

RE-ELECT SHUANA TUCKER-SIMS

Eastern Area Director



Embracing our Legacy, Cultivating our Future



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service

A MESSAGE FROM LINK SHUANA

Dear Link Sisters,

It is with a sense of gratitude that I humbly ask for your support to re-elect me as your Eastern Area Director. Almost 75 years ago, Sarah Strickland Scott and Margaret Roselle Hawkins had a vision to create an organization with the embodiment comprised of friendship and service. These two principles are purposeful and what sets us apart from other organizations. I appreciate and understand that our rich history creates the strong legacy of our organizational existence today.

PURPOSE...

By promoting intergenerational friendship and leadership development we strengthen our ability to serve our chapters and our communities. Our service and programming must have sustainable impact on the quality of life for all. This is how we best cultivate our future and support the changing needs of our society.

PERFORMANCE...

As a proud member of the Waterbury (CT) Chapter and a twenty three (23) year member of The Links, Incorporated, the depth of my experiences programmatically and organizationally have equipped me with the requisite skills to lead this Area. During my tenure, I have served in both elected and appointed positions at the Chapter, Area and National levels. As a graduate of the Inaugural Scott-Hawkins Leadership Institute in 2006, I've remained committed to leadership development by mentoring SHLI fellows and other Link sisters in various capacities.

The Eastern Area has had a re-birth of stellar programming during the past 1.5 years under this administration. We've implemented new forward thinking programs, pivoted to virtual programming during a pandemic and have established partnerships with organizations aligned with our goals. We have focused on self-care and provided mental health resources to assist members with coping mechanisms. Our communications team uses a variety of platforms to keep all members informed and engaged, while highlighting chapter and members accomplishments. Our first virtual leadership summit had record number attendance and members were transformed with knowledge and skills to apply in this and other organizations for enhanced leadership. Finally, we've devoted time and attention to our platinum and alumna and next-gen members. They are the lifeline of our organization and we must listen to their needs so we remain viable and future focused. This is why my vision and goals for the Eastern Area remain the same and will be expanded:

- ✓ Enhanced Membership Experience
 - ✓ Wellness: Mind, Body & Spirit of Each Member
 - ✓ Global Leadership Development
- ✓ Transformational Programs & Partnerships
 - ✓ Enhanced Communications
 - ✓ Utilizing Intergenerational & Nex-Gen Thought Leaders

PASSION...

As Links, we must continue to build upon the legacy of our founders and their principles, thus sustaining our organizational viability. We are women with a purpose, exhibiting a solid track record of performance and the passion to make a difference. As candidate for Eastern Area Director I will continue to serve my area and the organization to the best of my ability and this I promise.

In Friendship, Love & Service,

Shuana Tucker-Sims



My dearest Link Sisters,

The Waterbury (CT) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated proudly endorses Link Shuana Tucker-Sims for the office of Eastern Area Director. Link Shuana is a proven thought leader, whose transformational vision has propelled the Eastern Area during these unprecedented times. Her spirit of excellence is evident in her innovative programming, her intergenerational focus, and her commitment to the power of Sisterhood.

Link Shuana began her journey in Linkdom in 1997 and throughout her 23 years of membership, she has always remained steadfast to our core values of friendship and service. At every level of our organization, Link Shuana has humbly served with integrity, authenticity, and grace. At the Chapter level, she served as Chapter President for two terms, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Program Coordinator, Services to Youth Co-Chair, and a member of the Membership and Founders Day Committees. At the Area level, in addition to serving as our current Eastern Area Director, Link Shuana served as the Eastern Area Vice Director for two terms, Eastern Area Secretary as well as the Chair of Services to Youth and the Education Linkage. On the National Level, Link Shuana served as the Assistant Director of Services to Youth and Chair of the Links to Success: Children Achieving Excellence. She is also a proud member of the Inaugural class of the Scott-Hawkins Leadership Institute.

Her Links experience is vast, and her energetic and friendly demeanor is the epitome of what it means to be a Link. She embraces everyone she meets with her genuineness and friendly nature. Over the past two years Link Shuana and her team have established several community partnerships, raised over \$175,000 for our beloved HBCU's, built STEM labs in Africa, established the Eastern Area Choristers and Emerald Dancers held the first virtual Leadership Summit and have been intentional on connecting our Alumna and Platinum members with our next generation of Link leaders. The Eastern Area's signature Green Table Talks have featured some of the most influential people in this country who provided vital information for our members and those in our communities.

With a PhD in Education Policy and serving as the Chief Talent Officer for the State of Connecticut Department of Education, Link Shuana's ability to lead and pivot to address the current realities is unparalleled. She has received numerous awards for her work and impact especially in serving the most in need.

Our Chapter's resounding support and endorsement of Link Shuana is rooted not only in our knowledge of her skills, abilities, and talents but also in our understanding of who she is as a person and as a friend. Link Shuana Tucker-Sims is the best candidate to serve as Eastern Area Director and continue the focus on Embracing Our Legacy and Cultivating Our Future.

Yours in Friendship & Service,
Adrienne Parkmond, Esq. President, Waterbury (CT) Chapter

Endorsements

EASTERN AREA DIRECTORS



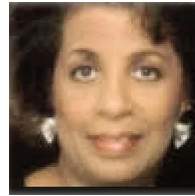
It is my pleasure to endorse Link Shuana Tucker-Sims for re-election as Eastern Area Director. During her tenure, we have experienced and engaged in innovative programming. She fully understands and values the history of The Links, Incorporated, while engaging all in a warm and sincere manner which is our legacy.

Betty King Obiajulu
*9th Eastern Area Director
The Links, Incorporated*



Link Shuana Tucker-Sims has served The Links, Incorporated on the National, Area, and Chapter levels in numerous capacities with distinction. She is organized, competent, and possesses knowledge and her term as Eastern Area Director has been outstanding! She has demonstrated her commitment to serve and work harmoniously with all Links for the success of the Eastern Area and The Links, Incorporated. I wholeheartedly support and endorse her candidacy for reelection for the position of Eastern Area Director. .

Cecelia B. Henderson
*11th Eastern Area Director
The Links, Incorporated*



O-n-c-e, t-w-i-c-e, two times the Director! Why do this a second time?

Link Shuana has demonstrated, in her first term, the skill of upholding the two tenets of The Links, Incorporated — friendship and service. As Area Director, she has provided the leadership to ensure that the Eastern Area is the presence in the country needed to support the solutions to our communities' needs. I support her desire, and I feel secure that the second time will be t-w-i-c-e as nice.

Alethia L. Spraggins, Ph.D.
*12th Eastern Area Director
The Links, Incorporated*



I strongly support and endorse Link Shuana Tucker-Sims for a second term as Eastern Area Director. Shuana's skills as a leader were evident when I selected her to serve in her first area leadership role, now two decades ago and

those skills have been further honed by her deeper experiences in The Links, Incorporated. I have been favorably impressed by Shuana's leadership skills, vision and ability to move our agenda forward as an organization. She is the model of servant leadership and she embodies the values of our beloved organization.

Joyce C. M. Lowe
*13th Eastern Area Director
The Links, Incorporated*



Link Shuana Tucker-Sims is focused, creative and committed. From her early service as her chapter's chair of Services to Youth to various national appointments, to selection for the first class of Scott-Hawkins, to her election as Area Secretary, Area Vice Director and Eastern Area Director, Link Shuana demonstrated her leadership skills and knowledge of our beloved organization. Her experience, training, ingenuity and foresight make her uniquely qualified to serve as our Eastern Area Director. It is my honor to support Link Shuana for re-election.

Bishetta D. Merritt, Ph.D.
*14th Eastern Area Director
The Links, Incorporated*



Past is Prologue. As Area Director, Link Shuana has demonstrated exemplary and innovative leadership skills during a time of considerable challenges. During our Covid-imposed distancing, she implemented the first virtual

Leadership Summit and Founders' Day Ceremony, both of which were resoundingly successful! Now more than ever, timely communications are essential. Her Green Table Talks, also a first, provide appropriate and comprehensive information regarding imperative topics. Her quarterly newsletters are not only works, of art, they contain vital programmatic, operational, and chapter specific information. Link Shuana has elevated our programs to award winning status! The stage is set for the future and for this, I whole heartedly endorse Link Shuana to serve a second term as Eastern Area Director.

Dianne Hardison Yates
*15th Eastern Area Director
The Links, Incorporated*

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS



Exemplary leadership inextricably connects passion to purpose. This candidate is prepared and poised to make us deservedly proud as she meets the membership at the heart level. Her vision for creative, responsive and

relevant programmatic engagement has proven to be legendary. Notably, each program facet has framed success and, without exception, modeled... the possible. Magnetic program initiatives include Linking to Africa, four high school STEM Labs (Monrovia Liberia), Green Table Talks (news that you can use); and an HBCU initiative that exceeded \$125,000.

Patricia Russell-McCloud, Esq.
*11th National President
The Links, Incorporated*



At the March on Washington, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke of the 'fierce urgency of now,' urging the nation to move forward together. We are again at this juncture. Our Nation and the world has seen tremendous change—the "new order" changes every day. We have redefined how we work, communicate, practice our faith and live in community. The call to service is changed by the changes in the world around us. Organized Black women's groups must do their share in helping to heal the land and relieve the suffering. The societal issues impacting states comprising our organization's Eastern Area are the same societal issues impacting the Nation in its entirety. The Links, Incorporated, needs servant leaders.

For more than 23 years, Link Shuana Tucker-Sims has served our organization in a variety of leadership roles ranging from Chapter committee chair and officer, to Eastern Area Secretary, Vice Director and Area Director. She is standing for election to a second term as Eastern Area Director. I urge your support of her candidacy. The virtual activities that have been designed and implemented under her leadership have defined the call to service in new ways that addressed structural needs, and launched transformational programs through which Links share their time, talent and resources. We must elect leaders with a cooperative spirit who will take bold action, and who exemplify a willingness to work with others to improve the common good.

Gladys Gary Vaughn, Ph.D.
*13th National President
The Links, Incorporated*



It is a pleasure to endorse Link Shuana Tucker-Sims for re-election as Eastern Area Director. A dynamic and organized leader, Link Shuana has demonstrated her ability to build a strong leadership team as well as provide excellent programming and opportunities for her members. She is a leader with vision that knows and understands the needs of the Eastern Area and above all, through her professional and career experiences, the challenges faced in our communities. Most importantly, her stewardship in all the offices she has held in our beloved organization is indicative of her commitment, loyalty and devotion to the mission of The Links, Incorporated. I am proud to support Link Shuana for re-election as Eastern Area Director. She is tested, proven and results oriented. I highly commend her candidacy to my Eastern Area Sisters.

Margot James Copeland
*15th National President
The Links, Incorporated*

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Waterbury (CT) Chapter
Inducted May 3, 1997, Old Dominion (VA) Chapter

NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES ATTENDED

2020	Virtual Assembly	2010	Detroit, MI
2018	Indianapolis, IN	2008	Seattle, WA
2016	Las Vegas, NV	2006	Philadelphia, PA
2014	National Harbor, MD	2004	Atlanta, GA
2012	Orlando, FL	2000	San Francisco, CA
		1998	Boston, MA

NAT'L LEVEL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE LINKS, INC.

2019-Present	National Executive Council Member
2019-Present	National Chapter Establishment Committee
2015-2019	National Membership Committee
2015-2019	National Ethics & Standards Committee
2008-2010	Assistant Director, Services to Youth Facet
2006-2008	National Chair, Links to Success: Children Achieving Excellence
2002-2006	Member, Services to Youth Committee
2002-2010	Governance Committee Member

AREA CONFERENCES ATTENDED

2019	Atlantic City, NJ	2011	Atlantic City, NJ
2019	Austin, TX (Western)	2009	Oklahoma City, OK (Central)
2019	Nashville, TN (Central)	2007	Arlington, VA
2017	Richmond, VA	2005	Norfolk, VA
2015	Mashantucket, CT	2003	Baltimore, MD
2013	Boston, MA		

AREA LEVEL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

2019-Present	Eastern Area Director
2015-2019	Eastern Area Vice Director
2013-2015	Eastern Area Secretary
2011-2013	Member, Awards, Rituals & Courtesies Committee
2011-2013	Member, Mental Health Initiative
2005-2006	Chair, Eastern Area Education Linkage
2003-2005	Chair, Eastern Area Services to Youth

CHAPTER LEVEL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

2009-2013	President
2013	Chair, CT Cluster Founders' Day
2008-2009	Vice President
2006-2008	Program Coordinator
2004-2006	Co-Chair, Services to Youth Facet
1998-2000	Recording Secretary



LEADERSHIP & SERVICE IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
Life Member & Silver Star
Initiated Epsilon Tau Chapter, Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA, 1989
2010-2012 North Atlantic Region, History Committee
2006-2010 North Atlantic Region, Heritage Committee
2002-2006 Mid-Atlantic Region, International Program Committee



The Girl Friends, Incorporated
Initiated New Haven Chapter, 2011
2018-Present National Librarian-Historian
2016-2018 President, New Haven Chapter
2014-2016 Vice President, New Haven Chapter
2016-2019 The Girl Friends Fund, Inc., Board Member & Assistant Secretary

Jack & Jill of America, Incorporated
Life Member & Associate Member
Initiated Northern Virginia Chapter, 2004
Graduated, New Haven, CT Chapter, 2019

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020-Present Chief Talent Officer, CT State Department of Education
New Britain, CT

EDUCATION

1997 Ph.D., Educational Policy, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
1991 MPA, Public Administration/Policy, Louisiana State University
1990 B.S. Psychology, Xavier University of Louisiana
O93 – Superintendent of Schools Certification
O92 – Administration & Supervision Certification

HONORS & AWARDS

2018 Lifetime Community Service Award, Beyond the Dream Foundation, Poughkeepsie Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated
2018 25 Most Influential Blacks in New Britain, CT, The New Britain NAACP
2018 100 Most Influential Blacks in Connecticut, The CT State Conference of the NAACP Branches
2015 National Congress of Black Women Inc., Leadership Award, Waterbury Chapter
2015 100 Most Influential Blacks in Connecticut, The CT State Conference of the NAACP Branches
2012 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Educational Advancement Foundation, North Atlantic Region, "Salute to Excellence Award" for Service to the Community & Promoting the Values of Lifelong Learning,



FAMILY
Married to Connecting Link John P. Sims
Mother of Heir-O-Link Evan J. Battiste