

## **Leah E. Watson**

Leah E. Watson is newly retired Senior IT Project Manager at British Airways, who achieved an excellent reputation for project management and interpersonal skills over her 34 years of service. Leah received the British Airways "Above and Beyond" award for successfully managing a six-million-dollar corporate IT initiative. She received the British Airways Outstanding Teamwork Award and was selected by colleagues for demonstrating British Airways Values of Honesty and Responsibility.

She is a Co-Founder and Co-President of A Better You Consulting Services LLC, which specializes in Executive and Emerging Leadership Development, Project Management, Conference Event Planning and IT Professional Services.

Through Leah's organizational affiliations, she utilizes her innovative leadership skills to inspire and motivate others. Leah is the immediate past president of the Long Island (NY) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Under her leadership, she established the first National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Junior chapter for middle school girls on Long Island. Leah is currently serving as Communications Chair for the Eastern Area of The Links, Incorporated. In this role, she is responsible for all social media channels, distribution of a bimonthly area newsletter, and weekly media highlights.

Leah is serving her second term as a Board Director for the Girl Scouts of Nassau County, Inc.

She also serves as the Technology Chair for the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Long Island Chapter, Inc. In December 2021, Leah was appointed to serve on the National Technology Committee for the National Coalition of 100 Black Women.

Leah is a Life Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and former president of Theta Iota Omega Chapter. Leah is the recipient of the 2020 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award from the Eta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

In addition, Leah's other community service and other affiliations include:

- National Design/Decoration Committee Member, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, 2021 to present
- Awards Committee Member, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, North Atlantic Region 2018 to 2022
- Board Vice Chairman, Ivy Foundation Suffolk-Nassau Counties Inc. 2019-2020
- Board Member/Public Policy Chairman, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Long Island Chapter, Incorporated. 2011 to 2015
- National Public Policy Committee Member, National Coalition of 100 Black Women 2015
- Parliamentarian, Long Island (NY) Chapter, The Links Incorporated, 2014 to 2017
- 2014 Conference Chairman, North Atlantic Region, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, April 2014
- Cluster III Co-Coordinator, North Atlantic Region, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated 2010 to 2014
- President, Theta Iota Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated 2007 to 2010
- Credit Committee Chairman, British Airways Employees Federal Credit Union: 2008 to 2010.

## **DISTINCTIONS AND AWARDS**

### **British Airways**

Selected by colleagues for demonstrating the British Airways Values of Honesty and Responsibility, 1997

### **Community Based Awards**

- 2020 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award from Eta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated
- 2018 Global Impact Award from Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral
- 2016 Innovative Leadership Award from Central Nassau Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club
- 2010 Top 50 Influential Women in Business, from Long Island Business News
- 2010 Community Service Award from the Central Nassau Club of the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club
- 2009 President of the Year for Large Chapter - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, North Atlantic Regional Conference
- 2008 Outstanding Soror of the Year – 11th Biennial Eastern Regional Conference of the National Pan Hellenic Council, Incorporated
- 2008 Outstanding Soror of the Year, National Pan Hellenic Council, LI
- 2008 Woman in Power Feature story in NY Trend newspaper

Leah graduated from Pace University, Pleasantville, New York with a Bachelor's degree in Operations Management. She's also a graduate of the British Airways Certificate in Management Studies Course, Oxford Brookes University and the Dale Carnegie Training Institute in Effective Speaking and Human Relations

Leah is married to Steven, Chief Financial Officer for Open Systems Technologies, mother to Steven Jr. Mechanical Engineer for the Department of Defense, and Lisa, Tax Accountant. She's a proud grandmother to granddaughter, Yuna.