

Tyler Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

December 13, 2025

The monthly chapter meeting of the Tyler Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., was conducted with Zoom.

President Tonia Bickham presided over the meeting and began with the ritualistic opening starting at 10:00 am. The Sergeant At-Arms Soror Alyce Randle confirmed the presence of a quorum.

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Vice President Johnita Ward and Soror Hollisa Allen seconded the motion to adopt the agenda as printed. Motion passed.

Approval of November 2025 minutes. Minutes were loaded to the chapter's website on December 11, 2025, for the TAC members to review. The motion to approve minutes for November 2025 was made by Soror Erika Smiley and Soror Denise Pendleton seconded the motion. November 2025 minutes approved.

President's Report

President Tonia Bickham gave thanks to all who have worked hard throughout the 2025-chapter year. President Tonia Bickham shared for those who will be celebrating their Delta milestones for the 25th, 50th or 75th year. Please reach out so we may be able to recognize during the 2026 May Week event. Currently we have the following: Soror G. Abron, Soror C. Starks, and Soror K. Palmer. Requesting the name of the chapter initiated, your name when you were initiated and the initiation date.

Reminder for Founders Day (Do and Don't) was shared with the chapter meeting.

The Blazing Southwest has requested a donation of \$1000.00 to assist with the cost of the upcoming regional event in 2026. Collegiate chapters are asked to pay \$500.00 and \$1000.00 for graduate chapters. Payment will need to be sent by January 31, 2026. To the PO Box 823021 North Richlands Hills, Texas 76182. This was mentioned at the last meeting to see if this was possible. Soror Leora Coleman shared there is money in the budget to pay for the request.

Soror Denise Pendleton vocalized putting the decision the chapter members to pay the donation/assessment. A poll will be established to vote later in the meeting.

March 14, 2026; Founders Day will be in Little Rock Arkansas, Arkansas. The newsletter asked the question about the number of who will be interested in attending.

President Tonia Bickham shared this information came out on yesterday. Marshall Alumnae Chapter was responsible for hosting the 2026 Cluster Founders Day. Yet it has been announced that Shreveport will host the event on January 17, 2026, in Shreveport, Louisiana at the East Ridge Country Club at 1000 Stewart Drive. Tickets are \$75.00 and monies are due by January 6, 2026. Past International President Elsie Cooke-Holmes

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will be the keynote speaker. We have been asked to join the Cluster Founders Day with Shreveport chapter in celebration. The event starts at 11:00 am. Marshall will host in 2027.

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. Delta festive attire. No tickets remaining to be purchased. (Please arrive on time and we have a two-hour period)

Founders Day Celebration (January 2026):

Saturday: Chapter meeting at Greater St. Mary Church. January 10, 2026. This will also be a Reclamation ceremony also. We will start at 10:00 am. Please invite other Deltas to attend. Attire is black. All events for the weekend are free for Deltas to attend.

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. MDK will be there to create junk trucker hats for \$30.00 and junk socks for \$20.00. If you want to complete both the cost is \$45.00. Payments can be completed by Cash App/Zelle 903.363.2728. The vendor will be paid directly. Deadline to submit is January 3, 2026. We are asking those to attend to please share so we can prepare enough food/drinks for the event.

Sunday: Fellowship service at Greater St. Mary Church in Tyler, Texas. January 11, 2026. Please wear red and services start at 10:00 am.

January is recognized as Human Trafficking month and the service project for 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. The wish list items will be sent directly to the organization. We will be unable to go to the home based on the privacy for the women. There is a video that will be resent out.

Emergency Response Team

Soror Karla Thomas presented information on being Delta ready for the winter season and upcoming holidays. Information will be presented in the newsletter for all to review and have on hand.

Corresponding Secretary

Soror Vivianne McGowan announced the following correspondence/announcements: CDFI Certification Luncheon/Lending Avenue will host a luncheon on January 22, 2026, starting at 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at Willow Brook Country Club Tyler, Texas. Sponsorship/support are requested in the amount of \$250.00 and individual tickets are \$50.00. They have been supporters at our annual Standing on Business events. This will be voted on later in the meeting. According to President Tonia Bickham a suggestion of T.A.P.S. to contribute 1/2 (\$125.00) of the cost and TAC cover the cost of (\$125.00). This is for the partnership level. This item will be voted on later in the meeting.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Founders Day celebration of 118 years will be on January 31, 2026, in Tyler, Texas. “Soaring to Greater Heights of Service and Sisterhood.” The event will be held at the Tyler Holiday Inn Conference Center starting at 11:30 am. Tickets are \$65.00 and tables are \$520.00. There are varied prices to support with an advertisement. Please reach out at info@tyleraka1908.org for more information. This item will be voted on later in the meeting.

Black History Knowledge Bowl is set for February 1, 2026, starting at 8:00 am. The location is Boulter Middle School in Tyler, Texas. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., are hosting the event and have requested support for sponsorship and/or in-kind donations.

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 Mayfair Building in Tyler, Texas. Support by encouraging a table to announce organizations.

NPHC is hosting a Kappa Toy Drive. Christmas Party will include a toy drive on December 16, 2025, at Javi’s Mexican restaurant starting at 6:00 pm. It is requested to please bring a \$20.00 toy or a donation of \$20.00 to support the toy drive.

2026 Martin Luther King march will be held on Monday on MLK day (January 19, 2026) starting at 9:00 am at the Marvin United Methodist Church and the march will conclude at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception at 10:00 am. Keynote Speaker is David Washington Jr. The event is free to attend.

Please join the AKA (Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, in delivering hygiene care items to the Watkins-Logan Veterans home in Tyler, Texas after the event.

Beauties, Boards and Brunch – Hosted by Soror Shequita Daniels on January 17, 2026, 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. Cost is \$40.00 for early bird tickets until December 15, 2025. Ticket cost goes up to \$50.00 after December 16, 2025.

Audit Report

Soror Sonya Taylor announced the third quarter audit report for July 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025. The review included a 37 % validation of the disbursements, 100% receipts and 100% membership information. There were no abnormal findings.

Recommendations are: The financial secretary’s report includes deposit dates. The reason behind the recommendation is that deposit dates must be entered in the audit report in the Red Zone. Upon final review, no material loss of financial assets exists. It has been determined the chapter has satisfactory financial internal controls and the review supports the existence of these controls. The Audit Committee is comprised of Soror Mr. Richardson, Soror S. Mitchell Jackson, Soror D. Pendleton, Soror E. Watson, and Soror J. Conley. Soror Sonya Taylor is the Chair.

Budget and Finance

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

November Receipts:

Arts and Letters/Wicked: \$296.94

Christmas Party Receipts: \$636.72

Dues: \$2779.91

Total Receipts: \$3553.23

Soror Leora Coleman (Treasurer) presented the following for November 2025:

\$3553.23 total receipts received.

Beginning balance \$40,684.03

Ending balance: \$43,749.35

A wired transfer was sent, and confirmation was given for the amount for dues. This is only for those who paid prior to being late.

Soror Leora Coleman reported a correction for August 2025 as the following: It was reported the income was \$3706.82. It should be \$3862.30.

Proposed 2026 Budget

The proposed 2026 budget was presented based on eighty members.

● **Proposed 2026 Budget Discussion:**

- Projected Income: \$77,480 (based on eighty membership dues)
- Operational Expenses: \$30,555
- Program Expenses: \$46,925

This will be balanced budget, and should more members pay, it will be revised and adjusted for 2026 according to the President Tonia Bickham.

Soror Dorothy Jackson made the motion to accept the 2026 budget as printed. Vice President Johnita Ward seconded the motion. A poll was launched to vote on the motion for the 2026 budget. Motion passed. 2026 budget is approved.

President Tonia Bickham spoke about a better manner of taking funds for ticket purchases, donations/pledges and collecting money for events. The company is RSVPify. Examples used were May Week tickets and Bless this House Campaign. President Tonia Bickham shared her screened and we were able to see the display layout/format. The screens displayed variations and the fee for using this format is much less than Eventbrite. Immediate notification for ticket purchases and there is not a wait to receive the money compared to Eventbrite. This item will be voted later in the meeting.

Arts and Letters Report

Soror Shunetta Reed presented. Thanks to all for the support given in attending the Wicked movie premiere. Funds raised will support the scholarship funds.

Fundraising

President Tonia Bickham presented the following on behalf of the Fundraiser Chair Soror Shanna Hawkins. It was suggested to have a day party for March Madness. The event will be held at The Meeting Place located at 1301 West Erwin Tyler, Texas 75702. The time of the event has not been set but alcohol will be served. Details will be worked in detail before bringing to the chapter for vote.

Discussion of revising the annual Western Dance for the fall of 2026. More details will be offered, and it will be voted on in 2026.

Housing

Soror Shunetta Reed the Housing Chair presented the Bless this House Campaign starting on January 1, 2026. The information will be brought to the chapter in the Group Me format. Goals for raising is \$50,000 for the house. The donations are from January 1-December 31, 2026. Once money is generated it will be utilized quickly to make the repairs.

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

Soror Shunetta Reed shared the dire needs for the Delta Service Center repairs are huge. The listings are the roof, and this has been approved for repair by the insurance company. The air conditioner unit, foundation repair, plumbing repairs, and this is due to the shift in the foundation. The hot water in the home has been turned off, and this is from the hot water tank shifting due to the foundation. Soror Shunetta shared there is also a need for gutter replacement.

Soror Shunetta Reed shared the amount spent has been \$1550.00 and this for the partial payment approval for the roof replacement. The roofing company offered the best rate and fought for us for the roof replacement and cost.

The progress of the repairs will be reported at the upcoming meetings as well as the status.

Soror Shunetta Reed reminded of the Delta Service Center rules when it comes to usage.

Soror Valita Waits asked if the money donated will be listed as a tax deduction status?

Payments and support for the home will not be submitted through T.A.P.S. and will not qualify for a tax deductible. The question was asked if donations could be submitted through T.A.P.S. for a tax deduction? Soror Valita Waits shared she would research and share this information with the President and the Housing Committee Chair.

Soror Noella Cain requested members to ask former TAC lines to connect in hopes of a donation towards the Delta Service Center repairs. Donations towards the Delta Service Center are open to all who would like to give.

The cleaning date is postponed until January 2026 for the Delta Service Center.

International Awareness and Involvement Committee:

Soror Karla Thomas is the Chair for International Awareness. World Aids Day was December 1, 2025. Soror Karla Thomas shared the importance of knowing your status, incorporate education on HIV, and hosting testing events when it comes to educating our community (targeting women and girls). Soror Karla Thomas spoke about the PRep/medication and how to make this a priority when it comes to women's health.

Human Trafficking will be spotlighted for January 2026 and our role when it comes educating, advocating, and acting against trafficking. The partnership with Saleh and helping provided needed items will be our community service project.

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 14, 2026. Individual tickets will go on sale starting in February. Based on the manner tickets will be sold and money collected with RSVPify. The color of the attire is red, and the May Week Theme is *Power, Poise and Purpose*. Hoping to get a TAC member to serve as the speaker for the event.

The first May Week meeting was held on December 8, 2025, and the upcoming meeting will be held on January 5, 2026, at 6:30 pm by Zoom. Soror Tiffanie Goudy is leading the scholarship committee. This year we will only be giving out three scholarships from TAC.

T.A.P.S will be able to accept money for scholarships. Just be aware the donations received for scholarships will be presented by T.A.P.S. at the May Week 2026 event.

Social Action

Soror Melissa Williams is the Chair for Social Action. Save the Date is set for March 20-24, 2026, in attending the Delta Days at the Capitol (Washington, D.C)

Soror Melissa Williams spoke of the candidates who have joined the political arena. The presentation of the dos and don'ts when it comes to the upcoming election.

Social Action touches all the five thrusts when it comes to service.

Soror Johnita Ward has been an intricate piece when it comes to Boulter Middle School and being part of their PTA. Social Action has partnered with Economic Development

when it comes to purchasing during the Friday shopping in December 2025. International Awareness partnering with Saleh for the month of January.

D.E.A.R.S.

Soror Denise Pendleton discussed the completion of the member profile. This task was given out in January 2025 and there are still a substantial number who have not completed it. Soror Denise Pendleton encouraged those to submit photos of engagements and time together. Soror Pamela Erwin shared the importance of the TRIBE. Soror Shequita Daniels shared a wonderful way to connect with your TRIBE is to attend the upcoming event being hosted on January 17, 2026. Soror Denise Pendleton shared the link with the member profile which will be sent by email for all to complete.

Youth Initiatives

Soror April Mims Co-Chair for Youth Initiative shared the November activity for the young ladies included a tour of University of Texas at Tyler. The School of Medicine and dormitories were viewed. They were introduced to the extracurricular activities on the campus. A total of seventeen youths were in attendance with seven volunteers for the group. The session theme, “Get the Hot Tea on Careers: Truth, Empowerment, and Advancement,”

The next event for Delta Gems/Delta Academy will be held on December 20, 2025, at the East Texas Food Bank. The committee meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, with zoom.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

President Tonia Bickham presented the request to partner with NetHealth in its Maternal Health Forum. Soror Emauri Watson shared background on the program and how it supports maternal health and the expectations of what they need from the chapter. Soror Emauri Watson shared the partnership for the year 2026, but hopes are to be extended as a long-term partner. Soror Giselle Abron made a motion to move into a partnership with NetHealth for the Maternal Health Fair. Soror Karanda Lewis seconded. A vote was given through a poll and passed.

President Tonia Bickham presented information for the CDFI Certification Luncheon/Lending Avenue. Sponsorship/support are requested in the amount of \$250.00 and individual tickets are \$50.00. According to President Tonia Bickham a suggestion of T.A.P.S. to contribute 1/2 (\$125.00) of the cost and TAC cover the cost of (\$125.00). This is for the partnership level. The funds will come out of the 2025 budget year. Soror Vera Moore made the motion for the chapter to pay \$125.00 for the CDFI Certification sponsorship for the event. Soror Monique Hawkins seconded the motion. A vote was given through a poll and passed.

President Tonia Bickham presented Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Founders Day celebration of 118 years will be on January 31, 2026, in Tyler, Texas. "Soaring to Greater Heights of Service and Sisterhood." Tickets are \$65.00 and tables are \$520.00. There are varied prices to support with an advertisement. The prices are the following:

Front side cover: \$225.00

Full page: \$125.00

1/2 Page: \$75.00

Back inside cover: \$225.00

Back outside cover: \$250.00

1/4 Page: \$50.00

Business card: \$25.00

Soror Vera Moore shared, do we still have funds available in the 2025 budget?

President Tonia Bickham shared we will not have enough in the 2025 budget.

Budget money remaining cannot be rolled into 2026 according to Soror Leora Coleman. If we vote yes, the amount will come from the 2026 budget to pay the amount.

President Tonia Bickham reminded we are partnering with the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for the Veteran's home self-care items, and we can easily support them with the purchase of individual tickets.

Soror Vera Moore made the comment on not supporting them for the event.

Vice President Johnita Ward reminded the chapter how they are supportive of TAC when it comes to events. Soror Vera Moore made the motion to support Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Founders Day celebration of 118 years with a half page advertisement purchase for \$75.00. Soror Candace Porter-Condry seconded.

Soror Dorothy Jackson gave the suggestion of donating \$50.00 so the chapter may secure a full-page advertisement. Soror Denise Pendleton provided counsel on the proper way to amend the motion currently presented. A vote to amend is needed. Soror Dorothy Jackson made the motion to amend the purchase of a 1/2 page advertisement for the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Founders Day celebration to a full-page advertisement with TAC donating \$75.00 and Soror Dorothy Jackson providing \$50.00 to make up the difference to equal the cost of a full-page advertisement. Soror Candace Porter-Condry seconded. The vote to amend passed. A poll was launched to vote for the purchase of a one-page advertisement. The vote passed.

President Tonia Bickham shared the following for discussion and to take an action by the chapter. The Black History Knowledge Bowl is set for February 1, 2026, starting at 8:00 am. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., are hosting the event and have requested support for sponsorship and/or in-kind donations. No action on the matter.

Soror Pam Erwin asked the question about the \$1000.00 being assessed or donated and why it is needed. President Tonia Bickham shared the funds are to offset the cost for the regional conference. The Gaylord hotel in Grapevine is expensive. Soror Valita Waits and Soror Vera Moore also shared their opinions. Soror Noella Cain asked if national

supports regional conferences? President Tonia Bickham was unable to answer this question on support from national to aid in regional events.

Soror Denise Pendleton made the recommendation of requesting more information on why this this amount is needed. Fundraising is not new for supporting regional conferences. The 2026 budget will not allow us to pay this cost according to President Tonia Bickham. Soror Dorothy Jackson shared the blanket amount of \$1000.00 and not taking into consideration the chapter membership size is not reasonable. Soror Arielle Williams commented she would agree to paying the \$1000.00 if the amount were going towards the attendance/registration fees for the presiding chapter officers. Soror Leora Coleman shared the funds left over will go into the contingency funds to be utilized in 2026. It was agreed upon more information is needed to decide. The item will be tabled and discussed in January 2026.

President Tonia Bickham spoke about a better manner of taking funds for ticket purchases and collecting money for events. The company is RSVPify. This platform will replace the google doc method and PayPal collection. Soror Dorothy Jackson made the motion to accept the platform of RSVPify for tickets and pledge donations in the future. Soror Pam Erwin seconded. Questions arose regarding the operational cost for using the platform, it was shared a small percentage would be used. The platform is user friendly, and the money is retrieved immediately after a ticket sale or pledge is paid.

The example of fees is the following: Ticket cost of \$75.00 using Eventbrite is \$81.65 and with RSVPify is \$79.84. Another positive thing about RSVPify is the reporting and the purchaser getting an immediate response from a ticket purchase. A poll was launched for the vote. The motion passed.

President Tonia Bickham presented having a Day party for March Madness. The event will be held at The Meeting Place located at 1301 West Erwin Tyler, Texas 75702. The time of the event has not been set but alcohol will be served. This is a fundraiser event for 2026. Soror Dorothy Jackson made the motion to move forward in participating as a chapter to having the March Madness fundraiser event for 2026. Soror Denise Pendleton seconded. A poll was launched for the vote. The motion passed.

Shout Outs

Vice President Johnita Ward announced three of our graduating seniors were awarded funds for their future academics to post-secondary schools.

Soror Veronica Tucker son is Jordan Tucker and was awarded \$2,677,400.00.

Soror Johnita Ward son is Jonathan Martin and was awarded \$2,868,552.00.

Soror Jasmine Warren daughter is Amiyah Warren was awarded \$2,532,336.00.

Congratulations to Valita Waits for being recognized for the Tyler Metro Chamber Lifetime Achievement Award on December 6, 2025.

Soror Pam Erwin's performance in the Nutcracker at Tyler Junior College.

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Soror Monique Hawkins announced the Eighty-year anniversary for Gamma Epsilon will be held on February 21, 2026. Tickets prices and guest speaker will be announced soon. The Grove restaurant is tentatively the location.

Soror Melissa Williams announced the calendar of events for Social Action will be shared soon for December.

Soror Leora Coleman shared the Founders Day Voting march will be held on February 13, 2026, at University of Texas at Tyler for the chapter of Epsilon Epsilon. Encouraging all to make their signs and come out.

President Tonia Bickham thanked the Collegiate Advisors for their hard work.

December Birthdays were recognized with a song.

The meeting concluded at 12:22 pm and the ritualistic closing followed.

Submitted by Collette Stec
Recording Secretary
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