



# The Connection

## The Charmettes, Incorporated Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 1, December 2020

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# The President's Message



Dear Charmette Sisters:

As we draw near to the most joyous season of the year, many of us will be taking some much needed time off throughout the next two weeks to mentally recharge from the COVID-19 pandemic and get ready to take 2021 head on – a new year full of opportunity.

I am looking forward to continuing to work with our Chapter Presidents and Charmette Sisters to carry out the mission of the organization. It is important that we continue to grasp the need for service in our communities and supporting cancer research.

While you exchange gifts and entertain visions of hope for a better future for yourself, the organization and for everyone else, I offer you my sincerest wishes for a most enjoyable Christmas and my warmest and kindest good wishes for a Happy New Year. May the New Year bring you deep satisfaction and happiness in your accomplishments.

Sisterly,

*Catherine D. Lewis*

National President

## *Celebrating 70 Years of Charmette Pride!*

As we move closer to our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration we will be highlighting each Chapter and their history. See this Quarters Highlighted Chapters in the following pages!!



# Highlight of Alachua County

Date and Year Installed: November 14, 1975

Sponsor/Founding Member: Charmettes C. Boyd / Evelyn Wynn

Installed by: Eva Wanton

Current President: Cassandra McCray



## Highlight of Duval County

The Charmettes, Incorporated Duval County Chapter was conceived by Charmette Anita Vernell Carter Allen in November 1968. Charmette Allen was a former member of the St. Lucie Chapter now the Treasure Coast Chapter. To formalize its journey, February 14, 1970 at 8:00pm in a banquet room at the Heart of Jacksonville Motor Lodge, The Charmettes, Incorporated Duval County Chapter was born. There were twelve members.



Over the years, the membership increased and occasionally decreased. However, there has been and continues to be one constant, a beacon in our chapter, Charmette Elizabeth Miranda. She is a charter member and is currently serving as the Vice President. She has also been steadfast in her dedication to, and support of the organization.



Today, the chapter is proud of its accomplishments over it's "Fifty Years" of existence. Our primary focus has been:

1. Supporting the eradication of cancer through our contribution to Howard University Cancer Research Center;
2. Furthering the education of our youth by providing scholarships to students attending Florida A&M University School of Nursing; and
3. Caring for our elderly by preparing a home cooked meal for the residents of Morris Manor at Thanksgiving.

These are only a few of the community service projects that the chapter involves itself.



# Highlight of Lake County

Date and Year Installed: August 22, 1987

Sponsor/Founding Member: Charmette Margaret Carson Ward

Installed by: B. Stevens

Current President: Linda Teartt



## Highlight of Marion County

In 2002, Charmette Earline S. Gallmon and Charmer Jacob L. Gallmon relocated to Ocala, FL from Ft. Pierce, FL where Charmette Gallmon had been an active member of the St. Lucie County Chapter, now known as Treasure Coast Chapter.

In May 2013, at the National Convention, Charmette Gallmon was a recipient of the Eunice W. Thompson Award. And at that time, she felt the spark to start a new chapter. In November 2013, an informational meeting was held to learn about The Charmettes, Inc. By April 2014, National Board had received the application for a new chapter in Marion County, FL.

The group's first activity was a Breast Cancer Awareness booth at the Annual Santos Historical Celebration in the Park during Black History Month February 2015.

The Marion County Chapter was officially installed at the 2015 National Convention held in Miami, FL on June 10, 2015 under Rev. Dr. Barbara Morton, President and Ruth Harris Terrell, Vice President.

Charter members were: Earline Gallmon, Barbara Maxey Samuel, Narvella Haynes, Audrey Middleton, Brenda Croskey Vereen, Almendrita Samuel, Yves-Lande Pierre, Rhodia H. Berry, Alice Brown, Lizzie Lenon, Barbara Hudson Samuel, Patricia Lake, Verlinda Renee Colding, Selena Favors Foxx, Joy Gallmon and Marilyn Patricia Murphy.

Since it began, Marion County Chapter has been actively holding social and educational community programs including health fairs, individual cancer-patient gifts and scholarships. The chapter looks forward to growing, developing and continuing to serve Marion County, and The Charmettes, Inc. as a whole.



Visit and "Like" our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MarionCountyCharmettes/>

## Highlight of North Carolina

The North Carolina Chapter of Charmettes, Incorporated was installed in June, 2006 at the West Palm Beach National Convention. Charmette Evelyn Harris Wynn of Dade County served as the sponsor, and her sister Ruth Harris Terrell was the organizer and first president. The membership then as now, was comprised of strong and community minded women who were prepared to share their time and resources. Working with the National Vice President and Executive Director, the interest group quickly completed all of the organizing tasks and was ready to be installed within a year. Our original members lived in various cities in NC and we began as a state-wide chapter.



Our chapter joined the organization with energy and excitement and made every effort to be fully integrated into the fabric of The Charmettes, Incorporated as quickly as possible. The commitment to support research for a cure for cancer was especially intriguing as several chapter members had personal experience as survivors. We were so excited, we undertook our fundraising with vim and vigor and contributed \$5,000 to the Cancer Fund in our first year of service. The Convention was so impressed with this amount from a new chapter, a new award was created to recognize the chapter which made the largest contribution each year, with the North Carolina Chapter as the inaugural recipient.

We undertook several fundraising events initially, including a Community Fish Fry, our Old School Dance and the “Putting on the Ritz” Gala, which included a high-end silent auction. We have also utilized “Tea with Me”, a successful stay at home tea which we share primarily with friends and relatives who live in other areas and cannot support our local events. We created the successful “Praying for a Cure” Brunch, which has been adopted as our national signature program. Along with South Carolina Midlands, we Co-Hosted the 2008 National Convention in Charlotte.

Our local service programs have included a number of youth focused activities including our Etiquette Seminar Series for Central Harnett High School, Charming Chapeaux Project-a collaborative project with Cumberland County Schools, whereby we provide the materials and students in the Family Life Programs make unique and attractive turbans and hats. These are then presented to the Cape Fear Cancer Center to give to clients. We are long term volunteers and tutors at a local elementary school and we sponsor and support Christmas for a family each year. We also participate in our local cancer walks and we support the work of other community organizations including the NAACP. We are involved and a part of our community



Our membership has grown and changed since our beginnings and we are proud that we continue to attract women of great character and good will. Our membership includes women who are active in the workforce as well as retired persons, we have mother and daughters, sisters and friends, psychologist, educators, accountants, administrators, beauty experts, writers and poets, and we count this diversity as a strength. Our skills are varied and each member shares in the success of our work. Since our beginning we have three presidents, Charmettes Ruth Terrell, Maxine McCall and Paquita Gantt, who all served the organization well. Our members look forward to our Annual convention and one of our current members, Pauline Ellis, has attended every convention since she joined (another chapter) in 2001. Our members have also been very active participants on national level, including:

Ruth Harris Terrell--Executive Director, Vice President and Convention Manager  
Maxine Andrews McCall—Charlotte Convention Planning Committee  
Johnsie Hughes Gantt—Chair of the National Project Committee  
Janice Smith Coaxum—National Project Committee and Constitution and Bylaws  
Paquita Gantt—Nominating Chair  
Adrienne Charleston—National Reporter, Convention Planning Committee



As we enter another era, The North Carolina Chapter looks forward to our continued work and growth with this outstanding organization.

# Highlight of Richmond

**Sponsor:** Frankie Drayton Thomas, Co-Founder

**Installation Date:** Synester Jones, National President, March 9, 1991

After being involved in a conversation about a movement in the State of Florida, which brought like-minded women together to serve in their various communities for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of women and the good work they do, as a group, for the betterment of their community, Edna Rodwell and the late Lois Cumber came to the conclusion that this was a good idea to present to the Richmond Metropolitan area. In October 1990, Edna Rodwell convened a meeting with ten women to garner the interest of starting a chapter of The Charmettes, Incorporated. Edna Rodwell served as the first president. Although life changes will always play important roles in our decisions, until July 2019, with the passing of Charmette Lois Cumber, we had six active Charter Members.



In January 1991, founders Frankie Drayton Thomas and Gwendolyn Baker Rodgers came to Richmond for a briefing session about the Organization and our obligations. We accepted the challenge. The Richmond Metropolitan Chapter became the fifteenth chapter of The Charmettes, Incorporated. Charmette Synester Jones, National President installed the Chapter on March 9, 1991. Representatives from fourteen chapters came to the Richmond Marriott, Richmond, VA for a weekend that was filled with gifts, lots of love and support.



Following installation, our first major project was to organize a group of middle school young ladies to vie for the title of Miss Junior Charmette. The project, named the Miss Junior Charmette Pageant, involved a year of cultivating activities geared toward grooming the young ladies for their teenage years and beyond. The culminating pageant was held in May 1992. Our special guest was Actor Jermaine Hopkins (Sams from the “Lean On Me” movie), crowned our first Miss Junior Charmette. This initiative continues as it give us the opportunity to nurture young ladies, and it is a viable fundraiser for the Chapter. As the membership grew and the years passed by, we implemented the Adopt-A-Child With Cancer Program, and our supporters favorite, The Soirée.



May 1992 was a good year for the Chapter. During the 37<sup>th</sup> National Convention, we presented the largest cancer research donation, \$1,500. For the next twelve years (1993-2004), with donations ranging from \$1,500 to \$4,000, the Chapter received a Certificate of Recognition for the largest cancer donations to Howard University.

The Chapter hosted the 47<sup>th</sup> National Convention in 2002, at the Richmond Marriott, Richmond, VA. As opposed to giving our sisters a conference bag, we decided to give four sisterhood gifts. The gifts were given during each plenary session. Our most exciting event was Casino Night. This was an exciting evening of winning prizes and having fun. Some Charmettes went shopping after store hours at the fabulous SAXON'S Shoe Store

Charmette Edna Rodwell served two terms (2009-2012) as National President. Charmette Cynthia Bentley served two terms (2009-2012) as National Parliamentarian. And Sala Powell-Dabney served one term (2009-2011) as National Reporter.

During the 50<sup>th</sup> National Convention, held in Nassau, Bahamas, the Organization recognized Charmettes Lois Cumber, Evelyn Jamison, and Edna Rodwell as the Chapter's Charter members.

The Richmond Metropolitan Chapter continue to seek innovative ways of raising awareness of cancer in our community through education, early detection, prevention, and research.



## Highlight of Treasure Coast

The St. Lucie County Chapter of Charmettes was organized on April 19, 1964. The Chapter consisted of 10 chartered members. Founder Frankie Drayton Thomas installed the Chapter on May 2, 1964.

The chapter has donated to many non- profit organizations including Head Start Christmas in July; Sickle Cell Anemia, American Red Cross, Assisted Living Facilities, Salvation Army, Rev. Kenny Mills Youth Organization, American Cancer Society, Civitan Training Center. Members also participate in American Cancer Society Making Strides event.

In 2013, the Chapter voted to become the Treasure Coast Chapter of the Charmettes, Inc. in order to more accurately represent the chapter members which include women residing in Port St. Lucie, Fort Pierce and Vero Beach, FL.

The group established an Annual Purple Tea to promote cancer awareness and secure funds to contributed to Howard University and provide scholarships. The first Purple Tea was held in 1999.

The Treasure Coast Chapter sponsors the Week of Kindness every January in honor of Dr, Martin Luther King, Jr. The purpose is to encourage schools, churches, and local organizations to perform acts of kindness in the community which include but is not limited to providing necessary services to senior citizens and adopting a family in need.

Members of the Treasure Coast Chapter of the Charmettes, Inc. constantly dedicate their time and talents to promote the highest principles of finer womanhood. Total commitment to the challenge of supporting the cure for cancer is evident in the untiring efforts that each member dedicates to making a difference in the lives of other



Treasure Coast Chapter of The Charmettes, Inc. including two Palm Beach Chapter members

# The Connection Newsletter Submissions From Chapters



## Information from Hillsborough County

Charmette Betty Kinsey was “Queen” for a day as she celebrated her **80<sup>th</sup>** birthday with a drive-by Birthday Party on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. “Queen” Betty had many well-wishers who were accompanied by police escorts to drive-by and wish her a happy and prosperous birthday. Well wishers received an exquisitely decorated boxed cupcake.



This pandemic has taken the wind out of most of us. However, in light of curfews, stay-at-home orders, masks and social distancing our Charmette Chapter has been creative in trying to keep busy and maintaining some sense of civility.

			
<p>Charmette Anitris Burns Getting The "VOTE" out</p>	<p>Charmette Jacqueline Wilds Working the Election Polls</p>	<p>Charmette Ruby French Relaxing with her beloved pet Apple</p>	<p>Charmette Freddie Hudson As First Lady</p>

			
<p>Charmette Faye Hatcher On the Job!</p>	<p>Charmette Delores Williams On Top of Things!</p>	<p>Charmette Vivian Kitchen Doing Her Own Thing!</p>	<p>Charmette Corlis McIntyre Showing Off!</p>

# Information from Memphis Metropolitan

## Sista Strut Memphis 2020

As a community outreach activity, the Memphis Metropolitan Chapter was honored to participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Sista Strut Memphis, Saturday, October 3, 2020. Sista Strut takes place in over 15 cities across the nation.

Sista Strut's goal is to heighten awareness about the issues of breast cancer in women of color, and provide information on community resources. Sista Strut Memphis 2020 designated three organizations to receive a portion of the proceeds from this event: **Sisters Network Inc**, a National African American Breast Cancer Survivorship Organization, **Carin' and Sharin'**, a Breast Cancer Education and Support Group, and **Surviving Thriving African Americans Rallying Support (S.T.A.A.R.S.)**, an African American Breast Cancer Support Group.

Due to concerns about Covid-19, this year's "Strut" was a drive-through parade and not the traditional annual walk. The goal was to keep everyone's safety as a top priority, and to ensure proper social distancing. Cars were decorated and there was a "Best Decorated Car" prize!

We made this a day of food, fun and fellowship, arriving early at the home of our President Charmette Demetrice Rufus, for a light breakfast, and then decorating two vehicles for the parade. This was a great team-effort resulting in beautifully done jobs.



L to R: Charmettes Kathryn Crossley, Julia Williamson, and Barbara Earle - decorating.



Sign created and produced by Charmette Dr. Angela Douglas

## Starting Gate of Parade Route



## Our Decorated Vehicles



L to R: Charmettes Julia Williamson, Kathryn Crossley, Barbara Earle, Charmee Bria Douglas, President Demetrice Rufus, Charmettes Andrea Earle and Tomonsa McKinney.

Masks displaying the Charmettes' official logo were designed and made by Charmettes A. Earle and McKinney. We randomly distributed Chick-fil-a gift cards to children along the parade route.

While in the parade, we had the distinction of having FM radio Station V101.1 give us a shout-out, announcing our organization name and theme:

**“Charm is the Essence of a Woman’s Power.”**

**Note from the Reporter: I am now accepting submissions for the next quarter.**

Thank you very much for reading this issue of The Connection. In the next issue, we will have more highlights from our Chapters. If you would like to submit information to be included in an issue, you can email me at [charmteeadrienne@gmail.com](mailto:charmteeadrienne@gmail.com) by the following deadlines: **For the January Issue, January 5<sup>th</sup>**; for the April Issue, March 25<sup>th</sup>; and for July Issue, June 25<sup>th</sup>; for the November Issue, October 25<sup>th</sup> Thank you again and have a wonderful day.