

# Lady Kendra Gillespie

CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL 2ND VICE PRESIDENT





# Meet Lady Kendra

Whatever you do,  
work heartily, as for  
the Lord and not for  
men.

—COLOSSIANS 3:2



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# TLOD Leadership



Since her initiation in the Houston Chapter on February 14, 1997, Lady Kendra has demonstrated her love for Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. From the beginning, she continues to expand her knowledge, cultivate relationships, and serve TLOD wherever she is needed. As a 26-year Silver/Life member, Lady Kendra has served in various leadership roles and has a clear understanding of how TLOD operates and shares her experience, skills, and talents for the advancement of our organization.

## NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

- Top Teens Director (current)
- Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chair (current)
- Inaugural Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chair
- Awards Committee Co-Chair
- Dorothy Allen Chimney Black History Bowl Co-Chair

## AREA LEADERSHIP

- Area II Conference Coordinator
- Area II TTA Advisor
- Area II Awards Committee Chair

## CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

- President, Alexandria City
- TTA Advisor, Alexandria City
- TTA Advisor, Dallas
- Recording Secretary, Dallas
- Assistant Recording Secretary, Dallas
- Director of Operations, Alexandria City
- Membership Committee Chair, Alexandria City
- Scholarship Committee Chair, Dallas
- Scholarship Committee Chair, Alexandria City
- Awards Committee Chair, Alexandria City
- 10-Year Anniversary Chair, Alexandria City
- Mentoring Committee Chair, Dallas
- Service to Youth Committee Chair, Alexandria City
- Service to Youth Committee Chair, Dallas
- Juanita M. Johns Luncheon Chair, Dallas

## TLOD AWARDS

- Chapter Award of Excellence, Alexandria City
- Chapter Top Lady of the Year, Alexandria City
- Distinguished Award for Outstanding Service, Dallas

## TLOD CERTIFICATIONS

- Model of Excellence
- President's Institute
- TTA Advisor Institute

## WORKSHOPS PRESENTED ON THE LOCAL, AREA, AND NATIONAL LEVELS

- Model of Excellence Presenter
- 2X 2nd VP "Talk to Me Tuesday" Presenter
- "Scholarship Zone" Webinar Presenter
- TLOD Membership Matters: "Strategies that Work" Presenter
- TLOD Chapter Operations Presenter
- Conflict Management/Interpersonal Dynamics, Presenter
- Inaugural National TLOD Strategic Plan Rollout Facilitator
- 2X Strategic Planning, Presenter
- 10X TTA State of the Union, Presenter
- 8X TTA Advisor Institute Presenter
- NAACP Juneteenth Narrator and Presenter
- 2X Black History Program Presenter



# Chapter Endorsement

OUR CANDIDATE OF CHOICE



Dear Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.,

The Alexandria City Chapter proudly endorses Lady Kendra Gillespie as a candidate for National Second Vice President. Lady Kendra is no stranger to Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., with over 26 years as a member, and 13 years of continuous service to the Alexandria City Chapter. As a former Top Teen, Lady Kendra prioritized "pay it forward," serving youth and adults. She embodies our TLOD values and puts forth every effort to make an impact in the communities we serve.

Lady Kendra's passion for serving youth and adults is evident in her current duties as the National Top Teens Director. Since her relocation from Area I to Area II, Lady Kendra immediately took the helm as our Chapter TTA Advisor and Area II TTA Advisor, while serving in other Chapter roles such as our Scholarship Chair and Membership Chair. As a newly chartered Chapter, Lady Kendra shared her working knowledge of TLOD Operations and assisted with the development of standard operating procedures, forms, templates, and other tools for effective Chapter finances and reporting. She is always looking at new ways we can elevate Top Ladies as an organization. While serving as Chapter President, she continued to engage our Chapter with meaningful community initiatives, expanding our footprint in the Alexandria community. Under her leadership, our Chapter also hosted the Area II Leadership Conference, resulting in many newly implemented activities and programs that remain today.

On a personal note, Lady Kendra was my son's mentor as a Top Teen. I cannot say enough about the impact of her leadership in helping him develop into the leader he is today. I've also had the opportunity to work with Lady Kendra in other organizations. Her commitment and faith are unyielding. Lady Kendra takes all matters seriously and is compassionate with others. She fully understands what it means to be a volunteer, and a servant leader who values all contributions - small and large - that others bring to any organization. Lady Kendra is devoted, diligent, and dynamic in all that she does.

A vote for Lady Kendra as our next National Second Vice President is a vote for a visionary who operates with integrity, drives innovation, and promotes inclusion.

In service,

*CMJ Clark*

Lady Carrie M. Johnson Clark  
President





# Candidate Statement

## WHY I CHOOSE TO RUN FOR OFFICE



Dear TLOD Sisters,

My decision to run for the office of National Second Vice President can be put in the simplest of terms. My love for TLOD shows up everyday and is unyielding. Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. has afforded me countless opportunities to grow, serve and lead. My **PASSION** for this organization began as a Top Teen, where I was nurtured as a youth and grew up to be a civic-minded individual. Experienced, capable, and ready, I took the next steps in my TLOD journey as a Top Lady 26 years ago, with a clear **PURPOSE** in mind - to pay it forward by serving youth and adults. Through the years, I've remained committed to help those in need, with the **PROMISE** of "building the next generation of leaders" and "building a brighter future" for TLOD.

In service to Top Ladies and Top Teens, my experience in various Chapter, Area and National roles have allowed me to lead efforts at the National level in areas of strategic planning, operations, programs, conference planning, public relations, service projects, and strategic partnerships. Over the past four years, I've worked alongside our National Project Committee Chairs as the Lead or Co-Lead to execute over 20 joint National initiatives and programs. Key collaborations have included all our National Projects - NCNW, UNCF, NAACP, Sickle Cell and TLOD Literacy. I've also formed key partnerships with Membership, Awards, and Scholarship.

My professional background as a Human Resources leader has broadened my experience in the areas of strategic planning, administration, finance, human relations, and organizational effectiveness. In my TLOD leadership roles, I've been able to effectively apply these skill sets. With a strong work ethic, I live by key principles that guide me each day. I believe in having respect for others and understanding that every individual has value. As volunteers, this is important, and that collectively, there is much we can accomplish. While embracing the ideals of TLOD, we should also welcome the ideas of others.

As a Silver Elite Life member, I've had the privilege of watching our organization evolve to meet the many complex challenges we face today. Equipped with the knowledge and experience of working with our National projects today, I am committed to lead with excellence, if elected. I am proud of the work we've done and am excited about the opportunity to lead us in the future as your National Second Vice President!

Yours in TLOD service,

*Lady Kendra*

*Lady Mary F. Hunter*



**LADY MARY F. HUNTER**  
**NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

“...Lady Kendra exemplifies the essential qualities of leadership as demonstrated through her knowledge and abilities, critical thinking skills and insight, stamina, and integrity, as well as compassion and respect, to the highest degree.”

- LADY MARY F. HUNTER, 2019-2023 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIR





# Passion FOR TLOD





# Learning from Our Legacies

I have had the opportunity to get to know many of our National leaders over the years, including several of our Founders. Over the years, I learned about TLOD culture from our legacies who've led the way. I am committed to hold our distinguished organization in the highest esteem and continue our legacy of service to youth and adults.





# Leading from the Top



Working alongside our Senior leadership at the Area and National levels has afforded me the opportunity to become a “shaper of change,” contributing ideas on how we can advance our TLOD agenda in areas of community outreach, membership engagement, leadership development, strategic planning, and operations.

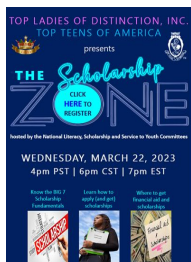
To whom much is given, much is required. In working with our National Leadership, I remain firmly committed in “doing the right things,” and “doing things the right way.” Operating with grace, fairness, equity, and integrity are my guiding leadership principles.





# TTA: Moving in Excellence

On our journey to "excellence" with the ExCEL program, Top Teens were engaged - connecting with each other, participating in Teen-led programs, training sessions, social events and roundtables.





# Building the Next Generation

With a mission of "building the next generation of leaders," it has been a personal privilege to mentor, coach and lead our TTA program as the National Top Teens Director and former Top Teen.

The new National TTA Program of Work, ExCEL (Excellence through Culture, Education and Leadership), provides our Teens with a multi-faceted platform to learn, share, grow and serve - with EXCELLENCE!



*Lady Melba Ford*



**ncnw**



**LADY MELBA FORD**  
**NATIONAL NCNW CHAIR**

**“She exemplifies strength, courage, commitment, and compassion for others, and we need this moving forward with the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) Committee.”**

**— LADY MELBA FORD, 2021-2023 NATIONAL NCNW CHAIR**



# SERVING WITH *Purpose*





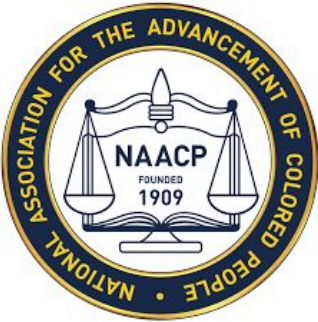


# National Project Highlights

Over the past four years, I collaborated with our National Project Committee Chairs, delivering National joint initiatives and programs as **ONE TLOD**.

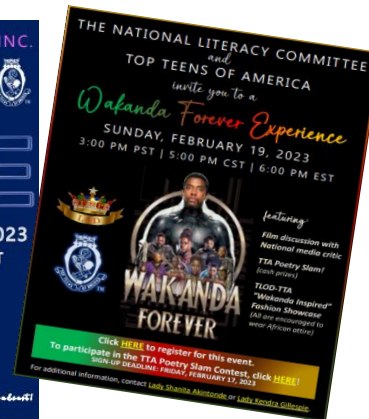
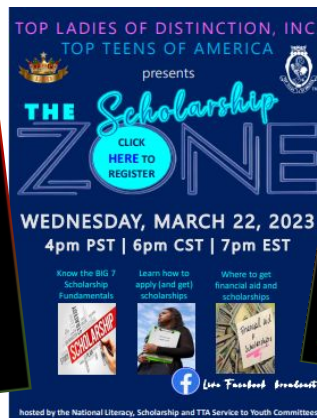
## NAACP

- 2020 NAACP Juneteenth "Let Your Voices Be Heard" Town Hall
- 2023 NAACP ACT-SO TTA Olympian Recognition



## LITERACY AND SCHOLARSHIP

- 2020 Literacy TLOD-TTA Café Calendar
- 2020 Literacy TTA Essay Contest
- 2022 Literacy Black History Program - "Passing" Discussion
- 2023 Literacy Black History Program - "Wakanda Forever" Experience & TTA Poetry Slam Contest
- 2023 Literacy/Scholarship "The Scholarship Zone" Webinar





# National Project Highlights



Over the past four years, I collaborated with our National Project Committee Chairs, delivering National joint initiatives and programs as **ONE TLOD**.

## SICKLE CELL AWARENESS

- 2020 "Shine the Light" on Sickle Cell World Day Campaign
- 2020 Sickle Cell "Real Talk" Town Hall
- 2023 TTA "Spring Fling" Roundtable featuring Healthy Choices Forum
- 2023 Sickle Cell TTA PSA Contest for Inaugural "Day at the Capitol"



TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC. and TOP TEENS OF AMERICA invite you to join us!

**Real Talk about Sickle Cell**

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL  
Wednesday, September 9, 2020  
6:00 PM EST (5:00 PM CST)

with special guest  
**BIRE ANDAMARIAM, M.D.**  
SCD14 Chief Medical Officer

TO REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT, CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW:  
[https://zoom.us/j/webinar/register/WN\\_PN7skylR-yDebo017D67z](https://zoom.us/j/webinar/register/WN_PN7skylR-yDebo017D67z)

September is National Sickle Cell Awareness Month. This event is sponsored by the National TLOD/TTA Sickle Cell Committee in partnership with the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America.

TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC. TOP TEENS OF AMERICA  
**Sickle Cell Disease Awareness - Legislative Action**

**TTA PSA CONTEST**  
Help Shine a Light on SCD and WIN CASH!

Create a short video addressing one of the topics below:

- The importance of advocacy for Sickle Cell Awareness
- Explain why the recently introduced Sickle Cell Incentive Program makes sense for all
- All Sickle Cell is to prevent
- How can Top Teens and other young people get involved in Sickle Cell issues, careers or research, etc.
- Let your creative side loose and have your idea get really in motion!

Submission Deadline:  
Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 11:59pm

Video submissions should be uploaded using the following link:  
<https://forms.gle/1EaypC26k5k4G156>

Please contact Lady Chairman K. Johnson, National Sickle Cell Chair - [bjohnson@topladiesofdistinction.com](mailto:bjohnson@topladiesofdistinction.com) or Lady Treasurer, National TTA Treasurer - [janet@topladiesofdistinction.com](mailto:janet@topladiesofdistinction.com)

**UNCF**  
A mind is a terrible thing to waste®

2020 "Turn Up Your Mind" Webinar

TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC. and the UNCF UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND proudly present

**"Turn Up Your Mind!"**  
A TTA Educational Financial Assistance/Writing Virtual Workshop and More!

**GOOD HEALTH WINS**

**ESSAY/POETRY CONTEST**

Open to ALL ACTIVE 2022 - 2023 TOP TEENS OF AMERICA

\*Top Teens essay or poetry submission could win from \$50.00 to \$500.00\*

**Essay Topic**  
If you could ask Dr. Mary Michael Barbone a question concerning the pandemic, such as virtual learning, effects of education and covid vaccination, what do you think her response would be and why?

**Entry deadline**  
July 10, 2022

**Criteria**

- Essay must be at least 400 words
- Poetry must be at least 150 words
- TTA must be active in 2022 - 2023
- Only one submission per Top Teen

For additional information and submissions, please see the graphic below:  
<https://www.gdnw.com/2022/07/10/2022-2023-essay-poetry-contest/>

- 2022 "Good Health Wins" Essay Writing Contest
- 2023 TTA "Spring Fling" Roundtable featuring Healthy Choices Forum





# Presidential Achievement Award

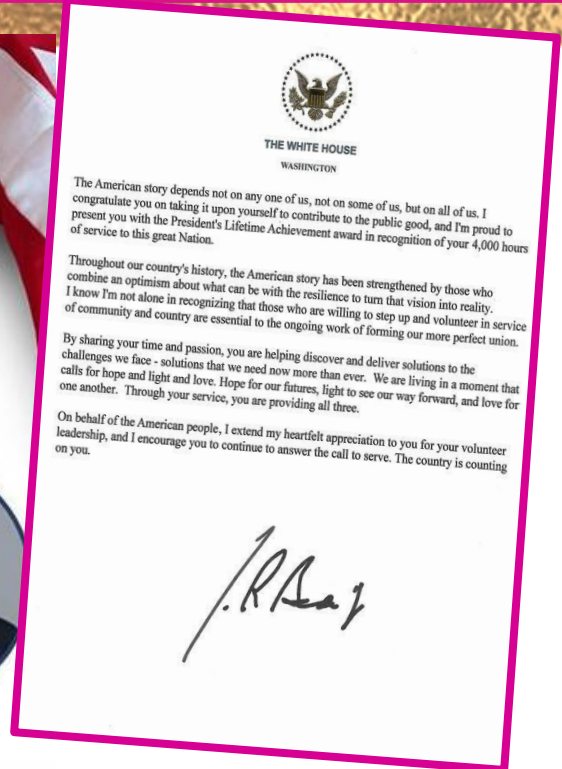


## ★ CONGRATULATIONS ★ **PRESIDENTIAL LIFETIME** ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT **2023**

**Judy Kendra Gillespie**  
National TTA Director  
Ladies of Distinction, Inc.



Sponsored by  
Rev. Dr. Dee Dawkins-Haigler  
President & Founder  
Organization of World  
Leaders (OWL, Inc.)





# CIVIC & COMMUNITY

# Impact

Lady Kendra has served her community, whether she is leading the charge or supporting critical initiatives. She's played key roles as a member in various boards and commissions. Lady Kendra has also held several leadership roles over the years with other notable organizations. Community involvement is listed below.

## TLOD COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

Working with our TLOD affiliates provides additional insights and fosters collaboration.

- NAACP Life Member
- NCNW Legacy Life Member
- NCNW 2X TLOD Affiliate Member Representative at National Convention
- March of Dimes Champion
- Franchell Boswell Educational Foundation Member

## BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Having a voice at the table is the key to advocating for the change we want to see.

- Employment Commissioner, City of Alexandria
- Youth Commissioner, City of Alexandria
- Social Services Advisory Board, City of Alexandria
- Regional Facilitator, Junior League of Northern Virginia
- Board Member, Ivy Foundation of Northern Virginia, Inc.
- Board Member, Hopkins House

## OTHER CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

Staying connected strengthens ties to other civic-minded communities.

- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated  
2023 International Founders' Day Registration Chairman  
2X International Strategic Planning Committee and Presenter  
2X Regional Leadership Development Committee and Presenter  
2X Regional Workshops Chairman and Presenter  
Chapter President, Vice President, Nominating Chair, Fundraising Chair
- Junior League of Northern Virginia, Inc.  
Regional Facilitator  
Leadership Development Director
- National Association of Parliamentarians, Member

## SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

Before you can lead, you must first learn how to follow according to His word.

- Member, Alfred Street Baptist Church
- Career Services Counseling Ministry
- My Brother's Keeper
- Scholarship Committee
- Discipleship Group



## COMMUNITY HONORS AND AWARDS

2023 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award

Alexandria City Commission on Women "Rising Star" Award

NAACP "Shaper of Change" Award, Alexandria City Chapter

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. "Woman of the Year" Award

Junior League Spotlight Award

Alpha Kappa Alpha Graduate President of the Year\*

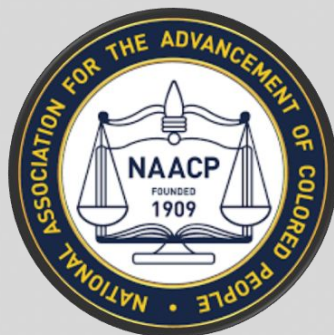
Alpha Kappa Alpha Outstanding Civic Leader\*

Alpha Kappa Alpha Leadership Development Award\*

Alpha Kappa Alpha Graduate Member of the Year\*

\*Mid-Atlantic Region awards

*Lady Yolanda Avery*



**LADY YOLANDA AVERY**  
**NATIONAL NAACP CHAIR**

“...Lady Kendra will serve as the 2nd Vice President and National Projects Chair with the same zeal as she has done serving as National Top Teens Director. With her tenacity and preciseness, she brings to the table her vast knowledge and expertise.”

— LADY YOLANDA AVERY, 2021-2023 NATIONAL NAACP CHAIR





*Promise*

**FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE**



# National Endorsements

Over the past four years, Lady Kendra has worked alongside each National Project Chair and Standing Committee Chair as the National TTA Director. Her involvement has included planning, advising and implementing key initiatives as well as collaborative programming efforts.

Endorsements from National Chairs and Co-Chairs are listed below.

## AWARDS

Lady Delois Hall  
2019-2023 National Awards Chair  
Area I, Capital City Chapter

## NAACP

Lady Yolanda Avery  
2021-2023 National NAACP Chair  
Area I, Beaumont Chapter

## LITERACY

Lady Nneka Hobbs  
2021-2023 National Literacy Co-Chair  
Area I, Dallas Chapter

## NCNW

Lady Melba Ford  
2021-2023 National NCNW Chair  
Area II, Southern Maryland Chapter

## MEMBERSHIP

Lady Mary F. Hunter  
2019-2023 National Membership Chair  
Area V, Detroit Chapter

## SCHOLARSHIP

Lady Yolanda Smith  
2019-2023 National Scholarship Chair  
Area V, Detroit Chapter

## TOP TEENS OF AMERICA

Lady Vickie Henry Hughes  
2019-2023 National Assistant TTA Director  
Area IV, Guilford County Chapter

To see all full view of all [endorsement letters](#), [visit Lady Kendra's campaign site](#)...more to come!





# Vision



## VISION STATEMENT

My vision for our National Projects is to nurture our existing strategic partnerships, expanding our footprint in the communities at-large where we live and serve. Collectively, we will work to make a positive, measurable impact for the advancement of the next generation. We will build our TLOD brand, building on our reputation and brand for greater National recognition. We will be strategic and intentional with our collaborative efforts, ensuring that TLOD is held in the highest esteem as a thought leader in civic engagement and advocacy. We will promote inclusion and empower members with the resources needed to fulfill our mission of serving youth and adults.

National **PROJECT PRIORITIES** are listed below.

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### Priority #1

Create intentional National collaborative efforts with our current strategic partners, that directly advance our TLOD agenda as change agents in our communities.

### Priority #2

Identify 1-2 key strategic initiatives where TLOD will be the premiere lead, developing new coalitions with like-minded women community affiliates.

### Priority #3

Develop a National Projects Communication plan and Engagement toolkit, empowering Chapters to effectively plan and execute our key initiatives, while promoting the TLOD brand.

### Priority #4

Continue to implement joint programs and initiatives with Top Teens of America, joining forces to foster the spirit of ONE TLOD and ensure we contribute to building the next generation of leaders.



# Lady Kendra Gillespie

CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL 2ND VICE PRESIDENT



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