

Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced.

~James Baldwin~

March 10, 2025

Greetings,

It gives me immense pleasure to extend greetings on behalf of the Southern Area of The Links, Incorporated on the 2025 Georgia Links Day at the Capitol. This annual event offers an opportunity for us to use our collective voices to advocate on behalf of the communities we serve. As members of The Links, Incorporated, we are on the forefront in responding to the multifaceted needs of persons of African ancestry, and how those needs interconnect with issues and policy making.

We must advocate in support of issues and the implementation of policies and legislation that can impact social changes for all communities. The choices we make as informed and active citizens shape the course of our future. It is vital for us to be not just observers but active participants in the civic conversations around us. Our communities need us. The future depends on us. Let us rise to the occasion, for we are the change-makers, the dreamers, and the doers. And in the end, we will stand together, proud of the legacy we have built, and confident in the brighter future we have forged.

Although the list of topics can be exhaustive, during the Georgia Links Day at the Capitol, we want politicians to hear the voices of our members and be enlightened on the importance of topics such as food insecurity, HBCU Land Grant Funding, redistricting, maternal health, and education. It is my wish that the urgency in our voices during our LDAC will galvanize our elected leaders and spur them into action. We must continue **Raising Our Collective Engagement through Advocacy, Education and Training,** and remind them that the members of the Southern Area of The Links, Incorporated, are to be watched, not ignored.

I hope you enjoy the events planned for you and the fellowship amongst the membership as we continue to serve as a catalyst for change. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the 2025 Georgia Links Day at the Capitol.

Good luck and much success.

Leading With Intentional Friendship & Service, Vanessa Falls Vanessa Falls Southern Area Director