



# THE ODYSSEY

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR  
AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER  
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

OCTOBER 2021

Vol. 2

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## *Presidential Press*

Sorors, autumn has officially arrived and October is literally right around the corner! This month, may all your endeavors and aspirations be guided by our Sorority's Second Jewel in the Sigma – the Jewel of Courtesy.

Courtesy springs forth from a genuine respect for the feelings of others and consideration for the inherent dignity of every living person. Sorors, as we all are aware, this Jewel is dedicated to the mothers of Delta members. This Jewel serves as my personal reminder to follow the golden rule that my mother (and our Soror) lovingly taught me as a little girl – "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

Sorors, this month, I personally challenge you to truly practice and execute the golden rule in all of our incredible programming and activities, the words you say, the actions you do, and your personal interactions with others.

Sorors, thank you for your continued support and service as we move forward in this Biennium as one!

Yours in Service,

*Soror Robin Blackmon*



## Chaplain's Message

by Soror Barbara G. Evans, Chaplains Council

### You Can Make It – The Battle is Not Yours

2 Chronicles – 20:17 – You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions: stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you.

The lyrics of the gospel song “You can Make It” encourages and reminds one that things will work out –

You can make it, you can make it.  
This trial you're going through  
God's going show you what to do  
You can make it, you can make it.  
I don't care what's going wrong –  
God won't let it last too long -  
You're not in this thing alone –  
You can make it.

Oftentimes in life the odds seem stacked against us and they seem insurmountable. We don't see a way out. Things don't seem like they'll get better. There is no way we can win. However, the WORD of God is full of promises and evidence that WE CAN MAKE IT! Everyone has had a period in their lives when they're stressed and worried about the future. We are experiencing perilous times right now. Every time we turn on the television, pick up a paper, read something on line or sometimes when we pick up the phone – there it is – news that things are rough – reason to worry.

2nd Chronicles is a familiar bible story – Jehosaphat, he king of Judah was told that a vast army was coming against him. They are on the way. He took immediate action when facing his problem – He fasted and he prayed. He knew that by themselves his small army couldn't face what was coming. The odds were insurmountable. There was no way out. There was no way they could win. HIS army, THEIR odds, THEY couldn't win. But he knew with GOD on his side he could face what was coming. He started off bathing everything in praise – He told God WHO he was – “God of our fathers.”

He was BOLD in his praise – “Are you not the GOD who is in Heaven, who rules over nations? Isn't all the power in your hands? He started of reminding God what he had already done. Sometimes we have to flip through our mental rolodex and reflect on all that God has already done.

Ask these questions – aren't you the God that made a way out of no way? Aren't you the God that stepped in when people on my job weren't acting right, my child wasn't acting right – my husband wasn't acting right and fixed it? Aren't you the God that gave me strength in my weakest hour? That dried my tears in the midnight hour? Aren't you that God?

After Jehosaphat prayed with the people, the spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel one of the men and he told the people – what the Lord told him – Don't be afraid because of the size of the army you face – the battle is not yours – but God's. You won't have to fight. He'll fight for you. The next morning they went into battle praising God and while they were praising God – he was working behind the scenes. By the time they got there the battle was over was over. Jehosaphat and his men carried off the plunder – There was so much plunder – supplies, equipment, things of value – that it took them three days to gather it all. This reminds us there is a BLESSING in the battle. Remember when you're facing a battle – Bathe everything in praise – Boldy approach the throne of God praising his name, and prepare for the Blessing. Never forget -you can make it – I don't care what's going wrong – God won't let it last too long – you're not in this thing alone – you can make it.

## Prayer Corner

**Sorors, please continue to lift the following in fervent prayer:**

- Soror Darlene Lewis and Family
- Soror Dedurie Kirk
- Soror Gloria Williams and Family
- Soror Florence Smythe-Macaulay
- Soror Demitra Alexander and Family
- All individuals and families affected by Hurricane Ida and the earthquake in Haiti

# This Month's Highlights

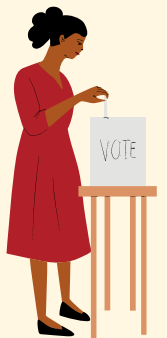
## AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS



### Sign-Up for Voter Registration, High School Football Friday, October 1st!

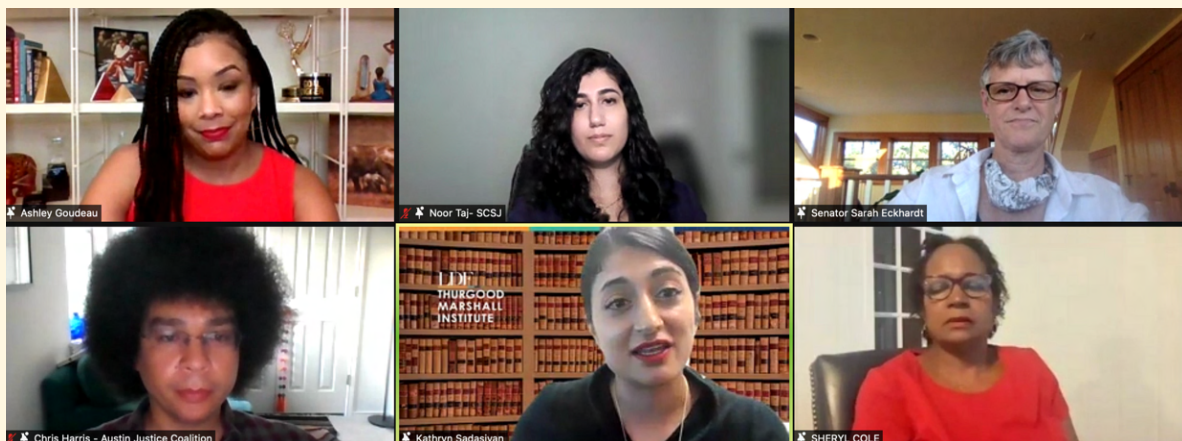
Social Action Committee invites you to sign-up and volunteer for voter registration. Click the enclosed link to access the online sign-up sheet,

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f4fa4af2ea7fc1-voter>



### Congratulations, Social Action Committee on a Successful Event, "Two More Seats and a Bunch of Maps, Know Your Rights!"

Featured guests for September's successful reDStriciting virtual event included KVUE Austin Anchor and Soror Ashley Goudeau, Senator Sarah Eckhardt, State Representative Sheryl Cole, Chris Harris of Austin Justice Coalition, Noor Taj of Southern Coalition for Social Justice, Kathryn Sadasivan of Legal Defense Fund, and Allison Riggs of Voting Rights Southern Coalition for Social Justice.





# This Month's Highlights

## AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

### Invitation to Join Social Action Committee!

Sorors, we are facing critical times in our government right now with voting rights being reduced, efforts to limit Women's rights, upcoming elections, etc.

We are Social Action, but we cannot be Social Action with only a limited few participating. We need all of us. Austin Alumnae has grown and every one of our voices is needed. We know some of you may be limited as to what you can do in front of the camera, but there is so much work to be done behind the scenes!

Social Action committee meets every 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Please place this date on your calendar and send an email to [dstatx.pai@gmail.com](mailto:dstatx.pai@gmail.com) and ask for the zoom link for the meeting on October 12th.

And Sorors, we all should be registered as Deputy Voter Registrars in our surrounding counties. Voter registrations can be conducted at family gatherings, church, etc.

Thank you in advance for joining the fight. Excited about working with all of you during redistricting, voter registrations, election webinars, etc. **When we all work together, we are unstoppable.**

Please click the enclosed link, <https://bit.ly/RedistrictingNewsletterOctoberOdyssey> to view the Texas ReDSTricting Cohort monthly newsletter.

This monthly newsletter "will serve to share pertinent redistricting information and solicit the support of chapters in the fight for fair representation."



# This Month's Highlights

## AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS



## ATTENTION

### SORORS WHO ARE BUSINESS OWNERS AND ENTREPRENEURS!

#### It's that time again!

That's Right! The Economic Development Committee is updating the **Austin Alumnae Delta Red Pages**, an amazingly sisterly and supportive method of advertising your products and/or services to **both** the public and Chapter members.

**Austin Alumnae Delta Red Pages** is a fantastic way to connect shoppers with the goods and services they want and need. This resource is **FREE** for sorors to use **PLUS** it will be available to anyone who visits the Austin Alumnae website.

**NOTE:** The Sorority-wide Delta Red Pages Business Directory launched in 2019 as an official resource of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, INC. For more information, please visit the national website. We encourage business owners to use both the Austin Alumnae and sorority-wide resources to advertise their businesses.

### Austin Alumnae Delta Red Pages!

The submission deadline for inclusion in our Delta Red Pages is **Saturday, November 6.**

To be included in the directory, Sorors must be financial with Austin Alumnae.

Use this link to submit your information,  
<https://tinyurl.com/AADeltaRedPagesApplication>

Sorors, if you have questions, please contact Economic Development committee members, Soror Kimily Johnson and Soror Akeia Madyun at [dstatx.econdev@gmail.com](mailto:dstatx.econdev@gmail.com)



# This Month's Highlights

## AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

### **NOTICE FROM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE**

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES IN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES/RULES OF ORDER**

Sorors, below is the timeline for review, submission, and approval of the recommendations for changes.

#### **TIMELINE FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGES IN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES/RULES OF ORDER**

##### **SEPTEMBER**

- Policies and Procedures Committee convenes to review current Rules of Order Form, Policies and Procedures, and any policy changes from Grand Chapter.

##### **OCTOBER**

- **October 1, 2021:** Members are invited to submit proposed changes to the Policies and Procedures Committee via email ([dstatxpolicies@gmail.com](mailto:dstatxpolicies@gmail.com)) using the **Recommendation for Change Form** found on page 41 of the Policies and Procedures manual. Our Policies and Procedures manual can be found on the "Members Only" section of [www.dstatx.org](http://www.dstatx.org).

##### **DECEMBER**

- **December 31, 2021:** The period to submit recommendations for changes in the Chapter's Policies and Procedures/Rules of Order using the appropriate **Recommendation for Change Form** ends.

##### **JANUARY**

- Policies and Procedures Committee meets to review and vet all proposed recommendations.

##### **FEBRUARY**

- **February 15, 2022:** Policies and Procedures Committee provides committee's decision on proposed recommendations at the Executive Board Meeting.

##### **MARCH**

- **March 5, 2022:** Policies and Procedures Committee provides committee's decision on proposed recommendations at the chapter meeting.

##### **APRIL**

- **April 2, 2022:** Austin Alumnae members vote on the proposed recommendations at the chapter meeting.

##### **JUNE**

- **June 30, 2022:** Due date for President and/or Policies and Procedures Committee to submit the Rules of Order Form; and  
Due date for President and/or Policies and Procedures Committee to submit Policies and Procedures, if changed.

Questions may be sent to the P&P committee at [dstatxpolicies@gmail.com](mailto:dstatxpolicies@gmail.com).





# This Month's Highlights

## LOCAL, IN OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

### COVID-19 Booster Shot: What You Need to Know

[This article is written based on information available from Sept. 19, 2021]

Many of us felt a sense of relief when the COVID-19 vaccines became available. We were all hoping that this was the beginning of our return to normal. As it turns out, it was a stepping stone to a “new normal”. Just when we thought “it was safe to get back in the water” a new kink appeared – the Booster Shot.

#### *What is a Booster Shot?*

A “booster shot” refers to another dose of a vaccine that is given to someone who built enough protection after vaccination, but then that protection decreased over time (this is called *waning immunity*). The COVID-19 vaccine continues to be remarkably effective in reducing the risk of severe disease, hospitalization and death even against the widely circulating B.1.617.2 variant. Available data indicates that protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection begins to decrease over time following the initial doses of vaccination. For that reason, a booster shot may be needed to maximize vaccine-induced protection.

#### *What is the current recommendation?*

On Friday, September 16, 2021, the FDA advisory panel endorsed offering Pfizer booster shots for ages 65 and older, and people 16 and over who are at high risk of getting severe COVID-19 or who work in settings that make them more likely to get infected. The agency within the CDC which sets vaccine policy is scheduled to meet the week of September 20, 2021 to discuss this recommendation. Many local vaccine providing locations are already administering booster shots under these guidelines.

#### *If it is determined that I am eligible to get the booster shot, when would I get it?*

Subject to authorization by the FDA & CDC. The goal is for people to start receiving a COVID-19 booster shot starting 8 months after they received their [second dose](#) of the Pfizer *mRNA* vaccine.

#### *What if I got the Moderna vaccine?*

Moderna is also a *mRNA* vaccine and would likely have the same recommendation.

#### *Can I get the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine booster even though I got the J&J vaccine?*

Currently the answer is No. There aren't enough data currently to support getting an *mRNA* vaccine dose (either [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) or [Moderna](#)) if someone has previously gotten a *viral vector* dose ([J&J/Janssen vaccine](#)). Talk to your primary care doctor about your case.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a fluid crisis and information is updated on a daily basis. Nevertheless, it is important to emphasize the ongoing urgency of vaccinating the unvaccinated in the U.S. and around the world. **Nearly all the cases of severe disease, hospitalization, and death continue to occur among those not yet vaccinated at all.**

Source: Emergency Response Team Committee

# Membership Spotlight

Sorors, we've launched a new Membership Spotlight series! Each month, we will spotlight a Delta Doll, Diva, or one of our DEARS! Sorors, let's celebrate this month's Membership Spotlight, Delta Doll Soror Kirby Glass!

## *Membership Spotlight October 2021*



### *Delta Doll*

Soror Kirby Glass was initiated at the Iota Omega Chapter at Texas State in Spring 2019. First year graduate studies in Communications at Texas State University keeps her busy. She also works full-time as an Administrative Assistant at the Institutional Inclusive Excellence Department at the University. Despite her busy schedule, she still finds time for her Delta work and serves on the Membership Services committee.

Fun fact? She's already made three short films. A rising Delta star indeed.



## *Happy Birthday, Sorors!*

Happy Birthday to our October birthdays!



# Coming Your Way...!

## The Odyssey & Weekly Digest Submission Deadlines

### The Odyssey's Deadlines

- November's Odyssey: Submit all content by Thursday, October 28
- December's Odyssey: Submit all content by Thursday, November 25
- January's Odyssey: Submit all content by Thursday, December 23

### The Weekly Digest's Deadlines

- October 5 Weekly Digest: Submit all content by Thursday, September 30
- October 12 Weekly Digest: Submit all content by Thursday, October 7
- October 19 Weekly Digest: Submit all content by Thursday, October 14
- October 26 Weekly Digest: Submit all content by Thursday, October 21
- November 9 Weekly Digest: Submit all content by Thursday, November 4
- November 16 Weekly Digest: Submit all content by Thursday, November 11
- November 23 Weekly Digest: Submit all content by Thursday, November 18
- December 7 Weekly Digest: Submit all content by Thursday, December 2
- December 14 Weekly Digest: Submit all content by Thursday, December 9  
(December 14 is the Last Weekly Digest for 2021)

\*Please note due to swift publication constraints, content not received by the stated deadline, may appear in a subsequent edition of the desired Odyssey or Weekly Digest publication. Questions? Email Soror Autumn Caviness (dstatx.journalist@gmail.com).

## Check Out What's New on the "Members Only" section of [www.dstatx.org](http://www.dstatx.org)!

- 2021-2022 Austin Alumnae Rules of Order Form
- 2021-2022 Austin Alumnae Approval Letter P&P and Rules of Order Form 2021
- 2021-2022 Austin Alumnae Policies & Procedures
  - AAC's *Recommendation for Change Form* can be found on page 41 of the Policies & Procedures manual
- Updated Austin Alumnae Chapter Roster 2021-2022
- Compliance Letter 2021-2022
- 2021-2022 Austin Alumnae Program Calendar



# Sorors,

May you have an incredible October,  
an October steeped in  
**courtesy**, joy, and abundance!

Also, please don't forget to register for our  
upcoming Chapter Meeting  
(Saturday, October 2nd at 10a.m.)!

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYscOirqzgtGdFIdxzoEEM3GGetZKthzWLS>



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