

2021 *State of the Southwestern Region*



Soror Vahnita D. Loud
Southwestern Regional Director

Theme:

“Developing Leaders”

Conference Focus:

“Inform, Mentor, Encourage”

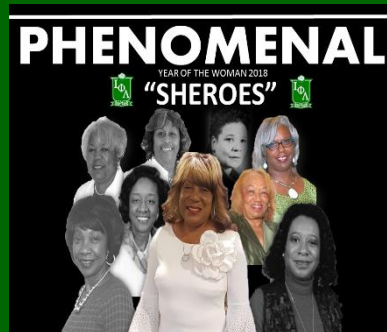
2021 State of the Southwestern Region

“Developing Leaders”

Greetings my Sorors of the Phenomenal and Awesomely Spectacular Southwestern Region.

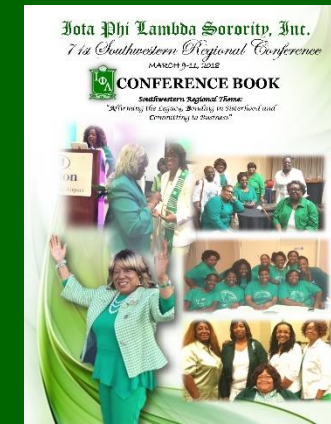
With the COVID -19 Coronavirus affecting us all, 2020 – 2021 has brought us two sorority years unlike any other we have ever experienced before. Thank each of you for your perseverance and creative ways of rising to and overcoming the challenge.

We began the year 2018 at the 71st SWR Conference by “Affirming the Legacy.” It was held March 9-11, and recognized Past Regional Directors such as our 18th Past National President, Soror Lillian F Parker, current National President Elect, Soror Charlotte D Berry, Soror Dwala Brown, Soror Juanda J. Wallace, Soror Janie Samuels (may she rest in peace) and Soror Linda Cannon on whose shoulders I stand. The theme song for the conference was **I Wanna Thank You by Frankie Beverly and Maze**. As many of you know, I have always included music as a part of my conference themes and its because it has always made me happy.



“SHEROES”

71st SWR Conference
“Affirming the Legacy”



2021 *State of the Southwestern Region*

“Developing Leaders”

2019 was the year of the 72nd SWR Conference – “Bonding in Sisterhood” March 28 - 31, (Recognizing current chapter Dean of Intakes – Our Gatekeepers of the Iota SWR Membership. The theme song for the conference was **“We are Family” by SISTER SLEDGE.**”

Then the pandemic hit and the very first virtual conference ever to be held in Iota land was the 73rd SWR Virtual Conference – “Committing to Business” due to COVID19. The date was June 6, 2020 (Recognizing all Southwestern Regional Chapters) and the theme song was **“All Aboard the Love Train” by the O'Jays**. A bit unsteady and in shock, sorors, locally, regionally and nationally were trying to adjust to a new normal of policies and procedures based on Virtual Guidelines.



72nd SWR Conference
“The Power of Sisterhood”

73rd SWR Virtual Conference
“Committing to Business”



ALL ABOARD!
“LOVE TRAIN”



2021 *State of the Southwestern Region*

"Developing Leaders"

We are here today, and we have bounced back, though still virtual, wearing masks, washing our hands, socially distancing and getting vaccinated against the virus. We celebrate the 74th SWR Virtual Conference - "Developing Leaders" our 2nd Virtual Conference due to COVID 19, being held March 25 – 27. Thanks to gifted sorors who are talented and tech savvy, we now operate in a virtual norm, filled with Zoom meetings and events. So, in honor of the recognition that this day affords us, I chose the theme song **"I'm Blessed" By Charlie Wilson**, because Sorors we are blessed, and **"Movin On" by Johnathan McReynolds**

The Southwestern Region is still growing, providing scholarships, recognizing businesswomen and serving our respective communities.

Our financial contribution in assessments to the region and to national show **269 sorors, 208 FIL, 102 MOI, and 55 PELATI**. Give yourself a pat on the back and know that those numbers include 33 new sorors, 14 transfers and 15 reinstatements. Unfortunately, 19 sorors were lost to the Omega chapter.

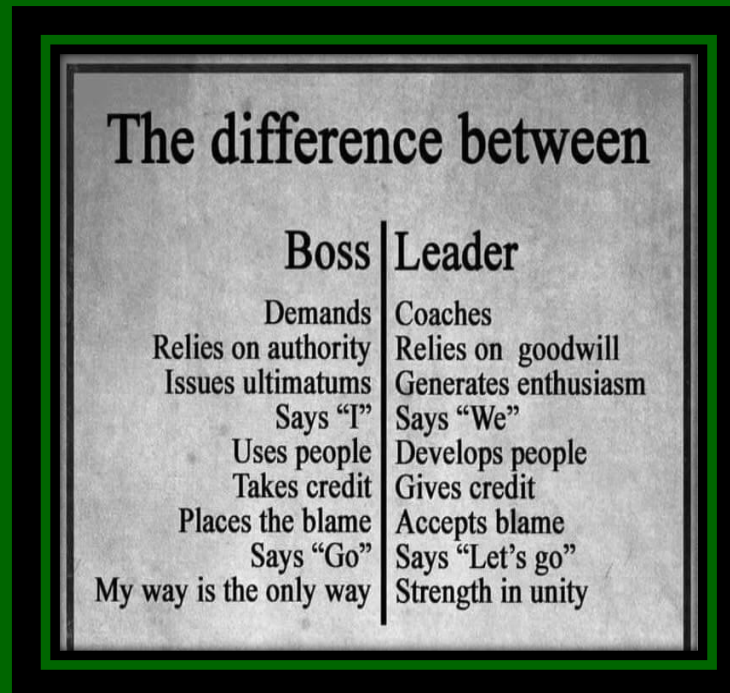


2021 State of the Southwestern Region

“Developing Leaders”

We have cash in the bank because the pandemic has allowed us to save our assessments, meet and hold meetings and events via Zoom and spend less.

As we develop leaders, please be aware there is a difference between a Boss and a Leader. In what way, you say? And I quote from a Higher Perspective.



The difference between	
Boss	Leader
Demands	Coaches
Relies on authority	Relies on goodwill
Issues ultimatums	Generates enthusiasm
Says "I"	Says "We"
Uses people	Develops people
Takes credit	Gives credit
Places the blame	Accepts blame
Says "Go"	Says "Let's go"
My way is the only way	Strength in unity

2021 *State of the Southwestern Region*

“Developing Leaders”

My first caution to the region is that we be more timely meeting deadlines. My second caution is that we elect leaders who are capable, informed and knowledgeable about the Bylaws, Standing Rules, Processes and Procedures of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. This is not personal or un-sisterly but based solely on selecting the best qualified for the job.

Thirdly, be aware that to remain viable and well –rounded, we must seek expansion. Not just any expansion but acquired membership growth in North Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana. We must demand leadership that recognizes this type of development as a priority and an important focus. Not doing so will be detrimental to our survival.

“Individually we make a difference, collectively we make an impact “and let everything we do be for the “good of the organization” and not for personal gain.

A quote, I’d like to share

2021 *State of the Southwestern Region*

“Developing Leaders”

“Unapologetic Black Female Leaders think differently. We’re the few, fearless, strong, resilient, and NOT easily intimidated Queens. Integrity, perseverance, and confidence run through our veins! We don’t have to cheat, lie, or manipulate to win. We impact, empower, and inspire ALL people for the betterment of the world. Our authenticity is what makes us POWERFUL and EXQUISITE. We are Black Women... The REAL game-changers!”

– Stephanie Lahart 

Author, *Stephanie Lahart*



2021 *State of the Southwestern Region*

“Developing Leaders”

My development as a leader in Iota is owed with Special thanks to my sister, past Regional Director, Juanda Wallace, who has preceded me in service to Iota and who encouraged me to get off the couch, give back to the community and start this Iota journey.

Since becoming a member in 1985, 36 years ago, I have followed in her footsteps as having served and chaired many committees, 4 years as Dean of Intake, 4 years as 2nd Vice President, 4 years as 1st Vice President, 3 years as President, 4 years as Assistant Regional Director and 4 years as Regional Director and I have learned and grown every step of the way. I have served the will of this body always striving to do what is again for the “good of the organization.”

My prayer is that God will say, “Well done my child” and that my mom and dad who taught me everything I know including “your word is your bond” are looking down and are proud of me.

It has been my honor to serve the Southwestern Region of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. for the past 4 years. May all your best days lie ahead!

In Sisterly love,
Saturday, March 27, 2021 at the 2nd
Southwestern Regional Virtual
Conference
COVID 19 – Special Edition

Sister Vahnita D. Loud
19th *Southwestern Regional*
Director



2021 *State of the Southwestern Region*

“Developing Leaders”

This virtual meeting is being made possible with
Special Thanks and White Roses to

Soror Daphne Hornbuckle
Technical Advisor and
SWR Webmaster



Soror Beverly Moore
Assistant Technical Advisor,
SWR Sgt At Arms and
Timekeeper



Soror Vivian Jordan
Assistant Technical
Advisor and SWR
Graphics Designer



Soror Nona Fisher
SWR Parliamentarian



The amazing Southwestern Region Executive Committee

Soror Rosetta Davis
Asst SWR Director



Soror Robin Mack
SWR Financial Recording
Secretary



Soror LeTitia Speed
SWR Treasurer



Soror Dr Valencia Hall
SWR Journalist &
Online Registration

