

**Tyler Alumnae Chapter**  
**Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.**

November 8, 2025

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

President Tonia Bickham presided over the meeting and began with the ritualistic opening starting at 10:03 am.

The Sergeant At-Arms Soror Pam Erwin confirmed the presence of a quorum.

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Vice President Johnita Ward and Soror Arielle Williams seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of October 2025 minutes. Minutes were loaded to the chapter's website on November 7, 2025, for the TAC members to review. The motion to approve minutes for October 2025 was made by Soror Arielle Williams and Soror Melissa Williams seconded the motion. October 2025 minutes approved.

**President's Report**

President Tonia Bickham stated the following:

- **Veterans Recognition:** In honor of Veterans Day, Soror Bickham recognized chapter member Dr. Dorothy Jackson for her dedicated service. Dr. Dorothy Jackson was invited forward and acknowledged by the chapter.
  
- **National Updates:** Soror Bickham shared information on a new video series from National Headquarters titled "*Pyramid to Presidents*", highlighting the journeys and accomplishments of Delta's past presidents. The link was shared via email, and Sorors were encouraged to view it.
  
- **Regional Conference:** The 2026 Regional Conference will be held in Grapevine, Texas, from June 4-7, 2026. Soror Bickham encouraged members to attend in person or virtually, emphasizing the accessibility and affordability compared to the national convention.
  
- **Founders Day (Regional):** Scheduled for March 14, 2026, in Little Rock, Arkansas. A Google form was sent to members to indicate interest. Soror Bickham emphasized that participation should be a chapter decision.
  
- **Cluster Founders Day:** Will be hosted by Marshall this year. Participating clusters include Longview, Kilgore, Lufkin, and Marshall. The date is forthcoming.

- **December Chapter Meeting:** The December chapter meeting will be held via Zoom on the same day as the Christmas party for convenience. Additional details will be shared closer to the date.
- **January Chapter Meeting:** The January 2026 meeting will take place at Greater St. Mary Church, serving as part of Founders Day Month and a reclamation opportunity to invite Sorors back to active status.
- **Communication Reminder:** Members were urged to check both GroupMe and email at least once per week to stay informed. Soror Bickham noted that many important updates are missed when members disable notifications.
- **Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee, chaired by Soror Christiana Guthrie, has been activated. Members were encouraged to reflect on their availability and commitment before accepting nominations for leadership positions.

### **Vice President's Report**

Vice President Johnita Ward stated the following:

- **Christmas Party:** · The chapter's annual Christmas Party will be held December 13, 2025, from 5–7 p.m. at *Texas Music City Grill and Smokehouse* on Old Jacksonville Highway. The cost is \$35 per Soror, and registration information is in the newsletter. Sorors were reminded to register by the stated deadline as final counts are due one week before the event.
- **Founders Day Celebration (January 2026):**
  - **Saturday:** Chapter meeting at Greater St. Mary Church. January 10, 2026
  - **Saturday Evening:** *Moo-Moos and Mocktails* fellowship event at 6:00 p.m. at the Delta Service Center. Members are invited to wear themed Moo-Moo attire.
  - **Sunday:** Fellowship service at Greater St. Mary Church. January 11, 2026.
  - **Service Project:** The chapter will support the *Saleh Human Trafficking Stabilization Center* through donations using the organization's Amazon wish list. TAC will collaborate with Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for this initiative.
  - **MLK Day Project:** TAC will join Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in their annual service project at the Veterans Home near UT North, donating toiletries and personal care items.

### **Emergency Response Team**

President Bickham presented in Soror Thomas's absence the following:

- The television in the meeting area was repositioned to improve visibility and ensure a clear, safe exit pathway in accordance with updated safety procedures.
- ERT and Housing Committees partnered to improve security at the Sorority House. Updates include:
  - Installation of a *Bling* security camera system (replacing the former “Ring” system).
  - Implementation of a locked-door entry system; members will ring for access, and authorized personnel will admit members for safety.
  - Installation of new fire extinguishers.
  - These updates were made in response to National's emphasis on safety and security during the current political and economic climate.

### **Corresponding Secretary**

Soror Vivianne McGowan announced the following correspondence/announcements:

- **Alpha Phi Alpha Founders & Flavors Jazz Brunch** – December 6, 12:30 p.m., Courtyard Marriott, \$60 per ticket. TAC has purchased two tickets.
- **McKellar for Mayor Fundraiser** – “Joy Season” – November 29, 12:30 p.m., Quality Inn Hotel. Free admission for students with valid ID; \$20 for adults. *Fundraisers* will focus on engaging young voters. Students with a valid ID may attend for free, while accompanying adults and sponsors will pay an admission fee. Attendees are encouraged to wear sports jerseys, and the event will feature food, music, and entertainment to promote civic participation. The event will be hosted by Mr. Reggie Carter, and registration is now open.
- **Neuro Restorative House Open House** – November 13, 5–7 p.m., 6589 Oak Hill Blvd, Tyler, featuring facility tours, door prizes, and complimentary food and beverages.
- **Tyler Metro 35th Anniversary Gala** – December 6, 6:00 p.m., Holiday Inn Conference Center, tickets \$55. RSVP at 903-593-6026. Sponsorships available (Platinum \$5,000, Gold \$3,500, Silver \$2,500, Bronze \$1,000, Table \$550, Friend \$100).
- **The Nutcracker Performance** – December 6 matinee, TJC; Soror Pam Erwin shared she will portray “Mother Ginger.” Tickets are limited and sell quickly.
- **Beauties, Boards and Brunch** – Hosted by Soror Shequita Daniels, January 17, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., Tyler Metro Chamber of Commerce. The event will focus on self-discovery, wellness, and creative vision-building, plus brunch. All supplies are included.

## **Budget and Finance**

Soror Hollisia Allen (Financial Secretary) presented the following for October 2025:

- **October Receipts:**
  - Standing on Business fundraiser: \$50
  - Arts & Letters tickets: \$186.13
  - Membership Dues: \$10,876.05
  - Total Receipts:** \$11,112.18
  
- Report given by Soror Hollisia Allen in Soror Leora Coleman's (Treasurer) absence presented the following:
- *Current Balance:* \$41,526.26 after insurance, internet, and monthly fees.
  - *Financial Statement (October 2025):* \$65,404.10 total assets.
- **Proposed 2026 Budget Discussion:** -
  - *Projected Income:* \$77,480 (based on 80 members)
  - *Operational Expenses:* \$30,555 - including utilities, maintenance, hospitality, and administrative costs.
  - *Program Expenses:* \$46,925 - covering youth initiatives, scholarships, May Week, Arts & Letters, and Economic Development.
- **Key Revenue Sources:**
  - Local Dues – \$16,000
  - May Week – \$12,250
  - Arts & Letters – \$6,000 projected
  - Fundraising and Economic Development (including Heritage & Archives revenue) – \$20,110
- **Operational Expenses:** \$30,555 total, including:
  - Utilities – \$6,000
  - Housing and Yard Maintenance – \$3,000 (adjusted to \$5,100)
  - Administrative (includes audit) – \$3,000 (adjusted to \$1,200)
  - Hospitality and Courtesy – reduced to \$700
  - Convention and Conferences – \$3,000
  - Property Taxes – \$3,750
  - Insurance (Delta Service Center) – \$2,100
  - Technology – \$2,000
  - National Headquarters Fees (including bond and corporate fees) – \$900
  
- **Program Expenses:** \$46,925 total, including:
  - Youth Initiatives – \$1,800
  - Scholarships – \$3,000
  - May Week – \$12,225
  - Arts & Letters – \$6,000
  - Social Action – reduced to \$2,000
  - Community Service – \$600
  - Economic Development – \$20,110
  - ERT – \$200
  - International Awareness – \$300
  - Panhellenic Council – \$200

- Community Ads/Donations – \$500
- **Total Projected Expenditures:** \$77,48.00
- **Clarifications:** Adjustments were made to reflect accurate committee allocations. The Economic Development budget represents projected fundraising revenue and is expected to balance income and expenditure.
- **Budget Vote:** Scheduled for December 2025 meeting.
- **Discussion:** During budget discussions, a question was raised about the Economic Development allocation appearing higher than other committee budgets. It was clarified that the \$20,000 listed reflects projected fundraising revenue from the “*Standing on Business*” and TAPS partnership, which will be both income and expenditure, resulting in a net-zero (wash). The only direct budgeted expense for Economic Development is \$100 for Tyler Metro support.
- **Scholarship Funding:**
  - Current scholarship allocation is \$3,000, reduced from previous years due to financial constraints.
  - Budget committee met earlier in the week to make strategic cuts ensuring the chapter’s fiscal health.
  - Members were invited to personally sponsor scholarships if able; sponsored scholarships will be awarded in the donor’s name.
  - Clarification was provided that TAPS donations can be designated for scholarships benefiting the community.
- **Membership Dues and Budget Impact:**
  - The proposed budget is based on 80 members, but only fifty-six members have paid their dues to date.
  - Members were urged to submit dues by the November deadline to prevent additional cuts or budget adjustments.
  - Delinquent payments will include a \$10 fee, which some members have agreed to pay.
- **Dues Payment Restrictions:**
  - Dues cannot be paid through TAPS or foundation funds, as those are restricted to community-benefit purposes (e.g., scholarships).
- **Future Considerations:**
  - Discussion included the potential need to increase chapter dues in the future due to rising operational costs (insurance, taxes, and utilities). It was noted that life members would not be affected by a dues increase. The chapter may also consider recruiting and reclaiming members to strengthen financial sustainability rather than raising dues. Tax protest efforts will be explored to mitigate increased property tax costs. Any dues adjustments would require updates to policy and procedures and a vote in spring 2026 for inclusion in the next budget cycle.

- **Standing on Business Fundraiser:**
  - The *Standing on Business* event successfully generated funds for the chapter and directly supported one of this year's scholarships.
- A renewed push will be made to expand fundraising efforts this year, with an emphasis on creative events and community engagement.
- Members interested in supporting fundraising were encouraged to attend the next planning meeting (rescheduled date to be announced).
- Increased fundraising revenue will help offset chapter expenses, support outreach programs, and potentially reduce dues in the future.
- It was clarified that National fiscal policy prohibits installment payments for dues; however, the chapter will explore other options to make payments more manageable.
- The final 2026 budget will be voted on during December 13, 2025, Chapter meeting via Zoom, and members must be on camera to vote.

### **Arts and Letters Report**

- Soror Shunetta Reed presented the following:
- The committee continues its strong progress toward fundraising goals, with over half of the eighty available seats sold for the Red Carpet Event: *Wicked for Good*.
- All proceeds from the *Arts & Letters* fundraiser will benefit the scholarship fund.
- Sorors were encouraged to invite guests and help sell out the event by the November 13, 2025, deadline.
- Registration is managed through a QR code system that tracks ticket purchases, and check-in will include vouchers for concessions.

### **Audit Report**

This item was not discussed.

### **Community Service**

This item was not discussed.

### **D.E.A.R.S**

- Soror Dee Pendleton and Soror Pam Erwin are the Chairs for Tribe. Soror Dee Pendleton shared the following:
- Members were reminded to stay actively engaged with their assigned tribes and maintain regular communication with tribe leaders.

- Those who have not been in contact or whose tribes have not met were asked to complete the Tribe Evaluation Form to indicate their needs for support or assistance.
- The chair emphasized that tribal engagement is self-driven—the more effort members put in, the stronger the fellowship and connection among Sorors will be.
- Several tribes have already begun meeting informally, including one that recently held a coffee shop gathering and created a TikTok video showcasing sisterhood and creativity.
- Members were encouraged to use upcoming chapter events, such as the Christmas Party and Founders Day, as natural opportunities for tribal fellowship without needing to plan separate activities.
- The membership profile form remains a key priority for all Sorors. Members were reminded to complete and submit their profile—either digitally, by mail, or in person—to ensure the chapter has accurate records of initiation details, Delta achievements, and next-of-kin information. This data is essential for communication with National Headquarters and for recordkeeping in the event of emergencies or transitions.
- Participation in the tribe program is optional moving forward. Sorors who are not interested may opt out, allowing groups to be restructured with those who wish to remain active.
- The chair encouraged members to take initiative if their tribe has not met—reach out to tribe leaders or the Membership Committee for assistance in organizing a Zoom meeting or in-person gathering.
- A success story from Tribe 8 highlighted that even one meeting can strengthen connection and morale.
- Members were encouraged to continue sharing photos and updates from tribe activities to promote unity and engagement across the chapter.

### **Economic Development**

This item was not discussed at the meeting.

### **Fundraising**

Incorporated into budget updates.

### **Housing**

- Soror Shunetta Reed the Housing Chair presented the following:
- Combined efforts with ERT for building safety enhancements.
- Members were reminded to complete the online reservation form when reserving the Delta House and to contact the chair directly with any facility issues.

- Housekeeping reminders included removing all trash, cleaning food areas, and ensuring the thermostat is set appropriately before departure.
- An electrician will visit the week of November 11th to address a malfunctioning air conditioning unit and other needed repairs.
- Members were thanked for promptly reporting issues and assisting in maintaining the house's condition.
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- The scheduled house clean-up was postponed accommodating use of the facility for another group.
- A new clean-up date will be announced after the MIT collegiate members complete their process.
- Plans remain in place to "Bless the House" next month, launching a year-long initiative (January–December 2026).
- Details on pledge levels and participation opportunities will be shared at the December meeting.

### **International Awareness and Involvement Committee:**

- Soror Karla Thomas is the Chair for International Awareness and Involvement and Soror Tiffanie Goudy presented the following in her absence:
- The chapter will commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25, marking the start of the 16 Days of Activism campaign.
- This year's theme focuses on ending digital violence against women and girls.
- Members are asked to wear orange or an orange awareness pin, take and share photos, and post the official campaign flyer on social media using the provided QR code to access advocacy resources on November 25th.
- Pins will be distributed to members present, and additional pins have been reserved for those unable to attend.

### **Physical and Mental Health**

This item was not discussed.

## **Program Planning and Development**

This item was not discussed.

### **Social Action**

- Soror Melissa Williams, the Chair for Social Action presented the following:
- Shared excitement about ongoing advocacy initiatives and encouraged continued civic engagement.
- Delta Days in the Nation's Capital will be held March 20–24, 2026; registration details forthcoming.
- Announced information for the 2026 Candidate Fellows Cohort through the Barbara Jordan Institute; details and QR code available in the chapter newsletter.
- Reported on a community meeting at Boulder Middle School addressing academic disparities impacting Black and Brown students.
- The chapter will launch “Loving on Boulder”, a new initiative focused on supporting students through mentorship, reading assistance, and community involvement.
- Phase one of the project includes encouraging Sorors to join the Boulder Middle School PTA to provide immediate support and representation.
- Future phases will include mentoring, literacy engagement, and partnership development.
- Members were invited to attend a special movie outing at 12:15 p.m. at the Studio Movie Grill to view *Sarah's Oil* on November 8th.
- While not an official chapter event, the movie aligns with social action themes, emphasizing the importance of economic empowerment, generational legacy, and community impact.
- Sorors were encouraged to purchase tickets online and sit together for fellowship and discussion following the film.
- The event serves as an example of integrating cultural arts with social awareness initiatives.

### **Technology**

- Soror Ebony Mason is the Technology Chair. Soror Ebony Mason shared the following:
- A Cybersecurity Awareness feature was highlighted in the newsletter, emphasizing the importance of digital safety and information protection.
- Members were reminded to safeguard personal and financial data, stay alert for identity theft, and secure online accounts amid rising cybersecurity threats.
- Guidance shared from National Headquarters encourages Sorors to update passwords, monitor bank activity, and protect sensitive information on digital devices.

### **Youth Initiatives/ Delta Gems and Academy**

- Soror April Mims and Soror Christiana Guthrie are the Chairs for Delta Gems/Delta Academy. Soror Christiana Guthrie shared the following:
- The most recent Delta Academy and Delta GEMS session was held on October 25, 2025, themed “Soothe Your Soul One Step at a Time,” focusing on physical and mental wellness.
- A total of 17 young ladies attended out of 25 registered participants.
- The session featured multiple interactive components:
  - Soror Miller led a workshop on mindfulness and emotional regulation.
  - Soror Lewis facilitated physical health activity through the game *Twister*, promoting movement and balance.
  - Soror Sneed led a line dance session, where participants learned and practiced the *Electric Slide*, encouraging teamwork and fun physical activity.
- The next youth session is scheduled for November 22, 2025, and will include a college road tour to the University of Texas at Tyler (UT Tyler).
- The upcoming session, titled “Get the Hot Tea on Careers: Truth, Empowerment, and Advancement,” will expose participants to college life and various career pathways.
- Questions were addressed regarding travel logistics and meeting arrangements at the UT Tyler campus, ensuring all participants and volunteers are properly coordinated for the event.

### **Unfinished Business**

This item was not discussed.

## New Business

- Tyler Metro Chamber Support
- The chapter was informed that Tyler Metro Chamber of Commerce solicited TAC's support for its upcoming event.
- It was noted that:
  - TAC is a member of Tyler Metro.
  - Tyler Metro has supported the chapter's "Standing on Business" fundraiser for the past two years.
  - The chapter currently has approximately \$200 available in the ad/sponsorship fund.
- Sponsorship and advertisement options presented included:
  - Full-page ad – \$125
  - Half-page ad – \$60
  - Quarter-page ad – \$40
  - Business card ad – \$20
  - *Friend of the Chamber* sponsorship – \$100
- After discussion, a motion was made "that the Tyler Alumnae Chapter purchase a full-page ad to support the Tyler Metro event."
  - Motion was made by Soror Vera Moore to take out a full-page ad in support of Tyler Metro
  - Motion was seconded by Soror Melissa Williams and passed unanimously.
- The chapter will proceed with a full-page ad, and the ad information will be submitted to Soror Leora Coleman for transmission to Tyler Metro.
- Members were also encouraged to personally support the event by purchasing tickets, with event details and ticket information available in the chapter's newsletter.
- NPHC will resume in-person meetings, held every fourth Saturday.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 22, 2025, from 2–3 p.m. at the Delta Service Center, the same day as the Delta Academy session.
- The meeting will be facilitated by Soror Hollisia Allen, Acting Chaplain, as the NPHC representative will be out of town.
- Members were invited and encouraged to attend to maintain a strong Delta presence, especially since TAC will be hosting the meeting at the house.
- The chapter's annual membership is \$200.00 cover participation for all financial members, allowing any active Soror to engage in Pan-Hellenic activities.
- Newly joined delegates representing TAC in NPHC include Soror Karanda Lewis, Soror Monique Hawkins, and Soror Candace Porter-Condry.
- Members were encouraged to consider individual participation and chapter representation to strengthen collaborative Greek unity and service initiatives.

**Shout Outs**

- Soror Lauren Smith was recognized as a co-author of the book “Black Women in Educational Leadership.” The chapter extended congratulations for her professional accomplishment.
- Soror Erika Smiley was honored for being selected to the 2025–2026 National Urban League Congressional Advocacy Program Cohort.
- Soror Sharmecia Mitchell Jackson received Second Place for the Southwest Achievement Award at the 102nd Conclave of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., held in Las Vegas during the summer. The chapter congratulated her for this distinguished honor.

The meeting concluded at 12:15 pm and the ritualistic closing followed.

Submitted by

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