

**2019-2020****Officers & Appointees**

Casey Preston
President

Ada R. Thomas
Vice President /
Journalist

Brenda Sanders
Recording Secretary

Mildred Williams
Financial Secretary

Jacqueline Guillory
Correspondence
Secretary

Lana J. Samuel
Treasurer

Ronique Hinchen
Dean of Intake

Pamela Broady
Parliamentarian

Ada Tasso
Chaplain

THE LINK



Dorothy M. White, 23rd National President

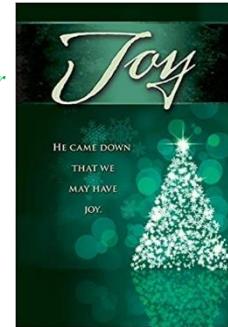
National Theme:

"Business and Professional Women Building the Foundation for Generational Financial Empowerment"

Vahnita Loud, SWR Director

Regional Theme:

"Affirming the Legacy, Bonding in Sisterhood and Committing to Business and Developing Leaders"



Greetings Sorors,

As we begin to close out in 2019, let us reflect and be thankful for our family, friends, careers, life, health, and strength. Today, I am extremely grateful for you, my Iota sisters of The BRILLIANT Beta Pi Chapter. Your loving kindness and guidance in love have not gone unnoticed and for that, I have many thanks. The efficacy of work for Iota Phi Lambda could not be accomplished without you ALL.

Special acknowledgments to our American Education Week chair, Soror Ronique Hinchen and her committee for a successful week of celebrations of teachers and students and the very important role they play in our educational system. We were able to reach teachers, staff and students at 6 schools throughout the Houston area.

As we continue the work of Iota through this holiday season, let us not forget our "WHY"! I am proud of the impact that Beta Pi is making on the community and I anxiously anticipate sharing with you the fruits of our labor.

Yours in Service,

Casey C. Preston, M.Ed.
Chapter President

Casey Preston, Chapter President

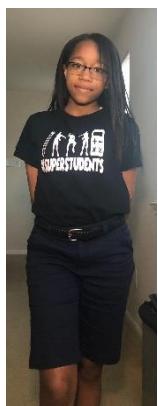
Chapter Theme: "A New E.R.A.: Emphasizing Rededication & Action"



Beta Pi Chapter's American Education Week Observance November 18-22, 2019

Beta Pi Chapter observed American Education Week (AEW) at seven (7) schools in the Houston area: Versa Reece Academy, Dogan Elementary, Billy Reagan K-12, Beatrice Mayes Institute Charter School, C.E. King Middle School, Benjamin O. Davis Ninth Grade School, and Blanton Career and Technology High School. Students, teachers, administrators, and staff were issued green apples and certificates of appreciation. Awards and prizes were presented to Outstanding Educators, Outstanding Students, and AEW National Essay contest winners. Special themed days included Green Apple Day, Mint Day, and Youth Essay Day. Kudos and special thanks to Sorors Ronique Hinchen Bryant (Chair), Casey Preston, Lana Samuel, LaShanda Moore, Tanya Pace, Bettina McKinney, Velma Howze Collins, and Jennifer Jermany. Special kudos to Outstanding Educators: Deloris Golden, Nicole Newton, and Sgt. Sanford Wyatt.





December Chapter Meeting & Holiday Party



Beta Pi's Christmas Charity Activities



Galena Park Toy Drive

Beta Pi collected toys and monetary donations for children and single mothers living in Glena Park.



SPIRIT OF KING DONATION

Beta Pi adopted a student at C.E. King Middle School and provided Christmas gifts to fulfill their Christmas wishes.



Christmas at Madge Bush

Beta Pi adopted 6-year old Cameron, a new resident with his mother at Madge Bush Transitional Living Center. Beta Pi will provide him with Christmas and birthday blessings.



End of Year Tax-Planning Reminders

Opportunities to Reduce
Your 2019 Tax Liability



Paula Allgood

November 7, 2019

2019 has flown by and we are quickly approaching the holiday season. It is also year-end tax planning season and we are here to help! Please don't hesitate to reach out to brainstorm ideas specific to your situation. Here are a few ideas as food for thought:

Business Owners

Purchase new equipment or a vehicle – depreciation rules are still very favorable for 2019 and allow business owners a number of options to write off equipment. One key consideration is the equipment must be “placed in service” prior to year-end. That means it must be received and in use, not just on order.

Review your current retirement plan and evaluate your needs for 2019 and 2020.

Maximize your discretionary business expense opportunities and get a reimbursement from the business. Things like auto expense, networking meals, cell phone, home internet, home office, and paying family members are all worth consideration.

Bonuses to employees – the IRS requires that all cash or cash equivalent employee gifts be added to their W-2. Unfortunately, this includes gift cards. Non-cash gifts valued at \$75 or less are not taxable.

Holiday parties – unlike regular business meals, holiday parties for your company can be 100% tax deductible.

Stock up on office and medical supplies used routinely in your business.

Research and development credits – for those business innovating processes and technologies, it is worth exploring opportunities in this area.

Cost segregation studies – for those businesses with a new building or expansion space, this tool can yield great tax results by accelerating depreciation deductions.

Individuals & Families

Payment of home property taxes before year-end to get the deduction in 2019.

Charitable giving strategies – there are some great tools for consideration:

- **Usage of donor advised funds** to make large donations to get the full benefit in 2019 and then disburse the money out over any number of years beyond 2019.
- **Donation of highly appreciated stocks or mutual funds** held longer than 12 months.
- **“Non-cash” gifts to organizations** such as Goodwill. It is a great time to clean out your closets and get a tax deduction too.

Loss harvesting in your investment portfolio for tax purposes.

Fully fund your Health Savings Account for 2019.

Do a “back door” Roth conversion – while Roth IRA contributions are not tax deductible, the account grows tax-free – which means you pay no taxes on qualified Roth distributions during retirement. However, most high income taxpayers are not eligible to contribute to a Roth. This is where the “backdoor” Roth contribution comes into play. The backdoor Roth strategy allows you to put money into a Roth IRA even when you are over the income threshold for making direct Roth contributions.

Gifting to family members for estate planning – while it does not reduce income taxes, gifting is still commonly used as an estate planning tool. The gift exclusion for 2019 remains at \$15,000 per person.

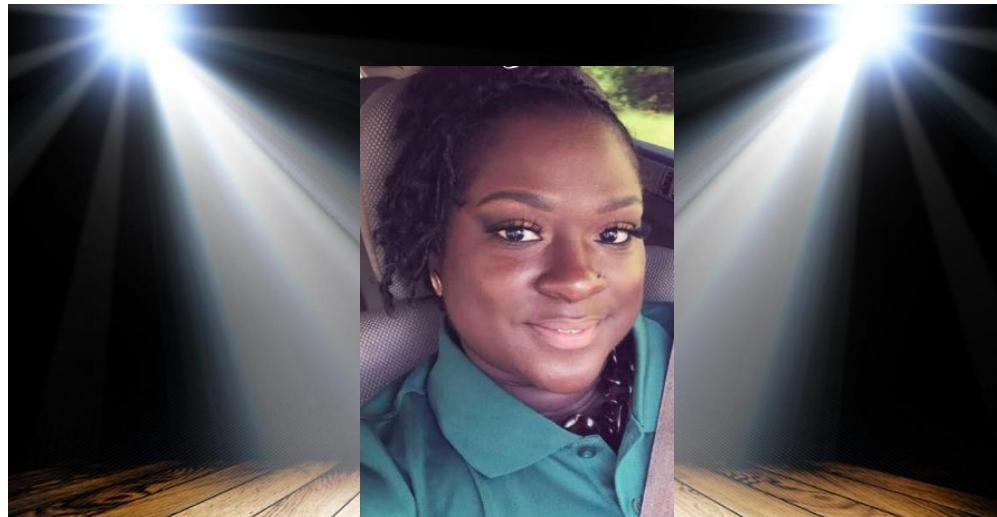
2020 Tax Changes

At this point, there is no substantial movement on tax legislation changes. All eyes are on the election in 2020 and what changes it will bring with tax policy. As always, we are vigilantly watching this and looking for opportunities for our clients.

Auxiliary Focus



Pelati



Amanda Preston is the 3rd child of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Preston. She is an active member of her church, Mt. Zion COGIC, where she serves as the choir director and Minister of Music. She graduated from Smiley High School in 2006 where she served as Soprano Section Leader and choir director. Amanda obtained her Associates Degree from Houston Community College in 2010 and is a licensed cosmetologist and loves everything about makeup. She is part owner of the Royal Dynasty Dance & Twirl Company that serves the youth of Northeast Community. Through this company, Amanda and her partners were able to participate in Rodeo Houston Showcase, the Annual MLK Day Parade and Northforest High School and Kashmere High School Homecoming Parades. Ms. Preston is also the owner of Unik T-Shirt Designs where she crafts memorable and meaningful customized items. She has a passion for working with children, crafting, and music. Amanda is currently employed with Children's Learning Academy in the Humble area and has recently been accepted to Springfield College, where she will pursue a degree in Education. Amanda has been a Pelati member since 2015.



From Our Chapter to Yours, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



A Christmas Prayer for Busy Women

Dear Father,

During this busy time of the year, I pray that my words and actions are glorifying to YOU. May I not worry so much about attending all the gatherings, the rehearsals, the parties and the programs, but *may I be focused on being at YOUR FEET*. May I not stress so much about making sure everything is perfect, but *may I remember that I am human, and YOU are God*. Please remind me to put YOU first, my family second, and that everything else will fall into place, and *please remind me that it's okay to say "NO" if I need to!* Please give me an extra dose of thankfulness and joy, and grace for when things don't go just as I have planned, and *help me to keep the peace that YOU have given me in the forefront of these busy days*. I love YOU, Lord. **You are more than wonderful.** Thank You.

In Jesus' Name,
Amen



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IOTA PHI LAMBDA SORORITY, INC.
73rd SOUTHWESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
Houston City Place Marriott at Springwood Village
1200 lake Plaza Drive
Spring, Texas 77389
March 26-29, 2020
Host Chapter: Epsilon Phi Chapter
Elegance Personified

Conference Focus
"Iota Nuts and Bolts"

Community Service Project

Motto for our Community Service Project: If you see a Need, take the lead
Mission: Continue uncompromising Commitment to Communities

Targeted Area:
Creating new possibilities for today's youth whose parents are low income, incarcerated or on drugs.

Donate uniforms for Elementary Students grades 3rd to 9th grade. Shirt colors red, golden yellow, navy blue, hunter green, white, yellow, purple, grey.

Bottoms: Blue or Khaki

Possible Partnership With:
Pace Youth

CEO and Founder : Steven Holloway

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R
C

Jerseys and Jeans Evening Musical Celebration
Sorors*Pelati*Men of Iota*Fil
73rd Regional Conference
Epsilon Phi Chapter Scholarship Fundraiser
Friday , March 27, 2020 8:30 pm—12:00 a.m.

Featuring
Minister-Gospel Rapper-Motivational Speaker-Author

CHRIST CLEAR
#SWAGG
#SWAGG CERTIFIED WORKSHOPS AND GOLF GOLF

JAZZ Rock & Roll HIP HOP Gospel

PrizesAdditional Information Coming Soon