



SOUTH SUBURBAN CHICAGO CHAPTER *Newsletter*

- President's
Note
- JJSSCC
Welcomes
11
New
Moms!
- Mother
of
the
Year
2018
- Leader
of
the
Year
- Fathers
of
the
Year
- New
Transitions
-
2018
Teen
Graduation
and
Bridging
Ceremony
- Congrats
to
the
New
Teen

Executive
Board

■ Protocol
Pointers

■ Kudos
Corner

May 2018

President's Note

Dear Moms:

Overwhelmed! Over-planned!
Overworked! Over-Stressed!
Under-appreciated! Can you
relate? Welcome to modern day
motherhood.



This Mother's Day I am reflecting on being tired. It's a good tired. I am running with my family and seeing my children develop. It is amazing, fun, and tiring. So, thank goodness for Mother's Day. I do take just a minute out of my crazy life to enjoy that I am Mommy. I hope you do as well.

Closing out April, our Seniors "Bridged" out of Jack and Jill while the 8th crossed over to teen group. We were riveted by the Legislative event "Teach us all." It is my vote for a legislative award.

May has already been an eventful month. We had very moving experiences celebrating the anniversary of The Birmingham Children's March for Black Family Day. Bravo to the committee for bringing a local experience to rival that of the National Event. We had our last meeting of the year ending the first year of this administration. It has been a very eye-opening ride. We initiated eleven new and excited members as we rededicated ourselves to the chapter.

And finally...we began our bittersweet farewells to our graduating seniors and moms. Sandy Gibson-Davis has been a quiet if not steady presence for over 10 years, while Michelle Clark will leave us the legacy to "Aspire Higher." Congratulations and don't let us miss you too much!

We are a Five Star Chapter and we are completing our Five Star submission. If you get a request for information from Chair Nikki Wilson please respond ASAP. I'm including a link to the Financial Assessment Survey. We need 100% cooperation. [Click here to access the survey](#)

Coming up:

- Registration for the 80th National Convention is now open. You don't want to miss it. <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=279517&>
- Chapter Workday Friday June 9th. This is a required event. It also counts in your meeting requirement.
- Teen Conference June 21 – 24, Detroit
- Mother's Workday Cluster October 12-13, Minneapolis

On Fire for South Suburban,

Dr. Tonya Coats,
President

Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated
South Suburban Chicago Chapter

JJSSCC Welcomes 11 New Moms!

On May 11, 2018, JJSSCC welcomed 11 new mothers into the chapter! We are so excited to share in the sisterhood and to meet all of the new children who will be enjoying and learning in our FIVE STAR activities each month!



Top Row, From Left: Linah Alsberry, Marianne Powell, Mariba Woods, Lisa Sheppard; Bottom Row, From Left: Stephanie Pearson-Davis, Kari McKee, Michelle Lee, Nicole Mathis, Ashonta Akiwowo, Leslie Kimmons, Nicole Aldridge

We've met the moms and read their "official" bios but here is a FUN FACT about each of our new members:

Ashonta Akiwowo - "I played field hockey in high school and I make a Zuppa Toscana soup much better than Olive Garden ever can!"

Linah Alsberry - "I am currently training for the Chicago Marathon...for the second time...because I didn't learn my lesson the first time!"

Nicole Aldridge - "I love playing tennis! I think in a couple of months I could beat Serena--or, at least, Venus:-)!"

Leslie Kimmons - "I make a fabulous mojito!"

Michelle Lee - "I love taking baths that last at least an hour!"

Nicole Mathis - "I never liked or ate chocolate until I turned 37."

Karimiah McKee - "I love good wine and will travel far for it. If not Napa, then I'll rent a limo bus and plan an annual ladies wine trip to Michigan or Illinois wine fest."

Stephanie Pearson-Davis - "I have my own blog" ([Choose You for You](#))

Marianne Powell - "I love finding new recipes and cooking them!"

Lisa Sheppard - "I love to make things beautiful. People, spaces, places. Makeover, decor, etc."

Mariba Woods - "I love yoga. Sign me up anytime!"

Mother of the Year 2018



*Kim Mitchell with 2017 Mother of the Year,
Daleta Mitchell*

Mother Member Kimberly Mitchell is our chapter's tech guru! She is the fearless Chair of the Technology Committee and makes sure that our website, social media and online communications are seamless and stylish. In addition to her technological savvy, she is a talented photographer who makes all of our events look as fabulous in print as they are in person. She is very involved and invested in designing with creative activities for her children's (Gregory and Kathleen) groups! CONGRATS KIM!

Leader of the Year



JJSSCC honored Mother Member, Michelle Hemp-Anderson, with the distinction of Leader of the Year. Michelle spearheaded all of the chapter's community service initiatives for several years. She has fostered our ongoing partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Ford Heights and truly embodies of the giving spirit of Jack and Jill. Congrats and thank you for your service to our chapter and to our communities.

Fathers of the Year

This year, TWO amazing dads earned the title of Father of the Year! Congrats Vincent Payne and Marcus Lyke! Thank you for all of your hard work on behalf of our chapter. We love our Jac Pac dads!





New Transitions - 2018 Teen Graduation and Bridging Ceremony



New Members of the Teen Group

JJSSCC's annual "Graduation and Bridging" ceremony was a heartfelt experience for the moms of teens who will be attending college this fall. It was also a moving moment for the moms of current 8th graders who will be leaving Group 5 and officially entering the Teen Group (and the "real" teenage years). We are so incredibly proud of our chapter children and know that there are many more accomplishments to come.

Congrats to the New Teen Executive Board



On May 12, 2018 JJSSCC's Teen Executive Board was officially installed. They all look forward to serving in their new leadership roles!

Malaika Stokes - President

Robert Coats - Vice President

Winston Pauling - Recording Secretary

Jori Williams - Corresponding Secretary

Kennedy Coats - Treasurer

Trenton Lyke - Journalist/Historian

Protocol Pointers



Protocol Chair, Candace Tyndall

Each newsletter will feature special write-up from Protocol Chair Candace Tyndall - this month's Protocol Pointer is **Special Event Invitations**

All national and regional officers must receive an invitation to all public JJ events (Fundraiser, Jack and Jill Day, Black Family Day, any event to which guests are invited)

If your budget cannot support paying for the National Officers or Regional Director, you must clearly mark the invitation as F.Y.I. (For Your Information)

An FYI Invitation is a courtesy notification only

A Complimentary Invitation" must be marked as "Complimentary"

* This indicates that the chapter or entity hosting the event will assume all expenses

Complimentary invitations may be made via telephone by Chapter President, and then followed up in the form of a letter on chapter stationary. The letter should be inserted with a general invitation for the event so all parties involved will have the pertinent information.

* Complimentary includes cost of event, Transportation and Hotel Accommodations

Kudos Corner - Mom's Edition

Nichole Patton--appointed judge

Badia Legardy- published new book

Do you have information or news to share with our chapter?

If you'd like to contribute to the monthly JJSSCC newsletter, please send your information to editor@jackandjillsscc.com.

Missed a newsletter? Archived newsletters can be found [here](#) in the Members Only Section of our website.



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