



November 2023
Volume 1, Issue 3

Message From The President



Greetings to TLOD Ladies,

Welcome to the November 2023 issue of The Orchard.

I am pleased to share that I attended Parliament-Top 2023 in Atlanta Georgia, October 13-15. All attendees were invited to participate in most of the activities/ meetings/ workshops offered. It was both an enlightening time and a time to share camaraderie with the Ladies. I strongly recommend that you try to attend the next retreat. I promise you will not regret your decision.

At the North Carolina/South Carolina Area Cluster Retreat, we inducted three new ladies into our chapter. Please join me welcoming our newest members, Lady Charlene Armstrong,

Lady Channelle James and Lady Kelly Thompson. We look forward to working together with these Ladies.

Guilford County Top Ladies have been exemplifying continuity in service. Our chapter collaborated with the Eta Omicron Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority to host a virtual Voting 101 seminar. The presenters included Dr. Elma Hairston, president of the High Point NAACP; Carolyn Bunker, from the Guilford County Board of Elections; and Mitzi Turner, Political Action Committee Chair, High Point NAACP. We would like to thank all Ladies who attended the seminar. Thank you, Lady Cynthia Thompson, for an excellent job of working to organize this event. We **must continue** to invoke our democracy's sacred right to vote.

Please be sure to read through the entire issue of The Orchard. There are announcements on page six and a message on page seven from National. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the November 12th meeting.

Yours in sisterhood, service, and love,

Lady Gloria Jackson



Lady Charlene Armstrong



Lady Channelle James



Lady Kelly Thompson

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SPIRITUAL CORNER



Spending Time



The word *spend* is often used in association with money. This is true even within the dictionary, as the noun for spending means “money or financial resources expended by a person, group, or government.”

However, today, I want us to focus on the word *spend* in its verb form, which means “to use up or payout.”

As women, mothers, sisters, wives, and aunties, we spend a lot of time on things that help others in one way or another. I want us to focus on Proverbs 3:6: “In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success.”

I can attest that in every aspect of our being as a mother, sister, wife, or auntie, we want our efforts to be successful. With that in mind, I want to encourage those of us who are living in such a busy world to focus on the end result of our efforts to be successful. More importantly, we must be centered on the right priorities by choosing better strategies and placing daily obligations in the hands of the One who created us. Our objective must always be that God is our motivation and inspiration in what we do for ourselves, our families, and within our sisterhood.

Carl Sandbury said, “Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you.”

My challenge for all of us is to let God be the financial planner of how we will spend our coin-called “time.”

Peace and Blessings,

Lady Faye McRavion, Chaplain

This Month’s Prayer: *Dear Lord, let Your priorities be my priorities. Let Your will be my will. Let Your Word be my guide, and let me grow in faith and in wisdom this day and every day. Amen*



Guilford County Chapter

“Making a Difference, One Person at a Time”



Lady Gloria Jackson & National Area IV Director, Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson



Ladies Fran Caraway, Cynthia Thompson, Gloria Jackson, Melanie Hampton, & Tonya Stokes

The Guilford County Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction was well-represented at the Area IV Cluster Retreat. Lady Jacqueline White did an outstanding job introducing the TLOD National Program: Continuity of Service in Action. Our chapter participated in workshops and forums with many learning and social opportunities. Guilford County Chapter received the following awards at the retreat in Columbia, South Carolina:

- ◆ **Area Director’s Continuity Recognition Award**
- ◆ **Dorothy Buckhanon Wilson Shining Brightly Award**
- ◆ **Area IV—We Love Our Top Teens Award**
- ◆ **Area IV—Serious About Programming Award**

Other North Carolina/South Carolina Cluster Highlights

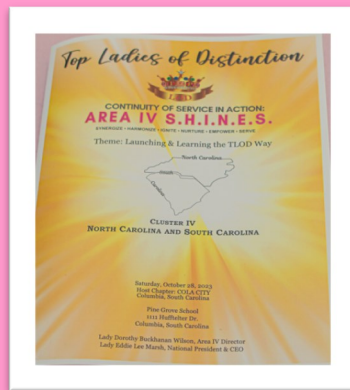




Guilford County Chapter attendees at the Cluster.

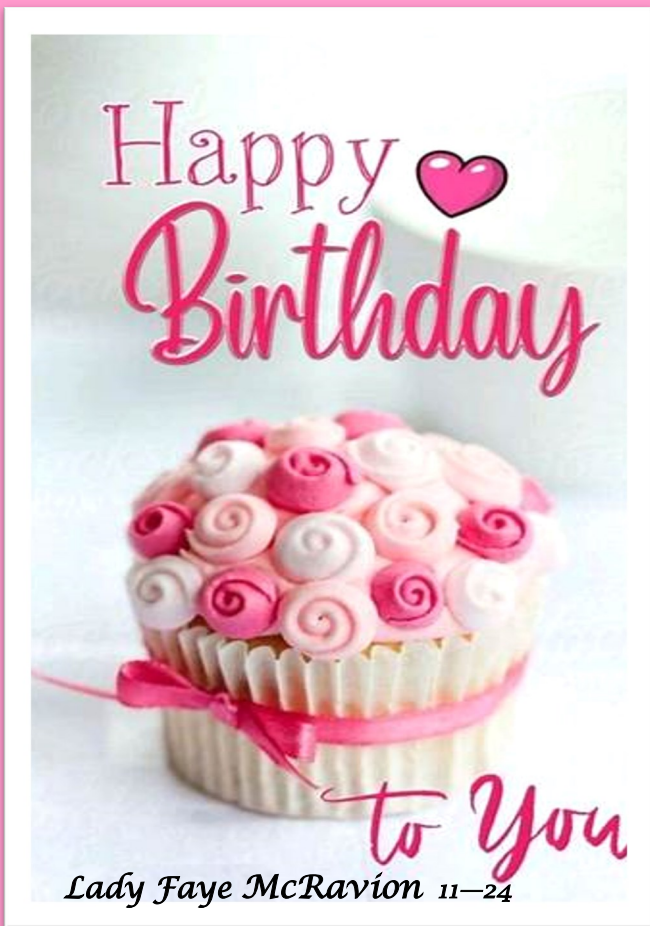
Pictured left to Right Front Row: Ladies Kelly Thompson, (New Inductee) Channelle James, (New Inductee) Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, Area IV Director, Gloria Jackson, Chapter President, and Charlene Armstrong. (New Inductee)

Pictured Left to Right Back Row: Ladies, Melanie Hampton, Jacqueline White, Tonya Stokes, Cynthia Carlton Thompson, and Francesca Caraway.



Class of 2023 New Inductees with Area IV Director, Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson (Front Row Center)

Announcements



I am excited to announce that Lady Tonya Stokes will be serving on the New Members Council for Area IV.

American Diabetes Month

OUR NEXT
MEETING

The Griffin Recreation Center
5301 Hilltop Road
Jamestown, NC 27282
November 12, 2023, 3:30 pm



Warm Blankets for Warriors

We are asking Ladies and Teens to bring blankets for our Sickle Cell Awareness signature project. We will be collecting blanks during the months of November and December.

****Please consider bringing a blanket to our November meeting.**

Alzheimers Disease Month

MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL

Top Ladies and Top Teens:

As announced during Parliamen-Top, Sickle Cell Awareness is our signature project for the ACTION Administration. Throughout the year, you will continue to hear about our Sickle Cell initiatives and ACTION you can take to educate, advocate and support. Let's get ready for the holidays!

NATIONAL HOLIDAY WARM BLANKET DRIVE Warm blankets are desired items for Sickle Cell patients (aka "Warriors"), and we are asking ALL chapters to donate blankets to our Warriors this holiday season during the months of November and December. Connect with your local sickle partner/hospital/clinic, determine their needs, and donate blankets. **Report all warm blanket donations in the [Post Event Evaluation & Report Form](#).**

"BUILDING BRIDGES" CAMPAIGN We are accepting donations throughout the year to reach our \$50K fundraising goal. To date, we have reached 35% of our goal. As a reminder, funds from this campaign will be used to support local Sickle Cell partners through small grants. In support of this new initiative, members are asked to donate funds, ask others to donate, and share the grant application (available in January) with your local Sickle Cell partner. All donations are tax-deductible. **To donate, capture the QR code located on the attached flyer.**

For inquiries or additional information, see your Area Sickle Cell Chair or email sicklecellawareness@tlod-inc.org.

Yours in ACTION,

Lady Cherisse Johnson, National Sickle Cell Chair

Lady Christine Harrell, National Sickle Cell Co-Chair

Lady Kendra C. Gillespie, National Second Vice President

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. • Top Teens of America
National Sickle Cell Awareness Committee
presents:

WARM BLANKETS for Warriors

NOVEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2023

The National Sickle Cell Awareness Committee is asking chapters to donate to sickle cell patients at local hospitals/clinics during the November & December. Please document your chapter participation through the Post Event Evaluation Form electronically at: <https://forms.gle/7otXC77iaFmvFers8>

For more information contact Lady Cherisse Johnson, National Sickle Cell Chair at: sicklecellawareness@tlodinc.org

Click on the QR code to give to our "Building Bridges" fund used to support our local Sickle Cell partners.

