



“A Mind for Business and a Heart for Service”



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service
Western Area

A Call To Action

NEWS ALERT AND CALL TO ACTION FOR ALL WESTERN AREA LINKED ADVOCATES...

Who are “Linked Advocates”...? Links who are concerned, aware and involved in activities and programs designed to improve the quality of life for the African American Community.

What do “Linked Advocates” do...? Advocate, educate and track information relevant to the protection of laws which insure we have the right to vote and have access to education, housing, health care, and full employment (equal citizenship).

Why do we need “Linked Advocates”...? We need to restore the protections of the Voting Rights Act, and look, too, at the disparate impact of policies that don’t seem to be directly about voting and recognize them for what they are, actions to limit voting access in the poorest communities, communities of color.

A CALL TO ACTION... In a democracy, few rights are as cherished as the right to vote. In the United States, African Americans and Latinos find that the more they demonstrate their civic responsibility by voting, the more obstacles surface designed to break the power of their votes. Voter ID Laws require State identification documents, and African American and Latino voters are negatively impacted due to possession of the required ID at lower rates than whites (both adults and Young voters).

“Another example of a major obstacle is the current Supreme Court case, *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*, in the debate between individuals and geography. Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, requires states with a history of racially discriminatory voting practices receive federal clearances before changing electoral laws. If changes to section 5 are successful, Texas and other states currently subject to section 5, a large number of people of color will feel the negative consequences of new electoral laws. Keeping Section 5 in place will continue to help guard against attempts to limit the influence of people of color on Election Day” (*America’s Wire*, by Maynard Institute for Journalism Education).

Western Area Links - GET OUT THE VOTE

The WA National Trends and Services Facet would like to encourage each Linked Advocate to participate in the “**GET OUT THE VOTE**” initiative. We would like for you to encourage as many people as possible to vote on November 3rd. We would like to more specifically ask that you contact no fewer than 10 people to go vote. You can do this by doing one or all of the following:

Contact at least 10 family members, friends or co-workers by text, phone or email to encourage them to vote on November 3rd.

Go to the poll with a group of people

Offer rides to people you know who have no transportation, or ride to the polls.

As the Western Area Emerald Advocate, I will collect the number of contacts to “Get Out the Vote” per chapter by December 1, 2015, so we can document full participation from our Chapters. Our Western Area Goal is to have touched a minimum of 15,000 people to “**GET OUT THE VOTE.**”

We also encourage you to take and submit photos of you **GETTING OUT THE VOTE** with members of your community.

In closing, I would like to thank Link Alane Lillie, WA National Trends Chair, and the Texas Spring Cypress Chapter for their innovative concept to document participation in the “**GET OUT THE VOTE**” effort.

Linked Advocates: Be Aware, Concerned and Involved “**GET OUT THE VOTE**”

It has been a pleasure to communicate with you during this Action Activity of our voyage. I wish you continued safe travels as we implement a “Mind for Business and a Heart for Service”.

Your Emerald Advocate... *Link Debbi Beavers-Watford*
Chair, Legislative Issues