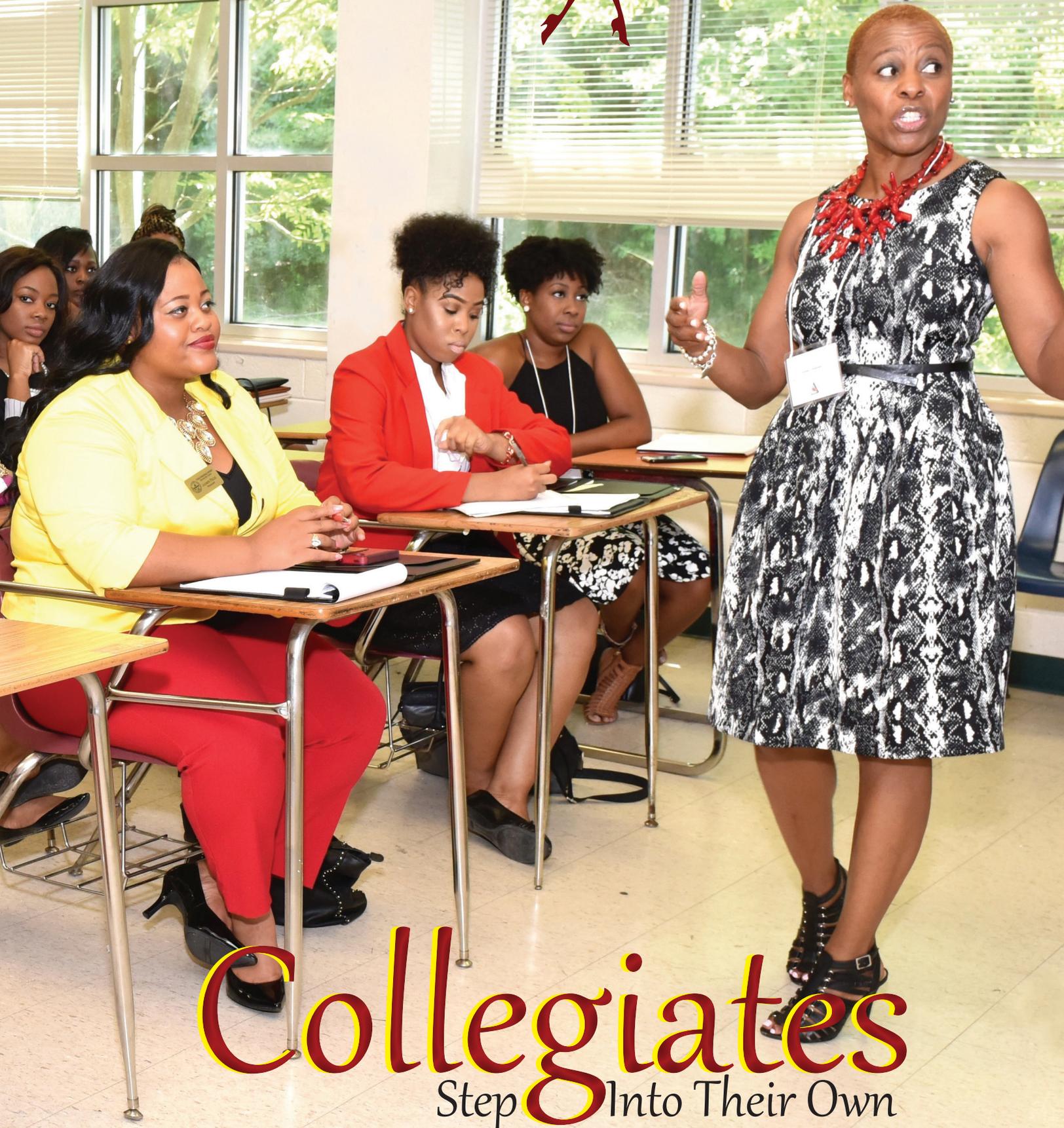


VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2

Southern gazette



Collegiates
Step Into Their Own

Elected and Appointed Regional Officers and Positions

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Cheryl W. Turner Southern Regional Director | Daphne Monix Higgins Regional Secretary | Vernandi Greene Alabama Coordinator |
| Brittany Stephenson Southern Regional Representative | Keena Brown Assistant Regional Secretary | Karen Finklea Alabama Facilitator |
| Joanell Lawson Member, National Scholarship and Standards Committee | Denise Griffin Assistant Regional Secretary | Myra Mitchell Bahamas Coordinator |
| Donna Bowman Member, National Nominating Committee | Rev. Janae Pitts-Murdock Regional Chaplain | Amaris Johnson North Florida Coordinator |
| Alleshia White Chair, Regional Nominating Committee | C.M. Lewis Regional Compliance Officer | Sherell Wood North Florida Facilitator |
| Mary Carmen Williams Member, Regional Nominating Committee | Sandra K. Horton Regional Advisor Coordinator | Manica Pierrette South Florida Coordinator |
| Linda Theus Member, Regional Nominating Committee | Kanika McKerson Regional Journalist | Vanessa Jeannot South Florida Facilitator |
| Gail Boyd Member, Regional Nominating Committee | | Patsy A. Pattman North Georgia Coordinator |
| Ashley Lindo Collegiate Member, Regional Nominating Committee | | Carin Paige North Georgia Facilitator |
| | | Dr. Lillie D. Ward South Georgia Coordinator |
| | | Trenisha Hallmon South Georgia Facilitator |
| | | Rosie King Mississippi Coordinator |
| | | Lafanique Reed Mississippi Facilitator |
| | | Sandra Cannon Tennessee Coordinator |
| | | Stephanie Phillips Tennessee Facilitator |

Southern Region Journalist Team

Jazmyne Butler, Shani K. Collins, Katryna Lowery Kinn, Stephanie Orr, Leatha Spivey, Kathryn Stanley, Deandrea Taylor, Jennifer Denise Walton, Ruth Watson

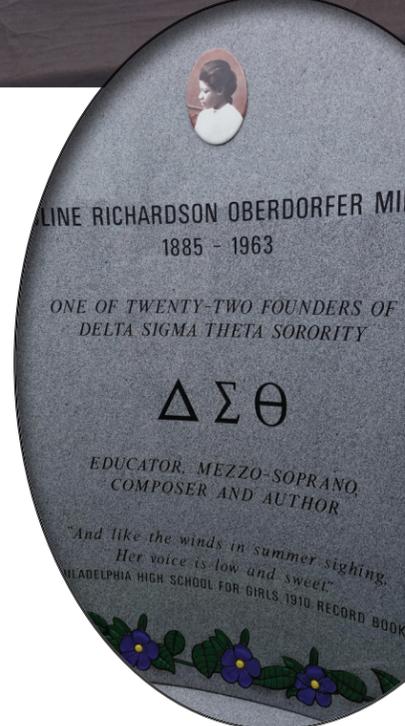


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The **Southern Gazette** is the publication of the Southern Region of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. For submission guidelines please refer to page 35.

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#

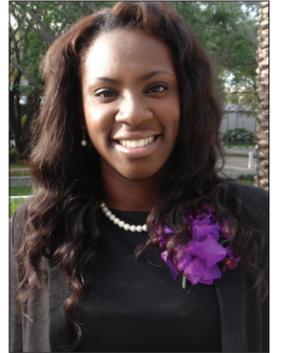
Submit prayer requests in advance to
chaplain@dstsouthernregion.com.



Southern Regional Chaplain's Meditation & Inspiration Line

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

Message from the Regional Director and Regional Representative



Dear Sorors,

As women who have pledged a lifetime of commitment to our wonderful sisterhood, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., we greet you, sorors, in the name of service, success and love!

As dedicated members of the greatest organization in the world, we thank you for your commitment to serve those in your communities, for embracing that service to make it successful, and for doing both of these in the name of love!

Our Founders chose public service as the focus of our beloved sisterhood and in 1913 made it a reality. Because of the perseverance of 22 young ladies on the campus of Howard University, a successful transformation of embracing communities to provide assistance and support through structured activities was born. The desire to make life better for others during an era that stressed and supported inequalities against races and genders was nothing but pure love.

This group of young ladies committed themselves to providing service, leadership and visibility to the area's Black community, and over the years more than 900 chapters have provided outstanding programs and projects for individuals from all walks of life.

Sisters, you are the face, feet and voice of Delta now; and with that comes a pride that only Deltas know. As active members of this dynamic sisterhood, you are our most precious resource. Your work is the heartbeat of Delta and your support of all of our events/projects is a pipeline to our future.

We celebrate you as Delta women and are especially proud to call you our sisters of the Dynamic Southern Region. We thank you for believing in and practicing the principles of Delta as we work together to make Delta better – one chapter at a time through service, success and "...the greatest of these is love!"

Yours in Delta,

Cheryl W. Turner

Cheryl W. Turner
Southern Regional Director

Brittany Stephenson

Brittany Stephenson
Southern Regional Representative



National Convention

SISTERHOOD LUNCHEON PROGRAM

Cheryl W. Turner, Presiding
Southern Regional Director

Brittany Stephenson
Southern Regional Representative

Processional*

Introduction of Dais

Soror Daphne Monix Higgins, Southern Regional Secretary

Fifty Year Delta Salute

Welcome

Soror Cheryl W. Turner
Soror Brittany Stephenson

Greetings

National Executive Committee
Dr. Louise A. Rice, 23rd National President

Performance

Soror L.D. Wells, Douglas-Carroll-Paulding Counties Alumnae Chapter

Invocation/Blessing of the Food

The Reverend Janae Pitts-Murdock, Southern Regional Chaplain

Lunch Served

Musical Performance

Soror Phedre Brown, Orlando Alumnae Chapter

Regional Awards

Awards and Recognitions Committee, Soror Patricia Taylor, Chair
Program Planning and Development Committee, Soror Jeanella Fuller Pendleton, Chair and Soror Cassandra Brown, Co-Chair
American Cancer Society Committee, Soror Heddie Sumpter, Chair

Closing Remarks

Soror Cheryl W. Turner

Announcements

Soror Daphne Monix Higgins

Recessional**

*Please Stand

** Please Stand / Fifty Year Deltas stand and remain at your tables

Living Legends of the Southern Region

Honoring Our Oldest Members



Soror Evelyn Robinson Hardin

Chapter: Chattanooga Alumnae Age: 101 Initiated: 1936

What do the words sisterhood, scholarship and service mean to you?

To me, these three words give meaning to the fact, that as members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, we must always strive to be Christ like in every way. To always give honor and praise to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our Sorority was built on Christian principles; we must NEVER waiver from that. We are to love, help, support and encourage each other; and to help others (outside of the Sorority) however and wherever we possibly can. We are to show compassion, respect and love to others. It is important for others to see Christ in us. We must keep our standards high, so that we can do and be what God would have us to do and be.



Soror Gertie Driver Brown

Chapter: Jackson (TN) Alumnae Age: 99 Initiated: 1942

What advice would you give to sorors today?

Continue to bond in sisterhood and provide public service to the community in the name of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Soror Larry Hyde

Chapter: Daytona Beach Alumnae Age: 95 Initiated: 1940

What advice would you give to young sorors (collegiate/or sorors new in Delta)?

The advice I would give to young sorors, collegiate or sorors new in Delta would be to be more dedicated and committed. Delta is more than wearing our letters. They should come into the Sorority ready to serve. I have worked hard in Delta and enjoyed every experience. I have served two terms as president of the local chapter and in many other positions. I challenge our new sorors to be an active and dedicated member seeking to run for office.



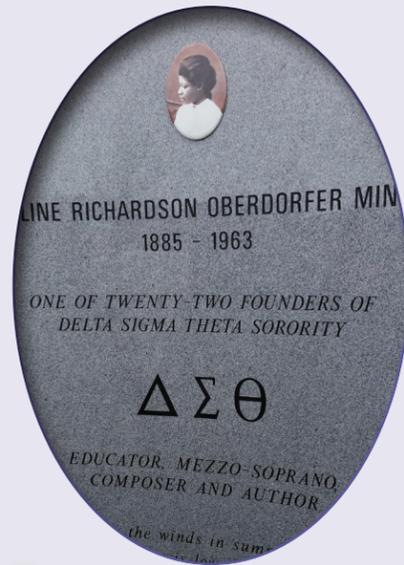
Soror Fredi Sears Brown

Chapter: Bradenton Alumnae Initiated: 1942

What advice would you give to young sorors (collegiate/or sorors new in Delta)?

Read and familiarize yourself with the ritual. Get as much knowledge as possible from things that have happened in the past.

Soror Pauline Richardson Oberdorfer Minor



On March 28, 2015, the Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter conducted an Omega Omega service at the First African Baptist Church (Darby Township, PA) for Founder Pauline Richardson Oberdorfer Minor and unveiled a memorial headstone at the historic Eden Cemetery.

For more than two years, sorors of the Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter Pauline Oberdorfer Minor Committee worked to put the pieces together to locate the final resting place of Founder Minor. Her burial site is the last of the 22 Founders to be confirmed.

Founder Minor was buried in a pauper's grave and her monument also recognizes and celebrates the three other individuals with whom she is buried with — Annie Davis, William Clark and Margaret Mann.



In Loving Memory Soror Verdelle Bellamy

Past Southern Regional Director
1982 - 1986



You Are Still Taking It Personal



The members of the Protocol and Traditions Committee show off their shirts during the Georgia State Cluster. (l - r) Sorors Gwendolyn Morris, Taresa Alexander, Paula Roberts, Cynthia Williams, Southern Regional Representative Brittany Stephenson, Southern Regional Director Cheryl W. Turner, National First Vice President Beverly E. Smith, Carolyn Jackson, Vonda Wilson-Gipson, Rosa Paris, and Mary Brock.

You Are Still Taking It Personally, It's Not Personal - It's Just Protocol, Part 2 was presented to a full house at each of the five state clusters. We were pleased to have overflow crowds for each presentation. Sorors are still finding creative ways to stretch protocol, so our discussions were lively and we received a wide array of questions. Each soror attending the workshops was given a peppermint as a thank you token for making a commit "mint" to proper protocol.

The Protocol and Traditions Committee assisted with the STAAR (Sisters That Are Actively Reclaimed) workshops at each cluster. The committee teamed with Arts and Letters, Membership Services and Ritual and Ceremonies to facilitate the workshops.

In addition to the clusters, the committee assisted with numerous Founders Day celebrations throughout the region. The National President, National First Vice President, Southern Regional Director, Past National Presidents and other Delta dignitaries were speakers at various celebrations in the region. The Protocol and Traditions Committee worked with chapters to make sure everything was executed effectively.

The committee extends special thanks to the sorors who presented at clusters: Soror Carolyn Jackson (GA); Sorors Rose Kalala and Flora Jackson (FL); Sorors Violet Lowery and Myrtis Ramsey (AL); Soror Cynthia Williams (TN) and Soror Nellie Beard (MS). Sorors Vonda Wilson-

Gipson and Vivian Anderson Brown assisted in Georgia.

Collegiate Soror Serissa Edwards from The Bahamas assisted in Florida. Collegiate Sorors Nataile McClendon-Douglass and Jianne McDonald assisted in Tennessee. Special thanks to all of the state team members who assisted at the clusters and DDAC in each state.

Remember, as we offer corrections and suggestions that *It's Not Personal - It's Just Protocol* as we are striving to make Delta better - one chapter at a time. Questions, answers and the PDF presentation are located in the restricted area of the Southern Region's website.



The Protocol and Traditions Committee at the Florida State Cluster. (l - r) Sorors Carla Lippett, Minner Baldwin, Nyree Washington, Rose Kalala, Flora Jackson, Rudean Jackson, and Brenda Gillis.

E3: Educate, Evaluate & Exhibit is the Southern Region's Program Planning & Development (PP&D) Committee's charge for the 2014 - 2016 biennium. We challenge every chapter in our region to ponder, "If my chapter ceased to exist today, would the community miss us?" The answer should be a resounding "Yes." Therefore, the regional PP&D team is equipped and ready to help you shift into high gear. Instead of "business as usual," connect with us to assist with the evaluation and exhibition of exemplary programs.

Our mission has three components: to provide ongoing program support and technical assistance; to help identify new innovative programs; and to review national and local chapter reports, statistical data and assessments of the Five-Point Programmatic Thrust across the Region. Don't reinvent the wheel, utilize us!

We are seeking engagement from every chapters' PP&D and/or Five-Point Programmatic Thrust chairs to assist with assessment of programs. All chapters, especially those transitioning leadership, are asked to provide the "significant seven" information:

1. Name and email address of the current chapter president
2. Name and email address of the current chair of Program Planning and Development
3. Name and email address of the Risk Management Coordinator(s)
4. Chapter calendar (2015 - 2016) (new format available in PP&D toolkit)
5. End-of-Year/Evaluation report on chapter's progress against its PP&D calendar (with a summary of the details of at least one successful program implemented this sororal year)
6. Risk management certification date (annual chapter training)
7. Confirmation of training for volunteers of youth initiatives (signature programs, Jabberwock, cotillions, etc.) including the proposed date(s) of training for the upcoming sororal year (indicate on calendar).

We are looking for chapters to showcase in the monthly chapter spotlight feature on the regional website. Acceptable submissions must relate to one of the areas of the Five-Point Programmatic Thrust. YOUR chapter may be chosen! Submissions are due by the last day of each month. All submission information should be emailed to programplanning@dstsouthernregion.com.

The Exemplary Programming Award will be announced at the Southern Region's Sisterhood Luncheon during the 52nd National Convention in Houston, Texas.



Standing (l-r): Sorors Amira Swoope, Clennette Reid, Alexandria Hampton, Gabrielle Whisenton, and Karen Nelson. Seated (l-r): Sorors Dorothy Colom, Cassandra Brown, Southern Regional Representative Brittany Stephenson, Southern Regional Director Cheryl W. Turner, Jeanella Fuller Pendleton and Jalen Graves. Not Pictured: Sorors Adekemi Akinwole, Tara Askeu, Katrina Myricks, Johnnie Smith, Carolyn Hall-Knowles, and Yamease Swain.



Pump Up the Volume

The Regional Membership Services Committee has been busy this year. The committee redesigned its logo and embraced the National Membership Services theme, “**Loving Sorors on Purpose with Purpose**” for all activities. A regional website link was established where the monthly regional membership services newsletters can be viewed. Each newsletter included interesting information and activities for Deltas of all generations. Chapters were encouraged to submit pictures and brief descriptions of exemplary activities for possible inclusion in the newsletters.

During the state cluster cycle, members of the Regional Arts and Letters, Protocol and Traditions, Ritual and Ceremonies, and Membership Services committees presented a two hour joint STAAR (Sisters That Are Actively Reclaimed) workshop. The workshops highlighted various objectives and visions of the committees.

The Membership Services Committee also presented workshops on *Why My Sister is M.I.A. (Missing In Action)*. The dialogue-formatted sessions focused on inactive membership and reclamation solutions. A special thank you is extended to the state membership services team members and volunteers for their assistance during the clusters and other events throughout the year.

The committee has four collegiate members who have shared invaluable insight which has contributed to the committee’s success. We consider these members our next generation of Delta leaders. This is why the Southern Region Membership Services Committee is committed to “**Pumping Up the Volume**” to “**Turn Up the Enthusiasm**”.

Southern Regional Membership Services Committee

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Tennessee | Gwendolyn J. Whitelaw, Chair |
| Georgia | Cynthia Hardy, Co-Chair |
| Alabama | Shafonda Spain |
| Florida | T. Elaine Johnson |
| Florida | Claysia Thomas |
| Florida | Tasney Thomas |
| Florida | Yazmeane Watson |
| Georgia | Deborah Herring |
| Georgia | Whitney Thornton |
| Mississippi | Barbara Luckettt |
| Tennessee | LaMonica Stewart |

Photography Tips - Submitting Photos For Publication

Send action photos when possible



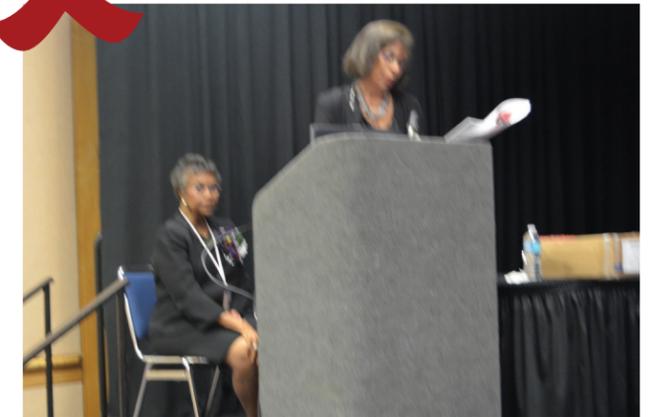
Never send photos as part of a collage



Send photos that tell a story and evoke an emotion



Never send photos that are fuzzy and out of focus



Think perspective



Never send photos cropped, inside a shape or with an effect



Glory

50 Years Later

Chants of “We Shall Overcome” were heard frequently as a crowd of approximately 80,000 marchers converged on Selma, Alabama on March 9, 2015 to commemorate the fifty-year anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March. Some marchers, locked arm in arm, sang spirituals as they gathered at the base of the Edmund Pettus Bridge to cross the bridge as a symbolic tribute to the slain civil rights activists who lost their lives during a peaceful demonstration.

In 1965, voting rights for blacks was a contentious issue. In Selma, Alabama, voting rolls were 99% white and 1% black. The civil rights demonstrators in 1965 were headed to the Alabama state capital of Montgomery when they were ambushed by armed policemen who viciously attacked them because of their desire for voting rights. This infamous day has become known as “Bloody Sunday.”

In an ironic moment, the nation’s first elected African American President, Barack Obama, stood in the shadow of the Edmund Pettus Bridge as he addressed the crowd of onlookers during the 50th anniversary. Some U.S. political dignitaries in attendance included former U.S. President George W. Bush, U.S. Representative John Lewis and U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch. Soror Amelia Boynton Robinson, a civil rights activist who was at President Obama’s side in a wheelchair, co-led the march across the bridge with President Obama.

Sorors from all over the nation gathered in Selma to pay honor to the thousands of men and women across the nation who were beaten and died for the right to vote. They marched to thank Soror Amelia Boynton, who was one of the marchers beaten unconscious on the bridge. Soror Boynton, now 104 years old, is still an activist fighting for civil and human rights. The sorors also marched to remember Soror Rose Sanders for having the foresight and vision to preserve the history of the Selma to Montgomery March by founding the National Voting Rights Museum and the Bridge Crossing Jubilee.

Members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated also marched to thank other sorors from the Black Belt such as Soror Carol Zippert, Soror Barbara Pitts, Soror Sadie Moss and Soror Carolyn Varner for their years of service to Selma and its history.



Collegiates

Step Into Their Own

One hundred and thirteen collegiate sorors from across the region gathered in Atlanta, Georgia for the collegiate retreat. The weekend themed, “Pearls of Wisdom - Stepping Into My Own” was filled with workshops and activities geared towards helping collegiates prepare for their lives after graduation as they “step into their own.”

During the retreat, the Sorority’s legal counsel, Devariste Curry conducted a mock trial. The purpose of the mock trial was to show collegiates what happens during litigation when the Sorority goes to court and the importance of following the Code of Conduct of Grand Chapter. The case pulled directly from the headlines demonstrated that the actions of sorors could be detrimental to the Sorority.

Some of the workshops included: “It’s All About The

Benjamins, Ladies” for financial planning; “The Next Top Delta Leader” to prepare collegiates for leadership roles within Delta and “#YourImageMatters” to discuss dressing for success and the appropriate attire for various events.

“The collegiate retreat was not only a business changer, a game changer, but a total life experience. All of the sessions were informative, interactive and beneficial. From each session, I gained more insight on being successful in my career endeavors, but more importantly how to uphold the values of our beloved Sorority,” said Soror Nicole Foster of Sigma Chapter.

National First Vice President Beverly E. Smith and National Second Vice President Brittani N. Blackwell also attended the collegiate retreat to share their “pearls of wisdom.”



Collegiate Advisors

An overflowing bouquet of violets is given to all of the sorors who serve or have served as collegiate chapter advisors during the 2014 -15 sororal year.

A collegiate chapter advisor is a mentor, manager and monitor.

She observes, listens and provides guidance.

She is a positive force behind the continued investment into the future of our Sorority by developing, shaping and influencing our collegiate sorors as they grow within our sisterhood.

For this . . .we graciously say thank you!

May God give you fresh dreams, new victories, endless joys in surprising ways, unexpected blessings and overflowing measure!

Southern Regional Director Cheryl W. Turner

Southern Regional Representative Brittany Stephenson

Regional Advisor Coordinator Sandra K. Horton

Congratulations Class of 2015

*The future holds adventures in every day,
Opportunities in every challenge,
Possibilities in every dream*

**As you move through the next phase of life,
keep your commitment to Delta.**

Use the url below to locate a local alumnae chapter.
http://deltasigmatheta.org/chaplocation/home_locator.asp



Wishing you much success
Southern Region Collegiate Transition Committee

Big Beginnings For Newly-Formed Covington Area Chapter

Since its chartering on April 12, 2014, the **Covington Area Alumnae Chapter** has made a difference in empowering the communities in its service area, which includes Newton, Walton and Barrow counties in Georgia.

With an emphasis on bonding, training and development, ten sorors attended the regional conference, 30 sorors attended the Georgia State Cluster in Athens, and two sorors represented the chapter at Delta Days at the Nation's Capital.

The chapter's programs included activities within the Five-Point Programmatic Thrust. There were more than 20 participants in both the Delta GEMS and Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy. Social Action hosted a Domestic Violence Vigil. International Awareness and Involvement sent 50 care packages to West Gambia,



Africa. Economic Development conducted a home ownership seminar and Arts and Letters partnered with a local theater to host a sold out Red Carpet event for "Selma."

The chapter brought its inaugural year to a close, by launching a signature program, the Cotillion Ball. The chapter members worked with 48 high school junior and seniors in a

year-long etiquette program which culminated in their presentation to society. The program instilled values in the participants and helped them "waltz" into greatness. Covington Area Alumnae presented more than \$8,000 in scholarships to the Cotillion participants and high school seniors in its service area.

Chapter Travels To Haiti For An Educational Mission Trip

The **West Palm Beach Alumnae Chapter** traveled to Charette, Haiti for a mission trip from Oct. 3-6, 2014. The purpose of the trip was to provide services, support, and to expand awareness of the Sorority's elementary school – The Cynthia M.A. Butler-McIntyre Campus.

In preparation for the trip, the chapter held several drives, which included the collection of school uniforms, clothing, shoes, backpacks, and hygiene products. The school uniforms were purchased from the proceeds of the Birdies for Children Fundraiser. More than 5,500 items were collected and 21 boxes shipped to Haiti prior to the sorors' arrival. To assist with the cost of shipping,

the chapter was awarded a grant from the Embassy of the United States.

Oct. 4, 2014 was designated as "A Day of Education," as the chapter members read from several books that had been donated, including "The Seven Blind Mice" and "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." Kindergarten through second grade students participated in interactive read-aloud activities as they followed the main characters from the books. The third through fifth graders began their day with an outside activity based on the story "The Diary of a Worm," and later shared their reflections in mini writing journals. The outside activities were based on strategies about cooperative play and the importance of physical exercise.

Faith, hope and love were the themes



shared as the sorors worshipped with students and their families. Students were given backpacks with supplies and uniforms and were encouraged to stay in school.

Soror Angela J. Marshall, president of the West Palm Beach Alumnae Chapter and Soror Denise O'Connor, chairperson for the International Awareness and Involvement Committee, organized the mission trip.

Dade County Alumnae Recognized for Social Action Leadership

The **Dade County Alumnae Chapter** was the recipient of two prestigious awards at Florida's Delta Days at the Capitol. The chapter was awarded the Dr. Paulette C. Walker Social Action Award.

"The Dade County Alumnae Chapter is very excited about the work that we're doing in the Miami-Dade community," said Chapter President Karen Wiggins. "We are proud of the partnerships that we've established with community groups, faith-based organizations and other entities to implement high-profile projects that benefit so many people in our community," added Soror Wiggins.

The chapter's social action activities have focused on community service projects and outreach efforts in each area of the Five-Point Programmatic Thrust. In order to increase its reach and impact in the community, Dade County Alumnae partnered with local agencies, elected officials, government

agencies and other civic groups. For instance, traditional methods such as voter registration and education activities were used to raise awareness and promote community involvement.

For the past year, the chapter has participated in the Farm Share Food Distribution program, which helps to provide nutritious food to more than 1,000 South Florida families. Chapter members also participated in the Trayvon Martin Violence Awareness Weekend, which included sorors' participation in the community march, rally and scholarship dinner.

In addition to the award presented to the chapter, Soror Joyce Postell was recognized as a trendsetter. Since her initiation into the chapter in 2011, Soror Postell has worked tirelessly to galvanize the chapter and the Miami-Dade community into action for social change. As chair of the Political Awareness and Involvement/Social Action Committee, Soror Postell has



taken a leadership role in seeking out opportunities and developing activities that help to bring significant service to the community. "Soror Postell's interest in and acumen for successful and innovative social action efforts are what drive her success," said Chapter President Wiggins. "We are delighted that she has been recognized for her leadership and contributions."

Madison County Alumnae Partners To Host Policy Symposium

The **Madison County Alumnae Chapter** in partnership with the Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. hosted a Policy Symposium to discuss various issues affecting the communities in Madison County as well as the state of Mississippi.

The panelist discussed topics such as the Better Schools Better Jobs initiative, common core standards, access to affordable healthcare, voter education and establishing a reading proficiency program for kindergarten through third grade (House Bill 955). The panelists were Charles Taylor, Better Schools Better Jobs; Derrick Johnson, NAACP; Kevin Gilbert, National Education Association; and Ken Myricks, Affordable Insurance Solutions. Also in attendance was U.S. Representative



Soror Valeria Williams, Political Awareness Chair; Soror Latonya Robinson-Kanonu, Social Action Chair; U.S. Representative Bennie Thompson; Chapter President Katrina B. Myricks and First Vice President Jennifer Riley.

Bennie Thompson, who represents Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District.

The event took place at Priestly

Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Canton.

Brevard County Alumnae GEMS Attend Acclaimed Performance



Delta Academy participants pictured with Delta Academy Committee Chair, Soror Audrey Gaskings-Williams, National President Paulette C. Walker and Chapter President T. Elaine Johnson.

Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy participants and members of the **Brevard County Alumnae Chapter** attended the acclaimed performance, “Clare and the Chocolate Nutcracker,” at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in Orlando, Florida.

“Clare and the Chocolate

Nutcracker” offers a variation of the modern day nutcracker by including modern, swing, gospel, jazz and other forms of dance. Produced and written by Soror Beverly Page, president and CEO of Orlando Community Arts, this production showcases local children in its cast. The highlight of the event was

the tap dance performance by Savion Glover, who starred in the 1989 film “Tap.”

After the performance, the Delta Academy participants took a photo with the cast, National President Dr. Paulette C. Walker and Southern Regional Director Cheryl W. Turner.

Atlanta Alumnae Host Community Health And Wellness Fair

The **Atlanta Alumnae Chapter** collaborated with Morehouse School of Medicine Master of Public Health Program, Greenbriar Mall, and Atlanta Fire and Rescue to host its 36th Annual Community Health and Wellness Fair at Greenbriar Mall in Southwest Atlanta.

Eighty vendors provided a vast array of screenings, informational brochures and pamphlets. Screening options available to participants were blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose and HIV/AIDS testing. Vendor stations provided information for families, inclusive of summer programming/mentorship, insurance, voter registration, post-

secondary educational information, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and community resources. Insurance related questions, especially concerning the Affordable Care Act, were answered by insurance experts; those seeking home ownership met with housing experts; and individuals with questions about nutrition and fitness met with health and fitness professionals.

Live entertainment was provided throughout the health fair and featured dance groups, gospel and R&B vocalists, spoken word and cooking demonstrations. Stepp Stewart, a featured guest on “The Dr. Oz Show”



Dr. Kim Fountain and a health fair participant.

led a 5K Heart Walk.

More than 400 people from the local community, comprised of low to middle income underserved residents, attended the fair.

Augusta Alumnae Provides Hope To Women and Children



(l - r) Sorors Sonya Weaver, Angel Little, Karen Abron, Doris Pearson, Danita Myler, Christine Miller-Betts, Angela Black-Powell, ShaVena Jamierson, Lurelia Hardy, Linda Johnson, Kim Gaines, Ebony Hicks and Allison Campbell at the Hope House, Inc. after distributing items during the 13 Days of Delta Holidays.

The Reclamation Committee of the **Augusta Alumnae Chapter** created the “13 Days of Delta Holidays: Delta’s Home for Christmas.” The program was designed to reclaim inactive sorors while also meeting the needs of several local organizations through 13 consecutive community service events.

Each Five-Point Programmatic Thrust-based program was held at 6:13 p.m. at a soror’s home or service location from Dec. 1-13. Thirteen Days of Delta Holidays kicked off with an HIV/AIDS Awareness Forum and a 5K AIDS walk that was open to the general public and served as an educational/international awareness activity for inactive sorors, Delta GEMS, Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy and EMBODI.

The chapter also partnered with the Salvation Army of Augusta and served as bell ringers to help raise funds for programs that are offered as free services to the local homeless population.

For 13 nights, 1,300 personal care items were collected for residents of the Hope House. Thirteen members of

the chapter were present to assist the residents of the Hope House as they used handcrafted brown bags with inspirational messages to select items of their choice.

One resident expressed her gratitude by saying, “I am so appreciative of your organization because until today me and my kids had not had a Christmas in years.” With tears, she expressed that she could not leave and go back to her room without letting the chapter know how much the contributions meant to her family.

Another resident stated that the Hope House saved her life and offered her an opportunity to reconnect with her children after years of being addicted to IV drugs. She said, “Knowing that there are people out there that care enough about me to do what you have done today, gives me hope and makes me feel better as I prepare to finish this program next month.”

Hope House is a non-profit residential treatment center for women 18 and up that suffer from both substance abuse and mental illnesses.

The organization relies heavily on donations from the community to provide services and hope to the women and children they serve.

The contributions from the Augusta Alumnae Chapter have assisted more than 30 women.

#whereareyourDeltasymbols



Sorors share your favorite photo(s) of you wearing your Delta symbols in front of notable landmarks and at other interesting vacation destinations this summer using the hashtag: #whereareyourDeltasymbols.

Make sure the post is public so we can find it and share it! If you don’t use social media, email the photo to us at technology@dstsouthernregion.com and we will post it for you. We want to know where your Delta symbols are!

Chapter Exposes Students To The Wonderful World Of STEM

The **Central North Alabama Alumnae Chapter** (CNA) in partnership with the CNA Institute of Excellence (IOE) conducted a STEM workshop in April that was open to Delta GEMS and students from the surrounding area. Twenty students participated in the event, coordinated by Sorors Myriette Shillingford and Darleen Pope. The workshop included a STEM overview presentation, lunch, hands-on experiments, a question-and-answer session, and workshop wrap-up.

Dr. Jamelle Williams, an analytical chemist, provided the STEM overview and served as the facilitator for the experiment sessions. Mr. Victor Alvarado, the site manager at BP-Decatur (AL), provided closing comments to the participants.



Delta License Plates Benefit Mississippi Colleges and Universities



On behalf of the Mississippi Tag Committee, Clarksdale-Marks Alumnae Chapter donates \$10,000 to Coahoma Community College.

Deltas in the state of Mississippi have the opportunity to “tag” their cars as Delta cars while helping support higher education by purchasing Delta license plates. A portion of the proceeds is placed in a tag fund and divided among the five Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the state. On behalf of the Mississippi Tag Committee, **Clarksdale-Marks Alumnae Chapter** donated \$10,000 to Coahoma Community College (CCC).

According to CCC President Dr. Valmadge Towner, the donations will be used to aid students continuing their education at CCC. “Colleges will increasingly need to partner with organizations as we endeavor to provide accessible, affordable and quality educational services and training to students. Monetary gifts such as the \$10K donation given [through] by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated significantly positions Coahoma Community



On behalf of the Mississippi Tag Committee, Dr. Bynum, president of Mississippi Valley State University receives a \$10,000 check donation from Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter President Felicia Lamplin and Sorors Nicole Watkins, Paulette Palmer and Victoria Watkins.

College to help students,” said Towner.

Clarksdale-Marks Alumnae Chapter President Yvonne Stanford expressed pride that sorors’ automobiles bear the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. tags. “This is a way we can help improve the recruitment and retention of students at HBCUs by showing them that there are funds and support available to help them along the way,” said Soror Stanford.

“The generous donation can potentially serve as a spark of motivation for other organizations to partner with us, and we are excited and grateful for the trust and support given to our college,” said Towner.

Through the Mississippi Tag Committee, **Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter** also presented Mississippi Valley State University with a \$10,000 check for student scholarships.

Grand Bahama Alumnae Pays Courtesy Call to Local Leader

During Delta Days on Grand Bahama Island, members of the **Grand Bahama Alumnae Chapter** visited Minister for Grand Bahama, The Honorable Dr. Michael Darville.

Minister Darville was presented with a “Red Paper” on *Bahamianization: The Call for Opportunities for College Graduates*. Prepared by the Nassau Bahamas Alumnae Chapter, the Grand Bahama Alumnae Chapter and the Upsilon Zeta Chapter of the College of the Bahamas (Nassau), the paper focuses on the difficulties faced by many college graduates seeking career opportunities. The paper offered suggestions on ways to keep Bahamian talent in The Bahamas and to use those skills to aid in improving the country’s economic state.

During the visit, sorors highlighted a number of suggestions made in the “Red Paper” in discussions with Minister Darville. These included the Ministry of Labour releasing upcoming job vacancies; the need for new and innovative industries in the country



(left to right) Soror Ann Bain, Soror Della Bridgewater, Soror Denise Sherman, Minister Darville, Soror Shery Poitier and Soror Mavis Ward.

with local colleges offering relevant training; and provisions supporting upstart small and medium businesses.

The Grand Bahama Alumnae Chapter’s Delta Days emphasis shows meaningful attention to three of the

Five-Point Programmatic Thrust areas. Chapter members left the meeting encouraged by the Minister’s receptiveness to questions, openness to partnership and offer of support in various programs.

Decatur Alumnae Hosts Annual “Spring Into Reading” Event

The **Decatur (GA) Alumnae Chapter** hosted its 10th Annual “Spring into Reading” event at the Gallery at South DeKalb in Decatur, Georgia and at Northlake Mall in Tucker, Georgia.

The primary focus of “Spring into Reading” was to bring awareness to the community, specifically parents and children, on the importance of reading to help develop children’s educational experience. During the event, children were engaged in storytelling, arts and crafts, educational entertainment, and every child received a gift bag filled with books and school supplies. Additionally, at the second site, the community was provided information on adult literacy, strategies to help children develop a love for reading, and children participated in arts and craft activities. The chapter also provided voter engagement information and registered citizens to vote at both locations.

At the Gallery at South DeKalb and Northlake Mall locations more than 300 children of diverse backgrounds were serviced.



The chapter partnered with Decatur Library, DeKalb Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., Gallery at South DeKalb, Northlake Mall, the Decatur Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and Midway Elementary School.

Chattanooga Alumnae Chapter Hosts “Dialogue with the Deltas”



In an effort to build strategic relationships with external partners, the **Chattanooga Alumnae Chapter** recently hosted an inaugural “Dialogue with the Deltas” forum at the Chattanooga Housing Authority. The forum provided an opportunity for sorors, local government officials, and public safety officials to address pertinent issues that directly or indirectly impact the community.

Dr. Paul Smith, Public Safety Coordinator for the city of

Chattanooga, and Chattanooga City Councilman Russell Gilbert answered the call to participate in the dialogue. The topics discussed included gun violence, public safety, sensitivity training, and building relationships with city police. Both officials were able to clarify state traffic laws such as *Move Over Tennessee* as well as property abandonment laws. Likewise, Dr. Smith and Councilman Gilbert informed the chapter of ongoing programs and new initiatives that will assist women and

youth within Chattanooga.

Dr. Smith encouraged members to get involved in the city’s new Family Justice Center, which offers free services for victims of sexual assault, elder abuse, and family and domestic violence.

The program was organized by Soror Wanda Gocher-Johnson, chapter president, and Soror Valara Sample, Social Action chairperson. The program was facilitated and moderated by Soror Alexia Phinizey.

Chapter’s Event Raises Funds For American Heart Association

According to the American Heart Association, one in three women die of heart disease and stroke. This startling prognosis can be reduced through an active and healthy lifestyle. In an effort to raise awareness to this, the **Gainesville (FL) Alumnae Chapter** established an annual walk/run event with proceeds, over \$7,000 to date, going toward the local American Heart Association.

The “Listen to Your Heart 5K Red Tutu Run/Walk” was the brainchild of Soror Tyran Butler. Soror Butler envisioned a lively event that would draw walkers, runners, and supporters to one of the most scenic neighborhoods in Gainesville on the first Saturday in February. The event has been successful for the past three years.

“It is really exciting to see people at the grocery stores, at the gym, or jogging around town in their race day shirts! We’re drawing attention to a health crisis that impacts the community as a whole, but the Black community especially,” said Soror Butler.

The “Listen to Your Heart 5K Red Tutu Run/Walk” has



become a labor of love, bringing together the chapter and the community members who continue to participate. Sorors relish the opportunity to hear stories about participants and their family members who are managing heart disease and related issues as well as survivors who come to show appreciation.

GEMS Increase Educational Opportunities For Girls In Developing Countries

In many developing countries, girls are forced to use leaves, rags, potato shavings, corn husks, newspaper, and other absorbent materials for their feminine hygiene needs. As a result, these girls miss an average of five to seven days per month from school or work because they do not have adequate sanitary napkins. After learning about the plight of these young ladies, the **Douglas-Carroll-Paulding Counties (DCP) Alumnae Chapter** through its 35 Delta GEMS partnered with the Days for Girls organization to meet this need. The GEMS learned how to assemble washable and reusable sanitary napkins for girls and women that do not have the means to obtain them.

Each kit is designed to last for three years, possibly giving a girl back 180 active days of her life. Research shows that having these kits has a significant impact within the community. For example, the dropout rates decline and



many girls continue their education, and work productivity increases because of less time missed, giving families more financial resources. In addition, statistics show that as a result of staying in school many 15 and 16-year-old girls delay marriage four or five years, giving them an opportunity to fully develop physically and emotionally.

As young, adolescent girls themselves, the GEMS immediately understood the significance of not having access to sanitary products. They discussed the economic strain placed on families

when the young ladies are not able to go to work, as well as the shame and embarrassment of the girls not able to attend school during that time of the month. The empathy and compassion shown for the girls was the key to making this project a success. Humbled by what they saw, the committee members reminded the GEMS that this project and their work would be life-changing for so many girls around the world.

Some of the GEMS participants helped with the basic sewing of the liners and shields for the sanitary napkins, while the entire group carefully assembled the kits. The DCP Delta GEMS proudly donated enough materials to assemble 60 sustainable, reusable sanitary napkin kits. The kits were distributed to girls in Guatemala and Honduras in June 2015.

Valdosta Alumnae’s Delta Renaissance Supports Budding Artists

The Arts and Letters Committee of the **Valdosta Alumnae Chapter** presented the second annual Delta Renaissance. The event at Valdosta State University brought together young diverse artists.

Delta Renaissance is designed to foster an appreciation for the arts in the African American community and to encourage young artists to hone their talents. Members from the Valdosta community came out in large numbers to take in the sights and sounds of visual artists, authors, singers, photographers and others.

A highlight of the event was the Power of the Paintbrush High School Art Competition where young artists had the opportunity to vie for honors in showing their abilities. The following artists won in their respective categories: (Beginners): Peter Riley, 1st place; Jamie Perez, 2nd place; Tatum Jackson, 3rd place; Shaday March, Honorable Mention; Kenley Farrell, Honorable Mention; (Advanced): Tamia Garrett, 1st place; Katelynn Kenworthy, 2nd place; Andie Krispin, 3rd place; Kweisi Farrell, Honorable Mention; Taurion Wert, Honorable Mention.



Mobile Alumnae Chapter Hosts Red Carpet Viewing of Annie



The **Mobile Alumnae Chapter** hosted a Delta Red Carpet viewing of the movie "Annie." The viewing was held in two movie theaters. Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy, Delta GEMS, EMBODI, Project Delta and Delteens were also in attendance for the red carpet viewing.

In lieu of opening with movie previews, the theater management accommodated the chapter's program, which included greetings from the Arts and Letters chairperson, Soror Voncile Cunningham, and Chapter President

Hannah E. Hart. The program also featured Mobile's own international soloist, Lynn Mackie, who greeted the movie-going guests and performed a rendition of "Joy to the World."

The chapter also sponsored an Annie look-a-like contest in each theater and the winner received a gift basket which included an "Annie" poster that was donated by the theater, the "Annie" score on CD, an Annie purse and story book, a trophy and assorted red and white candy.

Birmingham Alumnae Chapter Celebrates 83 Years Of Service



The **Birmingham Alumnae Chapter** (BAC) marked its 83rd anniversary with a Delta Heritage Celebration. The celebration began on Jan. 10, 2015 at the Founders Day observance where 22nd National President Gwendolyn E. Boyd was the keynote speaker.

The historical display at the Founders Day observance was filled with posters, albums, and scrapbooks which highlighted the chapter's public service in the community for over 83 years.

The Delta Heritage Celebration continued on Feb. 28, 2015 at the chapter's Life Development Center located at Green Acres Neighborhood Association. The community was invited to the center to view the exhibit, which highlighted the chapter's history. The exhibit showcased charter members through photos and included a pictorial review of past chapter presidents and leaders along with newspapers articles from various community service projects.

BAC's commitment to serving the community through the Five-Point Programmatic Thrust was evident throughout the exhibit. A video documentary of BAC that was developed in 2011 was shown and included the past chapter presidents as well as the oldest member of the chapter, Soror Marguerite Warren (100 years old).

Pike County Alumnae Chapter Celebrates Twenty Years



Pike County Alumnae Chapter charter members with Southern Regional Director Cheryl W. Turner. (seated l-r) Sorors Della Pierce, Sandra Gatlin, Jane McGhee, Southern Regional Director Cheryl W. Turner, and LaWanda Weatherspoon. Standing is Soror Melanie J. McEwen

The **Pike County Alumnae Chapter** commemorated its April 1995 chartering with a festive midday community celebration at the Pike County Safe House. The celebratory event not only reflected on the work of the chapter, but also honored the works of two other community-focus groups, Jubilee Performing Arts Center Chamber Choir and Women In Need of God's Shelter (WINGS). Southern Regional Director Cheryl W. Turner was the guest speaker at the event.

Regional History

The following are the first chapters established in the Southern Region. From these chapters, the Southern Region had its beginnings:

- 1922 - Zeta Beta Chapter (Tuskegee Institute)
- 1924 - Sigma Chapter (Atlanta University)
- 1925 - Alpha Beta Chapter (Fisk University)

Jackson (TN) Alumnae Observes The 102nd Founders Day

On Saturday, Jan. 10, 2015, the **Jackson (TN) Alumnae Chapter** (JTAC) observed the Sorority's 102nd Founders Day. The celebration was held at New St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church with more than 100 sorors in attendance.

Guest speaker Cynthia M.A. Butler-McIntyre, 24th National President, encouraged attendees to "believe that change can happen." She challenged the audience to use their heads, hearts and hands to uplift communities and to become the needed change for empowerment and service. Soror Butler-McIntyre motivated those present to make a difference locally, nationally and internationally.

JTAC presented Soror Butler-McIntyre with a check for \$900 that would be sent to Africa to aid in the efforts to provide clean water for the underprivileged. State Representative Johnnie Turner (Memphis, Tennessee) presented a framed proclamation from the state of Tennessee to Soror Butler-McIntyre during the Presidential Luncheon, held after the Founders Day



program.

Southern Regional Director Cheryl W. Turner spoke during the Presidential Luncheon and charged sorors to continue to serve with fortitude and determination in order to make a difference. Jackson, Tennessee native Soror Elsie Cooke-Holmes, co-chair of Leadership Academy and Past Eastern Regional Director was also in attendance.

Every year JTAC recognizes a woman in the chapter's service area as Woman of the Year. Mrs. Patricia McDonald of Martin, Tennessee, was honored as the chapter's 2015 Woman of the Year. The chapter also honored its immediate past president, Soror Andrea Bond Johnson, naming her the 2015 Delta of the Year.

Knoxville Alumnae Parties For A Cause



On March 4, 2015, the **Knoxville Alumnae Chapter** partied with a cause at its second annual Mardi Gras Scholarship Gala. The Mardi Gras Scholarship Gala has become one of Knoxville's most anticipated events with more than 800 people in attendance. Guests danced the night away to a live band and nationally known DJ, Sterling "Sterl the Pearl" Henton. Mark Allmon and Jocelyn Hundley were crowned King and Queen of Mardi Gras. Proceeds from the event will fund the 2015-2016 scholarships given by the chapter.

Regional History

When the Southern Region was originally established in 1926 during the Eighth National Convention in Cincinnati Ohio, it included the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

In 1960, at the Sorority's National Convention, it was determined to create a new region to facilitate service delivery for chapters in the mid-Atlantic states, and North and South Carolina left the Southern Region to become part of the South Atlantic Region.

Today the geographical areas of the Southern Region include Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee and the Bahamas.

Talladega County Alumnae Awards Over \$7,000 In Scholarships

Seventeen young ladies graced the stage of the Ritz Theater at **Talladega County Alumnae's** Jabberwock. The theme for the evening was "Delta Goes Disney." The young ladies were vying for the titles of Miss Jabberwock, Miss Crimson and Cream, Little Miss Crimson and Cream, and Tiny Miss Crimson and Cream. Serving as escorts were eleven "young men of distinction."

TaShayla McNeal took home the crown as Miss Jabberwock 2015. Other winners are Miss Jabberwock first runner-up Alyssa Merritt and second runner-up Jasmine Ware. Kaylen Fluker was crowned Miss Crimson and Cream along with Olivia Jackson as first runner-up and Cayla Rowls as second runner-up. Kayla Wilson was crowned Little Miss Crimson and Cream along with Camauria Vincent as first runner-up and Sa'Khia Bolden as second runner-up. Madison McKenzie took home the crown as Tiny Miss Crimson and Cream along with Paisley Streeter as first runner-up and Hayden Merritt as second runner-up. Other participants competing were Ciara Jones, Andrea Swain, Meesha Norris, Alicah Long and Lialani Thomas.

The chapter awarded \$7,000 in scholarships to deserving high school seniors in Talladega and Coosa County with an additional \$500 scholarship going to a member of the Alpha Zeta Chapter at Talladega College, who chooses to



Miss Jabberwock 2015 pageant winners (left to right): Kaylen Fluker, Miss Jabberwock; Alyssa Merritt, Miss Jabberwock first runner-up; Jasmine Ware, Miss Jabberwock second runner-up; Madison McKenzie, Tiny Miss Crimson and Cream; TaShayla McNeal, Miss Jabberwock; and Kayla Wilson, Little Miss Crimson and Cream.

enter graduate school immediately after graduation. The Jabberwock is a fundraising activity for scholarships and other public service programs sponsored by the chapter.

Orange County Alumnae Celebrates 10th Annual Eminence Gala



The Eminence Scholarship Gala is **Orange County (FL) Alumnae Chapter's** annual fundraising gala and debutante/debonair presentation to society. The gala raises thousands of dollars to benefit educational programs and services for local high school students from all over Central Florida. The program focuses on awarding scholarships and exposing participants to diverse empowerment workshops. The gala is the culminating event that concludes a six-month long educational program that the student honorees participate in.

High school juniors and seniors participate in the education-focused program, which encourages and supports academic achievement while providing life changing experiences in areas such as etiquette, professional

development, financial management, college preparation and physical and mental health awareness. Approximately \$20,000 in scholarships was awarded to this year honorees.

This year's honorees included Netanye' Brown (Jones High School), Taylor Coakley (Evans High School), Kamari Cummings (Lake Nona High School), Kennedy First-Suttice (Dr. Phillips High School), Khara Gibson-Taylor (Edgewater High School), Brianna Grant (Olympia High School), Christopher Hawkins (Dr. Phillips High School), Jonathan Jarvis (West Orange High School), Larrun Maynor (Victory Christian Academy), Jonathan Peoples (Edgewater High School), Allanna McCann (Dr. Phillips High School), Michaela McKinney (Mount Dora High School), Tiara McMillan (Edgewater High School), Kassi Reed (Wekiva High School), and Alyah Sheppard (University High School).

The Eminence program has provided more than \$130,000 in support of continued education since its inception in 2006. For the past two years Eminence has been chaired by Soror Ayana Hastings and under the leadership of Soror Melinda G. Poole, chapter president.

Lakeland Alumnae Empowers Women Through Boutique

The **Lakeland Alumnae Chapter's** Dress for Success Delta Boutique opened the doors to the ladies of Polk County at Simpson Park Community Center in December.

The objective of the project was to increase economic empowerment of women by providing them with a selection of workplace appropriate clothing, shoes, and purses free of charge. More than 400 items of shoes, clothes, jewelry, and purses were donated by chapter members and members of the community. Representatives from Polk State College and Career Resource Polk were on hand to provide educational counseling and job availability information.

In response to the event, Benjamin Stevenson, Director of the Lakeland Housing Authority sent an email stating, "A member of my staff and a volunteer attended the event and received business outfits. Both of these persons are single mothers with fixed incomes that live on our properties. One has six children and the other is a participant in the [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families] (TANF) to the Work Force Program. The donations are a great benefit to each person and their family. I wanted to send a personal note of thanks and gratitude to your organization for the service and dedication to the local community. Thank you so much for



sharing the information regarding the event. May God continue to bless you and all of the sisters of Delta Sigma Theta. Prayerful and Kindest Regards."

Great Start For Newly Established Collier County Alumnae



Members of Collier County Alumnae and Fort Myers Alumnae are shown after a Founders Day program in Naples, Florida on Feb. 7.

Chartered less than two years ago, the **Collier County Alumnae Chapter** has already begun to make its mark in the Naples, Florida community. The chapter began the year by hosting a sold-out screening of the movie, "Selma" at a local theater. Attendees included the Honorable Ethel S. Barnett Boone of Philadelphia, who participated in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery March. She is the grandmother of Soror Kathy Dupu-Bruno, second vice president of the chapter. Members of the Women's Republican Club of Naples Federated were also a part of the diverse crowd attending the event. The chapter along with the Delta GEMS participated in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Parade.

In honor of Delta's 102nd Founders Day, the chapter displayed an exhibit paying tribute to the 22 Founders and highlighting the chapter's community service programs in Collier County at Naples' downtown public library.

On Feb. 10, the chapter was honored by the Collier County

District School Board during its Black History recognition. Soror Christine Rahmings, president of the Collier County Alumnae Chapter, and other sorors received a certificate recognizing the chapter for its collaboration with Collier County Public Schools and its efforts to enhance the Black community.

Author Video Conferences With Chapter For Book Discussion



On Nov. 16, 2014, the **Desoto County (MS) Alumnae Chapter** held its first Arts and Letters book discussion event with national bestselling author, Victoria Christopher Murray, who video-conferenced in to discuss her book, "Forever an Ex."

Those in attendance were given a chance to ask the author, who is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., questions about her book, her writing process, her upcoming projects, and her history with Delta.

Three Mississippi Chapters Co-Host HIV/AIDS Forum



Members of Clinton (MS) Alumnae, Jackson (MS) Alumnae and Madison County (MS) Alumnae chapters during World AIDS Day.

Madison County (MS) Alumnae, Jackson (MS) Alumnae and Clinton Alumnae chapters recently partnered with Tougaloo College's Owens Health and Wellness Center to host a World AIDS Day forum. Dr. Yvonne Maddox, acting director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) was the keynote speaker. Dr. Maddox spoke to the theme of "Getting 2 Zero."

The forum highlighted important statistics about new HIV infections in the United States. Dr. Maddox discussed how African American men and women living in the United States are disproportionately affected by the

disease. For example, African American women are the fourth leading group of individuals infected with HIV. The highest rate of HIV infection is prevalent among those ages 13-24. Mississippi is ranked tenth in the United States for new HIV infections. The metro Jackson area ranks eighth for new HIV infections in the United States. Of the new HIV cases in Mississippi, 79 percent are among African American men.

Other featured panelists included, Mauda L. Monger, director of the Mississippi AIDS Education Training Center; J. Cody Walker, program manager for AIDS Healthcare

Foundation; and Antonio Williams, special projects office at the Mississippi State Department of Health, Office of STD/HIV. Each panelist highlighted their organization's role in addressing the epidemic within the state. They also spoke about the importance of having open communication in relationships as well as various ways to reduce fear, shame, and stigma around HIV/AIDS.

Jason Gibson & Destiny Project, an inspirational musical group followed the speakers. Other forum highlights included onsite HIV screening and health vendors.

East Point/College Park Alumnae Celebrates 35th Anniversary

In celebration of its 35th anniversary and commitment to public service, the **East Point/College Park Alumnae Chapter** partnered with the Fulton County Office of Aging to implement a beautification initiative at the HJC Bowden Senior Multipurpose Center in East Point, Georgia.

Vietnam Veteran James Lane, US Army/Specialist E5, Combat Medic - 1st Calvary and members of the Fayette County Master Gardener Program served as master gardeners for the

initiative. The gardening program is offered through the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Program. The Boy Scouts of America Troop 54 and seniors from the Bowden Center volunteered with the members of the East Point/College Park Alumnae Chapter. At the completion of the project, miniature American flags were displayed to recognize the men and women who serve in the armed forces. This was also organized to celebrate Veterans Day.

To further commemorate the anniversary, the chapter hosted a special 35th celebration titled "Tis the Season to be Jammin" for members, their families and friends and charter members as special guests.

Additionally, the East Point/College Park Alumnae Chapter organized efforts to support 35 families at its partner schools, KIPP Vision Academy and North Clayton Middle School by presenting each family with a \$50 gift card.

Jaye Lynn Peabody Visits Church To Give Inspirational Word

The Reverend Jaye Lynn Peabody, member of the Southern Region Chaplain's Council, was the guest speaker at the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church Annual Women's Day Program. Cynthia R. Boyd, 23rd Southern Regional Director, and several members of the **Auburn Alumnae Chapter** are members of the church. Soror Peabody presented a dynamic message, "Christian Women Being Strong in Christ."

Soror Peabody emphasized being a fighter, coming back from adversity, and getting up and trying again. Soror Peabody was invited to be the guest speaker after several sorors from Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church attended her workshop "Healing Delta Hurt" during the state cluster in Alabama.



Jackson (MS) Alumnae Provides "Caring Cases" For Foster Children

Children in foster care often have to move frequently and most carry their belongings from place to place in trash bags. The **Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter** joined in the holiday spirit of giving with its "Caring Cases" initiative, aimed at providing suitcases for children in two local nonprofit agencies where foster children are placed. Led by the chapter's Social Action Committee, the purpose of "Caring Cases" was to provide a sense of confidence and belonging to children while they are in transition.

Initially, chapter members were asked to donate new or "gently used" suitcases for the children of the Youth Villages agency. As a result, 65 suitcases were provided for children in transition or foster care at Youth Villages. Phase II of the

project consisted of the chapter hosting a "Caring Cases" suitcase drive in partnership with Belk Department Store of Northpark Mall. Holiday shoppers were generous with their suitcase donations, and more than 40 suitcases and a monetary donation were provided for the children of the Methodist Children's Home.



Did you miss an issue?
Previous issues of the Southern Gazette are available online 24/7





Soror Myra Mitchell Inducted Into NBPHC Hall Of Fame

Soror Myra Mitchell has a long history of service as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Initiated into the Nassau Bahamas Alumnae Chapter in April 1990, she is the present Bahamas Coordinator for the Southern Region and the primary advisor for the Upsilon Zeta Chapter, The College of The Bahamas. To her impressive list of accolades, she adds the new post, charter parliamentarian of the Nassau, Bahamas Pan-Hellenic Council (NBPHC). The NBPHC is the first international council established by the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC).

Soror Mitchell has been a member of the council since its chartering in February 1995. Because of her exceptional community service record, she was later inducted into the Nassau, Bahamas Pan-Hellenic Hall of Fame. As the NBPHC's new, distinguished charter parliamentarian, Soror Mitchell intends to be most effective by informing Bahamian Delta Sigma Theta Sorority chapters of the Bahamas Primary School "Student of the Year" awards program. The program is a partnership between the NBPHC and The Bahamas Primary School (BPSF) Student of the Year Foundation. As

the founding director of the program, Soror Mitchell hopes to garner individual and chapter donations, scholarships, and volunteers for the program.

The BPSF's "Student of the Year" awards program is a premier national awards recognition program for sixth graders. Each Bahamian primary school submits their top student to vie for financial scholarships and prizes. To date, over one million dollars in scholarships and prizes have been awarded to deserving students. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has already been instrumental in supporting the "Student of the Year" awards program.

Soror Mitchell is the recipient of the first international scholarship from the Delta Research and Education Foundation (DREF). The scholarship was awarded in May 2015 at the Bahamas Primary School "Student of the Year" awards program.

For more information on the Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Awards Program please visit: www.bahamaspstoy.org.

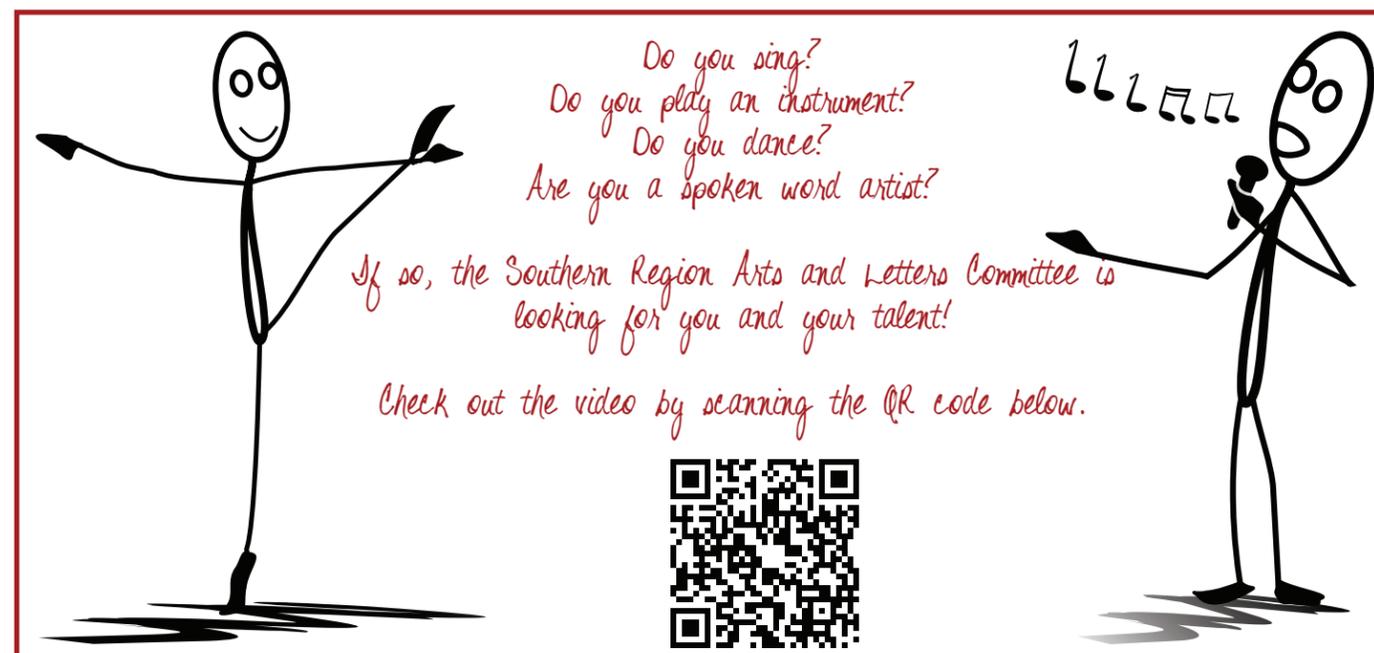
Soror Diane Delaware First Female Mayor Of Yazoo City

With more than 80 percent of the vote, **Soror Diane Delaware** was elected mayor of Yazoo City (MS) in April. She becomes the first woman to lead the city known as "the Gateway to the Delta."

Before moving into politics, Soror Delaware worked for the Xerox Corporation in many roles. She started as a collection representative and worked her way through the company to work as director of Quality and Knowledge Management

to global vice president of marketing operations which included the markets of the U.S., Europe, Middle East Africa and South America.

Soror Delaware is a graduate of Jackson State University and received a master's degree from the University of Missouri. Soror Delaware is a member of the Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter.



Do you sing?
Do you play an instrument?
Do you dance?
Are you a spoken word artist?
If so, the Southern Region Arts and Letters Committee is looking for you and your talent!
Check out the video by scanning the QR code below.



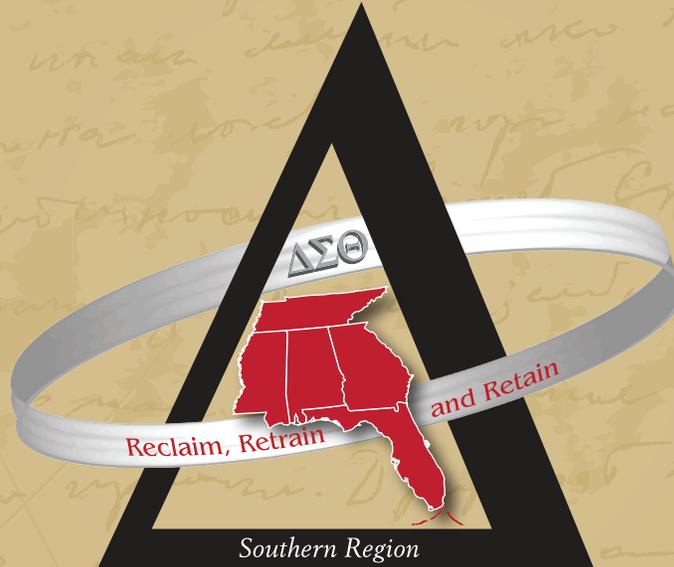
Guidelines for submitting articles to the newsletter

How To Submit Articles

- Submissions should be emailed to 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 emailed as an attachment to journalist@dstsouthernregion.com in jpeg format
- Do not send photos embedded in a Word document
- Do not send photos that have effects on them
- Do not send photos as a collage
- 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



52nd National Convention
Houston, Texas