



AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER
MINUTES OF THE Virtual EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Oct 19, 2021

President Robin T. Blackmon called the virtual Austin Alumnae Executive Board meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct 19, 2021. A quorum was present, via Zoom, for the transaction of business. The agenda as distributed was approved, with the following edits to the agenda. Correspondence will be presented by Soror Lorie Ellis, Treasurer report will be presented by Soror Deborah Shaw-Boatner and there will no Social Action report. Also, Soror Renee Conley will present the Elections Committee report early, due to a scheduling conflict. The motion was properly made, seconded, and adopted without opposition.

Meditation / Reflection – Soror Barbara Evans

Soror Evans offered words of inspiration. In summary, whenever there is bad news, God always has good news. Don't blame the messenger.

Minutes – Soror Janet Marshall, Recording Secretary

There were no edits to the Sep 2021 E-board meeting minutes.

Correspondence – Soror Lorie Ellis for Soror Tiffany Holmes White, Corresponding Secretary

- There is no correspondence to report.

Emergency Response

- Due to the COVID- 19 pandemic, the meetings are virtual and therefore the standard information regarding meeting space emergency exits is not issued.

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Chapter Reports

Officers

President – Soror Robin T. Blackmon

Austin Alumnae Local

- The Travis County Commissioner's Court is developing a mural in honor of Soror Nelda Wells Spears. The mural will be in the lobby of the new improved tax office. The new building will be named in her honor. There will also be videos telling her story and about why she is a trailblazer. We have been contacted to approve the sorority images that will be included. Be expected to attend the event with your pearls and your red and white.
- Encourage all to invite a soror to chapter meetings. We have 340+ sorors, we should have at least 200+ at the chapter meetings.



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Regional Directors Meeting

- The Founders Day Chairs are working with the Cluster II leadership to plan a virtual cluster Founders Day. The details will be provided as they are worked out.
- Grow with Google initiative is moving in the SW region and we have received a challenge.
 - Category 1 – 10 pts – chapter trainings
 - Category 2 – 15 pts – collaborations with other Delta chapters
 - Category 3 – 20 pts – collaborations with other organizations
 - Each chapter will receive points for collaboration. Repeat each category as often as possible. The goal is train 2200 African American women by April 2022.

National

- Please take advantage of 55th National Convention Early Bird Workshops. This was initially sent in an informs message on Sep 4th.
- The chapter president, as the chapter's delegate, will attend a Part 1 conference. Nov 5th and 6th. Soror Habersham will preside over the Nov meeting.

1st Vice-President/Membership Services – Soror Jacqueline Habersham

- The plans have begun for the White Christmas event to visit the sick and shut in sorors. Please send names of those sorors needing to be visited by no later than Nov 8, 2021 to
 - Soror Tanya Rippenkroeger tanya.rippenkroeger@hotmail.com
 - Soror Melody Southall melynn95@hotmail.com
- New Member Orientation is now called the New Member Experience
 - Virtual. Nov 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
 - If interested in attending, please send name to dstatx.vp1@gmail.com
 - The lead, Soror Pam Sherman, will be notified to anticipate attendance.
- Reclamation and Retention
 - Nov is normally reclamation month, but due to the National Convention, reclamation activities will be held in the Spring.
 - Nov will still be used as the time to start collecting the names of those sorors that we want to reclaim including those on the roster that have not been seen in a while as well as sorors new to the area
 - The subcommittee is considering creating a real invitation that may be sent to the sorors letting them that they have been missed
 - Membership services meets the 2nd Monday of each month @ 6:30 p.m.



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Financial Secretary – Soror Anita Daniels

For details regarding collections, please see Financial or Recording Secretary.

- 347 members on the roster for FY 21-22
- FY 21-22 dues are as follows
 - Δ Life – \$195
 - Δ Regular – \$385

Treasurer/Budget and Finance – Soror Deborah Shaw-Boatner for Soror Demitra Alexander

For detailed information of the Treasurer's Report, please see Treasurer or Recording Secretary or **please visit the website.**

Budget highlights:

- The budget details were reported and are also **on the website.**

Technology Moment

- **Password Reminder:** Displayed for the body to view. The Os are not zeroes!
- dstatxtech@gmail.com
- Bereavement Requests and Omega Omega requests can be submitted through the portal without logging in.
- Submit a technology request form for program flyers, videos, and zoom support for programming.

Committee Reports

Five Point Thrust



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Educational Development – Soror Bethany Bell

- Family Orientation will be held Oct 23
- To date, there are sixteen (16) GEMS and seventeen (17) Academy.
- The deadline has been extended to Oct 21st
- The appropriate way to share information regarding the Ed Dev program is to go to the chapter website and share the content to ensure the message is the approved message.

International Awareness & Involvement – Soror Akeshia Johnson Smothers

- Committee voted to donate \$1,000 to the Haiti Project
 - To support restoration of Cynthia McIntyre Butler campus, provide food and shelter for 310 students and their families, purchase uniforms, and invest in the initiation of a breakfast and lunch program.
- World AIDS day is Dec 1st
 - Working with Austin Area HIV Planning Council and Gilead Pharmaceuticals to assist with expanding community awareness and outreach

Physical and Mental Health – Soror Jennifer Nix

- Circle of Hope Drive By food drive. The agency is normally open M-F 10-noon. A Sat date on Nov 13 is being established just for Austin Alumnae to donate. See list of foods to donate in the weekly digest and the Odyssey. Each member is asked to donate 4 cans each.
- The Coats for Kids drive is Nov 15 thru Dec 2. Can be dropped off at Jack Brown Cleaners or at the ADF House. See more details in the upcoming weekly digest or Odyssey.

Standing Committees

Emergency Response – Soror Suzanne Piper

- The committee is returning for a matter initiated at a previous meeting
- Consistent with the National President's message on Aug 17, 2021 regarding that a chapter may decide vaccination or wear masks as opposed to official policy from National headquarters.
- RECOMMENDATION: Adopt in-person COVID-19 safety plan, consistent with the National President's August 17, 2021 message, and require the members of the Chapter to wear masks during in-person meetings.
 - The motion was properly made by the committee, voted upon and passed with at vote of 19-0.



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Ad hoc/Special Committees

New Business

Elections Committee – *Soror Renee Conley*

- Operation Support our Sorors. Some of our sorors from the region has experienced difficulties associated with the hurricane. Seeking donations for Walmart and/or Home Depot gift cards.

Membership Services – *Soror Jacqueline Habersham*

- **RECOMMENDATION:** The chapter has two (2) in-person meetings this sorority year, December and May. The Chapter's COVID-19 protocols will be followed for both meetings.
 - Dec for Jingle and Mingle. May for End of Year Celebration. For Fellowship.
 - The budget factored space costs for 2 meetings this year.
- The motion was properly made by the committee, voted upon and passed with vote of 18-1.

Announcements

Adjournment

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:28 PM. The motion was properly seconded. The motion was approved with no opposition.



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Summary of Actions

Committee	Recommendation	Moved	Seconded	Count	Results
AAC Body	Motion to adopt the Oct agenda	Soror Patricia Shorter	Soror Lorlie Ellis	14-0	Passed
Elections Committee	To determine which candidates that the AAC Chapter President will place a vote for at the National Convention, an email containing the ballots and instructions will be sent to roster members on Nov 4 th and voting will end at 11:00 a.m. during the Nov 6 th chapter meeting.	Soror Renee Conley	Soror Sonya Harry	20-0	Passed
Emergency Response	Adopt in-person COVID-19 safety plan, consistent with the National President's August 17, 2021 message, and require the members of the Chapter to wear masks during in-person meetings.	Soror Suzanne Piper on behalf of the Committee	N/A	19-0	Passed
Membership Services	The chapter has two (2) in-person meetings this sorority year, December and May. The Chapter's COVID-19 protocols will be followed for both meetings.	Soror Jacqueline Habersham on behalf of the Committee	N/A	18-1	Passed

 Soror Janet Marshall, Recording Secretary

 Soror Robin T. Blackmon, President



AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

**October Executive Board Meeting Agenda
October 19, 2021**

Presiding Officer, Robin T. Blackmon

Call to Order
Adoption of the Agenda
Meditation/Reflection
Approval of September Minutes
Correspondence

Soror Barbara Evans
Soror Janet Marshall
Soror Tiffany Holmes White

Chapter Reports

Officers

President
1st Vice President/Membership Services
Financial Secretary
Treasurer

Soror Robin Blackmon
Soror Jacqueline Habersham
Soror Anita Daniels
Soror Demitra Alexander

Committee Reports

Technology Moment

Soror Chrystina Wyatt

Five Point Thrust

Educational Development
International Awareness & Involvement
Physical and Mental Health
Social Action

Soror Bethany Bell
Soror Akeshia Johnson Smothers
Soror Jennifer Nix
Soror Jeri Brooks

Standing Committees

Emergency Response Team

Soror Suzanne Piper

Special Committees

N/A

Unfinished Business

N/A

New Business

Elections Committee
Chapter Meetings

Soror Renee Conley

Adjournment



AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

President's Report Robin Blackmon

Austin Alumnae (Local)

- Encourage you to invite a Soror to chapter meeting. We have 340+ members and we should have 200 members at meeting. Call, text, email etc, to get Sorors engaged.
- The Travis County Commissioner's Court is developing a mural in honor of Soror Nelda Wells Spears. This mural will be in the lobby of the new, improved tax office that will be located roughly at the intersection of 290 and IH 35. This new building will also be named the Nelda Wells Spears Bldg There will also be a document telling about Nelda's life and why she is so important as a trailblazer. There will also be a video machine on the wall with videos of interviews with people who knew Nelda. We have been contacted to approve the sorority images that they desire to use, I am working with them on this. Also, once the mural is completed you know they want us dressed in our Red and Pearls to support this effort.

Regional Director's Meeting

- The Founders Day Chairs are working with the Cluster II leaders to plan a virtual cluster Founders Day. As details are worked out, we will provide them.
- Grow with Google initiative is moving in the region and the we have received the challenge for the South Texas Chapters. The SoTX CHALLENGE...
Category 1 - 10 pts - chapter trainings
Category 2 - 15 pts - collaborations with another Delta chapter*
Category 3 - 20 pts - collaborations with other organizations

*Each chapter will receive 15 points
-Repeat categories as often as you like
-The categories cannot be combined

The Region's goal is to train 2,200 African American women by April 2022..target attendees are African American women!

-Award - Chapter with the most collaborations
-Award - Chapter with the most target attendees
-Every chapter that participates will be recognized
South Texas let's do our part!

National

- Please take advantage of the 55th National Convention Early Bird Workshops. This was initially sent in an informz message on September 4.
- The Chapter President, as the chapter's delegate, will attend a Part 1 conference November 5 and 6 from 11:00 am EST to 8:00 pm EST. Soror Habersham will preside over the November meeting.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Austin Alumnae Chapter

Committee Reporting Template

Committee Name: International Awareness & Involvement

Committee Chair(s): Akeshia Johnson Smothers and Dena Bryant

Date/Time of meeting: via committee survey 10/6/2021

Attendees: Akeshia Johnson Smothers, Dena Bryant, Nola Marie Dilworth, Pamela Gray, Thedencia Horne, Akeia Madyun, Latasha Simmons, Jeffrey Archer

Committee Decisions: (limit 500 characters)

Committee voted to donate \$1000 from our budget to the Haiti Project (committee programming).
*Donation will support restoration of the Cynthia McIntyre Butler campus, provide food and shelter for the 310 students and their families, purchase uniforms and invest in the initiation of a breakfast and lunch program.

Recommendation(s) to Executive Board: (limit 500 characters)

None

Next month's activities: (limit 500 characters)

*Planning for World AIDS Day programming
*Working with Austin Area HIV Planning Council and Gilead Pharmaceuticals to assist with expanding community awareness and reach.

Volunteer Activities (include Date/Participants/Time): (limit 500 characters)

N/A



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated
Austin Alumnae Chapter

Membership Services Report

October 19, 2021

Membership Services Executive Board Report:

White Christmas:

The White Christmas sub-committee has begun planning the event where chapter members visit and show sisterly love to our Sick and Shut-in Sorors during our White Christmas event. We are making plans to spread the Christmas joy with a special visit and holiday gifts.

The committee is in the process of making our list of sorors to visit.

If you know a Soror that would welcome a visit from our White Christmas carolers, and they reside in the Austin area (including Pflugerville, Round Rock, Buda), please send names and contact information to members of the White Christmas sub-committee, Sorors Tanya Rippenkroeger at tanya.rippenkroeger@hotmail.com and Melody Southall at melynn95@hotmail.com by **November 8, 2021**.

New Member Experience formally know as New Member Orientation

The sub-committee is planning to conduct the 1st new member experience session on November 13th from 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. This in-house training for sorors who are new to Austin Alumnae. If you transferred your membership to Austin Alumnae or transitioned as a collegiate in the last year to the present, we would love you to come out to attend this short but informative training. If you're interested, please send an email to me at dstatx.vp1@gmail.com to be added to the list. I will notify the lead, Soror Pamela Sherman, to anticipate your attendance.

Reclamation and Retention

November is Reclamation Month but due to the National Convention and other events on the calendar the sub-committee has decided to have a big reclamation event in the Spring. However, during the month of November, we want to kick-off our reclamation efforts by making the initial contact with sorors who we want to reclaim. If you know of a soror in the Austin and surround areas who has not affiliated with a chapter, please send me their name and email address. We will also be reaching back to some of the sorors who were once on the chapter's roster but who we are missing. We want to reach as many sorors as possible for the upcoming event. dstatx.vp1@gmail.com. I will provide the list of names to the Reclamation and Retention Sub-committee to send out personal invitations to those sorors.

Upcoming Meeting:

Committee Meetings will be held on the 2nd Mondays of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 8, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

Signature of soror making the committee report: *Jacqueline Habersham, Chair*

Date of report for Chapter Meeting: 10/19/11/2021

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Austin Alumnae Chapter

Committee Reporting Template

Committee Name: Educational Development

Committee Chair(s): Tiffany Lewis & Bethany Bell

Date/Time of meeting (MM/DD/YYYY): 09/21/2021

Attendees: Tiffany Lewis – co-chair

Bethany Bell – co-chair

LaKisha Crenshaw

Pamela Hall

Adrienne Thrasher

Terri Buggs

Latasha Robinson

Committee Decisions: (limit 500 characters)

1. Ed Dev to purchase between 20-80 books for EC Literacy programming at Pflugerville Elem. We will also purchase incentives for those that read the most books over holiday break.
2. EC Literacy will recruit sorors as narrators to record book readings that will be distributed at local educational organizations.

Recommendation(s) to Executive Board: (limit 500 characters)

n/a

Next month's activities: (limit 500 characters)

1. Recruitment open now until October 21
2. Volunteer training – October 18 & 24
3. Academy & Gems orientation – October 23, 9-11AM; 11-1PM
4. November 13 – first program session