

Tyler Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

February 1, 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 confirmed quorum was established at 10:11 AM.

A motion to adopt the agenda as listed was made by Soror Denise Pendleton and Vice President Johnita Ward seconded the motion. It was adopted.

Approval of January 2025 minutes. Minutes were loaded to the chapter's website on January 30, 2025, for the TAC members to review. A motion to approve minutes made by Soror Monique Hawkins. Soror Jodie Ward seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

President's Report

President Tonia Bickham presented Black History from TAC's rich history with the assistance of Soror Denise Pendleton. The presentation focused on the TAC from the past years. All (TAC) chapter's history is on the website.

President Tonia Bickham stated the second compliance for DID will be held. It will focus on one of the following: Parliamentary Procedure or Protocol/Traditions. The date will take place in April of 2025. This is a requirement and keeps us in compliance as a chapter.

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

- March 8, 2025, at the Delta Service Center
- April 12, 2025, at the Delta Service Center
- May 3, 2025, at the Delta Service Center

Regional News

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. This is a wonderful opportunity.

HBCU spotlight for Sorors is being requested. The video will ask the question, “Why did you attend a HBCU?” A quick recording and it needs to be under a minute. Once complete please email the video.

Soror Victoria Christopher Murray has a book called Harlem Rhapsody. It will go on shelves on February 4, 2025. It is encouraged to purchase the book to propel her sales and to also earn a chance for an in-personal visit with the author. The book is the story of Soror Jessie Redmon Fauset who ignited the Harlem Renaissance.

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. A suggested weekly saving challenge was displayed to help in acquiring the amount for the trip.

President Tonia Bickham reminded those attending the Cluster Founders Day on February 8, 2025, in Longview, Texas. It is requested to purchase hygiene/toiletry items to be donated for the service project for Forest Park Middle School Longview, Texas. An email to remind those attending in the week will be sent out.

Membership Services

Vice President Johnita Ward thanked all who participated in the Founders Day week of activities. A recap of the activities was the following:

- Sunday, January 12, 2025, Worship Services at St. Louis Baptist Church
- Monday, January 13, 2025, Founders Day National Celebration to be held by Zoom.
- Tuesday, January 14, 2025, Physical Health. The Body Shop/HIIT Class with Candice Ross.
- Wednesday, January 15, 2025. Delivery of breakfast pastries to the CBS 19 team for their media coverage of chapter events.
- Wednesday, January 15, 2025, Mental Health. Soror Shequita Daniels led the discussion on Temperance.
- Thursday, January 16, 2025, Community Service. Tyler High School for the Lion’s Den.
- Friday, January 17, 2025, Educational Development. Greeters and Readers at Peete Elementary School. This was an absolute blessing for the school community. The temperature was cold on this date.
- Saturday, January 18, 2025, Sisterhood Kickback Potluck is set for 5:30 PM at the Delta Service Center.

Vice President Johnita Ward announced Sisterhood month for March will host different calendar activities. The calendar for the Southwest Region has been presented. We as a chapter will follow/focus on the tasks. The Delta Week is March 16-22, 2025. TAC will be able to complete different tasks that align with our programmatic five-point thrusts. The calendar will be revealed at the March 2025 meeting.

Emergency Response Team

Soror Karla Thomas is the chair of ERT. President Tonia Bickham presented on her behalf. A fire inspection of the Delta Service Center was completed on January 17, 2025. It revealed the following recommendations: A fire alarm system to connect to the Fire Departments, smoke alarms in each room and the need for two fire extinguishers. A recommendation to have the exit plans posted in the room, have at least two fire drills a year and to also add include Delta Gems and Academy in the fire drills based on their usage of the Delta Service Center. President Tonia Bickham stated there is not an action items at this time. Soror Karla Thomas and Soror Shunetta Reed will work together. It has been identified that the ERT budget does not have funds to purchase the items for the Delta Service Center.

Chaplain's Corner

Soror Melissa Williams read on behalf of Soror Kathy Cannon. Soror Melissa Williams shared Psalms 91; Verse 14-15.

Corresponding Secretary

Soror Vivianne McGowan announced the following correspondence/announcements:

Thank you card from Soror Emmer Gray-Mallard was sent to the chapter. She received flowers after being hospitalized.

A QR Code will be sent out for those interested in signing up for the multitude of events sent for the month of February.

- 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.
- Tyler's African American History Museum will be hosting its Living Museum on February 1, 2025, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. No cost to attend.
- Orr Elementary has requested assistance with their Black history program on February 7, 2025, at 8:00 AM. They would like us to share our sorority history and complete a brief stroll or step.
- Bonner Elementary on February 20, 2025, 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. They have asked that we be a part of the positive representation of our culture. This can include an information table with games and giveaways to support.

- The city of Tyler and Caldwell Arts Academy is hosting its annual college and career fair featuring Black History Month Expo is set for Saturday, February 22, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The Mayfair building in Tyler TX. We will have access to a space to set up a table displaying our Sorority as well as any information that could encourage and broadcast for Delta Gems/Academy
- 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.” The contact person is Laura Newsome at 903.360.1191 and Dionne Griffith 678.463.1075.
- February 22, 2025; The Black Wellness Expo from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. This event is hosted by Empowerment and is located at 1543 East Grande Blvd. Tyler, Texas. The event is free to the public.
- Emmett J. Scott High School Reunion June 27-29, 2025. Class of 1970. The event will be at the WT Brookshire Convention Center. Support is requested to help with the event. Tickets are \$175.00 per person and will include a T-shirt, access to events, a swag bag, and a souvenir booklet. A Table sponsorship is available for \$1750.00. A table will host ten participants.
- Community Partners hosting a lunch on Thursday, January 13, 2025. The event will be at the Davidson Conference Room at the Jim Pyle Complex at 807 West Glenwood Blvd. Tyler, Texas 75701 at 11:30 AM. The lunch will discuss how to be involved with the Tyler ISD Care Closet Community Partnership.
- Public Meeting for the Tyler Water Utilities at the Rose Garden on Thursday, February 6, 2025, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM to understand your water bill.
- March 1, 2025, World Changing Women Leadership Night Out is set for 5:00 PM at Tyler Junior College/Rogers Student Center. This is the third annual event. Registration is open. Soror Giselle Abram is a listed speaker for the event.
- February 8, 2025, is the annual Girl Power Summit to be hosted by Junior League of Tyler, Texas from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. A table will be set up at the event. Soror Christiana Guthrie is the contact person. The event will be at the WT Brookshire Conference Center.
- The 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.

- TAPS Fundraiser is set for March 4, 2025. For Parry's Pizza at 13314 Troup Highway Tyler, Texas. Share with your server the organization so the percentage of the sale will go to support TAPS. (Tyler Area Public Service) This is an all-day event.
- Greater Miles Chapel CME Church on February 16, 2025, to celebrate with them for the HBCU/Greek Sunday. It starts at 10:30 AM. This is the second annual event for the church.
- Tyler Alumnae Chapter we are still collecting books for the community library. Members are asked to please bring them to the upcoming chapter meetings.

Budget and Finance

Soror Hollisia Allen is the financial secretary and shared the following for January 2025: January 2025 receipts totaled \$3478.11.

Soror Leora Coleman is the treasurer, and presented the following information:

January 2025 total receipts: \$3478.11
The beginning balance of \$39,635.02
Disbursements: \$5302.31
Ending balance of \$37,810.82

Audit Report

Soror Sonya Taylor the Audit Chair reported the following: The 4th Quarter Audit Report from October 1, 2024 -December 31, 2024. The review included a 37 % validation of the disbursements, 100 % receipts and 100 % membership information.

There were three findings for the fourth quarter: Receipts on the financial secretary and treasurer's report did not match for October 2024. The financial secretary report \$4873.19 and treasurers report told only \$5475.99 the difference of \$602.80.

Specified dates need to be included in the Financial Secretary's Reports for receipts received.

Lastly, on the TAC financial statement (Treasure Report) make sure the headers title is changed month to month.

However, 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.

Collegiate Connection

Soror Leora Coleman shared the group met a few weeks past. It was encouraged by National to support and to bridge the gap with collegiate Sorors. The All of My Love Collegiate Connection (Round Table Discussion). The event is set for February 15, 2025, at the Delta Service Center from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The collegiate Sorors will write down questions to ask the alumnae Sorors. It was encouraged for the TAC Sorors to participate. The alumnae Sorors will ask questions to present to the collegiate Sorors.

D.E.A.R.S

Soror Denise Pendleton, Soror Jo Flournoy and Soror Pam Erwin presented. The deadline for the deliverable member profile and picture is February 6, 2025. The survey needs to be complete. The next task would be to discuss/review the policy and procedures. It is encouraging for the Tribes to meet in person or virtual.

It was encouraged to not utilize the Group Me to send messages of congratulations. Group Me is used just for information purposes.

Economic Development

Soror Candace Condry-Porter presented a video announcing our Standing on Business event. September 20, 2025, at the CTC Building in Tyler, Texas will host the event. It is asked for each Soror to participate and be part of the big day. There is a role for everyone. Donations are needed for sponsorship.

Soror Candace Condry-Porter shared to complete the jot form so that we may be able to celebrate Sorors as a business owners each month. The business/Soror will be featured in the monthly newsletter.

Crimson and Cream goes Black for Green 2.0 initiative will be completed. The goal is to see how much money is spent on Black business and the support provided. A spreadsheet will be completed to plug in the numbers. Send all messages or questions to Soror Candace Condry-Porter.

Housing

President Tonia Bickham presented on behalf of Soror Shunetta Reed is the Chair for Housing.

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 a time to utilize the house. The information is in the newsletter.

International Awareness and Involvement

President Tonia Bickham presented on behalf of Karla Thomas: Dates to remember are the following: International Women's Day is March 8, 2025, and World Water Day March 22, 2025.

A discussion with Jennifer Bailey of (Saleh) will be held on February 11, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Chicken Salad Chick. The discussion is to bring to light regarding Human Trafficking and how we as chapter may support. Soror Veronica Tucker is hosting the event and can be the point of contact.

May Week

Soror Collette Stec announced the Save the Date for May Week luncheon. May 4, 2025; on Sunday starting at 1:30 PM at the Holiday Inn South Broadway Tyler, Texas. It is encouraged to wear red with pearls. Look out for more information regarding the theme, speaker, and the scholarship information. The next meeting will be held with Zoom and is scheduled for February 5, 2025, at 6:00 PM. The May Week committee has established a Group Me and if there is anyone interested in participating to send out a quick text to be included in the messaging for Group Me.

Heritage and Archives/Physical and Mental Health

Soror Alyce Randle and Soror Shequita Daniels presented and recognized the Sorors (doctors) who are members of TAC. Soror Dorothy Jackson and Soror Tiya Johnson.

President Tonia Bickham announced that on February 7, 2025, is the Go Red for Women. This brings awareness to women's heart health. It was encouraged to wear Red on this date. Please take a picture and post on your social media.

Policy and Procedures

Soror Erika Smiley announced regarding Policy and Procedures. The proposed amendments have been uploaded to the website to review. There are five to review.

First One: The consecutive term and time limits of an officer need to be addressed. This would allow Sorors to not have burnout and encourage fresh ideas for those in the position. Clarification was given on terms and two consecutive terms in the same position. Soror Vera Moore requested clarification, and it was explained for better understanding.

Second: Scholarship Application. It adds the scholarship as an attachment. No changes were suggested but only allowed the application to be added/ included.

Third: Hospitality and Courtesy. This adds the hospitality and courtesy guidelines to be included. No changes were made, it only gave detailed guidelines on how to perform courtesies for specific situations.

Fourth: Delta Service Center guidelines will be attached to the chapter's policy and procedures. No changes were suggested, and no language was changed.

Fifth: The Delta Service Center will no longer be referred to as, "The House." We will use the term Delta Service Center.

A discussion occurred about the newly attached articles and whether there will be any changes or omissions to the amendments they accompany. The chapter members need to know the information that is attached is correct and presented properly. The committees will review the proposed attachments to ensure this is correct. The items have been on the website since January 20, 2025.

All may review and be prepared for the meeting in March to discuss/provide their thoughts. The action item is voting. The vote for the items will be at the March 2025 chapter meeting.

Social Action

Monique Hawkins is the Chair and presented the Red-Letter campaign. The campaign is to bring attention/recognition to the School District in our service areas for TAC. The letter will be completed, and the request is for Sorors to sign. The goal is to have 100 percent chapter participation. This will be made available at the March 2025 chapter meeting.

March 1, 2025, The Fort Worth Alumnae Chapter will be having a Women's Suffrage March reenactment. If interested, we can carpool to attend the event together as a group.

Soror Monique Hawkins shared Delta Days at the Capital and is set for March 21-March 25, 2025. The budget does allow one to attend. The registration cost is \$265.00. Please reach out immediately. To participate virtually, the cost is \$100.00.

The Red/White Days at the State Capital (Austin) is set for April 14, 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.

The 60th anniversary for Selma will be occurring and an email will be sent out.

Youth Initiatives/ Delta Gems and Academy

Soror Christiana Guthrie is the Chair for Delta Gems and Delta Academy shared the following: Delta Gems /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. The session had twelve participants.

February 22, 2025, is the next session and will review substance abuse/abuse prevention.

Please reach out to Soror Christiana Guthrie to be a part of this opportunity. She is looking for volunteers to help with the table. The Junior League of Tyler presents the event. The period is from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM. We will have information flyers regarding Delta Gems and Delta Academy to share with around three hundred young girls who will be walking through.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

President Tonia Bickham reminded the support requested from Emmett J. Scott High School Reunion.

Emmett J. Scott High School Reunion June 27-29, 2025. Class of 1970. The event will be at the WT Brookshire Convention Center. Support is requested to help with the event. Tickets are \$175.00 per person and will include a T-shirt, access to events, a swag bag, and a souvenir booklet. A Table sponsorship is available for \$1750.00. A table will host ten participants. A souvenir booklet ad can be supported. Ads start at \$25.00 and go up to \$150.00 for a full-page ad. President Tonia Bickham shared the number of TAC members who came from Emmett J. Scott, and we should support with a purchase of a full-page ad in the amount of \$150.00. Soror Vera Moore made the motion to purchase a full-page ad in the amount of \$150.00 for the Emmett J. Scott High School Reunion. Soror Denise Pendleton seconded the motion. The motion was voted and passed.

Soror Leora Coleman announced the cost of the taxes paid for the Delta Service Center was over the budget amount that was proposed. The amount proposed was \$ 2750.00. The actual tax amount was \$3219.96. This left a difference in the amount \$469.96. Soror Leora Coleman made the motion to move this amount from the contingency budget to cover this shortfall. No second was needed. The taxes have been paid. The motion passed.

Announcements

Soror Christiana Guthrie announced in the chat: The youth initiative programs have an Instagram page and encouraged those to follow and like.

Soror Monique Hawkins is requesting some form of support for the collegiate Sorors to attend the regional and national events. Please reach out to hear what steps to take to assist.

TAC DST 02.01.2025

Soror Denise Pendleton has requested new members to join the Panhellenic. The meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of the month. She will include you all in the email correspondence.

The State Meeting in March/The Woodlands will host advisor training, and it is encouraging. It is set for Friday, March 14, 2025. You can attend the advisor's training if you are not attending the state meeting.

Shout Outs

Vice President Johnita Ward shared her daughter was awarded the teacher of the month for the district. She is a Kindergarten teacher at Bell Elementary.

Soror Pam Erwin shared on February 21, 2025, Caldwell Alliance will have its Community Black history program. A recipient will be honored with the Pam Erwin Legacy Award in Dance.

February Birthdays were acknowledged by a video/song. (Gracie's Corner Birthday Song)

The business meeting concluded at 12:12 PM followed by the ritualistic closing.

Submitted by,

Collette Stec
Recording Secretary
cstec@ymail.com