

The



CONNECTION

Newsletter

January 31 2025 Vol 12 : Issue | #2|

Inside the issue

This year's convention theme encourages us to break boundaries and redefine our limits. As we gather insights and inspirations from our community, we are reminded of the power of collective ambition and courage. This issue is packed with stories of individuals and chapters who dared to dream beyond the ordinary, transforming challenges into opportunities. From innovative events to team journeys, each narrative echoes our shared commitment to progress and excellence. Join us as we embark on this bold adventure together, inspiring each other to reach new heights and create lasting impact.



Charmettes: "Going Big, Being Bold, and Moving Beyond" isn't just the theme for our National Convention; it's a guiding mantra for 2025.



Explore the activities your Charmette sisters are engaged in throughout the country and learn about the thrilling events our board participated in with our national affiliate, NCNW.

Sneak a peek at the behind-the-scenes magic of this year's National Convention preplanning extravaganza!



Discover how you can assist in promoting our amazing organization by joining in on First Friday fashions, sharing social media mentions, and engaging in other activities.



Experience teamwork in action through our NCNW Initiatives.



Explore our available sponsorship opportunities.



The President's Message

THE CONNECTION
NEWSLETTER

◆
31 Jan 2025

NCNW
Highlights

69th National
Convention
Sneek Peek

Avenues for
Sponsorship
and Promotion

Charmette:
In the Spotlight

Chapter
Highlights



CECILY ROBINSON-DUFFIE



Happy New Year, my beloved Charmette sisters! I hope that you have had a tremendous holiday season with family and loved ones and that you are excited to return to the rigor of community service to which we are committed.

Despite the unanticipated snowy winter which many of our chapters are experiencing, our organization has warmly welcomed more than 50 new members during the past few months, including several ladies under the age of 40. Theneophytes include scientists, content creators, federal employees, and all of the conceivable career-women in between, and we are ecstatic to welcome them into our fold. The future of our organization becomes brighter as we continue to grow and expand, both in our traditional regions, and into the uncharted territories out west.

Going west is exactly what our Convention Planning Committee has recently done. Seven committee members recently spent several days in Dallas diligently scouting out the territory for our convention attendees.


The committee has embraced the theme: "Charmettes: Going Big, Being Bold, Moving Beyond" and is committed to delivering the "Everything is Bigger in Texas" experience. Registrants should expect a huge hotel, gigantic programming, and mammoth memories for Charmettes, Charmers, and Camp Charm participants, alike. We will be commencing our Convention activities on Juneteenth and intend to embrace the iconic opportunity to celebrate this grand jubilee on the sacred ground of its initiation -- and with the holiday's founders. Congratulations to all of our chapters who have supported our Anti-Human Trafficking and Good Health WINs programming. Your events have included participation in Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parades, virtual seminars, and presentations at churches, parks, and other public spaces. You have graciously carried the mantra of ensuring the health of our communities, and we could not be more proud of you. Because of you, our neighborhoods are safer and stronger.

As we look forward to our springtime Mental Health Awareness outreach programs, you are reminded to take time to share strategies within your chapter which will assist our Charmette sisters in maintaining our own mental health.

Our Charmette family is also eagerly anticipating the month of February when we will celebrate the greatest gift of all – the gift of love. News of your upcoming "Galentines" celebrations, worship services, chapter brunches, and Post-Holiday parties continue to pour in, and I wish you a month full of friendship, affection, and fondness from start to finish.

I conclude these greetings with a challenge. You are encouraged to capture as many photos as possible over the next several events and to share them to your social media and your chapter's website. We are our organization's greatest cheerleaders, so don't be afraid to lift your megaphone and let the world know of the excellent accomplishments which we have made. Remember to share your "First Friday" photos to our National Reporter and your chapter's social media.

Cecily Robinson-Duffie, Esq.



SISTERS Magazine is Now Available!

SISTERS

NCNW Paints Baltimore **PURPLE: The 61st National Convention at a Glance**

VOLUME XV | WINTER 2024

NCNW
Commitment. Unity. Self-Reliance.

[View the Magazine Here!](#)

Sister's Magazine

National President Cecily Robinson-Duffie was recently featured in the newly launched SISTERS magazine by NCNW. She shared the spotlight with National Chair Dr. Lois A. Keith, President and CEO Rev. Shavon L. Arline-Bradley, and fellow Co-Tri-chairs during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for NCNW's 61st National Convention!



NCNW Washington, DC

In the last quarter, National President Cecily Robinson-Duffie represented The Charmettes, Inc., as a NCNW National Affiliate at a White House convening focused on evaluating the role of community partnerships in enhancing public health communications and advancing health equity. She is seen here alongside National NCNW Chair Dr. Lois A. Keith. What an incredible opportunity for our organization!



A Few Notes To Remember

- The Charmettes Incorporated is a National Affiliate of NCNW.
- Charmettes are encouraged to seek membership in a local NCNW Chapter.
- Stay in tune with NCNW publications to see how you can play a part in helping advocate for women and their communities!





NCNW GOOD HEALTH WINS

Since 2022, National Financial Secretary Janice Williams has served as an ambassador for The Charmettes Inc., representing the NCNW Good Health WINS initiative. Good Health WINS advocates for education and the significance of immunizations.

Additionally, NCNW has allocated grant funding to local Charmette Chapters that participated in this mission by offering information and materials at various health fairs and events to create a meaningful, positive impact on community health!



Volunteer Spotlight

The Charmettes Inc, NCNW Good Health WINS ambassador is National Financial Secretary, Charmette Janice Williams

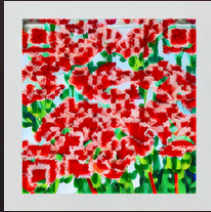
Charmette Williams makes it a priority to attend all scheduled Good Health WINS meetings on behalf of the organization. She also serves as a liaison to the Chapters, ensuring they receive their grant funding on a quarterly basis.

Let's take a moment to appreciate her continued efforts and recognize her for a job well done!



Good Health WINS National Project Manager Synovia Moss is pictured above along with NCNW affiliates below. Ms. Moss has been a presenter at two Charmette National Conventions.





National *Convention*

**CHARMETTES:
GOING BIG, BEING
BOLD, AND
MOVING BEYOND**

Scan the QR code or [Click HERE](#) to discover how you can support our 69th Annual Convention and The Charmettes Inc. organization!

Our 69th National Convention theme, which embodies being big, being bold, and moving beyond, is not just a statement; it's a guiding principle. The Executive Board Convention Preplanning Committee has been diligently working in Dallas, Texas, to organize impressive activities that reflect the grandeur of the State known for its size!



Our 69th National Convention Preplanning Committee, pictured from left to right:

- National Financial Secretary: Janice Williams
- National Vice-President: Wanza Sermons-Lee
- National Executive Director: Catherine Lewis
- National Reporter and 69th Convention Co-Chair: Angela Douglas
- National Parliamentarian and 69th Convention Chair: Sala Powell-Dabney
- National President: Cecily Robinson-Duffie
- National Treasurer: Leila Bailus



National Convention: A Sneek Peek



Our Convention Planning Committee rolled up their sleeves over the weekend of January 23-26, crafting the most epic Dallas convention ever! With locations and activities that scream Big, Bold, and Beyond, get ready for some noteworthy sights! But don't be fooled—it wasn't just all work and no play! The committee members also squeezed in some fun and fellowship to keep the good vibes rolling.





Support and Promote

THE CHARMETTES, INC.

FIRST FRIDAYS!

Attention Charmettes! 🌟 Get out your fabulous Charmette gear and strut your stuff on the First Friday of every month, kicking off on November 1st! Let's become our own hype squad, sparking chatter about our amazing sisterhood and spreading the love throughout the community! 💖🌟



Whether you're wandering through the city or navigating corporate America, wear your Charmette gear with pride!



NATIONAL WEBSITE: WWW.THECHARMETTESINC.ORG

The Charmettes, Inc.
 officialcharmettesinc



SEND YOUR FIRST FRIDAY PICS FOR A CHANCE TO BE FEATURED ON OUR NATIONAL WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES!

Email: Reporter@thecharmettesinc.org

MEET THE CHARMETTES!

WANT TO INFORM OTHERS ABOUT THE CHARMETTES? HAVE THEM SCAN THIS QR CODE ➡



SCAN OR CODE for The Charmettes, Inc. National Website



Join us in promoting our fantastic organization by participating in our First Friday Fashion Edits each month! The featured fashions are prominently showcased on our National Website and social media platforms. To enhance our reach, consider sharing it on your own social media channels and initiating conversations. Unsure of what to say? Encourage others to scan the QR code to learn more about The Charmettes, Incorporated.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Charmettes in The Spotlight



**CHARMETTE
PALARA RUFUS**

This quarter's Spotlight shines on our talented, under 40, Charmette Palara Rufus, from the Memphis Metropolitan Chapter. Palara received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Mississippi State University and Masters of Business Administration from Union University. She was recently promoted to Senior Director of Global Distribution at Hamilton Beach on October 1, 2024.

In her role, she oversees global distribution teams located in Byhalia (MS), Mexico, Canada, Belgium, and China. Her main focus is to enhance their global distribution operational strategy. Reporting to the VP of Global Supply Chain Operations, she joined Hamilton Beach in September 2021.

We are immensely proud of Charmette Palara and all that she has accomplished. Since becoming a Charmette in 2021, she has dedicated herself as a Chair of the Memphis Metropolitan Chapter's Cancer Event Brunch and Mentoring Committee. She also served as one of the inaugural Pages of the 67th National Convention, her first Charmette convention. Let's all extend our congratulations to Charmette Palara!



Chapter

HIGHLIGHTS



This quarter, our Charmettes Chapters have been actively engaged in a variety of community events and projects, demonstrating just how big, bold, and impactful they can be.

From organizing local clean-up drives to hosting educational workshops, the chapters have made significant contributions to the communities they serve.

Additionally, the chapters have been instrumental in supporting local charities through fundraising events, which not only provided much-needed resources but also fostered a spirit of unity and cooperation.

These efforts have not only made a positive difference in the lives of many but have also strengthened the bonds within our Charmette family, proving that together, we can achieve remarkable things.



MARION COUNTY

CHAPTER



THANKSGIVING BASKET GIVEAWAY

The Marion County chapter of Charm's Inc. had a bustling fall season filled with community service initiatives. They participated in a wide range of activities, including a cancer awareness program, providing support to the Salvation Army, organizing Thanksgiving basket giveaways, and hosting successful yard sales.

CANCER AWARENESS PROGRAM



SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS



YARD SALE FOR CANCER





LEON COUNTY CHAPTER



LEON COUNTY VOLUNTEERS FOR TREE OF REMEMBRANCE

We know for many this time of year can be hard to celebrate for those who have lost loved ones. Our Chapter partnered with Big Bend Hospice to honor loved ones who are fondly remembered. Lovely ornaments, from angels to bells and crystal crosses, were placed on a giant tree near the food court of the Governor Square Mall.





LEON COUNTY CHAPTER



LEON COUNTY RECOGNIZED A COMMUNITY TOY DRIVE

For many years, our members have joined several organizations, community leaders and others in providing hundreds of gifts in a toy drive sponsored by Leon County School Board Member Darryl Jones. This year was special since our Chapter was recognized with the Anita Favors Award, in honor of Tallahassee's longest serving and first Black women to serve as city manager.



LEON COUNTY DEBUTANTES WRAP PRESENTS FOR CHRISTMAS SEASON

It was truly a grand time to gather for a Team Building Workshop and Christmas Social. Our debutantes and members had a great getting to know each other. Best is yet to come!

DEBUTANTES GET GREAT TIPS DURING TEAM BUILDING WORKSHOP AND CHRISTMAS SOCIAL





TREASURE COAST CHAPTER



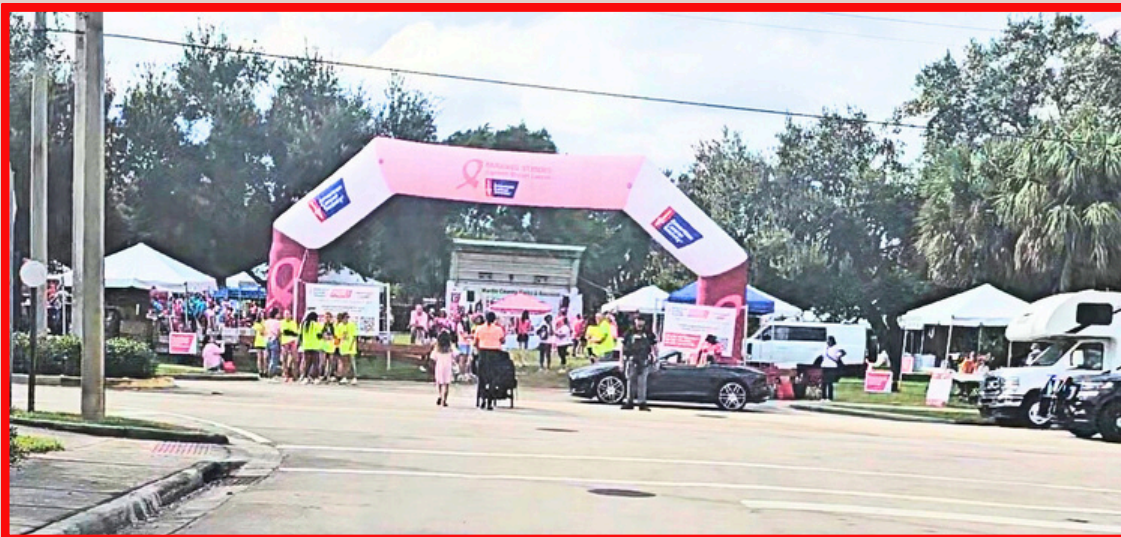
TREASURE COAST PRAYER BREAKFAST

On October 19, 2024, the Treasure Coast chapter hosted a prayer breakfast featuring the inspiring Dr. Bonnie Hill as the keynote speaker. She delivered a powerful message that resonated with everyone present.





TREASURE COAST CHAPTER



TREASURE COAST CHAPTER BREAST CANCER WALK

On October 26, 2024, Charmettes Brunson, McNiesh, and Williams-Johnson participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk, successfully raising over \$300!



TREASURE COAST MEMBERS ATTEND BREAST CANCER SERVICE

On October 27, 2024 our members participated in breast cancer service at greater Mount Pleasant Primitive Baptist Church. A wonderful message was received.



ATLANTA METROPOLITAN CHAPTER



ATLANTA METROPOLITAN CHAPTER BREAST CANCER WALK

The Atlanta Metropolitan Charmettes have been busy making a difference in our community. We participated in a breast cancer awareness walk, demonstrating our commitment to advocacy and support.



ATLANTA METROPOLITAN CHAPTER'S HOLIDAY GIVING

During the holiday season, we provided two Thanksgiving baskets to local families in need and initiated a Christmas gift program by Charmette sisters, Charmette CoMarkco and Charmette Samiya, to deliver presents to children in need.



ATLANTA METROPOLOITAN CHAPTER



ATLANTA METROPOLITAN CHAPTER'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Atlanta Metropolitan Chapter concluded the year with a joyful Christmas celebration at the Perfect Note Bistro, reinforcing our sisterhood. Through acts of service and camaraderie, we persist in making a significant difference in our community.



MEMPHIS METROPOLITAN CHAPTER



MEMPHIS METROPOLITAN CHAPTER CHARMSGIVING

In November, the Memphis Metropolitan chapter marked its first Charmsgiving, providing sisters with an opportunity to reconnect, enjoy playful activities, scrumptious foods, and exchange gifts. It was a delightful experience for everyone involved.





MEMPHIS METROPOLITAN

CHAPTER



The Memphis Metropolitan chapter mourns the loss of their beloved Charmette sister and Chapter Secretary Julia Earle Williamson, who was laid to rest on January 22, 2025. May she rest in peace and remain forever in our hearts.



MEMPHIS METROPOLITAN HOMELESS BAGS



The Memphis Metropolitan Chapter put together homeless bags filled with gloves, hats, scarves, toiletries, bottled water, and snacks. Memphis Metropolitan members then delivered the bags at the Union Mission, providing essential support to members of the community in need.

The



CONNECTION

Newsletter

*Stay
Tuned*

We are eagerly looking forward to seeing you in Dallas as we strive to plan for the best convention! At the Convention Preplanning Meeting, our Convention Chair, Sala Powell-Dabney, arrived without her luggage and her treasured camera, which she uses to capture her amazing photos; both were still in Washington, D.C. However, she persevered, purchasing new clothes and supplies. To our delight and her relief, her luggage arrived the next day. Below, you can see Charmette Sala with her newly delivered bag!



SALA POWELL-DABNEY
NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARIAN
69TH CONVENTION CHAIR



ANGELA DOUGLAS
NATIONAL REPORTER
69TH CONVENTION CO-CHAIR

Thank you for taking the time to read The Connection Newsletter, your source for important updates about our amazing organization and sisterhood. Do you have a story you'd like to share for our upcoming issue? Feel free to contact me at reporter@thecharmesttesinc.org!