

RESOLUTION NUMBER 340
The Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

WHEREAS, The Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) was organized in 1964 in Tyler, Texas as the result of the inspiration of Ozell Dean, then a Major in the United States Air Force Nurses Corps, while a guest at a luncheon given by Mrs. Lyndon Baines Johnson shortly after she and President Johnson moved into the White House in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, it was through the foresighted inspiration, vision and enthusiasm of Major Ozell Dean that an idea to attend the talents and skills of women everywhere in a concerted effort for the alleviation of moral and social problems engulfing youth was born; and

WHEREAS, the first meeting to establish policies and exacting governing laws of the organization was held June 4, 1964, in Tyler, Texas. The first area meeting was held in Houston, February 1965, with the first National President, Lady Franchell J. Boswell, presiding; and

WHEREAS, since its founding, the objectives of the organization have been expanded to include not only a focus on the youth group, Top Teens of America, but also improving the status of women, service to senior citizens, community beautification and community partnerships.

WHEREAS, all chapters support the NAACP, UNCF, NCNW, March of Dimes and award scholarships to graduating Top Teens. TLOD incorporated into its program in 1983 a National Foundation of March of Dimes; and

WHEREAS, TLOD is actively involved in monitoring the legislative, judicial and executive situations that affect the welfare of youth, senior citizens, women, the community and the family; and

WHEREAS, Lady Fredda H. Witherspoon, Ph.D. is the distinguished Area III organizer and served as the first Area III Director. In 1975, Lady Witherspoon served as Area III Director. She convened the first Area III meeting at the Phi Delta Sorority House at 5239 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago. After her induction into TLOD, she began to crusade to organize more chapters for the organization; and

WHEREAS, the Cardinal Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction was organized on April 22, 1988 by Lady Ina Boon for the purpose of continuing the ideals and mission of TLOD and to provide service to the St. Louis Metropolitan Service; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2011 through March 13, 2011, the 35th Anniversary of the Area III Conference will convene in St. Louis at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac Hotel under the leadership of Lady Emily Jones; and

WHEREAS, thirty-five years later, Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and Top Teens of America continue to provide premier service to youths and adults in Area III.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to recognize the many accomplishments and achievements of The Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a copy for presentation to the honorees, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 4th day of March, 2011 by:

Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward

Adopted this the 4th day of March, 2011 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen