

# SOUTHERN

*Gazette*

Spring 2018



“POWER IN OUR VOICES: DELTA. WE ARE THE CHANGE.”

## BLACK WOMEN EXCELLENCE

► HIGHLIGHTS FROM  
THE 2018  
**DELTA DAYS**  
AT THE NATION'S CAPITAL



DYNAMIC SOUTHERN REGION: THE YEAR OF BLACK WOMEN

# Greetings



to the Dynamic Sorors of the Southern Region,

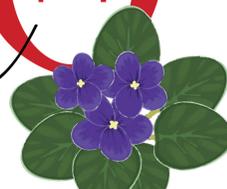
We are extremely excited and pleased to present, the 2018 Spring Edition of the Southern Gazette! This powerful edition represents Black Girl Magic from Black Women-Sorors from within the Southern Region!

Southern Region sorors continue to prove that we are a force to be reckon with! From those record breaking votes at the polls in Alabama, to Black Women many whom are Deltas serving as City Mayors in Atlanta and East Point, we continue to show that there is POWER in our VOICE!

Therefore sorors, we encourage you to take a few moments to read these amazing stories and become inspired like we are by the exceptional representation that these sorors and chapters have shown within their communities.

Happy Reading and thank you again for sharing your wonderful stories of Sisterhood, Scholarship, and Service as we continue to Embrace, Engage, and Empower the region! See you in Nashville!

Violets and Pearls,  
Sandy and Jessica

Advancing  
the  
Sisterhood   
EMPOWER ▲ EMBRACE ▲ ENGAGE 

On March 11-13, 2018, more than 1200 strong and powerful sorors converged on the Nation's Capital to strategize the future of the African-American Community during the **2018 Delta Days at the Nation's Capital**.

When you consider the numerous events happening around the world, it is no wonder why this year's Delta Days at the Nation's Capital boast the largest attendance in the events history said National President, Beverly E. Smith.

The event was packed with powerful members of the Social Action community including Sen. Cory Booker, Derrick Johnson, and Bishop Barber along with tons of great information that included talking points for legislative sessions.

The Delta Milaje, as the National Chaplain, Soror Vashti Murphy McKenzie coined during Sunday's Ecumenical Service, empowered, and encouraged sorors to walk up to Capitol hill in our Red attire and make the members of Congress realize that "when you mess with one of us, you mess with all of us".

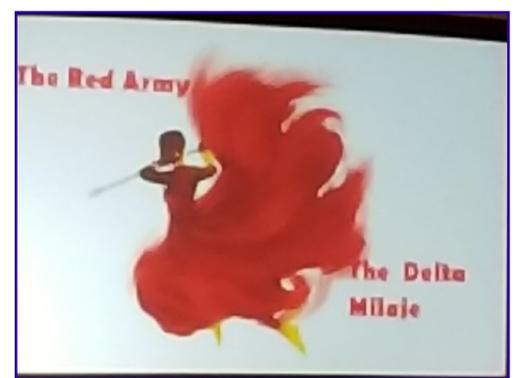
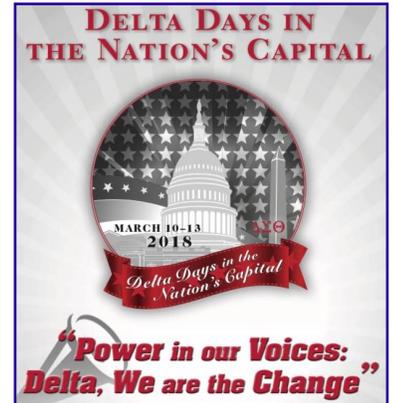
Bishop William Barber II who took sorors on a journey through Delta's history during the Social Action Luncheon reminded the members of the sorority that our foundation was justified in March 1913 to be public and to be dangerous. He continued to remind us that numerous members of the sorority including Sorors Dorothy Irene Height and Fannie Lou Homer understood that foundation and set the course for organizing and strategizing. He told attendees that we **MUST** "get ourselves together and not because of the tweets but because of the politics. He also encouraged us to challenge the hill by removing our heels."

Some of the important political challenges addressed by the more than 170 sorors from the Southern Region were:

1. Voting Rights- we have less voting rights today than we had yesterday
2. Gun Control- Keep law-abiding citizens safe; arming teachers with guns is not the answer
3. 2020 Census
4. Supporting members of the sorority who are running for office like Soror Andrea Bond Johnson for State Representative in TN.

Therefore, sorors of the Southern Region, we indeed have work to do and this year's Delta Days, chaired by Sorors Shavon Arline Bradley and Rhonda Briggins was truly phenomenal, and reassured us that in the important days and months ahead; leading to the primary elections, there is Power in our Voice and **we won't be silent anymore!**

*"The real revolutionary is the one not concerned about the least of things. There is power in our voice, Delta we are the change!"*



**VICTORIA WASHINGTON** was initiated in the **Gamma Psi Chapter** of Delta Sigma Theta on November 3, 2017. She is an engaged member of her community who does not shy away from opportunities to serve. She has a passion for writing. And when she is not writing excerpts from books she may never finish, she is using her passion to capture experiences of black womanhood. She is a UNCF Mellon-Mays fellow who critiques the work of black men who dress as black women for comedic purposes. During her free time, Victoria loves getting down to the funkadelic and conscious tunes of Janelle Monae and Propaganda, both of whom share her sense of duty to God and the community.



## Anniston Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Mental and Physical Health

The **Anniston Alumnae Chapter** of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated hosted a National Day of Red for Women Luncheon and Health Fair Friday, February 2, 2018, Oxford Civic Center, Oxford, AL. The event was organized by Physical and Mental Health Committee Co-Chairs Soror Patricia Daniel and Soror Sharon Winston. The focus of the event was Preventing Heart Disease in Women: “The Silent Killer.” The event began with a one hour health fair conducted by medical professionals from Regional Medical Center, Anniston AL and Anniston Cardiology Associates. Nearly 200 persons took advantage of heart screenings and educational materials as well as dined on a heart healthy lunch. Through a video presentation everyone was educated on the plight of “The Silent Killer.” A local Cardiologist was the main speaker for the event. He stressed the importance of seeking medical attention if you experience chest pain. He also noted that doctors need to do a better job of recognizing heart disease in women. Moreover, other speakers included two cardio survivors. One spoke about a heart related experience at the age of sixteen years old and the lifetime changes that had to be made into adulthood. The other speaker spoke on noticeable changes with her body that sent her to the doctor. Heart healthy tips were provided by a local Physical Therapist. She stressed the importance of consistent daily exercise for heart health. Additionally, members of the Anniston Alumnae Chapter



and Kappa Beta Chapter provided entertainment with a “RED” Fashion Show. The event culminated with presentations and awards for financial sponsors of the event. The success of this event raised \$ 2,125.20 which will be donated to the American Heart Association.



# GIVING A SECOND CHANCE

## Atlanta Alumnae Chapter

### “RESTORATIVE JUSTICE EXPUNGEMENT SUMMIT”

The **Atlanta Alumnae Chapter** of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. not only answered the call to take an active interest in the welfare of others, it raised the bar.

More than 400 people wanting to have their criminal records expunged pre-registered for the Restorative Justice Expungement Summit administered by the Fulton County (GA) Solicitor General’s Office. The day of the summit 1500 people came in search of a second chance. A chance to have a clean start without the burden of an arrest or conviction hindering them from being productive citizens.

“We are reminded daily of the impact a criminal record can have on the African American community,” said Camille Smith Zeigler, president of the Atlanta Alumnae Chapter. “Delta’s Five Point Programmatic Thrust stands for everything the expungement summit strives to achieve. It was imperative that we help our brothers and sisters restore their life opportunities and rebuild paths to self-sufficiency.”

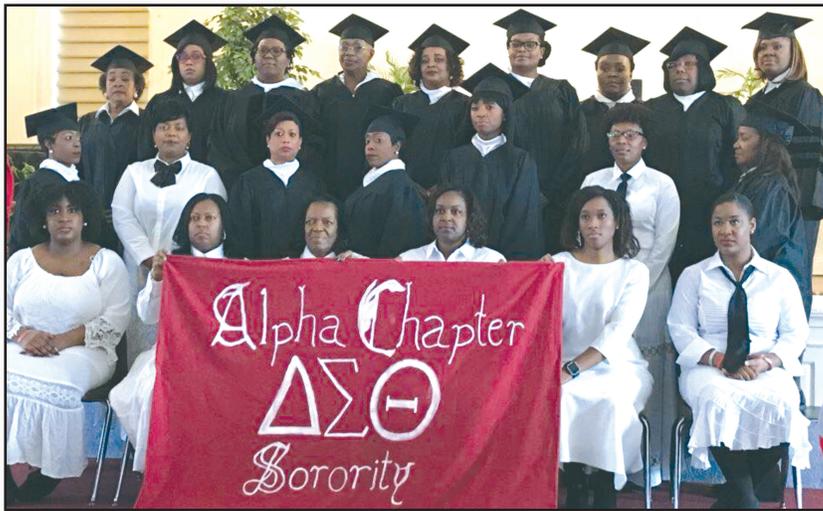
Atlanta Alumnae’s Political Awareness and Involvement, Social Action, and Economic Development Committees coordinated legal aid support and second chance employers for the event. Employers and placement organizations included: Construction Ready; D & B Janitorial Services; Enterprise Holdings; Fulton County Workforce Development; Georgia-Pacific; Urban League of Greater Atlanta and Women on the Rise. Some employers hired on-site, affording participants with an immediate new start. Participants also were registered to vote.

Expungements are a legal process that can clear arrests, charges and minor blemishes from a citizen’s public record. In Georgia, it is estimated that 3.8 million people have a criminal history, nearly 40 percent of Georgia’s population. The process to expunge a charge usually takes up to 150 days with much of the process being driven by the individual. Through the summit, the process is free of fees and expedited. Citizens walk away with a judge-signed order sealing their record in only a few hours.

“A criminal record can be a major barrier when seeking employment, housing and educational loans,” says Fulton County Solicitor General Keith Gammage. “It is more beneficial to us as a society to allow citizens the opportunity to work and live productive lives than to be held back by minor, youthful missteps that resulted in a misdemeanor arrest.”

Event sponsors included the Atlanta Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Georgia Justice Project, Alston & Bird, LLP, Communication Workers of America (CWA) Local 3204, Teamsters Local 728, Georgia AFL-CIO, Atlanta-North Georgia Labor Council, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU).





## FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION AUBURN ALUMNAE RE-CREATES FOUNDERS PORTRAIT

Auburn Alumnae Chapter celebrated 105 years of service on January 13, 2018. As part of their celebration, the Founders portrait was recreated. Sorors portrayed each Founder and provided information about their lives. Soror Cynthia Boyd, the 21st Southern Regional Director and member of Auburn Alumnae Chapter paid tribute to the 14th National President Frankie Muse Freeman and 17th National President Mona Humphries Bailey during the program.

# AUGUSTA ALUMNAE CHAPTER

## Committed to Paine College

The **Augusta Alumnae Chapter** extended its commitment of support to Paine College through a donation to the Student Activity Center. Paine is a private coeducational historically black college located in Augusta, Georgia. The mission is to provide a liberal arts education that emphasizes academic excellence, ethical and spiritual values, social responsibility, and personal development to prepare men and women for positions of leadership and service in the African American community, the nation, and the world. Paine College is affiliated with the United Methodist Church and Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

The chapter presented Paine College with a donation of \$15,000 from members of the Southern Region 2018 Georgia State Cluster and Founders Day Observance Ecumenical. The service was held at the Gilbert-Lambuth Memorial Chapel on the campus of Paine College. Members participated in the Cluster service project painting the game room walls and activity wall at Student Activity Center.

Kim Gaines, Chapter President presented Dr. Jerry Hardee, Paine College President with billiard equipment, board games, video games and a foosball table. Dr. Hardee was elated that the chapter chose to enhance the student experience on the campus. He looked forward an ongoing relationship with the “Deltas” of the Augusta Alumnae Chapter. The presentation was made as the college was set to start its week of Homecoming activities.

WJBF Channel 6 News reporter Renetta DuBose covered the event. The segment aired on the local evening and night news.



# BIRMINGHAM ALUMNAE CHAPTER SUPPORTS MARLA H. CORTS MISSION SCHOOL IN LIBERIA WEST AFRICA

“Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.” –Nelson Mandela

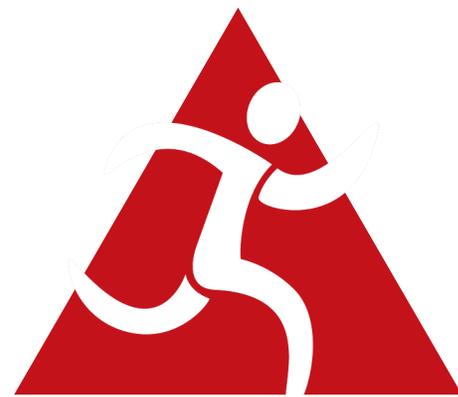
On Thursday, December 14, 2017, the International Awareness and Involvement Committee with the collaboration of the Chapter President, Soror Matilda Merriweather, and the members of **Birmingham Alumnae Chapter**, prepared a barrel of donated school supplies for the Marla H. Corts Mission School. To meet some of the educational needs of the students, the following supplies were sent: composition tablets, graph paper, and white chalk. Located in Liberia, West Africa, the Marla H. Corts Mission School consists of 135 students enrolled in grades preschool through ninth.

The school supplies will impact students' academic achievement by improving study skills, increasing motivation, and enabling each student to have sufficient supplies to complete class and homework assignments (as shown). Committee Chair, Soror Brenda Rudolph, developed a partnership with the Eddie Gibson International Ministries to aid with the necessities of Marla H. Corts Mission School. Eddie Gibson, Executive Director, born in Liberia, helped build Marla H. Corts Mission School along with the school founder, Past President of Sanford University, Birmingham, Alabama, Dr. Thomas E. Corts in 2001.

The co chairs of the committee are Sorors Andrea Pincham-Benton and Mynina Lewis.

By using the most powerful weapon to change the world, the International Awareness and Involvement Committee of the Birmingham Alumnae Chapter will continue to impact the educational endeavors of international projects in assisting with the development of life-long learners.





## BCAC 2018 5K RACE FOR HEALTH

Before the sun rose on Saturday morning January 20, the ladies of the **Broward County Alumnae Chapter** of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. arrived at the Kathleen C. Wright Life Development Center in Osswald Park to prepare for the Third Annual 5K Race for Health. The event supports Deltas commitment to Physical and Mental Health. Sorors, family, friends, and the community came together to encourage healthy living. Sorors prepared months in advance by initiating a walking club to track steps via the inKin app.

Sorors arrived decked out in their **DELTA RUN THIS TOWN** t-shirts, ready to raise funds and celebrate our commitment to health and wellness. It was a beautiful morning with the temperatures ranging from 66 to 72 degrees. There were over 75 Deltas in attendance to assist with registration, snacks, parking, and extending words of encouragement to the 300 plus participants. Our Grand Marshal, Ray Shipman, a former College and NFL football player, was there to kick off the race, and challenged all participants to push themselves by competing against each other and/or the clock.

Experienced runners and other participants were excited about exercising as a group in a local neighborhood park. The certified 3.1-mile course started at Osswald Park, 2100 NW 21st Ave, Ft. Lauderdale, FL; and ran through Mills Pond Park then back to Osswald. On-site registration opened at 6:30am, followed by an invigorating warm up session led by Soror Latonia Mills. Nadia Bailey, a Dillard High School senior, sang a beautiful rendition of the Star Spangle Banner to start the race.

At the end of the race, all registered participants received a finisher's medal and the opportunity to participate in post-race festivities. Everyone enjoyed the performances, snacks, fellowship, and photo opportunities. The performers included Beat Street, a young dance group; Dillard High School's step team; and Kameron Wigham, a skilled dancer. The first, second, and third place winners in each age category were recognized with ribbons and trophies during the awards ceremony.

Our fundraising efforts were enhanced because of our ability to identify and secure fantastic sponsorships. A special thank you to our sponsors Broward Health, AARP, State Farm, and Senator Perry Thurston. Sorors Cheryl Dickey, Carolyn Harris, and Tina Teague were also sponsors. The Big Red Bus a bloodmobile was on site; as well as several vendors including a chiropractor and a Ski Club. All sponsors, vendors, and participants were present to promote health and wellness.

The strong turnout for this event has our dynamic 5K Committee so pumped up and excited that they have already set the date for our Fourth Annual 5K Race for Health. Sorors, mark your calendars for January 19, 2019! Every year has proven to get better and better; therefore, 2019 has the makings of something exceptional with new and amazing things forthcoming. It's safe to say that the ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., without a doubt, **RUN THIS TOWN!**

*Jessika and Ella*  
BCAC 5K Committee



As the first and only African-American Greek-letter organization in Collier County and one of the few organizations in the area made up of college-educated professionals, the **Collier County Alumnae Chapter** is making sure that local minority children are not left behind when it comes to receiving a good education.

“Serving local youth is our highest priority as we deliver on our promise to serve the community, said Dr. Pamela Wilkins, president of the Collier County Alumnae Chapter (CCAC).

The chapter has established several robust educational development programs for students. For many students, it has been their first exposure to African-American entrepreneurs, educators and other professionals.

In February, CCAC rolled out its Dream Catchers leadership and mentoring after-school program at Golden Gate Middle School. Trained sorors are leading sessions for students participating in the program, which includes topics on leadership development, goal setting, self-esteem, etiquette, physical and mental health, as well as financial management.

Another program is the chapter’s highly successful Career Conversations, held annually in March at the Boys and Girls Club in Naples.

During the career-focused discussion, students receive one-on-one positive mentoring about their career interests from a diverse and successful group of professionals, including area leaders in banking and finance, education, government, human resources, information technology, public relations, law, medicine, real estate, religion, and retail.

Professionals from around the United States attend Career Conversations, which is open to middle and high school students.

The chapter is also gearing up for the summer Raising the Bar program. Raising the Bar is a college-prep program sponsored by the Collier County NAACP and CCAC in collaboration with the Collier County Public Schools.

The two-week summer program is a five-year initiative to help minority students in grades eight through 12 hone their skills in math and Language Arts. They are also exposed to financial literacy through classes and a field trip to a local bank, along with college preparedness through a field trip to a college campus.

The driving force behind CCAC’s educational development programs is Dr. Della Burt-Bradley, a retired English professor and executive administrator. Since moving to Naples permanently from Indiana, Soror Burt-Bradley has taken on major leadership roles in various organizations.

Because of her outstanding contributions to Collier County’s youth, she was one of last year’s Champions for Learning honorees. The prestigious honor is presented by the Naples-based nonprofit organization that focuses on giving teachers and students the resources they need to reach their full potential.

# COLLEGE PREP A Major Focus Of Collier County Alumnae



*Dr. Della Burt-Bradley is surrounded by sorors after she was honored for her community service by Naples’ prestigious Champions for Learning.*



*Dr. Pamela Wilkins presents a \$2,000 check to the Collier County NAACP for the Raising the Bar program.*



Fueled by the fact that metropolitan Atlanta is recognized as one of the largest hubs for human trafficking in the country, the **Decatur Alumnae (GA) Chapter's** Social Action committee hosted a community forum on Thursday, January 25th – Break the Shackles of Human Trafficking: Educate, Engage, Advocate – to increase awareness of the growing pervasiveness of human trafficking within the metro area.

Following a successful publicity campaign that featured social media, radio broadcast and local newspapers, the forum saw over 250 people pre-register several weeks before the evening event. The event announcement was featured in local newspapers, and several community e-newsletters and websites. Interviews with the Chapter President, Soror Adrienne Jackson and Social Action Committee co-chair, Soror Barbara Wright, were broadcast on two local radio stations – WAOK and the morning drive on V-103 – highlighting the imperative nature of human trafficking and inviting the community to join the chapter in the fight to end this modern day form of slavery.

The forum was a collaboration between the Decatur Alumnae, the non-profit victim advocacy organization Street Grace, DeKalb County School District and the sorors of the Omicron Xi Chapter at Emory University. As a gesture of support, the school district hosted the event in its central office auditorium, and Superintendent Dr. R. Stephen Green offered a compelling charge to the audience.

As a precursor to the forum, participants engaged with numerous community organizations committed to assisting victims and families entangled in the difficulties associated with human trafficking and the exploitation of children and youth. During the exhibition, participants received information from these organizations and were encouraged to volunteer and get involved.

The program began with a warm welcome from Social Action co-chair, Soror Terri M. Hall, which set the tone for the evening. The discussion included an impressive panel of highly recognized advocates in the field of human trafficking representing county law enforcement, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the DeKalb County District Attorney's office, a tattoo removal specialist for trafficking victims, a safe house advocate, two non-profit human trafficking advocacy organizations, and a survivor. One of the last voices during the forum was that of Ms. Naomi B, a gospel artist, who presented the "Call to Action" with her song, "Don't Walk Away" (written by Meg Ammons).

In recognition of January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month, sorors wore blue corsages and community participants wore blue ribbons as a show of solidarity in the plight of ending human trafficking. The timeliness of the "Break the Shackles" forum was indeed unmistakable. As participants walked away from the event, they took with them a better understanding of how young people are lured into human trafficking, the advocacy and legal efforts required to free victims from the trade, and the recognizable warning signs present in those who are being exploited. The information provided added to the chorus of voices seeking to save the vulnerable being sold against their will as well as the efforts to #DemandAnEnd to human trafficking.

**STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**Break the Shackles of Human Trafficking:  
Educate • Engage • Advocate**

Thursday, January 25, 2018  
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
DeKalb County School District Auditorium  
1701 Mountain Industrial Blvd.  
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Light refreshments will be served  
Please RSVP to [bit.ly/HumanTraffickingDST](http://bit.ly/HumanTraffickingDST)

Hosted by the Decatur Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, in collaboration with DeKalb County School District, Street Grace, and Commissioner Larry Johnson

DeKalb County School District | www.dkcsd.org | STREETGRACE



# Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

A Service Sorority Founded in 1913

1707 New Hampshire Ave N.W. ▲ Washington, DC ▲ (202) 986-2400 ▲ Telefax (202) 986-2513

## A Weekend of Love, Golf, and Sisterhood: Georgia State Cluster and 105<sup>th</sup> Founders Day

AUGUSTA --- Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. the single largest African-American women's organization in the country, convened in Augusta, GA for the 105<sup>th</sup> Founders Day celebration and Georgia State Cluster this past weekend. The conference was held at the Marriott Convention Center downtown with an attendance of approximately 2,000 members, vendors, and guests travelling nationwide. The weekend was filled with love, giving, and a sisterhood spirit.

The weekend "tee'd off" on Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, with a golf-themed welcome event, honoring Augusta's rich history of the Masters Golf Tournament. Augusta Marshal Ramone Lamkin and Paine College President, Dr. Jerry L. Hardee, were both present to greet the Sorority and celebrate the eve of 105 years of service, sisterhood, and scholarship.

On Saturday morning, the Southern Regional Director, Soror Sandra K. Horton, lead the Georgia Sorors in a Founders Day Rededication Ceremony followed by a Hazing Prevention Panel where Deidra Dukes of Atlanta Fox 5 and Shaunya Chavis Rucker of 11ALIVE in Atlanta served as moderators. Shortly after, the Sorors dispersed to pre-assigned service projects in over 30 areas of Richmond, Thomson, and Columbia counties. The collegiate Sorors (*shown left*) from all over the state of Georgia came together at Paine College and painted the student activity center and donated games. Southern Regional Representative, Jessica Shotwell, stated, it is an honor for the region to give back to a college that has given so much. I am thankful for the sorors of Paine College for this amazing opportunity of giving and service.

That evening, the Sorors came together to let their hair down and enjoy the evening with a Sisterhood Soiree, featuring live music, a desert bar, and spoken word. The attire for the evening was, of course, diva red.

Finally on Sunday morning, the 2018 GA State Cluster was completed with the Ecumenical Service (*shown right*), where the Regional Chaplain, Jaye Lynn Peabody Smith gave the Word. Additionally, as a final act of generosity to the local area, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. donated \$15,000 to Paine College, a 135-year-old historically black private institution that recently struggled with financial stability. "It was a great culmination to our 105<sup>th</sup> Founders Day Celebration to give an impactful donation to an institution rich in tradition and a destiny of greatness to come." Kim Gaines, President of Augusta Alumnae stated.

The local chapters collaborated to host over 1,800 members attending the conference. The host chapters include the Augusta Alumnae Chapter, Greater Columbia County Alumnae Chapter, Mu Xi Chapter of Augusta State University, and Eta Theta Chapter of Paine College. Southern Regional Director, Sandra K. Horton stated, "it was a pleasure to join the members of the sorority to celebrate our 105 years of Sisterhood, Scholarship, and Service. Service is the bedrock of everything we do as Deltas and to be able to serve and give back to a college that has given so much to its students and graduates was an honor! We thank the Mayor, Richmond County Marshall, other city officials as well as members of the host chapters for the warm welcome we received to the city. We truly enjoyed ourselves."





## GRAND BAHAMA ALUMNAE CHAPTER of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. in conjunction with seven Grand Bahama Greek Letter Organizations hosted their Second Annual Charity Christmas Toy Drive Saturday, December 16th, 2017.

Noting that Christmas is the season to kindle the fire of hospitality, Gayla McPhee, Charity Christmas Toy Drive Chairperson and Grand Bahama Alumnae chapter member, revealed her elation to have the unwavering support of the GB Greek Letter Organizations, in bringing holiday cheer to children whose families have experienced more than their fair share of difficulties.

Members of Alpha Sorority Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., rose bright an early Saturday morning, uniting their efforts to collect much-needed toys and organized a distribution system throughout the community. According to McPhee, “Seven local Greek Letter Organizations teamed up this year to manage and distribute hundreds of gifts throughout the community.

“The idea for the toy drive was born last year in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, which caused massive devastation across Grand Bahama.

“Members of the Grand Bahama Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Inc., wanted to find a way to bring cheer to the families that were negatively impacted by the storm. It was decided that as a mandate through both our organization and the other Greek Letter Organizations, it would be a great idea to team-up, to donate gifts to the less fortunate.

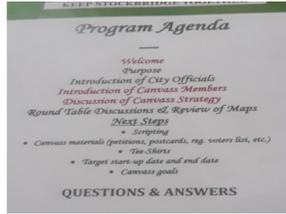
“Once the invitation was extended to the other Greek Letter Organizations they quickly jumped on board and together we were able to execute a successful toy drive and the same undoubtedly is expected this time around.”

Each member of the seven Greek Letter Organizations kick started the donation process by giving, at minimum, one gift to the cause.

Commending local companies for extending their charitable heart to numerous initiatives by civic organizations year round, McPhee noted the Greeks solely wanted to give back while supporting the local vendors as well.

Humbled by the support and committed to the fact that it is more blessed to give than to receive, the Charity Christmas Toy Drive Chairperson revealed the event was a success. She stated, “Next year we would like to make the event bigger and better, with the hope of putting smiles in the faces of even more children in Grand Bahama, for many years to come.”





In the Fall of 2017, **Henry County Alumnae Chapter (HCAC)**, in collaboration with The New Georgia Project brought the Advocates for Change Institute (ACI) to the Henry County community with targeting the citizens of Stockbridge, GA. The multi-week program was planned to increase organizing capacity and direct voter engagement throughout communities of color. The ACI was presented to Henry County and residents of Stockbridge, GA in 2-hour workshops for 4-weeks, designed to provide participants with background and tools needed to become engaged community members. The ACI workshops produced specifically for Henry County with information on the de-annexation of parts of Stockbridge, GA to create a new city - New City of Eagles Landing, essentially using government and economic laws to create a “city-within-a-city”.

The ACI was effective in providing baseline knowledge of how government works (i.e., local, state and federal) and demystifying politics. The program also allowed participants to see the connection between voting, especially in local elections, and how their participation - or lack thereof - contributes to the issues they want to see changed. HCAC began the workshops on October 26 at Village Park North in Stockbridge and continued every Thursday for 4-weeks through November 16, 2017. The attendees included candidates seeking local office, members of the local chapters of Omega Psi Phi, National Council of Negro Women and the NAACP. The participants ranged in age from 12 – 65, and while the 4-week boot camp peaked at 35 attendees, 27 partakers completed the advocacy program.

Since the completion of the ACI, the newly certified participants created an advocacy group called “Save Stockbridge”. The new alliance went on to meet with Stockbridge City Council and Mayor and attended the State and Local Government Operations Committee Meeting at the Georgia State Capital Building. 98% of ACI attendees rated the community organizing program excellent and were complementary of the workshops. Some of their comments included:

- *It was very informative, peaked interest and motivating.*
- *It will help me engage millennials on why their vote counts.*
- *It will help me to broaden my conversation regarding politics, made me more prepared to explain the issues and help with change.*
- *It will help me make educated contributions to my community.*
- *It helped to develop tools for advocacy on civic issues and will equip me well to run for office.*
- *I gained more knowledge about state and local government elections.*
- *It has helped me become an advocate for my surroundings and not focus only on the US Presidency.*
- *I am now better informed on how to engage my community and get involved with community organizing.*
- *It was an excellent forum to organize advocates within the community.*
- *Thank you for the information, as it has helped me be better informed and more engaged.*

***This program proves that when you arm a body of people with knowledge, they can truly become the change that they wish to see.***

# HUNTSVILLE ALUMNAE DELIVERING ON DELTA'S PROMISE



It was an eventful and delightful occasion “Delivering on Delta’s Promise” as **Huntsville Alumnae (AL) Chapter** celebrated the sorority’s 105th Founders Day. The celebration, chaired by Patricia Sims, Laura Clift, and Amanda Watkins was held at the beautiful Huntsville Botanical Gardens Grand Hall. WAAY 31 (Huntsville, AL) TV news anchor Demetria McClenton (Dothan Alumnae) served as Mistress of Ceremony.

The program proceeded with Chapter Presidents Jackie Perry (Huntsville Alumnae), Brijanae Law (Delta Delta - Alabama A&M University) and Maya Glover (Omicron Gamma - University of Alabama Huntsville) welcoming over 300 guests followed by greetings by Immediate Past President Mychelle Leonard. A special tribute by Sheila Baxter recognized the accomplished charter and past Presidents of Huntsville Alumnae. Members reaching 25 and 50 year anniversaries within the sorority were celebrated. Musical selections from the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter Sisters in Praise captivated the audience as well as an amazing dance tribute paying homage to members entering Omega Omega.

The highlight of the evening featured Past Huntsville Alumnae President, Alabama State Representative District 19 A. Laura Hall as Founders Day speaker. Representative Hall received a standing ovation for her powerful words igniting efforts of the sorority to continue delivering on its promise through social action and education. Hall praised the unceasing efforts of Huntsville Alumnae as advocates of historical change. She applauded the chapter’s strong commitment in voter registration drives and town hall meetings which notable contributed to the “red army” turning the great state of Alabama “blue” for the first time in 25 years!

The celebration continued with Huntsville Alumnae delivering on its promise in educational development. Representing 105 years, the chapter’s goal was to collect 105 books for the fairly new Cavalry Hill Library. The chapter surpassed expectations with over 700 book donations!

In conclusion, Huntsville Alumnae delivered on its promise in sisterhood by attending Sunday church services at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church and a fellowship brunch.

The Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., chartered in 1954 has a rich legacy of providing service throughout the entire county of Madison. The chapter strives to provide quality programs to educate our youth, steer economic development within our community and be at the forefront of social action.





# TWITTER FINGERS

## Social Media Dos and Don'ts Iota Lambda Chapter

The Iota Lambda Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. hosted a Social Media Summit on Friday, January 12TH. "Twitter Fingers" was an inaugural political forum implemented to discuss the vast impacts of using social media. The program was held on the campus of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and attended by students and sorors from the local Alumnae Chapter. The panel included, Soror Debra Weston-Pickens, a Defense Attorney in Birmingham, AL and Soror LaTonya Wright, a Program Analyst with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Soror Weston-Pickens offered a legal perspective to matters that have involved criminal cases as well as cyber bullying where evidence was taken from social media. She emphasized that everyone should think twice before posting messages that could implicate them in the court system or seem derogatory on a personal level.

Adding to the information given from Soror Weston-Pickens, Soror Wright, discussed technological advances on how the government has the ability to track any activity or information that is posted on social media. Also, Soror Wright discussed how employers may utilize social media in their hiring process. At the conclusion of their presentations, participants asked both Panelists questions on how to report if they have been a Victim or how to assist others with informing proper authorities.

"Twitter's Fingers" was well attended and the captive audience was engaged from the beginning. Attendees even asked that the Chapter hosts more social media and cyber bullying awareness events! We believe that the Attendees will adhere to this information and will utilize these safe practices while engaging in various platforms of social media.



**"TWITTER FINGERS"**  
**Social Media and Cyberbullying**  
*presented by:*  
*Debra Weston-Pickens, Esq.*  
**Friday, January 12, 2018**  
**University of Alabama at Birmingham**



Dress to Impress



## THE CAREER CLOSET

The **Iota Lambda Chapter** of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. launched a new initiative, The Career Closet, on the campus of University of Alabama in Birmingham. The brainchild of Spring 2017 initiate, Soror Kristin Williams, the Career Closet opened its doors to ensure that university students dress to impress in business attire when attending job interviews, career fairs, and other professional engagements. Since the grand opening of The Closet, the Iota Lambda Chapter has been able to serve a growing number of students with clothing donated by other students. The Career Closet is ALWAYS accepting donations.

To meet the growing needs on campus, a neighboring dry cleaner defrays the cost to clean the donated items. The Iota Lambda Chapter partners with Career and Professional Development Office to not only provide students with clothing to wear but also to educate them about what is and what is not appropriate to wear in a professional setting. Through this partnership, The Career Closet also serves as a great volunteer opportunity for students willing to serve others on-campus. In addition, the Career and Professional Development Office donated a steamer so that the clothes are neat and freshly pressed.

The Closet is a huge success on campus. It prepares students for the professional world. It is most definitely dressed to impress.



## KNOW YOUR STATUS

The **Iota Sigma Chapter** of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated hosted “Know Your Status” on January 31, 2018 at 6:13 pm. The event focused on the different types of sexually transmitted diseases. Dr. Jimmie Smith, Mercer University Public Health Professor, explained how each sexually transmitted disease is transmitted, the symptoms of the disease, and how each disease can be treated and prevented. Pamphlets and 3-D figures were available for participants to read to increase understanding of each disease.

Courtney Eaton and Cylas Sterling of the North Central District Department of Public Health administered HIV testing in a separate room for any participant interested in knowing their status. Lastly, female, and male condoms were given to participants concluding the program. A total of 35 people participated in the event and 27 people completed the HIV Screening Test.

The chapter estimated 30 people to participate in the event. The chapter is pleased that the goal was met and that all the participants left with negative results on their HIV screenings. The



positive reception and support for “Know Your Status” showed the members that although discussing sexually transmitted diseases can be uncomfortable, people want to be educated in their prevalence in society.

Sexually transmitted diseases not only affect the carrier, but they also affect those who build a relationship with that individual more than just the sexual encounters. A point that Dr. Jimmie Smith made clear for everyone is that people who are living through these burdens are friends or family members, of someone and have their entire lives to continue to live. The only major change for them is the quality of their sexual health.

“Know Your Status” emphasized the point that protecting and maintaining the quality of your sexual health is important to your overall quality of life. With more than 36.7 million people living with HIV globally, 46,870 of these individuals live in the State of Georgia, and 21% of them

are undergraduates, “Know Your Status” is a necessary program to raise awareness of the world-wide epidemic of HIV transmittance and other sexually transmitted diseases.



## SUPER SATURDAY AT THE ART MUSEUM

The Arts and Letters Committee of **LaGrange Alumnae Chapter** of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. sponsored a trip to the LaGrange Arts Museum on February 17, 2018. Approximately twenty youths participated in the Super Saturday event.

The goal of the committee was to provide education in the arts and develop an application for cultural enrichment through artistic activities. The youths participated in two workshops and toured the museum. They indicated that they thoroughly enjoyed Super Saturday.



# STRIVING FOR FINANCIAL FREEDOM

As a part of the **Lake Oconee Area Alumnae Chapter's** assessment of its tri-county service area, it was noted that the racial wealth gap is much larger than the wage or income gap by race. More than one in four black households have zero or negative net worth, compared to less than one in ten white families without wealth, which explains the large differences in the racial wealth gap at the mean and median. Failures in the provision of essential building blocks like steady well-paid employment and access to well-functioning financial markets that give healthy rates of return for savings have contributed to an enormous racial wealth gap. To address this major concern within the African American community, the Lake Oconee Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. implemented the first annual Financial Fortitude Workshop at Greene County High School on February 3, 2018. This Financial Fortitude event was designed to get critical financial tools, resources and information into the hands of families that will empower them in their next steps towards financial fortitude. Interactive workshops were offered by engaging speakers as follows:

- Vicky Samuel – Navigating Home Mortgages • Troy Davidson – Home Buying Process
- Isaiah Ellison – Practical Budgeting, Goal Setting and Debt Management
- Melissa George Bailey – Investments and Wealth Management • Marionne Antoinette – Credit Repair

Over 50 attendees participated in the chapter's first event and were able to select their top three workshops of interest to attend throughout the day. Welcome packages with notepad and pens were given to all registered participants. Healthy breakfast snacks were provided to support the positive atmosphere and door prizes were given out at the conclusion of each session. Gifts included items that would support positive financial action on behalf of attendees following the workshop.

All participants walked away armed with a wealth of knowledge and resources that they could then use to strengthen their families' financial position. Lake Oconee Area Alumnae Chapter stands poised and ready to continue to support families in the service area to shrink the growing disparity in wealth between blacks and whites.





# LAUREL ALUMNAE CHAPTER SUPPORTS THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

The Laurel (MS) Alumnae Chapter, in partnership with the S.T.A.R.S of Laurel, hosted their 2nd Annual Pink Goes Red Event. The event was held in honor of National Go Red Day which promoted the awareness of heart disease and other heart related issues. All participants were provided with heart healthy information and tools to improve their heart's function. A red dress pin was given to everyone that participated.

Dr. Terri Smith delivered the purpose of the event. Then Ms. Shasta Husband got everyone heart rate up with heart healthy exercise. She managed to do two more exercise sessions before the event ended. Dr. Sharron Catledge, FNP was the keynote speaker. She did a fantastic job informing the audiences about Women Heart Disease that especially relates to African American Women.

There were three panelists: Ms. Julie Trotter, Ms. Tamara Taylor and Mrs. Faydrian Gilmer. Ms. Tamara Taylor and Mrs. Faydrian Gilmer discussed their personal journey to a Healthier Heart through traditional and nontraditional methods. Ms. Julie Trotter shared her experience with Open Heart Bypass Surgery.

Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated provided blood pressure checks. Reconnect Therapy & Wellness provided door prizes. Canned goods were collected and donated to the local food bank to help serve our community. A healthy lunch was served and everyone went away with a better understanding on how to have a healthy heart.





The **Madison County (MS) Alumnae** Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is celebrating 10 years of sisterhood, scholarship, and service. Chartered on April 26, 2008 by 50 members of the sorority, the chapter has since grown to over 170 members. Since its chartering the chapter has provided numerous services to underserved populations in Madison County, including voter registration and education initiatives, credit and financial seminars, food collection campaigns, and clothing and shoe drives. The chapter has also provided over \$50,000 in scholarships to deserving graduating seniors.

The chapter will observe its anniversary with a series of celebratory events from April 20 – 22, 2018. The theme for the anniversary is “A Decade of Service, Planned for a Purpose”. The celebratory weekend will kick off with a Sisterhood Social on Friday night. Saturday night, the chapter will gather at the Hilton Jackson for its Anniversary Gala, and the weekend will conclude with a worship service and Family Fun Day cookout.

Chapter President Dr. Jennifer Magee Riley states, “We are proud of the work that we have done in Madison County, and of the valuable partnerships that we have been able to build. We look forward to growing those relationships and to continuing to be of service to our community.”

For more information on the anniversary weekend, please contact the chapter’s Second Vice-President Je’Nea D. Jones at [jen\\_jones23@comcast.net](mailto:jen_jones23@comcast.net).

# Memphis Alumnae Chapter

ushers the new year with Renewing the Mind, Body, and Spirit while Serving Our Community Locally and Globally. Memphis Alumnae Chapter's Award Winning Physical and Mental Health Committee ushered in the new year in high gear, with a motto of "Serving Our Community While Caring for Our Sisters."

Completing another year of service, this hard-working group of women already have scheduled many projects to serve those in Memphis and around the world.

The year began, by honoring Soror Marvia Balford Coleman, a V.A. nurse, who served those devastated by Hurricane Maria and assisted VA personnel at the local hospital. Soror Coleman presented funds collected from the chapter to those in need in Puerto Rico. She also shared stories and pictures of the devastation and pictures of people who were aided by the chapter's assistance. This was a great accomplishment to help so many that the chapter will never see or meet – but still knowing that they made a difference in their neighbors' (near and far) lives was rewarding.

Plans for community projects include uplifting spirits at a local nursing facility – Rainbow Senior and Rehab Center. Committee volunteers provided manicures, hand massages, song gospel songs room to room, and provided prizes for all BINGO winners. The chapter has served Rainbow residents for over 20 years.

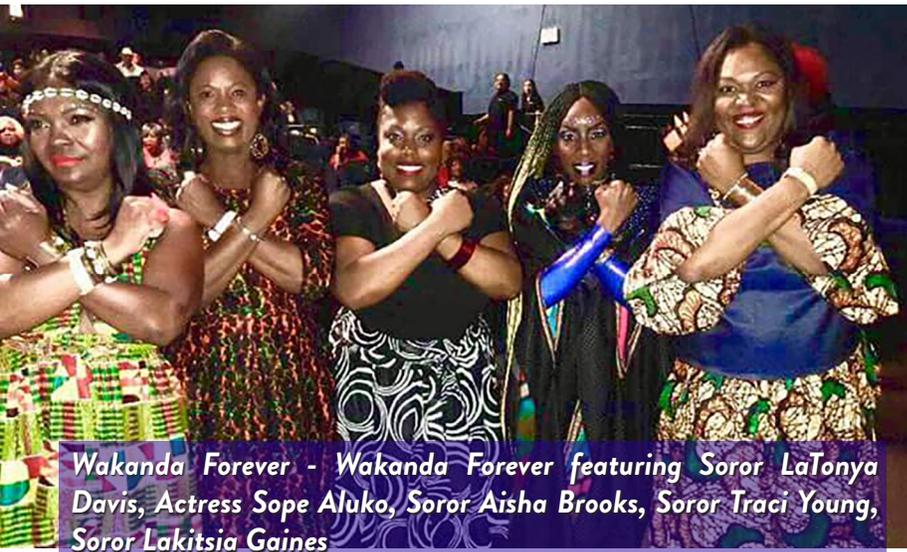
A recent project that has become near and dear to the Chapter – Room in the Inn. This ministry houses homeless neighbors throughout the week and serves warm meals and supplies clothing and toiletry items. Room in the Inn begins in the Fall of each year and ends in the Spring with a weekly presence of the Memphis Alumnae Chapter. During the holidays and Sisterhood month, the committee invites the Chapter to donate, cook and serve the meals. While the host church feeds the soul, the chapter takes it upon themselves to see that other needs are fulfilled.

Finally, a key to the committee's work has been their willingness to collaborate with other Chapter committees. Pairing with our Emergency Response Team committee ensures that the chapter is vigilant and responsive to emergency needs and natural disasters here and around the globe. With Program and Planning, the chapter serve as panelists for many of the Minerva Academy's presentations offering their expertise in mental health. With International Awareness, the chapter jointly commemorates World AIDS Day and have found a new group, Hope House, to support throughout the year. Lastly, the chapter participates in many health fairs, community walks, local school suicide prevention events and presentations by collaborating with Membership Services, Sisters in the Spirit, and the Delta Dears that impact the lives of thousands.

The chapter promotes programs that enrich Delta Sisters because they inspire us to do even more as we are reinvigorated and replenished in our Delta goal and mission – to serve others.



# DELTA RED CARPET



*Wakanda Forever - Wakanda Forever featuring Soror LaTonya Davis, Actress Sope Aluko, Soror Aisha Brooks, Soror Traci Young, Soror Lakitsia Gaines*



*MAC Check Presentation - Soror Lakitsia Gaines makes her check presentation to the chapter. Soror Michelle Pickney-White (Chapter 1st Vice President), Soror Aisha Brooks (Arts and Letters Chair), Actress Sope Aluko, Soror Kay Williams-Dawson (Chapter President), Soror Lakitsia Gaines, Soror Stephanie Steele-Nelson (Chapter 2nd Vice President)*



*MAC Audience 1 - Audience of 200 striking the Wakanda Forever pose before the screening*

Over two hundred guests walked the Wakanda Delta Red Carpet on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at Cinèpolis USA Movies at Coconut Grove in Miami, FL for the weekend opening of the Black Panther. The **Miami Alumnae Chapter** of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority hosted the event that was co-sponsored by Soror Lakitsia Gaines, State Farm Agent who gave financial words of wisdom on building wealth in the African American community, much like the community of Wakanda. Soror Gaines sponsored tickets for young ladies from our Delta Academy, 10th, 11th and 12th grade mentoring groups. Prior to the event each participant received a gift reminding them to mine their own “vibranium.”

The Delta Red Carpet reception event was co-sponsored by Soror Traci Young-Byron, CEO/ Founder of Young Contemporary Dance Theatre. Ms. Young-Byron greeted mentees and guests with warmth and encouragement.

Black Panther actress, Sope Aluko who portrayed Shaman in the movie, walked the Delta Red Carpet in true Wakanda fashion. Fresh from other movie premiere appearances, Ms. Aluko expressed her desire to be at home in Miami to share this work of art. She greeted guests and shared words of inspiration to, “follow your dreams.” It was an extra special treat to have her there.

Isis Outlaw, 11th grade sub-debutante, said, “the whole experience was very unique and motivational. As Ms. Aluko said, Black Panther is a movement and I was excited to be a part of it.”



# Assemble, Red Army

Participation in the 2010 census was incredibly low in **Mississippi** with four counties showing less than 50% participation according to a study conducted by the United States Census Bureau. Participation in the census is crucial to all states, but especially for Mississippi which, according to state tax policy analyst Morgan Scarboro, received more federal aid (40.9%) than any other state in the country. For this reason, Census 2020 is a top priority for Delta's Social Action Committee. In fact at this year's **Delta Days at the State Capitol**, Southern Region Social Action Chair, Soror Machel Kyles, explained that Census 2020 is a project that needs the attention of every chapter both collegiate and alumnae. The southern region social action committee hosted a panel discussion with Nsombi Lambright (Director of Resources and Communication for One Voice, an organization that works at the grass roots level to enact social change), Phaedra Robinson (U. S. Census Bureau employee), and Soror Adrienne Wooten (Hinds representative in the Mississippi House of Representatives).



Wooten attributed the lack of participation in the census to a lack of understanding, "what comes from it." She explained that the census' importance comes down to two things, political and economic power. Governments use numbers from the census to create districts. Moreover, the federal government uses the census to determine the amount of federal aid each state receives. Wooten explained that each uncounted person is worth \$2,053 of lost federal aid. Federal aid funds 1500 essential programs including SNAP and Head start. However, if the amount of people in a district is misdocumented in the census, these programs will not receive sufficient funding to serve needs of that community.

Phaedra Robinson attributed the low census participation to a general distrust of the government. People refuse to cooperate for fear of losing the aid they receive or fear of deportation. She asserted that the best way to assuage this distrust is to join with trusted institutions and leaders within each community. This is where organizations like One Voice step in. Robinson and Lambright have worked together to identify community leaders and work with them to ensure that each person in their community is counted. Robinson explained that renters, young adults, and single parent households are the hardest demographics to count. Renters often feel little allegiance to their current location. According to Robinson, young adults, ages 18-24, tend to be less engaged with civic matters. She said that single parents tend to feel too busy to feel out the census.

The task of Delta is two-fold. We must destroy all myths about the census while also emphasizing its importance. Phaedra Robinson introduced a new program that the Census Bureau will begin to ensure accurate numbers for the 2020 Census. The bureau wishes to equip what they call "Complete Count Committees." These committees will enter communities and inform them of the benefits as well as the navigation of the census. Delta chapters could serve as Complete Count Committees. The bureau will offer training for the committee members. All that is needed is willing, working hands. And because we all know that, "it takes two hands to be a Delta," that shouldn't be too hard for us.



## 2017 MS STATE CLUSTER R3 the Movement's "Sponsor of the Year"

DeSoto County (MS), Clarksdale-Marks and Holly Springs Alumnae Chapters, hosts of the 2017 Mississippi State Cluster, represented the sorors of MS by accepting the award for "Sponsor of the Year" from the philanthropic organization, R3 the Movement.

R3 the Movement is a non-profit organization that utilizes a collaboration of resources to reach, rescue and redeem those who are affected by sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Tracy Gallagher, board member for R3, presented the chapters with this award at the DeSoto County Alumnae Chapter's first public Founders Day Celebration at Brown Missionary Baptist Church in Southaven, MS. In Mrs. Gallagher's presentation, she revealed that the sorors that attended the cluster had raised \$5,125.41.

In addition to the monetary contribution, sorors contributed more than 100 completed backpacks and supply items, enabling R3 to exceed their goals for the entire year.



## Delta GEMS Get a Reality Check

On Saturday, January 27, 2018, nineteen members of the Delta GEMS program participated in Reality Check. The financial literacy program was sponsored by Muscle Shoals Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (with Alabama A&M and Auburn Universities). Reality Check is a hands-on, real life financial simulation for youths in grades 7-12. Delta GEMS participants pretended to be young adults with occupations, salaries, and some even had a family. The GEMS moved through the simulation with members of Muscle Shoals Area Alumnae Chapter role-playing various scenarios such as: day care; insurance for a home, health, and auto; supermarket; car ownership; home mortgage or rent; utilities; second jobs; and recreational activities. Through the simulation, students learned about personal financial management.

Participants in Reality Check proceeded through 14 stations and were able to:

- Have a hands-on, real-life simulation that gave them the opportunity to glance into the future in a fun and exciting way.
- Get an understanding of gross and net pay
- Learn what it takes to pay monthly living expenses
- Learn to write a check and use a ledger
- Learn to comparison shop

Many youths have almost no understanding of what it takes to survive financially in the real world. With a lack of knowledge about handling finances, they will not be able to manage their finances when they become adults.

Delta GEMS participants stated the following:

- "It is hard making ends meet with a non-working spouse"
- "I had no idea it costs so much to rear children"
- "Managing money is important"
- "Education is very important"
- "The real world is hard"

After Reality Check, the young ladies had a sense of the responsibilities of adulthood.





Statistics have proven that an increase in physical activity and healthier eating habits can reduce Breast Cancer incidence significantly. The **Nashville Alumnae Chapter (NAC)** in collaboration with the Minerva Foundation of Tennessee was awarded a \$10K grant last June by the TN Department of Health to bring awareness to reducing breast cancer incidence rates among African American women ages 18 and older. The grant targets women in lower-income communities because of their limited resources and education.

NAC's Physical & Mental Health Committee is spearheading the health initiative entitled, "DST Combating Breast Cancer: Increasing Awareness & Physical Activity" and has been very busy recruiting participants from across the Nashville/Davidson County area. The committee has partnered with the American Cancer Society (ACS), clinics, area churches, and other community partners to get the word out about the program. The committee also utilizes a dedicated Facebook page (named DST Against Breast Cancer) to spread awareness of the initiative and scheduled events.

The official community kick-off was held on September 30, 2017 at our 2nd Annual "When You Look Good, You Feel Better: Day of Pampering" event which is a joint fundraiser with the NAC Chapter and the Nashville Chapter of the American Cancer Society. Thirty-five participants were at the program orientation. The initiative and its guidelines were presented, which included encouraging participants to attend two monthly hourly sessions held on the 1st and 4th Saturdays from October 2017 – May 2018. ACS Health Systems Manager, Carol Minor; Cardiologist, Dr. Tina Gresham; and Certified Personal Trainer, Yusuf Rahman led a panel discussion on the importance of diet, nutrition and physical activity. After a question and answer session from participants, the program was explained and weigh-ins were held. A free body composition analysis was done for each participant that detailed their body weight, percentage of body fat, lean body mass, body mass index and the number of calories they should consume per day.

Since October, an average of 28 -30 loyal community participants at each session, which consists of a 30-minute cardio segment and 30- minute nutrition/healthy-eating segment. Top fitness instructors (including a couple of Chapter Members) and nutritionists from the local area have volunteered to facilitate the bi-monthly meetings. Gift certificates have been given each month as incentives for sticking to the guidelines as well as to acknowledge the top two biggest-losers. This initiative has heightened awareness of the issue and encourages women to live healthier lives. The Co-Chairs, Revida Rahman and Gayle Goodall stated "We have a lot of fun while helping prevent breast cancer (as well as other cancers) and encouraging those who are survivors to live healthier lifestyles".





## NORTH BROWARD COUNTY ALUMNAE RECOGNIZED IN ARTS CENTER EXHIBIT

The **North Broward County Alumnae Chapter** was delighted to host and kick off the 2018 Founder's Day Weekend celebration in Broward County, FL.

The chapter was honored to receive an invitation to be recognized and to display the chapter's historic sorority legacy at the Ali Culture Arts Center exhibit in downtown Pompano Beach, FL.

The Ali Building, one of the 110-year-old city's Creative Arts District structures, is purposed to both celebrate the historical culture of Pompano's African-American community and to enhance local access and exposure to quality cultural experiences.

The North Broward County Alumnae Chapter along with sister chapters Broward County Alumnae Chapter and the South Broward County Alumnae Chapter, celebrated 105 years of the sorority's glorious sisterhood with an inspiring display of artifacts of the sorority's incomparable history and symbols.

The display illustrated the high points of great service that each chapter actively sponsors. Community members attended the viewing presented by the Arts and Letters and Archive and Heritage Committees of the three sister chapters. The attendees were educated, highly impressed, and gained greater knowledge of our beloved sisterhood.

Article written and submitted by Thelema Lamar Arts and Letters Chair of North Broward County Alumnae Chapter.

## GATHERING TO HONOR A PRESIDENT- PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MONA HUMPHRIES BAILEY

By: Soror Adrienne Gurley

On Sunday, January 28th, 2018, hundreds of Sorors gathered on the campus of Florida A&M University to honor the life and legacy of Soror Past National President Mona Humphries Bailey. Soror Bailey was initiated into the Beta Alpha Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta on the campus of Florida A&M University in the Fall of 1951. She went on to become the first ever Miss FAMU as a trailblazing senior during her collegiate studies, and graduated with a BS degree in Chemistry. She attended graduate school in Oregon, where she obtained an MS in Science Education from Oregon State University.

Throughout her life, Soror Bailey achieved many accolades including becoming Deputy Superintendent of Seattle Public Schools, and retiring as Assistant State Superintendent in the National Network for Educational Renewal. Soror Bailey served on many advisory committees and chaired many initiatives regarding education and justice for children in schools. In her honor, the Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) state board established the annual Mona Bailey MESA Teacher Award in 2003 to recognize her contributions to MESA from its beginnings in the 1980s. Additional awards include Who's Who Among Women, Who's Who Among Black Americans, the Meritorious Achievement Award and Distinguished Alumnus Award.

# *Mona Humphries Bailey*

17th National President  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated



Soror Bailey was elected as the 17th Past National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and served from 1979-1983. During her time as President, she standardized the membership intake process, and led the 50th anniversary of the Women's Suffrage March with Founder Bertha Pitts Campbell. Because of her contributions, in addition to those specified above, Delta Sigma Theta awarded Soror Bailey the Mary Church Terrell Award.

The ceremony was eulogized by Soror Past National President Thelma Thomas Dailey. Reflections from Past National Presidents, Sorors Bertha Roddey, Louise Rice, Cynthia M.A. Butler McIntyre, and Dr. Paulette Walker were also given during the ceremony. Soror Beverly Smith, current National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc shared reflections from Past National Presidents Gwendolyn Boyd and Congressman Marcia Fudge. Regional Director Soror Sandra K. Horton, and the Executive Committee- Sorors Cheryl Hickman, Jaria Martin, Else Cooke-Holmes, and Deborah A. Jones-Buggs. Soror Bailey's family members, including her husband, were present to celebrate.



## A Very Trolley Christmas for Rutherford County Alumnae Chapter (RCAC)

A canned good donation was the fare for the Sorors of RCAC to take A Very Trolley Christmas ride in downtown Smyrna, TN on December 3rd during the 43rd Annual Christmas Parade.

The streets were lined with young and old anticipating and celebrating Santa's arrival. RCAC members were all decked out in Delta attire and brought the holiday spirit with candy and Christmas carols. The event was a great community bonding and the canned goods collection a perfect kick off to the season of giving. Donations benefitted families in Rutherford County just in time for Christmas.

RCAC also teamed up in December to Rock the Red Kettle for The Salvation Army. Sorors paired up on December 9th from 10a – 3p to ring the kettle bell for donations. Each hour that RCAC rang the bell accounted for approximately 13 meals or 65 meals for the day! The local Salvation Army serves hot meals to over 105 people each day in Rutherford and Cannon Counties.



## Rutherford County Alumnae Chapter (RCAC) Soup Month Sisterly Social

RCAC shared soup and sisterly fellowship after the January 21st chapter meeting to celebrate National Soup Month. The Membership Committee organized the soup potluck as a kickoff to a new year of warm vibes and bonding within the chapter. Sorors brought their favorite hearty and vegan soups with recipes to share. The Membership Committee is actively brainstorming ways to extend chapter sisterhood with monthly events for the remainder of the sororal year.

## RCAC Supports Black Panther With Voter Registration

The Rutherford County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. had a SOLD OUT theatre for the viewing of The Black Panther Movie! We invited the community, local greek organizations and members of our local NAACP branch. One hour before the movie began Chapter Sorors opened voter registration in the AMC Movie Theatre lobby and registered 6 citizens to vote! We had fun and fellowshiped with a purpose.





## M. Ann Levett, Ed.D., Savannah Alumnae Chapter Member and New Superintendent, Pledges Progress for Savannah Chatham County Public School District

M. Ann Levett, Ed.D., Superintendent, Savannah Chatham County Public Schools, is a native of Savannah, Georgia and a proud product of the local school system. She served in the position of Chief Academic Officer of Savannah-Chatham Public Schools (SCCPSS) from 2013 to 2017. She also worked in the capacity of Deputy Superintendent of schools before being selected as Superintendent June 1, 2017. The school district serves more than 38,000 students throughout 55 schools and employs 5,600 people. It is the tenth largest school district in the state of Georgia.

Dr. Levett has served as a professional educator since 1976, beginning her career with the local school system as a speech and language pathologist. After serving for

years and rising to the rank of principal at Savannah High School, Dr. Levett left the area to pursue other professional opportunities. She rose to the rank of acting superintendent in Dayton, Ohio before moving on to higher education positions at Antioch University and Yale University School of Medicine.

During her first “State of Our Schools” address after being selected superintendent, Dr. Levett touted growth in employment and graduation rates in 2016 and stated that district progress was slated to continue when the school year kicked off August 3, 2017. She also announced that an unprecedented 2,000 graduates received diplomas in May 2017, and the district’s graduation rates continue to exceed the state average. The Savannah-Chatham school district’s graduation rate is approximately 83.2 percent compared to Georgia’s rate of 79.2 percent. “This is indeed our season of impact,” she said, “and we will work to provide another year of excellence.” In the coming months, residents can expect to see aggressive efforts to get the community more involved in the education process, Levett said.

Those promises were kept since Levett took office. “You cannot fix schools without fixing communities,” she said. “Schools are a reflection of the communities they serve. I think working to improve outcomes for our lowest performing students is a cause we can all rally around.” One of Dr. Levett’s first goals was to get the community involved. As a part of the “Neighborhood School Reform,” a taskforce of educators, parents, students, community members and officials has been organized to determine ways to strengthen neighborhood schools. She has also organized a centralized volunteer process for the district called “Operation Beacon.” The District’s “Operation Beacon” program is a focused initiative to increase the number of volunteers who are currently working with schools. To date, there are more than 3,000 volunteers enrolled in “Operation Beacon” who are passionately serving schools in various capacities. Million Book Challenge In addition to getting the community more involved, Dr. Ann Levett has initiated a “Million Book Challenge.” To generate enough books to stock the classroom library shelves of every

elementary classroom, the district has launched the “Million Book Challenge” community wide. Each local public school has been asked to assist by collecting donations of at least 12,000 new and gently used, age appropriate books. Prizes will be awarded to schools and individual students who collect the most books. The school system came one step closer to reaching the goal of its “Million Books Challenge” on January 9, 2018 when the YMCA of Coastal Georgia presented the superintendent with 400 books for schools in Savannah-Chatham County. The YMCA collected the books through a monster book drive at all of its Chatham County facilities. The books will go to students in grades K through 5. Several other organizations are also collecting books for the “Million Book Challenge,” including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Savannah Alumnae Chapter.

## **Savannah Chatham County Public School College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCPRI) Scores Increased**

The majority of district schools met or exceeded their annual 3% improvement target, and among the twelve local schools where the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) scores were below 60 for three consecutive years, three schools – Haven, Southwest Middle and West Chatham Middle - have exited the list! Of the remaining nine schools, six posted gains over last year, with Brock Elementary posting an impressive 12 point gain! Thunderbolt Elementary, whose students are now attending the new School of Humanities at Juliette Gordon Low Elementary, also posted a 12 point gain in the last year that school was open.

Superintendent Levett says, “The improvement shown in these new CCRPI scores was achieved through the hard work of teachers and staff in both the central office and our schools who come to work every day with the goal of helping our students succeed in the classroom and beyond. That dedication and commitment is reflected not only in our already high-performing schools, but in our schools that have struggled as well, showing that those schools are on track to continue making gains each year. Our teachers continue to focus on the work of educating all students at the highest levels.”

## **Reimagining Middle Grades**

This year, a middle grades collaborative is in the process of working to identify innovations and best practices to meet the needs of middle grade students. They are tasked with redesigning middle schools that are historically underperforming.

## **Math Curriculum**

The implementation of the Eureka Math curriculum will begin this school year in pre-kindergarten through second grade classrooms. Within three years, the program, which provides an in-depth focus on power standards, will be used in third through fifth grade classrooms as well. The curriculum is directly aligned to the Georgia Standards of Excellence. Students will engage in rigorous classroom reasoning and receive extended time devoted to math practice and mastery.

## **The Inaugural Superintendent’s Gala for the Arts**

On Friday, December 8, 2017, Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools held the Inaugural Superintendent’s Gala for the Arts. The black-tie event celebrated the grand opening of Savannah’s newest Educational Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) funded facility, the Yamacraw Center for Performing Arts, with performances and art exhibits by students and staff from schools throughout the district - including a performance of “A Holiday Cinderella,” featuring the music of Rogers and Hammerstein. In addition to the performances, Dr. Levett honored community leaders who have supported arts programs in the district over the years. Funds raised from this ticketed event will be used to support arts programs at schools throughout the district.

Dr. M. A. Levett wants to use her new position as superintendent to implement new methods for accelerating growth in the local schools. She believes that the district must work harder to develop meaningful partnerships with other community agencies. It is obvious that she is totally committed to keeping her promises to improve student progress. She has definitely made a great start.

Dr. Levett is a Diamond Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. and an active member of Savannah Alumnae Chapter in Savannah, Georgia. She is the proud mother of two adult daughters.



## Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Shelby County (TN) Alumnae Chapter

in collaboration with **THE RED DOOR INC.** sponsored “Housing Workshop” Shelby County (TN) Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in collaboration with The Red Door, Inc. educated and provided resources pertaining to the current housing market at a public workshop on Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. Highlighting Delta’s Financial Fortitude’s component, homeownership, this open to the public and free event was held at Baker Community Center located at 7942 Church St. Millington, TN. In order to spread the word throughout the service area, SCTAC President Marva Maples and Economic Development Chair, Delta Kim Bailey spoke with Local 24 Memphis News, as well as Jett and the Early Morning Fun Family Radio Show on the importance of home ownership.

Navigating through the home buying or home selling process can be a lot easier when you are armed with the right resources and information. The chapter was joined by over 55 attendees for a morning workshop about the many resources available to assist with purchasing or selling a home.

Leon Dickson, Sr., President of Tennessee Realtors Association, was our guest presenter along with local community realtors, lending partners, and credit specialists. Informational sessions were held for First Time Buyers, Home Buying Do’s and Don’ts, Lending Programs, and Homes For Sale by Owners. Credit Counselors were on hand to show attendees how to read and improve their credit scores. Persons in attendance were very excited to gain information to assist them with information and resources to become home owners.

The Red Door, Inc. provides support and assistance to Shelby County, Tennessee by offering youth and adult economic, educational, health, and wellness services that will empower the lives of the community.



The Shelby County (TN) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. provides public service in the areas of Arlington, Bartlett, Collierville, Cordova, Eads, Fisherville, Germantown, Lakeland, Millington & Southeast Shelby County. The award-winning chapter was chartered on April 25, 2009 and has awarded over \$70,000.00 in scholarships since 2011. For more about Shelby County (TN) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. visit us at [www.sctacdst.com](http://www.sctacdst.com)

# READY, SET, GO...

Submitted by the Stone Mountain-Lithonia Alumnae Chapter

In preparation for the 53rd National Convention in Las Vegas, Grand Chapter reactivated its red envelope initiative to gather basic medical and emergency contact information on voting delegates. So, when Stone Mountain-Lithonia Alumnae Chapter (SM-LAC) President Pamela Lee witnessed a voting delegate become ill, and the red envelope actually put to use, she knew this was something she wanted to implement locally.

“There are more than 550 members in our chapter,” she said. “Taking deliberate steps to prepare for emergencies puts us in a better position to serve our sisters if anything were to happen.”

At the beginning of the sororal year, Lee introduced the chapter’s new Emergency Response Team (ERT). Their mission is to provide sorors and the community with emergency and disaster awareness, preparedness, and response initiatives. The ERT has also established personal support networks within the chapter pairing sorors to check on each other and offer assistance if needed during emergencies or unforeseen disasters.

When a severe ice storm hit Atlanta last January, the ERT took immediate action and activated a special calling tree to check on its senior members. All 67 of the chapter’s Delta Dears received sisterly welfare checks to determine whether they needed assistance. The Dears were very appreciative of this gesture of courtesy.

“As we segue in to Sisterhood Month, the Emergency Response Team will work on building strong bonds of emergency response partners for our Delta Dears,” said SM-LAC’s ERT lead Tammye Coachman. “This particular partnership also positively influences intergenerational unity within the chapter.”

According to Coachman, the ERT also looks forward to implementing an “Emergency Preparedness Go-Kit” program. The

Go-Kit program will be centered on emergency readiness for seniors. SM-LAC will also partner with FEMA to provide emergency readiness information and workshops at a local senior center. Participants will receive tips and information to help prepare them for any type of emergency. At the conclusion of the program, each senior will receive an Emergency Preparedness Go-Kit with essential items and instructions to survive an emergency.

“We’re excited about all the ways the emergency response initiative will benefit, not only SM-LAC, but our entire community,” Lee said.

### EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT / GO BAG LIST

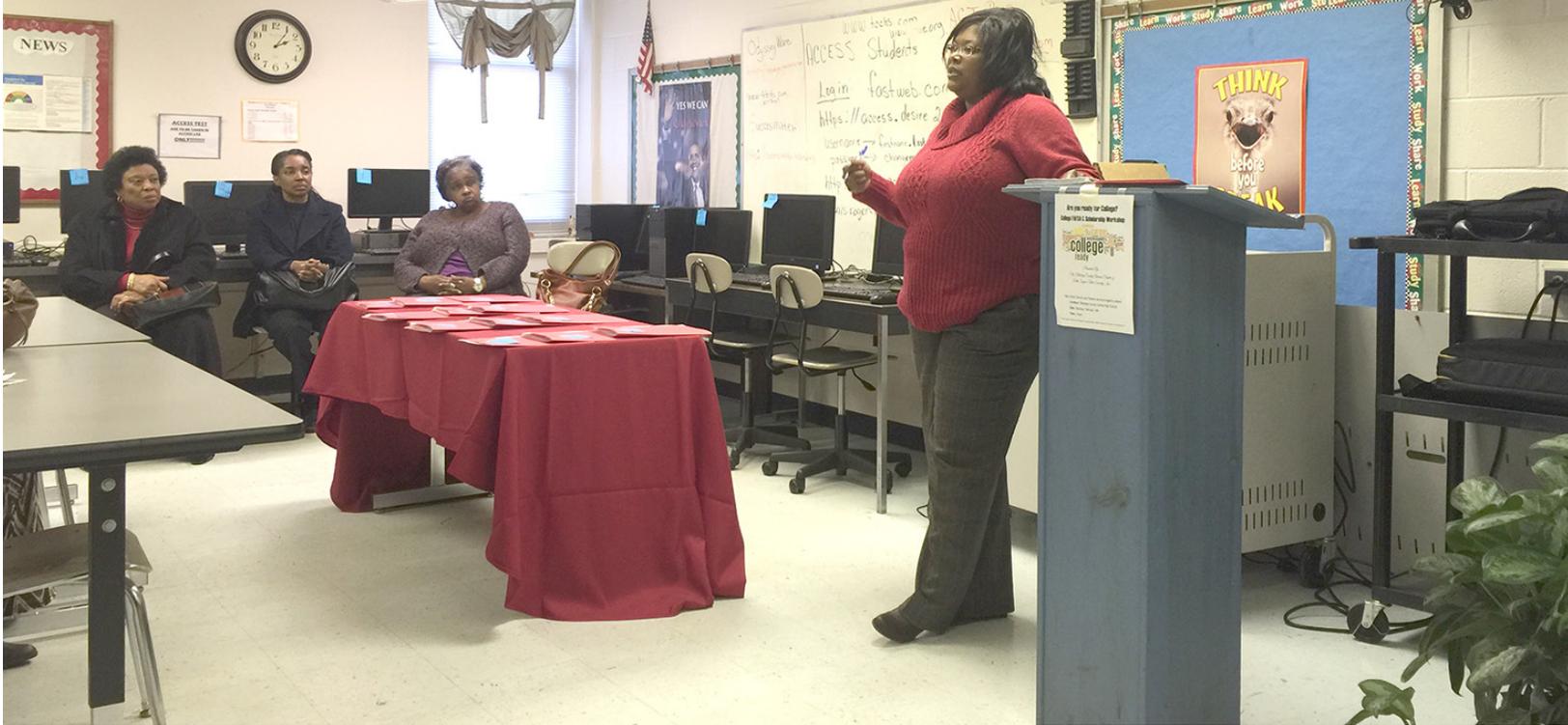
- Four (4) Liters or 1 Gallon water for each person per day for your home, 1 Liter for each person per day for your Go Bag
- Food- chocolate/power bars, biscuits, instant noodles, and easy-to-open canned food
- First Aid Kit
- Medicines
- Bleach for water purification with the following ratio:

1 quart/1 liter	5 drops
1/2 gallon/2 quarts/2 liters	10 drops
1 gallon	1/4 teaspoon
5 gallons	1 teaspoon
10 gallons	2 teaspoons
- Blanket, malong or thermal blanket
- Extra clothes
- Hygiene kit
  - toothbrush
  - shampoo
  - insect repellent
  - baby wipes
  - alcohol
  - tooth paste
  - soap
  - ear buds
  - sanitary napkins
- Poncho or raincoat
- Special needs:
  - for babies – formula or baby food, diapers, feeding bottle, rash ointment, medicines
  - for kids – toys, coloring books, crayons
  - for elderly – 7-day supply of maintenance or prescription medicines, adult diapers
- Flashlight or rechargeable lamp
- Batteries
- Transistor radio
- Powerbank
- Extra mobile phone
- Two-way radio
- Swiss knife or multi-purpose tool
- Black bag which can also be used as shelter, blanket or poncho
- Resealable plastic bags
- Duct tape
- Sewing kit
- Rubber bands
- Candles
- Matches or lighter
- Whistle
- Mirror
- Permanent marker and paper
- Paracord of no less than 5 meters long
- Important documents:
  - Birth certificate, Passport, IDs,
  - bank documents, family picture,
  - emergency contact information, etc.
- Extra cash



Sources: Ready.gov, doh.wa.gov, fema.gov





The **Talladega County Alumnae Chapter (TCAC)** has served the Talladega County area for 40 years. In an effort to educate Talladega County's graduating seniors, the Talladega County Alumnae Chapter sponsored a Local Scholars Program. The Local Scholars program was held on October 17, 2017, at Talladega County Central High School. The program included expert speakers on Scholarships, ACT/SAT prep, and utilizing Financial Aid from surrounding colleges and high schools. The objective of the program was to motivate youth toward furthering their education and giving them the tools to reach their educational goals. More than 50 students and parents were in attendance. Parents were able to ask detailed questions and receive viable information on the entire college admissions process beginning with completing college applications, applying for Financial Aid and securing Campus Housing. Students and parents learned about local/state scholarships, guidelines, and deadlines. Presenters included Talladega College Financial Aid Counselors and TCAC high school educators. TCAC took this time to give information about our Chapter Scholarship opportunities. Each year Talladega County Alumnae Chapter awards 12 high school seniors of Talladega/Coosa County, attending four-year colleges/universities, scholarships totaling \$7000 and \$500 to a collegiate member of Alpha Zeta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at Talladega College. Students were also able to gain hands-on experience with the financial aid process. Additionally, our speakers were able to give study tips and test-taking strategies for the ACT and SAT standardized test. Students and parents left this program inspired to dream big, plan big and accomplish greatness. To view photos and videos from this event, visit TCAC Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/TCAC-Deltas](http://www.facebook.com/TCAC-Deltas).





To celebrate the inaugural Amelia Boynton Robinson Women of Valor Breakfast, Tuskegee Alumnae Chapter hosted Mayor Elect LaToya Cantrell, first female mayor of New Orleans, as the guest speaker. The inaugural event bearing the name sake of honorary member and Tuskegee Chapter Member the late Amelia Boynton Robinson, serves as a vehicle to honor women who are rendering valiant service to their community in the areas of Social Action, Leadership, Education and Entrepreneurship.

Cantrell, who was elected mayor in November of 2017 and will be inaugurated on May 7, 2018, spoke on the

theme of “Unwavering, Undaunted and Unbossed: Continuing the Legacy of Serving and Improving Our Communities. The Mayor Elect was energetic and enthusiastic when reminding the audience that this is no time to be silent. It is a time for work and action. It is a time to ensure that all people feel their worth and are included to bring equity and an overall improved quality of life. Mayor Elect Cantrell truly exemplifies the qualities of a woman of valor.

The honorees of this auspicious event through their dedication and hard work have proven to be valiant servants to their communities. The Honorable Pebblin Warren received the award in the area of Social Action. She serves as Representative of the 82nd District in the State of Alabama. Representative Warren most recently drafted legislation to ensure that children are adequately provided for at Alabama day cares. She is also a member of the Tuskegee Alumnae Chapter. The award for Leadership went to Kimberly Meadows Clark. While wearing many hats and rendering service in various areas, Mrs. Clark is the first female owner of a professional sports team in Alabama, the Magic City Surge. Juanita Pierce was recognized for her continued service and dedication in the area of education. Having served the education community more than twenty years, Mrs. Pierce was the first African American principal in the Auburn (AL) City School System. Long time Tuskegee resident, Loretta Alexander was the recipient of the award in the area of Entrepreneurship. Her vision to be a business owner led her to open Loretta’s University Cleaners, which has been in operation since 1984. Through their ability to be unwavering in their vision, undaunted by life’s circumstances, and unbossed by naysayers, these women have earned the title of Woman of Valor.

Amelia Boynton Robinson is most notably known for having been beaten unconscious and left on the Edmond Pettus Bridge during Bloody Sunday. However, the courageous act of participating in the Selma to Montgomery march was not her first act of valor, nor would it be her last. Her granddaughter, Carver Boynton, who is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta closed the program out with sincere appreciation for the event and the manner in which the civil rights icon was represented.



## WOMEN OF VALOR BREAKFAST TUSKEGEE ALUMNAE



# DEAR GSU: A ZETA PHI PRODUCTION

The Zeta Phi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated held their chapter week during the week of September 25th, 2017 to September 30th, 2017. The week was inspired by "Dear White People : A Netflix Original" series that presents racial identity and race relations on a Predominantly White Institution through satire.

Similar to the series, Georgia State University is a PWI and has its' own issues to face. The women of Zeta Phi used their week to speak on the taboo topics of interracial dating, being black in corporate America, colorism, police brutality, and other issues that exist within the black community. The chapter partnered with a wide range of campus organizations and welcomed many special guests that provided a new perspective to the GSU community.



## EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On Monday, the week started with a program titled "Jungle Fever" that allowed students within the GSU community to speak about their experiences (good and bad) with interracial dating. The program opened with a presentation led by a chapter member that provided statistics about interracial dating around the world. Being that GSU is labeled the "Most Diverse" institution in the state of Georgia, this program was essential.

## EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On Tuesday, the chapter held a professionalism workshop titled "We Get Corporate Jobs, too" in partnership with Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated and Career Services. The workshop consisted of four stations: Resume Review, Mock Interviews, Elevator Pitches, and a free LinkedIn head shot booth. Atlanta HR professionals led the stations and the photo booth was sponsored by Aaron Peek, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated.

## PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH

On Wednesday, the chapter held a program titled "In My Black Skin" in partnership with the National Pan Hellenic Council and the GSU African American Studies Department. The program started with a presentation on "-isms", prejudices, and racial identities led by Dr. Lisa Shannon, a professor of African American Studies. Later, a panel composed of NPHC members and moderated by Geordyn Jenkins outlined the issues, stereotypes, and insecurities we face as African Americans in America.

## POLITICAL AWARENESS & INVOLVEMENT

On Thursday, Zeta Phi held an interactive program titled "We Have Rights, too." Attendees were split into groups and performed four scenarios that often require police assistance. The program gave criminal justice professionals the platform to provide insight on police brutality and the short comings of the justice system. The professionals included: Soror Nora Polk, a DeKalb County Judge; Soror Sherri Washington, a criminal defense attorney and county commissioner; Soror Sergeant Aprille Moore who is a law enforcement officer; and Michael Shapiro a professor in the GSU Criminal Justice Dpt.

## EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On Friday, the program titled "REDflix" was an opportunity for attendees to watch the original version of "Dear White People." Before the movie, chapter members and attendees had an open discussion about the depth of the topics that were discussed throughout the week. After the movie, they gathered to discuss the topics in the movie that were not discussed during Delta week. Those who attended said that it was the perfect end to a thought provoking week.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE & FUNDRAISING

On Saturday, the chapter held "Down With the DIVAS." This was a BBQ-styled fundraising opportunity to raise funds for the chapter and toiletries for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. The chapter was able to raise a substantial amount of supplies for victims and have fun while doing so. There was catered food, music, games, and endless laughter as the Divas partied with a purpose. The Zeta Phi chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated was able to close out their week doing what they do best: serving the community.



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