

**TACOMA (WA) LINKS
LEGISLATIVE ISSUES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT
COVERING APRIL 2019**

Provided for April 27, 2019 Chapter Meeting

Western Area Committee Work

- ❖ Link Kirsten Watts has been working with the Western Area LI&PA Committee on preparing a **2020 Census** based workshop for the Western Area conference in June 2019. On April 5, she shared with the Area committee numerous census-based resources, including a draft one-page information sheet and an example of a demographics presentation chapters could use to identify and reach out to hard to count areas near them. Her contributions were well received. Link Kirsten was asked to contact CensusChannel, LLC about creating a demographics report that could benefit the Western Area as well as the entire Links organization.

On a related note, Links should follow the U.S. Supreme Court hearing on whether or not to include a citizenship question in the 2020 Census. The hearing starts on April 23, 2019.

- ❖ The C.R.O.W.N. (**C**reating a **R**espectful and **O**pen **W**orkplace for **N**atural hair) Act passed out of the California Senate on April 22, 2019. If the Act clears the state House and becomes law, will ensure protection against discrimination in the workplace and schools based on hairstyles by prohibiting employers and schools from enforcing purportedly “race neutral” grooming policies that disproportionately impact persons of color. Additionally, while anti-discrimination laws presently protect the choice to wear an Afro, Afros are not the only natural presentation of Black hair. SB 188 will ensure protection against discrimination based on hairstyles by extending statutory protection to hair texture and protective styles in the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) and the California Education Code. Go to http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB188 for more information.

Local Work

Link Kirsten shared information about Washington **Initiative 1000** with President Davis for dissemination to the membership. The information included a link to the state legislature’s public hearing video at <https://www.tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2019041200> that initially aired on April 18, and the April 19-22 March-a-Thon updates. Links Alyce McNeil and Stephanie McGriff (pictured) participated in a portion of the march. The initiative, if passed, essentially will counter Initiative 200 and allow the use of affirmative action, WITHOUT QUOTAS, in state and local hiring, contracting, and school admission decisions. The legislature has until April 28 to vote on the initiative. Otherwise, it will go to the vote of the people in November 2019. Visit www.yeson1000.com for updates.



Respectfully Submitted by R. Kirsten Watts, on April 23, 2019