

*Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter of
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.*

May Week Celebration

"The Power of Possibility; Building a Community of Hope."



Sunday, May 23, 2021

4:00 P.M.

Lynn Henry, President

Dannie Blair, Program Chair

Purpose of May Week

May Week was created at the second national convention in 1920 at Wilberforce University. Local chapters began to observe it beginning in 1921. The purpose of May Week is to emphasize the importance of higher education in the community, especially for Black women. The slogan "Invest in Education" was adopted. A week in May is set aside for programs highlighting academic and professional achievement.



History of Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter

Service Area: Marlboro and Cheraw, South Carolina – zip code 29520.

After careful planning and working with several Deltas in the Pee Dee Region over two years, on December 17, 1983, the seven hundred twenty-third chapter, Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter was officially chartered. The South Atlantic Regional Director who later became our twentieth National President, Soror Bertha M. Roddy, performed the chartering ceremony at the Valerie Motel, Patrick, South Carolina. Thirteen women decided that they wanted to make a difference in Marlboro and Chesterfield Counties. They are Sorors A. Brown, B. DuPree, G. Gillespie,* G. Gore, C. Hodge, J. Johnakin, L. Powe, L. Powe,* O. Powe*, M. Smith, J. Spears*, C. Streator, and V. Brown. With the leadership of seven presidents (Sorors D. Blair, K. Clark, B. DuPree, Y. DuPree, J. Johnakin, L. Powe, L. Palmer., and B. Spell), the chapter has raised over \$200,000 for scholarships through fourteen Jabberwocks. In thirty-six years, the chapter continues to be recognized as a leader in public service.

*Deceased



Program Outline

Welcome.....	Soror Karalda Perkins
Invocation.....	Soror Otelia Grace
Introduction of Speaker.....	Soror Andrea McLeod
Speaker.....	Daniel Johnson
Entertainment.....	Soror LaRhonda Alford

Delta Sigma Theta Continuing the Legacy of Service Video...Soror Nelvin Ellerbe

Delta Academy/GEMS.....	Soror Eunice Ray & Soror Valerie Moore
EMBODI.....	Soror Vanessa Pearson & Soror Margaret Primus
Entrepreneur Competition.....	Darrell Campbell
Senior Citizen's Dinner.....	Soror Yolonda DuPree
Physical and Mental Health.....	Soror Jasmine Covington
2021 Delta Doll.....	Soror Sandra Malichi & Soror Yolonda DuPree
Political Awareness & Involvement.....	Soror Lenora Powe & Soror Braber Spell
Jabberwock Scholarship.....	Soror Vanessa Pearson
2021 High School Scholarship Awards.....	Soror Vivian Patrick & Soror Yolonda DuPree

Presentation of Community Service Recipient Awards

Marlboro County – Soror Debra Johnson

Cheraw- Soror LiAsia Tillman

Rhythmic Roundup.....	Soror Johnnerlyn Johnson
Zoom Prizes.....	Soror Vanessa Pearson & Margaret Primus

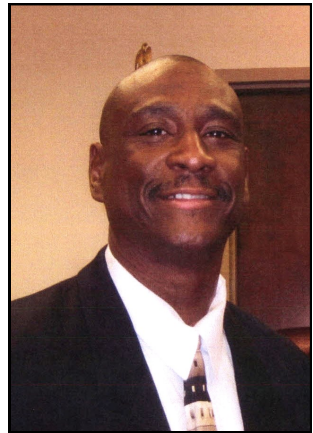
Introduction of the Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter

Acknowledgements/Closing Remarks.....	Soror Dannie Blair First Vice-President/May Week Chair Soror Lynn Henry, Chapter President
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Marlboro County Community Service Recipient: Sheriff Charles B. Lemon

Sheriff Charles B. Lemon is the son of the late Harold and Betty Lemon. Charles is 57 years old and has 22 1/2 years of military experience. Sheriff Lemon spent one tour of duty in Iraq. He retired from the military as a Sgt. First Class. Sheriff Lemon is a member of New Beaver Dam Baptist Church where he serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Sheriff Lemon currently serves as the President of the Male Chorus and sings with the senior choir where he loves making a joyful noise for the Lord. He holds the status of Master Mason with the Golden Eagle Lodge #392 and currently holds the office of secretary.



Sheriff Lemon attended Coker University, Hartsville, SC. During his career in law enforcement, he served as the Police Chief in Society Hills, SC, and Chief Deputy for twelve years under Sheriff Fred Knight. Charles B. Lemon ran (Election of 2016) and was elected to the office of Sheriff of Marlboro County and was sworn in to serve January 2017. With over 36 years in law enforcement, he lives by the motto *"God is Good all the time, and all the time God is Good."* A direct quote from Sheriff Lemon; "As present Sheriff of Marlboro County, I want to thank the voters and citizens for all that they have done for me and my entire department. I do not take it lightly that you have allowed me to continue to serve. I ask all of you for "prayers" as we continue serving you." We will continue to serve and protect and give back to the children of our county during back to school week, provide necessary school supplies, and continue to provide education classes to the schools in our area." "Thank you and God bless you Marlboro County."



Cheraw Area Community Service Recipient: Sheriff James A. Dixon

James A. Dixon began his career in law enforcement as a patrolman in 1987 for the Chesterfield Police Department. After an eight-month tenures, he became a deputy with the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office. In March of 1990, he moved to the Bennettsville Police Department where he was hired by Chief Peter Copeland, the first African American chief for the state of South Carolina, to serve as a patrolman. It was during this time that he attended the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and became a South Carolina certified law enforcement officer. James was promoted to Narcotics Investigator where he became the first narcotic officer for the city of Bennettsville with a 98% conviction rate for all cases made. In December 1994, James returned to the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office first as a patrol deputy and continued to accelerate from Sergeant to Chief Deputy. In 2019, James successfully ran for and was elected as Sheriff of Chesterfield County. He is the first African American sheriff of Chesterfield County. Under his leadership, for the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office annually host a county-wide back to school event for the children of the county. At the event various workshops are given and supplies given to the children of the county.



James Dixon graduated from Cheraw High School in 1983. He is a member of St. Davis Lodge 467 where he currently serves as Past Master and has served as Worshipful Master. He served as a member of the YMCA Board of Trustees, Chair, Board of Directors of American Marine Institute (AMI) kids for Camp Sand Hills, and the Cheraw High School Improvement Committee. James also is a coach of 16 years for the Cheraw Recreation Department. James is the father of two children, Chris and Jasmine. He and his wife Patricia, live in the Bay Tree Subdivision and they attend Pee Dee Baptist Church where James is a Trustee and a lifetime member.





Catching the Dreams of Tomorrow, Preparing Young Women for the 21st Century: The Delta Academy was created in 1996 out of an urgent sense that bold action was needed to save our young females (ages 11-14) from the perils of academic failure, low self-esteem, and crippled futures. Delta Academy provides an opportunity for local chapters to enrich and enhance the education that our young teens receive in public schools across the nation. Specifically, we augment their scholarship in math, science, and technology, their opportunities to provide service in the form of leadership through service learning defined as the cultivation and maintenance of relationships. A primary goal of the program is to prepare young girls for full participation as leaders in the 21st Century. Delta Academy has taken many forms. In some chapters, the Academies are after-school or Saturday programs; others are weekly or biweekly throughout the school year; and still other programs occur monthly. At a minimum, chapters plan and implement varied activities based upon the needs of the early adolescents in their areas. The activities implemented most often include computer training, self-esteem and etiquette workshops, field trips for science experiences and for college exposure, and special outings to cultural events, fancy dinners, museums, plays, and concerts.



A natural outgrowth and expansion for the continuation of the highly successful Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy: **Catching the Dreams of Tomorrow, Delta GEMS** was created to catch the dreams of African-American at-risk, adolescent girls aged 14-18. Delta GEMS provides the framework to actualize those dreams through the performance of specific tasks that develop a CAN DO attitude. The goals for Delta GEMS are:

- To instill the need to excel academically;
- To provide tools that enable girls to sharpen and enhance their skills to achieve high levels of academic success;
- To assist girls in proper goal setting and planning for their futures in high school and beyond; and
- To create compassionate, caring, and community-minded young women by actively involving them in service learning and community service opportunities.

The Delta GEMS program offers a road map for college and career planning through activities that provide opportunities for self-reflection and individual growth. Delta GEMS, like Delta Academy, is implemented by chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Delta GEMS participants have the opportunity to define and **"Discover their individual Brilliance."**

Program Chair- Eunice Ray

Committee Members: Valerie Moore, Sandra Malichi, Karen Clark, LaShawn Palmer, Robin Sally, and Myah Woods

Delta Academy/GEMS Activities for 2020-2021

Kick-Off October 2020

October 29, 2020 "The Resurrection of Alice" Virtual Presentation
North Carolina Black Repertory Company in partnership with Appalachian State University

October 31, 2020 The Power in You Session: Presenter- Mrs. Regina Veals Gillis
Purpose: Finding your voice when faced with challenges.

November 2020 Let's Stay Connected: Keeping in touch with participants and families.

December 5, 2020 Career Development Session
Presenters: Jasmine Dismal, Fifth Grade Teacher @ Clio Elementary School, LaShandra Bradford, Licensed Social Worker, Gwendolyn Bradford, Retired Lieutenant General in the United States Army, Mia D. Weaver, Magistrate Judge, Andrienne A. Hersey, Nurse Anesthetist, Alicia Danielle McRae , Owner of Danielle's Boutique and Spice Annie.
Purpose: To learn about careers and readiness skills.

January 2021 Let's Stay Connected: Keeping in touch with participants and families.

February 13, 2021 Journey to Inner Peace – Presenter Ms. Marian David
Purpose to explore ways to find peace in changing times.

March 2021 Dream Boxes – Delivered to each participant. Boxes included the following: face mask, hand sanitizer, nail polish, refreshments, water bottle, tote, writing journals, and school supplies.

April 2021 Let's Stay Connected: Keeping in touch with participants and families.

May 2021 May Week: Awards and Recognition





The **EMBODI (Empowering Males to Build Opportunities for Developing Independence)** program is designed to refocus the efforts of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, with the support and action of other major organizations, on the plight of African-American males. Both informal and empirical data suggests that the vast majority of African-American males continue to be in crisis and are not reaching their fullest potential educationally, socially and emotionally. EMBODI is designed to address these issues through dialogue and recommendations for change and action. EMBODI addresses issues related to STEM education, culture, self-efficacy, leadership, physical and mental health, healthy lifestyle choices, character, ethics, relationships, college readiness, fiscal management, civic engagement and service learning.

The school-to-prison- pipeline, an epidemic that is affecting schools across the nation, finds too many of our boys (especially) being suspended, expelled, or even arrested for minor offenses. Therefore, the Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is addressing this need through our EMBODI program which was previously called Summit III. The program is designed to refocus the efforts of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Inc., with the support and action of other major organizations on the plight of African American Males.

The emphasis is to foster leadership, service, and mentoring among our young men to develop them socially, mentally, physically, and spiritually. Prior to COVID-19, boys participated in the following activities: Leadership (parliamentarian process), Citizenship (voter registration), Wellness /Health Fair, fishing with mentors, playing basketball with mentors, parenting, career readiness/soft skills workshop in preparation for the entrepreneur project competition, the annual Round-Up (members and former members), the Alpha Phi Alpha Leadership Forum, field trips, academics, and discipline. This year through zoom, boys participated in activities that related to our present situation with building communication through education, law, health, and religion. Several of our leaders played a significant role is helping them understand their role. They were able to write a reflection based on a book called "Dear Black Boy" written by Martellius Bennett, a former football player. This book encourages to not just succeed, but to be prepared to fight for full freedom. Each boy was donated a personal copy of the book, compliments of Lawyer Dickey. We were able to contribute to the food drive at Grace Temple and kick off our Entrepreneur Project.

Despite COVID- 19 we were still able to maintain the two-mile stretch of our "Adopt- A - Highway" on #9 as a service project. On Saturday, May 15, 2021, mentors, former EMBODI members, and the Cheraw ROTC group collaborated with the county and picked up trash.

Our collaborative partners, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Cicero Holdings, LLC, Men of Grace of Grace Temple Fellowship, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity continue to support the group spiritually, physically, and financially. Campbell Consulting continues to sponsor the Entrepreneur Project Competition for EMBODI.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE: TOTAL WOMAN: MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT



As an organization of predominantly African American women, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is uniquely positioned to impact not only the well-being of its membership, but also the families and communities we serve. The **DeltaCare** initiative is an internal wellness initiative under the programmatic thrust of Physical and Mental Health. It was created to promote self-care through physical wellness, emotional wellness, and awareness/advocacy. Specifically, the Red S.H.O.E. challenge is the physical health component of DeltaCare that encourages members to engage in healthy behaviors. S.H.O.E. is an acronym for **S**elf-care, **H**ealthy **O**ptions, and **E**xercise. Virtual tips on Breast Cancer Awareness, National Wear Red Day, How to deal with stress during the pandemic, and self-care tips were done through out the year.



Miss Delta Doll Pageant

The Miss Delta Doll Pageant is a biennial fundraiser that showcases young girls ages 3-12. This year's theme was **Dare to Dream**. In preparation for April's virtual pageant, contestants participated in virtual workshops to enhance self-esteem, promote positive relationships and to gain insight on race and social justice. The workshop presenters were Mrs. Jalaya Liles-Dunn and Mrs. Johnnerlyn Johnson. Additionally, during Women in History month, each contestant researched and portrayed in a creative way an influential African American woman. Women highlighted by the contestants were: Ruby Dee, Gabby Douglas, Kamala Harris, Rosa Parks and Harriet Tubman. Jaela Weeks was crowned Miss Delta Doll 2021. Other Delta Doll contestants were: Elyn Wright, 1st runner-up; Victoria Merriman, 2nd runner-up; Tiana Ford and Jada Hairston. The grand total raised was \$18,751.42. Each contestant received a percentage of funds raised and the remaining monies support the sorority's public service efforts.

Senior Citizen's Dinner 2020

Our senior citizen event was a program initiated by our deceased Soror Hallie Frasier aligned with our Sorority's five-point program thrust.

Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter had their annual Senior Citizen Dinner December 18, 2020. In respect to everyone's safety and health the 125 meals were prepared by GENESIS. The meals and a Christmas gift were picked up at the restaurant or delivered by chapter members to the senior citizens in the respective Cheraw and Marlboro County communities. It was a pleasure and honor to continue our commitment of public service. We received many heartfelt positive and encouraging comments from the senior citizens during these difficult times in our country due to the pandemic. A special thanks to Soror Beatrice Dupree for her leadership in coordinating this event



SOCIAL ACTION

In March of 1913, nearly six weeks after its founding, several Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Founders marched in the historic Suffragist March under the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. banner, the Sorority's first public act. Today, low voter turnout statistics highlight the need to continue to identify ways to include opportunities for all citizens to exercise their voting power.

Each of Delta's programmatic initiatives has an advocacy component that is implemented under the auspices of social action when it is appropriate or necessary to do so.

Under the auspices of the National Social Action Commission, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. continues to institute activities that foster:

1. Sponsoring Voter Registration and voter education programs
2. Combating Voter Suppression
3. The full restoration of voting rights for individuals who have paid their debt to society (ex-offenders)
4. Affordable Health Care and access to quality health care
5. Financial Literacy and Economic Empowerment
6. Support for HBCU
7. Political Awareness and Involvement
8. Gender Equality
9. Racial Profiling

All legislative events, Delta Days at the Nation's Capital, South Carolina Divine Nine Legislative Day, South Carolina Delta Day at the State Capital were held virtually due to the pandemic.

Jabberwock 2019



The word Jabberwock has grown to mean a night of skits and is copyrighted by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. It is the national project used to raise funds for scholarships. The fantastic creature Jabberwock, found in Lewis Carol's, Alice In Wonderland was made up of different parts of several animals. Just as the creature summoned the enchanted people of the story book to entertain Alice, so we call upon our participants to help us entertain our audience. Through the efforts of six beautiful contestants, the Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter raised in excess of \$27,000 towards the contestants' education.

Miss Jabberwock 2019-2021 is Miss Ashari Baker

Kaniya Purefoy

Katijah McRae

Essence Anderson

Ty'Myra Payton

Diamond Sinkler

2021 Scholarships



The Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. bi- annually grants scholarships to high school seniors who will enroll in an accredited institution of higher education. One scholarship will be awarded for each service area which are Marlboro County and the Cheraw Area. To be the recipient of the scholarship, students must be currently enrolled in Marlboro County High School or Cheraw High School and complete a scholarship application. A \$500 hundred dollar scholarship is awarded to each recipient. This year each recipient will receive a \$750.00 scholarship due to the pandemic.

Scholarship Recipients 2021

Cheraw High School: Miss Shae Linton

Marlboro County High School: Mr. Jaheem McLauren

Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter Members

Officers

Lynn Henry, President
^Dannie Blair, First Vice President
Margaret Quick Primus, Second Vice President
Jasmine Covington, Recording Secretary
^Braber Spell, Treasurer
^Freida Ellerbe, Financial Secretary
Towana Hayes, Sergeant-at-Arms
Otelia Grace, Chaplin

Members

LaRhonda Alford
Nickole Broddy
Kayanna Cain
^Karen Clark
April Davis
Crystal Davis
Kimberly Dease
^+Beatrice J. DuPree
^Yolonda DuPree
Callie Ellerbe
^Nelvin Ellerbe
Tina Fairley
Melani Green
^Shanika Harrington-David
Carmella Johnson
Debra Johnson
Qushika Lucas
^Sandra Malichi
Andrea Renee' McLeod
^Valerie Moore
Sheila O'Neil-Brown
LaShawn Palmer
^Vivian Patrick
Daishanna Pearson
Vanessa Pearson
LaShuanda Pegues
Karalda Perkins
^+Lenora Powe
Margaret Quick Primus
Eunice ThomasRay
Robin Sally
CaBresha Smith
Ieysha Stephens
LiAsia Tillman
Wanda Watson

Acknowledgements

Thank you for your continued support of the Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Programs and Community Projects. We thank all of our participants, parents, visiting sorors, and our entire service area for making our program a success today.





Program designed by
Soror Braber Spell