



President's Message

EXceptional Women doing, EXtraordinary Things

Happy New Year!

And what an awestruck year this past year has been...filled with the challenges of the pandemic, the excitement of the elections, the loss of family/friends, the coping with self- isolation, the national protests of police brutality and the new norm of utilizing zoom accompanied with zoom fatigue. But through it all the Epsilon Chi Chapter remained resilient and steadfast with a mission to uplift the name of Iota. We were creative in our thought processes and stayed connected through social media and other forms of technology. It is through our spiritual and mental being that the pandemic has made us stronger, wiser and more appreciative of all the wonders that life has to offer.



It is my hope that 2021 will bring a new era of change that will cause humanity to reflect on the important things in life such as family, friends, love, and giving. What is your short term goal for 2021 and how will you achieve it? Will 2021 be the year of YOU? Let us not use 2020 as a setback, but as a stepping stone into 2021 for how we desire our lives to be viewed. I pray that you will be surrounded by positive energy, show compassion to others less fortunate and turn your goals into action. It is my wish that you find your truth and happiness in all that you do and love your sister as you would want to be loved. Together we will claim a successful 2021 as we implement the programs and projects of our illustrious organization, Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.

Continued Blessings

In Sisterhood & Service,
Donna Mitchell, President
Epsilon Chi Chapter

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Newsletter Articles are due by the 25th of each month

Calendar of Events

- January 1 - New Years Day
- January 9 - Chapter Monthly Meeting
- January 25 - Newsletter articles due
- January 25 - FHPW quarterly meeting
- February 13 - Chapter Monthly Meeting
- February 27 - Toys U Can’t Return program
- March 6 - Taste of ATEX
- March 12 - Chapter Monthly Meeting



Epsilon Chi Chapter Announcements

The Epsilon Chi Chapter would like to congratulate Sorors Gloria Davis and Sherri Marshall on their newly appointed roles on the Executive Committee! Soror Davis will serve as the Financial Secretary and Soror Marshall will serve as the Chapter's Vice President. Thank you both for accepting the your appointment to your perspective role!



Soror Gloria Davis



Soror Sheri Marshall

Epsilon Chi's Holiday Social

To kick off the holiday season, the Epsilon Chi Chapter held its Holiday Happy Hour on December 18, 2020. It was a festive atmosphere filled with games and laughter. Members even came in holiday attire showing off their accessories and festive clothing. Our competitive nature was in high gear, but congratulations is in order for Sorors King, Punch-Brown and White in clenching the prizes for the 2020 Christmas games. A special thank you goes to Soror Marshall for identifying our sponsor, Paparazzi, who donated the gifts. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!



Evelyn Wilkey Scholarship 2020 Winners

This year we had several contestants for the Evelyn Wilkey National Youth Essay Contest. The essay of Topic was “ How Social Media affects Teens”. Congratulations to our first place winners. The first place winners will compete on a regional level with other students from the Southwestern region. The winners of the Southwestern region will advance to the national level.

1st Place High School: Kennedy Mitchell



1st place Middle school: Isaiah Herbert Copeland



Thank you to all of our other Winners and Participants
2nd Place High School Elijah Herbert Copeland 2nd Place Middle School Lauren Kennedy
3rd place High School Jalissa Nixon and Participant Lauren Nixon
You all are exceptional! Best Wishes to a bright future.

Soror Birthday

Happy Birthday to Soror



Corinne Herbert-Copeland
January 8th



Eureka Patton
January 8th

Rose Beyond the Wall



The Epsilon Chi Chapter mourns the loss of our dear sister, Soror Janie Samuels. She has left a monumental mark on this earth which will never be forgotten. Her smile, wit and passion for what she believed in was a true testament to her resilience. Janie Samuels will be forever be missed, but her legacy of leadership love and commitment for Iota Phi Lambda Sorority remains in our hearts.

Please click link to watch [Tribute to Soror Samuels](#):



HERstory is written in the words and thoughts of a seasoned Soror. She has been posed with five questions and responds sincerely based on her experiences. The knowledge they impart is meant to inspire, motivate and encourage the continued progression of this illustrious sorority.

Interviewer: Donna Mitchell



**White Rose Queen
Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas
14th National President**

What year did you join Iota and in what chapter? I joined Iota as a member of the Nu Chapter in Savannah, Georgia

What is your fondest (favorite) Iota memory? It was an honor being the National President of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. and seeing the Sorors come together to make a difference in their life and the lives of others. Sorors saw pleasure in reaching out to each and being a resource to fulfill the mission of Iota. I also was pleased to spawn the idea of having a FIG (Future Iota Girls) auxiliary by incorporating the Chatham County youth commission and summer bonanza partnership.

What remarks can you share with a Soror who has recently joined Iota (less than one year)? Commitment is the key to being successful. You must be dedicated to the ideal of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc and work together with Sorors in your chapter to accomplish the programs and mission.

What remarks can you share with a Soror who has lost her fire and zest for advancing the work of Iota? There are times where we all arrive at a point where we lose our enthusiasm. If you are truly committed you will regroup and pray for guidance, wisdom of understanding and knowledge of how to deal with challenges as they arise.

What are some overall words of encouragement that you can offer to all Sorors? Always make others feel that they are just as important as you are. Their ideas may even be better than what you are doing. You have to be big enough and thoughtful enough to receive and accept the ideas of your Sorors even if it surpasses your idea.

Future Iota Leaders Corner

The 2020-2021 officer installation took place with President Donna Mitchell on December 6th. The following FILS acquired their roles: Jalisa Nixon President, Ashton Gaskins Vice President, Elijah Copeland Recording Secretary, Lauren Mitchell Corresponding Secretary, Lauren Nixon Historian, Isaiah Copeland Treasurer.

After the officer installation a Christmas party occurred! Hats were bought individually and then decorated by the FILS. The FILS decorated their hats while getting to know each other and listening to music! It was a fun group event that everyone thoroughly enjoyed.



Sisterhood Across the Southwestern Region

It was a pleasure for the Epsilon Chi Chapter to support our sister chapter, Psi, as they inducted two amazing sorors into Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. on December 22, 2020. We are proud that the Southwestern region is growing and look forward to meeting Sorors Gray and Newell in the near future. Congratulations to Dean Letitia Speed and the Psi chapter for wonderful Induction Ceremony.



Sisterhood Across Iota



On December 6, 2020 twelve women came together to form what is now known as the Zeta Kappa Chapter. Over 100 Sorors throughout the United States and the Virgin Islands, including the Iota National Board and White Rose Queens, logged onto Zoom to witness the joyous occasion of inducting, installing and chartering the first chapter in the state of Arizona, Zeta Kappa Chapter. Phoenix, Arizona will never be same as these amazing professional women who bring with them talents and business knowledge will surge Iota to the next level. We are indeed excited of the possibilities. The National President Dorothy White spoke eloquently about the commitment and teamwork needed for a successful chapter.

The Far Western Regional Director, Pamela Paige and her team of dedicated sorors were instrumental with the formation of the Zeta Kappa Chapter. Standing proud they have made a mark in history which cannot be denied. Congratulations Pamela Paige on this noteworthy accomplishment and congratulations to our new sorors of the Zeta Kappa Chapter. We look forward to your continued growth and unending love of our illustrious sorority, Iota Phi Lambda.

Executive Committee Corner



Soror Gloria Davis

Checks, cash, and electronic forms of payments can be overwhelming based on the size of your chapter. The money manager of an organization is the financial secretary. She manages all incoming payments and track the who, when and why of each transaction. This position is most critical in maintaining the checks and balances of an organization. An astute financial secretary serves on the budget committee, has the ability to easily identify discrepancies and cross references income with expenses. We are so elated to have as our awesome financial secretary, Gloria Davis. Our fiscal records are in good hands.

Soror on the Move

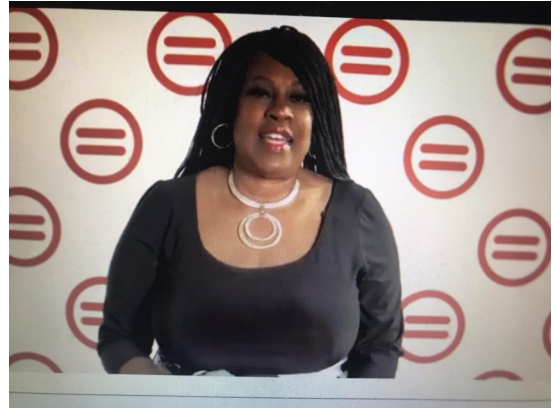
Congratulations to Donna Mitchell for being elected as the President for the Federation of Houston Professional Women (FHPW) and Vanessa Hawkins for being appointed as the Ruby Gala Director. They will serve on the FHPW board of directors leading the organization during it's 40th year of existence. FHPW is comprised of 30 women-based member organizations from diverse backgrounds and professions. They meeting quarterly having speakers and outside networking events such as their power luncheons.

The culmination is the Women of Excellence Gala which will be held on September 18, 2021. Through the 30 member organizations, the Federation has an outreach to more than 20,000 women; providing over \$25,000 in scholarships with their endowment fund and an excess of \$500,000 through their Educational Foundation. Sorors Mitchell and Hawkins will represent the Epsilon Chi Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. and is the first sorority to have a member serve as the FHPW board president.



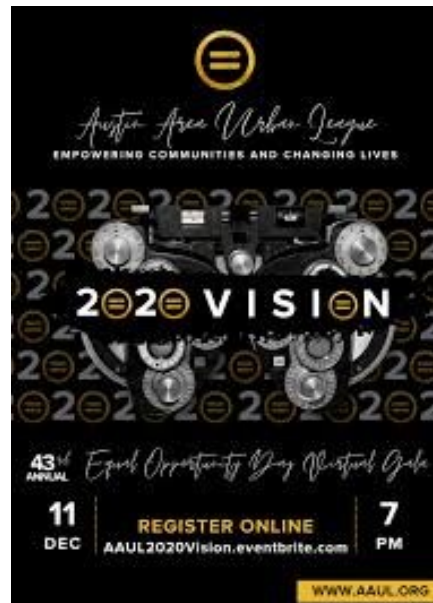
Celebrating our Soror

This year, the Austin Area Urban League presented the Community Empowerment Award to Sheri Marshall an individual who has proven through their deeds to exemplify the principles for which the Austin Area Urban League stands. They must have helped to build bridges between the establishment and the disenfranchised or through leadership or professional expertise, built those bridges which create opportunities for minorities and all underserved populations where inequities exist.



Soror Sheri Marshall was the recipient of the Community Empowerment Award 2020 in Austin Texas.

The AAUL and its Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on being selected as a 2020 Community Empowerment award recipient. Your servant leadership more than qualifies you to receive this award and our gratitude.





Importance of an Agenda

By Soror Donna Mitchell, Registered Parliamentarian
Texas State Association of Parliamentarians, Recording Secretary

This month we will learn why having an agenda is one of the most essential items required for a successful meeting.

What is an agenda

- Webster definition of Agenda – A list or outline of things to be considered or done.
- An agenda identifies the order in which items are to be considered and sometimes sets the exact time for consideration and provides the name of the person for a specified item.

Why have an agenda

- Helps the general body to stay focused with topics of discussion.
- Be more productive since there is a preset list of discussion topics.
- Recalls pending business, so that previous discussion is not forgotten.
- Maintains structure and keeps meetings within a certain timeframe so that meetings are not prolonged by off topic discussions.

When is an agenda provided

Sent prior to meeting or given at the meeting.

- If sent in advance the agenda is only provided for information and not submitted for adoption therefore the details are not binding
- Advantages for providing agenda in advance
 - * Gives participants an opportunity to prepare for meeting
 - * Allows participants to give feedback to the planner about the direction of meeting and provide changes if necessary

Who prepares agenda

President or secretary prepares agenda

How is an agenda formatted

Example of a customary agenda

Call to Order

Reading and approval of minutes

Reports of officers, Boards and Standing Committees

Reports of Special Committees

Special Orders

Unfinished business and general orders

New Business

Announcement

Adjournment

Other Items of importance

- Any item of business can be taken out of its proper order by adopting a motion to suspend the rules by 2/3 vote or by having unanimous consent
- Is it customary to adopt an agenda in organizations that do not hold frequent regular meetings and at conventions and other sessions that may last for several days. Therefore, it is unnecessary to vote on the agenda at each monthly meeting.
- If the adopted agenda is not being followed, a member can make a “Motion all for orders of the day” to require such a schedule to be enforced motion unless the assembly decided by 2/3 vote to set the orders of the day aside.

Reference - RONR (12th ed.) 41:58-70



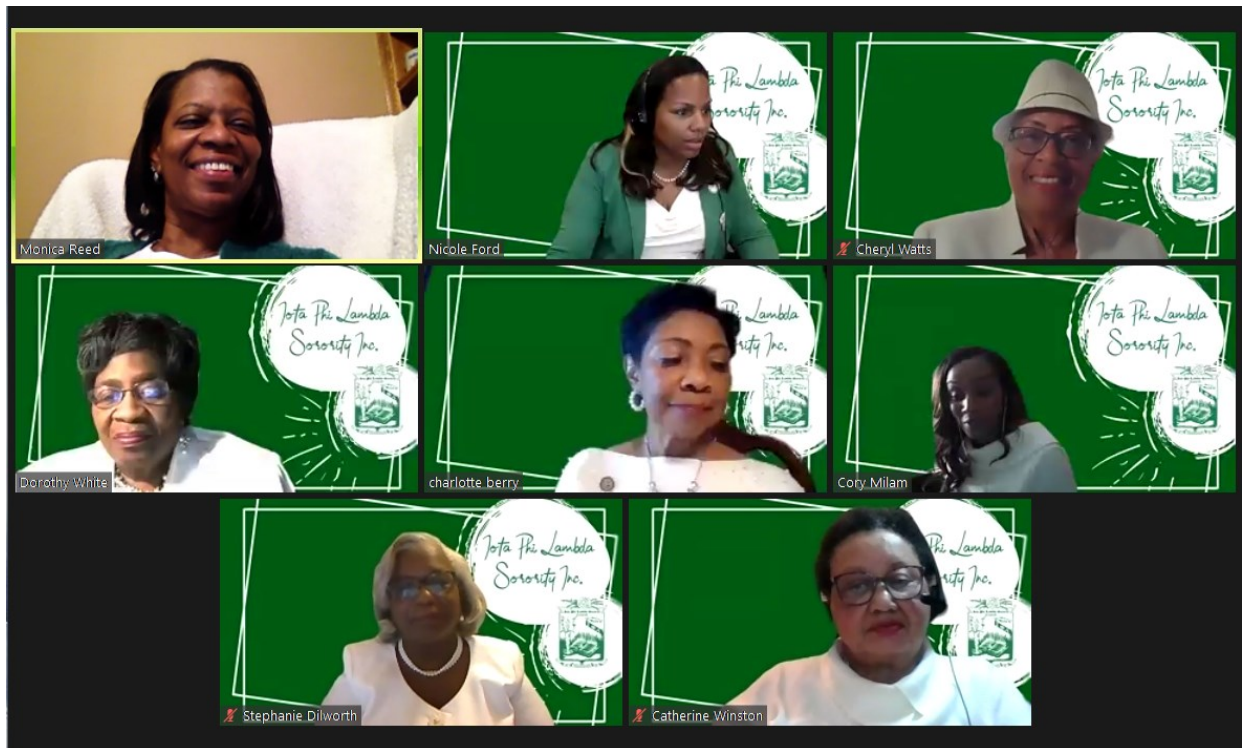
Iota. Talks Inaugural Webinar

IOTA.TALKS WEB SERIES
By: Soror Donna Mitchell




The final Iota.Talks was held on December 6, 2020 and focused on basic understanding: Parliamentary Process/Bylaws/Recommendations/Standing Rules and Meeting Protocols. It was an informative session filled with knowledge from the National Parliamentarian and regional parliamentarians. The parliamentary process of Iota was explained in layman's terms to better understand its importance. Did you know that that bylaw amendments are adopted at the national conventions? This is one reason why it is essential for members to attend the conventions and stay abreast of national changes which in turn affect the local chapters. Moreover, it was stated that each chapter is responsible for having their own standing rules which target administrative tasks. Standing rules are less stringent than bylaws and can be changed without previous notice.

The evening was also comprised of a selfie contest which selected 10 sorors as winners. Sorors Mitchell and Marshall were one of the ten winners. Congratulations sorors for showing your Iota pride on social media. We thank all the speakers for spending time sharing their knowledge and expertise on how the parliamentary process, bylaws, recommendations and standing rules affect the chapters. The Iota talks series was a success and a great benefit to all sorors. We look forward to more sessions in the future.





Iota Phi Lambda Sorority awards scholarships for scholastic achievement to female graduating high school seniors (2.5 GPA or higher) wishing to pursue a college degree in business related fields. This Regional Scholarship is held annually. Judging criteria will include academic performance/achievement, career aspirations, demonstrated leadership, and financial need. Contestants with the supervision of sponsoring chapters must mail their applications to the Southwest Region's Scholarship Chair postmarked by February 14.



**ALMA
MACKEY**

**SCHOLARSHIP
2020**

*awarded by
The Southwestern Region of
Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.*



**CRITERIA FOR
SCHOLARSHIP**
The scholarship is awarded to a graduating high school female (2.5 GPA or higher) wishing to pursue a college degree in business related fields.

**SCHOLARSHIP
AWARD**
Up to \$3,000

**DEADLINE FOR
APPLICATION**
Must be emailed or postmarked by January 17, 2021

**DOWNLOAD
APPLICATION & INSTRUCTIONS**
at www.iotaepsilonchi.org/scholarships

**For additional information:
contact Genitra Andrews-Hypolite, Scholarship Chair
at genitraandrews@gmail.com**



National News

IOTA PHI LAMBDA SORORITY, INC.

2020 – 2021 Essay and Scholarships Reminders

Fredda Witherspoon National Scholarship - scholarships are to be postmarked by January 31, 2021 sent to the National President Elect.

National FIL Scholarship applications are due postmarked by February 28, 2021 sent to the National President Elect.

Dorethea N. Hornbuckle Scholarship applications are due postmarked by March 15, 2021 sent to the National President Elect.

Alice P. Allen Scholarship applications are due postmarked by April 1, 2021 sent to the National President Elect.

ALL essay and scholarship applications MUST be submitted with documentation, recommendations and sponsorships from an active chapter in Iota Phi Lambda SorORITY to the National President Elect with the designated postmark dates for each essay or scholarship with official postal marking dates.



**FREDDA
WITHERSPOON**

**SCHOLARSHIP
2020**

*awarded by
Iota Phi Lambda SorORITY, Inc.*

**CRITERIA FOR
SCHOLARSHIP**
Applicant must be a female H.S. Senior wishing to pursue a college degree in business related fields.

**SCHOLARSHIP
AWARD**
Four \$3,000 at regional level and one \$8,000 at national level

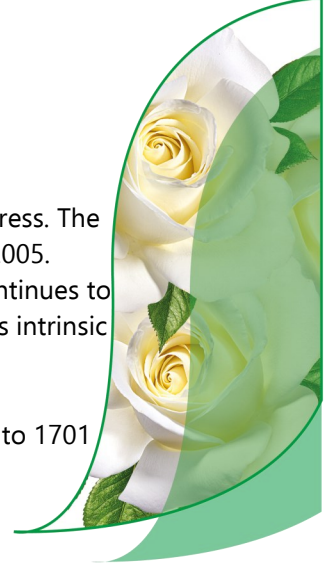
**DEADLINE FOR
APPLICATION**
Must be emailed or postmarked by January 3, 2021

**DOWNLOAD
APPLICATION & INSTRUCTIONS**
at www.iotaepsilonchi.org/scholarships

For additional information:
contact Genitra Andrews-Hypolite, Scholarship Chair
at genitraandrews@gmail.com



- Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated's National Headquarters has a new address. The offices relocated to We Works at 1440 G Street, NW, Suite 7-170, Washington, DC20005. The headquarters also has a transitional number of 202-656-1690 as leadership continues to explore a resolution in being able to keep the original phone number because of its intrinsic value to Iota.
- Iota's Lola Mercedes Parker Foundation has a new address. The offices located to 1701 Rhode island Ave NW, 2nd floor, Washington, DC 20036



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2020 - 2021 Epsilon Chi Executive Committee



Donna Mitchell
President



Jana Gaskin
Recording Secretary



Sheri Marshall
Financial Secretary



Trina Moore
Treasurer



LaSandra Collins
Journalist



Redessa Shaw
Dean of Intake

Sorority Meeting

2nd Saturday of Every Month
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Epsilon Chi Chapter

P. O. Box 6398, Katy, Texas 77491

Let's stay connected:



Check out our website: [Epsilon Chi Chapter](#)

SORORITY LEADERS



Donna Mitchell
Chapter President



Vahnita D. Loud
Southwestern
Regional Director



Dorothy White
23rd National President



Lola Mercedes Parker
Our Founder

Chapter Theme:

Together we are Limitless as we Imagine, Excite and Empower

Regional Theme:

Affirming the Legacy, Bonding in Sisterhood and Committing to Business and Developing Leaders

National Theme:

Business and Professional Women Building the Foundation for Generational Financial Empowerment

National Headquarters:



202- 656-1690



1440 G Street NW, Suite 7-170
Washington, D.C. 20005



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