



THE ODYSSEY

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

MAY 2022

Vol. 9

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Presidential Press

My Sweet, Sweet Sorors,

It is hard to believe that this sorority year has passed by so quickly! As we prepare to close our program year and ensure that our Delta business is in order we now set our sights on the final jewel in our Enduring Sigma – **Temperance**. **Temperance** is self-restraint in conduct. It is the firm and moderating balance of emotions and reason, or thought and action, or body and spirit.

Sorors, we have had a fruitful year even as we continued to face the challenges of what seems to be a never ending pandemic. As we embrace the value we all add to this chapter, this sisterhood, and this community we may often face challenges of differences of opinions, ideas, and what exactly constitutes the right choice. These are those times that we must check our own temperature to ensure we are in balance, in complete alignment with our core values, and that we are focused on the Greater Good of the body.

We are finishing strong this year! We raised more than \$14,000 in Relay for Life! We sold more than \$24,000 in popcorn to benefit our educational development and IAI programs; we learned invaluable information regarding property taxes; and we are continuing to champion the causes of our community with all things social action! My sweet, sweet sorors, this sorority year has unequivocally demonstrated that we as Austin Alumnae Chapter know how to practice **temperance** as our Illustrious Founders envisioned to ensure "We Are One!"

Forever yours in Sisterhood,

Soror Robin Blackmon



Chaplain's Message

by Soror June Murphy, Chaplain's Council

Sweet Reward

Sometimes chocolate can be good for you! A study at San Diego State University, discovered that people who ate a moderate amount of dark chocolate over a 15-day period, were able to lower their blood sugar levels. This improved both their good cholesterol and bad cholesterol levels, compared to others, who ate white chocolate.

It should be noted that the people in this study did not gorge themselves, on eating large amounts of chocolate candy, cake, or ice cream. One or two ounces a day was just enough for a satisfying treat. Dark chocolate is a good choice because of its heart-healthy antioxidants.

Chocolate is not the only sweet thing that can be good for you. In Psalm (Chapter 34:8), David writes: "Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in Him!" We find in the book of Proverbs (Chapter 24:14), where wisdom is compared to sweet honey. When you savor your relationship with Christ, by consuming his Word and building your wisdom in Him, you will reap a *sweet reward*.

If we're honest with ourselves, we probably don't always eagerly anticipate our devotional time, the same way we look forward to taking a bite of our favorite chocolate candy bar. But we should! Think of ways to make your time with God sweeter. Unlike chocolate -- where too much could be a bad thing -- we can never consume too much of God's Word. We can never have too much of His Word our lives.

In challenging ourselves as we go forward, ... let us look for ways to taste the sweetness of God every day ... in His love, His presence, and in His Word.



Prayer Corner

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

- Soror April Briscoe had surgery on April 26 - prayers for a speedy recovery and total healing
- Soror Audrey Washington and her family for the passing of her Daughter's Dad
- Soror May Thompson on recent hospitalization at St. David's North Austin Medical Center, Room 341.
- Soror Domonique Kilgore and her family for the passing of her Father
- Soror Tonya King and her family for the passing of her Husband's Grandmother
- Soror Monica Brewer and her family for the passing of her Aunt
- Soror Susan McQueen for overall healing and recovery from recent surgery
- Soror Jeri Brooks, who recently had surgery on her foot
- Soror Del Watson and her family for the passing of her Mother
- Soror Cathy Ellison and her family for the passing of her Father

To submit your prayer requests and bereavement notices please click here, <https://dstatx.org/contact-page/pb-request-form/>

May Omega Omega Assignments

Soror Mae Thompson through
Soror Del Watson

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

IMPORTANT!

Important Information, courtesy of Protocol and Traditions

Don't let the break, break the bond!

Sorors, as we look forward to a much-needed summer break, the Protocol and Traditions committee would like to thank you for your participation in our Protocol moments during the Sororal year. We hope that you have been reminded of what you knew or learned something new. As we look back on a few key points from the year, we are asking that while you take a break, please don't let it completely separate you from the bond we hold so dear.

Take a moment from time to time to hum or sing a few lines from our official songs (or learn all the words). Revisit the power in our oath and make this summer the one in which you commit each word to memory. Refresh your memory on how we honor our leaders. Visit the National Website and secure a protocol and traditions manual and read it. Sorors, take advantage of the change of season sales and secure meeting appropriate attire (regional conference is coming soon). Most of all, take the time to stay connected with your sisters. Reach out to our D.E.A.R.S. (Dedicated – Energetic – Active – Respected Sorors) and our executive board by sending an encouraging text or phone call, or pick a sister from the roster you don't know and get to know them. **Love is always a proper protocol and Sisterhood is our tradition.**

ATTIRE

Formal Opening:

- All white suits, dresses, skirts, and blouses
- Pants and hats of any kind are inappropriate and will not be allowed. Head coverings due to medical and religious reasons are permitted.

Plenary Sessions

- Business attire is required. This includes suits, dresses, skirts and blouses and pant suits. Denim and khaki clothing, shorts, skirts, capris, halters, and strapless tops are not considered business attire and will not be allowed.
- Paraphernalia jackets (line jackets) and sweaters are not considered business attire and should not be worn.

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

IMPORTANT!

Important Information, courtesy of Protocol and Traditions,
continued...

Don't let the break, break the bond!

Songs

- The 7 official songs are never sung as solos or renditions.
- They are never improvised or appended to other songs.
- All verses are to be sung.

Symbols, Insignia and Regalia

- The Sorority Pin-designed by one of our founders, Soror Madree Penn White. It has the 3 Greek letters and nine pearls: worn over our hearts by initiated members of the Sorority.
- Sorority Seal-circular with "Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc Grand Chapter "engraved around the Crest
- Official Sorority colors-Crimson and Cream

Photos and Videos

- The crest may NOT be used as stand-alone image in a virtual background.
- Chapter websites may include photographs depicting sorors participating in chapter activities
- The use of the Founders pictures should be limited to official documents, posters, and wall hangings. Pictures are not for casual usage such as on T-shirts, tote bags, puzzles, screen savers.

Respect and Recognition

- The National President and Past National Presidents should always be afforded a place of honor at any Delta activity.
- When the Regional Director and/or Regional Representative enter a regional or chapter activity and when they are introduced, the membership stands and remains standing until these revered sorors are seated.

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Social Action Committee!

Texas Primary Runoff Election May 24th

Voters will be heading to the polls again later this month to choose the final candidates in the Texas Primary Runoff Election May 24th. Early voting for the runoff election will be May 16th-20th. Things you need to know before you vote:

- Republican and Democratic parties each choose their candidates in a primary election.
- Libertarian and Green parties each choose their candidates in a party convention.
- You need to vote in the same party's runoff that you voted in the primary election.
- In the General election in November, you can vote for the candidate of your choice, regardless of party.

City of Austin Town Hall Meeting on Police Oversight

The Office of Police Oversight (OPO) is excited to partner with the Mayor's Office, the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, and the Equity Office to host the second Town Hall on Public Safety: People Living with Disabilities and Policing. The event will take place on June 25, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

We invite you to take part in this conversation amplifying the voices of people living with disabilities and their unique experiences with policing in Austin.

The town hall is open to the public and will be hosted both in person, at the Asian American Resource Center (8401 Cameron Rd, Austin, TX), and virtually via Zoom.

Registration information:

- To attend the event in-person at the Asian American Resource Center (8401 Cameron Rd, Austin, TX), please register here, https://cityofaustin.formstack.com/forms/may_townhall_on_public_safety_people_with_disabilities_and_policing



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

An Event Update and Upcoming Activities, Courtesy of Our Arts & Letters Committee.

Join Us for the May Book Club Meeting!

Saturday, May 21

12:00 p.m. CST

Check your email for the zoom link registration.

We will discuss the book, "Professional Troublemaker: The Fear-Fighter Manual" by Luvvie Ajayi Jones

The book has received rave reviews!

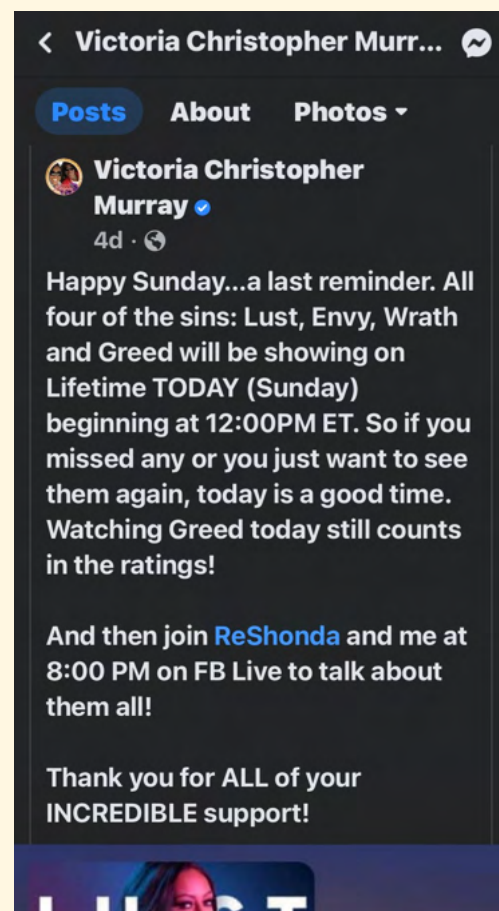
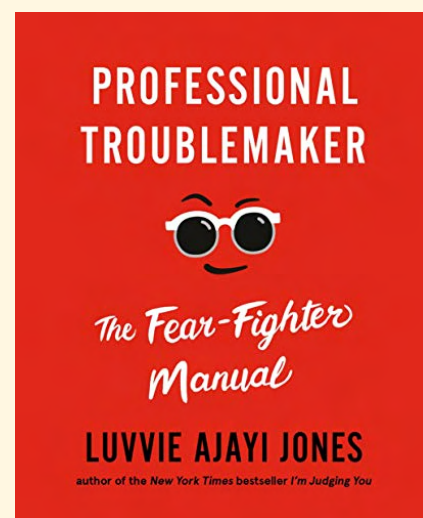
"For fans of: Shonda Rhimes's Year of Yes; Hulu's Shrill; Glennon Doyle's Untamed; HBO's Insecure...With some helpful insights from her grandmother, Ajayi Jones encourages us all, via this audaciously funny guide, to overcome imposter syndrome and accept our worth."

—Marie Claire

"Luvvie Ajayi Jones, the bestselling author of I'm Judging You, brings Professional Troublemaker: The Fear-Fighter Manual, a hilarious and transformational book about how to tackle fear-that everlasting hater-and audaciously step into lives, careers and legacies that go beyond even our wildest dreams."

—Black Business Guide, named one of the 21 Books by Black Writers to Read in 2021

And Soror Author Victoria Christopher Murray was recently featured on our Readers, Writers, and Wranglers panel and her books were recently featured on Lifetime Television!



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

An Event Update and Upcoming Activities, Courtesy of Our Arts & Letters Committee.

Volunteer Opportunity!

Austin Public Library's Kid's Block Party is back on and they are requesting from us 10-15 volunteers that would help to facilitate activities at the event on May 14th (Saturday), from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

To sign-up, click here: <https://volunteersignup.org/QPLK8>

If interested and/or if you have questions regarding this volunteer opportunity, please reach out to our Arts & Letters Committee (dstatx.arts@gmail.com)



A poster for 'DANCE ACROSS AUSTIN' featuring a photograph of two women in traditional African dance attire performing on stage. The text on the poster includes 'MINDPOP & Austin Parks and Recreation Present', 'DANCE ACROSS AUSTIN', 'LANNAYA DRUM with AND DANCE', and 'Thursdays, May 5-26, 4:30 - 5:30PM: Dance Across Austin - Lannaya Drum and Dance Classes'.

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

An Event Update and Upcoming Activities, Courtesy of Our Educational Development Committee.

Educational Development has had a busy spring. Early Childhood Literacy committee kicked off the spring by hosting a Spring Break reading contest at Pflugerville Elementary school where Soror Genia Antoine is the principal. Students not only had to read a book of their choice but create a story map, which tells the highlights of the story in a visual presentation. The kids were super excited to entry as prize was an Amazon Fire tablet! Below is a picture of Principal Genia Antoine with Spring Break Contest Winner:



Additionally, the Educational Development committee represented at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church's 1st Annual Fontaine Fest. Geared to introduce area high school and middle students to HBCUs. The committee shared information on the Foundation's scholarship opportunities as well as recruited for the Delta Academy and GEMs program for the 2022-2023 program year. It was a good time had, with other D9 organizations! Sorors, pictured in the first photo from L-R: Tiffany Lewis, Ollie Washington, Latasha Robinson; and Sorors pictured in the second photo from L-R: Bethany Bell and Tiffany Lewis.



This Month's Highlights

LOCAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

NCNW Annual Membership Drive

ncnw
commitment | unity | self reliance

Membership Drive
April 29 ~ May 31, 2022

FY '23: Oct. 1, 2022 ~ Sept. 30, 2023

Attend our Virtual General Membership Meetings

Join a Committee

Participate in events & activities

Provide critical feedback

Be Inform

Read your emails sent from
NCNWAustinTech@gmail.com

Recruit

Commit Collaborate

Unity

Transform

Self-Reliance Voice

VOTE

MEMBERS MATTER!

WWW.NCNWGREATERAUSTIN.ORG

Please complete & email the attached application to NCNWAustinTech@gmail.com.
Then, select your payment method.
Payment options: Credit card payment through PayPal on ncnwaustin.org or mail check or money order payable to NCNW Austin to PO Box 141243, Austin, TX 78714

Greetings!

Yes, our ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE for NCNW Greater Austin is upon us!

Get excited about sharing the FABULOUS Benefits of being a member of NCNW Greater Austin.

- Creating a legacy of service; sharing your story with others for inspiration; listening to others stories;
- Contributing to the LEGACY Quilt;
- Demonstrating your expertise in organization, presenting, educating, and instructing
- Demonstrating what commitment, unity, and self-reliance is all about
- AND so much more . . .

As we journey to the other side of this COVID Pandemic, think about the wonderful ways you can contribute (in service and financially) to growing the NCNW Greater Austin Section.

We are humbled to say, "WE NEED YOU!"

Come join (rejoin) us and bring at least three people with you (NEW and/or REJoining after more than two years of being absent). For questions, please email

NCNWAustinTech@gmail.com

This Month's Highlights

LOCAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Pave the Way for Austin Delta Foundation's Future!

Membership Drive & Red Brick Campaign



March 1 – April 30

PAVE THE WAY FOR THE FUTURE

Scan the **QR Code** above to purchase a brick and join **Austin Delta Foundation** in support of the organization's mission and maintenance of the Delta property in Austin



Established in 1986 under the leadership of Brenda Hanson, Austin Delta Foundation (ADF) exists to promote educational, cultural, economic, and community development initiatives. We strive to build productive relationships and transformative programs with the community, especially in the areas of education, food security, access to healthcare, civic engagement, and housing. Our projects over the past year have included scholarship awards of over \$20K, feeding those in need in partnership with Mr. Catfish, and mobilizing voters by sharing candidate information.

The ADF Board invites you to join us by becoming a Foundation member and supporting the Red Brick Campaign from March 1 through May 31, 2022.

- Annual membership in ADF is only \$50 and grants you an opportunity to join us in shaping and executing programming to meet the needs of the greater Austin community, specifically for African American citizens. As a member of the Foundation, you are invited to serve on committees responsible for such things as property management, scholarships, fundraising, community outreach, and membership services. This is a great way to gain experience in new areas while fellowshiping with other ADF members.

This Month's Highlights

LOCAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

- Buy an inscribed brick, prices starting at \$100, as a permanent symbol of your role in sustaining the Austin Delta Foundation and its property at 1190 San Bernard St Austin, TX. All proceeds from the Red Brick Campaign will be used solely for improvements, renovations, and maintenance of the ADF property. All members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated are welcome to purchase personalized engraved brick(s) that will be displayed along the walkway of the property.

As a special offer during our Membership Drive, by purchasing a brick along with your ADF annual membership, you will also receive an Austin Delta Foundation t-shirt (previously sold for \$15). Visit the Austin Delta Foundation website (<https://www.austindeltafoundation.org/>) or scan the QR Code for steps to join or to complete your purchase before May 31. Members who would prefer not to use PayPal for their brick purchase, may mail a check to the ADF House at 1190 San Bernard, Austin 78702 along with the appropriate form(s). You may print off the order form by clicking on this link,

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/0Bz-Gw4U6BSEzaGhRRWdobS1Nd3pCdGQ5c0Yxc3lxckNscHcw/edit?resourcekey=0-7CLnr1Rd6vtrWA0zbz2E-Q>

If you purchased a brick during previous campaigns, we also offer you the following options to commemorate your support

Donor Certificate only - \$20

1.5 x 3 x 1/2 (18chars, 3 rows) Souvenir Brick - \$35

3 x 3 x 1/2 (18chars, 6 rows) Souvenir Brick - \$42

If you decide that you are not ready to join the Foundation at this time, there are quite a few ways you can support ADF's mission throughout the year.

- Check with your employer to see if they offer a Giving Match. If so, make a tax-deductible donation through your employer to make the most of every dollar you give.
- Do your online shopping through Amazon Smiles identifying Austin Delta Foundation as your supported charity.

Link for Amazon Smiles:

<https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=%2F>

Membership Spotlight

Sorors, let's celebrate this month's Membership Spotlights, with a spotlight on a new member who has joined the Austin Alumnae Chapter, Soror Shawna M. Clouser!

Membership Spotlight



SOROR SHAWNA M. CLOUSER

New Member Spotlight



Sorors, allow us to introduce you to one of our newest members to Austin Alumnae. Soror Shawna M. Clouser. Soror Clouser moved to the Central Texas area in 2020 as the Director of Elementary Instructional Services in the Manor Independent School District. Her focus is to support all eight elementary campuses with professional development and a writing curriculum. She is a proud graduate of Prairie View A & M University and holds a Master of Education Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. She is currently studying educational leadership at Lamar University.

Soror Clouser's Delta life began in the fall of 1995 (as # 23) where she was initiated through the Eta Beta chapter on the campus of Prairie View A&M University. She was pinned by her grandmother at PVAMU and had the joy of pinning her daughter who currently attends of University of Texas at Arlington.

Soror Clouser was previously involved in the Houston Alumnae and Fort Worth Alumnae chapters before coming to Austin. Her desire is to become more involved in committee work with hopes of making an impact in Educational Development. The one thing she appreciates about Delta Sigma Theta is the overwhelming joy that is constant in each new city.

In her spare time, Soror Clouser loves to read, listen to jazz and gospel music, Sunday dinners with family and trips to New Orleans to enjoy the music and crawfish during Mardi Gras. She can't wait to meet in person and experience that true Delta joy!

Welcome to Austin Alumnae Soror Clouser!!

Congratulations, Soror Shawna!



Membership Spotlight

Happy Birthday, Sorors!

Happy Birthday to our May birthdays!

05/03: Shanteka Sigers
05/06: Celeste Williams
05/07: Carla Emery-Culberson & Kimberly Whitlock
05/09: Regina Patridge & Nancy Thompson
05/11: LaTasha Dennis-Pickett, Christien Rawlins, & Lenora Waters
05/12: Jailyann McCowan, Timesha Moten-Tibbs, & Tausha Robertson
05/14: Melinda Murphy & Sonja Prevo
05/15: Lisa Horton
05/18: Mae Thompson
05/19: Tiana Brockington-Robertson

05/21: Dominique Williams
05/22: Mary Jackson
05/24: Delois Hall
05/25: Cathy Ellison, Betty Hudspeth, Tanisa Jeffers-Bernard, & Carlisha Robinson
05/28: Stacey Cleveland
05/29: Demitra Alexander

Coming Your Way....!

The Odyssey & Weekly Digest Submission Deadlines

The Weekly Digest's Deadlines

- Week of May 15: Submit all content by Thursday, May 12
- Week of May 29: Submit all content by Thursday, May 26 (Please note, this is our last weekly Digest for this sorority year.)

*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).



Sorors,

May you have a marvelous May
a May enveloped in **temperance** from that which does
not best serve the purpose and calling that God has on
your life.

Also, please don't forget to register for our
upcoming Chapter Meeting
(Saturday, May 7 at 10a.m.)

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0kfuuvqz8iHNRRavDPLbgRSeGx2ytveS-6>

And sorors, the first week of May is Teacher
Appreciation Week – to all of our brilliant AAC
educators, "**Happy Teacher Appreciation Week!**"

Austin Alumnae Leadership Team

Robin Blackmon, Soror President
Jacqueline Habersham, 1st Vice President
Kacey Hanson, 2nd Vice President
Demitra Alexander, Treasurer
Deborah Shaw-Boatner, Asst. Treasurer
Janet Marshall, Recording Secretary
Tiffany White, Corresponding Secretary
Anita Daniels, Financial Secretary
Tennile Thomas, Asst. Financial Secretary
Kendra Wesson, Sergeant at Arms
Autumn Caviness, Journalist
Lisa Newman, Immediate Past President



Austin Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
P.O. BOX 143381
Austin, Texas 78714