

**Tyler Alumnae Chapter  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
April 11, 2026**

The monthly chapter meeting of the Tyler Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., was held at True Vine Baptist Church at 713 W. Oakwood Street in Tyler, Texas.

Vice President Johnita Ward presided over the meeting and began with the ritualistic opening starting at 10:03 am serving as President. Soror Denise Pendleton completed the duties of Vice President.

The presence of a quorum at 10:14 am was announced and the business meeting started. An announcement for registering to vote for the upcoming officer elections was made and instructions given. Vice President thanked the chapter for their patience and flexibility as it came to moving in larger area to accommodate the numbers for the meeting.

Vice President Johnita Ward presented the agenda to be adopted. Lashonda Malrey-Horn made the motion to adopt the agenda as displayed and Soror Valita Waits seconded.

Approval of March 2026 minutes. Minutes were loaded to the chapter's website on April 9, 2026, for the TAC members to review. The motion to approve minutes for March 2026, was made by Soror Erika Smiley and Soror Kimberly Palmer seconded the motion. The minutes were voted upon with an overwhelming passing and one opposed vote cast by Soror Hollisia Allen. Soror Hollisia Allen said she opposed based on not reading the minutes.

**President's Report**

President Tonia Bickham was absence on this date. However, Vice President Johnita Ward read aloud her message to the chapter. The message was also presented on the screen to allow the members to read along. Encouragement was given to all those running for the officers' positions. Delta Days at the Capital trip was mentioned and the Social Action updates will be shared by the Chair Soror Melissa Williams.

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

QR code to be in the Group Me for the upcoming regional was presented. So that all interested will be able to sign up. This allows us to communicate with one another.

A request was made to aid with gifts for regional officers transitioning out of their positions. The gifts will be awarded at the upcoming regional conference in Grapevine,

Texas 2026. It is asked to donate \$50.00 for alumnae chapter and \$25.00 for collegiate chapters. This action item will be voted on under New Business.

**Emergency Response Team/ERT**

Soror Karla Thomas was absent at today's meeting and Soror Dorothy Jackson reviewed the exit doors and exit strategies for the building. It was encouraged to review and sign up for safety information on health, banking/financial information.

**Corresponding Secretary**

Thank you card from the family of Soror Dorothy Wideman.

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. The link is posted in the newsletter and in the Group Me format. This item will be voted on later.

March 26, 2026, DID Compliance was completed for TAC.

Bishop Rodney Atkins will be having a celebration on May 9, 2026, @11:00 am, on the campus of Jarvis Christian University. The tickets cost \$100.00 per person. 214.631.9493 can be called to get a ticket.

**Budget and Finance**

Soror Hollisia Allen (Financial Secretary) reported the following:

Dues: \$2250.99

Reinstatement Fees: \$76.05

May Week: \$6986.23

Social Action/Reimbursement of \$602.97

*March received a total of \$9826.24.*

February 2026 was not verified at this meeting.

It is still an item that will need to be addressed on a later date.

Soror Leora Coleman (Treasurer) presented the following for March 2026:

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

Received for the month: *\$9826.24.*

Beginning balance: \$28,200.63

Disbursements: \$5970.22

Ending Balance: \$31,056.65

Savings: \$1000.00 was transferred

Savings: \$2808.30 Interest was \$1.41. Balance: \$3209.71

Soror LaShonda Malrey-Horn questioned how the budget works since it is based on January to December year. Soror Leora Coleman explained that the budget is a calendar year and programming is designed to cover the months. The budget is reviewed quarterly. Soror LaShonda Malrey-Horn gave her opinion on why it is not over two programming years instead of the physical year. The operation budget is given in the

Fall for the programs. The budget runs across two sorority chapter years but it is one fiscal year. The budget is based on the numbers of paid chapter members.

### **Community Service**

Soror Collette Stec shared the upcoming events for May.

The Go Red for Women event is set for May 1, 2026, at the Willow Brook Country Club. 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Sorors who are volunteering are the following: Soror Melissa Williams, Soror Sonya Taylor, Soror Hollisia Allen, Soror Vickie Jackson, Soror Nerissa Cato, and President Tonia Bickham.

There is an opportunity to volunteer and help on April 30, 2026, sort and get things ready. Soror Dorothy Jackson and Soror Karla Thomas are signed up.

Soror Collette Stec announced the construction of the mobile library will be completed by a friend for the item to be built and completed during the officers' term.

CASA, "Caught Doing Good" fundraiser is April 24, 2026, looking to get chapter members to commit to helping with this event. Participants are asked to reach out to their network in hopes of raising money for CASA. A sign-up is available and this will be completed during business hours.

May 16, 2026, March of Dimes Walk at Rose Rudman Park in Tyler, Texas. Soror Melissa Williams is the Team Captain. This is an initiative to support maternal health. Please sign up to be on the team and donate.

Building Wealth event is set for today the Career Technology Building in Tyler, Texas. The event starts at 9:00 am and concludes in the afternoon. It was encouraged to support the event after chapter meeting.

Love They City is requesting volunteers. August 22, 2026, on Saturday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. This will be at the WT Brookshires Conference Center in Tyler, Texas.

October 31, 2026, is the Alzheimer's Walk. Soror Karla Thomas is the Team Captain for the Team and will be needing members to join the team to raise money and to bring awareness.

### **Economic Development/Physical and Mental Health**

Soror Emauri Watson is the Chair of Economic Development.

April is being viewed as Financial Literacy Month. On April 30, 2026, Southside Bank will be presenting at the Tyler Metro Chamber Building on Gentry Parkway. The event starts at 6:00 pm and it is asked for all to come out and support. This is the first mini-series.

The next Economic Committee meeting is held by Zoom and will occur this upcoming Monday.

June's session will be wills, trusts, and end of life care. Mini-series will be held in the months prior to September 2026. It is encouraged for all to attend to support the initiative.

The mini-series dates are:

June 18, 2026, and August 30, 2026. They start at 6:00 pm and will be held at the Tyler Metro Building on Gentry Parkway.

Soror Emauri Watson shared their will be series of mini-series 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.

The Standing on Business event is set for September 19, 2026, at the CTC/TISD Building in Tyler, Texas. Soror Emauri Watson shared we all need to be on deck to help with the event, the day of and at the committee meetings. The sign-up sheet was presented, however, no one signed up last month. Soror Emauri Watson shared how important it is, and we all will need to make this a success.

Soror Emauri Watson shared the community baby shower and the partnership with NetHealth event date and place may change based on the church (College Hill) being used for a funeral service. \$700.00 in donations have been secured as well as those who ordered from the Amazon Wish List. The baskets for the new mothers will hold the following: Dreft Laundry Soap, Diapers, Desitin, and Baby Wipes. Fifty Baskets (for fifty mothers) will be made. Each basket is worthed \$35.00.

Sorors are needed to help when it comes to registration and food service. April 11-18<sup>th</sup> is week of Black Maternal Health. The event will also have community resource providers to support the young mothers.

The event may be completed on the 25<sup>th</sup> if the funeral occurs. If not, it will stand on the listed date.

Soror Hollisia Allen shared a chapter member has donated during the meeting today to aid with the purchases.

Vice President Johnita Ward also did a push to encourage members to join the call for Economic Development (Standing on Business).

### **Election Committee**

Soror Latoya Wofford is the Chair of the Election Committee and provided the instructions and gave the directive of 15 minutes will be allowed to complete the ballot. The election voting is anonymous and is not a google/jot form. The Wi-Fi code for those to access their emails and internet were provided. There was a moment when a lag of connection was presented. This delay allowed the election to be paused, and the agenda items were continued.

### **Fundraising**

Soror Shanna Hawkins, the Chair for Fundraising was absent on this day. Vice President Johnita Ward shared about the event known as the Freedom Friday celebration for Juneteenth. Please save the date. The event will be on Friday, June 12, 2026, at the Meeting Place. The event's goal is to raise money and will be economical for the community to attend. The proceeds will support scholarships and community projects for 2027. The event cost will be \$35.00 for advanced tickets and \$40.00 at the door price. The ticket sales information will be released soon. It is asked that the chapter support the event.

### **Housing**

Soror Shunetta Reed the Housing Chair and presented the following: The Bless this House Campaign started on January 1, 2026- December 31, 2026. Once money is generated it will be used quickly to make the repairs. The goal is \$50,000. All contributions are accepted. Soror Shunetta Reed explained the custom amounts to set up payment or make a onetime payment. 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
- \$1000.00 Crimson Patron
- \$2500.00 Pyramid Builder
- \$5000.00 Sisterhood Sustainer

As of March 2026, the amount collected is \$3249.83. Soror Shunetta Reed shared we are not waiting to get to \$50,000 but will do the repairs as soon as the money comes available. The next issue to be addressed is the foundation issues.

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. You will get a confirmation email once you have reserved the Delta Service Center.

Soror Shunetta Reed if you have any questions about the Delta Service Center.

214.302.9517 is her number and can be reached. If you see something, please report soon so that it may be addressed. This form is anonymous in reporting.

Soror Valita Waits was interested in knowing if the requests to donate were made for the public. Soror Monique Hawkins shared the Gamma Epsilon chapter members have donated a coffee maker to the house.

### **May Week 2026**

Soror Collette Stec thanked the chapter for their support with ticket sales on this date. Ticket costs are \$65.00 individual. Table sales have ended.

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 online will end on April 17, 2026. The event is set for May 3, 2026, Sunday starting promptly at 1:30pm. The attire is Red. (Dress or pants is acceptable)

Thanks were given to those who were active at the recent meeting where scoring was completed and the choice of six scholarship recipients. The review of those being acknowledged for May Week 2026 was recited to the chapter.

### **Scholarship Recipients/Certificates**

Miuna Davis

Early College High School Tyler Texas

University of Texas Tyler/Nursing

Ollie Crawford Trailblazer Scholarship

Gabriella Perdomo

Tyler High

Baylor

Scholarship in Memory of Soror Bertha McAfee.

Addyson Turrentine

Hawkins High

Texas AM/College Station

Nichole Baldwin

Legacy High

Austin College

\*Spring 2023/ 29 Levels of Resilience

Isabella McNeil

Legacy High

UT Austin

Khylee Lewis

Palestine High

UT Tyler

\*Spring 2017/15 Reflections of Distinction

### **High School Legatees**

1. Jordan Tucker Early College High School and Associates Degree from Tyler Junior College
2. Jonathan Martin Tyler High School
3. Aamiyah Warren Tyler High School

**College Legatees**

Andrew Williams East Texas A&M University  
Master of Science in Health, Kinesiology & Sports Medicine

Courtney A'maree Cato University Sam Houston State University -Bachelor of Science with a  
Major in Kinesiology

Adrian Lacy Prairie View A&M University with Bachelor of  
Science in Mechanical Engineering Degree

Aleesia Hester University of Texas Dallas Bachelor of Arts in Criminology

La'Krissa Hester Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with Concentration in Pre-Vet medicine

**Delta Gems and Academy Senior**

1. Khayzana Stewart Whitehouse High School

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Deltas and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Deltas**

1. Gisele Abron Spring 2001
2. Christie Starks Fall 2000
3. Kimberly Palmer Spring 2001
4. Lynnette Opal Montgomery 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Delta Achievement Award**

1. Cisely Isabell Masters

**College Transitional Sorors**

**University of Texas at Tyler**

1. Amari Evans Bachelors of Applied Arts and Sciences-Health Occupations
2. Gentle Hall Bachelors of Science in Nursing
3. Markita Lane Bachelors of Applied Arts and Science  
(BAAS) Psychology in Human Behavior
4. Victoria Meankins Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science- Social Work
5. Madyson Tate Bachelor of Science of Civil Engineering
6. Sydney Nelson Bachelors of Science Technology

**Texas College**

1. Rochanda Holman Bachelor of Social Work
2. Charnaë Warren Bachelor of Business

**Jarvis Christian University**

1. Evelyn Smoot Bachelor of Business Administration Cyber Security
2. Charisma Williams Bachelors of Science Kinesiology

**Community Sponsors**

1. Southside Bank
2. Guild Mortgage
3. Greater Texas Capital Corporation/Lending Avenue
4. TAPS Tyler Area Public Service Foundation

The May Week Theme is *Power, Poise and Purpose*. Our very own Dr. Kendra Bircher is our keynote speaker.

Tickets sales have increased. Soror Cailon Dorsey was added to the Delta Achievement for earning her Masters.

Soror Collette Stec shared April 21, 2026, is our next meeting Zoom. This meeting will review the run of the show and name those who have committed to being on the program. If a name has been left off to please reach out to Soror Collette Stec to include for acknowledgements at the May Week event.

**Social Action/Political Awareness and Involvement**

Soror Melissa Williams is the Chair. The important dates and timeline for 2026 voting dates were announced and presented on the screen. A QR Code will be provided to access to check to see your voter registration status. The Do's and Don'ts will be sent as a reminder on how to conduct oneself.

**T.R.I.B.E.**

Soror Denise Pendleton, who shared the T.R.I.B.E. new launch was made and this announcement was placed in the newsletter. A Zoom will be set up for those Sorors to start their TRIBE engagements. A date has not been established.

Soror Denise Pendleton shared the information included in the newsletter. You must go into the body of the newsletter to view. Tips to get involved, encouraged monthly meeting in person or virtual, reach out to your group to be engaged. It was also suggested for tribes come together as a group to do activities. Soror Denise Pendleton gave the reminder to complete the member profile sheet and submit. The link to complete the member profile will be sent out again as well as in the newsletter.

**Youth Initiatives/Delta Gems and Academy**

Soror April Mims is the Co-Chair and presented for Delta Gems and Delta Academy. The last meeting was held on March 28, 2026, at the Delta Service Center. Soror Krystal Hester was the guest speaker and the topic, (Game Plan for the Future). Setting smart and attainable goals. The participants also created succulent plants along with affirmations. The next Zoom committee meeting is set for April 21, 2026, and the end of the year session is April 25, 2026. This event is a Tea-rific and it recognizes all the young ladies' hard work.

Soror Christiana Guthrie expressed a need to support the event with a donation/gift of \$20.00 to help support/sponsor. This will help with gifts for the 18 to 20 participants.

### **New Business**

Vice President Johnita Ward announced a request was made to aid with gifts for regional officers transitioning out of their positions. The gifts will be awarded at the upcoming regional conference in Grapevine, Texas 2026. It is asked to donate \$50.00 for alumnae chapter and \$25.00 for collegiate chapters. Soror Jodie Scott Ward made the motion for the chapter to support the gift by sending \$50.00. Soror Yolanda Prince seconded. A vote was announced and it passed.

Soror Pauline Barnes shared the National Sickle Cell donations. The hope is the link to be shared to garner monies for Sickle Cell. This is at national level, but it is from the local area. The link will be sent out for others to donate. Any amount is accepted. No motion was made. No action needed.

### **Shout Outs/Announcement**

The new Sorors from Gamma Epsilon. A total of eleven were initiated last month.

Soror Sharmecia Mitchell Jackson was selected as one of the Top Twenty educators at Tyler High.

Soror Johnita Ward announced her son Jonathan Martin was presented as one of the Top Twenty Student he ranks eighteen out of 496 students.

Aamiyah Warren has a full ride to Texas Southern University. She is the daughter of Jasmine Taylor.

Soror Devon Thompson was awarded the Faculty of the Year from Jarvis Christian University.

Soror Kim Palmer announced the items being bought for Delta Gems/Academy items will be posted in the Group Me format so all can see what your donation will be supporting. The gift will get journals, stickers, gel pens, and other small items for them.

Soror Yolanda Prince is employed with Prairie View A&M announced the following. Summer Youth Program will be at the CTC/TISD Building on May 2, 2026, starting at 10:00 am to 2:00pm. They are looking to have vendors or any youth serving program to be apart and all are welcomed to attend.

Soror Denise Pendleton shared from the league of Women Voters will meet on April 23, 2026, Thursday at 6:30 by a Zoom meeting. The meeting will share information on where you go when it comes to casting your vote and election needs.

Soror Denise Pendleton said we are finding out even registered voters do not understand what is going on. We have people thinking the local election was the primary runoff. May 2, 2026, is the local and then there is a primary election on May 26, 2026. The Zoom meeting is open to the public. We have been out at the different college campuses for voter registration, and we have over one hundred new registered voters.

There is a push to get college students to come because they have never voted. The information presented will share information about the new precincts, school board areas, and the candidates. Valuable information to be aware of.

Soror Denise Pendleton shared the information on the Panhellenic Meeting. All are invited to attend. The meetings are at 2:00 pm every fourth Saturday. Last month the meeting took place at the Black History Museum located on Martin Luther King.

Vice President Johnita Ward shared the importance of voting and spoke on different instances on candidates winning by less than 5 percent of the voting population.

Vice President announced the Seniors Awards Ceremony is set for Thursday, April 30, 2026, at the Tyler High School Theatre 6:30 to 8:00 pm

April birthdays were recognized.

The next meeting is set for May 2, 2026, at the Delta Service Center starting at 10:00 am and will complete the installation of officers.

### **Election Committee**

Soror Latoya Wofford is the Chair of the Election Committee and provided the instructions and gave the directive of 15 minutes to complete the ballot. The ballot is a google document to be completed. Results will remain anonymous and no one will know who you voted for. The Election Committee was allowed to meet in a private room to tabulate the results.

### **Elections Results:**

Officers' Election Results for the 2026-2028 are the following and were read by Soror Latoya Wofford:

Keeper of Properties- Soror Tonia Bickham

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one, received fifty-eight votes with zero illegal votes.

Historian- Denise Pendleton

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one, received fifty-nine votes with zero illegal votes.

Members of the Nominating Committee:

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed is thirty-one.

Soror Kiara McArthur received fifty votes.

Soror Kimberly Miller received forty-five votes.

Soror Nikita Rogers received forty-four votes.

Soror Alyce Randle received forty-eight votes.

Zero illegal votes.

Chair of the Internal Audit Committee-Soror Valerie Palmer

Fifty-nine votes were cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one, received fifty-three votes, with zero illegal votes.

Chair of the Nominating Committee- Soror Tiffanie Goudy

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one, received fifty-six votes, with zero illegal votes.

Assistant Financial Secretary- Sharmecia Mitchell Jackson

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one, received fifty-eight votes with zero illegal votes.

Financial Secretary

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one.

Soror Hollisia Allen received ten votes.

Soror Monique Hawkins received twelve votes.

Soror Emauri Watson received thirty-seven votes.

Zero illegal votes.

Corresponding Secretary-Soror Christie Starks

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one, received fifty-six votes with zero illegal votes.

Treasurer-Soror Leora Coleman

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one, received fifty-seven votes with zero illegal votes.

Recording Secretary-Soror Vivianne McGowan

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one, received fifty-five votes with zero illegal votes.

Vice President

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one.

Soror Hollisia Allen received two votes.

Soror Sonya Taylor received eight votes.

Soror Valerie Palmer received twenty-eight votes.

Soror Collette Stec received twenty-one votes.

This will require a run-off since no one received the majority vote of thirty-one.

President- Soror Dorothy Jackson

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one, received fifty-one votes with zero illegal votes.

Soror Latoya Wofford shared with it being a run-off for the office of Vice President, the same manner of voting will be used and gave the instructions when it came to voting for Soror Valerie Palmer and Soror Collette Stec.

Vice President Johnita Ward confirmed the election results and declared the following as the winners:

Keeper of Properties- Soror Tonia Bickham (declared winner)

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one, received fifty-eight votes with zero illegal votes.

Historian- Denise Pendleton (declared winner)

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one, received fifty-nine votes with zero illegal votes.

Members of the Nominating Committee:

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed is thirty-one.

Soror Kiara McArthur received fifty votes (declared winner)

Soror Kimberly Miller received forty-five votes (declared winner)

Soror Nikita Rogers received forty-four votes (declared winner)

Soror Alyce Randle received forty-eight votes (declared winner)

Zero illegal votes.

Chair of the Internal Audit Committee-Soror Valerie Palmer (declared winner)

Fifty-nine votes were cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one, received fifty-three votes, with zero illegal votes.

Chair of the Nominating Committee- Soror Tiffanie Goudy (declared winner)

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one, received fifty-six votes, with zero illegal votes.

Assistant Financial Secretary- Sharmecia Mitchell Jackson (declared winner)

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one, received fifty-eight votes with zero illegal votes.

Financial Secretary

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one.

Soror Hollisia Allen received ten votes.

Soror Monique Hawkins received twelve votes.

Soror Emauri Watson received thirty-seven votes (declared winner)

Zero illegal votes.

Corresponding Secretary-Soror Christie Starks (declared winner)

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one, received fifty-six votes with zero illegal votes.

Treasurer-Soror Leora Coleman (declared winner)

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one, received fifty-seven votes with zero illegal votes.

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Recording Secretary-Soror Vivianne McGowan (declared winner)

Fifty-nine votes cast, the majority votes needed thirty-one, received fifty-five votes with zero illegal votes.

Vice President Run-Off

Fifty-one votes were cast, the majority needed twenty-nine.

Soror Valerie Palmer received twenty-nine votes (declared winner)

Soror Collette Stec received twenty-two votes.

Soror Valerie Palmer shared her officer preference is the Vice President position. This will allow a vacancy for the office of Chair of the Internal Audit Committee. This will be appointed in the next 30 days by President Tonia Bickham.

The business meeting concluded at 12:45 pm and the ritualistic closing followed.

Submitted by Collette Stec

Recording Secretary

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