

Tyler Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

May 3, 2025

The monthly meeting of the Tyler Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was conducted at the Delta Service Center in Tyler, Texas.

President Tonia Bickham delayed the ritualistic opening. A guest speaker, Shonda Marsha (District 3/Candidate) presented regarding her candidacy and took questions from the audience. The ritualistic opening started at 10:30 am.

The Sergeant At-Arm confirmed the presence of a quorum; Soror Alyce Randle.

A motion to adopt the agenda as listed was made by Soror Alyce Randle and Soror Kimberly Palmer seconded the motion. It was adopted.

Approval of March 2025 minutes. Minutes were loaded to the chapter's website for the TAC members to review. The motion to approve minutes for March 2025 was made by Soror Denise Pendleton and Soror Vera Moore seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Approval of April 2025 minutes. Minutes were loaded on the chapter's website on May 2, 2025; for TAC members to review. The motion to approve minutes for April 2025 was made by Soror Rubye Roy and seconded by Vice President Johnita Ward. Motion approved.

President's Report

President Tonia Bickham spoke on Soror Ollie Crawford and gave her a tribute. It was requested to give a moment of silence to her during May Week on May 4, 2025. A brief discussion on conducting the future of MIT. Looking at the time frame of 2026/2027. Several things factor in this decision.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Johnita Ward announced the save the date of August 2, 2025, as the Sisterhood Retreat Delta Round-up "Boots on the Ground" to be held at the Career Technology Center Tyler, Texas. Membership Services will present the event.

Soror Denise Pendleton announced the African American Museum of Tyler is selling fans for \$20.00 each. The fan's color is red and white. They will clack. This will support the museum by purchasing a fan.

President Tonia Bickham announced the in-person for convention is closed. However, virtual registration will open on May 20, 2025. It starts at 11:00 am central standard time. This will count towards a convention attended.

ERT Chair Soror Karla Thomas has been out due to recent surgeries. She had hoped to be present. According to President Tonia Bickham, ERT has completed and submitted by the 30th to allow the chapter to be in good standing.

Corresponding Secretary

Soror Vivianne McGowan announced the following correspondence/announcements:

- A Thank You Card from Tyler Area Public Service Foundation for the Day of Giving. They raised \$415.00.
- “You took all of Me, now what is Left” Soror Shequita Daniels will be one of the speakers at the Greater Shiloh Baptist Church. It is starting today at 10:00 am. She is scheduled to speak around 11:30 am today.
- Sickel Cell Drive is set for May 31, 2025; from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for God’s Way Baptist Church. See Soror Isabell for more information.
- May 17, 2025; is the Rose Rudman Park Walk to support the annual walk for babies. It starts at 9:00 am and the check-in starts at 8:30 am.
- Build HER Conference is set June 22, 2025; starting at 7:00 pm and June 28, 2025; starting at 10:00 am Soror Shequita Daniels will be a speaker in Gilmer, Texas at 613 West Cass Street. Please go and support.
- Alopecia Awareness Sneaker Gala is set for September 6, 2025; at the Meeting Place located in Tyler, Texas.

Budget and Finance

The budget and finance officers were not in attendance on this date. President Tonia Bickham announced the following on their behalf.

The current receipts totaled: \$6102.08 substantial portion is from MIT expenses from Theta Kappa and May Week 2025. The check register was reviewed for the months of March and April 2025.

Policy and Procedures

Soror Erika Smiley announced regarding Policy and Procedures. The proposed amendments have been uploaded to the website to review. All the suggested amendments have been on the website since late January 2025. Soror Erika Smiley was happy regarding the turnout to vote.

There are five to consider. Soror Erika Smiley provided all members with a red card to use for voting. 2/3 votes by the members are needed to pass.

1. Term limits for the appointed officers. It states that you cannot service more than two consecutive terms.
2. Scholarship Application: The scholarship application will be added. No language added.
3. Hospitality/Courtesy will be added/guideline. Also removing the reference of biological children.
4. Delta Service Center guidelines will be attached to the chapter's policy and procedures. No language change
5. The Delta Service Center will no longer be referred to as, "The House." We will use the term Delta Service Center. This keeps it consistent.

Soror Erika Smiley made the following motion: Moved to accept and include all the amendments as presented in the policy and procedures. President Tonia Bickham shared everything is on the website and can viewed by all.

The voting was the following for Policy/Procedures: 32 Votes were casted. 32 in favor. No opposition. No abstentions. Motion adopted.

D.E.A.R.S

Soror Denise Pendleton encouraged members to continue to meet in your assigned Tribes. The Goal for May is to invest in yourself by completing self-care. Please submit the January request for completing the membership profile. This is important because it captures your service with Delta. The history of mental and physical health will be shared for May. Soror Denise Pendleton gave encouragement for meeting in the Tribes and the possibility of meeting in June 2025 to have their final meetings.

Economic Development

Soror Candace Porter-Condry the Economic Chair presented the following:

The Soror owned business of the month is featured is Soror Alyce Randle's "Cookie Creations" features homemade cookies, cake, and pies.

Standing on Business 2.0. is set. We still need judges and guest speakers. The biggest need is to raise money to assist the cost of the program. The QR codes are presented to help with getting information/suggestions. Sponsorships and donations are needed. Sponsorships level varies. The highest level is \$5000.00. The prize packages have not been announced yet. Vendors are strongly encouraged to sign up.

It will take all Sorors to work together for success. The event is set for September 20, 2025, at the CTE in Tyler, Texas.

Housing

President Tonia Bickham briefly reviewed the Housing housekeeping rules. Sorors are asked to RSVP to utilize the house. There is a QR code that can be utilized to secure a time to utilize the house. Take trash out once finished, adjust the thermostat, sweep the floors, move furniture back to its original location and please do not leave any food.

May Week

Soror Collette Stec announced May Week luncheon is set for May 4, 2025; on Sunday starting at 1:30 PM at the Holiday Inn South Broadway Tyler, Texas. It is encouraged to wear red with pearls. The hospitality team will be there at 12:30 pm and doors open for guests at 12:45 pm.

Kathy Cannon and the TAC Choir will start the festivities with one song.

Tamara Holland will be honored with the Ollie Crawford award based on her exceptional GPA of 4.66. Tamara Holland is from Hawkins, Texas. The scholarship recipients reflect the TAC membership.

The names and the scholarship recipients and school attending were announced as the following: Jayla Beverly, Jaylee Coney, Jorean Douglas, KaMya Henson-Key, Kailyn Lewis, and Amiyah Minter.

Soror Crystal Gayden is the guest speaker for the event. She has spoken on various occasions with TAC. TAC will be recognizing the accomplishment for Sorors 25th and 50th years in Delta. Delta of the Year, Officer of the Year and Committee of the Year will be recognized for 2025.

Physical and Mental Health

Soror Alyce Randle announced May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Soror Alyce Randle expressed the importance of staying active, connecting with loved ones and being mindful of the need to deal with your own mental stability. The upcoming weeks we will be recognizing teacher's and nurses for what they do.

Youth Initiatives/ Delta Gems and Academy

President Tonia Bickham asked for the members of the committee to stand and be recognized for all the wonderful things they are doing with youth initiative program.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Shout Outs

Soror Kendra Bircher defended her dissertation and earned her doctorate.

Soror Ebony Mason is getting her third master's degree.

Soror Jackie Gilreath niece is ranked number one in her class with a 4.82 GPA from Palestine High School. (Karissa Weaver)

Soror Alyce Randle announced that one of our former scholarship participants, Madyson Tate, was inducted into the Engineering National Honor Society at the University of Texas at Tyler.

Soror Shanita Wideman recognized her two sons. The youngest son (Landon) has earned his CDL Class A, and her oldest son (Jardon) will be graduating with his nursing degree next week.

Soror BreAndrea Hill just completed officer training in the Navy.

President Tonia Bickham spoke about the importance of fundraising. She explained that once 2025 scholarships are awarded, we will not have any money left for 2026 scholarships. It is encouraged to have some thoughts about fundraising to raise monies.

May Birthdays were recognized with a birthday song.

The meeting closed at 11:28 am and the ritualistic proceeding followed.

Submitted by,

Collette Stec
Recording Secretary
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