

Tyler Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

January 11, 2025

The monthly meeting of the Tyler Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated was conducted in a virtual setting with Zoom.

President Tonia Bickham opened with the ritualistic opening at 10:00 AM. The Sergeant At-Arm (Soror Alyce Randle) confirmed quorum was established at 10:12 AM.

President Tonia Bickham reminded the members to turn on cameras for the meeting.

A motion to adopt the agenda as listed was made by Soror Dorothy Jackson and Soror Monique Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Approval of the December 2024 minutes. Minutes were loaded to the chapter's website on January 7, 2025, for the TAC members to review. A motion to approve minutes made by Soror Alyce Randle. Vice President Johnita Ward seconded the motion. The adoption of the minutes passed unanimously.

President's Report

President Tonia Bickham cued a video for the chapter's members to view. The video gave encouragement of 2025. President Tonia Bickham asked those to recommit doing the business of the sorority. All areas need help and assistance. Referenced was the number of committees that need assistance.

The Regional State Meeting is listed as March 14-16, 2025, in the Woodlands. (located outside of Houston, Texas) The registration information has been sent out in email format. The regional state meeting is for the purpose of sharpening your leadership skills.

President Tonia Bickham announced the upcoming meetings for 2025 will be the following:

- February 1, 2025, Virtual Meeting
- February 8, 2025, Cluster Founder's Day Meeting (Longview, Texas)
- March 8, 2025, at the Delta Service Center
- April 12, 2025, at the Delta Service Center
- May 3, 2025, at the Delta Service Center

Delta Day at the Nation's Capital in Washington D.C. The dates are March 21-25, 2025. Soror Monique Hawkins will be representing TAC. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to Soror Monique Hawkins to coordinate travel arrangements.

The National Convention will be held in Washington, D.C. from July 8-13, 2025. President Tonia Bickham shared the trip is costly, but she hopes TAC members will be able to attend (virtual or in person) This helps when the times comes to for those to serve on the Minerva Circle with Membership Intake.

Information was sent out by email regarding the National Convention dates.

Membership Services

Vice President Johnita Ward announced the activities for the 2025 Founders Day activities January 11-18, 2025.

- Sunday, January 12, 2025, Worship Services at St. Louis Baptist Church located at 4000 Frankston Hwy. Tyler, Texas 75701. Services start at 10:00 AM. Encouraged to wear red. We will all sit together so please arrive early.
- Selfie Sunday. A link will be submitted to send pictures.
- Monday, January 13, 2025, Founders Day National Celebration to be held by Zoom.
- Tuesday, January 14, 2025, Physical Health. Workout for 30 minutes that day and post a picture. 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM workout downtown at “The Press.” The cost is \$10.00 to take the class. The Body Shop/HIIT Class with Candice Ross. Please come early to sign waiver forms and pay the cost to attend.
- Wednesday, January 15, 2025, Mental Health. Soror Shequita Daniels will lead the discussion on Temperance. It will start at 6:30 PM.
- Thursday, January 16, 2025, Community Service. Tyler High School for the Lion’s Den. Collecting men toiletries, underwear, toothpaste, toothbrushes undershirts, socks, body washes and deodorants, hoodies from small to size 4XL. We are encouraged to wear Delta paraphernalia. We will meet in front of the school where the lion is illuminated. Items can be brought to church on Sunday or the day the items will be donated to students at Tyler High School.
- Friday, January 17, 2025, Educational Development. Sorors are asked to be Greeters and Readers at Peete Elementary School. Soror Latoya Wofford is the Master Teacher at the elementary school. To be a greeter one will need to arrive at the school at 7:00 AM. To welcome students and assist them getting out of cars.
- Saturday, January 18, 2025, Sisterhood Kickback Potluck is set for 5:30 PM at the Delta Service Center. A signup genius is listed to sign up,

President Tonia Bickham shared the Cluster Founders Day is set for February 8, 2025, starting at 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. The rededication services start at 10:00 AM and concludes at 11:30 AM. Sorors are asked to wear black clothes, no pants. Please bring your ritual and pen light.

A Cluster Wide Service Project will be held, and they are requesting items be brought to Forest Park Middle School. The items requested are body wash, soap, deodorant, shampoo, sanitary napkins, hair products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs and brushes.

The event takes place at the Hilton Garden Inn and the ticket costs are \$30.00 for a collegiate and \$60.00 for an alumnae or member of the public to attend the luncheon. The guest speaker is Dr. Marla Sheppard, Longview ISD Superintendent.

To purchase with PayPal the fee is \$62.68. Eventbrite fees are expensive. Soror Leora Coleman shared the last and final date to receive money to pay for the event is January 18, 2025. Payments will be accepted this upcoming Sunday at the Delta Service Center after church between 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

Vice President Johnita Ward shared she also will be at the Delta Service Center for those who would like to drop off items.

Social Action

Soror Monique Hawkins shared the Martin Luther King Jr., march is set for January 20, 2025. The parade route starts at the Tyler Library due to the construction on the square and will conclude at the church. It will start at 8:00 AM. It is suggested that those attending arrive early to be counted. We will gather inside the Tyler library.

A voter registration drive will be done prior to the parade. The Gamma Epsilon chapter will be initiating the voter registration drive.

Fort Worth Alumnae Chapter will reenact the Women's Suffrage March of 1913. This will be held on March 1, 2025. All are invited to attend. Soror Monique Hawkins was interested in those who would like to attend so that we may go as a group representing TAC.

Soror Monique Hawkins shared the Delta Days at the Capital is set for March 21-March 25, 2025. The budget does not allow for two to attend but she would be willing to share her family's home in D.C. for lodging.

The Red/White Days at the State Capital (Austin) is set for April 2025. Soror Monique Hawkins shared she was not able to attend the Red/White Days and in her budget she has enough to send one person.

Soror Denise Pendleton reminded and shared the valuable information. Everyone needs to be deputized for voter registration. On December 31, 2024, it termed. It is only good for two years.

Emergency Response Team

Soror Karla Thomas is the chair of ERT. Soror Karla Thomas stated there is information about always being Delta ready. ERT has reports that need to go out in a timely manner. (48 hours of an incident) It is important to report this to ERT Chair, President, and the Vice-President of TAC. Examples included short power outages or emergency relocations. Soror Karla Thomas shared information is broadcasted in Group Me for donations for the Sorors who are in California. Group Me is the best manner to get updates.

Chaplain's Corner

Soror Kathy Cannon gave acknowledgment to Soror Melissa Williams for stepping up and fulfilling the duties for Chaplain. Soror Kathy Cannon shared she was given the chance to be apart of Saturday school. Soror Kathy Cannon stated the guest speaker for the Founders Day Luncheon is Dr. Marla Sheppard, Longview ISD Superintendent and the items collected will be distributed at her school. Soror Kathy Cannon spoke about Job and the friends he had during the moments of suffering time. Soror Kathy Cannon also shared her own personal journey and related it to the message given.

Corresponding Secretary

Soror Vivianne McGowan announced the following correspondence/announcements:

- Miss Pink Pageant informational meeting is to be held on Saturday, March 1, 2025, from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Hosted by the Be You Tiful Girls. This is a Breast Cancer Fundraiser for 2025. Ages 16-25. The fee is \$25.00 and will be held at Pinot's Palette located at 322 East Southeast Loop 323 Suite 156 Tyler, Texas 75701. The deadline is February 25, 2025, and you may contact Cherie Jones 903.646.2550.
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Theta Mu Zeta Chapter are hosting a Mazquerade Finer Mystery to celebrate Finer Womanhood in style. The event is set for March 29, 2025, at the Summit Club, 3700 Judson Road Longview, Texas 75605. The attire is semi-formal, and the ticket costs \$50.00. They can be purchased with Eventbrite. Susan Moon is the contact person at 903.746.4078.
- Gamma Epsilon will be accepting donations to give to a local nursing home center. The items requested are the following: travel size hygiene items, blankets, snacks, drinks, and any other items you would like to donate. The items are due by January 15, 2025, Soror Monique Hawkins is accepting on behalf of Gamma Epsilon.

- The College and Community Career Fair set for February 22, 2025, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Mayfair Building in Tyler, Texas. Combined youth gospel choirs, drumline, local artist in the community, and drill teams will perform. The purpose is to highlight the opportunity for future leaders in the community. They are asking us to display a table focusing information from our sorority and other Divine 9 organizations. Vice President Johnita Ward is the contact to reach out to regarding questions.
- Ivy Legacy Foundation in collaboration with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Gamma Omicron Omega Chapter of Tyler, Texas. They are announcing the Black History Knowledge Bowl to be held February 22, 2025, starting at 8:00 AM at Boulter Middle School in Tyler, Texas. Theme is “African American and Labor.” Contact person is Laura Newsome at 903.360.1191 and Dionne Griffith 678.463.1075.
- Tyler Alumnae Chapter we are still collecting books for the community library. Members are asked to please bring it to the next chapter meeting.
- Orr Elementary has requested assistance with their Black history program on February 7, 2025, at 8:00 AM. They would like for us to share our sorority history.
- Carthage Courtesy Club will be hosting their Black history banquet on February 1, 2025, at 6:00 pm in Carthage, Texas. They have requested that we discuss the history of our sorority and perform a Founder's step/stroll routine.

Budget and Finance

Soror Hollisia Allen is the financial secretary and shared the following for December 2024: December 2024 receipts totaled \$8,692.63.

Soror Hollisia Allen posted the amounts for the months of November receipts as \$3314.33 and December receipts of \$8692.63 in the Zoom Chat.

Soror Leora Coleman, the treasurer presented the following information:

December 2024 total receipts: \$8692.63

The beginning balance of \$40,766.49

Disbursements: \$8575.59

Ending balance of \$40,783.53

Saving Account Balance: \$7680.23

A donation was given of a \$100.00 to be donated towards the scholarship fund.

Soror Leora Coleman corrected an error that was listed for the saving account. The interest had not been included in the report. This was for the months of September,

October, and November. This has been corrected and reflects the true amount of interest added.

Hospitality and Courtesy Committee

Soror Ebony Hill shared she has gifts to give to Sorors for their recent accomplishments but due to the virtual chapter meeting the gifts will be given to those who are attending the upcoming kickback. Gifts and cards to be delivered for their recent accomplishments and illness. The following are:

Soror Daisha Moore- Baby basket for new baby.

Soror Sharon Williams and Soror Sonya Taylor- New grandchildren.

Soror Sabrina Dean-Happy Retirement.

Soror Pamela Erwin-Leadership Award.

Soror Lashonda Malrey Horne-Job Promotion.

Soror Grey Mallard- Hospitalization.

Soror Ebony Hill spoke about her budget and how inflation is making things more expensive, and this affects her budget. Soror Ebony Hill shared the recent changes that were submitted for the proposed amendments.

D.E.A.R.S

Soror Denise Pendleton discussed the T.R.I.B.E. The acronym stands for The Roots In Beautiful Evolution. It will be implemented for January 2025. This month is Sister to Sister. Complete a member profile that allows you to complete your Delta life information, handling of your Omega Omega ceremony and what to do with your Delta items. This is not a PDF and will need to be completed and returned to Soror Denise Pendleton in email format. Would like for your TRIBE to complete a meeting whether virtual or in person (get acquainted). Would like you to do the survey to gauge the success of the program by providing feedback at the conclusion of your tasks (return the survey). Also requested to provide a headshot.

Soror Denise Pendleton presented the TAC history regarding past Founders Day and Statewide Founders Day in 2000. The information included past guest speakers and how it came about. In depth presentation will be shared later in the meeting.

Economic Development

President Tonia Bickham broadcasted to complete the link in the recent newsletter discussing your business to promote with the loading of your business information and logos. This will allow your business to be featured in the upcoming newsletter with your logo.

President Tonia Bickham shared saving information that was presented in the newsletter about the manner to save for upcoming National convention expenses are coming up.

The Standing on Business event will be held on September 20, 2025, at the Career and Technology Building located on Earl Campbell Parkway in Tyler, Texas. Soror Candace Condry-Porter will be reaching out for assistance.

Housing

President Tonia Bickham announced the “Bless this House Campaign” will commence February 2025. Preserve the past, Build the Future. Soror Shunetta Reed is the Chair for Housing and is caring for her father out of town. President Tonia Bickham requested for us to keep her in our prayers.

The Housing housekeeping rules were briefly reviewed. Sorors are asked to RSVP to utilize the house. There is a QR code that can be utilized to secure. Updated housing will be included in the new policy.

International Awareness and Involvement

Soror Karla Thomas shared the Human Trafficking awareness is today on January 11, 2025. A video will be run on the social media platforms supported for the chapter.

The first video will run on regarding about cyber safety. Technology will start the videos on January 13, 2025.

Other dates to remember are the following: International Women’s Day is March 8, 2025, and World Water Day March 22, 2025. Planning will be shared with other committee groups and the expectations of the chapter members. The meetings are set for the 4th Thursday of each month from 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Heritage and Archives

Soror Alyce Randle delivered the trivia question as the following: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has over one thousand chapters name 2 areas outside of the US where chapters are located? Soror Arielle Williams was the first to answer correctly.

Soror Denise Pendleton gave the history of Cluster Founders Day and shared how it came about. The area we are comprised of: Tyler, Kilgore, Lufkin, Marshall, and Longview. The Collegiate Chapters at the following campuses: Wiley, Texas College, Jarvis Christian University and University of Texas at Tyler. The chapters rotate to who will host. March 2020 was our last Clusters event hosted by Tyler’s Chapter. The article information can be found in archives for more knowledge.

Encouraged to attend the Cluster Founders Day event in February. President Tonia Bickham spoke about the importance of protecting the brand. No J13 and No Redzs. Do not post these references on your social media accounts.

Physical and Mental Health

Soror Alyce Randle presented on being a caregiver and the caregiver mental health. The information reviewed was about the emotional and financial care that comes with this task. Looking into resources to help with caregiving. Soror Shequita Daniels shared to be an effective caregiver; you must take care of yourself first before you can take care of others. Great information and reminders about being a caregiver.

Policy and Procedures

President Tonia Bickham presented on behalf of Soror Erika Smiley regarding Policy and Procedures. The policy changes were reviewed on January 9, 2025, with the Executive Committee. The changes can be reviewed on the website starting on January 20, 2025, for the chapter to review. This will be reviewed on the meeting February 1, 2025. There were only four suggested and those will be reviewed. The vote for the items will be at the March 2025 chapter meeting.

Youth Initiatives/ Delta Gems and Academy

Soror Christiana Guthrie, the Chair for Delta Gems and Delta Academy shared the following: On December 21, 2025, the young ladies volunteered their time at the East Texas Food Bank for their community service project. The next Delta Gem and Academy is set for January 25, 2025. New Year/New Goals is the theme of the session. The session will allow the young ladies to create vision boards and hear information regarding high school and college prep by Soror Krystal Hester.

Technology Tip

Soror Ebony Mason, the Chair of Technology, shared the following Tech Tip: To update your information on the National website. Update mailing address, email address and your birth date. Soror Ebony Mason demonstrated on the screen how to access the website.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Announcements

Soror Daisha Moore will be having a Baby Sprinkle at the Delta Service Center prior to the scheduled kickback. Please show your love for Soror Daisha Moore by attending.

Shout Outs

January Birthdays were acknowledged by a solo song from our very own “Songbird”,
“Soror Lesa Carrol Walker.

The meeting closed at 11:44 am followed by the ritualistic closing.

Submitted by,

Collette Stec
Recording Secretary
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