

Building A Healthy Legacy:

Our Prescription for the Future

RITUALS MATTER

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Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service

AGENDA



- Introductions
- Purpose
- Why Rituals?
- What Changed? ~ Revised Manual Updates Chapter Anniversary Ceremony
- The Chapter Driven Ceremonies
- Check Your Inventory
- This and That
- Q & A

INTRODUCTION

The Links, Incorporated is an organization founded on **“friendship and service”**. The rituals and ceremonies are our formal practices to recognize, embrace and bond the membership in friendship. Our rituals ensure that the membership ceremonies have uniformity, a sense of purpose, respect and reverence for the ideals of The Links, Incorporated and a dedication to community services. The ceremonies are steeped in tradition and cultivate membership loyalty and commitment to The Links, Incorporated.

Excerpt from 2008 The Links, Incorporated Rituals Manual



PURPOSE

The purpose of this presentation is to provide members of The Links, Incorporated, an opportunity to gain further knowledge of our rituals and ceremonies. We also want to highlight the changes to the rituals manual so that we are all on one accord and using the most up to date guidelines.



WHY RITUALS?

Ritual – Definition

Free Dictionary – a ceremony in which the actions and wording follow a prescribed form and order
Vocabulary.com – a ritual is a ceremony or action performed in a customary way

Examples of rituals:

- Wedding ceremony (cultural)
- Baptism (religious)
- Shaking hands when you greet someone (social)

Rituals provide uniformity and commonality

Jumping the Broom



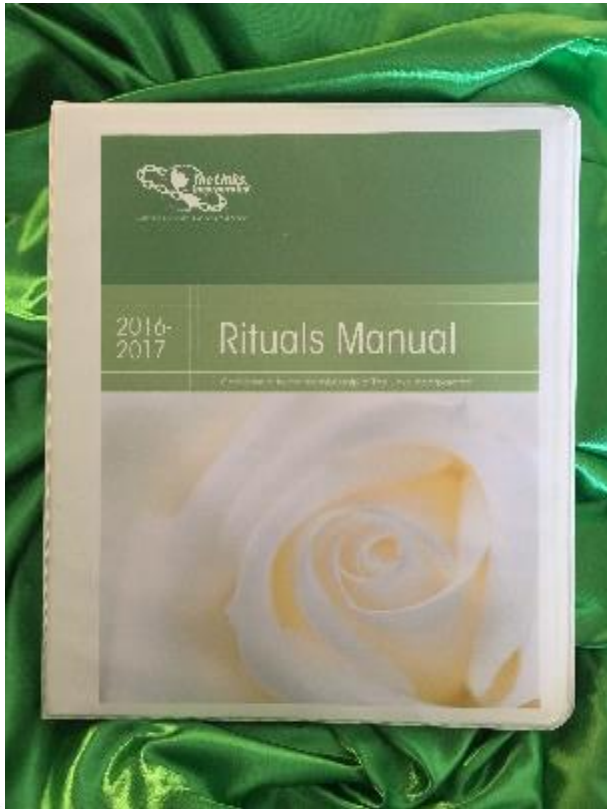
Baptism



A Social Ritual!



What's Changed?...Our Manual!



- The manual is in electronic format only
- It can be downloaded from the National Website in the Membership only section under “Documents”
- No hard copies will be produced for purchase
- The cover and interior pages have been updated with a new look
- This is **the** manual from which we will govern ourselves. Please archive any previous versions of the Rituals Manual!

WHAT CHANGED?

Updates to Rituals Manual are the first since 2008

- *Updated Logo on cover page*
- *Updated Foreword and Acknowledgement page*
- *Updated ceremony preparation for all rituals*
 - ~ Deleted kneeling pillow
 - ~ Long stem rose for inductees to short stem
- *Added Health and Human Services facet description to Rededication Ceremony*
- *Added the new Chapter Anniversary Ceremony*
- *Added the Attendance and Attire Page (from Protocol Manual)*
- *Added “Helpful Hints!” information*

CHAPTER ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY (NEW)

- New ceremony starts on page 56 of the newly revised rituals manual
- Ceremony to be performed as part of chapter anniversary celebration
- Original authors - Links Myrna Scott Amos, Margie O. Harris and Abra Lattany-Reed of the Brunswick (GA) Chapter
- This ceremony was created to honor chapter charter members
- Uninterrupted White attire is optional



Chapter Driven Ceremonies

- Ceremony of Friendship
- Founders Day Ceremony
- Rededication Ceremony
- Installation of Officers
- Ceremony for Induction of New Members:
- Ceremony to Honor Alumna Members
- Chapter Anniversary Ceremony
- Memorial Services
 - Links Members
 - Connecting Links
 - Heir-O-Links



CHAPTER DRIVEN CEREMONIES

The official Links Rituals Manual contains specific guidelines and instructions to ensure uniformity across chapters. These instructions cover:

- Ceremonial Preparations
 - Properties needed, music, etc.
- Table Arrangements
 - Placement of candles, flowers, etc.
- Ceremony Script
 - The specific ceremony wording per participant



CHAPTER DRIVEN CEREMONIES

Be sure to pay close attention to the specific guidelines and details listed for each ceremony you wish to perform. You will find guidelines for the following:

- ATTIRE: Several ceremonies require particular dress, i.e., *“Uninterrupted white”*
- Biographical information is needed for the Alumna Ceremony
- The list of charter members is needed for the Chapter Anniversary ceremony
- In some ceremonies, specific participants are listed



CHAPTER DRIVEN CEREMONIES

THE APPENDIX

Listed in the appendix section of the Rituals Manual are several helpful attachments. Notable among these are:

- **Attachment E** – Chapter Resolution Format for the Memorial Services and
- **Attachment F** – Rituals and Ceremonies Attendance and Attire Requirements



Being Prepared

- Suggestions for a successful ceremony
 - Always check inventory before the ceremony.
 - The following is a complete list of items needed for a successful ceremony.
 - The items needed may vary based on the ceremony.



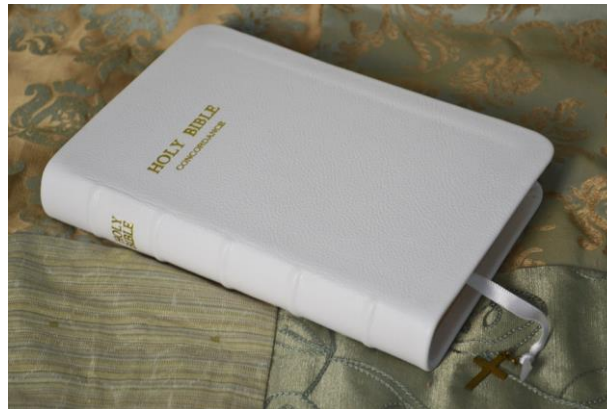
Being Prepared

- Items Needed
 - Table for the ceremony
 - White linen tablecloth to cover table, skirted, if possible
 - Vase of white roses, clustered with maidenhair fern (the number of roses needed depends on the ceremony)
 - A Candelabra that holds a number of candles as specified by the particular ceremony. Or you can use individual candleholders grouped together



Being Prepared

- Items Needed (cont'd)
 - White Bible
 - Three large links that symbolize the threefold purpose of The Links, Incorporated (may be made of foil or metal). Six inch candle and a candle holder for each member, may be substituted with penlights
 - Matches or lighter
 - Candle snuffer to extinguish candles at the close of the ceremony
 - Dim lights



Being Prepared



Items Needed (cont'd)

- A candle lighter for lighting the group's candles
- Soft music (suggestion: Brahms' Lullaby)
- Floral pins, depending upon the ceremony
- All speaking roles should be typed and assigned before the ceremony
- Microphones, if needed



Being Prepared



Items Needed (cont'd)

- Typed words of ceremonial song for each member
- Provide instructions of appropriate ceremonial attire

This is a complete list of properties that should be kept in inventory for successful ceremonies!



THIS AND THAT

- What about Affiliate Members?
 - ~ **Affiliates** are members of The Links, Incorporated and duly entitled to a Memorial Ceremony (at the direction of the Executive Committee or their designees)
- Please read Page 82 of Rituals Manual!
 - ~ Attendance and Attire Requirements
 - ~ Helpful Hints





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