

**Tyler Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
February 14, 2026**

The monthly chapter meeting of the Tyler Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., was held in a virtual setting completed by Zoom technology.

At 10:00 am, the meeting began with Judge Derrick Choice speaking on re-election for Precinct 1. The early voting dates are February 17-27th, 2026. Election day is March 3, 2026.

President Tonia Bickham presided over the meeting and began with the ritualistic opening starting at 10:06 am. The Zoom guidelines and technology etiquette were presented to the chapter members. The Sergeant At-Arms Soror, Alyce Randle confirmed the presence of a quorum at 10:11 am and the business meeting commenced.

President Tonia Bickham presented the agenda to be adopted. Soror Erika Smiley requested Policy and Procedures be removed from the agenda.

A motion to adopt the agenda with Policy and Procedure being removed was made by Soror Dorothy Jackson and Soror Shunetta Reed to second the motion to adopt the agenda with the removal of Policy and Procedure. The motion passed for the approval of the agenda.

Approval of January 2026 minutes. Minutes were loaded to the chapter's website on February 8, 2026, for the TAC members to review. The motion to approve minutes for January 2026, was made by Vice President Johnita Ward and Soror Hollisia Allen seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

President's Report

President Tonia Bickham introduced the Honorable Nicole Taylor to speak on the recent changes and updated version of the Code of Conduct and Scholarship and Standards on Scholarship/Standards on website. Honorable Nicole Taylor shared the new design/format, code of ethics and terminology. Information was informative and needed for the chapter members to understand the consequences of violating Code of Conduct. Honorable Nicole Taylor provided her contact information for the chapter. A period was offered to answer questions about the topics presented on the Code of Conduct.

President Tonia Bickham recognized the 100th year of celebrating Black History month. (1926-2026) by Carter G. Woodson.

Collegiate Connection chair is Soror Monique Hawkins and to be mindful of our undergraduate Sorors during this month. February is Collegiate Connection and she will be sharing on ways to stay connected.

Regional Conference is listed as June 4-7, 2026, in Grapevine, Texas. www.dstswr.org and how to register for the upcoming conference. The event will be at the Gaylord Hotel.

The regional calendar for Sisterhood month is March 1-31, 2026, and has been listed earlier for those to celebrate. The TAC calendar will be listed in the upcoming newsletter. Membership Services will meet on February 25, 2026, according to Vice President Johnita Ward. It is asked for the Committee Chairs of the Five Point Thrust review the calendar to submit their participation for events for the March calendar during that meeting.

Social Action

President Tonia Bickham spoke on behalf of the Social Action Chair Soror Melissa Williams. The dos and don'ts for the upcoming elections, staying compliant with the Non-Partisan Guidelines will be repeated in the newsletter and in emails. Election dates were listed.

Membership for NAACP is \$30.00 a year and we are encouraging all to join. NAACP next event is listed for September 12, 2026 (Fundraiser event) Tickets are \$60.00 and will be held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center Tyler, Texas. Theme is *"Unshakable Faith, Unstoppable Progress Celebrating Triumphant and Inspiring Tomorrow"*

National Council of Negro Women membership is \$125.00 annually. Several members of TAC are current members.

Corresponding Secretary

Soror Vivianne McGowan announced the following correspondence/announcements: A thank you card from Soror Cheryl Williams on the passing of her father. (flowers were sent)

Soror Vera Moore will be awarded the Judith Guthrie Legacy Service Award on March 26, 2026, 11:30am to 1:00 pm at the Green Acres Church Crosswalk for the Women in Tyler. Ticket costs are \$55.20 individual, and a table is \$428.67 for eight people. The Theme is "Women Laying the Foundation." President Tonia Bickham is leading the charge for the chapter members to help in purchasing a table.

Rose City Comedy event "Laughing to Heal" is set on February 26, 2026. The event starts at 7:00 pm and supports the social work advocacy group.

Centennial Black History Month Celebration College and Career Expo will be on February 21, 2026, from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm. At the Glass Recreation Center in Tyler, Texas. There is also a stroll off with DJ Juice hosting the event from the local radio station. Vendors and food trucks will be present for the event. The event is free to attend. TAC will be hosting a table at the event. A signup to help with the table will be made available.

TAC DST 02.14.2026

Thursday, February 19, 2026, the Tyler High Black History Program will start at 6:30 pm. The event will celebrate talents from the campus and in the community.

Black History Knowledge Bowl is set for February 21, 2026, starting at 8:00 am. The location is Boulter Middle School in Tyler, Texas. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Sponsorships, and in-kind donations can be made.

Gamma Epsilon (Texas College) is celebrating its 80th Charter anniversary of the chapter. The luncheon is set for February 21, 2026, at The Grove in Tyler, Texas. Tickets are \$50.00 with an array of support amounts to assist. The guest speaker is Kamyia Gibbs the Southwest Regional Representative. Soror Monique Hawkins and Soror Hollisia Allen are the contacts. Ticket sales end this coming Monday.

February 28, 2026, Mahjong and Mingle (New Beginnings Fashion Show) will be hosted by the Hands Up Network. Tickets are on sale for \$100.00. This cost includes the tournament, food, and entry to raffle and silent auction. The Villa at 7891 TX 110 Tyler, Texas 75704 starting at 6:00 pm.

Budget and Finance

Soror Hollisia Allen (Financial Secretary) presented the following for January 2026:

December Receipts:

Dues \$3539.83

Reinstatement Fees \$105.00

Table Sales for May Week \$1040.00 (Total of 2)

Roof and Housing Claim \$1211.79

\$5896.62 collected.

Soror Leora Coleman (Treasurer) presented the following for January 2026:

Check Registry was reviewed and all reports are made available when requested.

Total Receipts received: \$5896.62

Beginning balance: \$30,849.62

Disbursements: \$ 8468.39

Ending balance: \$28,277.85

Financial Dues are still being accepted with the additional fees according to President Tonia Bickham. Soror Leora Coleman can be reached if you have questions regarding dues and payments.

Audit Committee

Soror Sonya Taylor (Audit Chair) shared the audit from the fourth quarter from October 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025. A review was completed for the fourth quarter. It gave a satisfactory result. The final audit will be submitted on February 28, 2026.

Soror Vera Moore made a request to obtain the announcements that were mentioned earlier in the meeting. President Tonia Bickham shared the information will be sent out in an email to the chapter members.

Economic Development

Soror Emauri Watson is the Chair of the Economic Committee. She announced March is Sisterhood Month and we will start celebrating early with a Crimson and Cream initiative from February 1 to February 28, 2026, by shopping with black vendors and submitting the receipts to show our support. On March 14, 2026, after the chapter meeting, we will have lunch with the Deltas. 12:00 pm to 1:30pm. Food trucks will be located at the New Generation Church Parking Lot. The three food trucks attending will be: San's 903, Jen Jen's, and Gerald McGee's BBQ. The Delta Service Center will be open for those who would like to come to fellowship and enjoy their meals on the property.

Standing on Business is set for September 19, 2026, at the CTE/TISD Building in Tyler, Texas, On February 5, 2026, the committee met and google forms will be sent out requesting assistance for the event.

Soror Emauri Watson shared their will be series of miniseries that will lead up to the Standing on Business. Different speakers will come out to discuss topics that may include the following: wills and trusts, scamming, credits, and home purchasing.

Fundraising

Soror Shawanna Hawkins the Chair for Fundraising was absent on this day, and President Tonia Bickham spoke on her behalf. It was made known the March Madness event will not occur based on the time frame and it has been proposed to have a Freedom Friday celebration for Juneteenth. The event will be on Friday, June 12, 2026, at the Meeting Place. More information will be announced later. The event goal is to raise money and be economical for the community to attend. The proceeds will support scholarships for 2027.

Housing

Soror Shunetta Reed the Housing Chair is absent, and President Tonia Bickham presented the following: The Bless this House Campaign starting on January 1, 2026-December 31, 2026. Once money is generated it will be utilized quickly to make the repairs. The goal is \$50,000. All contributions are accepted. The details of how to make payments were announced and the aid of the QR to be used to make payments.

The amounts received are a total of \$2442.62 according to Soror Shunetta Reed.

Pledge levels are the following:

- \$250.00 Ruby Contributor
- \$500.00 Pearl Guardian
- \$750.00 Torch Bearer
- \$1000.00 Crimson Patron
- \$2500.00 Pyramid Builder
- \$5000.00 Sisterhood Sustainer

The QR Code will also be posted in the monthly newsletter.

Soror Shunetta Reed reminded all the rules of the Delta Service Center. The importance of placing items back in the correct spot, remove trash and place in receptacle, remove food items from the fridge, be mindful of the thermostat and use the QR code link to reserve the house. Reach out to Soror Shunetta Reed if you have any questions regarding the Delta Service Center. 214.302.9517 is her number and can be reached.

President Tonia Bickham spoke on the needed repairs to the Delta Service Center includes still the HVAC and the foundation.

May Week 2026

Soror Collette Stec shared the following: May Week is set for Sunday, May 3, 2026, at Holiday Inn Conference Center in Tyler, Texas. Ticket costs are \$65.00 individual, and tables are \$520.00 and will seat eight. Tables will go on sale first starting January 1, 2026- February 28, 2026. Rsvpify will be used to collect payments.

Checks will be accepted. The last day for payment with check is April 11, 2026. All ticket sales will end on April 17, 2026. The color of the attire is red, and the May Week Theme is *Power, Poise and Purpose*. Our very own Dr. Kendra Bircher is our keynote speaker.

We will be recognizing three legatees and six scholarship recipients based on the donations for scholarships. Soror Ebony Mason asked about the deadline to submit funds to support a scholarship. The deadline is set for March 5, 2026, for payments.

The next meeting is set for March 10, 2026, by Zoom at 6:30. This meeting will decide the scholarship recipients.

March 5, 2026, is the closing date for scholarships applications to be submitted.

Soror Collette Stec mentioned making a motion to allow for the voting for Delta of the Year, Committee of the Year and Officer of the Year for the March 14, 2026, meeting. Soror Dorothy Jackson inquired about the change of the voting date. Soror Collette Stec shared it was based on the time frame to submit a purchase order to Tyler Trophy earlier than in April during their busiest time for business. their travel plans to be included.

Nominating Committee

Soror Christiana Guthrie is the Chair for the Nominating Committee and was not present, and Soror Shequita Daniels presented on her behalf. Nominations are still being accepted until February 20, 2026, by 11:59 pm. The candidate data profile application will need to be submitted.

- March the selection of nominations will be presented to the executive board and chapter members. Those who are interested may run from the floor and complete their data profile application by March 20, 2026, by 11:59 pm.
- April is the chapter election.

The positions with no nominations are the following:

Assistant Financial Secretary, Chair of the Internal Audit Committee, and two (2) spots for the Nominating Committee. All the responsibilities of each position can be found in TAC's policy and procedures.

Physical and Mental Health

Soror Nerissa Cato is the Chair for Physical and Mental Health. President Tonia Bickham and Soror Emauri Watson will share the information to the chapter. February is Heart Month and the challenge has been given to support and encourage those. There is Month long fitness challenge. You may upload the time of fitness activity. Two prizes will be awarded for the top two.

February 15th, the evening with Dr. Jackson speaking on heart and health.

Soror Yolanda Prince will speak about her heart journey.

February 22nd Heart health meal preparation with Soror Yolanda Love.

Soror Emauri Watson announced the Community Baby Shower collaboration with NetHealth on March 28, 2026, at the College Hill Missionary Baptist Church from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Donations include the following: diapers, baby wipes, diaper cream, and baby powder. An Amazon Wishlist will be generated. There is a request to assist with items, decorations, and financial donations. The event is designed to help new mothers and mothers to be. A donation letter has been generated to help with support of the program. TAC chapter members can purchase food from restaurants. The event is looking to support up to fifty mothers for the event. The initiative will address maternal health needs.

Nethealth is responsible for all, and the chapter members will be used to support their program. Food donations cannot be you cooking the food. This is based on the mother's health care needs and liabilities. Soror Dorothy Jackson requested the name of the Wishlist. Soror Emauri Watson shared the Wishlist has not been created.

D.E.A.R.S.

Soror Denise Pendleton discussed the completion of the member profile and submitting it. The goal is to be 100 % completed.

There is link sent out so all can open and complete. Click on to participate and know if they would like to continue with the T.R.I.B.E. Those who no longer want to participate or those who want to continue. The T.R.I.B.E will be shaken up, and new groups will be made. The purpose is to meet and engage with Sorors.

All questions regarding T.R.I.B.E. may be sent to Soror Denise Pendleton and or Soror Pamela Erwin.

Youth Initiatives

Soror April Mims is the Co-Chair for Youth Initiative (Delta Gems/Delta Academy) February 28, 2026, at the Delta Service Center from 10:00 am -12:00 pm is the next event. *"Sipping Tea, With Class and No Sass."* *Etiquette Training with mini breakout*

sessions. Due to inclement weather concerns the meeting set for January 24, 2026, was cancelled.

Unfinished Business

Regional Conference donation of a \$1000.00 was suggested to support the upcoming Southwest conference in June 2026. President Tonia Bickham shared she had an opportunity to speak with Presidents in our Cluster regarding donations. They had decided to make \$200.00 donations per chapter. Soror Alyce Randle made the motion; TAC give a \$200.00 donation for the Southwest Regional Conference. Soror Vera Moore seconded. Soror Denise Pendleton spoke about the goal being reached from the popcorn sales. The goal was \$250,000. President Tonia Bickham shared Southwest will host a series of fundraisers to support the conference.

Soror Dorothy Jackson was interested in where the funds will come from. Soror Leora Coleman shared that the amount comes from the unallocated funds to cover this request. A vote poll was launched to pay the \$200.00 donation for the Southwest regional conference. The poll results for the vote. Nineteen yes for submitting a donation of \$200.00 and thirteen not in favor of submitting \$200.00 to support the regional conference. This is thirty-two out of forty-one participating in the chapter vote.

New Business

Soror Collette Stec made the official motion to change the date to March 2026 for the election of Committee of the Year, Delta of the Year and Officer of the Year. The term I move is required to make an official motion from the Chair. No second is required. The motion was voted upon with twenty-two yes to support the motion being approved with no opposition. A 10-day notice for the election will be provided to the TAC members.

Shout Outs/Announcement

Soror Sharmecia Jackson was recognized as Teacher of the Month for TISD. The school board meeting is set for Monday, February 16, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

President Tonia Bickham shared she would love the support for the PATH Mardi Grass event that will be held at Stanley's BBQ. The parade will start at the PATH building parking lot and continue to Stanley's. Support and donations are accepted.

February birthdays were recognized with a birthday song.

The next meeting is set for March 14, 2026, at the Delta Service Center. The meeting will start at 10:00 am and will introduce the names slated for the upcoming election in April and the vote to decide Delta of the Year, Committee of the Year and Officer of the Year.

The business meeting concluded at 11:57 am and the ritualistic closing followed.

Submitted by Collette Stec
Recording Secretary
cstec@ymail.com