



AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER  
MINUTES OF THE CHAPTER MEETING  
Dec 3, 2022

Following the ritualistic opening, President Robin T. Blackmon called the Austin Alumnae chapter meeting to order at 10:26 AM on Dec 3, 2022.

Emergency Response – Soror Suzanne Piper

- The Dec chapter meeting was in-person, so the standard emergency exits message was issued. The body was informed of the location of all the emergency exits.

Adoption of Agenda

- A quorum was present for the transaction of business as presented in the agenda. The motion was properly made, seconded, and adopted with no opposition.
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Welcome New and Visiting Sorors

There were three (3) visiting sorors for the Dec chapter meeting: Sorors Brittany Tally, Kaitlin Sampson, and Brianna Stamp.

Minutes – Soror Janet Scroggins Marshall, Recording Secretary

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

Correspondence – Soror Tiffany Holmes White, Corresponding Secretary

- Donation request from American Red Cross
- Thank you card - "Dear Sorors, The calls, cards, gifts and power of your prayers are deeply appreciated. During my husband's (Charles) five day hospital stay, your endearing acts of kindness provided much needed support and encouragement. For this I am truly grateful. Sisterly love - Soror June Murphy"
- Thank you card - "My Dear Sorors: I want to thank you for the prayers, cards and love extended to me. My fractured wrist is responding well to the surgery and physical therapy. Just knowing that I crossed your minds and hearts gives me the inspiration to stay positive and heal. You are truly my sisters. TTOD Carla Emery-Culberson
- Letter of interest in chapter membership from LaTisha Anderson
- Donation confirmation of donation to Reach One Educational Foundation of \$180.
- Donation request from Central Texas Food Bank
- **Austin Delta Foundation inaugural Austin's Got Talent sponsorship request:**
  - Greetings President Blackmon!
  - Austin Delta Foundation is gearing up for our 2023 Scholarship Fundraiser and request the support of Austin Alumnae. Below are the details regarding the event concept/location as well as what we are



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requesting from Austin Alumnae. I look forward to hearing from you and discussing how our two organizations can work together to continue the legacy of providing scholarships for female students of color in the greater Austin area.

- 2023 Scholarship Fundraiser Details as of November 10, 2022
- *Event Date:* February 18, 2023 (Saturday)
- *Event Location:* Embassy Suites Austin Central, 5901 IH-35, Austin, Texas (contract signed)
- *Event Name:* Austin's Got Talent
- *Event Concept:* Community Event promoting and celebrating up and coming artists/performers of all ages. Food and drinks, vendor opportunities, D.J.
- *Ticket Sales:* Tickets sold through Eventbrite with a limited number of printed tickets to accommodate sorors unable to access online purchasing. \$50 per person. Table purchases available.
- *Request of Austin Alumnae:*
  - 1. Engage in a collaborative effort to draft MOU that meets Delta's guidelines as well as the needs of this fundraising effort.
  - 2. Purchase and sale tickets for the scholarship event. Every member purchases at least 1 ticket or donate \$50 to the event.
  - 3. Feature Austin Alumnae's name on promotional materials to include "Austin's Got Talent Sponsored by Austin Delta Foundation in Partnership with Austin Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
  - 4. Austin Alumnae chapter members serve on sub-committees to ensure successful execution of the event:
    - Registration/Volunteers
    - Entertainment/Performers/Program/Run of Show
    - Sponsorship & Ticket Sales
    - Marketing, Promotions, Social Media, Communications
    - Decorations
    - Vendors, Raffle, Silent Auction, or other revenue generating activity
- Thank you card – “Words cannot express how I am continually moved by the love and support of the members of this chapter. As you know my family has been hit by the loss of loved ones over the past few years and I could not have made it without you. Thank you for the prayers, calls, texts, and cards during the recent loss of my aunt, our Soror, Gaynell Johnson. Please keep us in prayer. Soror Robin Blackmon.”



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**Chapter Reports**

**Officers**

**President** – Soror Robin T. Blackmon

**Austin Alumnae – Local**

- Soror President called up the AAC sorors who were present at the chapter meeting to be recognized for their National, Regional, State, and Cluster Leadership roles.
  - Soror Jacqueline Habersham, Regional Rehab Coordinator
  - Soror Avis Gipson, Co-Chair Special Projects
  - Soror Alnita Foote, National Risk Management
  - Soror Jeri Brooks, Social Action Team
  - Soror Robin Blackman, Compliance

**Regional**

- See mention above

**National**

- Updates:
  - Scholarship and Standards – Hot off the Press (located on the national website) coming out in December
    - Policy & Procedures webinar on Jan 26, 2023
    - Plan for P&P updates after the national convention
  - ERT
    - ERT is a part of PP&D
    - ERT should be infiltrated into all of the chapter's programs and activities
  - DID
    - Chapter Compliance DIDs will open Dec 15<sup>th</sup>
    - Quorum is required!
    - Request must be made 3 weeks in advance
  - Social Action
    - DDNC upcoming in Mar (date TBD)
    - Priorities



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- Voting Rights, Access, and Engagement
  - Census and Redistricting
  - Educational Disparities and Inequities
  - Health Disparities and Inequities
  - Reimagining Public Safety
- 
- Please update your member information on the National Membership Portal
    - <https://www.deltasigmatheta.org>
    - To Member Portal
    - Visit Your Profile
    - Personal Tab
    - Permanent Tab
    - Pencil Icon to Edit

**Financial Secretary** – 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.

- 303 members for FY 22-23
- FY 22-23 dues are as follows:  
Golden/Diamond Life - \$195  
Regular - \$385  
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 detailed information of the Treasurer's Report, please see Treasurer or Recording Secretary.



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**Protocol Moment**

- Sorors modeled attire and asked the body to determine if the attire was appropriate for a meeting
  - The model session reminded that the elephant is not an official symbol
  - The Delta Greek symbols 6 inches or less on a scarf are acceptable
  - The crest is appropriate
  - The official violet should be displayed as a cluster
  - Remember that the vendors of the Delta Box do not know Delta protocol, so you must be familiar with the Delta protocol!

**Committee Reports**

**Five Point Thrust Committees**

**Educational Development** – Soror Bethany Bell

- Academy
  - Program Leads: Sorors Darralyn Johnson & Tonya King
  - 20 confirmed participants
- EMBODI
  - Program Lead: Paulette Mitchell Walls
  - 14 confirmed participants
  - "We Gon' Be Alright"
    - One Day Symposium
    - Nov 12, 2022 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
    - Huston Tillotson University
    - Featured Guests: Dr. Marcus Johnson of Texas State University, Charles Gee of Cardinal Collective, and Chas Moore from the Austin Justice Coalition.
    - This year's event held on Nov 12<sup>th</sup> was a success! Stay tuned for next year's event!
- GEMS
  - Program Leads: Soror LaKisha Crenshaw & Latasha Robinson
  - 31 confirmed participants



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- The College Tour
  - Plan is to take 40 high school age co-ed students on a college tour with some D9 organizations
  - The cost is \$285 per person. \$100 Deposit was due 10/31. Final balance due 12/3.
  - The tour stops at the following:
    - Philander Smith College at Little Rock
    - University of Arkansas @ Pine Bluff
    - LeMoyne Owen College @ Memphis
    - Fisk University @ Nashville
    - Tennessee State University @ Nashville
    - Meharry Medical @ Nashville
  - The college tour dates are Mar 12-16, 2023.

**International Awareness & Involvement** – Soror Akeshia Smothers

- World AIDS Day Event
  - Was held Dec 1, 2022 from 6-8 p.m.
  - Hybrid Event – In person and on Microsoft Teams
  - Dinner was served for the in person attendees
  - Theme: Reflection. Celebration. Rejuvenation.
  - Panel discussion – focused on mental health, family/parenting and housing and healthcare stability (\*creation of safe space)
  - Collaborated with Austin Area HIV Planning Council, Fast Track Cities Austin, and What's in the Mirror to co-author a City Proclamation.
  - Survey will be sent out to all attendees next week.
- Additional comments:
  - "A safe space was created for some to be able to tell the world their status for the first time. Black women are the least to access care. When WE are dealing with trauma, it is hard to find people who look like US to help US."
- Pictures of the event invitation, the event members, and the proclamation were shown to the AAC body.



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**Social Action** – Soror Celeste Williams/Soror Veronica Johnson

- Congratulations to every soror who won their respective race! We extend a special congratulations to our sensational seven newly elected and re-elected sorors in Congress:
  - Joyce Beatty (D-OH 3<sup>rd</sup> District)
  - Yvette Clarke (D-NY 9<sup>th</sup> District)
  - Jasmine Crockett (D-TX 30<sup>th</sup> District)
  - Valerie Foushee (D-NC 4<sup>th</sup> District)
  - Summer Lee (D-PA 34<sup>th</sup> District)
  - Lucy McBath (D-(GA 7<sup>th</sup> District)
  - Stacey Plaskett (Virgin Islands At Large Congressional District)
  
- For the November election, WE had soror workers who helped in the election. Representation does matter!!
- Please sign up for VDR training
- Politics is local. Go to meetings, raise concerns. Educate Gen X and Gen Z to get them engaged.
- Important Upcoming dates:
  - State Meeting - Mar 17, 2023
  - DDNC - Mar 23-25, 2023
  - Red and White Day – Feb 2023 or Apr 2023
  - DDUN – 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of Mar 2023
  - Equity Day Press Conference – Feb 27, 2023 9:30 -10:30 a.m.
  
- Still trying to get a group training date for VDR. Training in either Travis or Williamson County gets you certified for both counties.
  
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service
  - Jan 16, 2023
  - Community March and Festival on the campus of Huston Tillotson University from 10 a.m. to approx. 3 p.m.
  - Updates pending for Round Rock, Hutto, Leander, and Cedar Park as well as United Way of Greater Austin.
  
- General Info: The Social Action committee meets on second Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.



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**Social Action Moment**

- Boards and Commissions Subcommittee
  - Why this subcommittee?
  - Goal: To increase representation of Austin Alumnae Chapter members on Boards & Commissions (B&C) at various levels of government.
  - Objective:
    - Provide sorors with information on B&C openings
    - Identify and assist AA members who have an interest in serving on B&C.
    - Create a successful process for the subcommittee that can continue in the future.
    - Align with Delta's National Strategic Plan, 2021-2026.
  - Next steps
    - Complete follow up with sorors
    - Help sorors who are ready to serve immediately to find a good fit.
    - Continue to publicize opportunities
    - Conduct a learning session in the spring
  - See any subcommittee member
    - Ashley Johnson
    - Del Jester
    - Estelle Brooks
    - Erica Knox
    - Gloria Frazier
    - Kelly Noble
    - Marva Overton, Co-chair
    - Patricia Hicks, Co-chair
    - Veronica Pickett Johnson, Social Action Chair Liaison

**Standing Committees**

**Internal Audit** – Soror Julie Dixon-Cartwright

- Q1: Jul 1, 2022 - Sep 30, 2022
- Austin Alumnae Chapter has satisfactory financial internal controls, and the review supports the existence and utilization of these controls.





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**Technology Committee** – Soror Kathryn Foster

- A guide of the website was provided to the AAC body
- How to access the portal
- Where to find document e.g. meeting agendas, meeting minutes, committee reports
- Where to find and access registration links to virtual meetings
- How to submit prayer requests
- Working on a checklist for new chapter members
- The passwords were provided to the AAC body for the roster and the financial reports.
- dstatxtech@gmail.com

**Special Committees**

**New Business**

**Community Partnerships** – President Robin Blackmon

- General discussion: The Austin Delta Foundation manages the properly. The house is separated legally from the sorority. The MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) must be kept current to clearly establish the expectation of the relationship between AAC and ADF. The MOU is being updated so a chapter vote will establish AAC participation with the upcoming event.
- Update on ticket price information from the previous correspondence report from above: The regular ticket prices are \$50, but the early bird price is \$45.
- **RECOMMENDATION:** Executive Board recommends that the Austin Alumnae Chapter partners with the Austin Delta Foundation to collaborate on the Austin's Got Talent scholarship event, Feb 2023. The motion was made, properly seconded, voted upon, and passed with a vote of 71-1.

**Physical and Mental Health Moment**

- The AAC body was shown a brief video on how to manage holiday stress
- Dr. Ronnette Ballard reminded us to take inventory of the People, Places, Things and Behaviors (PPTB) that make you feel better. Make efforts to move more toward those things to help eliminate holiday stress. Take inventory to know that which makes you feel good versus that which makes you feel bad. Removing the bad eliminates the stress.



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**Announcements**

- J13 sub-committee is working on two events:
  - First, an AAC social gathering for fellowship.
  - Second, attendance at the Maze & Isley Brothers concert.
    - The middle floor of the concert venue is being reserved for us.
    - Tickets are purchased thru Ticket Master for \$129 plus fees
    - Must be purchased by Dec 15 and use the special key code provided to get the designated seats
    - We will be recognized during the concert
- Following a brief game session to allow setup time, Jingle and Mingle will begin after the chapter meeting.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made for the meeting to adjourn at 11:52 AM. The motion was properly made and seconded. The motion was approved with no opposition.

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**Summary of Actions**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Moved</b>	<b>Seconded</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Results</b>
AAC Body	Approve agenda for the Dec 3, 2022 chapter meeting.	Soror Celeste Williams	Soror Alnita Foote	77-0	Passed
Executive	Austin Alumnae Chapter partners with the Austin Delta Foundation to collaborate on the Austin's Got Talent scholarship event, Feb 2023.	Soror Kacey Hanson	Soror Tanya Rippenkroeger	71-1	Passed

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Soror Janet Scroggins Marshall, Recording Secretary

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Soror Robin T. Blackmon, President



# AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

## **Austin Alumnae In-Person Chapter Meeting December 3, 2022 Presiding Officer, Robin T. Blackmon**

Pre-Meeting  
Legal Notice  
Safety Briefing

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

### **Order of Business**

Approval of November Minutes  
Correspondence

Soror Janet Marshall  
Soror Tiffany Holmes White

### **Chapter Reports**

#### **Officers**

President  
Financial Secretary  
Treasurer

Soror Robin Blackmon  
Soror Anita Daniels  
Soror Demitra Alexander

### **Committee Reports (3 Minutes Limit)**

#### **Protocol Moment**

#### **Five Point Thrust**

Educational Development  
International Awareness & Involvement  
Social Action

Soror Bethany Bell  
Soror Akeshia Smothers  
Soror Veronica Johnson

#### **Social Action Moment**

#### **Standing Committees**

Internal Audit  
Technology Committee

Soror Julie Dixon-Cartwright  
Soror Shon Reed

#### **Special Committees**

N/A

#### **Unfinished Business**

N/A

#### **New Business**

Community Partnership

### **Physical and Mental Health Moment**

#### **Adjournment**

## Committee Recommendations

1. Executive Board recommends that the Austin Alumnae Chapter partners with the Austin Delta Foundation to collaborate on the Austin Got Talent scholarship event, February 2023.

## Upcoming Meetings and Activities

**Executive Board Meeting** Tuesday, December 20, 2022 Virtual  
<https://zoom.us/j/97561669874?pwd=K3RSUnhYVUIFbG1mL1RwY3d4QkpPdzo9>

**Chapter Meeting** Saturday, January 7, 2022 Virtual  
<https://zoom.us/j/91997857121?pwd=aXpvNWF5YWF1cFVqMXloYmZUUVdldzo9>

## Announcements

### Nominating Committee 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 the Goggle form at this link: 2023-2025 Chapter Officer Nominating Form . Nominations closes at 11:59 p.m., Saturday, December 31, 2022**

### Membership Services Committee

**White Christmas:** The White Christmas event is where chapter members visit, show sisterly love and spread Christmas joy to our Sick and Shut-in Sorors. If you know a Soror that would welcome a visit from our White Christmas carolers, and they reside in the Austin area (including Pflugerville, Round Rock, Buda), please send names and contact information to members of the White Christmas sub-committee, Sorors Tanya Rippenkreoger at [tanya.rippenkreoger@hotmail.com](mailto:tanya.rippenkreoger@hotmail.com) and Melody Southall at [melynn95@hotmail.com](mailto:melynn95@hotmail.com) by **November 30, 2022.**

**Jingle and Mingle:** The Jingle and Mingle holiday party will take place immediately after the December chapter meeting. We will have some nice holiday treats prepared for sorors. Please come out and remember to bring a soror. In partnership with Economic Development, please bring your cash, checks and credit cards and be prepared to patronize our dear sorors who are small business owners.

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*



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

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