilson-Stafford County Chapter  
Chaplain, Lady Tarra Taylor-Dale City – Prince William County Chapter  
Parliamentarian, Lady Hazel Cameron-Alexandria City Chapter  
Sergeant-At-Arms Lady Ngima Coleman-Senior-Dale City – Prince William County Chapter

Director of Public Relations, Lady Crystal Davis-Prince George's County Chapter  
 Executive Assistant, Lady Karen Cherry-Dale City – Prince William County Chapter  
 Newsletter Editor, Lady Michelle Smalls-Dale City – Prince William County Chapter  
 Legal Advisor, Lady Michelle Bradford-Southern Maryland Chapter



*Left to right: National Area II Director-Lady Sandra Clark, Recording Secretary-Lady Felicia Hackett, Corresponding Secretary-Lady Joan Lynch and Financial Secretary-Lady Tracy Brandon*



*Left to right: Assistant Financial Secretary-Lady Samaria Lett, Treasurer-Lady Shadowna Jones, Top Teens of America (TTA) Advisor-Lady Patricia Cason and Assistant TTA Advisor-Lady Angela Thompson and Historian-Lady Aaliyah Wilson*



*Left to right: Chaplain-Lady Tarra Taylor, Parliamentarian-Lady Hazel Cameron, Sergeant-At-Arms-Lady Ngima Coleman and Director of Public Relations-Lady Crystal Davis*



*Left to right: Executive Assistant-Lady Karen Cherry, Newsletter Editor-Lady Michelle Smalls, Legal Advisor-Lady Michelle Bradford and Director of Operations, Lady Jacqueline Wilcher*

# *Dale City-Prince William County Chapter ~ Woodbridge, Virginia*

**Lady LaTonia Talley, Dale City-Prince William County Chapter President  
Lady Latoya Ingraham, Dale City-Prince William County Chapter Top Teens  
Advisor**

## **Dale City – Prince William County Chapter 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala**

The Dale City – Prince William County (DC-PWC) Chapter of the Top Ladies of Distinction (TLOD), Inc., celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during a gala at The Waterford, Springfield, Virginia on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The chapter chartered on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 with sixteen founding members: Lady Charlene Bishop; Lady Angela Bouknight; Lady Janeen Brown; Lady Sandra Clark (President); Lady Sharron Jackson; Lady Elcynthia Johnson; Lady Merry Johnson; \*\*Lady Shari King; Lady Ukessia Lee; Lady Wilhemina McKinney (ITA Advisor); Lady Janet Simmons; Lady Cynthia Springfield; Lady Jeanine Walton; and Lady Michelle Smalls. The chapter chartered under the leadership of 11<sup>th</sup> National Pope, National Area II, and the Chapter Organizer, Lady Pauline Hunter.

The chapter's engagements include: fundraisers for Alzheimer's Association, Stomping American Cancer Society, Avon Foundation and St. Jude Children's Prince William Adult (annual Veterans Day programs, and establishment of a community garden); the Adopt a Highway program; the Keep America Beautiful (KPWB); job classes for the Action Through Service Center; Back-to-School Physical American flags on Day and Veterans Day; projects to support



ments over the years for March of Dimes, Alzheimer's Walk to End Out Sickle Cell Walk, Relay for Life, Breast Cancer Walk, Research Hospital; the Day Healthcare Center and Grandparents Day celebration of a community-A-Spot Program and Beautiful, Inc. Great Cleanup Campaign, in readiness & life skills in Community (ACTS) Women's Employment support to placement of graves over Memorial and numerous other need in the community.

*Pictured, left to right: \*Lady Ann Tanner, Lady Pauline Hunter, \*Lady Janet Simmons, Lady Ozell Dean, \*Lady Sandra Clark, Lady Drema Lee Woldman, \*Lady Jacqueline Wilcher and \*Lady Jeanine Walton.*

*\*Charter Member*

*\*\*Deceased*

**Lady Gyal Gilbert, Haymarket-Gainesville Chapter President**  
**Lady Pharene Kirton, Haymarket-Gainesville Chapter Top Teens Advisor**  
**Lady Monice Jackson-Ferrill, Haymarket-Gainesville Chapter Organizer**



*Chapter Organizer,  
Lady Monice Jackson-Ferrill*

The Haymarket-Gainesville Chapter of Virginia was chartered under the theme “Strengthening Others Through Kindness and Service” as sixteen beautiful, dedicated and determined women set out to change their immediate community and the world at large on May 20, 2018 under the guidance of Chapter Organizer Lady Monice Jackson-Ferrill. This momentous event was attended by our National Area II Director Lady Sandra Clark, Lady Ozell Dean Founder, Lady Sharon Beard National 1st Vice President, Lady Hope Ruffin National Sergeant-At-Arms and many other ladies, lords, top teens, family members and guests. Regrettably our illustrious National President Lady Drema Woldman was unable to attend but called the ladies to speak with them prior to the induction and chartering ceremony. Her words were most encouraging. This historic event was held at the Regency Country Club at Dominion Valley in Haymarket, Virginia. The venue was simply beautiful with a very serene and inviting setting.

Many ladies from various chapters supported us as we began our new journey with everything from receiving guests (Lady Valerie Jones and Lady April), making flowers for the ladies (Lady Erica Blanch), hosting as mistress of ceremony (Lady Kendra Gillespie Benson), poem reading (Lady Donna Hamlin), prayer (Lady Gail Clarke), singing of National Anthem (Lady Serelda Herbin), introduction of guest speaker (Lady Nadine Jackson Beach) and presenting charter members and newly inducted ladies (Lady Sandra Clark and Lady Hope Ruffin).



*Seated left to right: Lady Ozell Dean Founder, Lady Sharon Beard 1<sup>st</sup> National VP, Lady Monice Jackson-Ferrill Chapter Organizer, Lady Sandra Clark Area II Director, Lady Gyal Gilbert Chapter President. Standing Front left to right: Lady Mae Harris, Lady Tameika Love, Lady Pharene Kirton, Lady Carolyn Dingle, Lady Sheila Anderson, Lady Shanese Strand. Standing Rear left to right: Lady Uguanda Simpson, Lady Jessica Dixon, Lady Malia Aimuan, Lady Melanie Grant Jones, Lady Maria Dren, Lady Trivia Cole, Lady Sabrina Jacobs, Lady Nichole King Campbell, Lady Trinette Chandler Kinsel*

**Lady Wanda L. King, Patuxent Chapter President**  
**Lady Alicia Koku, Patuxent Chapter Top Teens Advisor**  
**Lady Wanda L. King, Patuxent Chapter Organizer**

The Patuxent River Chapter, which serves youth and adults in Laurel and surrounding communities in Northern Prince George's, Eastern Howard, Western Anne Arundel, and Southern Howard Counties in Maryland, was chartered Friday, April 7, 2017 during the Area II Conference at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel Virginia Beach, Virginia. Twenty of the twenty-one ladies in the chartering group were present for the official induction and chartering ceremonies. The following pre-selected chapter officers were installed: Lady Wanda L. King, Chapter President; Lady Nicola Kennedy, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Lady Kimberly Morgan-Craft, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Lady Janza Reese, Recording Secretary; Lady Karen Sharp, Treasurer; Lady Tia Belton, Financial Secretary; and Lady Alicia Koku, Top Teens Advisor. Immediately following the ceremonies, the Ladies of the Patuxent River Chapter were presented to the Area at the Ladies' Luncheon.



*Chapter Organizer,  
Lady Wanda L. King*

Since the chapter's chartering, the Ladies of the Patuxent River Chapter has been very busy serving their community and taking an active role as members of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. The chapter has had representation at both Area II conferences following the chartering with members serving on various conference committees. Patuxent River Chapter Ladies have served as conference Parliamentarian and two are now the Area's Award Chairman and Co-Chairman. Two Ladies attended Parliament-Top in 2018 and a quite a few attended Syn-Lod. On Saturday, April 27, 2019, the chapter held its first membership induction. From the original group of 21, the Patuxent River Chapter is now a chapter of 50!



Front row, l-r: Lady Alicia Koku, Lady Karen Sharp, Lady Kimberly Morgan-Craft, Lady Hope Ruffin (Area II Membership Chairman), Lady Wanda L. King (Chapter Organizer), Lady Helena Dodson (National Area II Director), Lady Nicola Kennedy, Lady Janza Reese, Lady Vatesha Boulter. Back row, l-r: Lady Tia Belton, Lady Arla J. Bentley, Lady Karen Wyche-Latham, Lady Roxanne Gallaway, Lady Michelle Smith, Lady Tonja Godwin Paylor, Lady Sabrina Ridley, Lady Deborah Daniels-Christie, Lady Larniece McKoy-Moore, Lady April Hamilton, and Lady Cassandra Jones. Not pictured: Lady Tracey Jamison

**Lady Janet Simmons, Southern Maryland Chapter President/Organizer**  
**Lady Michelle Bell, Southern Maryland Chapter Top Teens Advisor**

**Southern Maryland Chapter Delivers Huge Service Successes During FY2017-2019**

The Southern Maryland Chapter had banner years of service during fiscal years (FY) 2017-2019. The Chapter presented the "Dreams of Hope" Fashion Show to bring awareness to and find a cure for Sickle Cell Disease, where \$750 was donated to Howard University's Center for Sickle Cell research. This first-ever event, attended by over 300 members of the community, received sponsorship from: Marshall's; David's Bridal; Men's Wearhouse and TJ Maxx. The Chapter successfully supported March of Dimes by fundraising over \$3,000, in partnership with a District of Columbia law firm, Hogan Lovells, LLP. The Chapter partnered with the Tri-County (MD) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Capital One SPARK; and Beyond the Classroom to bring the best financial planning, estate planning and banking experts to share their knowledge and recommend strategies to "Transfer Wealth from Generation to Generation." The event serviced 95 youth and adults ages 6 through senior citizen. The Chapter was also very busy with one of its most impactful beautification projects, as it executed a \$5,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund designed to engage youth of color in stream monitoring and educate them about stream health, local watersheds and pollution. The results of the Top Teens of America 4 Clean Streams (TTA4CS) Project was briefed to the Maryland General Assembly, where they received a Governor's Citation for Excellence. The Southern Maryland Chapter was nonstop and has already strategically planned for an even more successful FY 2019-2021!

***SICKLE CELL "DREAMS OF HOPE" FASHION SHOW***

*First Row: Savannah Boyd, Teen Jordan Watson, Teen Caleb Wiggins; Second Row: Teen Queen Osei, Teen Olivea Varlas, Teen Shiloh Cumber, Teen LaMaree James, Teen Naysa Young; Third Row: Teen Kamari Johnson, Teen Talia Eddings, Teen Ericka Brown, Teen Nina Harris*



***FINANCIAL FORUM***

*Lady Lisa Ambers, TLOD Literacy Chair and Lady Ursula Williams with 6-year-olds at Financial Forum*



***TOP TEENS 4 CLEAN STREAMS***

*Left to Right: Teen D'Shaun Tyler, Teen Caleb Wiggins, Teen Olivea Varlas, Teen Bella Corradi, Teen ---Tyreik Shan, Teen Niani Randall, Teen LaKayla James, Teen Kayla Berry, Teen Nina Harris, Teen Aaliyah Winford*



# Area III

National Area III Director,  
Lady Mary Davis



Area III Top Teens Advisor,  
Lady Catherine Miles



*Cardinal Chapter*



*St. Louis, Missouri*

Lady Yolanda Austin, Cardinal Chapter President  
Lady Ashley Moore, Cardinal Chapter Top Teens Advisor

## Cardinal Chapter Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. ~ Top Teens on the Move

The Cardinal Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction & Top Teens of America experienced hours participating in events as they let their light shine with Enthusiasm! Energy! & Excitement! throughout the year. Ladies, Lords & Teens worked hard to have a successful Top Teen Blue & Silver Ball, January 19, 2019 at the Holiday Inn St. Louis Downtown Convention Center. Approximately 125 family members & friends were in attendance as the evening ended with Teens Rashod Austin & Christian Perkins walking away as the King & Queen of the Cardinal Chapter. Members participated in the Annual Colon Cancer Walk at Forest Park, Saturday, March 23, 2019 to bring awareness to early colon cancer prevention. Teens spent hours setting up and distributing fruit, water, juice & breakfast bars to thousands of colon cancer survivors, their family members & friends. Cardinal Chapter has participated in the Walk since 2010 after experiencing several friends & members being diagnosed with the disease. Cardinal Ladies, Teens & Lords attended the 43rd Area III Leadership Conference in St. Louis, MO at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac Hotel, March 7-10, 2019. Various workshops and events were available throughout the conference. Teens Sydney BoClair & Rashod Austin represented as Area Officers. The chapter walked away with winning recognition for the following: Chapter Participation & Attendance, Chapter President Recognition, Lord of the Year, Top Lady of the Year, Speakers Tournament, & 2019 Senior.



*Pictured left: Cardinal Teens Taija Paul & Zyan Christian prepare for the walkers and volunteers during the Colon Cancer Undy Walk/Run at Forest Park.*



*Pictured right: Cardinal Teens Kristian Johnson, Damaris Bacon, Zyan Christian, Rashod Austin, Christian Perkins, TeRon Moore are waiting patiently for the 43rd Area III Leadership Conference Opening Session at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac Hotel to begin.*



**Lady Gayle Thompson, Evergreen Park Chapter President  
Lady Gisele' Casanova, Evergreen Park Chapter Top Teens Advisor**

**Evergreen Park Chicago Chapter, Area III Answered the Call on MLK Day**

“What are you doing for others?”, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Evergreen Park Chicago Chapter answered the question made it a “Day On” and not a “Day Off”. The Ladies and Teens partnered with AARP and Journey Care on MLK Day Monday, January 21, 2019. AARP is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering Americans over 50. Journey Care is a nonprofit agency that supports palliative, supportive and hospice care to adults and children in Illinois. The Chapter traveled to the new Journey Care location in the Chicago West Loop location. The Ladies and Teens spent the day making blankets for hospice patients supported by Journey Care. Members of the Evergreen Park Chicago Chapter donated yards and yards of fleece that was used to make the blankets. The creative juices were flowing as the chapter took fleece of all colors, patterns and designs and began to work cutting and braiding the corners of the blankets. I may have taken two or three hands, but each blanket was beautifully created. The Ladies and Teens also put on their artistic hats and created handwritten notes to be given to the hospice patients along with a blanket. What are “We” Doing for Other you ask, “We” are making blankets.



**Lady Anita Luster, Lincoln Park Chapter President**  
**Lady Adrienne Davis, Lincoln Park Chapter Top Teens Advisor**

The Lincoln Park Chicago Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction Inc. presented its Annual Crown Jewel Awards Luncheon celebrating the “Illuminating Treasures” at the Double Tree Hotel in Alsip, IL. TLOD is an international professional and humanitarian organization of over 5,000 dedicated and concerned women representing a mélange of talents, skills and resources. This year’s luncheon featured men and women who exemplify the term community servant. The 2019 CJA Honorees work tirelessly in their professions and communities to provide a valuable and immeasurable service to their constituents and communities. Our honorees have impacted the lives of so many, it is only befitting we shine the spot light on all they do to make our world a brighter place. Our Illuminating Treasures are all so deserving of the accolades and honors being stowed upon them. May the light continue to shine on each of the amazing honorees.



**Lady Genevieve Thomas, Skyline Metro Chapter President**  
**Lady Donna Townsend, Skyline Metro Chapter Top Teens Advisor**

**Skyline Metropolitan Chicago Chapter**  
**Achieves Top Fundraising Chapter for St. Jude's Walk for the Second Consecutive Year**



Skyline Top Teens were empowered with their second consecutive win (2017, 2018) as the top fundraising chapter for the Top Teens of America Walk Benefitting St. Jude! In 2017 Skyline raised an impressive \$5475.00, and another \$4050.00 was raised in 2018. Skyline TTA Teen Christian Law and Teen Michael Patton contributed to the 2018 win by also claiming the top 2 individual contributors spots.



**Skyline Metropolitan Chicago**  
**Top Teens Repeat As the Winner of**  
**the South Suburban Black Heritage**  
**Trivia Bowl**

On February 23, 2019, Teen Oliva Perry, Teen Malaika Stokes, Teen Taylor Harvey and Teen Maya Harrell proudly represented the chapter in the Black Heritage Trivia Bowl, hosted by the South Suburban Chicago Chapter. Skyline defended off three opponents, winning the competition for the second year in a row. Teens received certificates of participation and the chapter was awarded a trophy for the first place win.



**Skyline Top Teens Awarded**  
**At the 2019 Area 3 Leadership Conference**

The Skyline Metropolitan Chicago Chapter participated in the Area 3 Leadership conference, receiving 1<sup>st</sup> place for attendance along with Teen Camron Crosley placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Spelling Bee Competition. Skyline Teens Llyjah Thompson and Malaika Stokes represented the chapter in the Mr./Miss TTA Presentation. Skyline Teens also participated in the speaker's tournament, trivia and talent competitions.



**Lady Karen Dilligard, Will County Black Diamond Chapter President**  
**Lady Michele Davis, Will County Black Diamond Chapter Top Teens Advisor**  
**Lady Karen Dilligard, Will County Black Diamond Chapter Organizer**

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Will County Diamond Chapter celebrated their 3<sup>rd</sup> year anniversary. Their December 1, 2018 induction ushered in 9 new ladies eager to share their gifts and commitment to service with the chapter and the community they serve. Over the years since their chartering, there are several highlights that illustrate the mission of the WCBD Chapter to work towards being an exemplary model for community service. Top Teens - The WCBD teens have dedicated many hours to the community including returning to serve neighborhood residents at the Seed of Hope Food Pantry, shopping for food, packing bags, carrying groceries and organizing food stations. Teen Joy Rhodes and Teen Mariah Lewis represented the chapter at the 2018 Vivien Coe Richard TTA Leadership Academy.



*Chapter Organizer,  
Lady Karen Dilligard*

Senior Citizens - The ladies and teens celebrated Older American's Month at their adopted senior living facility, St. James Manor, by serving lunch and providing gifts to the seniors.

Community Partnerships - The Ronald McDonald House provides support and room & board for families who have sick children at local hospitals. The WCBD chapter was grateful to prepare a meal for the residents and dine with them.

Community Beautification - In celebration of Earth Day, ladies and teens spruced up the area and planted bulbs around Mandrake Park. Status of Women - The 2019 theme for the WCBD Annual Health and Wellness Event was "Boardwalk to Better Health". Community members enjoyed the vendor fair, adult workshops, fitness classes, teen sessions on Human Trafficking, managing finances and more.



# Area IV

National Area IV Director,  
Lady Crystal Pittman



Area IV Top Teens Advisor,  
Lady Barbara Stowe



*Atlanta Peachtree Chapter*



*Atlanta, Georgia*

Lady Kimberly Willis Green, Atlanta Peachtree Chapter President  
Lady Alicia Cole, Atlanta Peachtree Chapter Top Teens Advisor

During Women's History Month, the Atlanta Peachtree Chapter Status of Women Committee, chaired by Lady Celeste Hentz, purposefully focused on women empowerment. The Atlanta Peachtree Chapter (APC) in partnership with Certified Financial Planner, Ms. Leida Speller of The Piedmont Group of Atlanta, LLC. The event was kicked off with Miss Ajah Hentz and APC Teen Kyle Green paying homage to Madam C.J. Walker, the first female self-made millionaire. Ms. Speller provided an abundance of information that educated and motivated attendees to feel empowered to control their spending habits in order to properly plan for their retirement. The workshop concluded with a presentation from Lady Cynthia Parks, a licensed real estate agent with Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Metro Brokers providing insightful information on the home buying process....another viable avenue to building wealth.

In April, the Status of Women Committee continued the momentum of focusing on Women Empowerment by hosting a "Chat & Chew" session at Kupcakerie featuring a discussion of former First Lady Michelle Obama's bestselling book *Becoming*. The conversation was led by Lady Debbie Hillman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for the NewRock Chapter, and she engaged all attendees by asking thought provoking questions. The Ladies present shared their viewpoints of the book and provided examples from their personal lives that influence and shape the person they are becoming. The session ended with a challenge from Lady Debbie encouraging the Ladies to identify ways to assist less fortunate individuals with becoming their purposed-driven self.



*Certified Financial Planner Leida Speller sharing action steps Ladies, Teens and guest on how to build wealth*



*APC member Lady Cynthia Parks, realtor, informs the attendees on how to secure funding for their home purchases.*



*Front Row (l-r): Lady Celeste Hentz (Status of Women Chair), Lady Cynthia Parks (Presenter), Certified Financial Planner Leida Speller (Presenter) and Lady Kimberly Willis Green (President)*



*Status of Women Chat & Chew-Michelle Obama's "Becoming" Book Discussion led by Lady Debbie Hillman (NewRock Chapter 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President)*



*Pictured (l-r): Lady Kala Walton (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), Lady Debbie Hillman (NewRock Chapter 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President), Lady Celeste Hentz (Status of Women Chair) and Lady Alma Brown (Atlanta Peachtree Chapter Member)*



*Pictured (l-r): Lady Michelle Capers, Lady Gladys Summerville, Lady Kala Walton (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), Lady Debbie Hillman (NewRock Chapter 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President), Lady Teresa Hopkins and Lady Celeste Hentz (Status of Women Chair)*



Lady Adrienne Bonner, Effingham Chapter President  
 Lady Deborah Enoch, Effingham Chapter Top Teens Advisor  
 Lady Carolyn Stanley, Effingham Chapter Organizer



Pictured left to right: 1st row- Lady Michelle Drayton, Lady Dorothy Ogden, Lady Charmell Parks, Lady Carolyn Stanley, Lady Adrienne Boner, Lady Sandra Nethels - 2nd Row - Lady Rose Milton, Teen Jaylyn Greene, Teen Gwendolyn Smith, Lady Marshell Johnson, Lady Loretta Barnes, Crown Jewel Honoree Dawn Baker, Lady Deborah Enoch, Lady Verna Geiger, Lady Amy Day, Lady Earlisa Hall, Lady Anna Drayton, Lady Norma Wallace, Lady Andrea Keen Avery, Lady Della Moye, Teen Shabrea Wallace, and Lady Teia Acker



Pictured left to right: Lady Adrienne Boner - Effingham Chapter President presenting Crown Jewel Honoree LaMeisha H. Kelly with the Community Partnership Crown Award.



Pictured left to right: Teen Gwendolyn Smith, Lady Michelle Drayton, Lady Deborah Enoch and Lady Verna Geiger singing "God Is"

Effingham Chapter held its first signature event since being chartered three years ago called, the Crown Jewel Community Awards, on Saturday, April 27th at New Ebenezer Retreat Center in Rincon, Georgia. The Crown Jewel Community Awards recognizes community leaders for the meritorious service rendered in our community based on TLOD's five major thrusts. This year the following community leaders received awards: Top Teen of America Diamond award recipients - Dawn Baker (WTOC TV 11 News Anchor and former Top Teen), Micah Nix (Effingham County High School student), Isaiah Scott (South Effingham High School student), Senior Citizens Ruby Award - Yvonne Bradshaw (Retired Nurse), Status of Women Sapphire Award - Lucy Powell (Effingham County NAACP), Community Beautification Emerald Award - Dr. Randy Shearouse (Effingham County Schools Superintendent), and Community Partnerships Crown Award - LaMeisha H. Kelly (Rincon City Planner).

In attendance at the Crown Jewel Community Awards dinner were Ladies from Effingham, Savannah and Bryan-Liberty Counties Chapters, Effingham Top Teens, community guests along with the National Area IV Director, Lady Crystal C. Pittman and the National 2nd Vice President, Lady Eddie Lee Marsh.

# *Guilford County Chapter ~ Jamestown, North Carolina*

**Lady Cynthia Thompson, Guilford County Chapter President**  
**Lady Vicki Henry Hughes, Guilford County Chapter Top Teens Advisor**

---

## **Issues of the Youth Symposium**

On February 24, 2019, Top Ladies of Distinction collaborated with Coliseum Boulevard Church of Christ for the second annual “Issues of the Youth” symposium. The guest speakers were Chief of Police Charles Wilson, North Carolina A&T State University and Dr. Alton Thompson, Executive Director for the Association of 1890 Research Directors and a Lord. Chief Wilson enlightened the students with the danger of Bullying and Social Media. Dr. Alton Thompson concluded with a presentation on personal and professional appearance, interpersonal relationships, self-esteem and the pros and cons of working while in high school. The workshops were followed with a luncheon for the participants sponsored by Guilford County Top Ladies. Lady Cynthia Carlton Thompson, president of Guilford County Top Ladies of Distinction and Lady Vickie Hughes, Top Teens of America Advisor, gave closing remarks.



***Pictured 1 to r: Lady Cynthia Carlton Thompson, Chief of Police Charles Wilson, Lord Alton Thompson***



***Picture 1 to r: Ladies Vickie Hughes, A. Rawiya Nash, Cynthia Carlton Thompson,***



**Lady Naomi Nesbitt, St. Petersburg Chapter President**  
**Lady Deloris Wesley, St. Petersburg Chapter Top Teens Advisor**

---

**Third Annual Health Awareness Day**  
***“Promoting Better Health Through Community Partnerships”***

Top Ladies of the St. Petersburg Chapter sponsored its third annual “Health Awareness” event February 9, 2019 at Pinellas Technical College. The event was designed to bring health awareness to those in attendance and share the importance of healthy lifestyles. Our mission was to share “health education” in the St. Petersburg community. Guest were extended a warm welcome by Lady Selma Robinson-Ayers. The primary goal was to share information with families within in the community who are unaware of where to seek assistance for certain health and family issues. Our Chapter served the community with purpose in implementing this event. Top Ladies served with dedication to ensure that this event would bring awareness to those in attendance.

The panel shared information that included verbal presentations and demonstrations. The following initiatives were shared by presenters: Domestic Violence-CASA, Hospice-Empath Caregiver Support, CPR demonstration, Sickle Cell Disease Awareness, Family Law (Living Wills) Alzheimer’s/Dementia. Blood pressure screenings were available and administered by Nursing students of Pinellas Technical College. Guest asked questions, presenters were eager to answer and give clarity. Top Ladies, Lords and Top Teens worked together to ensure a successful event. A healthy continental breakfast was enjoyed by all, catered by “The Fit Kitchen”. Healthy eating habits were definitely a message of importance. This event allowed our guest to get a better understanding of the importance of eating healthy, maintaining a regular exercise program in addition to regular physical check-ups.





**Lady Gloria Montague, Wendell Chapter President**  
**Lady Bridgette Campbell, Wendell Chapter Top Teens Advisor**

The Wendell Top Ladies & Top Teens created 3 Flower Beds & Decorated the walkway of The Community Head Start Facility. They worked for about 4 hours, clearing the beds, cultivating the soil, spreading mulch, potting soil & planting flowers to beautify the landscape of the building grounds. The Head Start Program is a Government Service Program for early childhood education, health & nutrition for low income children & their families. The Wendell Chapter also voluntarily donates non perishable food items to the Program on a regular basis. The Ladies & Teens chose this site to enhance the beauty for the children, their families & the Staff of this nonprofit facility & to lend to the beauty of the community. The Project also provided a mentoring experience, teamwork & an opportunity to serve.”



**Lady Barbara Stowe, Winston-Salem Chapter President**  
**Lady Sharon H. Debnam, Winston-Salem Chapter Top Teens Advisor**

The Winston-Salem and Greensboro Top Ladies of Distinction and Top Teens of America Chapters partnered with Congresswoman, Lady Evelyn Terry, and the NAACP to encourage voter registration. Several grass root meetings were held in the community prior to the date of the event. Top Teens and Top Ladies assisted in registering voters, provided detailed information regarding voter precinct information to citizens. Also, the organization served refreshments to participants at their designated booths. Top Teens and Top Ladies participated in discussions as to “Why voting is important to you?” and recorded personal testimonials on social media. Over 200 people attended the event along with several volunteers. Our very own TLOD member, NC Congresswoman, Lady Evelyn Terry, was introduced by Lady Sharon Debnam, TTA Advisor-Winston-Salem Chapter. A mini-cotton candy, icee station concession stand, basketball hoops, and several other interactive booths were set up for the children. The community completed the event and fellowshiped with a local church Zion Memorial Missionary Baptist Church which provided an enjoyable lunch including fish, hot dogs, hamburgers, side dishes, desserts and local musical entertainment.



Left to right: Teen Laila Williams, Teen Jordynn Foster, Lady Congresswoman Evelyn Terry, Teen Brianna Christian and Teen Joya Upkins



Left to right-Lady Donna Price, Lady Patsy Squire, Williette Carter-NAACP Membership chair, Lady Vickie Hughes, Lady Sharon Mitchell, First Lady Cynthia Cain, Teen Brianna Christian, Lady Sharon Debnam(back row), Teen Jordynn Foster, Lady Annie Lassiter(back row), Lady Yuvongala C. Howell, Teen Joya Upkins(back row), Teen Laila Williams and Lady Sebrina Anderson, Front Center Lady-Congresswoman Evelyn Terry



# Area VI

**National Area VI Director,  
Lady Brenda Dodd**



**Area VI Top Teens Advisor,  
Lady Cynthia Freeman-Clay**



*Greater Las Vegas Chapter*  *~ Las Vegas, Nevada*

**Lady Clair Hart, Greater Las Vegas Chapter President  
Lady Craigen Rucker, Greater Las Vegas Chapter Top Teens Advisor  
Lady Rose Coker, Greater Las Vegas Chapter Organizer**



***Chapter Organizer,  
Lady Rose Coker***

On Saturday, January 5, 2019 Top Ladies of Distinction, Incorporated® (TLOD) chartered the Greater Las Vegas Chapter and its 18 new members into its national organization. The chartering and induction were held at the Suncoast Hotel and Casino. Lady Drema Lee Woldman, National President officiated ceremonies. Other national officers in attendance were Lady Sharon Beard – National First Vice President, Lady Sandra Jennings – National Financial Secretary and Lady Brenda Dodd – National Director Area VI and Lady Rose Coker- National Assistant Financial Secretary and the Greater Las Vegas Chapter Organizer. Following the TLOD chartering the Greater Las Vegas Chapter inducted 19 teens into their youth program Top Teens of America (TTA). A beautiful celebratory luncheon full of music, dance motivational speeches was enjoyed by Ladies, Lords, Teens, family and friends making January 5, 2019 a very special day.

The charter members of the Great Las Vegas Chapter are: Lady Aundria Brown, Lady LaShawnda Gray, Lady Jamescia Hambrick, Lady Clair Hart, Lady Adrienne Hester, Lady Shanique Horne, Lady Yvonne Logan, Lady Tanya May, Lady Rachelle Nearn-Moorhead, Lady Betty Railey, Lady Kim Randall-Moody, , Lady Keysa Rogers, Lady Craigen Rucker, Lady Ehraeda Rucker, Lady Denesha Stamps, Lady Angela Stewart, Lady Paula Watkins-Baker, and Lady Viva Wells.



## *Greater Las Vegas Chapter Top Ladies*



## *Greater Las Vegas Chapter Top Teens*



~ Lady Carrie Perry, Starlight Chapter President  
Lady Sarina Fulgiam-Bias, Starlight Chapter Top Teens Advisor

The Las Vegas Starlight Chapter of Top Teens of America were very involved in numerous projects and activities during 2017- 2019. We are very excited to share with you the highlights of these annual events. Our Teens served with purpose and dedication as they engaged with various populations in the Las Vegas Community. As part of our **Beautification** Thrust, our Teens cleaned up senior citizen facilities, walking trails and planted trees and shrubs at a neighborhood school. The Teens' **Senior Citizen** project involved serving breakfast to seniors during separate health and economic workshops and assisting with the annual preparation of complete Thanksgiving meal baskets. Our **Community Partnerships** included several occasions of serving breakfast to the homeless at Second Baptist Church, designing a float, to march in the Martin Luther King parade, and participating in a Health Walk with Las Vegas Links Inc. During the chapter's **Status of Women Luncheon** the Teens were honored for their commitment to service during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Top Teens of America. We are delighted to acknowledge and honor our Top Teen Myles Hemphill, the current president of both the Starlight Top Teens chapter and Area VI. Myles received the outstanding Area VI Teen of the Year award. As a senior, Myles felt privileged yet saddened to preside over his final Area VI Top Teens of America conference. It has been a pleasure mentoring this talented group of outstanding young people who we know will be successful as leaders in all their future endeavors.



*Top Teens, pictured left to right, Sanna Wilson, Mikedha Jenkins, Kennedy Johnson, Danielle Villano, Myles Hemphill, Jayden Williams, DsSani Rogers, Sullivan Thomas, Sterling Thomas, Maura Norris, and Shawn Hemphill, celebrate the annual Status of Women Paint the Town Red scholarship fundraiser.*



**Lady Annie Howard, Mountain West Chapter President**  
**Lady Aeron LaCrosby, Mountain West Chapter Top Teens Advisor**

---

**Mountain West Top Teens Connecting With The Community**

Teen Trayosha Decker is a shining star. Regarding TTA she says, “After I attended the first meeting I fell in love with Top Teens. I loved how the teens all had one motive which was to create change in youth and to better our community.” Her strength, confidence and leadership skills exemplify excellence. Trayosha co-found a H.S., sorority for girls who seek to use their voices to create change and advocate for our community. They focus on building each other up and in instilling a sense of empowerment, self-worth and potential. She’s received numerous community awards including the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Colorado Holiday Youth Humanitarian award, NCNW’s Living Portraits of African American Women & Youth award, Be Well Colorado Youth award, numerous scholarships, including one to her school of choice Langston University where she will major in political science. Her educational achievements are featured in the FOX 31, story at the link below:

<https://kdvr.com/2018/02/01/denver-public-schools-first-sorority-forms-at-manual-high-school>

Trayosha serves as “Head Girl” and represented her school in, “Our DPS Day 2018: Our Foundation, Our Future” <https://vimeo.com/285859392>. She is unapologetically authentic and looks forward to the chance to show her greatness and leave her mark on the world.



*Mountain West members celebrating Teen Trayosha’s NCNW Award, March 23, 2019.*  
*L to R: Lady Wanda Beauman, Lady Aeron LaCrosby, Teen Disuuri Suni, (Teen Trayosha Decker),*  
*Teen Tayliana Chambers, Lady Annie Howard, Lady (State Senator) Rhonda Fields.*



## 2019 Syn-Lod *Highlights*

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

### Pre-conference Tour

Members of the Executive Board and some lucky unsuspecting ladies were privy to a tour of Atlanta, especially Auburn Street, which housed anything that you wanted to know about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thursday, June 27, 2019

### Inductions and Memorial Service

The morning started out with an induction of ladies from the Atlanta Peachtree, Birmingham, and North Atlanta Chapters, followed by the Honorary Induction of Juanita Sims Doty. After the inductions, a Memorial Service was held for all Ladies, Lords, and Teens who made their transition since the last Syn-Lod.

### Workshops, Black History Bowl and Host Night

The "This is How We Do It" Workshops (Part 1) took place and the Dorothy Allen Chimney Black History Bowl was held. The first place winners were: Teen Derryus Shaw - Jackson Chapter, Teen Kalyssa Gillespie - River City Chapter, Teen Jasmyne Richard - Houston Chapter, Teen Kynnedi Jackson - Beaumont Chapter, and Teen Alton Avery II - Beaumont Chapter.

Later, the host chapters showed their showmanship during the very well planned and orchestrated Host Night. The highlights of host night were the performances by the host chapters and the Dance Marathon. There were 11 contestants in the beginning and 11 still standing in the end. You had to be there!!!! The top three received a \$50 gift card. All contestants received a portfolio that matched the conference bag.

Friday, June 28, 2019

### **Community Beautification Walk**

TLOD partnered with Keep America Beautiful Atlanta to clean up the surrounding area near the hotel. KAB provided trash bags, vests and trash picker uppers (don't know what they are called). There was a very diverse group of ladies, teens and lords who looked like they were having fun for a good cause.

### **Silent Auction**

The annual Silent Auction raised over \$2500. Two quilts were commissioned for the conference by Lady Jackie Pope. The TLOD National Presidents quilt went for \$1,000.00 and the TTA quilt went for \$475.00. Both were beautiful. Lady Jackie Comeaux bid on the National President's quilt and promptly donated it to the National Office where it will be displayed. Lady Francine Jarvis won the bid for the TTA quilt and will be presenting it to her son, Chris, who is a former Top Teen.

### **Workshops**

Part 2 of the "This is How We Do It" Workshops continued with the finale being a panel of the Past National Presidents, current National President, and the Founder. Presidents included were: Ladies Faye B. Bryant, Bobbie Moorehead, Jackie Parker, Peggy Lewis LeCompte, Audrie Lawton and Drema Lee Woldman. Lady Ozell Dean, Founder, kicked the panel off. This segment of the "This Is How We Do It" workshops was videotaped. A copy will be placed on the website.

**College and Career Day** with the Teens was a huge success! The teens were very engaged and entertained. The program was moderated by Chesley McNeil, Meteorologist, Atlanta 11 Alive News. Colleges represented were: Dillard University, Howard University, Alabama A&M University, Florida A&M University, Clark-Atlanta University, North Carolina A&T University, Georgia State University, Grambling State University, Fort Valley University and Savannah State University. Branches of the Armed Forces were also in attendance, providing the attendees with options. During lunch, the Teens were paired with Ladies and Lords to engage in dialogue about career paths. Former Top Teens gave the Teens insight by providing Reflections on The HBCU Experience, Mary Williams, Director of Outreach and Recruitment for UNCF, presented a workshop on Financing Your College Education - Traditional and Non-Traditional Approaches, and members of the Divine Nine participated in a panel discussion regarding the Impact of Sororities and Fraternities during college and beyond.

A popup **Wellness Clinic** was held. Participants included: Alzheimer's Association, American Heart Association, AARP, Emory Goizueta Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, Emory Health Aging Study, Helping Hands Outreach Clinic/Safe Haven Nursing, Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Program and Senior Advisory Services, and Susan G. Komen - Greater Atlanta.

**Partner Workshops** were also held with representation from most of our partners and presentations advocating most of our causes: KAB, AARP, UNCF, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Alzheimers/Dementia, MOD, NCNW, Sickle Cell Disease Association and Diabetes presented by Lady (Dr.) Dawna Dilworth who filled in for Clinical Trials.

### **Joint Opening Session**

All members and guests at the conference were invited to attend the opening session. The Honorary Chairman for the 50th Anniversary, Former Teen Danielle Holley-Walker, Chairman of the Law Dept. at Howard University, brought greetings along with the Founder, and other designated dignitaries. The TLOD Choir sang a gospel flavored "May the Work I've Done Speak For Me" as an introduction to the National President who gave the State of the Union. The President gave an overview of initiatives/events that took place during the Investing Team Administration. At the end, she was serenaded by Lady Nichole Dodd who sang "I'm Here."

They both received standing ovations.

Lady April Preyar, Former Top Teen - Chicago Chapter and a practicing criminal attorney, made a presentation regarding a board game that she invented called Trials & Triumphs. It gives Teens insight to quickly learn the pitfalls that take them out of the "World of Possibilities" and land them in a "World of Trouble." The body was very receptive and quite a few were sold.

Lady Lueberda Myers, Former National Area I Director, made a presentation of \$20,000.00 to the Franchell Boswell Foundation to fund her endowment.

### **50th Anniversary Hall of Fame Reception**

Prior to the reception, the ribbon was cut on the TTA Hall of Fame Exhibit which consisted of free standing banners of the Founders, the living Founder, each TLOD National President along with their significant accomplishments and the National TTA President who held office under their administration. It was a wonderful walk through 50 years of exemplary service. Approximately 850 participants attended the reception presided over by Lady Sharon Beard and Teen Benjamin Chapman. After welcome, greetings, occasion, grace and a refreshment period, the National TTA Presidents in attendance spoke about what Top Teens of America meant to them. Those speaking were: Lady Harnell Price, 1<sup>st</sup> TTA President, 1970-1973; Cherese Brown Easley, 1995-1997; Robert Oten, 1997-1999; Jeannae McCray, 2004-2005; Nytesia Poe Ross, 2011-2013; Le'Zaire Reese, 2013-2015 and Benjamin Chapman, 2017-2019. You could not help but burst with pride as you heard the sentiments of these young men and women who gave Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. bragging rights for forming their Teen years and helping them to become successful upstanding adults. **Music was provided by Take 6, a local band helmed by Shawn Parker, Former Top Teen and son of Lady Sandra Parker, from the Indianapolis Chapter.**

### **Saturday, June 29, 2019**

The Inaugural **TTA Alumni Council Meeting** was presided over by Honorary Chairman, Danielle Holley-Walker, Dean of the Law School at Howard University. There were approximately 75 participants in attendance. Only graduating seniors and former Teens were invited to participate. A steering committee was selected and plans were made to continue on Sunday.

The **Teens on-site Service Project** was the stuffing of the backpacks for the Blessings in a Backpack Initiative. The Humble Intercontinental Chapter donated 500 bags. TLOD supplemented the Humble bags and provided an additional 600 branded blue drawstring backpacks, as well as some backpacks from previous conferences for a total of over 1,100 bags that were packed and ready to distribute at the TTA Recognition Breakfast on Monday.

**Institutes** for TTA Advisors, Chapter Presidents, Financial Officers, and Area Directors were held.

At the **President's Luncheon (Hats of Service on Parade)**, Lady Audrie Lawton, 12<sup>th</sup> National President, gave tribute to the Chapter Presidents. The National President presented gavel pins to all Chapter Presidents during her administration. Five Star Program Awards and Life/Silver/Gold recognitions were presented. Lady Drema paid tribute to the chapter organizers during her administration and presented 16 of them with plaques. Seventeen Chapters were chartered, but Greater Las Vegas was inadvertently left off. The National President apologized to Lady Rose Coker, Chapter Organizer, and recognized her and her chapter members in attendance. Lady Loretta, National Awards Chairman, sent Lady Rose her plaque shortly after Syn-Lod. The 17 Chapter chartered during this administration are:

| <b>Chapter</b>            | <b>Organizer</b>            | <b>Date</b> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Will County Black Diamond | Lady Karen Dilligard        | 9/27/15     |
| Tipton County             | Lady DyKiesha Rankin        | 1/9/16      |
| Effingham                 | Lady Carolyn Stanley        | 8/6/16      |
| Queen City                | Lady Gina Pettis Dean       | 1/7/17      |
| Patuxent                  | Lady Wanda King             | 4/7/17      |
| Central Virginia          | Lady Doran Ridley Curtis    | 11/18/17    |
| Spring-Cypress            | Lady Regina Dickson         | 1/6/18      |
| Stafford County           | Lady Nadine Beach           | 2/3/18      |
| Haymarket Gainesville     | Lady Monice Jackson Ferrell | 5/20/18     |
| North Atlanta             | Lady Versonya DuPont        | 6/2/18      |
| NewRock                   | Lady Sherri Washington      | 6/3/18      |
| Sandy Pines               | Lady Teresa Smith           | 10/13/18    |
| Greater Las Vegas         | Lady Rose Coker             | 1/5/19      |
| Montgomery County         | Lady Diana Raynor           | 1/26/19     |
| Neches River at Beaumont  | Lady Alice Ramsey           | 2/2/19      |
| Southern Dallas           | Lady Emile Blaine           | 5/5/19      |
| Chicago West Loop         | Lady Susan Cottrell         | 6/18/19     |

### **Plenary Session #1**

At this session National Officers' Reports were presented and the Nominations and Elections Report was provided. Candidates for Office were:

#### **National President**

Lady Sharon Beard

#### **National 1st Vice President**

Lady Eddie Lee Marsh

#### **National 2nd Vice President**

Lady Brenda Dodd  
 Lady Crystal Pittman  
 Lady Jackie Wilcher  
 Lady Harnell Williams

#### **National Recording Secretary**

Lady Diann Robinson

#### **National Financial Secretary**

Lady Annette Michelle Smalls  
 Lady Cheryl Williams

#### **National Treasurer**

Lady Versonya DuPont

#### **National Editor of the Crown**

Lady Regina Dickson

#### **National TTA Director**

Lady Kendra Gillespie  
 Lady Catherine Miles



## Other:

Caucuses were held and campaign nooks were visited.

To celebrate the many TTA Alumni who were in attendance, a **50th Anniversary TTA Awards Reception** was held. Sam D. Burston, Vice President and Chief Advancement Officer at Clark Atlanta University served as the Master of Ceremonies. The program was populated by many Former Top Teens - Lady Crystal C. Pittman, Lady Oteal Wyatt Gilmore, Cameron Edwards, Lady Velda Hunter, Cameron Bouligny, Nytesia Poe Ross, and Pastor Le'Zaire Reese. A \$5,000.00 Fine Arts Scholarship was donated by film producer, Former Teen Je'Caryous Johnson (Humble Intercontinental Chapter). He presented the scholarship to Teen Ramon J. Ceaser (Evergreen Park Chapter). Lady Drema presented Je'Caryous with the Outstanding TTA Alumnus Award, after which he gave a very emotional speech about how Top Teens of America helped him overcome his dysfunctional family life and made him a better person. He also talked about how no other organization would take the scholarship because it was a small amount, but Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. did not hesitate. Then he shocked everybody in the room and declared that he was donating \$50,000 a year for the next 10 years to Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. to fund Fine Arts Scholarships for Top Teens of America!!!!!!!!!!!!!! You read that correctly. He pledged \$500,000 over 10 years for scholarships. Je'Caryous had another engagement and wanted to be first on the program so that he could leave, but when he saw the program and the former Teen performers, he was excited and decided to stay. As a matter of fact, he stayed for the whole program and talked to the Teens and took pictures. All in all, it was a great night.

**Alumni Awards** were presented as follows:

Service to Youth - Lady Nicole Williams (Savannah TTA)  
Status of Women - Brittany T. Pascall (Nashville Capital City TTA)  
Senior Citizens - Lady Shaniqua McKinley (Shreveport TTA)  
Community Beautification - Richard L. Johnson (Chicago TTA)  
Ozell Dean TTA Humanitarian - Lady April D. Preyar (Chicago TTA)  
Emerging Young Leader - Josef Sorrells (Trinity West TTA)  
Outstanding TTA Alumnus - Je'Caryous Johnson (Humble Intercontinental TTA)  
Outstanding TTA Alumnus - Danielle Holley-Walker (Missouri City TTA)  
Icon Award - Juanita Jones Abernathy  
Icon Award - Dr. Robert Brown  
Spirit of the Founders - Lady Ozell Dean, Founder

**Music for the event was provided by The Daniel Robinson Band. Daniel is a former Top Teen from the Capital City Chapter in Austin, TX.**

### Sunday, June 30, 2019

The **Ecumenical Breakfast "Inspiration, Encouragement, and Empowerment - Stories of the Bible"** took place on Sunday morning. Unfortunately, there was a car wreck that interfered with the hotel having electricity in certain parts of the building and the breakfast was one of them. But, we are famous for turning lemons into lemonade and the participants did not miss a beat. Lady (Rev.) Valencia Edner and Former Teen Josef Sorrells were the man and woman of the hour who presided over the event. We did not have lights, but the program went on as planned. The food was hot, the Choir was joyful and the inspiration, encouragement and empowerment was motivating and filled with the love of God. Each speaker brought words of wisdom and food for thought about their subject matter - Men and Women of the Bible: Rev. Valencia Edner - Ruth; Rev. Robert Oten (National TTA President - 1997-1999) - Naomi; David & Goliath - Teen Benjamin Chapman (National TTA President 2017-2019) - David & Goliath; Former Teen Jeremiah Carter - David's Psalm 23; and Pastor Le'Zaire Reese (National TTA President - 2013-2015) - the Woman in Luke 13. What a wonderful church service! Exuberant and godly preaching, spiritual and uplifting music, and topping it all off - a singing minister.

The Inaugural **TTA Alumni Council Meeting** was reconvened and election of the Steering Committee was conducted. Danielle had to leave the conference early so the National President, Lady Drema Lee Woldman, presided until the Committee was elected, and then she left and they continued to conduct business. From the National President's vantage point, the former Teens who were in attendance were more than capable. It was amazing to see the talent, education, skill and dedication to TTA in that room. I was very proud to be a part of that moment.

**Plenary Session II**

Recommendations and changes to the Constitution and Bylaws were made as follows:

**Passed:**

- All references of "Membership Application" to be replaced with "Membership Profile"
- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital was added as a permanent partner
- The number of Honorary members was changed to 20
- Public Relations will no longer fall under the Second Vice President. There will be a separate Public Relations Committee appointed.
- In case of a tie-vote, the Election Committee will determine and announce the date, time and place for a run-off for the tied nominees only.
- In case of an elected officer vacancy that is not addressed in TLOD's bylaws, the vacancy must be voted upon and approved in the interim by the Executive Committee and presented to the membership for final vote and approval.

**Failed:**

TTA Advisors are to be appointed.

**Withdrawn:**

Area Conferences will be held every other year.

Later in the evening, the Speaker's Tournament, Spelling Bee, Debate Team, Talent Show and Literacy Café were held. Area winners from all six Areas participated in the Speaker's Tournament, five Areas were represented in the Spelling Bee, for the first time we had Debate Teams representing four Areas (I, II, IV and V), and there were 5 Acts in the Talent Show. The Literacy Café was kicked off with our own Lady Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, former National 1st Vice President, presenting information regarding her book "You Can lead." Prior to her presentation, she held a book signing and volunteered to donate a portion of her sales to Top Teens of America.

The winners for the competitive events were:

|                              |           |  |
|------------------------------|-----------|--|
| <b>Speaker's Tournament:</b> | 1st Place | Teen Brynn White (Area VI, Inglewood)              |
|                              | 2nd Place | Teen Brooke Brinson (Area IV, Raleigh)             |
|                              | 3rd Place | Teen Sydney Johnson (Area III, W Suburban Chicago) |

|                      |                                       |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Spelling Bee:</b> | <b>Two-Way Tie for First Place</b>    |
|                      | Teen Kira Willis, Area I - Dallas     |
|                      | Teen Sydney Carr, Area II - Dale City |

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Debate Team:</b> | Winner - Area II Team Deuce |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|

The Literacy Café and the Talent Show were not competitions; therefore, participants were not judged and each received a gift card.

## **Monday, July 1, 2019**

The morning started out with the TTA Recognition Breakfast. Tim King, Founder & CEO of Urban Prep Academies in Chicago provided the Teens and the Ladies with a very motivating and inspirational speech using one of his less desirable students as an example of someone who did not have promise, did not want to have promise, but somewhere along the way found his footing and now works for Urban Prep Academies.

Special Presentations were made by the March of Dimes, NCNW, KAB, SCDA, UNCF, and St. Jude.

The host chapters designated five organizations to receive the over 1,100 backpacks from Top Teens of America. Those entities were: Haynes Bridge Middle School, Mary Hill Freedom House, C.H. Gullatt Elementary School, Forest Park High School, and Action Ministries Piedmont.

TTA Awards were presented as follows:

### Chapter Outstanding Program of Work Scrapbook

- 1st Place - Southern Maryland
- 2nd Place - Wendell
- 3rd Place - Houston

### Outstanding TTA Scrapbook

- 1st Place - Teen Isabella Corradi (Southern Maryland)
- 2nd Place - Teen Matthias Petterway (Humble Intercontinental)
- 3rd Place - Teen Tyriq Rowe (Raleigh)

### TTA Speaker's Tournament

- 1st Place - Teen Brynn White (Inglewood)
- 2nd Place - Teen Brook Brinson (Raleigh)
- 3rd Place - Teen Sydney Johnson (West Suburban Chicago)

### TTA Essay Competition

- 1st Place - Teen Amber Campbell (Wendell)
- 2nd Place - Teen Jamie Davis (Southern Maryland)
- 3rd Place - Teen Lauren Collier (Suburban Bayou)

### St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

- 1st Place - Skyline Metropolitan Chicago
- 2nd Place - Jackson Tennessee
- 3rd Place - Southern Maryland

The 2018 Vivien Coe Richard TTA Leadership Academy participants were recognized.

## **Plenary Session III**

Detailed financial reports were given. Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. is in good financial order.

## **Lord's Luncheon**

The Lord's paid tribute to the ladies in word and in song, as they serenaded them. The National President paid tribute to them, thanking them for all that they do, and lifted up those who had transitioned since the last Syn-Lod. She also presented them with an "official" Lord's bow tie.

## **Plenary Session IV**

Committee Reports were given. Awards were presented as follows:

### Chapter Outstanding Program of Work Scrapbook

- 1st Place - Milwaukee
- 2nd Place - Suburban Bayou
- 3rd Place - Greater Cleveland

### Chapter Outstanding Total Program

- 1st Place - Milwaukee
- 2nd Place - Suburban Bayou
- 3rd Place - Southern Maryland

### Top Lady of the Year - 2017-2018

- 1st Place - Lady Melody Coleman (West Suburban Chicago)
- 2nd Place - Lady Elmarie Brown (Dallas)

### Top Lady of the Year - 2018-2019

- 1st Place - Lady Kim Borders (Lake Houston)
- 2nd Place - Lady Loretta Gray (Greater Cleveland)
- 3rd Place - Lady Mary Louise Batiste (Carson)

### Outstanding Area Total Program

- 1st Place - Area III, Lady Mary Leach Davis, Area Director
- 2nd Place - Area II, Lady Sandra Clark, Area Director
- 3rd Place - Area I, Lady Harnell Price Williams, Area Director

The Elections Report was given and the 2019-2021 officers were as follows:

National President - Lady Sharon Beard  
National 1st Vice President - Lady Eddie Lee Marsh  
National 2nd Vice President - Lady Jackie Wilcher  
National Recording Secretary - Lady Diann Robinson  
National Financial Secretary - Lady Cheryl Williams  
National Treasurer - Lady Versonya DuPont  
National Editor of the Crown - Lady Regina Dickson  
National TTA Director - Lady Kendra Gillespie

National Area Directors were ratified as follows:

Area I – Lady Annie Mouton  
Area II – Lady Sandra Clark  
Area III – Lady Stephanie Dunn  
Area IV – Lady Adrienne Boner  
Area V – Lady Roxyanne Burrus  
Area VI – Lady Wanda Beuman

Lady Sharon made a special presentation to the National President on behalf of the "Investing Team" and Lady Drema made presentations to her Team.

Officers were installed, closing ceremony conducted, hymn sung, meeting adjourned.

## **50th Anniversary Closing Gala**

"Moonlight Serenade" opened with the requisite welcome, greetings and presentation of Mr. & Miss Top Teens followed by the presentation of ladies. Our musical guest was world renowned recording artist, Mr. Howard Hewitt. He generated much enthusiasm, energy and excitement as he sung hits from his Shalamar days as well as his current catalog.

Special presentations were made as follows:

UNCF - \$10,000 - Mr. Maurice Jenkins, Exec. VP accepting  
NCNW - \$10,000 - Dr. Thelma Daley, National Director accepting  
NAACP/WIN - \$7,500 - Mrs. Janice Mathis, Executive Director accepting (the whole NCNW team was there (Dr. Daley, David Glenn, Lady Lois Keith, and Lady Barbara Shaw)

**NOTE:** We did not give money to Sickle Cell at the conference because we had donated to them during their conference at their request.

The Ina Bolton Brown Humanitarian Award was presented to Pastor Eric Vincent Thomas who was the host chapter's nominee.

The Lady Anna Connor Kirksey Scholarship was awarded to Teen Joy Gabrielle Rhodes, Area III.

The Scholarship recipients were recognized:

### **Academic Scholarships---\$2,500 Award**

#### **Area I**

Teen Layla Morris—NonPareil Chapter  
Teen Jalen Sorrells—Trinity West Chapter  
Teen Jamier Ashley---Monroe Chapter

#### **Area II**

Teen Braelynn Braswell---Prince Georges County Chapter

#### **Area III**

Teen Joy Gabrielle Rhodes—Will County Black Diamond Chapter

#### **Area IV**

Teen Tyra Gilchrist---Miami Chapter  
Teen Deborah Uzokwe—Greater Guilford County Chapter

#### **Area V**

Teen Kirah Price ---Detroit Chapter

#### **Area VI**

Teen Abrianna Canyon---Ladera Heights Chapter

### **Technical Scholarships---\$1,500.00 Award**

#### **Area V**

Stefon Stubbs----Michigan Metro

## National Scholarship Recipient

Benecia Jackson—Raleigh Chapter in the amount of \$5,500.00. Also received the \$1,000.00 Sheraton Atlanta Hotel Scholarship.

Lady Drema recognized the Conference Chair and Co-Chairs by presenting each of them with a gift. Each of the three chapter presidents received a plaque for their chapter's stellar participation in planning Syn-Lod 2019.

Former National TTA Chaplain and 2019 Morehouse College Graduate, Josef Sorrells, paid a very motivational, inspirational and powerful tribute to the graduating seniors.

Presentations were made to Lady Drema by the Chapter President's Council, Past National Presidents, National Area Directors, The ATEAAM Team, and Lincoln Park Chicago Chapter.

Lady Drema Lee Woldman, 13th National President, gave her farewell speech thanking all for their dedication, hard work and commitment to Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and for their unwavering support of her during her tenure. She pinned Lady Sharon with the National President's pin and crowned her. Lady Audrie L. Lawton, Immediate Past/12th National President, then welcomed Lady Drema as a Past National President by pinning her and bestowing her with her PNP shawl.

Lady Sharon J. Beard, 14th National President, ascended to the highest honor in Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. with a rousing speech.

Thus ends the 2015-2019 "Investing Team" Administration.

To all who came to Atlanta to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Top Teens of America, we thank you. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity that many of you witnessed. For those of you who didn't, just know that our future is in good hands. Since 1969, we have given our all to Top Teens of America and our labor has been richly rewarded. Let us keep the light of service burning brightly for our youth who will secure our future.

### Other:

- The Founder and the National President were interviewed and videotaped. Copies will be placed on the website for all to enjoy and for posterity and will be sent to the University of Houston for the TLOD Archives.
- TLOD, Inc. was featured on the monitors at the airport on Wednesday and Thursday of the conference.
- The National President was featured in an Article on Patch.com and also was interviewed for a radio program.
- A "Top Teen to Top Lady" Book was produced showcasing Top Teens who became Top Ladies. It is attached to this email and is also on the website.
- UNCF had an award commissioned to present to the National President at the Gala but it was not completed in time, so they delivered it to her after Syn-Lod.
- Throughout the conference, we had wonderful and inspirational music. I am forever indebted to Lady Tillie Colter, Music Chairman, co-chairs - Ladies Kathy Wilson and Sheila Maddox, and all of those beautiful voices that made up the TLOD and TTA Choirs. A special thank you to Nichole Dodd for singing special requests. Thank you for 4 years of beautiful music.
- Special thanks to Lady Loretta Hoard, Awards Chair, who was instrumental in all Awards categories, not just National, but the Anna Connor Kirksey Award, The Je'Caryous Johnson Scholarship, and the TTA Alumni Awards.

- Thanks to my “special ladies”, and you know who you are, who commissioned the Lady Drema Doll. There is no better tribute. I have it as the focal point in my living room.
- Thanks to Lord Andre Young, who I have never met, and who is the newly minted Lord of Lady Carmen Kirksey Young, for painting my portrait. What a nice surprise! Hope to meet you soon.
- To all who kept me afloat and you know who you are, you have my undying gratitude and love, but Lady Natasha still gets a kidney. 😊
- To the entire Investing Team and TLOD, Inc. – I love you and ain’t nothing you can do about it!





TOP LADIES OF *Distinction*, INC.®

WELCOME  
to the 41<sup>st</sup>  
SYN-LOD  
2019

LADY  
DREMA  
LEE WOLDMAN  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT



ATLANTA  
GEORGIA





**Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.**

**Syn-Lod 2019**

**Induction Ceremony**

**and**

**Honorary Member Induction**



# Host Night







## Community Beautification











# SYN-LOD EXHIBITION

## WHAT IS THE TIME?

### How Top Ladies Change History



President's TTA Alumni Hall of Fame Reception

OF Distinction, INC.®



**LADY FRANCHELL  
BOSWELL**

**1<sup>st</sup> National President  
1964-1971**

**Highlights of Administration**

Unanimously chosen as President on June 4, 1964 in Tyler, TX. and served for seven years. Set the cornerstone for the Top Ladies during the developmental years. Held first meeting at Texas Southern College. Top Ladies was incorporated on September 8, 1964.

The first chapter was Rose City Chapter, Tyler, Texas.

TOP LADIES  
OF Distinction, INC.®



**LADY LAVERNE  
MADLOCK**

**2<sup>nd</sup> National President  
1971-1975**

**Highlights of Administration**

Emphasis of program was on "Shapers of Change: A Continuing Commitment", "Shapers of Change - A decade of Service", and Shapers of Change - A Continuous Commitment". She refined and shaped the legal structure through governance guidelines fostered member involvement. Chose four Top Teens of America, Program of Beauty and chose

TOP LADIES  
OF Distinction, INC.®



**LADY  
VIVIAN CRAWLEY**

**4<sup>th</sup> National President  
1979-1983**

**Highlights of Administration**

Emphasis was on "TLOD Shapers of Change - A Continuing Commitment". First non-Texan National President and encouraged the development of new chapters. Organization was 19 years old when she left office. Convened the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Syn-Lods. Increased the number of national scholarships awarded. Emphasized programmatic thrust that focused on family.

Inducted Rosa Parks as second Honorary Member. Importance of education and



**LADY  
JACQUELYN  
HEATH PARKER**

**6<sup>th</sup> National President  
1987-1991**

**Highlights of Administration**

Emphasis on "Orbiting Towards the 21st Century". Developed Program of Work Manual and suggested procedures. Developed Ritualistic Ceremony for Founder's Day. Planned and executed a successful 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Reestablished a TLOD store at all Area and Syn-Lod meetings. Approved the TLOD Hymn.

Dispensed the first scholarship from the Franchell Boswell Endowment Fund. Bought 5000 computer status. Completed a \$25,000 pledge to ONCE Shaped corporate funding for programs. Revised the TLOD Provincial Guide and Guidelines for Areas. Presented a TLOD Resource Directors. Added Seminars on TLOD Program. AOP at National TLOD Project. Presided at the 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of TLOD. Unveiled portraits of 12 Founders. Areas and Chapters became two-charge units.

TOP LADIES  
OF Distinction, INC.®



**LADY  
VIVIEN  
COE RICHARD**

**9<sup>th</sup> National President  
1999-2003**

**Highlights of Administration**

Emphasis on "Continuity of Total Quality Programming: TLOD.....Soaring to New Heights of Service". National Vivien Coe Richard TTA Leadership Academy. 5 STAR Chapter concept. Developed TTA commemorative calendar. Initiated 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of TLOD. Unveiled portraits of 12 Founders. Areas and Chapters became two-charge units.



**1969-2019**

LOD

# TOP LADIES OF *Distinction*, INC.®



LADY  
DREMA  
LEE WOLDMAN

13<sup>th</sup> National President  
2015-2019

## Highlights of Administration

Improved communications and processes by fully using technology via a membership management database, improved website, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, the Whova App.

Implemented the following initiatives: caregiving, clinical trials, bullying, and TLOD Wellness.

Partners included: AARP, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, National Institutes of Health, and others. Emphasis on





# TTA On-Site Project

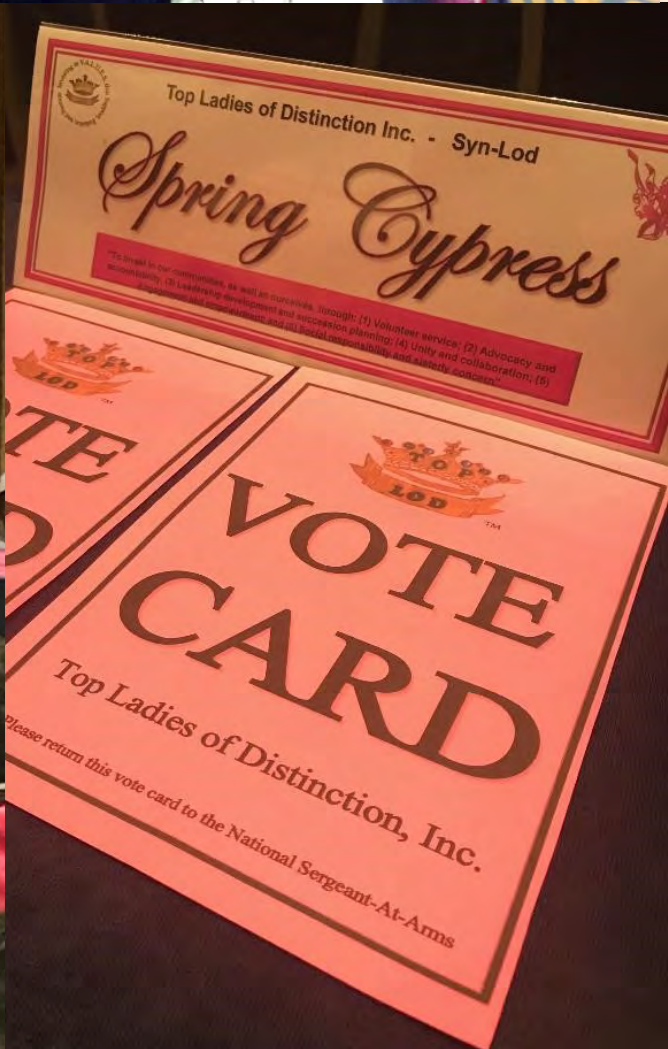












TOP LADIES OF *Distinction*, INC.®

SYN-LOD 2019

HATS

OF

*Service*

ON

PARADE



SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2019

LADY DREMA LEE WOLDMAN, NATIONAL PRESIDENT









Campaign Nook



Vote  
Lady Brenda J. Dodd  
National 2nd Vice President

A portrait of Lady Brenda J. Dodd, a smiling woman with dark hair, wearing a dark blue patterned jacket, a white pearl necklace, and a white and pink floral corsage. The portrait is framed by decorative orange and yellow flame-like borders at the top and bottom. The background is black with a red border on the right side.

*The Crown*

50<sup>TH</sup>

*Anniversary*

TTA

ALUMNI AWARDS RECEPTION



SYN-LOD 2019

SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2019

LADY DREMA LEE WOLDMAN, NATIONAL PRESIDENT

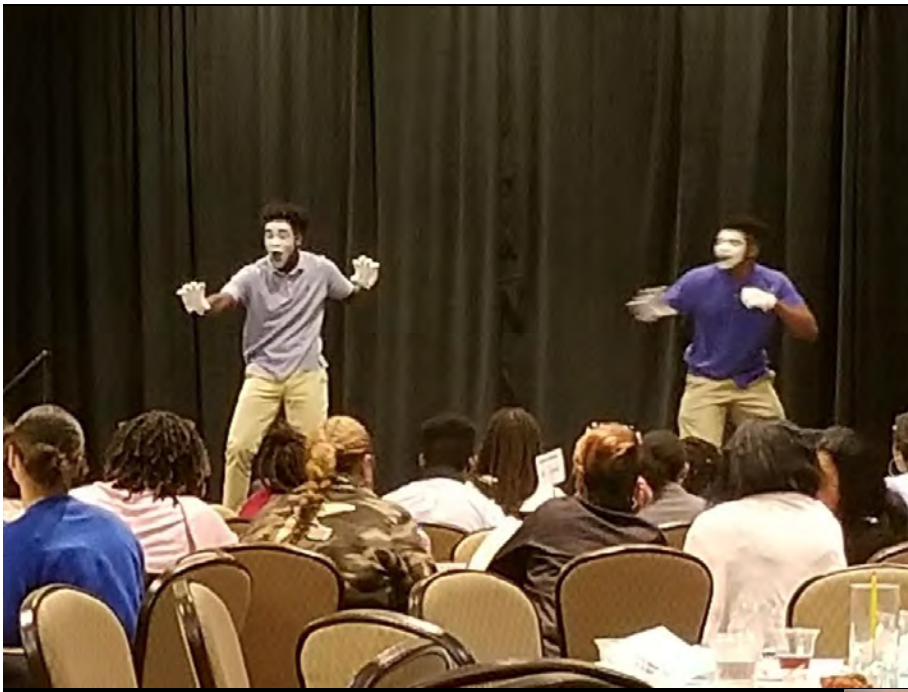






LITERACY CAFÉ





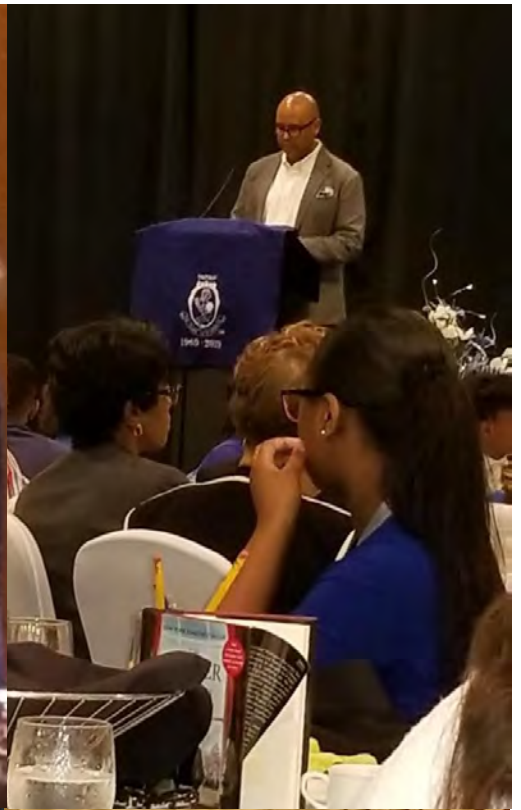
SYN-LOD 2019

# TTA RECOGNITION BREAKFAST



## WE ARE THE WORLD, WE ARE THE CHILDREN

TEEN BENJAMIN CHAPMAN, NATIONAL TTA PRESIDENT  
LADY JANICE MUNKS-SCIMMONS, NATIONAL TTA DIRECTOR  
LADY DREMA LEE WOLDMAN, NATIONAL PRESIDENT









# Appreciation Luncheon



TOP LADIES OF *Distinction*, INC.®

SYN-LOD 2019

*50th Anniversary Closing Ball*

MOONLIGHT

*Serenade*

JULY 1, 2019

LADY DREMA LEE WOLDMAN, NATIONAL PRESIDENT















Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.  
National Headquarters

2607 Prospect  
Houston, Texas 77004



# *The Crown*

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.  
2017 - 2019 Edition

