



THE ODYSSEY

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

DECEMBER 2022

Presidential Press

Vol. 4

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Sorors, don't forget to attend
our upcoming
December Chapter Meeting,
Saturday, December 3 at 10 a.m.,
held in person at
Bertha Sadler Means Young
Women's Leadership Academy,
6401 N. Hampton Drive,
Austin TX 78723

Sorors, 'tis the season...what does it mean to you?

For me it means the time of giving, loving, and reflecting on life. A life replete with many ups and many downs, but always offering a time to be thankful and to be grateful. Sorors, I am grateful for this journey in this season that we call Christmas as we are celebrating the birth of our Savior.

Traditionally, at the end of each year, I have viewed the holiday season and the end of the year as a time for cleansing, a time for shutting down and shutting out all the outside noise, cleaning my home, purging items that have long lived past their purpose, and preparing for a New Year.

Thus, sorors, as we embark upon this Christmas season, I would like to encourage you to think about what "renewing" means to you...? How do you need to purge? How do you need to renew? Is it a renewing of your mind? Your spirit? Your personal space?

As we are coming to the end of a year – how do we evolve as individuals and as a chapter? How do we prepare for a new day?

Sorors as we end our service this year, we will give back to our members through our White Christmas Outreach, we are educating and collaborating with the community through our World AIDS Day 2022, and we are fellowshiping with one another in our upcoming in person chapter meeting followed by our Jingle & Mingle fellowship.

Sorors, I had to share this photo with you! I had a wonderful Thanksgiving Break, watching my alma mater win the Bayou Classic while having the opportunity to share time with our National President Elsie Cooke-Holmes.

Sorors, from my heart and my home to yours, I wish you a joyous holiday season and look forward to celebrating the dawn of a New Year with you!

Yours in Service,

Soror Robin Blackmon



Chaplain's Message

by Soror Cedel Evans

The Blessing Is Yours for the Asking!

Luke 11: 9-10 and Romans 8:32

9 "And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. (Luke 11:9-10)

32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:32)

There is a familiar advertising statement for the traveler which simply says – ‘and we'll leave the light on for you’. I believe the message to the customer is that the light is on so pullover, walk through our doors, we are present and available for your safety, comfort, and peace of mind but you must enter our doors to take advantage our amenities. So the question to ponder is whether or not this venue can deliver on the promise. But clearly, it's a decision for each individual who actually visits these premises can testify to validity of this statement.

Well, according to the gospel of Luke without regard to one's travels. "And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you..."

God is telling us, there is no need of travel and no need to enter a famous overnight venue. But, in order to receive His divine blessings, the action is: ask, seek, and knock.

The one action required by the participant is persistence. Please be advised, the word does not say everyone who asks a handful of times will receive the blessings, nor is this particular passage of scripture a "name it claim it", but rather, the key here is persistence. Ask, seek and knock is not meant to be a one-time thing, it's meant to be backed by persistence. I believe God is training us to be bold, persistent, and patient in our requests to Him. And receive His blessings by faith.

Far too many of God's children ignore this scripture because they feel underserving of God's blessings and covering. God has multiple blessings in His storehouse for you. Never allow guilt, doubt nor the difficulties or success of your present circumstances determine your walk with God. Trust the Lord by faith. I encourage you to remember the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 8:32. He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

The Blessing is Yours for the Asking! Be Blessed!

Prayer Corner

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

- Soror Thedencia Horne and family for the loss of her Sister (Shaunice Andrea-Lynn Peebles);
- Sorors La'Kisha Crenshaw and Antonia Crenshaw for their Father and Grandfather, respectively, who is recovering from an accident;
- Soror Nancy Knight Brown and family for the loss of her Father (William Knight);
- Soror Anita Roberts for healing and completely recovery after her surgery;
- Soror Jonna LaGrone-Haynes and family for her Father (John LaGrone) who has kidney disease;
- Soror Robin Blackmon for the loss of her Aunt Soror Gaynell Thomas Johnson;
- Soror June Murphy and her Husband who had been hospitalized and is at home now, recovering;
- Soror Del Watson will be having a cardiac surgery on November 30, and will be out for 4-6 weeks;
- Soror Tanisa Jeffers' Mother for complete healing and recovery from her double bypass open heart surgery;
- Soror Sandra Williams Willis for health and healing;
- Soror Florence Smythe Macauley as her Son recovers from surgery;
- Soror Kerri Lang for health and healing; and
- Soror Sandra "FeFe" McCrary-Marshall for health and healing.

<https://dstatx.org/contact-page/pb-request-form/>

December Omega Omega Assignments

Soror Shereena Johnson through
Soror Tiffany Lewis



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Nominating Committee!

AAC, Who Has Next?!?!

The Call for Nominations opened on October 1, 2022. The Nominating Committee invites you to step up and step out. Select an office or position where you want to serve. You can be nominated by an active member or you may self-nominate by completing this form, 2023-2025 Chapter Officer Nominations.

Nominations close Saturday, December 31, 2022 at 11:59PM CT.

Refer to the Call for Nominations email sent on 10/11 for the full list of positions and current Austin Alumnae Chapter Policies and Procedures for complete eligibility requirements for each elected office and position.

Please email nominating.aacdst@gmail.com with any questions you might have.



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from International Awareness and Involvement!

IMPORTANT!

You are cordially invited to
World AIDS Day 2022



A commemorative evening featuring a panel discussion, dinner, and sexual health testing.

*Thursday,
December 1, 2022
6pm - 8pm*

Permitting and Development Center

Event Room
6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive,
Austin, TX 78752

presented by



WHAT'S IN THE MIRROR?
Art Heals



**HIV Planning Council
Office of Support
Austin Public Health**

hivplanningcouncil@austintexas.gov
(512) 972-5806
Austin HIV Planning Council | Facebook

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Membership Services!



Sorors, AAC hopes you had an amazing Thanksgiving Holiday with your loved ones (and went back for second and third helpings)!

Here's a wonderful photo from the G.E.M.S. service project with H-E-B Feast of Sharing!



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Membership Services!



White Christmas Outreach

Sorors, it's time to spread some holiday cheer!!!

On Saturday, December 17, 2022, the Austin Alumnae carolers will be spreading some cheer to our sick and shut-in sorors with holiday songs and a special gift. If you know a soror that would welcome a visit from our carolers, please complete the following short form by November 30, 2022:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfS7eO4OSm6eLlh-N8v3oaLKgKGpp7mxNVy0Yd7xxoBgyvDxQ/viewform>

If you have questions about the outreach, please contact sorors Tanya Rippenkroeger (tanya.rippenkroeger@hotmail.com) and Melody Southall (melynn95@hotmail.com).

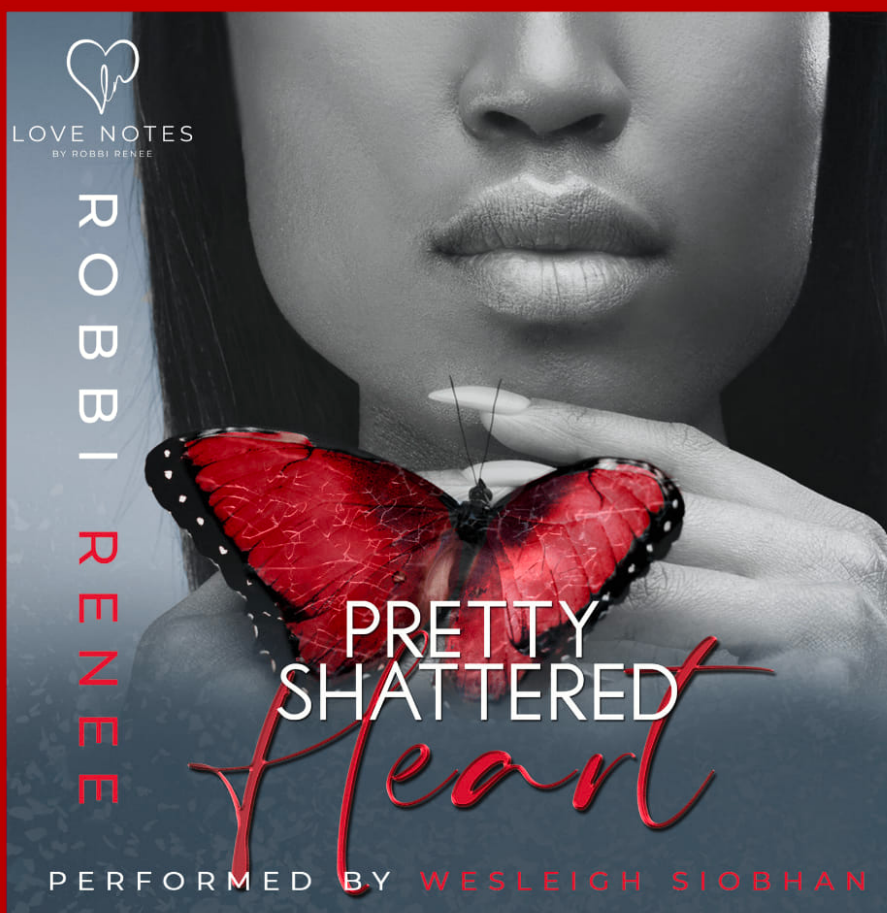
Please stay tuned for more information if you want to volunteer for this event. Thank you in advance.

This Month's Highlights

NEWS FROM OUR ARTS & LETTERS COMMITTEE

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

Available Now!



Vote for Soror Stacey Cleveland aka Robbi Renee, to be the winner of the Best Romance Audiobook for *Pretty Shattered*. Voting ends 11/30.

Sorors, please vote here,

<https://www.audioinblack.com/awards>

This Month's Highlights

NEWS FROM OUR ARTS & LETTERS COMMITTEE

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

Women in Jazz Association, Inc. presents

TRIPLE THREAT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022



GINA PAYNE **YO JONSEY** **THERESA GRAYSON**

Two Shows

(DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM & 8PM) **TICKETS: \$60 & \$45**
SHOW TIMES 6PM & 8:30PM **TABLE SEATING**

STERLING EVENT CENTER
 6134 US-290, AUSTIN, TX

Tickets online at womeninjazz.org/events or call 800-595-4TIX (4849)
 For more information, womeninjazz.org or call 512-258-6947

 Cultural Arts
 Texas Commission on the Arts
 Austin Travel/Location Authority
 McDonald's
 LBJ Foundation
 RIVER CITY BANK
 Hart BEAT PRODUCTIONS
 Women In Jazz ASSOCIATION, INC.
 JS STEPHENS WEALTH MANAGEMENT
 Sterling EVENTS
 soulciti.com
 FRESCH
 Radisson HOTELS & RESORTS

DESIGN BY MAJESTIC DESIGN GROUP • WWW.MAJESTICDG.COM

This Month's Highlights

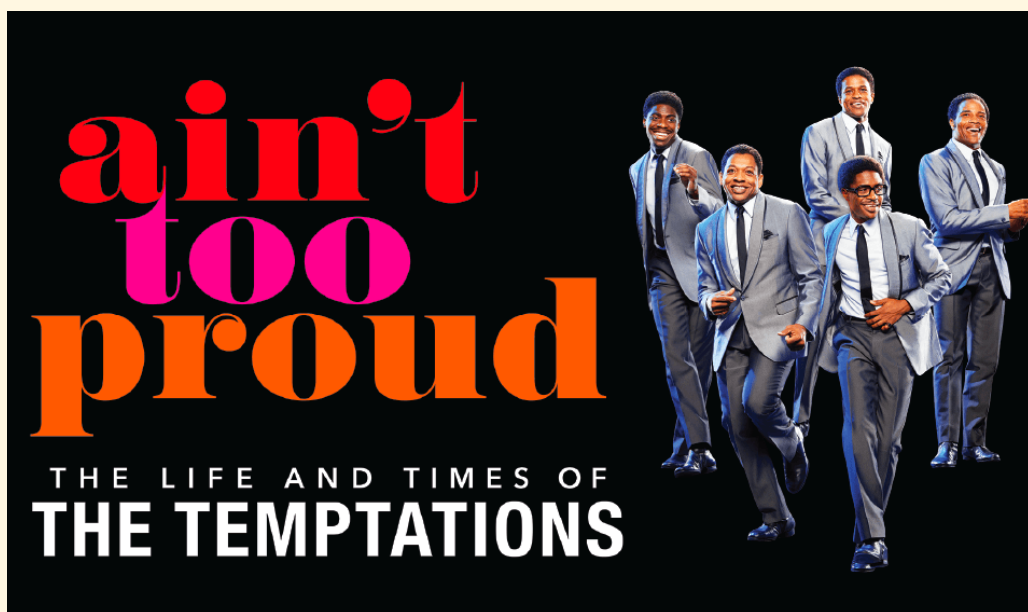
NEWS FROM OUR ARTS & LETTERS COMMITTEE

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



Ballet Afrique Contemporary
Dance Company Presents
Duke Ellington's
The Nutcracker Suite at
The Paramount Theatre
Thursday, December 15, 2022

ain't too proud
The Life and Times of
The Temptations
Bass Concert Hall
2350 Robert Dedman Dr.
March 28 - April 2, 2023



This Month's Highlights

NEWS FROM OUR ARTS & LETTERS COMMITTEE

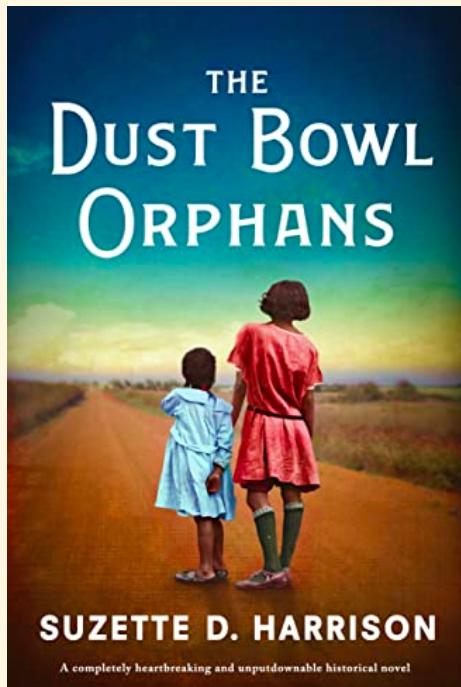
NOW SHOWING

Our Arts & Letters Committee Is Blaaazzzing the Path with So Many Phenomenal Events!



This Month's Highlights

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



DSTATX Book Club

Saturday, January 21

The Dust Bowl Orphans by

Suzette D. Harrison

Sorors, please save the date!

Zoom link for registration is forthcoming.



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

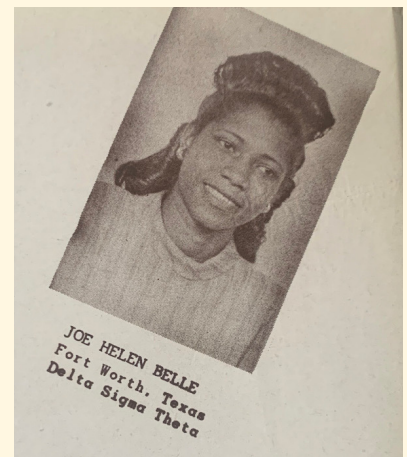
A Request from Our Historian and Heritage Archive Committee!

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 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

COMMUNITY AND LOCAL NEWS



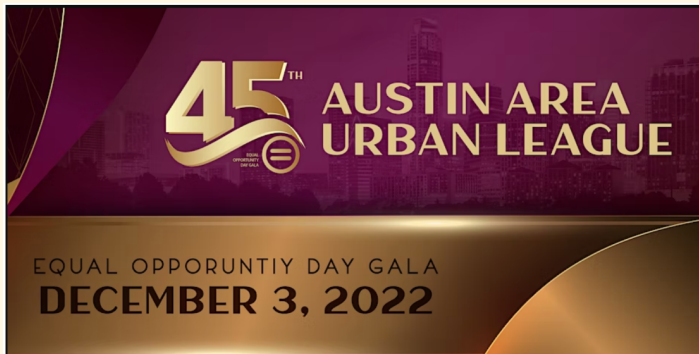
INVITATION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH NCBW Interest Group

Sorors, the Capitol City Chapter of 100 Black Woman is organizing here in our fantastic city! The group is currently 40 members strong and is seeking additional like-minded women who are interested in chartering a chapter here in our wonderful city. Perks include being listed as a Founding Member in the history books! Sorors, if you are interested in joining, the next meeting will occur on **December 13, at 8:00 p.m., virtually.**

Sorors, tap here to attend,
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81245400173?
pwd=aTBBMWk4TDhsN05iWjBNdHp mNXZ6Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81245400173?pwd=aTBBMWk4TDhsN05iWjBNdHp mNXZ6Zz09)

This Month's Highlights

COMMUNITY AND LOCAL NEWS



Sorors, join the Austin Area Urban League for this this year's 45th annual Equal Opportunity Day black-tie gala.

This year, Austin Area Urban League will honor some of Central Texas' fiercest champions of civil rights, equal opportunity, and social justice.

Purchase your ticket and attend, Equal Opportunity Day Gala,

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-equal-opportunity-day-gala-austin-area-urban-league-tickets-424123784657>



Up to \$10K in Grants Available! Apply Now!

NABJ is offering grant funding to support freelance reporters and producers at Black-owned print, broadcast, and digital outlets through the "Black Press Grant Program."

The program is supported by a grant from the **Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI)**.

The grants aim to help ensure Black-owned media outlets are resourced with original and innovative coverage of the **COVID-19 pandemic and its intersections within the nation's K-12 education system**.

Journalists and those within Black-owned media are invited to submit original proposals for investigative, feature, and enterprise for a single or series of original stories published/broadcasted in Black-owned media.

Fast grants to freelancers and Black-owned media will be up to \$10,000. NABJ will also distribute content produced from the grant through **BlackNewsandViews.com**, its newly launched news platform.

Program term ends December 2022.

Eligibility

The grant is open to journalists working at a Black-owned media organization within the United States or serving as a freelance journalist to a U.S. Black-owned news organization. NABJ membership is not required for funding support, but is helpful.

APPLY NOW!



Sorors, tap here to apply,

<https://thenabj.wufoo.com/forms/p1x8q5w00se7af3/>

This Month's Highlights

IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION FROM AUSTIN DELTA FOUNDATION

The holiday season is upon us! As you gather with family, put up your favorite decorations, and finish your holiday shopping, Austin Delta Foundation invites you to join us in an easy way to support the foundation this season:



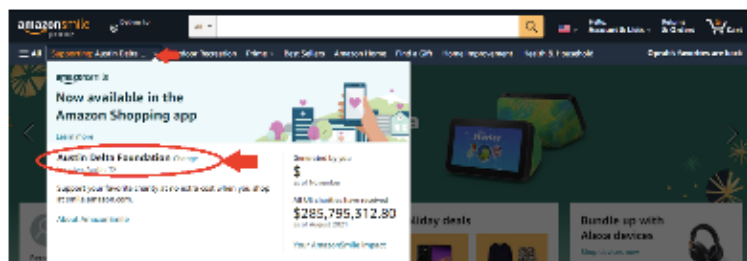
Make your shopping dollars count this holiday by placing orders at smile.amazon.com in support of Austin Delta Foundation

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support ADF every time you shop on Amazon at no cost to you.

Login to your Amazon account at smile.amazon.com

When you shop, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Austin Delta Foundation.

On your first visit to smile.amazon.com or AmazonSmile on the Amazon Shopping app, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Search for Austin Delta Foundation. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation.



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HAPPY Holidays





Membership Spotlight

Happy Birthday, Sorors!

Happy Birthday to our December birthdays!

12/1: Alta Alexander

12/2: Sophia Williams

12/4: Connie Williams

12/5: Joyce Turner

12/6: Shawna Clouser & Lora Livingston

12/7: Mardell Andrews

12/10: Shannon Stephens

12/13: LaDeitra Lee

12/14: Kierra King

12/15: Cynthia Robinson

12/16: Lorie Ellis & Lisa Newman

12/17: Jonna LaGrone-Haynes

12/18: Estelle Brooks & Doris Wilhite

12/19: Kimberly Savere-Mabry & Joella Sharber

12/20: Gail Maduro-Johnson & Polly Street

12/23: Robin Zenon

12/24: Tonja Walls-Davis

12/27: Patricia Hicks

12/28: Darralyn Johnson

12/30: Cassandra Mims Ringer

Coming Your Way....!

MIDpoint Message Deadline

- December MIDpoint Message -- Submit all content by Tuesday, December 8th

*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 upcoming
December Chapter Meeting,
Saturday, December 3 at 10 a.m.,
held in person at
Bertha Sadler Means Young Women's
Leadership Academy,
6401 N. Hampton Drive, Austin TX 78723

*Happy
Holidays*



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