

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

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

President Tonia Bickham presided over the meeting and began with the ritualistic opening starting at 10:06 am.

An announcement of the meeting being recorded was announced along with an announcement to assist Chapter members with attendance.

The legal notice was displayed and a video from ERT was presented.

The presence of a quorum at 10:25 am and the business meeting commenced.

President Tonia Bickham presented the agenda to be adopted. Vice President Johnita Ward made the motion to adopt the agenda as displayed and Soror Leora Coleman seconded. Soror Sonya Taylor announced the Audit Committee Report was not listed in the agenda and would need to be added. This item was added to the agenda. Soror Vera Moore made the motion to amend the agenda with the added item of the Audit Committee Report and Soror Denise Pendleton seconded. The motion passed for the approval of the amended agenda.

Approval of February 2026 minutes. Minutes were loaded to the chapter's website on March 11, 2026, for the TAC members to review. The motion to approve minutes for February 2026, was made by Soror Denise Pendleton and Vice President Johnita Ward seconded the motion. The minutes approved.

President's Report

President Tonia Bickham greeted all for Sisterhood month. A highlight of activities was announced as the following: Today is lunch with the Delta and we will have three food trucks located in the parking lot at the nearby church/New Generation. (San's 903, That Girl at the Bar and Gerald McGee's BBQ) Please grab food and return to fellowship at the Service Center.

The sisterhood kickback is set for March 28, 2026, at the Delta Service Center. Collegiate Connection will start from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm and the kickback begins at 6:00 pm and concludes at 8:00 pm.

Vice President Johnita Ward shared the March 21, 2026, was originally for the East Texas Food Bank, however the date could not be secured, and it was encouraged to seek out another community service project on your own.

TAC DST 03.14.2026

Mindful Mondays on the 16th with Soror Shequita Daniels, Soror Kendra Bircher, and Soror Yvonne Tatum. On the 17th with TAC Wellness with Soror Christie Starks. These are all on Zoom events. The links will be sent out by email and the TAC Group Me.

DID Training with the chapter is set for March 26, 2026, at 6:30 pm on Zoom. The meeting is over protocol.

Soror Noella Cain shared she had made a reservation to use the house on March 28, 2026, and if it was still available? It was explained her reservation is earlier in the day and will not disturb the kickback in the evening.

Reminded of the regional, national and our local calendar for the sisterhood calendar for March. President Tonia Bickham shared all the calendars align with one another to support the initiatives.

June 4-7, 2026, is the regional conference in Grapevine, Texas. The event sold out the same day. However, there is an opportunity to participate virtually. This opens on April 23, 2026. and closes on May 8, 2026.

Soror Melissa Williams asked about the ability to connect with those who are attending whether in person or virtually? President Tonia Bickham explained they have the chance to scan a QR code to be in the Group Me. This will also go out in an email.

President Tonia Bickham shared to submit for an Award for events that were held July 1, 2024, through March 15, 2026, link is in the newsletter and email from regional. The deadline to submit is March 30, 2026.

Soror Melissa Williams asked about the official size of our chapter? President Tonia Bickham shared we are under the small chapter status.

It will be asked under New Business and voted on according to President Tonia Bickham. A request was made to assist with gifts for regional officers transitioning out of their positions. The gifts will be awarded at the upcoming regional conference in Grapevine, Texas. It is asked to donate \$50.00 for alumnae chapter and \$25.00 for collegiate chapters. A JotForm was sent to complete if we are interested. The message came from the State Coordinator.

Emergency Response Team/ERT

Soror Karla Thomas spoke regarding the Delta Digest and the changes with the emergency response. (security) It was encouraged to read the information. It is encouraged to reach out to ERT if there are any questions.

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.

Corresponding Secretary

Soror Vivianne McGowan announced the following correspondence/announcements: Sickle Cell Awareness month is in March. The campaign to donate has started and the contact person is Soror Pauline Barnes.

April 24, 2026 “Caught Doing Good for Kids” is a fundraiser for CASA to raise money. Teams of 3-5 are asked to participate in raising money. Teams would call locals/network in hopes of raising money. The contact is Ayanna Wilkerson at 903.597.7725

Community Partners Launch and Learn for March 24, 2026. from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Career Technology Center for TISD. This is a lunch for those to learn on what the needs are and how to assist with volunteers/care closet. The event is a rsvp event and needs to occur before March 20, 2026. Contact person is Rita Roman. Email is the following: ritaroman@foundationTylerISD.org

Soror Ollie Crawford Scholarship of \$500.00 is offered in her legacy from the Greater Miles Chapel. The scholarship is for a graduating senior member of the congregation. Soror Lesa Carroll is the contact 903.245.9559.

Budget and Finance

Soror Hollisia Allen (Financial Secretary) was not present, and Soror Leora Coleman presented on her behalf. However, after reviewing the information. It was deemed the report to be inaccurate and will not be approved and resubmitted. It will be presented in the April 2026 chapter meeting.

Soror Leora Coleman (Treasurer) presented the following for February 2026:
Check Registry was reviewed and all reports are made available when requested.

Received for the month: \$3535.49.

Beginning balance: \$28,277.85

Disbursements: \$3612.65

Ending Balance: \$28,200.69

Savings: \$3208.00

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 annual report from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025. The findings report no abnormal findings, no materials lost and a satisfactory A+ rating. The committee proposed the following: Soror Sharmecia Jackson-Mitchell, Soror Julie Conley, Soror Emauri Watson, Soror Marketta Richardson, and Soror Denise Pendleton.

Economic Development

Soror Emauri Watson is the Chair of the Economic Committee.

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 will be attending: San's 903, That Girl at the Bar, 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.

Mini-series of Standing on Business will be presented up until we have the Standing on Business event set for September 19, 2026, at the CTE/TISD Building in Tyler, Texas. Soror Emauri Watson shared we need all to be on deck to assist with the event, the day of and at the committee meetings. Next meeting is set for April 2, 2026, on Zoom

The mini-series dates are:

April 16, 2026, June 18, 2026, and August 20, 2026. They start at 6:00 pm and will be held at the Tyler Metro Building on Gentry Parkway. Topics include financial literacy, home ownership, estate planning, and end of life care. Topics will be presented by our chapter members. It is important to come out and support. Soror Pamela Erwin requested the events be placed in the newsletter.

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 Shanna Hawkins the Chair for Fundraising was absent on this day, and President Tonia Bickham spoke on her behalf. Freedom Friday celebration for Juneteenth. The event will be on Friday, June 12, 2026, at the Meeting Place. The event goal is to raise money and will be economical for the community to attend. The proceeds will support scholarships for 2027. Ways to purchase tickets and sell tickets will be announced in the upcoming weeks. It is requested that the chapter support the event.

Housing

Soror Shunetta Reed the Housing Chair is absent, and President Tonia Bickham presented the following: The Bless this House Campaign started 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 may payments were announced and the aid of the QR to be used to make payments.

Pledge levels are the following:

\$250.00 Ruby Contributor

\$500.00 Pearl Guardian

\$750.00 Torch Bearer

TAC DST 03.14.2026

\$1000.00 Crimson Patron
\$2500.00 Pyramid Builder
\$5000.00 Sisterhood Sustainer

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

Reminder of 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 the plumbing, gutters, HVAC, and the foundation. The foundation is the next major work and is critical. The cost for foundation is \$5000.00. Once the foundation is completed the other areas can be addressed.

The home is over one hundred years old and needs repairs.

Soror Karla Thomas asked about the ring camera being installed and it was shared they (the cameras) will be mounted before the end of the program year.

A QR code was presented and explained how the funds can be sent to the chapter and utilizing TAPS.

International Awareness

Soror Karla Thomas is the Chair and presented the following: World Water Day is on March 22, 2026. A series of video will be shared on social media platforms for the date along with the #worldwaterday2026.

May Week 2026

Soror Collette Stec thanked the chapter for their support with ticket sales on table and sponsoring three additional scholarships (3). It was encouraged to purchase tickets early and would love to have a sold-out event.

Ticket costs are \$65.00 individual, and tables prices are \$520.00 and will seat eight guests. 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.

Soror Karla Thomas posed the question about purchasing individual tickets and being allowed to sit together. It was explained the ticket seating is open and she can arrive to hold her guests' seats. Those that purchase tables will have assigned/reserved seating. Soror Rubye Roy asked if tables could be purchased today.

Soror Angela Lacy was interested if we are honoring Legatees that are completing those who are receiving their bachelors. The response is yes. Soror Melissa Williams asked if we were honoring Legatees who are completing their masters?

Soror Collette Stec shared she did not want to give the incorrect information, and she would need to double check, and an answer would be given to her today about legatees who are receiving their master's degree.

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 high school legatees, 25th year Anniversary and six scholarship recipients based on the donations for scholarships. March 24, 2026, meeting will be set for those who were asked to score the scholarship applicants. The scholarships applicants will be announced at the April meeting.

Soror Kimberly Miller asked regarding the donation of funds by chapter lines on if they will present the scholarships. The lines that donated to support the additional scholarships will be acknowledged for their contribution, according to Soror Collette Stec.

Soror Nikita Rogers asked about the number of ticket sales and if we are close to our target goal for tickets being sold. Soror Collette Stec replied, "At this time we have less than 20 individual ticket sales". Total of three tables purchased currently.

Soror Melissa Williams shared the opportunity to purchase a table today if was an option? Soror Collette Stec empathetically shared, "I can make an exception today for those purchasing a table." Purchasing a table allows you to have your seating reserved for you and your guests. Soror Collette Stec, with the tickets sales being extremely low, this is an exception that will help with sales.

Soror Pamela Erwin asked how do guests who purchased a table be recognized? The person who purchased the table is under the name of the table, and guests will need to ask for that person's name. Example, guests sitting with Soror Valita Waits will need to ask for her name. Name plates will be placed on the table.

Soror Kimberly Palmer recommended a letter be offered to the scholarship recipients to give to their school or others in hopes of purchasing tickets for the May Week event. Soror Collette Stec invited Kimberly Palmer to join the call in support of May Week and stated the recommendation was a great suggestion.

Soror Karla Thomas asked about Rsvpify and the cost including the fees? \$69.49 for one ticket purchase is the amount. According to Soror Collette Stec this fee is less than our previous avenue platform.

Soror Collette Stec shared checks for table sales will be accepted and Soror Leora Coleman will accept the payments at today's chapter meeting.

Physical and Mental Health

Soror Emauri Watson share the collaboration with NetHealth will occur on April 18, 2026, at College Hill Baptist Church to serve fifty young mothers. The event is set for 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The Amazon wish list needs to be respected so an accurate count of what is given to the new mothers. NetHealth will be responsible for the selection of the participants. The flyer was designed by NetHealth and they are responsible. The QR Code will take you to the Amazon wish list. The deadline to send the items is April 11, 2026. Soror Emauri Watson shared a day that will need to be given to help prepare the baskets. Ordering through the Amazon helps her keep track of what is ordered. The initiative will address maternal health needs.

Social Action/Political Awareness and Involvement

Soror Melissa Williams is the Chair. She shared the recent award that recognized the magnificent work from the committee in their involvement of Social Action. The award will be received during the Regional Conference in June 2026.

The Do's and Do not were presented when it comes to voting.

To register to vote the last day is April 2, 2026. It was encouraged to stay aware and vote. Dates for Texas voting were displayed.

Love on Boulder was completed the first of March before they broke for Spring Break holiday. Sorors were able to greet the children on the campus. Opening car doors and doors to the school was a welcome opportunity. Breakfast pastries were provided for the faculty at the school. The next meeting will be held on March 31, 2026, by Zoom. Soror Melissa Williams encouraged those to join the PTA for Boulder Middle School.

T.R.I.B.E.

Soror Denise Pendleton, who shared the T.R.I.B.E., will be changing soon. The goal was to allow members to make connections with chapter members. This model will be a new revamp, rebuild, and reveal. T.R.I.B.E members will select the leaders in their group. The kickback will reveal the changes on March 28, 2026. The consistency of the groups will be Dolls, Divas and Dears.

Lots of feedback was given and this was taken into consideration when formulating the new group. Soror Denise Pendleton shared those who want to be in the T.R.I.B.E will be in the group.

Youth Initiatives/Delta Gems and Academy

Soror Christiana Guthrie presented the next date for Delta Gems and Academy is set for March 28, 2026. "Sipping Tea for Wellness" from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Delta Service Center. Thanks were given to Sorors who participated in the February session. They were taught how to dress with confidence, table etiquette and how to speak with confidence in a public setting.

President Tonia Bickham shared the goal was to pull from the Delta Gems and Delta Academy program, in hopes these girls will participate in the Junior Debs and Senior Debs.

Nominating Committee

Soror Christiana Guthrie is the Chair for the Nominating Committee and presented the slate for TAC officers for the 2026-2028 are the following:

- Keeper of Properties- Soror Tonia Bickham
- Historian- Denise Pendleton
- Members of the Nominating Committee-Soror Kiara McArthur, Soror Kimberly Miller, Soror Nikita Rogers, and Soror Alyce Randle
- Chair of the Internal Audit Committee-Soror Valerie Palmer
- Chair of the Nominating Committee- Soror Tiffanie Goudy
- Assistant Financial Secretary- Vacant
- Financial Secretary-Soror Hollisia Allen, Soror Monique Hawkins, and Soror Emauri Watson
- Corresponding Secretary-Soror Christie Starks
- Treasurer-Soror Leora Coleman
- Recording Secretary-Soror Vivianne McGowan
- Vice President- Soror Hollisia Allen and Soror Sonya Taylor
- President- Soror Dorothy Jackson

President Tonia Bickham thanked the nominating the committee for their services in presenting the slate of candidates for the office.

Nominations from the floor were requested at this time starting with the following:

- Keeper of Properties, current nominee is Soror Tonia Bickham. No nominations came from the floor.
- Historian, current nominee is Denise Pendleton. No nominations came from the floor.
- Members of the Nominating Committee, current nominees are the following: Soror Kiara McArthur, Soror Kimberly Miller, Soror Nikita Rogers, and Soror Alyce Randle. No nominations came from the floor.
- Chair of the Internal Audit Committee, current nominee is Soror Valerie Palmer. No nominations came from the floor.
- Chair of the Nominating Committee, current nominee is Soror Tiffanie Goudy. No nominations came from the floor.
- Assistant Financial Secretary position is vacant. Soror Yumesha Mosley nominated Soror Sharmecia Jackson Mitchell from the floor. Soror Sharmecia Jackson Mitchell accepted the nomination as a candidate for the position.
- Financial Secretary, current nominees are the following: Soror Hollisia Allen, Soror Monique Hawkins, and Soror Emauri Watson. No nominations came from the floor.
- Corresponding Secretary, current nominee is Soror Christie Starks. No nominations came from the floor.
- Treasurer, current nominee is Soror Leora Coleman. No nominations came from the floor.

- Recording Secretary, current nominee is Soror Vivianne McGowan. No nominations came from the floor.
- Vice President, current nominees are the following: Soror Hollisia Allen and Soror Sonya Taylor. From the floor nominations were made for Soror Collette Stec nominating herself and Soror Kathy Cannon nominating Soror Valerie Palmer. The Vice President nominees total four.
- President the current nominee is Soror Dorothy Jackson. No nominations came from the floor.

President Tonia Bickham shared elections will be held on April 11, 2026. The Election committee members are the following: Soror Latoya Wofford, Soror Valerie Palmer, Soror Sabrina Dean and Soror Gisele Abron. With Soror Valerie Palmer being a candidate, she will be replaced on the election committee.

Campaign can start at the conclusion of the chapter's meeting. It must be through email or paper mail. Campaign cannot go outside the chapter. It cannot be anything tangible according to President Tonia Bickham. Campaign must end at midnight before the upcoming chapter meeting. Those violating campaign rules will be disqualified. Campaigning is optional.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

The request to give a donation towards Soror Ollie Crawford's scholarship that is being provided by her church. The amount of \$500.00 is offered in her legacy from the Greater Miles Chapel. The scholarship is for a graduating senior member of the congregation. Soror Sonya Taylor asked about the TAC scholarship that is given and the connections to the church. An unclaimed comment was made, "let the church pay for it" Soror Denise Pendleton shared the church was not requesting money from the chapter. Soror Ollie Crawford left monies to continue her scholarship. No motion was made. No action required.

Soror Pauline Barnes shared the National Sickle Cell donations. The hope is the link to be shared to garner monies for Sickle Cell. The link will be sent out for others to donate. No motion was made. No action required.

QR Code was provided for those in attendance to vote for Officer of the Year, Delta of the Year and Committee of the Year. This election was moved up to allow for adequate time to get the trophies printed in a timely manner. The drop down has the names of the financial members who are eligible to be voted on, the names of the committees and the officers with their position. The winners will be announced at May Week 2026 event.

TAC DST 03.14.2026

Shout Outs/Announcement

Soror Kendra Bircher announced her campaign for a seat to serve on the TISD School Board for District 4. Soror Emauri Watson is her campaign manager and for those residing in District 4 to vote.

Soror Cheryl Simpson is returning to TAC and Soror Sydney Nelson from UT Tyler as a new member.

The NIP event will be at Texas College tonight at 19:13 pm. A total of eleven will be present. (Gamma Epsilon)

CASA events still need volunteers for those who are interested in being a part to help raise money. This will be sent out again. This activity is great for retirees or those who have daytime availability.

March birthdays were recognized with a birthday song.

The next meeting is set for April 11, 2026, at the Delta Service Center starting at 10:00 am and will conduct the election of officers.

The business meeting concluded at 12:00 pm and the ritualistic closing followed.

Submitted by Collette Stec
Recording Secretary
cstec@ymail.com