



AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER
MINUTES OF THE CHAPTER MEETING
Sep 10, 2022

Following the ritualistic opening, President Robin T. Blackmon called the Austin Alumnae chapter meeting to order at 10:24 AM on Sep 10, 2022. A quorum was present for the transaction of business as presented in the agenda, with following exceptions: Janet Marshall will present the correspondence report; Jacqueline Habersham will present the Financial Secretary report, and Deborah Shaw Boatner will present the Treasurer report. The motion was properly made, seconded, and adopted with no opposition.

Welcome New and Visiting Sorors.

There were three visiting sorors for the Sep chapter meeting: Sorors Kira Hopkins, Monica Allen, and Dionne Brackett.

Minutes – Soror Janet Scroggins Marshall, Recording Secretary

The minutes of the May 2022 chapter meeting were approved as distributed.

Correspondence – Soror Janet Marshall for Soror Tiffany Holmes White, Corresponding Secretary

- Solicitation request: United Negro College Fund
- Thank you note for \$100 donation to United Negro College Fund
- Solicitation request: American Red Cross
- Solicitation request: Central Texas Food Bank
- Sorors, we would love to have you join us at the Jamaica Alumnae Chapter Sisterhood Retreat taking place in Montego Bay, Jamaica October 13-15, 2022! Spend the weekend basking in the crystal blue waters, exploring the island, and enjoying the all-inclusive food and festivities at the resort. And, yes, there is more. Information-packed learning sessions with an incredible lineup of speakers that include Immediate Past National President Beverly Smith, Emmy Nominated Actress, Soror Sheryl Lee Ralph, and remarks from Soror Paula Giddings, author, In Search of Sisterhood.

Emergency Response – Soror Suzanne Piper

- Emergency exits were pointed out to the AAC body for the in-person meeting.

Chapter Reports

Officers

President – Soror Robin T. Blackmon



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Austin Alumnae – Local

- AAC was well represented at the Regional Conference
 - Congratulations to the outgoing regional representation, Soror Lauren Cornish. She will be transitioning to Austin Alumnae.
 - Sorors Lisa Newman and Veronica Johnson served on the Elections committee at the conference.
 - Soror La’Kisha Crenshaw served as a page.
 - Sorors Akeisha Smothers and Darralyn Johnson served on protocol.
 - Soror Gloria Williams led the opening ceremony processional as a member of the National Protocol committee.
 - Soror Alnita Foote was appointed to the national sub-committee on Risk Management.
 - Soror Lisa Newman also led the Collegiate Connections luncheon.
 - Soror Robin Blackman presented at the Risk Management certification session.
 - Soror Celeste Williams was recognized as a Pearl graduate.
 - AAC was awarded 2nd place for the outstanding work for Relay for Life
 - Soror Lamanda Ballard drove additional supplies to Ft. Worth in support of the service project.
- Successful chapter retreat with over 100 members attending
 - This year’s vision: “Move Forward as One”.
 - Engaging our members to serve, Evolving our programs through innovation, and Enlightening our Community one footprint at a time.

Regional Elections Results

- Regional Director – Crystal T. Barker
- Regional Representative – Aniecia Browning
- Member, National Scholarship & Standards Committee – Nicole Taylor, Esq.
- Member, National Finance Committee – Nicole Deloach
- Member, 2023 National Nominating Committee – Vanessa Dunn
- Chair, 2024 Regional Nominating Committee – Monica Iles
- Member, 2024 Regional Nominating Committee (3 Alumnae Positions)
 - Erica Joseph
 - Dr. Tia Locke-Simmons
 - Vacant
- Collegiate Member, 2024 Regional Nominating Committee – Amani Biggs

Regional Director’s Report – Soror Michelle Brown

- Made sure that DID trainings were conducted
- Focused on Compliance - 100% for the regional
- Successful programming that helped to assist with compliance requirements
- Focused on chapters and their programming (i.e.; Jamaica 17 members & their work)



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- Social Action - It is what we do - Voter registration efforts
 - Use of Zoom opportunities allowed her to attend several activities
 - Ensured communication to the region was provided the best way possible.
 - Soror Brown's final quote - The Strength of the chapter is because every member matters... Believe you can and you will.

National Strategic Planning Committee

- Dr. Charlene Dukes, Co-Chair, Prince George's County
- 97-page Strategic Plan has been released.
- Area of the Strategic Plan
- Organizational Health
- Social Action
- Community Impact
- Empowerment of Women and Girls
- Appreciation for our culture
- With that Plan - We have to INSPECT what we EXPECT!
- In the plan there are 17 goals within the plan for implementing our programs!
- The Chapter's strategic planning committee will now pivot and review this document and compare our programming to the goals and objectives outlined in the plan and report back to the chapter on where we have gaps.

National

- Informz Message – August 23, 2022 Recommendations of Individuals for Honorary Membership for the 2023 National Convention. Individual member recommendations: due September 30, 2022; and Chapter recommendations due October 15, 2022.

***Please read the Sep 2022 Chapter President's report!**

Final notes from President Blackmon

- "We have to do a better job of taking care of ourselves".
- Reclamation is key. The dues are an essential funding source.
- More details forthcoming regarding the change to a calendar year basis.

Comment from the body: Soror Brenda Hanson reminded us that the Strategic Plan from National Headquarters is OUR plan. Cautioned the use of the "they" and "their". Delta's plan is our plan!

Question from the body: Is AAC in compliance? President Blackmon responded that the official notice is still pending. As soon as the notice is received, President Blackmon will share the news with the chapter.



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Financial Secretary – Soror Jacqueline Habersham for Soror Anita Daniels

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

General Reminder: Please update your name, address, contact information in the National membership portal.

- 287 members for FY 22-23
- FY 22-23 dues are as follows:
Golden/Diamond Life - \$195
Regular - \$385
Regular dues not paid by 3/15 are \$395; if non-financial for 1 year-\$400; if non-financial for 2+ years-\$415
- General Note: There are two ways to pay: (1) PayPal. The PayPal fees will be passed on to the payor. (2) Mail. Austin Alumnae Chapter; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. **PO Box 143381; Austin, Texas 78714**

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.

- Go to the website to see if you have any outstanding checks that need attention.

Protocol Moment

The QRL code was displayed so that the AAC body could download the survey to indicate protocol topics of interest for this sororal year.

Committee Reports

Five Point Thrust Committees



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Educational Development – Soror Tiffany Tillis

- Recruiting volunteers for ALL youth initiatives
- Risk Management training was held at the Retreat 8/27/2022
- Volunteer Risk Management training was held virtually 8/28/2022 from 2 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
- Sponsors are welcome. The cost to fully sponsor a student for the college tour is \$285. The cost may be reduced depending on the Double Good popcorn fundraiser. The college tour date is Mar 12-16, 2023
- Gems & Academy – Virtual Open House & Orientation will be on Saturday, September 10, 1-3PM
- EMBODI will be led by Soror Mitchell-Walls in which we will host a symposium on November 12

Social Action – Soror Celeste Williams

- Social Action was all of the AAC body to take an active interest.
- Become a Deputy Voter Registrar
- Everything that impacts our lives is political.
- Show up and show out at the upcoming events to get as many registered for the election.
- Social Justice Weekend Events:
 - Sweet Home the Pinnacle of Praise, **September Sundays**
 - LBJ Football Game, **Friday, September 16, 2022**
 - Connally Homecoming Football Game, **Friday, September 23, 2022**
 - Pflugerville Restaurants, **Saturday, September 24, 2022**
 - Austin Area Churches, **Sunday, September 25, 2022**
 - Please register ahead for each event that you plan to attend.
 - Non VDR can pass out information, but just cannot register voters.
 - **You don't have to commit to everything just commit to one thing!**
 - **Don't let the rights of anyone be taken away!**
 - The Social Action Newsletter will be out in October
 - The Social Action video is on social media
- All available sorors are asked to show up wearing red at the Round Rock ISD school board meeting on Sep 15, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Just show up to be present in our red!

- General Info: The Social Action committee meets on second Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.



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Standing Committees

Heritage & Archives – Soror Kacey Hanson

- 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.
- We need Past Presidents to submit any certificates, awards, trophies, plaques the chapter received during your tenure, chapter Rules of Order, Policy and Procedures, Constitution and By Laws during your tenure. Pictures of various events identifying the people in the picture and the name of the event.
- From chapter members, we need pictures of charter members, pictures of Past Presidents, Founders' Day programs, Jabberwock programs, May Day programs, brochures, newspaper clippings, journals, programs, etc.
- Our goal is to identify, categorize, label and preserve our history in one location, in a climate/controlled facility. We need your help sorors. Start looking in your closets, old photo albums, souvenir bags for the items we need. Please call us and we will pick up the items.

Technology Committee – Soror Kathryn Foster

- The new year passwords for the roster and financial reports.
- The technology team is accepting new hands! Please join the team!

Internal Audit – Soror Ollie White

- Q4 Apr 1, 2022- Jun 30, 2022
- Austin Alumnae chapter has satisfactory financial internal controls, and the review supports the existence and utilization of these controls.

Special Committees



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New Business/Announcements

Community Invitations & Request – Soror Robin Blackmon, President

- **RECOMMENDATION** – Move \$100 from contingency to cover the Alpha Phi Alpha \$400 request. The line item is currently budgeted at \$300. The motion was properly made, seconded, voted upon, and passed 68-0.
- **RECOMMENDATION**- Support the Alpha Phi Alpha organization by purchasing a full-page ad for \$150 and two tickets at \$125 each for their upcoming gala. The motion was properly made, seconded, voted upon, and passed 69-0.

Adjournment

A motion was made for the meeting to adjourn at 11:35 AM. 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	Approve agenda for the Sep 10, 2022 chapter meeting.	Unanimous Consent	Unanimous Consent		Passed
Executive	Move \$100 from contingency to cover the Alpha Phi Alpha \$400 request. The line item is currently budgeted at \$300.	Soror Brenda Hanson	Soror Alnita Foote	68-0.	Passed
Executive	Support the Alpha Phi Alpha organization by purchasing a full-page ad for \$150 and two tickets at \$125 each for their upcoming gala.	Soror Kacey Hanson	Soror Donna Jackson	69-0.	Passed

Soror Janet Scroggins Marshall, Recording Secretary

Soror Robin T. Blackmon, President



AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

Austin Alumnae In-Person Chapter Meeting September 10, 2022 Presiding Officer, Robin T. Blackmon

Ritualistic Opening
Call to Order
Adoption of the Agenda
Introduction and Welcome to Visiting/New Sorors

Order of Business

Approval of May Minutes
Correspondence

Soror Janet Marshall
Soror Tiffany Holmes White

Chapter Reports

Officers

President
Financial Secretary
Treasurer/Budget and Finance

Soror Robin Blackmon
Soror Anita Daniels
Soror Demitra Alexander

Committee Reports (3 Minutes Limit)

Protocol Moment

Five Point Thrust

Educational Development
Social Action

Soror Tiffany Tillis
Soror Celeste Williams

Social Action Moment

Standing Committees

Heritage and Archives
Technology Committee
Internal Audit

Soror Nancy Thompson
Soror Kathryn Foster
Soror Ollie White

Special Committees

N/A

Unfinished Business

N/A

New Business

Community Invitations and Request

Soror Robin Blackmon

Motion for Adjournment

Ritualistic Closing

Committee Recommendations

1. Support the Alpha Phi Alpha organization by purchasing a full-page ad for \$150 and two tickets at \$125 each for their upcoming gala.
2. Move \$100 from contingency to cover the Alpha Phi Alpha \$400 request. The current line item is \$300 and the request totals \$400.

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

Executive Board Meeting	Tuesday, September 20, 2022 6:00 pm	Virtual
Chapter Meeting	Saturday, October 1, 2022 10:00 am	Virtual
Budget and Finance	Thursday, September 15, 2022 6:00 pm	Virtual
Risk Management Training	Sunday, September 11, 2022 2:00 pm	Virtual

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

Announcements

Social Action – Please join us for September Sundays at Sweet Home, Pinnacle of Praise and Social Justice Weekend September 23-25. See chapter communications sent on September 1 to sign-up to Engage!

Message from Communications and Publications Committee (Soror Autumn Caviness, Chair)

The Odyssey and The MIDpoint Message have been designed and disseminated to ensure all of AAC's blazing programs, activities, news, and information is communicated internally to our members in an efficient and timely manner.

The Odyssey is disseminated electronically via the Issuu platform, the Tuesday prior to the month's Chapter Meeting. The Odyssey sets the pace sharing with sorors the month's upcoming programming, activities, news, and information.

The MIDpoint Message is disseminated via email newsletter on the 15th of each month. The MIDpoint shares with sorors the month's remaining programming, activities, news, and information.

Key deadlines and delivery dates of The Odyssey and The MIDpoint Message:

September

- **Saturday, September 3rd - submit all September Odyssey content**
- **Tuesday, September 6th - September Odyssey disseminated**
- **Thursday, September 15th - September MIDpoint Message disseminated**

October

- **Tuesday, September 20th - submit all October Odyssey content**
- **Tuesday, September 27th - October Odyssey disseminated**
- **Saturday, October 15th - October MIDpoint Message disseminated**

November

- **Tuesday, October 25th - submit all November Odyssey content**
- **Tuesday, November 1 - November Odyssey disseminated**
- **Tuesday, November 15th - November MIDpoint Message disseminated**

December

- **Tuesday, November 22nd - submit all December Odyssey content**
- **Tuesday, November 29th - December Odyssey disseminated**
- **Thursday, December 15th - December MIDpoint Message disseminated**



AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

President's Report Robin Blackmon

Austin Alumnae (Local)

Austin Alumnae has a lot to be proud of as we represented well at the 48th Regional Conference. Congratulations to Soror Lauren Cornish on an outstanding term at Regional Representative and as she has transitioned into Austin Alumnae. Sorors Lisa Newman and Veronica Johnson served on the elections committee. Soror La'Kisha Crenshaw served as a Page. Sorors Akeshia Smothers, Darralyn Johnson served on protocol. Soror Gloria Williams led the processional into the opening as a member of the National Protocol committee. Soror Alnita Foote was appointed to the National Sub-Committee on Risk Management. Soror Newman also led the Collegiate Connections luncheon. Soror Robin Blackmon presented the Risk Management Certification session. Soror Celeste Williams was recognized as a Pearl Graduate. And the Chapter was awarded 2nd Place for the Outstanding work with our strategic partnership for Relay for Life.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the regional service project. Special thanks to Soror Lamanda Ballard for driving additional supplies to Fort Worth to support this effort. If I missed anyone in any way that was recognized, volunteer etc., please submit it to me so I can include it in the president's report for Chapter Meeting.

Thanks to everyone that worked to ensure a successful Chapter Retreat and to everyone that attended. We had about 100 members in attendance on Saturday. As shared at the retreat our vision this year is to Move Forward as One: Engaging our members to serve, Evolving our programming through innovation and Enlightening our community one footprint at a time.

Regional

Regional Elections Results

- Regional Director – Crystal T. Barker
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 - Vacant
- Collegiate Member, 2024 Regional Nominating Committee – Amani Biggs

Regional Director's Report – Soror Michelle Brown

- Made sure that DID trainings were conducted
- Focused on Compliance - 100% for the regional
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- Social Action - It is what we do - Voter registration efforts
- Use of Zoom opportunities allowed her to attend several activities
- Ensured communication to the region was provided the best way possible.
- Soror Brown's final quote - The Strength of the chapter is because every member matters... Believe you can and you will.

National President's Report - Soror Elsie Cook Holmes

Theme: Forward with Fortitude: Engaging Our Sisterhood, Empowering Our Communities, Elevating Our Impact"

- Per Soror Cheryl A. Hickman - Move boldly forward through the critical work that the time in which we live! We will reap a harvest if we do not give up!
- Strengthen our membership - Through retention and incentives for what we do!- deterring the social soror and encouraging the actual working soror
- Encouraged us to move from conflict that hinders progress!
- Celebrated the National Headquarters Staff - Completing the marketing and communication department; making strides with renovation plan of the building; Ultimately managing and improving quality control as we progress.
- Continue to focus on Mental Health and Wellness - we shouldn't be forcing ourselves to strive and attain at the cost of our physical and mental health!
- Chapter grants will be available- programs focusing on COVID -19 and mental health
- In Kenya, a surgical wing will be named in Soror Cheryl Hickmon's honor in support of her dedication to science. Mary Help of the Sick Hospital
- Strengthening our next generation of leaders is vitally important to the continued strength of our organization.
- Assured us that Delta Sigma Theta is in good order..... we must continue to make sure we get back to our roots with programs that focus on our foundation.
- Are we Delta Ready? Our communities need us to be able to work.
- To be ready it means living out our Jewels and working together to get the work done! Taking the time to fellowship & lead with temperance.

National Treasurer's Report – Soror Pamela R. Hill

- Provided a financial report – Total Assets \$53 million Total liabilities \$16 million
- 81,636 active members – membership dues are our major funding stream.
- Implemented ACH reimbursements
- Online Accounts Payable process
- E-Check payment process
- Online donation portal
- Discussed the change to a calendar year and the impact it will have on the due's payment period.
National Dues Coverage - Extended 12-31-2023 from 2022-2023 dues paid
- Local Dues Payable - Jan.1, 2023 - March 31, 2023 Details regarding this change can be viewed on the national website under Grand Chapter and Financials.

National Strategic Planning Committee

- Dr. Charlene Dukes, Co-Chair, Prince George's County
- 97-page Strategic Plan has been released.
- Area of the Strategic Plan
- Organizational Health
- Social Action
- Community Impact

- Empowerment of Women and Girls
- Appreciation for our culture
- With that Plan - We have to INSPECT what we EXPECT!
- In the plan there are 17 goals within the plan for implementing our programs!
- The Chapter's strategic planning committee will now pivot and review this document and compare our programming to the goals and objectives outlined in the plan and report back to the chapter on where we have gaps.

Final Credentials Report

National Board of Directors – 26
 Past Presidents – 5
 Honorary Members – 0
 Voting Delegates – 131
 Alternate Delegates – 119
 Non-voting Delegates – 2,188
 Hostess Chapter – 249
 Virtual non-voting delegates – 1,068
 Staff (non-Deltas) 16
 Exhibitors – 58
 Family/Guest – 235
 Total Active Chapters – Alumnae 86 Collegiate 45= Total Present 131

National

- Informz Message – August 23, 2022 Recommendations of Individuals for Honorary Membership for the 2023 National Convention. Individual member recommendations: due September 30, 2022; and Chapter recommendations due October 15, 2022.
- Informz Message – September 8, 2022 National Program Planning and Development Committee 2022 Update.
- Informz Message – September 9, 2022 Delta Red Carpet Film | The Woman King
- Informz Message to Presidents – September 9, 2022 Risk Management Recertification Training Dates. Risk Management Recertification Training Webinars. Dates/Times

WEBINAR #1: Thursday, September 15, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

****REGISTRATION IS NOT AVAILABLE ON THE DAY OF THE WEBINAR****

WEBINAR #2: Friday, October 7, at 8:00 p.m. EST.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: OCTOBER 6, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. EST

****REGISTRATION IS NOT AVAILABLE ON THE DAY OF THE WEBINAR****

WEBINAR #3: Saturday, October 15, at 12:00 p.m. EST.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: OCTOBER 14, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. EST

****REGISTRATION IS NOT AVAILABLE ON THE DAY OF THE WEBINAR****

Submitted By:

Robin Blackmon

Date:

September 10, 2022

President