



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service
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The Emerald News

LINK PAULETTE REDDICK TURNER, EDITOR

Volume 1, Number 1
May 2018

Spotlight on Link Dionne Phillips Bagsby

Elegant, eloquent, exquisite, extraordinary...these words describe Alumna and Platinum member, Dionne Phillips Bagsby. Link Dionne, now celebrating her 46th year in Linkdom, was invited to become a member of the Fort Worth Chapter of The Links, Incorporated in 1972.



Dionne did not know anyone in Fort Worth before she and her family moved to Texas. She became fast friends with a neighbor, Barbara Williams, who was a Link. In sharing her story, Link Dionne reminisced about the day she received the letter of invitation to the Links. She was delighted and wanted to talk about the invitation with another neighborhood friend to learn if she also had been invited; but of course, she couldn't. When the two friends eventually learned they were both invited, they were overjoyed...Link sisters and friends for life.

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Stellar Career as Public Servant

Link Dionne was an educator by profession and training and a community activist, who helped others run successful political campaigns. Then in 1988, she was asked to run for the office of Tarrant County Commissioner. She won that election and became the first person of color and first woman to be elected to the role in Tarrant County, Texas. She served the community well as County Commissioner and retired from public service in 2004. Though retired, Link Dionne continues to be involved as a prominent citizen of the City of Fort Worth. She has received numerous awards for her service to the community. Over the years she has served on a number of

boards, including the United Way of Tarrant County, Jubilee Theater, Fort Worth Symphony, Presbyterian Night Shelter, Advocacy for Women and Children and Read Fort Worth. Her values and beliefs are expressed best by one of her favorite Scriptures: For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more. Luke 12:48.

Linkdom: Like Mother, Like Daughter

Linkdom is a constant in Link Dionne's life. She knew about the organization before she became a Link because her Godmother was a Link. She recalled that when she became a Link, the women in the organization were all married to men who were prominent leaders in the community. Over the years, she has served her chapter as President, Treasurer, Financial Secretary and on numerous committees. She attained Platinum status in 2016.



Link Dionne's daughter, although a "Daddy's Girl, is truly a mini-me." And she shares her mother's name. Link Dionne wanted to name her daughter Sydney Lyzell, but her husband would not hear of it, saying, "That's my child: I've already named her!" The name he had chosen was Dionne Ann, naming his daughter after her mother and grandmother. In 2000, Link Dionne welcomed her daughter, Dionne Ann, into the Links' circle of friendship.

Link Dionne expressed surprise that Dionne Ann wanted to be a Link. The DOL said, “I’d been a Link all my life.” Because Link Dionne has no natural sisters, Links served as Dionne Ann’s appointed Godmother and surrogate aunts. Indeed, she had been with the Links all her life, making it easy to follow in her mother’s footsteps.



Link Dionne Ann talked about how her mother sometimes sets the table, just because. Link Dionne loves the finer things of life: music, china, crystal,

exquisite artwork, and it all shows in her beautiful home. A collection of Black Lladro angels occupies a special place in her dining room.



Precious Memories

“There are so many times I’ve been proud to be a Link,” said Link Dionne before sharing about a memorable occasion during a National Assembly. A Link member received a call mid-morning from Jamaica. They had a disease outbreak and had run out of hospital beds, medical supplies, etc. They needed sheets, medicine, other supplies. Before the night was finished, sheets and other items were packed and taken to the airport to be flown to Jamaica. Link Dionne said that was one memory she will never forget.



Inductions are another memorable occasion for Link

Dionne. She talked about the fresh, smart, talented young women who become members and how proud they make her feel, knowing that they can continue the legacy of friendship and service.

She also talked about how proud she is when chapters pay for college for young people who are talented and smart but have no funding for higher education. “They become our friends and we, their mentors. When they come home for breaks, we welcome them into our homes. It makes me proud.”

Words of Wisdom

Link Dionne offered the following advice for 21st century Links:

- Find opportunities to become friends
- Spend more time fellowshiping with each other
- Have shorter meetings that move faster
- Allow time for a “linking” good time together!
- Remember, The Links, Incorporated was founded on friendship.

SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY GEORGE GORDON BYRON

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that’s best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes:
Thus mellowed to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impaired the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,
Or softly lightens o’er her face’
Where thoughts serenely sweet express
How pure, how dear their dwelling place.

And on that cheek, and o’er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent!