



THE ODYSSEY

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

SEPTEMBER 2022

Presidential Press

Vol. 1

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Greetings Sorors it's time for the REDvolution!

As we embark on this sorority year, we embrace the theme as laid out during the chapter retreat: Moving Forward as One as we **Engage** our Membership to Serve, **Evolve** our Programming with Innovation, and **Enlighten** our Community one footprint at a time. The chapter leadership team has been working diligently to implement quality programming to meet the needs of our community. So sorors, my first charge to each of you is to **Engage**. **Engage** by getting connected to a committee.

Our Five-Point Programmatic Thrust programs need you as we: (1) ensure economic development and growth of our members and the black community; (2) broaden the minds and expose our youth to academic and enrichment programming; (3) invest in our own physical and mental health first and educate the community; (4) support Delta's international initiatives locally and abroad; and (5) embody the action in our Social Action as we educate, advocate, influence, and activate Texas voters.

As you can see sorors, the work is plentiful but the laborers are few. But we are leaning on you my sister, to be counted as an active member of at least one committee this sorority year. The Social Action Committee has taken off as we are registering voters and getting pledges to vote at Sweet Home, The Pinnacle of Praise during the month of September. Social Justice weekend is upon us September 23-25 and volunteers are needed. If you are not happy with what is going on in our community and state, now is the time for you to **Engage** and be a part of the REDvolution!

Sorors as we **Engage** remember we must do it all in **LOVE**.

Sorors I'm ready, are you?

Yours in Service,

Soror Robin Blackmon



Chaplain's Message

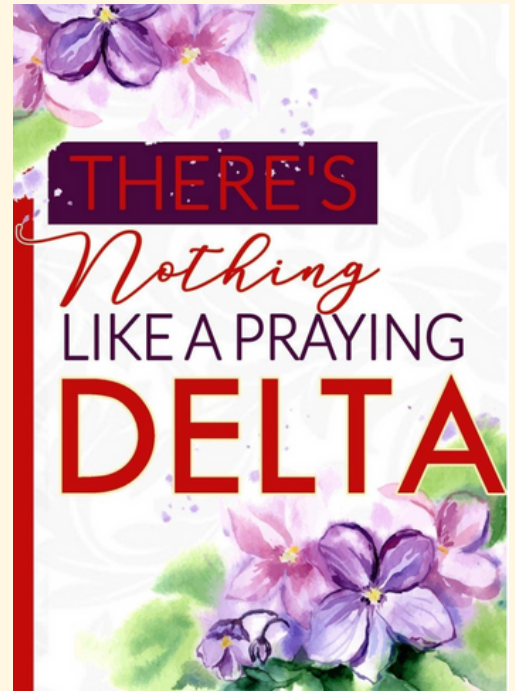
by Soror Dedurie V. Kirk, Chaplain

Let's Go!

Welcome to a new sorority year. It's time to hit the road running. Projects that worked well last year we'll build on. Programs that could be improved, we've tweaked and they're ready to roll out. We are on our marks at the starting line. Everyone is set. Let's go.

Well, maybe not so fast. Chapters 2 and 3 of Colossians reminds us since Christ Jesus is our Lord or leader, we live for him. Before we get started, we need the right attire, which includes compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. To work with one another, we must forgive any debts as Christ has forgiven us. And over everything, we need to put on love.

One last reminder – we are to do everything as we are working for the Lord. For it is the Lord who gives us our gifts and the strength to do what we do in the name of Delta. That's it. Now we're **ready**. Let's go.



Prayer Corner

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

- Soror Claudine B. Shorter, the Mother-in-Law of Soror Patricia Shorter as she is in ICU;
- Soror Kerri Lang for health and healing;
- Soror Cathy Ellison who fell and broke her arm;
- Soror Sandra "FeFe" McCrary-Marshall for health and healing; and
- Soror Delbra Bradford's Husband (Al) who was in a serious cycling accident.

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

September Omega Omega Assignments

Soror Tashia Coleman through
Soror Carla Emery-Culberson

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

IMPORTANT!

Risk Management Volunteer Training – Register Now!

Sorors, register via the enclosed link,
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GVKz-ybXStyrJa-Z7vEFZw

RISK MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEER TRAINING



 DSTATX.RISKMGMT@GMAIL.COM

Risk Management Volunteer Training is required for ALL volunteers intending to work with Delta Academy, GEMS, EMBODI, or Early Childhood Literacy. Join us for this upcoming virtual training session.

**Sunday, September 11, 2022
2-4:15PM**

Register now



https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GVKz-ybXStyrJa-Z7vEFZw

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Social Action Committee!

2021 Police Oversight Report Available

The 2021 Office of Police Oversight has been released by the Austin Police Department. This extensive report includes public complaints, input by Austin citizens and results of both external and internal investigations. APD hopes to increase transparency and sustainable partnerships throughout the community.

To access a copy of the report, click on the following link:

<https://alpha.austin.gov/health-safety/accountability-and-transparency-in-policing/police-feedback-and-records/office-of-police-oversight-2021-annual-report/>



Social Justice Weekend Needs Volunteers

Austin Alumnae will be very active in September registering voters around all communities in the Central Texas area, educating voters on the issues/candidates and providing resources for training for Voter Deputy Registrars and poll workers. Social Action will set up a signup sheet for Soror volunteers to help with our effort for Social Justice Weekend, September 23-25. We'll be busy from Friday night football to church services on Sunday. We will need all hands-on deck. Please get your DVR training so we can be ready to show up and show out all around central Texas. Election day, November 8th is right around the corner.



Board Positions Announced

The Travis County Commissioners Court is currently seeking residents interested in working creatively in public and affordable housing. The Court must fill vacancies on two boards, the Housing Authority of Travis County (HATC) and the Strategic Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC).

The deadline to submit an application is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 23, 2022

Please visit <https://traviscountytexas.gov/igr/board-appointments> for more information and an application packet.

***Sorors, get excited!

Our inaugural Social Action Saturday Newsletter is headed to your inbox soon!***

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Social Action Committee!

Photos from Sweet Home, The Pinnacle of Praise, Voter Registration and I Pledge to Vote Drive held on September 4, 2022. AAC will be at Sweet Home every Sunday for the month of September.



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

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

THANK YOU, SORORS!

Sorors, thank you so much for showing UP and showing OUT at this year's school supply drive hosted by Educational Development Committee. The picture does not serve justice in displaying the large number of items donated to the drive. We collected well over 100 items (safe to say hundreds of items) to not only benefit Pflugerville Elementary where Soror Genia Antoine is the principal, but also the host location, Overton Elementary. We sincerely thank you for your contributions! If you were not able to give this time or forgot, rest assure, there will be other opportunities to assist and serve schools in Austin and surrounding areas.



**THANK YOU
SO MUCH!**

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

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



Volunteers Needed & Training Information

If you're interested in assisting/serving the Educational Development Committee's programs such as Early Childhood Literacy, EMBODI, Delta Academy and/or Delta GEMS, Risk Management training is required. Our next training opportunity is Sunday, September 11, 2-4:15 P.M., virtually. Register via the link shared earlier on page 3 of this month's Odyssey. We will need volunteers in the elementary schools, mentoring and reading, volunteers to assist with delivering robust and enriching sessions to our Academy/GEMS participants, and finally hosting the EMBODI Symposium in November.

There is a lot to do and you can help! If you have questions about any of our programs, please contact us at dsteddev@gmail.com. Lastly, please help us promote these events/activities. Applications are open now for Academy and GEMS through the end of September. Share our (Austin Alumnae) social media posts, fliers, and our (Ed Dev) email. THANK YOU!

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Emergency Response Committee!



September Is Emergency Preparedness Month!

The City of Austin's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is launching Phase II of the Ready Central Texas (RCT) campaign, a sustained regional campaign to educate and empower the community to be better prepared for emergencies and disasters.

Part of this campaign is an Emergency Preparedness Fair on September 20, 2022 from 3-7 p.m. at the Asian American Resource Center. Address: 8401 Cameron Rd, Austin, TX 78754

Contact: Sara Henry, Communications Manager, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, office: 512-974-0470 or mobile: 512-554-7508
sara.henry@austintexas.gov



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Emergency Response Committee!

TORNADO • FLASH FLOOD • EARTHQUAKE • WINTER STORM • HURRICANE • FIRE • HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SPILL

Emergency Preparedness Checklist



**American
Red Cross**
Mile High Chapter

The next time disaster strikes, you may not have much time to act. Prepare now for a sudden emergency.

Learn how to protect yourself and cope with disaster by planning ahead. This

checklist will help you get started. Discuss these ideas with your family, then prepare an emergency plan. Post the plan where everyone will see it—on the refrigerator or bulletin board.

For additional information about how to prepare for hazards in your community, contact your local emergency management or civil defense office and American Red Cross chapter.

Emergency Checklist

Call Your Emergency Management Office or American Red Cross Chapter

- ☐ Find out which disasters could occur in your area.
- ☐ Ask how to prepare for each disaster.
- ☐ Ask how you would be warned of an emergency.
- ☐ Learn your community's evacuation routes.
- ☐ Ask about special assistance for elderly or disabled persons.

Also...

- ☐ Ask your workplace about emergency plans.
- ☐ Learn about emergency plans for your children's school or day care center.

Create an Emergency Plan

- ☐ Meet with household members to discuss the dangers of fire, severe weather, earthquakes and other emergencies. Explain how to respond to each.
- ☐ Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.

- ☐ Discuss what to do about power outages and personal injuries.
- ☐ Draw a floor plan of your home. Mark two escape routes from each room.
- ☐ Show family members how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at main switches when necessary.
- ☐ Post emergency telephone numbers near telephones.
- ☐ Teach children how and when to call 911, police and fire.
- ☐ Instruct household members to turn on the radio for emergency information.
- ☐ Pick one out-of-state and one local friend or relative for family members to call if separated during a disaster (it is often easier to call out-of-state than within the affected area).
- ☐ Teach children your out-of-state contact's phone numbers.
- ☐ Pick two emergency meeting places.
 - 1) A place near your home in case of a fire.
 - 2) A place outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home after a disaster.
- ☐ Take a basic first aid and CPR class.
- ☐ Keep family records in a water and fire-proof container.

Prepare a Disaster Supplies Kit

Assemble supplies you might need in an evacuation. Store them in an easy-to-carry container such as a backpack or duffel bag.

Include:

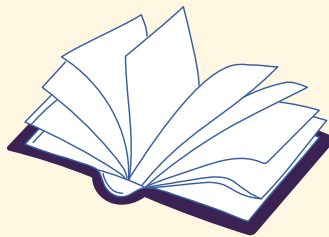
- ☐ A supply of water (one gallon per person per day). Store water in sealed, unbreakable containers. Identify the storage date and replace every six months.
- ☐ A supply of non-perishable packaged or canned food and a non-electric can opener.
- ☐ A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes.
- ☐ Blankets or sleeping bags.
- ☐ A first aid kit and prescription medications.
- ☐ An extra pair of glasses.
- ☐ A battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- ☐ Credit cards and cash.
- ☐ An extra set of car keys.
- ☐ A list of family physicians.
- ☐ A list of important family information; the style and serial number of medical devices such as pacemakers.
- ☐ Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Sorors, This Year's African American Book Festival Was a Resounding Success!

Congratulations to our Soror Julianne Malveaux on the second edition of Surviving and Thriving 365 Facts in Black Economic History.



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Sorors, The REDvolution Has Begun!

Congratulations Membership Services on Hosting
Such an Inspiring Retreat!

Photos from this year's Chapter Retreat.



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Photos from this year's Chapter Retreat.



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Oh to be a Delta Girl!

Earlier this summer, Austin Alumnae Chapter celebrated President Colette Pierce Burnette's tenure as the Sixth President and CEO of Huston-Tillotson University and welcomed the incoming Seventh President and CEO of HT, Dr. Melva K. Williams!

We congratulate Soror Pierce Burnette on an awesome tenure and welcome Soror Williams to the Austin community!



CONGRATULATIONS



This Month's Highlights

REGIONAL CHAPTER NEWS

Austin Alumnae Chapter Was Absolutely in the Building for This Year's 48th Southwest Regional Conference, held in Forth Worth, Texas!

Photos from this year's Southwest Regional Conference.



This Month's Highlights

REGIONAL CHAPTER NEWS

Photos from this year's Southwest Regional Conference.



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Photos from this year's Southwest Regional Conference.



This Month's Highlights

REGIONAL CHAPTER NEWS

Photos from this year's Southwest Regional Conference.





Membership Spotlight

Happy Birthday, Sorors!

Happy Birthday to our September birthdays!

09/03: Dena Bryant & Gloria Williams
09/04: Renee Jones & Brenda Kennedy
09/05: Thedencia Horne
09/07: Betty Austin & Nancy Brown
09/09: Inette Brown
09/13: Debra Williams-Overton
09/14: Jeffrey Archer & Catherine Lee
09/16: Joan Roberts-Scott & Emily Thompson

09/20: Dominique Williams
09/24: Mary Jackson
09/25: Pamela Jessie
09/26: Valerie Baker
09/28: Akeia Madyun
09/29: Vickie Pugh

Coming Your Way....!

The Odyssey Submission Deadlines

- October Odyssey Submit all content by Tuesday, September 20th
- November Odyssey Submit all content by Tuesday, October 25th
- December Odyssey Submit all content by Tuesday, November 22nd

*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 MIDpoint Message publication. Questions?

Please email Soror Autumn Caviness (dstatx.journalist@gmail.com).



Austin Alumnae Leadership Team

2022-2023 Committee Chairs

Economic Development

Sylvia Holt-Rabb & Avis Gipson

Educational Development

Tiffany Tillis-Lewis & Bethany Bell

International Awareness & Involvement

Dena Bryant & Akeshia Johnson Smothers

Physical and Mental Health

Courtney Nolan & April Brisco

Political Awareness and Involvement/

Social Action

Celeste Williams & Veronica Johnson

Arts and Letters

Jonna LaGrone-Haynes & Stacey Cleveland

Risk Management Coordinator

Dewi Smith

Internal Audit

Julie Dixon-Cartwright

Rituals and Ceremonies

Michelle Scruggs

Technology

Kathryn Foster & Khaison Reed

Emergency Response

Suzanne Piper & Tonja Walls-Davis

Founders Day

Sheldy Starkes & Donna Jackson

National Pan Hellenic Representative(s)

Kim Whitlock, Bre' Stafford, & Darralyn Johnson

Nominating Committee

Tamela Saldana

Parliamentarian/Chair of Policies and Procedures

Patricia Shorter

Charitable Partners

Sonya Harry & LaTasha Dennis

Protocol and Traditions

Cedel Evans & Sandra Marshall

Records Management and Retention

Vacant

Ways and Means

Alnita Foote

Communications and Public Relations

Autumn Caviness

Heritage and Archives

Nancy Thompson, Historian & Tashia Coleman

Chaplain

Dedurie Kirk

Strategic Planning

Courtney Robinson

Officers

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

Sorors,

Please don't forget to attend our first
Chapter Meeting of the Sorority Year!
Saturday, September 10 at 10 a.m., held at
Bertha Sadler Means Young Women's
Leadership Academy
(6401 N. Hampton Dr., Austin, Texas 78723).

Sorors, we will be meeting in the Cafetorium,
please remember to wear your mask!



Austin Alumnae Chapter
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