

THE JAY STREET JOURNAL

"All the news that's fit to encourage, motivate, inform, oh yeah and print!"



National Jack & Jill Convenes for a Royal Celebration: "A Legacy of Leadership & Service and Still We Rise"

Don't miss in this issue:

- *National Convention Blog*
- *Youth Spotlight*
- *Teens Turn Up at Kings Dominion*

Check out the Convention Blog from Conference Delegate and Alternate President Felecia Brown and Melanie Jones...

The Dukes Mansion provided an indescribably elegant setting for the kick-off to the annual Jack and Jill Convention in the Queen City, Charlotte, North Carolina. Chapter Presidents from across the Nation gathered for an evening of elegance -- the food, music and socialization of all the presidents from the east coast to the west coast and all in between was indeed just royal.

On July 30, 2014 the convention was off to a royal start. Each registered Mother received regal purple scarves in honor of the Queen City. Yes, somehow the Carolinian Jack and Jill moms managed to work purple into the color scheme for the convention. Rounding out the morning day was an Associates Breakfast, bridging over ceremony for graduating Mothers and a fashion show with our diva Associate mom.



After the morning Plenary Session, a spirited Programming Luncheon honored amazing activities and accomplishments for many Chapters. Our Chapter was among the honorees, receiving recognition for the superior rating on our Program Handbook.

We were then treated to an inspiring keynote address from noted author ReShonda Tate Billingsley ("My Brother's Keeper"). If we have to describe her message in one word it would be - reinvigorating. She challenged us to find our purpose in life but never to forget our obligation to serve to make a difference in someone else's life. In her words, we must all "discover our unique talents and bring them to J&J". After hearing her words, our thoughts immediately turned to the important work we have to do in PWC. We were energized!!!

After being energized, we headed to the second Plenary Session of the day. More committee reports...more business, including a vote on proposed bylaws changes.

Continued on Page 5

Register for
Southern Cluster

October 25th

*Hyatt Regency
Reston
Reston, VA*

Hosted by
Loudoun County
Chapter

Registration opens
September 15th

Don't
FORGET!



KID'S
KUDOS
KORNER

GREAT JOB!!

Welcome to Kudos' Korner. Where we give accolades to the achievements and accomplishments of our children.

- Big kudos to our youth on the move. Check out the Youth Spotlight feature on page 6 & 7. Graduate AJ Topps, Teen Madison Smith and Group IV's Sade' Smith are doing great things.
- Congratulations to Maxwell and the VA Hokies AAU 14U team for their successful run last year. The Hokies competed at the Wide World of Sports in Orlando, FL. Unfortunately the team did not make it to the championship round but the experience was memorable and priceless.
- Great job to recent grad Michaela for completing her first year at Howard University and for making the Dean's List in the Spring semester. Keep it up!

BACK TO SCHOOL

PRAYER



Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of my children. Please watch over them as they go back to school, and protect them from negative influences.

Help them be a light to others, and help them show love, care and respect to their friends and teachers.

Please protect them from bullies, but if they face one, give them courage to stand up for themselves and for others.

Help them to remember when they are scared or afraid, You are there with them. As much as I love my children, You love them even more, and I know You will be watching out for them.

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Notes from Our President

Chapter President Felecia Brown

It is with great pleasure that, you, the mothers of Prince William County have granted me the opportunity to lead you into our next program year of 2014-2015. As I reflect back on all the accomplishments of our local chapter and other chapters nationally, I am excited to keep the light burning such as PWC will continue to shine from the Eastern, Mid-Atlantic, Mid-Western, Central, Far West, South Central, Southeastern regions.

This program year started off with our June planning meeting, whereas we as a team of mothers working together, were able to discuss, vote and approve our calendar. As we embark upon our 30th year celebration, I am pleased to say that we have a team of mothers who have stepped up and have taken charge to plan our celebration with some great innovative ideas. Our group leaders

organized meetings over the summer and have planned with our mothers to finalize each of their activities for the year. Our other committee chairs have been meeting to ensure that our chapter events are organized and ready to shine and move on with the business of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

My focus is that we will continue to work as a chapter to build on Community Service, Membership, Educational and Cultural opportunities for our children and support our National Theme.

For our chapter, I have chosen the theme of :

“Let’s Rise and Shine”

As we move into the next program year, I believe that our Prince William Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. will be the next “spotlight” of all chapters.

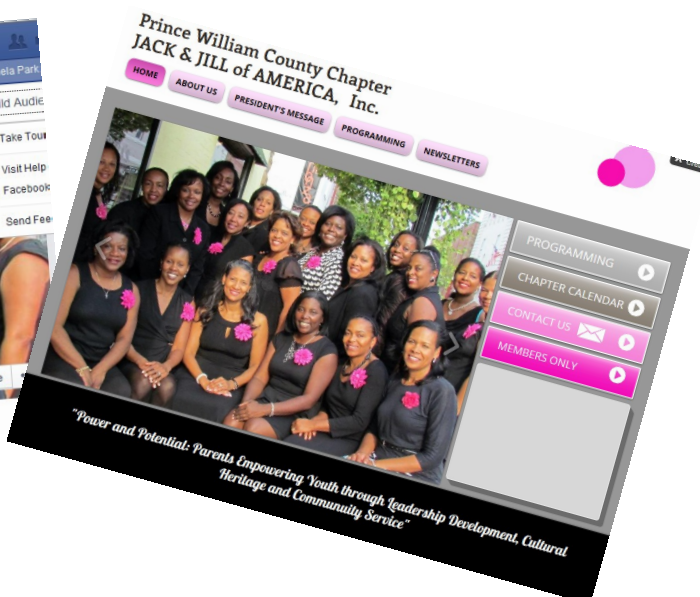
PWC Meets the “New” Age of Social Media

Hold onto your hats, ladies!! The Prince William County chapter has entered the 21st century. While there are definite pros and cons surrounding social media, it is no different than anything else in life. It can be abused and misused. However, it can also be a great tool to communicate to a large audience. If our chapter wants to stay relevant, be accessible and attract young, bright mothers and families, we are going to have to step into this new technological arena.

To that end, we’re pleased and proud to announce the launch of two internet vehicles for the chapter — our new Facebook page and our new chapter website. Both will serve two key purposes:

1. Build an amazing compilation of our history that every chapter member can enjoy and reflect on.
2. Showcase all the wonderful activities and community service initiatives we undertake to individuals outside of the chapter.

Please ‘like’ our Facebook page at : <https://www.facebook.com/JackJillOfAmericaIncPrinceWilliamCountyVaChapter>. And visit the chapter website at : www.pwcjackandjill.com. NOTE: Both will be available online once consent has been confirmed by members.



Five Questions for Tamara Turnley Robinson *(Immediate Past National President)*

Reprinted from City Metro by Glenn Burkins

With 1,250 members of Jack and Jill of America in town for their 41st National Convention, we saw their visit as the perfect opportunity to learn more about this organization.

We caught up with Tamara Turnley Robinson, the organization's 23rd national president, who agreed to fill us in. Robinson said she's been a Jack and Jill member for 26 years, currently in a chapter in suburban Atlanta.

Q. So for those who may not know, what is Jack and Jill of America?

It's a 76-year-old organization nationwide, and the members are mothers of children ages 2 through 18. We join because we are looking for ways to increase the experiences, exposures and support for our African American children. We focus on leadership development helping them understand their cultural heritage and encouraging them to always give back to the community. To whom much is given, much is expected in return.

Q. Is membership open to anyone?

One gets in by being sponsored by a current member. So if you know someone who's interested, we need to figure out who is in their local chapter, because each chapter has certain boundaries. We do that because we trust our children with each other. If you don't know the person or can't vouch for the person, then it becomes difficult to just turn your child over to somebody you may not know. So we encourage perspective members to get to know the people in the chapters and then eventually be sponsored in.

Q. So what brings your members to Charlotte?

Every two years we hold a national convention. We have seven regions, and every two years it's in a different region. The last time we were here was in 2000, so in 2014 we are back in the Mid-Atlantic Region, which consists of South Carolina, North Carolina and southern Virginia, so Charlotte is the city we picked. We come here to elect new officers and put the new bylaws in place and ratify new chapters.

Q. Are there any big issues facing this convention?

We do have a recommendation to enhance our focus on cultural heritage, so that's something that members will be evaluating and deciding on. We've come to the realization that a lot of our children don't have the same exposure or opportunity to understand their cultural heritage because many of them are in integrated environments. They are not getting taught in school, and it's difficult for them sometimes to listen to their moms or dads tell the story, so we've decided that one of the things we might need to focus on is our organization providing some type of continued and consistent emphasis on knowing history as an African American, knowing the contributions that have been made, knowing the sacrifices that have been made, and understanding who you are as a black child in America. We do it today, but what's being considered is something more systematic and programmatic.

Q. What's the role of dads in Jack and Jill?

In 1968 we announced a fathers auxiliary. So the mothers are the



members, and the mothers do all the heavy lifting, but we do have the fathers involved, which means they support us in different chaperoning activities or just helping and assisting whenever needed. We're staying true to our founding. It was founded as a mothers' club, and we just haven't seen the need to change that

"A Legacy of Leadership & Service and Still We Rise"

Cont'd from Page 1

We will have a full update at MWD on the bylaws that did pass.

Without delay, we threw on our J&J t-shirts and comfy jeans and headed to J&J Family Fun Night. The Mid-Atlantic Region truly showed out and put on a Royal event. There was fun for everybody, line dancing, graffiti wall photo booth, moon bounce, pool, table top tennis, video golf, NASCAR miniature race track, basketball hoops, caricature drawings, food galore and sweet tea. So much fun. So much fun.

Instead of heading back to the room to relax and chill after such a fun filled evening, we trudged into the ballroom along with 300+ mothers for the budget committee review meeting...immediately followed by the Eastern region caucus. And finally we are back in room 1621. It's 2:00am and we can barely keep our eyes open.



The room filled with cheer as we celebrated the chapters that scored a Superior rating on their handbooks. The room was filled with pick and blue, "oh what a beautiful sight". PWC Chapter was recognized for our program book.

Today we were strictly about the business of Jack and Jill. We passed 28 bylaw amendments and rejected 23. None of the amendments attempting to abolish the 1 in 4 requirement passed. This means all mothers will still be required to attend a National or Regional Convention or Cluster every 4 years.



President Brown and CPD Jones donated books for the book drive on behalf of the Prince William County Chapter.

Marian Wright Edelman, Children's Defense Fund, shared her dreams and goals for her Freedom Schools at the Legislative Luncheon. She was inspiring as always. She challenged us to partner with her in tackling disparities in education by providing early childhood education.

Later in the day we enjoyed energetic presentations from 8 provisional chapters, located in high growth areas in Western Maryland (Frederick); Greater Portland; Peoria, Illinois; Bakersfield, California; Dunwoody, Georgia; Chattanooga; Northwest Arkansas; and Gulf Coast Mississippi. Amazing presentations and great energy from our newest chapters. Happy to say they were all approved.

Next, we headed out to the KEM concert in our Jeans and Bling. Comedian Kim Whitley opened the concert with endless jokes about elite and bourgeoisie J&J. Stung a little but still very, very funny!!!

We closed out the convention on Sunday morning with a spirit filled message and a special memorial service for all of our Jack and Jill families who lost loved ones over the past two years.

Afterwards, the new National Executive Board was installed. What a beautiful day! Our new National Executive Board: NP -Tammy King, NVP -Joli Cooper-Nelson, CPD- Gladys Henderson, NT- Crystal Turner, NRS-Candace Berry-Vaughn, NRC- Kimberley Goode and NE- Regina Page...

The new friends we made...the relationships we formed....the ideas we shared with Mothers with a common goal and a common love for our children \$\$Priceless\$\$.



YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

AJ Topps Takes on City Year

Every year nearly 3,000 young people join City Year and dedicate 11 months to make a lasting impact on students and communities across the country. This year, one of those young people is our very own **AJ Topps**. After spending his freshman year at the University of Virginia, AJ will be taking this year off to become a City Year AmeriCorps member. As a member, he will have the opportunity to make a huge difference in the lives of others and also grow as an individual too.

Leadership and professional skills developed during this unique experience will aid AJ and all City Year members in their futures. AJ will be serving in a 5th grade classroom at Gossler Park elementary school in Manchester, New Hampshire. Gossler Park is one of six schools the program works in.



City Year is a partner of AmeriCorps. The program's goal is to bridge the gap in high-poverty communities between the support the students need and what their schools can provide. The CY members are assigned to at-risk students in elementary and high schools. Some of the members' responsibilities include:



- ◆ one-on-one and/or group tutoring before, during and after school
- ◆ run afterschool clubs and service projects
- ◆ take attendance and call late or absent students to encourage them to come to school
- ◆ make positive phone calls home to fill parents in on a child's progress
- ◆ organize and lead activities, celebrations and projects

Certainly mom & dad, Andrew and Jacinta, are very proud of AJ and so is his Prince William County Jack & Jill family. Good luck AJ!

Sade' Smith Is On the Move!

Sade's 2015 Triathlon Season has been a very successful one. She continues to love and thrive in the sport. She trains approximately 15 hours a week in swimming, cycling, and running. She also works with a Pilates instructor twice a week to strengthen her, increase flexibility, and to prevent injury. As a result of her many hours of training, Sade' placed 2nd in the Females 12-15 at the USA Mid-Atlantic Youth Championship. She ended the season ranked nationally 15th in the 12

Females Age Group (she moved up from 20th in 2013). Now that triathlon season has ended, Sade' will continue to swim and pick up cross country running and cyclocross (cross country cycling).

Earlier this summer, Sade received the Top 40 Under Forty award by Potomac Local News, honoring Sade as one of the next generation of leaders in Prince William County. She was recognized for her leadership in sports, specifically triathlon. She was truly elated to receive this honor.

See article at (cut and paste into your browser):

<http://potomaclocal.com/2014/07/21/potomac-local-announces-40-40-winners/>





YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Madison Jones Takes on Mercersburg Academy

Big kudos to Madison Jones for completing a successful first year away at school. Not only did Madison maintain an A average the entire year, she was also awarded the End of Year Prize for the highest grade in math, Honors Geometry. Madison attends Mercersburg Academy in Mercersburg, PA.



EASTERN REGION TEEN Oratorical Contest 2014

The Eastern Region has announced the guidelines for the 2014 Oratorical Contest. The competition will be completed in two phases. The first phase will take place at the cluster event level. Teens will be able to showcase their talents at the Southern Cluster workday on Saturday, October 25, 2014. The Loudoun County Chapter will be hosting the cluster at the Hyatt Regency Reston in Reston, VA. First place winners will advance to the regional level. The second and final phase of the competition will take place at the Eastern Regional Teen Conference in Philadelphia, PA. All first place winners must be registered for the teen conference in order to participate in the Regional Oratorical Competition. This year's theme is :

"Spark the Fire, Let it Burn"

Teens from each chapter are invited to participate in either Division I (13—15 years) or Division II (16—19 years) competitions. Speeches must be researched, prepared, written and developed by the teen contestants ONLY. However, they may be coached and/or advised in final preparation for the competition.

Speech/Spoken Word Guidelines

1. Competitors must state their topic prior to commencing the speech. A five-point penalty is deducted by timekeeper for failure to comply. Any salutation to judges, audience member, etc. should precede the announcement of the topic.
2. No special props, costumes, clothing or prompts are permitted. Competitors who do not comply will be disqualified.
3. Three (3) minutes are allowed for each speech. A speech may not be less than two and a half minutes (150 seconds) or more than three minutes (180 seconds) in length. Participants who fail to meet time parameters will be penalized one (1) point for each two second time block under or over the allocated time.
4. Competitors may use notes.

Scoring is based on (1) personal factors—20 pts max, such as appearance, personality, poise and body language; (2) organization of materials—30 pts maximum; (3) presentation and delivery—30 pts max; and (4) over all effectiveness—20 pts max.



Teens Turn Up at Kings Dominion!

Teen Chandler Smith

On Saturday, July 19th the teen group of the Prince William Chapter, opened our programming year. We started the day with a breakfast planning meeting. We completed planning all of our activities for the 2014-2015 programming year! We are looking forward to a day of adventure at Adventure Park in Maryland, volunteering at Children's Hospital, snow tubing at White Tail, not to mention heading to Philadelphia for the "Spark the Fire, Let it Burn" Teen Conference!

After the advisors confirmed that we had a diverse calendar we were released to our real purpose for the day...fun at King's Dominion. Once we got there, the chaperones found a table (really!) and chilled for the day. We had other things in mind...

It was a great day, we were left in charge of keeping up with our groups, and checking in with the chaperones. For the most part we stuck together, it was really fun to hang out with each other. We shared a Fast Pass to make it easier to ride all the popular rides, otherwise the wait would have been three hours. Some of us rode the Anaconda, Drop Zone, Terminator and the Dominator! We all enjoyed the Volcano. Highlights of the day included sharing Fried Oreos, Boardwalk fries and funnel cakes.



While we missed those who couldn't join us, it was cool to welcome our new members, Dwight and Phillipe. They are crazy and will fit right in with our group! We have a lot of fun stuff planned for this year, but I can't wait for COPA and Teen Conference.



Summer Fun with the Burnetts

Mother Ailsa Burnett

The Burnetts were on the move this summer!! We began our summer with a trip to Daytona Beach, Florida for fun and relaxation. It was great spending time on the beach, eating seafood, and touring St Augustine and the Daytona Speedway!

In July, we spent a weekend as tourists in Washington, DC. We took advantage of this historical tour with our family from Pennsylvania. We visited the Martin Luther King Memorial, the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, and the World War II Memorial. The 70 second trip to the top of the Washington Monument was a highlight and concluded our tourist activities. After all of the walking and sight seeing, we decided to wet our palates for a scrumptious meal at Georgia Brown's.

Our next stop was Corolla Beach at the Outer Banks. We spent a weekend there and enjoyed our time with our cousins from Pennsylvania. We enjoyed spending time together and making memories.

Howard and his cousin, Kennedy spent two weeks with my parents in Culpeper. They spent their two weeks taking swim lessons and enjoying Gee Gee's cooking.

Finally, Alvis and I visited Seattle, Washington in early August to spend time with my cousin and his family. It was an awesome week touring the city of Seattle. We are looking forward to going again soon as we had such a fun and relaxing time!

Now, it's back to reality.....Howard started school on August 18 and we are gearing up for another season of flag football.



10 RULES OF SURVIVAL IF STOPPED BY THE POLICE

Remember that your goal is to get home safely. Use the above rules to help do that. If you feel that your rights have been violated, you and your parents have the right to file a formal complaint with your local police jurisdiction.

01 Be polite and respectful when stopped by the police. Keep your mouth closed!

03 Don't, under any circumstance, get into an argument with the police.

04 Always remember that anything you say or do can be used against you in court.

06 Avoid physical contact with the police. No sudden movements & keep hands out of your pockets.

08 Even if you believe that you are innocent, do not resist arrest.

10 Stay calm and remain in control. Watch your words, body language and emotions.

02 Keep your hands in plain sight and make sure the police can see your hands at all times.

07 Do not run even if you are afraid of the police.

09 Don't make any statements about the incident until you are able to meet with a lawyer or a public defender.



Encounters with the police can cost you your life. Think about your actions!

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#thingsitellmyblackson

Yesha Callahan is Editor of The Grapevine and Staff Writer at The Root (Article captured from Moms of J&J Facebook page)

I came across this powerful article and thought I would share. I know as mothers we have all been in similar situations, waiting to hear from our children. But with all the recent, sad and horrible news coverage of the unfortunate deaths of too many young black men, it causes us all to pause and consider what should we tell our children, especially our black sons, about how to conduct themselves in public. This article and the quotes within are just things to consider. What do you tell your son? ~Pam

A few hours before I learned of the killing of Michael Brown by Ferguson, Mo., police, I dropped my 15-year-old son off at the airport to visit his paternal family in Houston for the rest of the summer. I made sure to tell my son to call me once he got to his layover, which would have him sitting in an airport by himself for three hours. As this was his second time flying solo, I was still in mother-hen mode:

- > Turn your phone off on the flight so the battery won't die.
- > Turn your phone on, immediately after you get off the plane, so I can call you.
- > Get your lunch and find an outlet to charge your phone while you wait for your flight.
- > Don't talk to anyone.
- > If something happens, find a cop.

Those were his directions that I gave him. But when I mentioned the "find a cop" if anything happens, it brought me back to a conversation I had with him when he was 9 years old. "Mommy, how can you tell the difference between a good cop and bad cop?" was what he asked.

#thingsitellmyblackson... "Don't raise your voice when dealing with store clerks, employees, owners, so they can't say you were intimidating them."

As I was reading the news about Brown's killing, I patiently waited for my son to reach his layover. I checked the time, and waited 10 minutes after his flight was scheduled to land. I called his phone. It went straight to voice mail. I waited another 20 minutes. I

#thingsitellmyblackson... "Just stay alive and make it home."

called his phone again. Again, I got voice mail. I'm calling and scrolling through my time line on Twitter and reading the reactions and news about Brown's death. And then I came across this hashtag: [#thingsitellmyblackson](#).

When my son was 9, I had to tell him about police brutality. But he wanted to know if all cops were bad. He wanted to know how to tell the difference. When he asked the question, I wondered if a white mother had had her child ask that question and how she answered it.

Eventually, after 40 minutes, my son's phone finally started ringing. He picked up, and it took every ounce of energy not to yell and ask what took him so long. He knew from the sound of my voice I was worried, and he asked why. I reminded him of the rules I had given him and that he hadn't followed them. I also told him about Brown's death and that I panicked because I thought something happened. That's when my 15-year-old recalled our conversation about good cops and bad cops. Now as a teenager, he understands that those who are hired to protect and serve occasionally cross the line, and more often than not, it's at the expense of black men and women. "You always said to respect authority, but what good is it when authority doesn't respect you?" my son asked. And this is what black men and women have to deal with, every damn day. Don't get me wrong, not all men and women who work in law enforcement are bad. But all it takes is one rotten apple to ruin the bunch. And right now, all we can do as black people, and as parents, is to hope that our children don't run into one of those rotten apples.

#thingsitellmyblackson... "You will be profiled...you will be judged."

As far as myself, and #thingsitellmyblackson, every time he leaves the house, whether it's walking to school, hanging out with friends or traveling, I make sure to tell him that I love him because in this day and age, our black boys and girls need to know that although the world may seem to be against them, there are people who aren't.

#thingsitellmyblackson... "I love you, I love you, I love you."

Stellar Programming

Children's Program Director, Melanie Jones

Here are a few tips for presenting Stellar Programming to your Group Moms and Kids!!!

S **Support for Idea** - Make sure your Group Moms are supportive of your idea. It's the best way to ensure great attendance.

T **Try Something Different, Something New** - Works every time – Some of the most popular events each year are the novel, engaging ideas!! Call CPD Melanie if you need ideas on launching a brand new idea. Of course, don't hesitate to plan a do-over. If your event worked the first time and if something *new* is to be learned from repeating, do just that!!



E **Excitement is Contagious** – GO LIVE as soon as you can.

Send splashy, flashy SAVE THE DATES so Moms and kids can start to feel excited about all you have planned. I suggest a creative preview of the event. For example, if you are going to see the Opera "Peter and the Wolf", send a CD of the songs the kids will hear for them to listen to in advance. If you are visiting Congress, encourage the kids to write a letter to their State Representatives about a policy issue that matters to them.

L **Last Minute Adjustments** – Suppose you learn early on that your event is the same date as the SAT, or the place will not hold all who have RSVP'd, or the RSVP count reveals that Moms and kids are just not interested in attending. Take time to *responsibly* adjust your plans. The goal is to have a successful event.

L **Lunch or Dinner is a Great Idea** – Everyone loves a meal + plus it is a great opportunity for Moms and kids to relax and get to know each other better. Make sure you plan for a meal before, during or after your event.

A **Announce Early** – Can't say enough about sending your SAVE THE DATE Now...do it before sports and extra-curricular activities steal all the available weekends.

R **Rules, Rules, Rules** – Make sure you follow programming rules by providing written notice of your event, setting the price and announcing all details in advance. Finally, in order to receive credit for sponsoring an event, you must complete the Activity Evaluation Form and return it to your Group Leader and CPD Melanie.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

GROUP	MONTH	ACTIVITY
I Tiny Tots	NOV	Reading Event
II Little Gems	NOV	Ice Skating
III Terrific Tweens	NOV	Wegmans Food Pantry
IV Rising Stars	NOV	Bullying
V Lords & Ladies	NOV 15	Children's Hospital Visit
Chapter	NOV	Wine & Cheese Social Event

GROUP	MONTH	ACTIVITY
I Tiny Tots	DEC 13	Marine Corp Museum (Quantico)
II Little Gems	DEC 13	Visit Shelter/Gift Donation
III Terrific Tweens	DEC	TBD
IV Rising Stars	DEC	TBD
V Lords & Ladies	DEC 26	COPA, New York City
Chapter	DEC	Holiday Celebration

GROUP	MONTH	ACTIVITY
I Tiny Tots	JAN 10	Bank Visit
II Little Gems	JAN 10	Bank Visit
III Terrific Tweens	JAN 19	Snow Tubing
IV Rising Stars	JAN 17	Martha's Table
V Lords & Ladies	JAN 19	Snow Tubing
Chapter	JAN	Founder's/Associates Day

October 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Teen Mtg	6	7	8	9	10	11 <u>Group I:</u> Butterfly Exhibit <u>Group III:</u> Chik-Fil-A Tour
12	13	14	15	16 EB MEETING	17	18 <u>Group IV:</u> Healthy Eating in MS <u>Group II:</u> Trademark Career Fair
19	20	21	22	23 MOTHERS' MEETING	24	25 SOUTHERN CLUSTER
26	27	28	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN 	