

Tyler Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

January 10, 2026

The monthly chapter meeting of the Tyler Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., was held at the Greater St. Mary Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas.

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 at 10:14 am and the business meeting commenced.

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Soror Kimberly Palmer and Soror Hollisa Allen seconded the motion to adopt the agenda as printed. Agenda approved.

Approval of December 2025 minutes. Minutes were loaded to the chapter's website on January 7, 2026, for the TAC members to review. The motion to approve minutes for December 2025, was made by Soror Dorothy Jackson and Soror Kimberly Palmer seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

President's Report

President Tonia Bickham spoke of greatness of celebrating 113 years of the sorority. The presentation included reciting the twenty-two names of the Founders for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Reminder for Founders Day (Do and Do not) were shared with the chapter members.

March 14, 2026; Founders Day will be in Little Rock Arkansas, Arkansas. Reach out to Soror Melissa Willams for those who will be attending.

Regional Conference is listed as June 4-7, 2026, in Grapevine, Texas. (Save the Date)

The regional calendar for Sisterhood month is March 1-31, 2026, and has been listed earlier for those to celebrate. The item was listed in the newsletter.

Founders Day Celebration (January 10, 2026):

Saturday Evening: Moo-Moos and Mocktails fellowship event from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. 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.

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

President Tonia Bickham welcomed our guests who were not members of TAC and invited them to attend other events that will be held this weekend for Founders Day.

Emergency Response Team

Soror Karla Thomas presented the Jamacia Recovery Support Drive. They are asking for monetary donations. This must be submitted online for payments. Based on the mail system physical items cannot be mailed. Payments will be acceptable until January 13, 2026, and are not tax deductible. The Emergency Readiness video was played at the initial start of the meeting. The video is encouraged to be played at the prelude of today's meeting. Soror Karla Thomas reminded us of the importance of exits in the building and allowing our Delta Dears to be considered first.

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.

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.

Black History Knowledge Bowl is set for February 21, 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. Items must be submitted by January 17, 2026.

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 Glass Recreation Center in Tyler, Texas. Support by encouraging a table to present information or your organizations. Tables must be set up by 1:00 pm. Black owned business may be set up free of charge as a vendor. Vice President Johnita Ward shared she can be contacted for more information for business. There is also a stroll off with DJ Juice hosting the event.

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. Reach out to Soror Melissa Williams for the logistics of the march.

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 MLK march on January 19, 2026.

The packaging of the hygiene/care bags will be from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the AKA house on Lollar Street on January 17, 2026. The bags will be distributed after the MLK march on January 19, 2026.

Gamma Epsilon is celebrating its 80th Charter anniversary of the chapter. The luncheon is set for February 21, 2026, at The Grove in Tyler, Texas. Tickets are \$50.00 with an array of support amounts to assist. The guest speaker is Kamyia Gibbs the Southwest Regional Representative. Soror Monique Hawkins is the contact person. Support by TAC will be voted on later under new business.

February 28, 2026, Mahjong and Mingle (New Beginnings Fashion Show) will be hosted by the Hands Up Network. Tickets are on sale for \$100.00. This cost includes the tournament, food, and entry to raffle and silent auction. The Villa at 7891 TX 110 Tyler, Texas 75704 starting at 6:00 pm.

Krimson Daze (Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc) is on February 7, 2026, from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$15.00 presale and \$20.00 at the door on the day of. Suave's on Glenwood is where the party will be held.

Budget and Finance

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

December Receipts:

Christmas Party 2025: \$881.71

Scholarship Donation: \$200.00

Roof Claim: \$14,950.37

Dues: \$6206.77 Late Fees: \$120.00 and Reinstatement Fees: \$60.00

Received: \$22,418.85

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

Check Registry was reviewed and all reports are made available when requested.

Total Receipts received: \$22,418.85

Beginning balance: \$43,749.35

Disbursements: \$35,318.58

Ending balance: \$30,849.62

Soror Leora Coleman shared there were some budget items that needed to be resolved regarding the budget line items for 2025. Administration over by \$21.00 and the utilities over by \$953.89. The exaggerated cost of utilities is based on the house (water heater and the AC unit) The AC unit was constantly running, and we are unsure of the length of time. The two items are from the 2025 budget. The monies can be taken from other items to cover the differences. The suggested items are conferences and conventions.

Soror Pamela Erwin shared the importance of voting with proper representation and asked for raised hands to be counted instead of a vocal count. This will also allow for those who are financial members to be counted properly.

Soror Dorothy Jackson made the motion to resolve the budget overage in the two categories of utilities and administration using the extra funds in conferences and conventions. Soror Hollisia Allen seconded. The motion passed.

Soror Leora Coleman shared the ticketing software of Rsvpify uses the merchant/payment software known as Stripe. This was unable to be set up based on our policies stating a merchant account must be voted on by the chapter. Stripe fees are 2.9% plus thirty cents. Rsvpify carries fees also.

Soror Vera Moore shared the reason for going to a different platform was due to the fees/cost being less than the former platform (Eventbrite). When looking at the combined fees which one is less? President Toni Bickham shared the Eventbrite fees were more compared to Rsvpify. Soror Denise Pendleton added to the discussion that Stripe is an upcoming merchant platform being used by many organizations.

Soror Ebony Mason provided the following to help with the understanding of fees and cost associated with the platform.

Eventbrite is 3.7% plus \$1.79 per ticket.

Stripe is 2.9% plus thirty cents per ticket.

Rsvpify is 1.95 % plus ninety cents per ticket.

President Tonia Bickham provided the example of fees is the following: Ticket cost of \$75.00 using Eventbrite is \$81.65 and with Rsvpify is \$79.84.

The Rsvpify can be used for other items and its fees are less. Vice President Johnita Ward made the motion to approve Stripe as part of our vendor payments. Soror Valerie Palmer seconded. The motion passed a count of thirty-one votes recorded.

Soror Leora Coleman announced dues for 2026 are still being collected. The amounts are: \$415.00 cash/check and if you are using PayPal the cost s \$430.51. (Pay Pal fees \$15.51?) \$200.00 goes to local chapter, \$190.00 to national, \$10.00 capita and \$15.00 reinstatement.

If you have not paid your dues by January 20, 2026, you will be considered inactive. Checks require a 10-day waiting period.

Housing

Soror Shunetta Reed the Housing Chair is absent, and President Tonia Bickham presented the following: The Bless this House Campaign starting 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.

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

The phases of repair identified are foundation repair, plumbing, gutters, and HVAC system. The roof has been completed and the claim helped with expenses.

QR Code was listed for those making payments.

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

Soror Pamela Erwin asked if a check would be acceptable to make payments? The answer was yes. Soror Cynthia Melontree asked amounts will it be tax deductible if paid to TAC? The answer is no. Payments made to T.A.P.S will be tax deductible.

Soror Sonya Taylor requested a link to complete the payment. President Tonia Bickham shared she would email the information with the link, QR code and the post office box address for T.A.P.S

President Tonia Bickham reminded all 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.

International Awareness and Involvement Committee:

Soror Karla Thomas is the Chair for International Awareness.

Human Trafficking will be spotlighted for January 2026. Our role is to educate, advocate, and act against trafficking for our community.

The partnership with Saleh and helping provided needed items will be our community service project. This project will be a joint effort with Alpha Kappa Alpha and Zeta Phi Beta. The Amazon wish list will be provided so chapter members can make purchases and the items sent directly to them (Saleh). A video speaking about human trafficking was presented during the chapter meeting. The items on their wish list will be given to those women.

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 on February 1. 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. 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.

The next meeting is set for February 10, 2026, by Zoom.

This year we will only be giving out three scholarships from TAC. However, 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. (Funds submitted through T.A.P.S are listed as tax deductible) More scholarships could be

offered based on the T.A.P.S donation. The application will go out on next week for 2026 senior high school female student. March 5, 2026, is the closing date for scholarships.

Social Action

Soror Melissa Williams is the Chair for Social Action. The next meeting is set for January 27, 2026, at 6:00 pm by Zoom. All are welcome to be a part. March 20-24, 2026, is Delta Days at the Capitol (Washington, D.C). Those interested in attending please share their travel plans to be included.

Soror Melissa Williams gave the presentation of the dos and don'ts when it comes to the upcoming election and the 2026 dates for early elections and election dates. The information will also be emailed and in the newsletter. Training dates for poll workers will also be emailed to those whose would like to be trained for a poll worker.

Membership for NAACP is \$30.00 a year and we are encouraging all to join. NAACP next event is listed for September 12, 2026 (Fundraiser event) Tickets are \$60.00 and will be held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center Tyler, Texas. Theme is *"Unshakable Faith, Unstoppable Progress Celebrating Triumphant and Inspiring Tomorrow"*

National Council of Negro Women membership is \$125.00 annually. Several members of TAC are current members.

Nominating Committee

Soror Christiana Guthrie is the Chair for the Nominating Committee. Soror Christiana Guthrie shared the timeline, nomination process/overview, eligibility, and officer positions open for 2026-2028.

- January to February nomination forms will be made available to complete.
- March the selection of nominations will be presented to the executive board and chapter members. Those who are interested may run from the floor.
- April is chapter election.

The position open for the election are the following: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Assistant Financial Secretary, Historian, and Keeper of the Properties.

The elected positions are the Chair of the Internal Audit Committee, Chair of Nominating Committee and four (4) spots for the Nominating Committee.

All the responsibilities of each position can be found in TAC's policy and procedures.

Officers are elected every two years.

Nominating Chair/Committee can only serve one term in their position.

Officers may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

Eligibility: Must be financial with the local chapter and grand chapter in the fiscal year the election takes place. If elected the officer/member must maintain financial membership during their term in office. The Financial Secretary will verify the status.

The President and Vice President must have attended a minimum of one regional conference and national conference in four prior years of taking office.

The current officers who are **ineligible** to run for office are the following are marked by an **asterisk**:

- Soror Vivianne McGowan/Corresponding Secretary
- Soror Collette Stec/Recording Secretary *
- Soror Johnita Ward/Vice President *
- Soror Tonia Bickham/President *
- Soror Leora Coleman/Treasurer
- Soror Hollisia Allen/Financial Secretary
- Soror Monique Hawkins/Assistant Financial Secretary
- Soror Alyce Randle/Historian*
- Soror Shunetta Reed/Custodial of Properties

Elected officers for the Internal Audit Chair are Soror Sonya Taylor*. The Nominating Committee Chair is Soror Christiana Guthrie* and the four Nominating Committee Members are Soror Julie Conley*, Soror Shequita Daniels*, Soror Jackie Hubbard* and Soror Jasmine Warren* are all ineligible to run for the same positions again.

To apply for a position, one must complete the nomination data candidate profile application utilizing the link. You may nominate a chapter member or nominate yourself. The application ask for your full name, membership number, address, phone number, email address, occupation, headshot, position seeking, why you are seeking the position, a list of your past leadership roles, current/past regional experiences, regional conference attendance, national convention attendance, committees served on, swearing the information submitted is correct, signature and the date application submitted.

Soror Hollisia Allen asked, how does one know if you have been nominated? Soror Christiana Guthrie explained the form will be sent to the Nominating Committee and it is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee members to reach out explaining you have been nominated and do you accept the nomination for the position. If you accept you will be directed to complete the nomination data profile application.

The application link will be emailed today along with the deadlines.

Soror Christiana Guthrie reviewed the deadlines/rules:

The deadline to complete a nomination data candidate profile is February 20, 2026, at 11:59 pm central time. For those nominated from the floor, they will have until March 20, 2026, 11:59 pm central time to complete the nomination data candidate profile.

Campaign is limited to the TAC chapter, published literature only, it cannot begin before the slate of candidates have been finalized, must end the day before midnight on the date the chapter votes. Applicants violating the rules will be disqualified and campaigning is optional.

Soror Hollisia Allen asked a question on the manner of campaigning. It is only limited to published literature and to those who are members of TAC.

Soror Valerie Palmer asked when the role of the officers begins their term. July 1st starts the term year for officers. Soror Christiana Guthrie made the motion to approve the terms for call of nomination presented. Soror Vera Moore seconded. The motion passed with a vote of thirty-one.

D.E.A.R.S.

Soror Denise Pendleton discussed the completion of the member profile. “New Vibes for the T.R.I.B.E.” The T.R.I.B.E. is going on its first anniversary year. Encouragement was given to those who actively participate in their unit. Five and Eight (T.R.I.B.E.S) appear to move with greatness. Suggestions for participation as well as ways to keep the unit moving forward.

A survey will be conducted, asking members if they would like to continue and gain additional feedback. Soror Denise Pendleton shared the link with the member profile which will be sent by email for all to complete.

Member profiles were issued in January 2025 to complete and today’s date only twenty-six have been submitted. All questions regarding T.R.I.B.E. may be sent to Soror Denise Pendleton.

Policy and Procedures

President Tonia Bickham shared the suggested proposed amendment changes may be emailed to Soror Erika Smiley. The submission guidelines end in March and April and they will be voted on. A QR code to submit your proposal. When reading the policy and procedures, be advised on the coloring of the words. Red can be changed, blue is modified by TAC and black is from national and cannot be changed.

Youth Initiatives

Soror Christiana Guthrie Co-Chair for Youth Initiative (Delta Gems/Delta Academy) December 2025 activity was of volunteering and giving back. Participants volunteered preparing boxes at the East Texas Food Bank.

January 24, 2026, at the Delta Service Center from 10:00 am -12:00 pm is the next event. “*Sipping Tea, Brewing Success for the Future.*” Creating vision boards and envisioning their future.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Gamma Epsilon is celebrating its 80th Charter anniversary of the chapter. The luncheon is set for February 21, 2026, at The Grove in Tyler, Texas. The guest speaker is Kamyia Gibbs the Southwest Regional Representative. Tickets are \$50.00 with an array of support amounts to assist.

Support amounts are the following:

Silver Supporter: \$80.00 and includes admission to luncheon and recognition in digital programs.

Golden Legacy: \$125.00(all the Silver support benefits and priority seating)
GE Legacy Sponsor: \$250.00 (includes one general admission, two tickets to support a collegiate Soror)

Chapter Love Donations: \$25.00, \$50.00, \$100.00 (no ticket included) The discussion of being a supporter for Gamma Epsilon. Soror Monique Hawkins shared we would love to have collegiate Sorors sponsored to attend. Deadlines for payment is February 5, 2026. A motion was made to support Gamma Epsilon with a payment of GE Legacy Sponsorship in the amount of \$250.00 by Soror Vera Moore. Soror Leora Coleman seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of twenty-seven.

Shout Outs/Announcement

Soror Marketta Richardson delivered her son on December 31, 2025.

Soror Vera Moore will be awarded the Judith Guthrie Legacy Service Award on March 26, 2026.

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

Soror Monique Hawkins announced the list of events occurring for Gamma Epsilon. The calendar will be shared to all.

Texas College and University of Texas @ Tyler will be participating in MIT according to President Tonia Bickham. All were reminded when attending events, to wear dresses that are to the knee level.

Soror Denise Pendleton shared the fourth Saturday of each month at 2:00 pm at the AKA Ivy League Center on Lollar Street Tyler, Texas are the Panhellenic meeting. All representatives are welcome to attend.

January birthdays were recognized with a song.

The meeting concluded at 11:54 am and the ritualistic closing followed.

Submitted by Collette Stec
Recording Secretary
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