



# The Connection

## The Charmettes, Incorporated Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 2, March 2020

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# The President's Message



Greetings Charmette Sisters:

As we enter into the Spring season of the year many of our planned activities have been cancelled, postponed or changed by realities beyond our control. Still the work that our chapters have successfully completed has had impact on the lives of many, and we celebrate that work in this issue of the Connection.

Each day we hear additional information concerning the novel coronavirus COVID-19. Your health and well-being is top priority for us. We know these are challenging times as the novel coronavirus COVID-19 begins to impact our daily lives. Please adhere to the advice from national, local and state health officials, especially the recommendation that we not participate in face-to-face meetings with more than 10 persons for the next eight weeks. These are uncharted waters and the reality is we can only be helpful to others if we are healthy and productive ourselves. This is a situation that changes each day and we must be willing to embrace the new information as we move forward.

We continue to move forward with our plans for the 2020 Convention. The planning committee met in Los Angeles, CA in January and created an extraordinary weekend of fun and excitement for our Convention in June. Registration and information materials have been sent to each Chapter and I encourage members to review the package as soon as possible. While our registration is open we continue to adhere to national advice on meetings and we will review all options available to us, as we know them.

We are working on a different presentation of our chapter and organizational history and on our chapter bylaws. We are also looking at way to expand our reach and we have had conversation with a group in LA that has expressed an interest and desire to join The Charmettes, Incorporated, giving us the possibility for a West Coast connection. More information will be available at our Convention. Additionally, we are working on modifications and variations to our website to allow chapter payments online and other enhancements to link individual chapter websites to the national website. We will keep you informed as logistics and procedures have been tested and finalized.

To the many chapters that submitted your productive and exciting news, we thank you. All the more reason to embrace our Motto: **“Charm Is The Essence Of A Woman’s Power.”**

Sisterly,

*Catherine D. Lewis*

National President

## Information from Alachua County

### THE ALACHUA COUNTY CHAPTER "RECLAMATION GATHERING" AND "MEET AND GREET"

Former active members of The Alachua County Chapter of The Charmettes, Incorporated were cordially invited to a delicious dinner on September 29, 2019 at the Cotton Club Museum in Gainesville, Florida in the afternoon to socialize and reflect on the past and share suggestions for the future. The emphasis of this event was to convey our love for our "inactive" sisters, and to welcome them back to serve as active members. We appreciate their support with our endeavors as we continue to make a positive difference in our communities.

The chapter held a "Meet and Greet" for select ladies of interest during the later portion of the afternoon. Socialization, dinner, and the presentations of our local and national projects, and of course the history of The Charmettes, Incorporated highlighted the afternoon.



# Information from Duval County

## *The Charmettes, Inc. of Duval County present*

### *“100 Women in Pink”*



On, Sunday, October 18 th, 2019, The Charmettes, Inc. of Duval County, celebrated its 100 Women in Pink gala. The annual event is organized by the chapter and draws in the most honorable speakers and guests, all adorned in their pink regalia. Our guest speaker this year was Carlotta Guyton, who gave an encouraging parlance about cancer awareness & prevention and her personal journey therewith.



Guests were treated to an evening of personal testimony, education, and dinner. This ceremony is highly informative about the research that is needed in order to aggressively seek a cure for this disease. This annual event is praised by local community leaders , as well as, supports the chapter in their efforts to educate, relate, and strive for a cure. We look forward to seeing you next year!



# Happy Thanksgiving

The Charmettes, Inc. Duval County Chapter



On November 26, 2019, the Duval County chapter of The Charmettes, Inc. , set out on their annual Thanksgiving Dinner with the residents of a local assisted living facility. Each member brings a home cooked traditional thanksgiving dish and serve the residents, who've been looking forward to this celebration all year.

There was a collective prayer and the feast began. There was good food, music, laughter and the hunger for seconds everywhere. We look forward to our next Thanksgiving Celebration.



## Information from Leon County

As 2019 ended, members of the Leon County Chapter found time to seal the decade with community service and a season of gift giving with cancer-awareness activities and donation drives.

In November, members gathered for our annual Women of Faith Praying for a Cure luncheon. This year's theme had a festive twist as members and guests wore paraphernalia celebrating their college alma mater. Go Rattlers! Go Seminoles!



We also stood shoulder to shoulder with scores of Tallahassee residents, braving North Florida's night chill, and taking part in the annual, Light the Night walk. The international event, hosted by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, assembles more than one million people at 140 walks in the United States and Canada to honor loved ones and strangers affected by cancer.





In November, we also participated in the annual Tree of Remembrance event. It's a beautiful gesture, where loved ones who passed away are honored with a donation ornament placed on the holiday tree. The event is hosted annually by Big Bend Hospice.

In December, we got our rock on at the Riley House Rock-A-Thon fundraiser for one of our most treasured museums devoted to local African American history. Each participating group sponsors and decorates a rocking chair and rocks the time away in a fun, music-filled event.



Lastly, the Chapter was blessed to bring smiles to the faces of young children during the holiday season. We adopted a family during the holidays and gifted Oak Ridge Elementary School with \$500 worth of brand new books. The book donation was especially touching because the children were so thrilled to receive them, not just toys for the holidays.



## Information from Memphis Metropolitan

The Charmettes Memphis Metropolitan Chapter held their Annual Prayer Brunch on April 6, 2019. It was a phenomenal day filled with enlightenment, embrace, and encouragement. The theme was "Women of Faith Praying for a Cure." President Joyce Walker and Dr. Forestene London presented Cancer Survivors in a Fashion Show with long stemmed roses. Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris was in attendance to expound upon the growth of our city. Vendors were onsite that included photography, accessories, apparel and pastries.

Our focus going forward is with charisma; ignite a devotion for helping and supporting others, continue the hope for a cure of cancer, cultivate knowledge for ourselves to be shared with others and connect with our inner self.



Memphis Metropolitan Chapter President Joyce Walker presenting a rose to one of the honored Cancer Survivors at the Prayer Brunch April 2019. Each honoree in the Fashion Show was escorted down a runway while their name was acknowledged and history recited.



Dr. Forestene London of The Memphis Metropolitan Chapter presenting a rose to one of the Cancer Survivors.



Cancer Survivor being escorted at The Memphis Metropolitan Prayer Bruch April 2019.

## Amped and Open Handed

The Memphis Metropolitan Chapter was grateful for the opportunity to have served the homeless community during this winter. Our belief is not based on “The poor you have with you always”, but that in the kingdom of God the truly great people are those who serve others. We strive to magnify this with a serving heart full of humility and compassion.

On January 25, 2020, the Memphis Metropolitan Chapter’s community service project consisted of delivering care packages to the homeless. The recipients were pleasantly surprised with generous donations of new shoes, hat, gloves, blankets, scarves, toiletries, beverages and snacks. These confident women, battled the elements to share this generosity with open hearts and open hands. As with every city, Memphis strives to find ways to service the many different facets of homelessness;

1. Those lacking a fixed residence
2. Individual on the cusp of losing their fixed residence
3. Runaways and unsupervised youths under the age of 25
4. Those fleeing from domestic violence

As we continue our focus on a resolution to help such a crisis, it is the Memphis Metropolitan Charmette Chapters’ belief that it takes generosity and action.



Present in attendance from left to right: President Joyce Walker, Kathryn Crossley, Julia Williamson, Dr. Angela Douglas, Barbara Earle, Pam Hines, Demerice Rufus, Andrea Earle and Tomonsa Mckinney

## Information from North Carolina

The North Carolina Chapter inducted 2 new members in December. We are glad to welcome these sisters into The Charmettes, Inc.



Left to Right: Valjeaner Ford (New member), Janice Smith Coaxum (Vice-President), Wiletta Monroe Sawyer (New member) and Ruth Terrell (President)



At the December meeting, we also celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> rotation around the sun of Charmette Delma Brown.

# Information from Palm Beach

## ***Palm Beach County "Mother" Chapter of The Charmettes, Inc. Pheonomal Women - That's Us***



On October 5, 2019, the Palm Beach County Chapter of The Charmettes, Inc., celebrated **Share the Love** for July, August and September Birthdays at **"The Teapot Treasures"** in Juno Beach, Florida



Charmettes sitting: Michelle Voce, President Audre'L Davis-Jones, Barbara Wilson, Marian Stubbs, Latricia Donley, Charmettes standing: Patricia Howard, Roslyn Siders (Chairperson), Keturah Howard, Leola Horton, Charete Hudnell-Plummer, Latoya Wilson Ann McCurdy, Sharon Woods, and lola Mosley

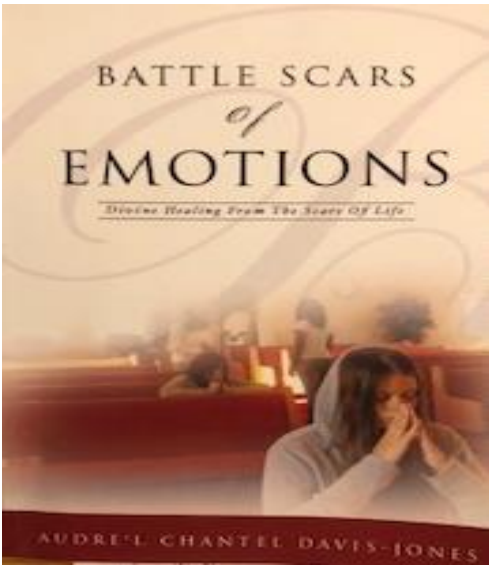
At the Share the Love event we celebrated:



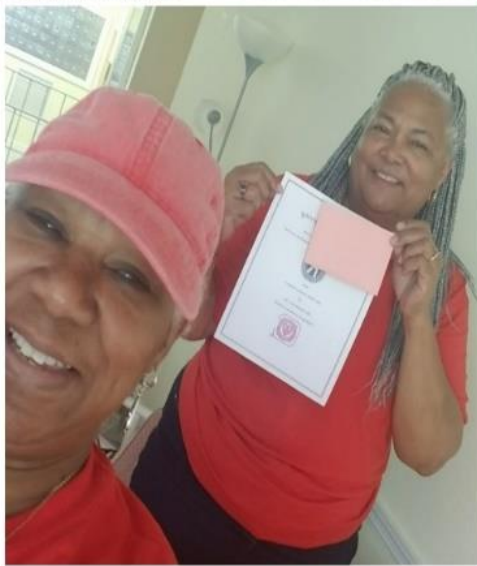
Charmettes Keturah Howard, Roslyn Siders, Leola Horton, Marian Stubbs, President Audre'L Davis-Jones, Cherete Hudnell-Plummer and Ann McCurdy



On October 26, 2019, the Palm Beach County Chapter of The Charmettes, Inc., President Audre'L Davis-Jones presented her book "Battle Scars of Emotions" at a Domestic Violence Workshop at St. Peters CME Church, in Jensen Beach, Florida



**Palm Beach County Chapter of The Charmettes, Inc.  
2019 Thanksgiving Give-Away**



**On December 6, 2019,  
The Palm Beach County Chapter of The Charmettes, Inc.,  
Celebrated Share the Love birthday for Charmettes Patricia Howard,  
Michele Voce, and Jacqueline Bostic**



On December 14, 2019, Charmette Cherete Hudnell-Plummer graduated from CTW International Fellowship of Chaplaincy and received her Chaplain License. Congratulation Charmette Cherete Hudnell- Plummer !



## CTW International Fellowship of Chaplaincy



### 2019 Graduation

Come Join CTW Saturday December 14, 2019 @ 5:00 pm for our 5th Chaplain School Graduation.

2708 N. Australian Ave. Ste. 13  
West Palm Beach, FL 33407

CTW International Fellowship of Chaplaincy is a non-profit organization, providing training, recognition, certification and information in the emergency services area of chaplaincy. We interface with both the secular and ministry worlds for the purpose of promoting tolerance and understanding, as well as, provide professional, trained and dedicated chaplains in the various fields of need. As our duty and an actual mandate from God, CTW's purpose is to "Train (and equip) the saints (the body of Christ) for the work of the ministry"



## Information from St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler

The St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler Chapter of the Charmettes held a very successful "Fighting for A Cure" garage sale. Charmette Pat Robinson organized and the Charmette members donated items and participated with the sale. We had a great time selling and socializing with ourselves and our fantastic customers.



The SJPF Chapter of the Charmettes hosted their annual "Women In Red" luncheon at the Hilton Garden Inn, Palm Coast, Fla. Saturday Feb. 8th, 2020. Our Wonderful speaker was Reverend Kenya Lovell, Chaplain at Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach, Fla. Her topic was taken from Mark 4:38 "Who is in the boat with you?" A wonderful time was had by all that attended. A huge thanks to the planning committee. Our theme for the luncheon was "Women of Faith, Praying for a Cure. Faith Over Fear".



The SJPF Charmettes 1st Annual "Bowties and Pearls Ball" held on Dec 28th was a huge success. This was a formal affair and was well attended. The event was held at the Ravine Gardens in Palatka, Fla. Everyone enjoyed themselves. The men participated in the Best Bowtie contest which was won by Charmer Daryl Polite. Charmette Eveyln Vazquez was a fantastic hostess. Door prizes were won and a delicious meal was served and enjoyed by everyone.





Our own Charmette Ethel R. McNeil was honored on MLK Day Breakfast on Jan. 20th.  
The write up on her was this:

Ms. Ethel Reed McNeil, the daughter of the late Fred and Odessa Kemp and reared by the late Edward and Annie Bell Singleton, is a retired educator of the St. Johns County School District and hails from the great city of Hastings, Fl.

She received her Bachelor of Science (Cum Laude) from Edward Waters College in 1966, M. Ed. (With Honors) from Florida A & M University in 1972 and her Administrative Supervision Certification from the University of North Florida in 1977. Ms. McNeil is a native and graduate of the St. Johns County School District where she was the Salutatorian of the class of 1961 from Walter E. Harris High School. Upon graduation she obtained an English teaching position at her Alma Mater, Walter E. Harris High School. In 1977, Ms. McNeil obtained a leadership position at Hastings High School and later became the principal until her retirement in 2003. While serving as an educator in St. Johns County, Ms. McNeil received numerous awards but most importantly she was the first woman to be appointed Secondary Prinipalship in St. Johns County. She was also recognized as an Outstanding Educator of America, Teacher of the Year (Hastings High School) and Who's Who and Why of Successful Florida Women. She also was the first principal in St. Johns County Public Schools to initiate school uniforms.

Ms. McNeil has held many positions in the community. She is a faithful member of the Lord's Temple City of Refuge where her pastor is Bishop Thomas Cave III. She is also a member of the St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler County Chapter of the Charmettes, Inc. , a non-profit focused on cancer research, where she has held several leadership positions both nationally and locally-most notably that of National President 1995-1997.

In October 2019, the Palatka Daily News featured Ms. McNeil for overcoming adversity. The article led with "Ethel Reed McNeil believes God sustained her being a child who wasn't supposed to live beyond 13 years to living her life today at age 75". In 2003, she was diagnosed with renal cancer and received a kidney transplant.

Charmette McNeil and the organization promotes early detection and screening. Charmettes members adopted a national campaign to eradicate cancer in their lifetime. Ms. McNeil is pictured with her family on her very special day.



Charmette Willie M. Willis-Steward was honored as "10 Who Make A Difference in St. Johns County". Mrs. Willis-Steward was honored because of her need to pay her experience forward. She stated that she had her parents and several mentors when she was growing up that instilled in her to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you". One of eight children, Willis was the eldest. Her father demanded that his daughters get an education. All three went to college. After obtaining her bachelor's degree at Florida Memorial College (University) and a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of North Fla. she began her teaching degree in Broward County. She then returned to her native St. Johns County with her two boys and taught at Hastings Elementary, Hastings Elementary/Middle School and South Woods Elementary. She has made a difference to the youth of Hastings by enriching the lives of at-risk children and has done so in numerous ways, including Tech Wizards, a Hastings program which she over saw four years ago for about 20 children. The program included everything from making crafts to planning trips. The latter was a unique experience for many of those 20 children because some had never been outside of Hastings. She was also a key player in implementing a reading program for Title I schools in St. Johns County, which improved reading skills for K-5th grade students and sponsors 19 members of the 4-H Club in Hastings, TOTS-Teenagers of Tomorrow Succeeding. Charmette Willis's advice to others who want to get involved: "Look around. There's work to be done". She also wants people to pay it forward like she has. "What I've done for you, pass it on and do it for others," she said. As to whether she's made a difference, she has seen changes in attitude for many of the young people with whom she's come in contact. And she keeps in touch with them. She is truly One Who Make's a Difference in St. Johns County.

**Note from the Reporter:** Thank you very much for reading this issue of The Connection. In the next issue, we will have more highlights from our Chapters. If you would like to submit information to be included in an issue, you can email me at [charmetteadrienne@gmail.com](mailto:charmetteadrienne@gmail.com) by the following deadlines: For the January Issue, January 5<sup>th</sup>; April Issue, March 25<sup>th</sup>; July Issue, June 25<sup>th</sup>; and for the October Issue, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you again and have a wonderful day.