



CARATS, INC

43rd National Conclave

Macon, Georgia

July 12-15, 2018

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Greetings My Charming, Actively Involved, Responsible, Appreciative, Truthful and Sincere, Carat Sisters,

How rapidly the time progresses as we transition to the end of my Administration from the 41st National Conclave where I was elected, hosted by the Washington, D.C. Chapter, to the 42nd National Conclave hosted by the Montgomery, Alabama Chapter and the present “Peaches, Pumps and Pearls” 43rd National Conclave hosted by the Macon, Georgia Chapter. We have enjoyed the Fish Fry-Backyard Barbeque and Mardi Gras and Mid Year Board meeting, and the 2018 “Let the Good Times Roll” Mid Year Board meeting hosted by the Columbus, Ohio chapter. Meeting, greeting, partying, bonding and “Making Carat Memories!”

An embracing and appreciative Thank you to all of you; the elected and appointed Officers, the national committee Chairs, the Past National Presidents, Carats Chapter members and my own strong, supportive and charming Columbus Chapter.

Let me begin by expressing my most humble thankfulness to “somebody bigger than you and I,” for those of us who are blessed to have arisen another day in good mental and physical health to be in attendance for this most gratifying experience of sisterhood, friendship, love, fun and happiness! I extend condolences and heartfelt sympathy to all of our Carat sisters and their Carateers in the loss or serious illness of love ones.

Thank you to our Amenities Chair, Carat Anita Jones (Atlanta Chapter) for her expediency in notification, cards and required protocol during these difficult circumstances. Historian, Carat Audrey Jackson will coordinate the Memorial Service of our “Forever Carats” with the Amenities Chair at the General meeting in remembrance of our loved and missed Carat sisters.

We must hold strong through these kind of challenging times and continue to have a bright future for ourselves. When we focus on loving and being supportive of our family members and significant friends, we find our own truth and beauty. One of my all time favorite quotes is from Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we will find it not.”

The Macon Chapter has engaged us in Carat style at this wonderful venue for the 43rd National Carats Conclave. We all know and truly appreciate the Macon Chapter’s preparation and hard work to host us for an unforgettable experience, “Making Carat Memories!” Let’s give a round of applause to the Macon Chapter.

You all know that I love to PARTY!! I must extend a thank you to Carat Laverne Gaither, President and the Baltimore Chapter of Carats for extending me an invitation for the second year to attend their Holiday Gala at the lavish Martin’s West! Partied like it’s 1999! Also, much thanks to Carat Brenda Willingham for a wonderful dinner in Mt. Airy, a suburb of Philadelphia while I was on holiday visiting my daughter. Thank you to the Chicago Chapter for extending an invitation to their 2017 Holiday gala (which I was not able to attend due to a prior commitment).

Now, let’s get down to business and the unrelenting hard work of the Carat leadership . In November, 2017 we had full attendance on the conference call of the Executive Board and Chapter Presidents to discuss our organizational progress and proposed initiatives for 2017-2018 Fiscal Year that are important to sustaining our Program with “Preeminent, Purposeful, Progress, Health and Harmony.

During the April 6-8, 2018 Mid Year Board meeting the standard report updates were presented by the Officers and committee Chairs. New

initiatives, proposed Bylaw amendments and Policy and Procedural issues were discussed for clarification and confirmation.

I am excited to share with you the accomplishments during this Administration's 2016-2018 Biennium.

- **The National 1st Vice President Carat Alma (Dee Dee) Macer (Baltimore)** and the Program Committee were charged with completing a project which would be a collectible from our current Administration. You will be pleased to see the delectable results of their labor; the *"Cooking with Carats"* diverse collection of appetizers, main dishes, desserts, specialty drinks, etc. cookbook. Kudos Program committee. The cook book is priced at \$5 to members to supplement printing cost. It will be available for all Carats at the 2018 Macon Conclave.
- **The 2ⁿ Vice President and Membership Committee Chair, Carat Carlotta McCoy (Chicago)** annually submitted an accurate accounting of Membership status in all required categories: active membership, eligibility list for National Office, required Conclave attendance, etc.
- **Treasurer, Carat Donna Speller Turner (Chesapeake)**
Budget and Finance committee Chair, Carat Linda Williams (Columbus) created a new format for managing the finances with precision by including specific line item expenditure in each category of allocated funds and adding an Actual expenditures category following the proposed budget allotment, to facilitate reconciling the income and expenditures account balance and needed modifications to the ensuing proposed budget.
- **Financial Secretary, Carat Edith Johnson (Washington Chapter)** requested and was approved to purchase fifty (50) Blue 3 ring Binders to have an inventory to sell to Chapters for new member documents. She has provided the checks and balances with the

Treasurer for Board meeting Luncheon Money collected, Per Capita Income and the “Cooking with the Carats” Cookbook.

- **National Parliamentarian, and Constitution and Bylaws committee Chair, Carat Brenda Willingham (Philadelphia)** and committee have incorporated the Audit and Archives committees language into the Constitution and Bylaws amended document 2017; the amendment to increase the Carateer registration from \$50 to \$100 was approved at the 2017 Conclave and will be incorporated into the 2018 amended Constitution and Bylaws document.
- **National Historian Cart Audrey Jackson (S t. Louis)**
Archives committee Chair,
Carat Brenda Coleman (Montgomery Chapter)
Liaison to Moorland Spingarn Research Center and Library (MSRCL)
Carat Kathleen Hopkins Smith (Washington), have reviewed all relevant documents and drilled down to the salient artifacts, documents, photos and memorabilia each Chapter will retrieve, organize and submit for our August 2018 inaugural submission to the MSRCL at Howard University, Washington, D.C.
- **Policy and Guidelines Committee Chair, Carat Tyna Davis, (Montgomery)** and the committee have updated the Policy and Guidelines Manual to include the processes related to the Audit committee and Archives Committee amendments to the Bylaws. A revised Policy and Guidelines Manual will be available electronically at the Macon Chapter 2018 Conclave
- **National Ethics Committee Chair, Carat Barbara Pinder (Chicago)** proposed Ethics - Policy and Guidelines for resolving Ethical issues which will be incorporated in the Ethics Manual.
- **National Corresponding Secretary, Carat Darlene Britford (Columbus)** disseminated a barrage of essential communications keeping Carats informed, updated, and instructed on the business of Carats, Inc. I cannot begin to thank her enough for her oversight of the “Dates to Remember” and processes to be employed in all aspects of Carats, Inc. business protocol, as well as, updating the National Directory so that we are able at a glance, to contact any of our 344 Carat sisters. She has also developed an easy to read, locate

and update format of the National Directory on an excel spreadsheet which includes Carat contact information and other Directory information categories (i.e. Past National Presidents, Life members, etc.)

- **National Nominating Committee Chair, Carat Cynthia Webb (Baltimore)** will be conducting the election of Officers for the 2018-2020 biennium to include National President, Treasurer, 2nd Vice President and Corresponding Secretary and Nominating committee reviewed profiles for required credentials and submission deadlines.
- **Public Relations committee Chair, Carat Rita Wilson (Chicago)** She coordinated the publication of two (2) remarkable Potpourri booklets (2017 & 2018). Potpourri is the benchmark publication of Carats, Inc.
- **Communications Committee Chair, Patricia (Teesha) Hernandez (St. Louis)** and the committee published three (3) volumes of the Carats, Inc. spectacular Newsletter. It keeps us posted biannually of Carats Events and “Need to Know” information. The Communications Committee graciously volunteered to pay the \$150 for the publication cost associated with the February 2018 Newsletter.
- **Technology Committee Chair, Carat Judith Coleman (Chicago);** Compliments, commendation and Kudos to Carat Judith and the Technology committee. All Mid Year Board meeting and Conclave Reports are available on the Carats, Inc. Website www.caratsincorporated.com made possible by our Tech Savvy Carat sister, Judith and committee. Carat Judith has also transitioned us to the “Go Daddy” platform and portal for easier management of our electronic files, transmissions, storage, etc.
- **Wellness Chair, Carlotta McGee’s (Atlanta)** message that we receive during Mid Year Board and Conclave meetings is of paramount importance to engage us in intentional transformation to healthy lifestyle habits. We must always give utmost attention to having good physical, mental and Spiritual health.

- **National Protocol Chair, Carat Judy Woods (St. Louis Chapter)**
Finally, the smooth execution, precision, standards and procedures with complete attention to detail in preparing for the Mid Year Board meetings and National Conclaves are attributable to the perspicacious Carat Judy.

Once again, Thank you to the Columbus Chapter and the Program Committee, for their monumental support during my tenure as National President. Thank you and much love to my Executive Board Carat sisters, the Chapter Presidents and Past National Presidents with whom I consult; are the “critical success factors” in my ability to operate with a Standard of Excellence and Mutual Respect during this administration of “Preeminent, Purposeful, Progress, Health and Harmony.”

Thank you for 2 years of a Magnificent Administration “Making Carats Memories !”

As always, Remember, “Be a rainbow in someone’s Cloud.” Maya Angelou
Yours in Sisterhood and Friendship,

Carat Maureen S. Black, National President