

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

# Southern Gazette



*Congratulations to Dr. Paulette C. Walker  
and Beverly E. Smith*

## Elected and Appointed Regional Officers and Positions

**Cheryl W. Turner**  
Southern Regional Director

**Manica Pierrette**  
Southern Regional Representative

**Sandra K. Horton**  
Member,  
National Scholarship and  
Standards Committee

**Vernandi R. Greene**  
Member,  
National Nominating  
Committee

**Deidre K. Perry**  
Chair,  
Regional Nominating  
Committee

**Katryna Lowery Ellis**  
Member,  
Regional Nominating  
Committee

**Terri M. Hall, Ed.S.**  
Member,  
Regional Nominating  
Committee

**Deborah Robinson  
Herring**  
Member,  
Regional Nominating  
Committee

**Janaé Ebony Steele**  
Collegiate Member,  
Regional Nominating  
Committee

**Daphne Monix Higgins**  
Regional Secretary

**Keena Brown**  
Assistant Regional Secretary

**Rev. Janae Pitts-Murdock**  
Regional Chaplain

**Kanika McKerson**  
Regional Journalist

**Stephanie Maxwell**  
Assistant Regional Journalist

**Kathryn V. Stanley**  
Assistant Regional Journalist

**Jazmyne Butler**  
Assistant Regional Journalist

**Shani K. Collins**  
Assistant Regional Journalist

**Stephanie M. Orr**  
Assistant Regional Journalist

**C.M. Lewis**  
Regional Compliance Officer

**Rosalind Short**  
Regional Emergency Response  
Coordinator

**Jeanella Fuller Pendleton**  
Regional Program Planning  
Chair

**Donna Bowman**  
Regional Social Action Chair

**Joy Foster**  
Alabama Coordinator

**Naura E. Guillaume**  
Alabama Facilitator

**Myra Mitchell**  
Bahamas Coordinator

**Amaris Johnson**  
North Florida Coordinator

**Azschrielle Jackson**  
North Florida Facilitator

**Joanell Lawson**  
South Florida Coordinator

**Tiffany Ford**  
South Florida Facilitator

**Patsy Pattman**  
North Georgia Coordinator

**Tierannye T. Moore**  
North Georgia Facilitator

**Dr. Lillie D. Ward**  
South Georgia Coordinator

**Gabrielle Whisenton**  
South Georgia Facilitator

**Rosie King**  
Mississippi Coordinator

**Kashondra Smith**  
Mississippi Facilitator

**Sandra Cannon**  
Tennessee Coordinator

**Cecily Rivers**  
Tennessee Facilitator



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The **Southern Gazette** is the publication of the Southern Region of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. For submission guidelines please refer to page 44.

## Message from the Regional Director



*Next to God we are indebted to women, first for life itself, and then for making it worth living.*  
Mary McLeod Bethune

Sorors,

As we begin 2014, Manica and I greet you in the name of love and sincerely thank each of you for being the “Dynamic” women that you are. You are women of honor. You come from all walks of life. You have sacrificed much so that others can have. You are futuristic women who have taken past experiences to help others rise above the adversities that tried to hold them down. You are mothers, daughters, sisters, and wives; women who want a better life not just for yourselves; but for all people. You want mankind to be treated fairly and to live free! You are the women chosen to carry on the vision of our Founders. You are Delta women!

Sorors, throughout 2013, we came together to celebrate the blessings bestowed upon Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. over the past 100 years. The spirit of our 22 Founders was present each time we assembled; starting with the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California, and continuing as we united several times at the place of Delta’s birth in Washington, D.C. More than ever before, Deltas reconnected, recommitted and reaffirmed our vow of service.

As we all continue to celebrate our legacy of service to our communities, Manica and I thank you, time and time again, for your commitment to the greatest sisterhood in the world. We thank you for continuing to walk with us as we *Reclaim, Retrain, and Retain* our greatest resource: our members; all while striving to make Delta better – one chapter at a time.

Thank you, sisters, for displaying an “Uncompromising Commitment to Communities” as we **serve, lead and empower** others. Thank you for believing in Delta and for doing all that you do in the name of love for DST!

Again, we thank God for each of you, our Dynamic Sisters of the Southern Region!

*Cheryl W. Turner*

Cheryl W. Turner  
Southern Regional Director

## Message from the Regional Representative



Happy New Year Sorors!

2013 has come to an end but it has been a year that none of us will ever forget. In 2013, we reminded the world what Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded on and the power behind those divas in RED. We reunited in record-breaking numbers in California and Washington D.C. for our centennial events. Cheryl and I are so proud of all our sorors and our dynamic sisters in the southern states of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee, and The Bahamas for your devotion to the sorority, your relentless efforts to reclaim line sisters and chapter members, and your commitment to service. The vision of our 22 collegiate Founders lives on and they are proud of the torch we carry on.

Collegiate sorors, thank you for making an impact on your campuses and celebrating our legacy with your Founders Day activities. During 2013, collegiate sorors stepped up to the plate and retraced the footsteps of our Founders down Pennsylvania Avenue from Capitol Hill all the way to the Washington Monument. More recently, collegiate sorors of the Dynamic Southern Region assembled this past November for the 2013 Southern Region Collegiate Retreat. Over 250 collegiate sorors gathered and renewed their commitment to the sorority and public service. A total of \$6000 was donated to St. Jude’s Foundation, Mary Ellen’s Hearth, and Alabama State University from funds collected via registration fees. Cheryl and I also wholeheartedly thank each and every one of our collegiate retreat sponsors.

We thank our dynamic sisters for your love, support, and dedication. Together as the largest region of the sorority, we will strive to reach even higher heights and serve more communities in 2014. Lastly, congratulations to our newly elected national officers and thank you to those who served from 2010 – 2013.

God Bless and Happy New Year!

Yours in Delta,

*Manica Pierrette*

Manica Pierrette  
Southern Regional Representative



*Congratulations*

*Dr. Paulette C. Walker*  
*National President*





*Congratulations*

*Beverly E. Smith*

*National First Vice President*

# *Soror Lois DeBerry Leaves Powerful Legacy as a Public Servant*

By Soror Johnnie Turner, Representative, District 85, Tennessee General Assembly

Our beloved sisterhood has lost another giant among women – the Honorable Lois M. DeBerry, the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Tennessee House of Representatives. Representative DeBerry served continuously in the Tennessee Legislature for forty years, making her the longest serving member in the House in Tennessee’s history. Indeed, she was one of the longest serving female legislators in the nation.

Representative DeBerry transitioned on July 28, 2013 following a long and valiant fight with pancreatic cancer. Never one to give in to the disease, she was a passionate advocate for pancreatic cancer research and treatment. In November 2012, Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam proclaimed November “Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month” at Representative DeBerry’s request. During her transition, she was surrounded by family, sorors, her beloved church members, elected officials, and friends from all across the country.

Soror DeBerry was born and raised in Memphis in a family steeped in a strong religious belief. As she grew, Soror DeBerry witnessed the injustices and disparities that minorities, women and children faced each day, especially in the areas of health care, education and child care. Issues facing the elderly and underserved also concerned her. Upon graduating from LeMoyne-Owen College in 1971, Soror DeBerry embarked on a career in education knowing instinctively that her calling demanded involvement on a higher level.

To no one’s surprise, Soror DeBerry offered herself as a candidate for the office of state representative in Tennessee’s House District 91. Winning that seat in the fall of 1972, Soror DeBerry became the second African-American woman to be elected to the Tennessee General Assembly (the other being the late Dr. Dorothy Brown of Nashville, also a Delta), and the first African-American woman to be elected to the General Assembly from the city of Memphis.

Soror DeBerry rose quickly as a state leader, initiating legislation that would impact generations of women and children. From January of 1973 to her final legislative session in 2013, she was a voice for progress and positive change. She held several leadership positions at the legislature including Democratic Floor Leader and chair of several special committees. Most notably was her election as Speaker Pro Tempore of the Tennessee House in 1987 – a position she held for twenty-three years. At the time of her death, she held the title of Speaker Pro Tempore Emeritus, as well as Deputy Minority Leader.

Throughout her legislative career, Soror DeBerry was active in a number of professional organizations including Women in Government,

NOBEL/Women (National Organization of Black Elected Legislative/Women) and the Southern Regional Education Board. She was Chair of the Board of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation (SLLF), and President Emeritus of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL).

Soror DeBerry received numerous awards during her career including NBCSL Legislator of the Year Award, the William M. Bulger Excellence in State Legislative Leadership Award, and the Dr. Henry Logan Starks Distinguished Service Award. Representative DeBerry was honored to second the nomination of Al Gore at the Democratic National Convention during the 2000 presidential election.

A life-long member of the Greater Abyssinia Baptist Church in Memphis, Soror DeBerry was loved by her church, her colleagues, her friends and most of all by her family. A devoted wife, mother and grandmother, Soror DeBerry embodied the beauty, strength, courage and dignity of a Delta.

An active member of our beloved sorority, she was a past recipient of the Mary Church Terrell Award. Soror DeBerry was also chair of the Social Action Committee for the Memphis Alumnae Chapter and also served on the National Social Action Committee for many years.

We are certainly saddened by our loss, but rejoice in the legacy Soror Lois DeBerry leaves.



## Message from the Regional Protocol and Traditions Committee



Front Row: Carolyn Jackson, Chair, Southern Region Protocol & Traditions Committee; Beverly E. Smith, National First Vice President; Shirley Williams, Georgia Protocol Chair. Second Row: Vonda Wilson-Gipson, Georgia Protocol Team; Cynthia Williams, Tennessee Protocol Chair.

Members of the Regional and State Protocol Committees started work early in the sorority year by assisting with receptions for Soror Beverly E. Smith, National First Vice President, and Dr. Paulette C. Walker, National President. A “Red and White Celebration” was held in Atlanta to honor Soror Smith in mid-August. Soror Carolyn Jackson led the protocol team for the event. She was assisted by Soror Shirley H. Williams, Georgia Protocol Chair; Cynthia Williams and Rosa Paris, Tennessee Protocol Chairs and Pearle Roberts and Vonda Wilson-Gipson from the Georgia State Protocol Team. The celebration was an elegant affair attended by sorors from all over Georgia with guests from other states. Soror Gwendolyn Boyd, 22nd National President, Dr. Johnnetta Cole and Soror Andrea Jeffries, South Atlantic Regional Director, made remarks along with Soror Smith and members of her family.

The Tampa Alumnae Chapter hosted a grand affair to honor Dr. Paulette C. Walker at the end of August. The Protocol Committee was again on duty.



left to right: Pearle Roberts, Georgia Protocol Team; Cynthia Williams, Tennessee Protocol Chair; Cheryl W. Turner, Southern Regional Director; Dr. Paulette C. Walker, National President; Rosa Paris, Tennessee Protocol Chair, Vonda Wilson-Gipson, Georgia Protocol Team; Flora Jackson-Holmes, Florida Protocol Chair

In addition to Soror Walker, Sorors Beverly E. Smith and Terri R. Prunty from the Executive Committee were in attendance, along with Cheryl W. Turner, Southern Regional Director, and Cynthia M.A. Butler-McIntyre, 24th National President. Protocol members in attendance were Sorors Rose H. Kalala, Regional Co-Chair, Flora Jackson-Holmes, Florida State Chair, and Cynthia Williams and Rosa Paris, Tennessee Chairs. Sorors Val Scott, Pearle Roberts, Vonda Wilson-Gibson and Taresa Alexander from the Florida and Georgia state teams were also on duty.

As your chapter prepares for visits from Delta dignitaries, please contact the chairs of the Protocol Committee. We want to make sure everything is done according to proper protocol. We want to make our National Officers from the Southern Region proud of all of our chapters.

Carolyn F. Jackson, Chair  
Violet G. Lowery, Co-Chair  
Rose H. Kalaia, Co-Chair

## Message from the Awards and Recognition Committee

Attention, Attention!

The Awards and Recognitions Committee wants you to get ready! We are pleased to announce the following awards that will be presented at the 2014 Southern Regional Conference in Tampa, FL\*:

- Δ Outstanding Arts and Letters Program
- Δ Technology (website)
- Δ Outstanding Newsletter

Additional information will be shared via upcoming webinars and at your respective State Cluster Meetings. If you have any questions, please contact us at [awardsandrecognitions@dstsouthernregion.com](mailto:awardsandrecognitions@dstsouthernregion.com).

\*subject to change



# 51st National Convention Recap

## The Centennial Convention Welcomes Six Honorary Members



“Bugler’s Dream,” often known as the theme music for the Olympic Games, energized sorors for the Opening Ceremony of the 51st National Convention of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Excitement was in the air for the Centennial celebration.

“I always like the pomp and circumstance of the Opening Ceremony,” said Soror Phyllis Alston of Tuskegee Alumnae. “It gets us into the business mode of doing Delta’s business.”

The excitement rose to a fever pitch, as the six women selected for honorary membership entered the room. Award-winning actress Angela Bassett, media mogul and businesswoman Paula Madison, writer and journalist Susan L. Taylor, United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Suzan D. Johnson-Cook, former EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson and education advocate Dr. Tererai Trent have dubbed themselves as the “Honorary Centennial Line.” These accomplished, new sorors expressed their gratitude for joining the illustrious sorority.

“I like the way they said the Honorary Centennial Line. That’s an awesome group of women. I think they’ll add so much to what we have to do,” Soror Alston said.

## Southern Region Represents In Centennial Step Show

Sorors from the Southern Region showed up and showed out during the Centennial Step Show, with four Southern Region chapters performing in the historic event. More than 17,200 attendees were inside the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C., the largest subscription event of the 51st National Convention.

Tampa Alumnae Chapter placed third in the competition, taking home a check for \$1,000. The step team dressed as servers with bow ties and tails for the theme “Centennial Café.”

Soror Francene Breakfield from Stone Mountain-Lithonia Alumnae Chapter (SM-LAC) said she knew the competition would be tough, after the chapter won the 2010 National Convention Step Show in New Orleans. “Our National President really stepped it up when she sent out the letter to all the Deltas in America and in the world to say that we were the 2010 champs, and everyone was gunning to dethrone us,” Soror Breakfield explained. “That was a challenge.”

SM-LAC took the packed house aboard Flight 1913, with sorors dressed as flight attendants. Building blocks and pigtailed were just part of the costume for Memphis Alumnae’s “Delta Dolls” performance. East Point/College Park Alumnae Chapter kicked-off the night as “Delta Bots,” as red lighting revealed their silver bodysuits and wigs for a robot theme.

Soror Breakfield says even though it’s a competition, it’s thrilling to see all of the chapters on the big stage. “It’s cool,” she says. “It’s all in love. It’s all in love. It’s friendly competition.”

Joliet Area-South Suburban Alumnae Chapter won the competition and received a check for \$2,500. Second place went to Charlotte Alumnae Chapter. The chapter’s prize was \$1,500. Soror Kym Whitley, comedian, actress and star of the reality show “Raising Whitley,” and Nephew Tommy, comedian and radio personality from the “The Steve Harvey Morning Show” served as the emcees.

## Sorors With 50+ Years Of Service Celebrated During 51st National Convention



*Southern Region’s Delta Dears with Regional Director, Cheryl W. Turner during the 50+ Celebration.*

What do a soul train line, golden pompoms, and a live band have in common? All of these things were present for the Fifty+ Fabulous Years of Service Celebration. Members of the sorority who were initiated prior to 1963 were invited to attend this event. Nearly 900 registered members fell into this category and they came ready to strut down the red carpet. Southern Regional Director, Cheryl W. Turner, stated “We may need to card some of these sorors because I am not convinced they are even old enough to have fifty plus years of service. They look amazing.”

The following members were acknowledged by their regions for having the most years in the sorority—**Soror Inez Kaiser** (Central Region, initiated into Beta Zeta Chapter in 1938), **Soror Amanda H. Anderson** of Federal City Alumnae Chapter (Eastern Region, initiated in 1938), **Soror Veola L. Thomas O’Neil** of Los Angeles Alumnae Chapter (Farwest Region, initiated into Alpha Kappa Chapter in 1942), **Soror Julia Mae Preer** of Detroit Alumnae Chapter (Midwest Region, initiated into Alpha Beta Chapter in 1943), **Soror Hortense McClinton** of Durham

Alumnae Chapter (South Atlantic Region, initiated into Alpha Chapter in 1937), **Soror Evelyn Robinson Hardin** of Chattanooga Alumnae Chapter (Southern Region, initiated into Alpha Chi Chapter in 1936), **Sorors Tessye Carroll and Joyce Dawson Sewells** of San Antonio Alumnae Chapter (Southwest Region, initiated in 1945 and 1944, respectively). Soror Josie Daniels along with her committee coordinated an outstanding celebration of longevity and service. A fun time was had by all in attendance regardless of the decade of initiation.



*With National President, Frankie M. Freeman, struts down the red carpet.*

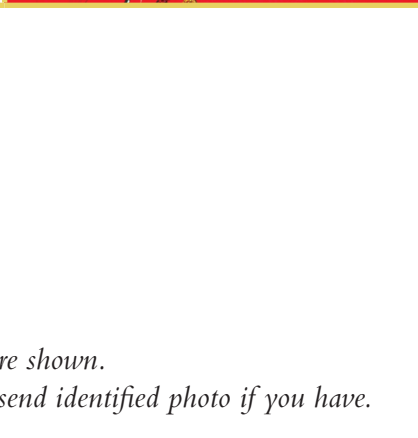
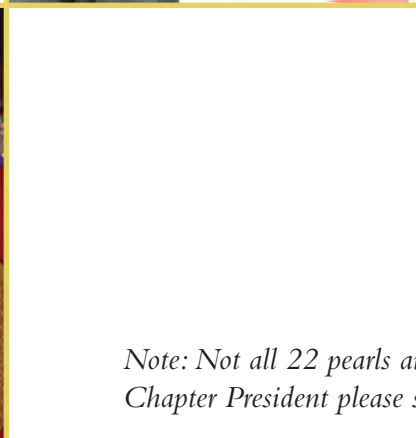
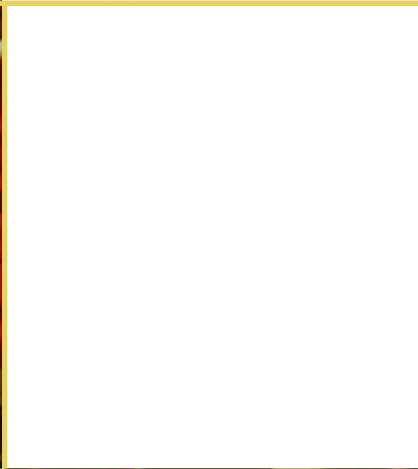


# 51st National Convention Recap



# Pearls of the Southern Region

# 51st National Convention Recap



Name	Chapter	Year of Initiation	Chapter of Initiation
<b>Alabama</b>			
Elgertha Byrd	Birmingham Alumnae	1944	Beta Eta Chapter Alabama State University
Eva Bell	Birmingham Alumnae	1948	Beta Chapter Wilberforce University
Corine Tuttle	Anniston Alumnae	1949	Delta Delta Alabama A&M University
Doris Sanders	Montgomery (AL) Alumnae	1949	Gamma Tau Chapter Tuskegee University
<b>Florida</b>			
Helen Heathington	Bradenton Alumnae	1946	Beta Alpha Chapter Florida A&M University
Gwendolyn Clarke	Miami Alumnae	1946	Sigma Chapter Clark College
Anne Gayles-Felton	Tallahassee Alumnae	1947	Sigma Chapter Clark College
Betty Jo Hayes	Tampa Alumnae		
<b>Georgia</b>			
Pearlie Dove	Atlanta Alumnae	1939	Sigma Chapter Clark College
Frances Culpepper	Atlanta Suburban Alumnae	1944	Eta Chapter Fort Valley State College
Ola Mae Washington	Columbus (GA) Alumnae	1948	Sigma Chapter Clark College
Harriet Walton	Atlanta Alumnae		
Marian Hatch	Atlanta Alumnae	1948	Beta Eta Chapter Alabama State University
<b>Mississippi</b>			
Leontyne Fizer	Jackson (MS) Alumnae	1950	Beta Gamma Chapter Dillard University
Alpha Morris	Alcorn Alumnae	1951	Delta Epsilon Chapter Alcorn State University
Gwen Nero Loper	Jackson (MS) Alumnae	1949	Gamma Psi Chapter Tougaloo College
<b>Tennessee</b>			
Charlene Turner	Memphis Alumnae	1950	Beta Chi Chapter Lane College
Alice Risby	Nashville Alumnae	1950	Gamma Psi Chapter Tougaloo College
Evelyn R. Hardin	Chattanooga Alumnae	1936	Alpha Chi Chapter Tennessee State University
Mace S. Payne	Jackson (TN) Alumnae	1951	Beta Chi Chapter Lane College
Tanuverne Ligon	Nashville Alumnae	1948	
<b>The Bahamas</b>			
Margaret Pinder	Nassau Bahamas Alumnae	1960	Epsilon Epsilon Chapter Michigan State University

Note: Not all 22 pearls are shown.  
Chapter President please send identified photo if you have.

# 51st National Convention Recap

## Southern Region Donates \$10,000 To The Sisters Network



The Southern Region presents a check for \$10,000 to the Sisters Network during the Southern Regional Luncheon.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated continues to prove that it is a movement, not a monument. In recognition of its Centennial year, the Southern Region partnered with Soror Linda Evans, owner/operator of Created4Delta to sell regional pins in an effort to make a financial donation to a charitable organization. The widely successful sell of the pins allowed the Southern Region to donate \$10,000 to Sisters Network. With affiliate chapters in 23 states and 40 cities, Sisters Network is the leading voice and only national African-American breast cancer survivorship organization in the United States. It is committed to increasing local and national attention to the devastating impact that breast cancer has in the African-American community. In 2012, the organization reached 3.7

million families with breast health/cancer resources and trustworthy information.

Of the \$10,000 donation, Southern Regional Director Cheryl W. Turner said, "Sorors across the Dynamic Southern Region showed enormous support for Sisters Network. The contribution will provide much needed financial assistance to breast cancer survivors in treatment via the Breast Cancer Assistance Program (BCAP), which is an early detection program that provides free mammograms to non-survivors and survivors. The program provides assistance in the form of medical-related lodging, co-pays for office visits and prosthesis. Women supporting women is Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. . . and giving back is what being Southern is all about!"

Karen Jackson, Founder/CEO of Sisters Network said, "The \$10,000 donation from the Southern Region of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will help provide the much needed funding to continue the financial and social support of African-American breast cancer survivors across the country." Jackson encourages African-American women to take a proactive stance regarding their breast health by doing four simple things: making their health a top priority, replacing fear with hope, increasing their breast health knowledge, and participating in the breast cancer movement.

Additionally, Jackson encourages African-American women to become involved in Sisters Network

*continued on page 23*

## The Southern Region Recognizes And Gives Back During The Regional Luncheon At The 51st National Convention



The Southern Region presents a check for \$20,000 to the Delta Foundation during the Southern Regional Luncheon.

The "Southern Girls" of the dynamic Southern Region flocked to the Gaylord Hotel at D.C.'s National Harbor to celebrate the Southern Regional Luncheon during the Centennial Convention. Themed "The Historosity of the Southern Region: 1926-2013 – 87 Years of Service" the luncheon provided an opportunity for chapters to celebrate sisterhood, scholarship and service. Members of the dais led by Sorors Cheryl W. Turner, Southern Regional Director and Manica Pierrette, Southern Regional Representative, strutted into the hall to Frankie Beverly and Maze's iconic R&B tune, which really got the crowd, even breaking into a stroll. A tribute to 19th National President, the late Dr. Yvonne Kennedy, a "southern girl" herself, titled "The Lady, The Legend, The Legacy" followed.

The luncheon was also an opportunity for the region to show its continued commitment to scholarship and service. The the region donated \$9,000 to the Yvonne Kennedy Scholarship Fund in memory of Soror Kennedy, donated \$10,000 to the Sisters Network, one of the favorite charities of outgoing

National President, Soror Butler-McIntyre, and donated \$20,000 to the Delta Foundation. The Sisters Network donation was from the sales of the regional pin and the Delta Foundation donations was from the sales of the regional scarf.

In addition, the luncheon highlighted the ongoing partnership between the Southern Region and the American Cancer Society. The Awards and Recognition Committee also presented several chapters with awards. The award winning chapters and sorors can be found on the Southern Region's website under the "Committee News" tab.

The luncheon, which was punctuated by collegiate and alumnae performances including song, spoken word and step, closed with a "parade" of Delta Dears, whose years in Delta dazzled the crowd. Most poignantly was Soror Francis Martin Culpepper who was initiated at Eta Chapter (FortValley State College (now University)) in 1933 — when the sorority was barely more than a "girl" herself.

# 51st National Convention Recap

## No Matter The Day, No Matter The Hour, Deltas Give Praise

Bishop Vashti McKenzie, National Chaplain, encouraged everyone in attendance to relax and allow the Lord to move throughout the halls of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. It did not matter that it was a Friday night (as opposed to the typical Sunday morning worship). Praises to the Lord Jesus Christ were sent up and the blessings were coming down. The Delta Praise Team lifted the spirits of those in attendance as they rendered several songs - "We've Come to Lift Our Hands", "Glorious" and "How Great is Our God." The Gospel of Jesus Christ was shared in various formats from contemporary to traditional. The liturgical dance team, comprised of sorors from the D.C. area, twirled

swirled and praised the Lord through dance.

Angelic melodies filled the corridors which were transformed into a sanctuary. Stellar Award winner Jonathan Nelson encouraged all to "Expect the Great" because great things are happening due to the sorority's great work. Dr. Frederick Haynes, III exhorted an anointed word from the Lord taken from Mark 16:1-3 titled, "Sisters Keep Stepping In Spite of the Stone." Dr. Haynes said it best, "In the Bible, women were last at the cross; first at the tomb; and first to spread the good news of His resurrection. The stone that covered the tomb was strong and heavy. Don't allow the stones you encounter to keep you from reaching your destiny."

## Holder, King and Fudge Remind Sorority That The Social Action Platform Is Still Relevant Today

Cynthia M.A. Butler-McIntyre, 24th National President, welcomed everyone to the luncheon by stating, "Delta Sigma Theta is a movement and not a monument." Special video greetings came from Bank of America, President William (Bill) J. Clinton, and the Honorable Nancy Pelosi.

An exuberant presentation from Attorney General Eric H. Holder reminded those in attendance of the social injustices that women face daily — stalking, rape, salary discrepancies based on gender, etc. "Every member of DST has the opportunity to be an effective agent for change. Continue to stay vigilant against voter injustice and demand equity in pay for women," said Holder.

Dr. Bernice King referenced many of her father's (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) speeches/writings which were written during the 1960s, yet quite profound still today. "Too many people are complacent due to our own achievements. We should not sleep through the current revolution. This revolution will be made by women. Are we willing to lose our lives to win back our neighborhoods, schools and families?" said Dr. Bernice

King. She reminded the audience of the issues faced by the youth of today — inequalities in education, sex trafficking, abuse and more.

Marcia L. Fudge, 21st National President, stated "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere (a famous quote by Dr. King). The story has not changed from Emmett Till to Medgar Evers and now Trayvon Martin. We must find a way to make a commitment to making a difference."



## Collegiates Gather To Celebrate The Genesis Of A New Era



Collegiate sorors from all over the nation gathered together for the Collegiate Luncheon during the 51st National Convention. The event, themed *The Genesis of a New Era: 100 Years of Fortitude*, honored younger sorors who exemplify the sorority's ideals.

Southern Regional Representative, Manica Pierrette, was especially delighted with the chapter at the University of Georgia saying, "I was very proud of Zeta Psi Chapter for winning Outstanding Community Service Project of the Year! It is always a great thing when the Southern Region represents at national events. Their service project was definitely one that should be shared across the region and the sorority."

Not only were chapters rewarded for their great work, but sorors who had participated in the Leadership DELTA Program, a partnership with General Electric Company, graduated from the program at the banquet.

The keynote speaker, Traci Blackwell, brought the ladies an inspirational message about her life and told her personal story. Blackwell is the Vice President of Current Programming at the CW Network and one of the top African-American broadcast television executives. Soror Pierrette stated that, "Traci Blackwell is an amazingly talented woman. She has done great things for the CW Network and we were grateful to have her share her experiences with us. She shared her path of success and how she moved up the ladder to attain her dream goal of working in creative writing while managing a business."

Intentionally themed *The Genesis of a New Era: 100 Years of Fortitude*, the sorors proved to know the meaning of leadership in Delta Sigma Theta. The award winners are listed below:

- Δ Collegiate Soror of The Year – Soror Ebony Balele, Zeta Xi Core Chapter, University of Wisconsin
- Δ Advisor of the Year Award – Soror Pamela Jackson, Rho Chapter, Columbia University
- Δ Outstanding Community Service Project of the Year – Zeta Psi Chapter, University of Georgia
- Δ Greatest Act of Sisterhood – Soror Connie Thai, Zeta Xi Chapter, University of Wisconsin
- Δ Outstanding Chapter Program of the Year – Iota Rho Chapter, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- Δ Chapter of the Year (Small) – Theta Epsilon, Bradley University
- Δ Chapter of the Year (Medium) – Iota Theta, Louisiana State University
- Δ Chapter of the Year (Large) – Kappa Phi Chapter, University of Maryland

*continued from page 20*

by joining the local affiliate chapter in their area or starting a chapter; working directly with the national office as a National Ambassador member, serving as an Ambassador, attending/supporting local chapter events, and developing a "virtual walk team" for the network's annual 5K Walk/Run.

The partnership between Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and Sisters Network was ideal. Research from the American Cancer Society suggests that African-American women are less likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer, but are twice as likely to die from the disease due to late-stage diagnosis. The Southern Region's \$10,000 contribution will be used to advance research and education on breast cancer and provide free mammograms.



## Regional Leadership Team Comes Together For A Weekend Of Fun and Work For Delta



On Friday and Saturday, August 2-3, 2013, sorors gathered at Huffman Magnet High School in Birmingham, Alabama for the Southern Regional Leadership Team meeting of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Jefferson County Alumnae Chapter was the host chapter. Sorors were still jubilant and bubbling with excitement from July's historic Centennial convention which was held in Washington, D.C. Knowing that the business of Delta never stops, sorors were not simply eager to fellowship among themselves; they were eager to put collective talents to work for Delta.

The atmosphere was relaxed on Friday evening and the weather was warm. Dressed in crimson and cream paraphernalia, sorors fellowshipped and reminisced on the Centennial convention and discussed ongoing chapter activities. Southern Regional Representative Manica Pierrette welcomed everyone to the event and made general introductions and announcements. Later that evening Soror Pierrette and the State Facilitators

taught the sorors in attendance several new and exciting strolls.

Sorors rose bright and early Saturday morning to begin the work of Delta. Impeccably dressed, all sorors wore red blazers, white shirts with collars, black bottoms, and the regional scarf. After enjoying continental breakfast, hearing a rousing meditation by Soror Olivia Washington of the Regional Chaplain's Council, receiving a welcome by Soror Pierrette, and being greeted by Soror Cheryl W. Turner, Southern Regional Director, the large assembly of sorors, consisting of 17 individual committees: Nominating, Arts and Letters, Awards and Recognitions, the Chaplain's Council, Collegiate Transition, the Emergency Response Team, the Journalist Team, Heritage and Archives, Leadership Academy, Membership Services, Program Planning and Development, Protocol and Tradition, Ritual and Ceremonies, Social Action, Technology, Information and Communication, and the State Coordinators/State Facilitators, divided into individual committee sessions.

For three hours, each committee of the Regional Leadership Team met to discuss the activities of the previous biennium, committee structure, leadership roles, ongoing and new projects, and the next biennium for the Southern Region. At noon, sorors ate a delicious spaghetti lunch which was prepared with love by a local Alabama chef. After lunch, the regional leadership team met again for individual committee reports. Each committee provided a report to the assembly, but

also presented special "surprise" gifts to Soror Turner who retired from her job and to Soror Pierrette who graduated from college. The gifts were also a way for each committee to thank Sorors Turner and Pierrette for their tireless commitment to leading the Dynamic Southern Region.

After committee reports, sorors watched an informative video, "Your Always Wearing Your Letters" on the new Membership Intake standards of the sorority. The enlightening video advised all attendees that sorors represent Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated at all times--whether they are at sorority meeting, the grocery store, the chapter picnic, or at church; therefore, all sorors should be mindful of their conduct as members of the sorority. The video also reminded sorors of the sorority's zero-tolerance policy for hazing activities. The video will be disseminated to all chapters and will be shown at all chapter informational

sessions. A PowerPoint presentation outlining the sorority's new intake standards and the sanctions for hazing violations was presented by Soror Sandra K. Horton, Member National Scholarship and Standards Committee. Following the PowerPoint presentation and video, final announcements were provided by Soror Daphne Higgins, Southern Regional Secretary, closing remarks were delivered by Sorors Pierrette and Turner, a rousing closing prayer was delivered by a member of the Chaplain's Council, and the meeting was adjourned. However, before sorors returned to their respective destinations, a group photo was taken of the entire Regional Leadership Team.

All sorors left the meeting with a renewed spirit to serve Delta in their respective regional leadership roles and to take the knowledge gained at the Regional Leadership Team meeting back to their individual chapters.



## Mississippi's Mother Chapter Continues Legacy 65 Years Later



The **Gamma Psi Chapter** of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. was the very first chapter chartered in the state of Mississippi. Since 1948, Gamma Psi has excelled

in scholarship, service, and sisterhood. As the mother chapter of Mississippi, Gamma Psi Chapter has always had a legacy of leading the Tougaloo College community with young women of perseverance, elegance, hard work, high standards and academia.

Recently Gamma Psi took home the title of Best Greek Organization of the Year, Best Organization of the Month, and the 2013-2014 Spring Step Show Winner. Throughout the 65 years of diligent leadership, the sorors of Gamma Psi have continued the legacy; receiving the highest achievement academic award for collegiates, The Minerva Award, in years 2003 and 2004, and National Chapter of the Year (2006-2007), and again this year in 2012-2013.

## Casey Polk Crowned Homecoming Queen At Southern Miss

**Soror Casey Polk** represented Delta Sigma Theta Sorority well, as she was named the 2013 Homecoming Queen for The University of Southern Mississippi. She was crowned during the halftime presentation at Southern Mississippi's football game on October 26, 2013.

Polk, a fall 2012 initiate of the Mu Nu Chapter, is a Madison, MS native and is the daughter of Ray and Teresa Polk.

Soror Polk is a Luckyday Scholar and a student academic mentor majoring in nursing. She plans to graduate in 2014 and pursue a career in pediatric nursing.

She continues a wonderful legacy at the University, as chapter members often hold titles such as Homecoming Queen, Miss USM, Student Government Association President, and more.



## Meet Your State Facilitators . . .

<b>Alabama Facilitator</b>	Naura E. Guillaume	<a href="mailto:alabamafacilitator@dstsouthernregion.com">alabamafacilitator@dstsouthernregion.com</a>
<b>North Florida Facilitator</b>	Azschrielle Jackson	<a href="mailto:northfloridafacilitator@dstsouthernregion.com">northfloridafacilitator@dstsouthernregion.com</a>
<b>South Florida Facilitator</b>	Tiffany Ford	<a href="mailto:southfloridafacilitator@dstsouthernregion.com">southfloridafacilitator@dstsouthernregion.com</a>
<b>North Georgia Facilitator</b>	Tierannye T. Moore	<a href="mailto:northgeorgiafacilitator@dstsouthernregion.com">northgeorgiafacilitator@dstsouthernregion.com</a>
<b>South Georgia Facilitator</b>	Gabrielle Whisenton	<a href="mailto:southgeorgiafacilitator@dstsouthernregion.com">southgeorgiafacilitator@dstsouthernregion.com</a>
<b>Mississippi Facilitator</b>	Kashondra Smith	<a href="mailto:mississippifacilitator@dstsouthernregion.com">mississippifacilitator@dstsouthernregion.com</a>
<b>Tennessee Facilitator</b>	Cecily Rivers	<a href="mailto:tennesseefacilitator@dstsouthernregion.com">tennesseefacilitator@dstsouthernregion.com</a>

## Xi Alpha Chapter Hosts Atlanta City Council Members



The **Xi Alpha Chapter** at the Georgia Institute of Technology partnered with their Student Government Association's Student Lobby Board to bring some of the movers and shakers of Atlanta politics to their school. "GT4ATL: Meet The Council" was a town hall in which college students and locals could meet and interact with current council members and candidates in preparation for the November elections. The ten political figures in attendance addressed a broad range of questions from

the student population including downtown congestion and parking availability, the high school graduation rate, local job opportunities for college graduates, and the health of Atlanta's economy. Thanks to this incredible social action initiative, Georgia Tech students are better prepared to vote for their city council members and the Atlanta City Council is more in touch with an important and influential group of their constituents.



## Collegiate Sorors Will Guide Sorority Into The Next 100 Years



Collegiate sorors from across the Southern Region gathered the weekend of November 15-17 for the 2013 Collegiate Retreat at Alabama State University. With the theme “Fortitude in the New Era: Devoting the Next Century to Excellence,” the events scheduled focused on how collegiates can set the standard for the next 100 years. Some workshops included *Making the Delta Connection*, *So You Thought You Were OWT*, and *Look It Up-Dispelling Protocol Myths*.

Soror Naura Guillaume, Alabama State Facilitator, spoke favorably about Southern Regional Director Cheryl W. Turner’s workshop, *So You Thought You Were OWT*, “She explained why the women of Delta should “deQUESify” themselves to keeping our sorority unique and ours without the inclusion of outside influence.”

Collegiates were joined by newly elected National Second Vice President Brittani Blackwell, who issued a challenge to all in attendance – to be MADE – memorable, accountable, determined, and ever-evolving. In her address, she stressed the importance of good character and speaking out about important issues.

Encouraging sorors, she shared the quote, “Perhaps strength doesn’t reside in having never been broken but in the courage required to grow strong in the broken places.”

The closing session featured National President Dr. Paulette C. Walker. She shared, “Are there changes that need to be made? Yes. Are there things that we can and should do differently? Yes. And who better yet to do them, but you, our collegiate sorors.” Soror Walker mentioned the challenges of being a Delta, and emphasized that each soror is essential to Delta’s future. She spoke of the retreat’s theme, “You have been selected to be those sorors who will guide us into the next 100 years.”

The retreat concluded with a prayer breakfast that included the reading of Old and New Testament scripture and musical selections by Sorors Felicia Pitts of the Zeta Phi Chapter and Taquilla Westbook of the Mu Nu Chapter. Reverend Olivia Cloud, Tennessee State Chaplain was the guest speaker. Soror Cloud encouraged collegiate sorors to have fortitude in the pursuit of excellence. She emphasized the importance



of endurance through hard times.

Manica Pierrette, Southern Regional Representative stated, “The Lord spoke through all our participants and our guest speaker, Reverend Cloud. Including the prayer breakfast . . . this weekend of activities was important to me because we were founded on Christian principles, and we should practice what we preach.”

The planning committee honored collegiate chapters who have excelled on their campuses. Tau Epsilon Chapter received the award for the Best Collaborative Event with Another NPHC (National Pan-Hellenic Council) Organization, while Xi Alpha Chapter was honored with the Best Delta Week and Best Social Action Initiative Awards. The Iota Tau Chapter was recognized for having the Most Creative Step Show, Most Registered Members, and the Best

New Initiate Presentation. Special recognition was given to the host chapter, Beta Eta.

Soror Guillaume stated, “I hope sorors learned the importance of attending such events and how to

truly help our sorority grow. It was also really exciting and enjoyable planning the events with the Leadership Committee. Seeing the fruit of the retreat was truly inspiring and uplifting.”



We extend a heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their hard work and dedication to make the 2013 Collegiate Retreat successful. Special thanks to the following sponsors for their support.

### Platinum Sponsors

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Mississippi Gulf Coast Alumnae  
Statesboro Alumnae

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The Law Office of Vanecia Belser Kimbrow  
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South Broward Alumnae  
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Tuscaloosa Alumnae

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Savannah Alumnae  
Selma Alumnae  
St. Petersburg Alumnae  
Tampa Alumnae  
Tampa Metropolitan Alumnae  
Warner Robins Alumnae



## Southern Regional Council of Chaplains Prayer Call

Wednesdays 12:30 p.m. EST/11:30 a.m. CST  
Call in: (760) 984-1000  
Passcode: 152747#

Submit prayer requests in advance to  
[chaplain@dstsouthernregion.com](mailto:chaplain@dstsouthernregion.com).



## Southern Regional Chaplain's Meditation & Inspiration Line

24 hours - 7 days  
Call in: (760) 984-1099  
Passcode: 152747#



## Alpha Chi and Chattanooga Alumnae Charter Member Celebrated During The 51st National Convention

Soror Evelyn Robinson Hardin has been a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for 77 years. She has the dual distinction of being a charter member of the **Alpha Chi Chapter** (Tennessee State University) and of the **Chattanooga Alumnae Chapter**. She is the only surviving charter member of both chapters. Soror Hardin was the guest of honor at the reunion luncheon held on Saturday, July 13, 2013 at Bobby Van's Grill in Washington, D.C. for more than 200 Alpha Chi sorors. The luncheon was a fitting tribute to Soror Hardin, who is one year younger than our sisterhood.

Soror Gloria Johnson, advisor of the Alpha Chi Chapter, made an appeal for contributions for the newly established Evelyn

Robinson Scholarship Fund. The entire assembly was inspired by the remarks of Soror Hardin as she thanked the committee for an excellent affair, spoke about her recollections of chartering two chapters, and her great pride when she was made aware of the accomplishments of Alpha Chi Chapter sorors. She challenged sorors to continue to remember the principles of the sorority and do the things "Deltas are supposed to do."

Soror Hardin was presented several awards including a beautiful Delta afghan. She also attended and was recognized at the 50+ years of membership celebration during the 51st National Convention. Soror Hardin was also recognized as the oldest attendee at the



Sorors Evelyn Robinson Hardin (seated) and Sandra Hardin Clark (daughter) as they arrived for the Alpha Chi luncheon during the 51st National Convention.

Centennial Celebration of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

## Alumnae Chapter Makes History Chartering 400-Person Yacht

The sorors of the **South Broward County Alumnae Chapter** are history-making movers and shakers. The chapter signed a contract to charter a 400-person yacht, making Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated the first African-American Greek-letter organization to ever sponsor a yacht and participate in the nationally televised Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade.

The Winterfest Boat Parade was Saturday, December 14, 2013 in Broward County, Florida and slated as the "Grandest show on H2O." More than 100 yachts floated down a 12 mile beautiful intra-coastal waterway in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and were judged based on their creative décor. Dr. Paulette C. Walker, National President and Cheryl W. Turner, Southern Regional Director were South

Broward County Alumnae's special guests.

The sorors of the South Broward County Alumnae Chapter represented Delta in grand fashion by adorning crimson and cream attire, but also by decorating their yacht in a way that honored and celebrated the rich history of the sorority over the past 100 years. The Centennial year began with a bang and sorors of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated ended the year in a grand way with the display of a magnificently decked out crimson and cream yacht at Winterfest 2013.

Winterfest is recognized as the 7th largest spectator event in the country and the largest event in Florida based on the number of attendees. In recent years, Winterfest has grown from a local celebration into a holiday festival international in scope.

## Southern Region Sorors Unite For Zeta Omicron's First Reunion



For over a year, sorors researched to uncover the rich and dynamic history of the **Zeta Omicron Chapter**, which was a city-wide chapter located on the campus of Bennett College. Dedicated sorors worked tireless hours to identify every line name (13) and every soror (250) that was initiated through the Zeta Omicron Chapter from 1969 through 1980.

Eleven sorors initiated by Greensboro (NC) Alumnae Chapter chartered Zeta Omicron Chapter on May 18, 1969. The city-wide chapter was opened to students at Bennett College, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG)

and Guilford College. The city-wide chapter, Zeta Omicron, was retired in 1980 and was replaced with two campus-based chapters, Omicron Delta Chapter (Bennett College) and Omicron Eta Chapter (UNCG).

Twenty-two sorors attended the first (ever) Zeta Omicron Chapter reunion at the American Grill Restaurant inside the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel during the 51st National Convention. After all the screams, cheers and tears of joy of sorors, some of whom hadn't seen each other in decades, brunch opened with sorors standing and holding hands singing the traditional

Bennett College grace: *God is Great and God is Good and we thank Him for this food...* -- complete with a 3-part harmony! A complete hush came over the restaurant as the diners looked on and later said they never heard grace sung before, and that it was beautiful.

Southern Region sorors who attended the reunion are Sorors Fernandra Ferguson and Janice Hatch Adkins of the 20 Vivacious Wildflowers (1974), Soror Judith Hatch of the 24 Angels of Aggression (1975), Soror Karen Ferguson Hatch of the 26 Rippling Stowaways (1977), Soror Lisa Pittman Dennis of the 20 Prophets of Procrastination (1979) and Sorors Qundal Chambers Gray and Leisha Thornton Rutledge of the 27 Encounters of the Last Kind (1980).

If you were initiated through the Zeta Omicron Chapter and would like to reconnect with other Zeta Omicron sorors and be included in future reunions, please contact Soror Karen Ferguson-Nelson at [nnelstar@aol.com](mailto:nnelstar@aol.com).

### SAVE THE DATE STATE CLUSTER

**GEORGIA**  
Savannah – February 21-23, 2014

**ALABAMA**  
Huntsville – February 28-March 2, 2014

**MISSISSIPPI**  
Philadelphia – March 7-9, 2014

**TENNESSEE**  
Knoxville – March 14-16, 2014

**FLORIDA**  
Tallahassee – March 21-23, 2014

## Montgomery (AL) Alumnae Kicks Off Sororal Year With A Bang



Summer is usually a time of rest, relaxation, and renewal, but not for members of the **Montgomery (AL) Alumnae Chapter** (MAC). MAC sorors were hard at work gearing up for the inaugural committee fair, annual Sisterhood Retreat, and the “MAC-inee.”

The “How May I Serve MAC” fair was an exciting, new, and informative opportunity introduced by Soror Pamela R. Hill, chapter president, for members to select committees of interest to serve on for the next two years. The committee fair was entertaining and interactive as committee chairs showcased their vision and ideas to encourage participation on their committees. The fair featured lavish theme-decorated tables, skits to share information, technology to attract interest, and sweet treats were an extra bonus that many enjoyed. The committee fair was a great way to prepare members of MAC for the upcoming sororal year and to bring to life the many available opportunities to serve Delta through MAC.

The Sisterhood Retreat held on the campus of Alabama State University was a time for MAC sorors to gather and reclaim, renew, and reignite their love for Delta and each other. The theme of the retreat was “Made of Many, United as One.” The retreat had many interactive activities that allowed sorors to share their stories of the value of sisterhood, participate in a step-tease, and watch a “How To Wear It” fashion show.

Chapter history/accomplishments were reviewed and members listened as a Presidential G.E.M. sponsored by the chapter talked about their experience.

Physical and mental health was incorporated as members fellowshipped over a healthy lunch and enjoyed a souvenir bag filled with a personalized towel for MAC Walks in the Park, pertinent health information, and a personalized water bottle. In addition to the focus on sisterhood, members made it a priority to impact the community with the collection of over 40 business suits for donation to local community agencies.



The Arts and Letters and Membership Services Committees organized a private viewing of “The Butler” for MAC sorors, family, friends, and supporters at a local AMC Theatre. The sold-out Sunday “MAC-inee” provided an opportunity for all to fellowship.

## Line Sisters Renew Bonds During 51st National Convention



Sorors of the spring 1992 **Epsilon Eta Chapter** (Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Alabama) line gathered to renew their bond during the Centennial celebration. *Left to right: Sorors Darnisha Powell, Kara Wright, Tracey Dunn-Rue, Priscilla Watson, and Kim Moses.*

## Orlando Alumnae Thinks Pink With A Redtini Celebration

The Health and Wellness Committee of the **Orlando Alumnae Chapter** (OAC) held “A Redtini Celebration of Life” fundraiser for the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer (MSABC). A special “celebration of life” token was given to survivors and a “I Support the Cause” token was given to attendees who wore pink.

Redtinis were served to “toast” the celebration of life, and provide donations to the ongoing education, research, resources and increased awareness of breast cancer and its impact within the community. Attendees also received a “pink ticket” for the opportunity to win one of many door prizes.

The funds raised along with the chapter’s donation raised from their MSABC Delta Sigma Theta OAC team will be donated to the American Cancer Society.



*Pictured left to right: First Vice President/PP&D Chair, Andrea Hampton; Health and Wellness Committee Members Avis Burrell, Arnetta Kinsey, Karennia Senors Manning, MD and Co-Chairs-Marchina Jones, DNP, ARNP, GNP and Traci Smith-Kimes, RN, BSN.*

## A Collaboration Leads To School Supplies For An Orphanage

“I need pencils.” “Hand me that calculator.” Like worker bees in a beehive the room was all a buzz. Members of the **Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter**, National African American Women Leadership Institute (NAAWLI), and other community participants packed the upstairs rooms of the Wells Fargo Historic Springfield Community Center. Long tables loaded down with school supplies were crowded with volunteers. A red bag with UBUNTU stamped in black went from hand to hand, down the assembly line for the Operation Back Pack event. Within an hour, 200 red back packs were stuffed with school supplies. They were boxed, sealed, and ready for the journey across the Atlantic to the UBUNTU Orphanage in hopes of narrowing the academic and economic gaps for children



Children of the UBUNTU Orphanage in Africa with their backpacks from Jacksonville, Florida.

in Africa.

“Crayons, pencils, paper, rulers. . . It’s the minimal essentials they need and we are going to get it to them,” said Soror Christina Stallings,

Economic Development Chair for Jacksonville Alumnae Chapter. In partnership with UPS, NAAWLI, and CSX, the mission was a success.

## SM-LAC Sponsors Annual Debutante Program and Cotillion

**Stone Mountain-Lithonia Alumnae Chapter** (SM-LAC) cordially invites all sorors, former debutantes, escorts, family and friends to commemorate 15 years of their Budding Rose Debutante Program.

Each year, SM-LAC sponsors its annual Debutante Program and Cotillion. The overarching goal of the debutante program is to enrich selected young ladies’ knowledge and appreciation of leadership, scholarship, and volunteerism, as well as expand their cultural and social horizons. The mission of the debutante program is to instruct and successfully mentor high school young ladies in preparation for college, career and various aspects of adult life. The vision is to formally present

balanced, well-rounded young ladies into society who are polished, poised and prepared to reach their goals.

Young ladies are molded through their participation in various workshops, which provide them with the tools needed to become articulate speakers, to know their identity, to understand the importance of gracious attire and attitude, to understand their purpose, and to know what is necessary to reach their goals.

For more information visit: [www.smlacdst.org/debutante.html](http://www.smlacdst.org/debutante.html) or contact Soror Daffenie L. Ware, Debutante Program Committee Chairperson at [debutante@smlacdst.org](mailto:debutante@smlacdst.org)

## Nashville Alumnae Hosts Domestic Violence Forum At TSU

On Thursday, Oct. 17, **Nashville Alumnae Chapter** collaborated with six other organizations to present a panel discussion on domestic violence to Tennessee State University (TSU) students.

Over 150 TSU students along with approximately 30 staff members/partner representatives were in attendance. Attendees were able to ‘tweet’ questions to the panel throughout the forum. This form of interactive media allowed everyone to have a safe platform to have their individual voices and/or concerns heard.

Forum attendees were given the 15 warning signs of an unhealthy relationship that lead to domestic abuse, the Crime Survivor’s Guide, and a Power & Control Wheel. The Power & Control Wheel was a useful tool to understand the overall pattern of abusive and violent

behaviors which are used by a batterer to establish and maintain control over their partner.

The forum also addressed the financial and emotional costs of domestic violence. The resounding message was to encourage victims to seek help.

Tennessee is ranked as the 6th leading state with incidents of domestic violence. The collaborative panel discussion was sponsored by the Nashville Alumnae Chapter, National Hook up of Black Women–Nashville Chapter, National Coalition of 100 Black Women–Nashville Chapter, the TSU Women Center, the Center for Women Health Research, Meharry Medical Center, Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence, and the Tennessee State University Living and Learning Communities.

## Two Alumnae Chapters Speak Out Against School Changes

Sorors of **Nashville Metropolitan Alumnae** and **Nashville Alumnae** chapters held Delta Days at the Metropolitan Nashville Public School Board (MNPS) on October 8, 2013 to present concerns about several school announcements. MNPS proposed to eliminate an automatic pathway for 7th and 8th grade students attending two, local middle schools in the inner city to Martin Luther King Magnet (MLK) at Historic Pearl High School. MLK is one of America’s top-rated schools, according to U.S. News and World Report. Students and parents claim the school system promised them--if the student performed well and achieved academic excellence---they would automatically qualify for entry to MLK without entering a lottery for admittance. The district has cited overcrowding for the proposed change and is considering eliminating 7th and 8th grades at MLK.

Sorors also spoke out against the plan to close approximately ten schools, all serving low to moderate-income students. The school board says the schools are under-utilized. Nashville sorors see the proposals as another attempt to disrupt the lives of children and families with the greatest need for neighborhood schools.

The sorors who spoke in opposition to the closing of the schools and the elimination of the pathway into

MLK Magnet schools included the Rev. Olivia Cloud, President of Nashville Alumnae, Dr. LaMonica Stewart, President of Nashville Metropolitan Alumnae, State Representative Brenda Gilmore and Beverly Glaze-Johnson.

# SAVE THE DATE

## DDAC

- ALABAMA  
Montgomery – February 17-18, 2014
- FLORIDA  
Tallahassee – March 23-25, 2014
- GEORGIA  
Atlanta – March 3, 2014
- MISSISSIPPI  
Jackson – February 5-6, 2014
- TENNESSEE  
Nashville – February 10-12, 2014
- BAHAMAS  
Awaiting date

## Atlanta Suburban Alumnae Registers 84 Citizens To Vote



The **Atlanta Suburban Alumnae Chapter** (ASAC) answered the Regional Director's call to participate in the National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) initiative. Activities included posting information about NVRD on social media sites, informing chapter members about



NVRD and holding two voter registration drives at different locations in their service area. As a result of the NVRD initiative, ASAC submitted 84 completed voter registration applications.

## Augusta Alumnae Observes National Voter Registration Day

On September 24, 2013 the **Augusta Alumnae Chapter** entered a partnership with Paine College to observe National Voter Registration Day and sponsor a voter registration drive on campus. Soror Iris Angel Little, chapter president stated, "We want to expand widespread access to the ballot box to each eligible citizen and, in this case, to students at Paine College. It is our hope that students will understand their civic responsibility to vote to elect strong leaders and positively impact public policy."

Soror Gwen Rountree, Social Action chairperson coordinated the drive with college officials and Deborah

Wilcox served as voter registrar. At the request of college officials, the drive was held for three hours and 45 students were registered. Paine College currently serves as the polling location for the 111th Precinct and is an ideal site for voter registration, not only because its convenient for students, but also because many students have relocated to Augusta to matriculate at the school. According to Rountree, "Young adults need to understand the power they hold at the polls. Each single vote makes a difference in the outcome of the election. Individuals might not always be available to verbalize their opinion but their vote will speak boldly for them."

## Gwinnett County Alumnae Rocks The Vote For NVRD

Putting personal contacts and social media power to work, **Gwinnett County Alumnae Chapter's** (GCAC) goal was two-fold – register voters and increase awareness by having citizens check their registration status.

To support the National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) initiative, each chapter soror was

asked to forward the GCAC NVRD flyer to five friends, and post how they supported the initiative on their personal Facebook page and Twitter feed with #NVRD. "The NVRD initiative is a program that's considered a success even if only one person registers to vote – that's one more person empowered to make their voice heard," says

Soror Latabia Woodward, GCAC president. "Thankfully, the NVRD campaign made a lasting impact."

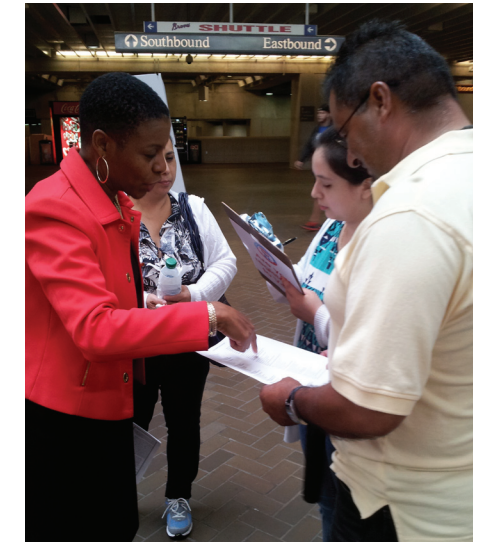
There were over 500 Facebook posts on the chapter's Facebook page. The chapter also used its website, [www.gwinnettdst.org](http://www.gwinnettdst.org), to increase awareness and encourage action during the NVRD campaign.

## Deltas Working In Downtown Atlanta Register 26 Citizens



Left to right: LaTabia Woodward, President, Gwinnett County Alumnae Chapter, Cheryl Cochran, Member-at-Large, Donna Bowman, Southern Regional Social Action Coordinator/Atlanta Suburban Alumnae Chapter, Rhonda Briggins, Georgia Social Action Coordinator/Stone Mountain-Lithonia Alumnae Chapter and Denette Battle, First Vice President, Stone Mountain-Lithonia Alumnae Chapter.

Five sorors representing several metro Atlanta alumnae chapters joined together on September 24, 2013 (National Voter Registration Day) at the Five Points Marta Station to register 26 citizens to vote. The



Southern Regional Social Action Coordinator, Donna Bowman registers individuals to vote at the Five Points Marta Station in downtown Atlanta.

sorors, all members who work in downtown Atlanta, organized the drive in support of the regional social action initiative.

## Chapter Brings Awareness To Domestic and Sexual Violence

In honor of Domestic Violence Month, the **Chattanooga Alumnae Chapter** collaborated with the University of Tennessee Chattanooga's Women's Center and Multicultural Center to host a Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Education Forum. The event was held on October 15th in the University Center with over 80 individuals in attendance, including students, faculty, staff, community leaders and sorors.

Speakers at the event included Ms. Kathy Walsh, Executive Director of Tennessee Coalition for Domestic and Sexual Violence, Dr. Charlotte Boatwright, Director of Chattanooga/Hamilton County Coalition for Domestic and Sexual Violence, Dr. Paul Smith, Director of Public Safety for the City of Chattanooga and Dr. Juanita Loundmonclay, Coordinator Family Justice Center for the City of Chattanooga.



## Dr. Kenya L. Goodson: The First African-American To Earn A Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from The University of Alabama

**Dr. Kenya L. Goodson** made history at The University of Alabama in May 2013 -- nearly fifty years after Governor George Wallace refused to allow African-American students, Vivian Malone Jones, Autherine Lucy and James Hood to integrate the University. In May 2013, Dr. Goodson became the first African-American female to be awarded a Ph.D. in civil engineering at The University of Alabama. Educated in the Tuscaloosa City School system, Dr. Goodson graduated from Central High School in 1993 with an advanced diploma. A 1997 cum laude graduate of Stillman College, Dr. Goodson was initiated into the Epsilon Eta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in spring 1995. After graduating from Stillman College, Dr. Goodson earned a master's in environmental management from Samford University and worked with the Alabama Department of Public Health in Tuscaloosa County as a Public Health Environmentalist for five years. During that time, she encountered many environmental challenges working in rural communities. Those challenges inspired Dr. Goodson to pursue a doctorate in civil engineering from The University of Alabama.

Making the transition from a historically black college and university (HBCU) to a predominately white institution was challenging for Dr. Goodson. Dr. Goodson stated, "At The University of Alabama, there was not the closeness or familial atmosphere of an HBCU or even a smaller white institution such as Samford University. It was difficult to have group sessions because I was the only African-American earning a doctorate in civil, construction and environmental engineering. The other African-American students earning bachelor and master degrees in the program were much younger than I. My coursework was done alone. It was a very lonely experience at times. I had to adjust to learning at a predominately white institution in a department with faculty members who were hostile toward minority students. Overall, there were bad experiences and good experiences. The good and bad experiences were the same however, which is typical when pursuing a Ph.D. From the experience, I learned that nothing substantial comes easy."

Through her own research, Dr. Goodson learned of her standing as the first African-American female

to earn a doctorate in civil engineering. In fact, the department was unaware of her accomplishment until they were notified. On making history, Dr. Goodson said, "I am very excited about making history for the African-American community and for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. Being the first African-American female to earn a Ph.D. in civil engineering from The University of Alabama is almost unbelievable and still hard to believe. Still, there is not enough emphasis on increasing diversity at The University of Alabama as a whole. Even though it is important to measure a student by their capabilities, the increase of minority accomplishments and recognition of the firsts are just as important." Nonetheless, Dr. Goodson is appreciative of the opportunity to be an alumnus of The University of Alabama. It is her hope that the university becomes a more inclusive and diverse campus.

Dr. Goodson's dissertation was supervised by Dr. Robert Pitt. Her research focused on the treatability of emerging contaminants in wastewater during wet weather. Dr. Goodson's research has been presented at significant conferences in her field such as the Environmental and Water Resources Institute and the Water Environment Federation. She is co-author of a final report for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on emerging contaminants during stormwater events. Dr. Goodson is currently writing a book chapter on polycyclic aromatic compounds in wastewater during wet weather events.

For those seeking to pursue a Ph.D., Dr. Goodson says, "Having a support system is very essential when pursuing a Ph.D. More than anything, a person has to believe in themselves. They have to have the tenacity and drive to finish the degree more than academic knowledge." She added, "My trust in the Lord saw me through this process; I did not have any other options in my mind. I left my job to pursue my Ph.D. full time. There was no other way that I would have been able to accomplish it. To give up would have meant that I would have had nothing to show for the sacrifices that I made."

Dr. Goodson was recently active with the Tuscaloosa Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and plans to remain active with the sorority when she relocates to a new area for employment.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

*As we enter a New Year  
let us celebrate God's love  
and our love as a sisterhood!*

*May the days ahead  
bring joy, health and eternal love to you  
and all we serve, lead and empower.*

*Cheryl W. Turner*  
Southern Regional Director

*Manica Pierrette*  
Southern Regional Representative

## Soror Diversifies Orlando's Performing Arts Theater



**Soror Beverly Page** of **Orange County Alumnae Chapter** presented *Clare and the Chocolate Nutcracker* on Saturday, December 14th at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre in Orlando, Florida.

*Clare and the Chocolate Nutcracker* is a reflection and celebration of multi-cultural communities, through music and dance, brought to life by talented dancers and performers. As the cast of professionals take the stage, the hope for a more inclusive world illuminates the imagination.

"*Clare and the Chocolate Nutcracker* is all about inclusion," proclaims Page, president and CEO of Orlando Community Arts, Inc. "Through collaboration with local community arts dance programs, local school districts and theater groups, this performance brings a new level of involvement and participation from inner city youth by fulfilling their need for support, belonging, and identity."

The original Nutcracker Ballet, composed by Peter Tchaikovsky in 1892, has served as the foundation for various renditions of the holiday classic including Duke Ellington's *Chocolate Nutcracker* during the 1960s. In Page's adaptation of *The Nutcracker*, she seeks to preserve the traditional ballet while infusing elements of Ellington's modern day performance.

*Clare and the Chocolate Nutcracker* is registered through the United States Patent and Trademark Office as an official live Christmas musical production. For more



information, visit [www.clareandthechocolatenutcracker.net](http://www.clareandthechocolatenutcracker.net).

A special showing was held on Thursday, December 5th for Dr. Paulette C. Walker, National President, Beverly E. Smith, First National Vice President, Cheryl W. Turner, Southern Regional Director, Manica Pierrette, Southern Regional Representative, Billie F. Coachman, Central Regional Director, Robin M. Jacobs, Eastern Regional Director, Sandra P. Johnson, Farwest Regional Director, Regina R. Harper, Midwest Regional Director, Andria M. Jeffries, South Atlantic Regional Director, Mae Frances Rowlett, Southwest Regional Director and local chapter members.





## Guidelines for submitting articles to the newsletter

### How To Submit Articles

- Submissions should be e-mailed to [journalist@dstsouthernregion.com](mailto:journalist@dstsouthernregion.com)
- Articles should be attached as a Word document
- Do not send articles in PDF format
- Do not send url links from other media sources as article
- Word count in article should be between 250 - 500 words

### How To Submit Photography

- Photos should be e-mailed as an attachment to [journalist@dstsouthernregion.com](mailto:journalist@dstsouthernregion.com) in jpeg format
- Do not send photos embedded in a Word document
- When submitting a photo please include a caption, identifying everyone in the photo from left to right
- Photos need to be high resolution: 300 dpi or higher
- Do not send photos that are not in focus
- Consider action shots, not just posed photos

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for the Southern Regional Conference  
June 26-29, 2014



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