Go to New Heights of Service

Report of National Program Coordinators

Soaring to New HEIGHTS of Service

- **Health** --------------------------------------------- Gemme Linda Overby, Oxford
  Due to illness, Gemme Linda Overby was unable to attend and present her report. In lieu of her report, Gemme Shirline Johnson asked members to stand and tell the members what their individual chapters did in support of the Health.

The following chapters submitted reports:

  **Northern Virginia Chapter (NOVA)** reported: October 1 – October 31 in recognition and support of breast cancer the chapter members signed-up as PINK Warriors to raise awareness members posted pictures (selfies) and items that reflected PINK for the cause.

  Gemme Desiree Alleyne raised funds and walked in American Cancer Society – Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk held October 3, 2016 completing the 5 K walk in Washington DC.

  Gemme Cecilia Bridges completed all 39 miles of the Avon walk for the cure Gemme Cecilia and her team raised significant funds for the cause over the 3-day event.

  Gemme Desiree Alleyne along with co-workers participated in the American Heart Association Heart Walk Nov 5, 2016 in Washington DC.

  **Washington, D. C. Chapter** - Commemorated Breast Cancer Awareness month by sharing breast health and mammogram tips to women, demonstrating how to conduct self-breast exams, and sharing important steps to find breast problems early.

- **Education/Economics** ----------------------------- Gemme Charlina Hadi, Elizabeth River
  Gemme Charlina Hadi reported the following from reports she received:

  **Atlanta Chapter** - Worked with the homeless;

  **Baltimore** - Has a scholarship which is pending for a student for the fall;

  **Baltimore County** – 9/16 – Chapter awarded one individual $1,000 scholarship based on chapter applications and $1,000 to Morgan State University for
distribution under Les Gemmes name. 10/16 – Members visited High Schools and contacted Guidance Counselors to offer scholarships for 12th graders going into college
10/16 – Guest Speaker from Morgan State University advised Baltimore County Gemmes on process for establishing an Endowment Scholarship, as well as individual scholarships for first year students
11/16 – Chapter provided Thanksgiving Dinner for 2 families at All Saints Lutheran Church
12/16 – Gemmes did Christmas shopping for 12 children

**Capital Metro Area Chapter (CMAC)** – Members were involved in leadership and group activities within their chapter to organize a leadership workshop; they also worked with young girls about various issues in sex trafficking

**Chesapeake Chapter** – Members hosted a back to school workshop

**Norfolk chapter** – Members mentored students at Norview Middle School

**Northern Virginia (NOVA)** - members support the children at New Hope’s Reading connection by providing dinner for the children on a bi-monthly basis. The children who are residents of the homeless shelter gather once a week for homework support and are provided books. NOVA Chapter provided Giant Grocery Gift Cards and Walmart Gift Card for the Residents at the Moloch Home in Alexandria VA – Total amount of the donation October – December $500. NOVA members participated in a Women’s finance workshop in Arlington, VA advice was provided for first time homebuyers and overall financial literacy

Gemme Laura Brooks coordinates the collection of used hair products from the members and distributes the products to the Northern Virginia Family Services Organization. Intra-Organization Programs & Activities NOVA members and friends supported the 2nd Annual Giving Hope breakfast.

**Portsmouth Chapter** - was involved in autism and breast cancer awareness and had workshops and able to get information out to the community; Elizabeth River Chapter – gave out (800) back to school backpacks and partnered with other organizations and churches at the Boys and Girls Club and gave them out to the children while having a field day with health screens, and workshop for education;

**Suffolk Chapter** – Worked with middle school children by mentoring, tutoring and chaperoning field trips as well as giving out scholarships to two students
Tar River – Their education initiative involved adopting a class

Virginia Beach Chapter - Financed two students to go to Washington, D. C. to visit the newly opened National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Washington, D. C. Chapter - The Washington, D.C. Chapter, Les Gemmes, Inc. awards an annual scholarship. The purpose of our scholarship program is to assist graduating high school seniors who have been accepted into an institution of higher learning (two or four-year college or university, technical school, secretarial school, or other accredited institution) and/or college students who are currently enrolled in an accredited institution (as previously described), to continue their education. The “Florence Easley Building a Brighter Future Scholarship” is awarded annually. The award amount is $1,500. We are currently accepting applications and the deadline is April 30, 2017.

In addition to the Florence Easley Building a Brighter Future Scholarship, they also award a $200 book scholarship under our “Yvonne Neal Friendly Touch Program”. In an effort to keep in touch with previous scholarship recipients, the Washington, D.C. Chapter instituted this program designed to encourage prior scholarship recipients to continue to excel in school and provide monetary support. This award is given annually to our past scholarship recipients who remain in good academic standing and are still enrolled in an accredited institution of higher learning.

The Washington, D. C. chapter also hosted a Pre-Holiday Denim and Diamond Dance in December 2016 to raise funds to support our scholarship program. They are also planning a crab feast August 12, 2017 with proceeds supporting their scholarship program.

Intra-Org. Programs ---------------------------------------------------------Gemme Shirline Johnson

Gemme Shirline Johnson spoke to some of the past national presidents about how to work with the member in regards to Personal growth and enhancement activities, how to set up a variety of on-technical training experiences in order to help members become aware and qualified for various positions within Les Gemmes organization.

The following chapters submitted reports:

Baltimore County Chapter - 10/16 – Political Presence Committee presented information re: volunteering to assist with voting process – including ensuring people know where to vote and assisting elderly with transport; 11/16 – Baltimore Co Civic Projects Committee researched and provided a list of service opportunities. Members selected several projects including- MD Food Bank,
Beans and Bread, All Saints Lutheran Church, INNterim House; 11/16 – Membership Committee held first New Member interest Group Meeting; 12/16 – Baltimore Co Gemmes Christmas Celebration

**Girls Mentoring Program**  
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**Gemmie Shirline Johnson**

In the absence of Gemme LaRita Primrose, Gemme Shirline Johnson presented what was received from the different chapters.

The following chapters submitted reports:

**Baltimore County Chapter** - 10/16 – Gwencilla Program transferred to provide services at Arlington Elementary School. The committee meets twice a month with sixth grade girls, workshops included self-esteem, bullying, career paths, cultural experiences are also provided.

**Northern Virginia Chapter** partnered with G.I.R.L. Inc. NOVA members support and mentor these Middle School age students on several initiatives, activities routinely involve career day and special fundraising drives. Additionally, the chapter members provide monetary donations to ensure that the girls meet set goals during the year.

Gemme Denise Mackie-Smith volunteer to deliver American Girl Dolls to Girls at the Annandale HS Holiday Bazaar – over 50 dolls were donated.

**Washington, D. C. Chapter** - Members presented Dr. Cheryl Franklin, Principal and her assistant Mrs. Crowder with school uniform shirts and underwear for students at Robert R. Gray Elementary School in Capitol Heights, Maryland. Robert Gray is a National Title I Distinguished School serving low-income families in the surrounding area and nearby Shepherd's Cove Shelter. The shelter provides emergency and transitional shelter for homeless women and children. Dr. Franklin and Mrs. Crowder commented, "Many families are unable to provide their children with proper attire for school which becomes a distraction for learning. We are grateful to you for thinking of our school, families, and students. We appreciate your generous donation."

The Washington, D.C. Chapter volunteered at P.I.T.S Sports Fifth Annual Winter Classic - Secret Santa Program. The purpose of the event is to provide for families in the DMV and help them for the holidays. Please visit their webpage at www.pitssports.org. They are doing wonderful things in the community.
• **Honors**  ------------------------------------------------------------- Gemme Yolanda Jones

The following chapters submitted reports:

**Baltimore County Chapter** - 10/16 Health Committee created a PINtrest page “Healthy Vibes” with healthy inspirations and ideas; 10/16 – 12/16 Health Committee sent out monthly blogs with information and challenges

**Northern Virginia Chapter** - Gemme Jovon Gerald received Motivator of the Month Award; Gemme Maude Holt received leadership Award; Gemme Cecelia Bridges was recognized for 20 years of service with the US Government

**Washington, D. C. Chapter** - Gemme Tanya Ransom received the Federal Technology Transfer Award for her outstanding work in cancer drug research development.

• **Technology**  ------------------------------------------------------------- Gemme Germain Tyer

Gemme Germain Tyer stated that the purpose of the Technology Program was to introduce techniques and business processes utilized to enhance our organization’s visibility and efficiency resulting in membership growth, donations, partnerships with other non-profits and general awareness of charitable work accomplishments. The following are ways to accomplish this. Use tools such as Facebook, calling posts, conference calls texting, marketing and email.

The following chapters submitted reports:

**Baltimore County Chapter** - 9/16 – Gemmes received car magnets to make the chapter's name visible as we drive around; 9/16 – 12/16 – The chapter routinely utilizes email, calling post, conference calls for communications.

**Northern Virginia Chapter** – Reported that their Chapter’s Facebook (Public) Page have recorded of 200 Likes, Comments and or Shares to our postings. Our page is frequently visited and is an essential part of our outreach to the community.
NOVA Chapter Private Group Page is used to communicate internal information to chapter members; the page supports our directory, files, pictures, survey’s and meeting minutes and events.
All members post activities on a weekly basis which is essential to providing members with the latest all members in the know
The following chapters submitted reports:

**Baltimore County Chapter** - 11/16 – Gemmes assisted elderly with transportation to vote

**Northern Virginia Chapter** - Gemme Denise Mackie-Smith regularly delivers meals to senior residents and shut-in in the Arlington and Alexandria Area. Gemme Denise Mackie-Smith volunteers weekly at the Administrative Offices of Volunteer Fairfax and serves the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Gemme Denise Mackie-Smith is a Panelist with the RSVP Foundational Partners Alexandria and Arlington Virginia the panel is responsible for recommendation which directly impact services for Seniors. Gemme Denise Mackie-Smith is a Community Ambassador for New Hope Housing.

Gemme Rose Skinner bakes cakes for the residents of the Mount Vernon, VA Senior Home.

**Washington, D. C. Chapter** – Chapter members assembled and donated Easter baskets to Seniors at the Golden Age Adult Medical Day Center and Gracie's Place Assistant Living in April 2017.

Members of the Washington, D.C. Chapter’s Community Service Committee took cupcakes to the Joseph A. Gilmore Adult Daycare for the seniors to enjoy on Valentine’s Day.