

# The Bustle

Editors: Karen Sweet-Angel & Sherry Sweet

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February 2026

## Beta Sigma Phi—Southwest Houston City Council President's Message

Hello sisters,

It is a joy to reach out to you as we settle into the new year. I want to start by extending a heartfelt **thank you** to those who attended our January Council meeting.

A special thank you to our sisters of **LIO** for hosting us. Your presentation on our BSP Angels was truly moving; it was a beautiful, touching tribute to the sisters who have passed but remain forever in our hearts

### Looking Toward February

Unfortunately, there was only a small turnout for such a meaningful meeting. Remember that our Council thrives on the presence and voices of all our members! I want to personally encourage each of you to join us for our next gathering.

**What:** SWHCC February Meeting (Hosted by XAEO)

**When:** Thursday, February 12, 2026

**Time:** Beta Buzz at 5:30 PM | Meeting at 6:30 PM

**Where:** Hilton Garden Inn Sugar Land (722 Bonaventure Way)

**RSVP:** By the afternoon of **Monday, February 9th**

**Why your attendance (and RSVP) matters:** Beyond the joy of mingling with our sisters, attending is vital to our partnership with the Hilton. They generously provide our meeting space free of charge, and our support of their food and beverage service is how we show our gratitude and maintain this relationship. Additionally, an accurate RSVP count ensures the room is set up comfortably for everyone.

**If you are not receiving regular email communications, please let me know so we can ensure you stay in the loop**

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# President's Message (continued)

## Upcoming Events & Reminder

**The Sweetheart Ball - "An Evening at Tiffany's"** deadline is February 2nd! Jill Coble, Pam McDuffie, and their team are planning a spectacular evening on **February 21, 2026**, at the DoubleTree Greenway Plaza

**Action Needed:** Please notify the committee as soon as your Chapter Sweetheart is named .

**Reservations:** Make your hotel reservations before January 31st.

**Payment:** Chapters should send **one check** with a list of all attending members and guests.

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**"Sister With Something Extra"** Start thinking about that special sister in Council who consistently goes above and beyond. Nominations for this award will be due soon—keep an eye out for more details.

**Angels of Friendship;** I call upon our "Angels of Friendship" to help spread warmth and sisterhood. Please take a moment to reach out to the sisters on our prayer request list; a small note or call means the world.

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I truly hope to see a full room on February 12th as we enjoy the Beta Buzz and the hospitality of XAEO. These events are also a wonderful opportunity to introduce a potential new member to the magic of BSP!

Until then, stay warm, stay safe, and "May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from another."

I am thy sister,

**Jeanne Melton**  
SWHCC President



# This and That.....News from Council

**Editor Notes:**

Welcome to February 2026 where we find ourselves celebrating those we love as well as our Chapter "Sweethearts."

We hope to see all of you at the Sweetheart Ball on Saturday February 21. Let's support our Sweetheart Ball committee and attend this amazing event. Invite friends and relatives to enjoy this night that looks like it will be an outstanding "Evening at Tiffany's" with live music and casino tables.

"Sisters are like fragrant roses and are the greatest gift of life. They lift your spirits to newer heights and make you feel special. "

Happy Valentine's Day to all of our sisters.

Beta hugs.  
Karen & Sherry



Council
Meeting

Mark your calendars for the next City Council meeting February 12, 2026

Remember, Beta Buzz starts around 5:00pm and the Council meeting starts at 6:30pm, hosted this month by the XAEO.

Hostess Schedule 2025-2026	
February 12, 2026	XAEO
March 12, 2026	PN
April 9, 2026	TBD
May 14, 2026	NEW BOARD



## “Everything OLD is NEW Again”

### MOMENTS OF AWARENESS

So much of life we all pass by  
With heedless ear, and careless eye.  
Bent with our cares we plod along,  
Blind to the beauty, deaf to the song.

But moments there are when we pause to rest  
And turn our eyes from the goal's far crest.  
We become aware of the wayside flowers,  
And sense God's hand in this world of ours.

We hear a refrain, see a rainbow's end,  
Or we look into the heart of a friend.  
We feel at one with mankind. We share  
His griefs and glories, joy and care.

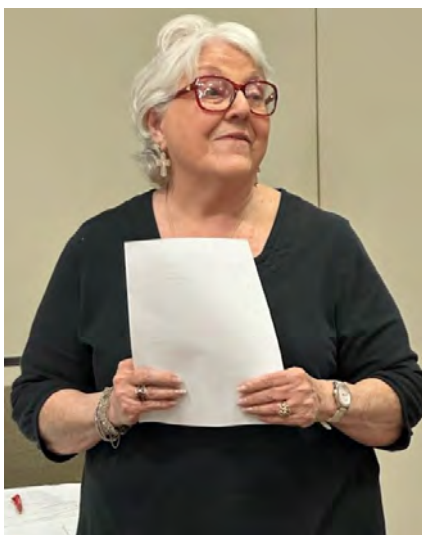
The sun flecks gold through the sheltering trees,  
And we shoulder our burdens with twice the ease.  
Peace and content and a world that sings  
The moment of true awareness brings.



## January 2026 Southwest Houston City Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order and started with the Program from LIO, given by Mary Crochet, Barbara Hupe, Vicky Ryan and Joan Batts. Each honored a sister from their current or past chapter who had passed. The four women honored were Sheila - Determination and Victory; Sue Carson - Wisdom and Strength; Jane Eaton - Grace and Knowledge; and June Ryan - Courage and Hope. Two characteristics were chosen for each sister honored with a brief description of how the characteristics were demonstrated. Members also discussed the presence of an angel in their lives.

A prize was given after each women honored. Winners were Renita Hudson (XAEO) - candle, Chris Jones (XAEO), Diane Leive (ADT), and Mickie Wright (PN) - Angel ornaments and figurines. Members also discussed the presence of an angel in their life.



## Prize Winners



During the meeting it was noted that the International Website posted that The Torch would no longer be emailed. It can, however, be accessed on the website. Two new members were announced for XAEO, Kim Horvitz and Sandra Simpson (previously a Member at Large.)



Information was shared about the upcoming Sweetheart Ball. The RSVP deadline is February 2, but the hotel reservation deadline is January 31. Please make your reservations as soon as possible. The menu will include: salad, rolls, chicken piccata, Parmesan risotto, asparagus. Dessert is Italian cream cake. The band In Time will be there along with some casino tables.

Rita Mayo shared information about some upcoming BSP Conventions around the country. Check out this month's Bustle and the International website for more information.

**Announcements:** Sister with Something Extra is due in February. Member degree updates need to be sent to International before Founder's Day.

Jeanne Melton also had prizes of Sensy wax melts and angel charms.



Happy Valentine's Day

## CONVENTIONS ATTENDED

**"Holidays in the Desert"** Beta Sigma Phi Convention trip in October began in Phoenix, AZ. SWHCC was represented by Barbara Meurer, Melinda Montgomery, Miriam Langford and Rita Mayo. We arrived a few days early and went on a road trip to Sedona, AZ where we shopped, ate and saw several of Sedona's finest attractions.

**Ancient Ruins Pink Jeep Tour of the Sinagua Cliff Dwellings**, a Honanki Heritage Site. Where ancient Sinagua people lived and worked AD 1150 & 1350. Thank goodness for seat belts.



**Chapel of the Holy Cross** is rated #1 of the best attractions. St. Anthony helped us find a parking spot. Lunch at **Mesa Grill Sedona** located next to the **Sedona Airport Scenic Lookout**.



Cottonwood, AZ where we window shopped and visited the **Merkin Vineyards Hilltop Winery** where we had a glass of wine perched on a hilltop in old historic Cottonwood. Yes we climbed all those stairs to the top even though there was a funicular that we could have ridden.



Thank you to Melinda for sharing her SWHCC 50-50 winnings on our wine. Not sure if "19 Crimes" were achieved but the wine was great. One crime was avoided by catching an unsuspecting old couple stealing Barbara's luggage.



On Friday we packed up our things and headed back to Phoenix to check-in to the Crown Plaza Golf Resort to begin the convention. There were 189 attendees from 15 states including British Columbia. Friday night was a **Cinco de Mayo Margarita Mixer** where we were served a Mexican Buffet with Dance Lessons by a local Dance Company. Saturday morning "**Let's Get Batty Brunch**" and skit contest. The winner was a chapter from Douglas, AZ Xi Psi performing "Hormone Hell". Joke of the day "Why do witches not have babies? Because the warlocks have Hollow Weenies".



Visited the "**Thanksgiving Day Market Place**" and purchased a few goodies and raffle tickets but no lucky winners this year! The **BSP Cookie** was ALMOST too beautiful to eat. We were invited to an afternoon "**Happy Hour**" by a fun Tucson chapter and joined by members of the Douglas, AZ chapter. It was a fun way to get to know them better.

Saturday night event was the "**Silver and Gold Christmas Ball**" with DJ and dancing. Sunday morning closed out the convention with a "**Patriotic Holidays Brunch**". Not a dry eye in the room!

We really enjoyed this convention and met so many wonderful women!  
Beta Hugs,  
Rita Mayo, Convention Chairman





**UPCOMING BETA SIGMA PHI  
STATE CONVENTIONS**



2026 BETA SIGMA PHI  
COLORADO CONVENTION

June 26-28, 2026  
Chamonix Casino Hotel  
Cripple Creek, Colorado

2026  
Beta Sigma Phi  
Quadra State  
Convention  
July 17 - 19, 2026  
Reno, Nevada



## UPCOMING CONENTIONS



NEW YORK STATE  
CONVENTION  
COOPERSTOWN, NY

OCTOBER 2-4, 2026

**ΒΣΦ**  
**Angels at Sea**  
7-Day Caribbean Cruise  
**Symphony of the Seas**  
Cruising out of Galveston • October 18, 2026

Roatan • Puerto Maya • Cozumel  
Beta Sigma Phi Sisters and Friends

I/S	\$797.01
O/V	\$920.01
Balcony	\$1,196.01

\$50 Deposit

[www.vleetravel.com](http://www.vleetravel.com)  
713.392.0114

These are a few of the upcoming state conventions around the country. Check the BSP International website for more conventions and additional information.

*Darlings!*

*You are cordially invited to*

*"An Evening at Tiffany's"*




Beta Sigma Phi  
Southwest Houston City Council  
Sweetheart Ball

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026  
6 pm in the Evening

Double Tree by Hilton

6 E Greenway Plaza  
Plaza Ballroom- 20<sup>th</sup> floor  
Houston, TX



Tickets - \$65 per person  
RSVP no later than February 2nd

No refunds after February 2nd

Hotel Group Rate \$ 139++ available Feb. 21- 22, 2026

Booking Link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/hougwdt-bsp-6dOcdfdf-8IQ3-4e7I-8b82-5f75c7997e5O/>

Group code: BSP

Reservations must be made by January 31, 2026

\*Reservations can also be made by phone 800-222-TREE (222-8733), providing group dates and group code for Beta Sigma Phi Sweetheart Ball

Darlings, in the true spirit of "Breakfast at Tiffany's", would you please wear your little black dress or something black? Don't forget your utterly fabulous Pearls, Sparkles, and divine costume jewelry!

***FOUNDER'S DAY***  
***SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026***  
***THE CAFE AT BROOKWOOD***  
***More information to follow***



### JANUARY SOCIAL



The ADT social for January took place at the George H.W. Bush Library located at Texas A&M University.

At the Presidential Library & Museum, they believe in President Bush's motto that public service is a noble calling. They strive to educate and promote scholarship related to the life and times of George and Barbara Bush.

Upon arriving on the cold, windy day, we watch a video about his life focusing from his days as a WWII pilot through his presidency and his life after public office.



"and three air medals for his bravery."



*Today was the big day and your loving son is a torpedo bomber selectee. Yes, I got my first choice."*

## ALPHA DELTA THETA....PAGE 2

George Bush became a decorated naval pilot who flew torpedo bombers during World War II. He was shot down on September 2, 1944 while completing a mission over Chi Chi Jima Island and, tragically, lost his two crewmen William "Ted" White and John Delaney.

*"I had faced death and God had spared me. I had this very deep and profound gratitude and sense of wonder... why had I been spared and what did God have in store for me?"*

*Goerge Bush, totally helpless without paddles or water and drifting toward the island he had just bombed.*

After graduating from Yale in 1948 with a degree in economics, George moved to Texas with his wife Barbara. To make his way in the oil industry *"This West Texas is a fabulous place."* *"I am a Texan and an American... what more could a man ask?"*



Always offering an outstretched hand,

Political positions held by George Bush before becoming president.

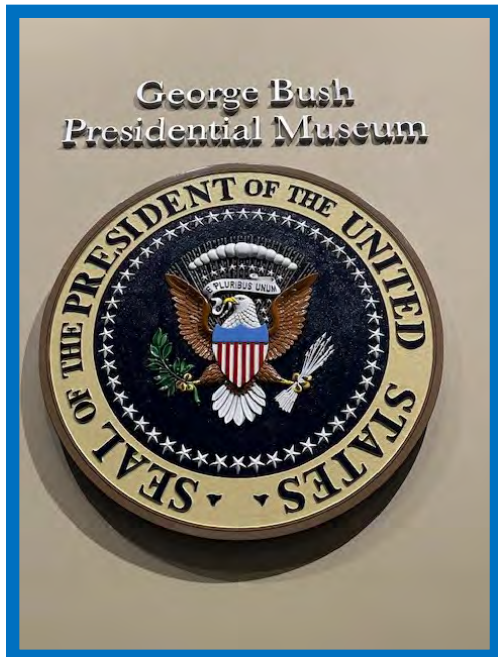
President Bush's career in politics and public service began in February of 1963, when he was elected chairman of the Harris County (Texas) Republican Party. He was elected in 1966 to the U.S. House of Representatives from Texas' Seventh District and served two terms. Before serving as vice president from 1981 to 1989 under Ronald Reagan, President Bush held a number of senior-level positions: Ambassador to the United Nations (1971-1973); Chairman of the Republican National Committee (1973-1974); Chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in China (1974-1976); and Director of Central Intelligence (1976-1977).

# ALPHA DELTA THETA....PAGE 3

During his presidency



During his tenure as president, he passed important legislation, like the 1990 Civil rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.



The locomotive that brought him back to Texas after his death. We are in the picture, just look like ants compared to the size of the locomotive.



we

# ALPHA DELTA THETA...PAGE 4

Our own Madame President, Barbara Meurer, and VP Sherry Sweet.



The President's official limousine,

## JANUARY MEETING

January's ADT meeting took place at the home of Karen Sweet-Angel. As host, she served us a delicious Italian meal consisting of salad, garlic bread, spaghetti and meatballs, chicken parmesan and Fettuccine Alfredo. For dessert there was a chocolate mousse cake. YUMMMM

After dinner, we got down to business, which included introducing our 2 guests: Dana Bays (referred by Joyce Chris) and Kim Franklin (referred by Diane Leive.) This was a first visit for Dana and a second for Kim.



Guest Kim Franklin

Each of our guests won a door prize.



Guest Dana Bays

## ALPHA DELTA THETA...PAGE 6

Barbara reviewed news from the Council meeting, which included information about the Sweetheart Ball. She asked members to have their RSVPs in by January 31. Discussion was made about chapter basket donation to the Sweetheart Ball and it was decided that we would do a gourmet chocolate basket to which each member would contribute something. Upcoming socials were also discussed.

Following our chapter program of "Angels of the Month", Karen gave a program about Gabriel, the angel for January. For January, Archangel Gabriel is often cited as the general guardian angel, bringing clarity, purpose, creativity, and communication skills, helping January-born individuals speak their truth and find their path. **Archangel Gabriel** is a revered divine messenger in Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, Christianity, Islam), known as God's emissary who delivers crucial announcements, like the Virgin Mary's conception of Jesus in Christianity and revelations to Muhammad in Islam, serving as a symbol of communication, inspiration, and divine will, often depicted with a lily, and patron of messengers.



Karen then had a game for everyone. Each person wrote down a New Year resolution. All of them were read and sisters had to pick which resolution belonged to which sister. Melinda won, getting 8 out of 10 correct.

Here they are. Can you guess who they belong to?

Go back to the gym on a regular basis.

To complete my resolutions from 2010.

Travel and hopefully meet Mr. Wrong.

Organize my closets and get rid of junk I don't need.

Keep learning every day.

Travel and have more fun.

Try to be nice to my husband.

Stay away from the cookies!

Nothing but fun. No drama for 2026.

Clean out my closets.

Melinda won a bottle of wine and two stemless wine glasses with yellow roses on them.

**Door prize winners**



## ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Happiest of birthdays to Barbara Meurer and Melinda Montgomery, our January birthday girls.



Sylvia had a fun trip in January 2026 to Puerto Rico where she had the best Pina Colada she's ever had.



No cooking in Sylvia's kitchen during the cold snap.



# LAUREATE IOTA OMEGA

REPORTER: BARBARA HUPE

Sorry we missed last month. In December we celebrated the holidays at Alex's Kitchen. After a delicious meal, we returned to Barbara Hupe's house for dessert. We were very excited to have a former XEE sister Jean Ranum come visit. She hasn't been back to Texas for 15 years. It was wonderful getting to catch up.



At Barbara's we wrapped gifts for our Service Project. Every year we adopt a family and fill the children's wish list. Of course some of us are more talented than others and really made each package look beautiful.



## LAUREATE IOTA OMEGA ... PAGE 2



As is our tradition we tried to figure out who our SS was. Everyone loved opening their gifts and enjoyed watching others do the same. Finally, we played a little game to reveal our Sweetheart. **Vicky Ryan** was very surprised and excited.



Joan Batt's had a delightful afternoon with friends at Four Friends Tea Room. She also caught up with a former student Rebekah Kammerling.



## LAUREATE IOTA OMEGA ...PAGE 3



Joan spends a lot of time with her children and got the perfect Christmas picture.



Shirley Grass got to spend the holidays with family in Fort Worth. Now she's dealing with some health issues.



Bobbie Viles is scheduled for eye surgery on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Her son and daughter-in-law have been staying with her. She's hoping she will be able to drive at night afterwards. It has really put a damper on her wild social life!!!

## LAUREATE IOTA OMEGA ... PAGE 4

Barbara Hupe got to spend a weekend in Grapevine, TX where she and her daughter got in the Christmas spirit. She also got a visit from Becky Fuller, Last week she had a surprise visit from an old friend who moved to Maryland. It was such fun reminiscing,



Of course Mary and Joan are once again on a cruise and missing our cold weather.

Hope to see everyone at the  
Sweetheart Ball.



STAY PAW-SITIVE



[bellsandwishes.com](http://bellsandwishes.com)



## A JAZZY NEW YEAR'S EVE TO REMEMBER



## PRECEPTOR NU...PAGE 2

New Year's Eve was extra special for our sister, Shawn, who rang in 2026 in unforgettable style! She was invited to the North Houston home of a semi-retired, world-renowned jazz saxophonist—a man whose success has made him more than a millionaire. The celebration featured delicious food, an open bar, and live performances by three jazz bands right in his living room. At midnight, the night lit up with a spectacular fireworks display launched from his front yard. Shawn calls it the most memorable New Year's Eve she's ever experienced—and we can easily see why!



Shawn with the host, Donny



### BLOOM & BEE

Shawn & I discovered a lovely new luncheon spot in the Galleria area. It's The Bloom & Bee at The Post Oak Hotel.

It is a delight in beautiful shades of pink, including hand blown pink glass ceiling flowers. Plus, their fresh flowers are breathtaking in their beauty; & our food was delicious, as well!!!



# PRECEPTOR NU...PAGE 4

## PN JAN. CHAPTER MEETING:

Our PN Jan. Chapter Meeting Program was on Popcorn & Angels. Prizes were awarded for correct answers to questions such, Name 3 movies with Angel in the Title. Beverly Saunders & Suzy Penny won beautiful plaques with Angelic messages



A movie theatre popcorn machine was the center piece for the



### Farewell to Our Newest Sister, Diane Kelly

It is with heartfelt sadness that we share that our newest Sister, Diane Kelly, will be leaving us as she and her husband relocate to Tennessee.

Although her time with our chapter has been brief, Diane has shown the true spirit of sisterhood through her kindness, faith, and thoughtfulness. Many know she recently cared selflessly for her in-laws amid challenging circumstances, demonstrating a quiet strength and loving heart that have deeply touched those around her.

Diane's message to the chapter was full of grace and heartfelt wishes for our members' health and happiness—a reflection of the caring soul she is. While we are truly sorry to see her go, we are also grateful that our paths crossed and that she chose to share a part of her journey with us.

We hope Diane will reach out to Beta Sigma Phi International so that she may be introduced to a Tennessee chapter, where she will find \*instant Sisters and close friends\* ready to welcome her. Diane, thank you for being a part of PN in Texas. You will always have Sisters here who hold you in their hearts and wish you every happiness in your new home.



wishing  
you   
ALL THE BEST

# XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA

REPORTER: JEANA DOROW

## CHAPTER RITUAL

XAEO members celebrated with Kim Horvitz as she underwent her Pledge Ritual at the home of Pam McDuffie. Congratulations, Kim, and welcome to the Chapter.



# XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 2

## CHAPTER SERVICE PROJECT

XAEO Chapter members volunteered at the Helping Hands Food Pantry in Rosenberg-Richmond. Helping Hands is a Fort Bend based organization since 1985, that has been a beacon of hope in the community, providing groceries to feed the hungry, clothe the vulnerable, and provide essential services to those in need.



# XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 3

## CHAPTER MEETING

XAEO Chapter members enjoyed a western theme meeting hosted by Pam McDuffie. Getting geared up for Rodeo season, Pam decorated in a rustic chic western theme. BBQ sandwiches, potato salad, and baked beans was on the menu...delicious!!

Cathy Wilson was welcomed as our guest, visiting the Chapter. Cathy was also the lucky winner of the door prize, a beautiful western clutch just in time for Rodeo. Kim Horvitz was all smiles as she received her official XAEO Chapter yearbook after her Pledge Ritual



## XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 4

### CHAPTER SOCIAL- A TASTE OF TUSCANY

XAEO members participated in an enjoyable evening hosted by Pam and Mark McDuffie, themed "Taste of Tuscany." The XAEO social committee successfully created an authentic Italian ambiance, complete with engaging activities. We invited Cathy and Tim Wilson to join us. Members and their Beta Buddies were served a distinguished dinner featuring pasta, salad, bread, and Italian Crème cake for dessert. A game of Tombola, a holiday tradition in Italy similar to BINGO, was organized and proved popular among attendees. We all came home winners after this fantastic evening.



# XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 5



# XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 6



# XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 7



# XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 8

## SISTER NEWS- Cynde Renteria

I just returned from Park City, where I attended the Sundance Film Festival for the premiere of Christopher's latest film, "American Doctor." The event was thrilling, and witnessing his work showcased on such a major platform was an inspiring experience. Having our family together to watch his achievement made the moment even more special. Seeing Christopher credited as co-photographer was a proud milestone in his growing career, and I'm grateful to witness his ongoing dedication and success as a filmmaker.



# XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 9



# XI ALPHA ZETA

REPORTER: DIANA RAYLE

XAZ brought the New Year in with greetings to all. We had our first meeting of 2026 at Lopez Mexican Restaurant in Richmond Texas off of the Grand Parkway. Hostess for the meeting was Lori Bownds and Co-hosted by Diana Rayle.



*Beta Sigma Phi  
Southwest Houston  
City Council*

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**Motto:  
Life, Learning,  
Friendship**

**ΒΣΦ**



*2025-2026 Executive Board*

*Jeanne Melton — President*

*Joan Batts — President-Elect*

*Diane Leise — Vice President*

*Pam McDuffie — Rec/ Corr. Secretary*

*Linda Nolly — Treasurer*

*Sandra Simpson — Parliamentarian*

**Chapter Presidents**

ADT Barbara Meurer

LIO Vicky Ryan

PN Lizette Polk

XAEO Renita Hudson

XAZ Diana Rayle



**Council Advisor**

Winona LaBrant