



# THE ODYSSEY

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

OCTOBER 2022

*Presidential Press*

Vol. 2

## THIS ISSUE

- Presidential Press  
Page 1
- Chaplain's Message &  
Prayer Corner  
Page 2
- This Month's Highlights  
Page 3
- Membership Spotlight  
Page 18
- Coming Your Way...!  
Page 19

Sorors!!!

On Your Mark, Get Set, Gooooooooo!!!!

Sorors, we are off to a great start and have embraced the goal of **engagement**. **Engagement** this weekend was about 30 Sorors in Delta red standing up for justice from Friday night to Sunday morning. Paraphrasing Galatians 6:9, sorors let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Sorors let's not give up, let's keep the momentum, and let's press on as we march towards Election Day 2022! The Social Action committee is planning and ensuring that Austin Alumnae Chapter continues to put the *action* in social action! Sorors, please continue to engage, take action, review the announcements for all upcoming events, and mark your calendars for Saturday, October 29 – the debut of our Social Action Saturday newsletter!

It is officially time to roll out the Delta Red Carpet! The Arts and Letters committee has designated Friday, September 30, for Austin Alumnae to walk the Red Carpet to view The Woman King! Please signup to attend via the updated links found on page 3 of this Odyssey. On October 12, Economic Development is presenting its first virtual Wealth Wednesday Webinar with a panel discussion on Small Business Resources. The "Readers, Writers, and Wranglers" book event will be Saturday, October 22 with cookbook author Angela Shelf Medearis at Krab Kingz.

Sorors, as you can see with our full slate of programming activities and social action engagement the REDvolution continues for our beloved Austin Alumnae Chapter!

Yours in Service,

*Soror Robin Blackmon*



## Chaplain's Message

by Soror Dedurie V. Kirk, Chaplain

### Membership Without Service Is Dead

What good is it, my sisters, to promise to use your influence for the repeal of laws depriving human beings of privileges and rights but not support one chapter-sponsored initiative towards that end? Can Austin Alumnae reach its potential? Suppose the Social Action Chair announces programming throughout the sorority year. If one of you says to her, "You're doing a good job; keep up the good work," but never signs up or shows up in support of one event, what good is it?

A car is a wheeled vehicle designed to transport people from point A to point B. But if the battery is dead, the car cannot serve its purpose. In the same way, Delta Sigma Theta was founded to assist persons in need. Being a member only, if not accompanied by time spent serving our community, renders one the same as a car with a dead battery...useless.

Inactivity renders us merely greek letter wearers. Let's fulfill our promises, actively support our chapter programming and be the difference makers facilitating change that positively affects our community. We are Delta Sigma Theta.

[ Paraphrased from James 2:14-17]



## Prayer Corner

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

- Soror Khasion Reed for the loss of her Aunt, Shirley Moore;
- Soror Carla Emery-Culberson for successful surgery and healing from an arm fraction;
- Soror Lisa Newman for recovery from hip surgery;
- Soror Cynthia Robinson, Soror Crystal Robinson, and family for the loss of their Aunt;
- Soror Freda Mills and her family - Soror Mills' Brother recently passed, earlier this month;
- Soror Claudine B. Shorter, the Mother-in-Law of Soror Patricia Shorter for complete recovery;
- Soror Kerri Lang for health and healing;
- Soror Cathy Ellison for complete healing; and
- Soror Sandra "FeFe" McCrary-Marshall for health and healing.

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

## October Omega Omega Assignments

Soror Alexis Ervin through  
Soror Brenda Harris

# This Month's Highlights

NEWS FROM OUR ARTS & LETTERS COMMITTEE



## IMPORTANT!

What's Happening in Our Community,  
Courtesy of Our Arts & Letters Committee!

### Sorors, a Red Carpet Event!

You're Invited to the Arts & Letters Committee Red Carpet Event on **Friday, September 30th** to view Oscar winner Viola Davis in **The Woman King**. Choose between the following locations and purchase your tickets a week in advance when we are able too. These times are based on the current schedule and may change slightly. We will update everyone!

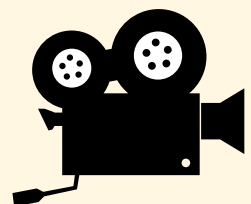
If you can't join us, or can't wait, please send us a selfie with your ticket! Come and let's enjoy and support this thrilling performance and epic tale bringing to life the true story of the Agojie, an all-female military regiment charged with protecting the embattled African Kingdom of Dahomey.

Use these **UPDATED** links to purchase tickets:

<https://www.galaxytheatres.com/movie-theater/Austin/movies?d=9/30/2022>

or

<https://www.cinemark.com/movies/the-woman-king?showDate=2022-09-30>



# This Month's Highlights

NEWS FROM OUR ARTS & LETTERS COMMITTEE

## IMPORTANT!

What's Happening in Our Community,  
Courtesy of Our Arts & Letters Committee!



Austin  
Alumnae  
Chapter  
Arts & Letters

Presents...

**READERS,  
WRITERS &  
WRANGLERS**

*"Celebrating African  
American Cookbook  
Authors"*

**OCTOBER 22, 2022  
2PM - 4PM**

Krab Kingz Restaurant  
1202 FM 685, Suite A1  
Pflugerville, TX 78660

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

For more information contact us at:  
[dstatx.arts@gmail.com](mailto:dstatx.arts@gmail.com)





# This Month's Highlights

## AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Economic Development Committee!



The Economic Development Committee of the Austin Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., presents Wealth Wednesday Quarterly Webinar

A panel discussion on Small Business Resources available from local and state government.

The panel will be moderated by Dr. Tamela Saldana, Assistant Director, City of Austin Small Minority Business Resource Department as well as Acting Civil Rights Office for the City of Austin.

The panelists are:

Stacy Dukes-Rhone, CEO, Business Investment Growth, Inc. and BiG Opp Zone, LLC.

Juanita Stephens, CEO of JStephens Wealth Management

Wednesday October 12, 2022

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Open to the public!





# This Month's Highlights

## AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

### News from our Social Action Committee!

Sorors, our Social Action Weekend was a resounding success!  
Social Action Committee,  
CONGRATULATIONS on a job *beyond* well done!





# *This Month's Highlights*

## AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Social Action Committee!





# *This Month's Highlights*

## AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS





# 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 every Sunday for the month of September.



**YOUR VOTE  
MATTERS**



# *This Month's Highlights*

## AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

### News from our Social Action Committee!

14 Sorors of the Austin Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., attended the Round Rock Board of Trustees School Board Meeting!



**VOTE**

**TAKE  
ACTION**





# This Month's Highlights

## AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

### News from our Social Action Committee!

Sorors, enclosed a helpful Voter Guide as we prepare for Early Voting and Election Day!



**BCDP VOTER GUIDE**  
BASTROP COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

EARLY VOTING: 10/24/22 - 11/04/22 ELECTION DAY  
**NOV 8, 2022**



**Beto O'Rourke**  
Governor  
[www.BetoOrourke.com](http://www.BetoOrourke.com)



**Mike Collier**  
Lieutenant Governor  
[www.collierfortexas.com](http://www.collierfortexas.com)



**Rochelle Garza**  
Attorney General  
[www.rochellegarzafortexas.com](http://www.rochellegarzafortexas.com)



**Janet Dudding**  
Comptroller of Public Accounts  
[www.janetdudding4texas.com](http://www.janetdudding4texas.com)



**Jay Kleberg**  
Commissioner of the General Land Office  
[www.jay4tx.com](http://www.jay4tx.com)



**Susan Hays**  
Commissioner of Agriculture  
[www.hays4ag.com](http://www.hays4ag.com)



**Luke Warford**  
Railroad Commissioner  
[www.lukewarford.com](http://www.lukewarford.com)



**Rebecca Bell-Metereau**  
State Board of Education  
[www.voterebecca.com](http://www.voterebecca.com)



**Erin A. Nowell**  
Justice, Supreme Court, Place 3  
[www.justicenowell.com](http://www.justicenowell.com)



**Amanda Reicheck**  
Justice, Supreme Court, Place 5



**Julia Maldonado**  
Justice, Supreme Court, Place 9  
[www.maldonado4texas.com](http://www.maldonado4texas.com)

10/24/22 - 11/04/22 11/08/22



**Rosa Theofanis**  
Third Court of Appeals  
[www.rosaforjustice.com](http://www.rosaforjustice.com)



**Dana Huffman**  
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 5  
[www.judgehuffman.com](http://www.judgehuffman.com)



**Robert Johnson**  
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 6



**Linda Nuno**  
US Congress, District 10  
[www.LindaNunoForCongress.com](http://www.LindaNunoForCongress.com)



**Maclovio Perez, Jr.**  
US Congress, District 27  
[www.MaclovioforCongress.com](http://www.MaclovioforCongress.com)



**Madeline Eden**  
Texas House of Representatives, District 17  
[www.edenfortexas.com](http://www.edenfortexas.com)



**Benton Eskew**  
Bastrop County Court at Law



**Dock Jackson**  
Bastrop County Judge  
[www.dockjackson.com](http://www.dockjackson.com)



**Cheryl Reese**  
Bastrop County Commissioner, Precinct 4  
[www.reese4bastrop.com](http://www.reese4bastrop.com)



**Willy Culberson**  
Bastrop County Community, Precinct 2



**Dayna Beck**  
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1

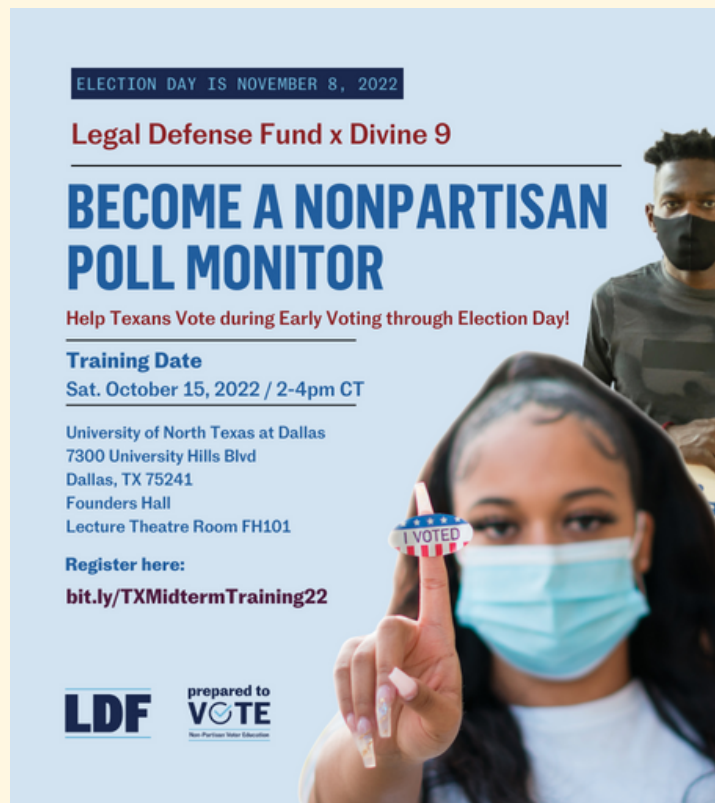
**Take this card with you when you vote!**

Have questions or need more information? Voter Protection Phone Numbers:  
**Call 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683)**

# *This Month's Highlights*

## AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

### News from our Social Action Committee!



**Sorors, we are invited to Legal Defense Fund's  
Divine Nine Day of Action on October 15!**

Attention all Texas Greeks:

Join us on Saturday, October 15th from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM for an Election Day training. We want your organization to pack the house, become a volunteer poll monitor and be informed about election protection in Texas.

Let's all do our part to protect the vote! Sign up here and spread the word, <https://bit.ly/TXMidtermTraining22>



# This Month's Highlights

## AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Upcoming Activity, Courtesy of Our  
Physical and Mental Health Committee

The poster features a teal background with a yellow wavy shape on the left. It includes the CTAAFSC logo, event details, a list of activities with star icons, a hashtag, and a registration call to action with a QR code.

 Central Texas African American  
Family Support Conference

**15**  
october

*join us for a*  
**FAMILY  
REUNION**

**Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022**  
**11 AM - 4 PM**

**The Millennium Youth  
Entertainment Complex**  
1156 Hargrave Street  
Austin, Texas 78702

**FREE!**

**Job Fair** ✨

**Music** ✨

**Exhibitors** ✨

**Food Trucks** ✨

**Flu Vaccines** ✨

**COVID Vaccines** ✨

**#REALchange**

**REGISTER TODAY**  
**[ctaafsc.com/reunion](https://ctaafsc.com/reunion)**



# This Month's Highlights

## AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

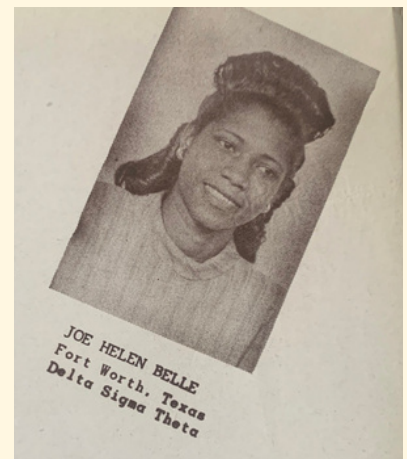
### A Request from Our Historian and Heritage Archive Committee!

#### Heritage Archive Committee Collection Efforts

It is a National Initiative for chapters to preserve their history. We have been working at the Foundation House going through containers, closets and boxes looking for items to preserve our history. Our goal is to identify, categorize, label and preserve our history in one location, in a climate/controlled facility.

#### We need from Past Presidents.....

- Certificates
- Awards
- Trophies
- Plaques the chapter received during your tenure
- Chapter Rules of Order
- Policy and Procedures
- Constitution and By Laws during your tenure
- We need from chapter members.....
- Pictures of Charter Members
- Pictures of Past Presidents
- Founders Day programs
- Jabberwock programs
- May Day programs
- Brochures
- Newspaper clippings
- Journals
- Programs



Pictures of various events identifying the people in the picture and the name of the event. We need your help Sorors. Start looking in your closets, old photo albums, souvenir bags for the items we need. Please contact us by email at [dstatx.ha@gmail.com](mailto:dstatx.ha@gmail.com) or by cell phone Soror Nancy Thompson, Chair 512-565-1855; Soror Tashia Coleman, Co-Chair 512-897-9971 to arrange how we will pick up the items.

# *This Month's Highlights*

## LOCAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Timely news and information from our community!



The **historic Children's Haven Association** invites your **college and high school aged youth and young adults** to learn about **career and entrepreneurial opportunities** in solar energy fields.

When: **Saturday, October 8, 2022**

Time: **10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

(Lunch will be provided.)

Where: The Children's Haven Association

**1908 Chicon Street, Austin, TX**

**RSVP requested**

[thechildrenshaven@gmail.com](mailto:thechildrenshaven@gmail.com)

Covid protocols will be in place.



# *This Month's Highlights*

## LOCAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Timely news and information from our community!



October 18, 2022

### About This Seminar

Free event to the community offering information on jobs, internships, scholarships, and networking opportunities from Meta and BPA member organizations. Free parking in the parking garage next door. Refreshments will be served.

### Time and Place

- 6 pm to 8 pm
- City of Austin Permitting and Development Center Event Room C1405
- 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive, Austin, Texas 78752

Sponsored By



**BPA**  
Black Professional Alliance  
Collaboration At Its Best

For more information email  
[treasurer@blackprofessionalalliance.org](mailto:treasurer@blackprofessionalalliance.org), call  
512-366-0483, or scan the QR Code





# This Month's Highlights

## LOCAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Timely news and information from our community!



# An Evening with Judith Warren

Hear from Judith Warren, MPH as she discusses her book, *More Than A Conqueror: My Journey Through Breast Cancer*

After Judith's discussion, the Alliance for African American Health in Central Texas, Breast Cancer Resource Center and Sisters Network Inc., will share information regarding breast cancer resources available in the Central Texas area.

A book signing will follow with a limited quantity of complimentary copies available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

THURSDAY  
OCTOBER 6, 2022

6:00 PM LIGHT REFRESHMENTS  
6:30 PM PROGRAM BEGINS  
MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

2938 East 13th Street  
Austin, TX 78702



Please register using the QR code or the link below:

<https://www.tfaforms.com/5010432>

Face masks are required at this event.

Presented by



# *This Month's Highlights*

---

## IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION FROM AUSTIN DELTA FOUNDATION

Sorors of Austin Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.,

Austin Delta Foundation (ADF) needs your attention and assistance with the ADF House! We are in the throes of cleaning out, repairing, organizing and properly arranging items in the ADF House to ready it for use for Austin Alumnae Chapter (AAC) members and place it in good condition to be a source of revenue. We also need to declutter so our cleaning service can do a thorough cleaning each time they come to clean. To make it easy for those of you who have items at the ADF house, we are having a Red Tag Party. Everything with a Red Tag stays. Items not tagged by or before October 30 will be removed.

### Details

1. Red tags will be on the table by the front door.
2. If you have items in the ADF house, arrange a time to access the house by emailing [adfhoureservation@gmail.com](mailto:adfhoureservation@gmail.com) with the date and time you wish to enter the house. You will get a confirmation indicating if the house is available at that time and at least 48 hours prior to your arrival you will be given the access code to enter.
3. Assess whether the item(s) you have at the house is/are essential to the chapter. If so, place a red tag along with your name and committee on the item.
4. Remove any items that are non-essential to the chapter. All personal items should be removed.
5. All items not red tagged and remaining after October 30 will be considered unwanted and will be disposed of through sale, donation and/or disposal as deemed by ADF.

Thank you in advance for your help and support with this mammoth undertaking. Please contact Director Alta Y. Alexander at 512.825.6622 | [ayalexander1913@gmail.com](mailto:ayalexander1913@gmail.com) with questions.

---

# *Membership Spotlight*

## *Congratulations, Soror Tiffany Holmes White!*



### **Soror White Named Executive Director of the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System(TESRS)!**

The Texas Emergency Services Retirement System (TESRS) announces that Tiffany White will become its new Executive Director, effective September 1, the first day of the state's new fiscal year. TESRS was created by the Texas Legislature to oversee retirement benefits for Texas' emergency services workers and volunteer firefighters. As Executive Director, Tiffany will be responsible for daily operations of the organization, as well as development and implementation of policy approved by the Board of Trustees.

Tiffany brings extensive legislative experience to her new role with the agency. Most recently, she was Chief of Staff for State Representative Nicole Collier. Previously, she served as Committee Director for the Senate Committee on Agriculture, chaired by State Senator Bob Hall. She worked as Committee Clerk for State Senator Royce West on the Senate Intergovernmental Relations Committee and the Senate Committee on Jurisprudence. Tiffany has worked for the Office of the Texas Comptroller and the Legislative Budget Board.

Tiffany graduated with a Bachelor of Business degree from Baylor University and earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Texas State University. She welcomes her new responsibilities with the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System. Tiffany joins us with more than 30 years of experience in legislative affairs. As a professional in the government administration industry, Tiffany has an extensive track record in Nonprofit Organizations, Public Affairs, Political Communication, Political Science, and Governmental Affairs.



# Membership Spotlight

## Happy Birthday, Sorors!

Happy Birthday to our October birthdays!

10/03: Tonya King  
10/04: Gloria Frazier & Nina Newman  
10/05: Ronnette Ballard & Brittany Peters  
10/08: Faye Sigers  
10/09: Marilyn Deen & Elizabeth Wilson  
10/10: McKenna Sanders  
10/17: Jeri Brooks  
10/19: Elna Andrews

10/21: Anita Swain  
10/22: Nicole Simmons  
10/23: Tamera Diggs-Tate, Clara B. Walker, &  
Florence Smythe-McCauley  
10/25: Tarsha Johnson  
10/26: Kiska Jones  
10/28: Carla Roberson & Shalane Sheppard  
10/30: Texanna Turner

## Coming Your Way....!

### The Odyssey Submission Deadlines

- 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](mailto: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 upcoming  
October Chapter Meeting,  
Saturday, October 1 at 10 a.m., held virtually,

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkfu6ggzwrGNXkl6CL3zhJtzqBQm2U4y0s?\\_xzm\\_rtaid=2\\_FCw-W1THyjRwrH7OvVwQ.1663463872348.b2a9091d511a6fd168bf64d6a78cd6c9&\\_xzm\\_rhtaid=820](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkfu6ggzwrGNXkl6CL3zhJtzqBQm2U4y0s?_xzm_rtaid=2_FCw-W1THyjRwrH7OvVwQ.1663463872348.b2a9091d511a6fd168bf64d6a78cd6c9&_xzm_rhtaid=820)

As well as our Executive Board Meeting,  
Tuesday, October 18 at 6 p.m., held virtually,

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMoceiuqDliHdDTXMGMNM3bJRpl2NBrWoRM6?\\_xzm\\_rtaid=2\\_FCw-W1THyjRwrH7OvVwQ.1663463872348.b2a9091d511a6fd168bf64d6a78cd6c9&\\_xzm\\_rhtaid=820](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMoceiuqDliHdDTXMGMNM3bJRpl2NBrWoRM6?_xzm_rtaid=2_FCw-W1THyjRwrH7OvVwQ.1663463872348.b2a9091d511a6fd168bf64d6a78cd6c9&_xzm_rhtaid=820)

*Congratulations*

Austin Alumnae  
for meeting Corporate Compliance!  
The Corporate Compliance Letter will be available on the  
Member Only portal.



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