

THE ODYSSEY

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

FEBRUARY 2023

THIS ISSUE

- Presidential Press
 Page 1
- Chaplain's Message & Prayer Corner
 Page 2
- This Month's Highlights Page 3
- Membership Services
 Page 18
- Coming Your Way...! Page 19
- Soror Scrapbook
 Page 20



Sorors, don't forget to register and attend our upcoming February Chapter Meeting, Tuesday, February 7 at 6 p.m., held virtually!

Tap here to register, https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkfu6gqzwrGNXkl6CL3zhJtzqBQm 2U4y08

Register for our 110th Founders Day Celebration!

Presidential Press

Vol. 6

We shall overcome, we shall overcome, We shall overcome, someday Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, We shall overcome someday.

Someday Sorors, we shall overcome! If you are like me this past week brought back some unpleasant memories from the 2021 "Snowpocalypse" and while I know several of our members were without power for a while and some experienced loss and damage, I am grateful that we all survived. One of my mantras in life is, "He has never left me before, why would He start now".

As we celebrate, recognize, and honor Black History during the month of February I hope that you realize that we are living testaments of our ancestors hopes and dreams. Black History Month was created to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans to the United States. It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United States today. As members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. we are making "Herstory" everyday as we continue the vision of our founders through Delta's mission of public service with a primary focus on the Black community.

We kicked off this month with Heart Healthy "Go Red" day and will continue with the Red S.H.O.E. Challenge. Delta Day of Service is February 11th, sign-up now. Social Action is leading us in supporting Equity Rally Day. We will have our Texas/New Mexico State Meeting February 17-19 in The Woodlands, TX. Also, Sorors, it's time to purchase your Founders Day tickets. The committee is planning a grand celebration on March 26 which will include our Rededication Ceremony. We look forward to seeing you engaging in all of our upcoming activities.

Sorors we are on the Move in the name of Delta and Moving Forward with Fortitude!

Yours in Service.

Soror Robin Blackmon

Chaplain's Message

by Soror June Murphy

The Art of Listening

Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish. (Proverbs 18:13, NLT).

It seems that listening should be easy, but it is not. Listening means we must be quiet. This is often the difficult part. We can even control the silence between words by choosing when to talk. For some of us, silence can cause our anxiety to increase, so we talk -- even when we have nothing to say. Good listeners are relatively rare.

It is a tremendous experience to have someone really listen to us, ... to have someone's complete and undivided attention. When this happens, it communicates at a very deep level, that we have value and that we are worthy. Over time, being listened to can convince us that we are worth someone's attention and that we are worth being loved. At times, being listened to can break into our isolation and loneliness.

To be good listeners we must be secure in who we are. Worrying about how we are being received by another individual, or thinking about what we will say next while someone else is talking, sends the message that what we have to say is more important than what anyone else has to say.

When was the last time you really listened to someone? What about the last time you felt that someone really listened to you? What was the experience like?

A wise person will listen and continue to learn, and an understanding person will gain direction. (Proverbs 1:5, GWT)

Listening is difficult work, but it is worth the investment. It is something we can improve on with intentionality and with God's help, for He listens when no one else does. And let us never miss a blessed opportunity to listen when God speaks to us! Listen ... listen ... listen.



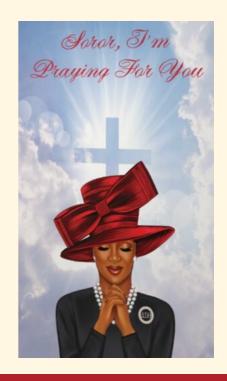
Prayer Corner

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

- Soror Cassandra Ringer for health and healing;
- Soror Estella Akins as she is experiencing some health challenges. She is residing in Houston with her Daughter Soror Dianne Akins Iglehart at 13619 Broken Bridge Dr., Houston, Texas 77085;
- Soror Jonna LaGrone-Haynes for the passing of her Grandmother Birdie Berry;
- Soror Frances Smith and her Husband, who lost his last Brother (age 94);
- Soror Carrie Swisher on the loss of her Sister Johnie Organ. Please also pray for Soror Swisher's Brother who is ill;
- Soror Youlander Dean and Soror Sydney Cross for the loss of their Mother and Grandmother, respectively, Virginia R. Johnson;
- Soror Kerri Lang for health and healing; and
- Soror Sandra "FeFe" McCrary-Marshall for health and healing.

Sorors, tap the enclosed link to submit your prayer requests and bereavement notices,

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



February Omega Omega Assignments



Soror Nina Newman through Soror Cassandra Ringer

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS



AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Social Action Committee!



Greetings, Sorors!

Saturday, February 11th, will be our annual Day of Service. Austin Alumnae members will honor the legacy of our beloved Founders by serving our community. There will be three different activities occurring simultaneously. Grab your favorite Delta t-shirt and join us for a day of fun, fellowship and service. Sorors, don't wait to sign-up as slots are limited.

Make sewless blankets - ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED ON SITE.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4eaaa728a7fd0-delta2#/

• Austin Alumnae will furnish and set up an apartment for a family (mother/daughter) who are experiencing homelessness.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4eaaa728a7fd0-delta1#/

• Handwrite a page-long letter that aims to inspire, encourage, uplift, and celebrate girls throughout our community – guidelines for writing letters will be provided.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4eaaa728a7fd0-dayofservce#/

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Social Action Committee!



Austin Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. in partnership with the Travis County Voter Registration Outreach and Training Coordinator would like to thank Bruce Elfant - Tax Assessor-Collector, Voter Registrar for conducting the in-person via voter deputy registrar training; January 26, 2023.

Congratulations to our members for successfully completing Voter Deputy Registrar, together we will make a difference.

Please note a Volunteer Deputy Registrar or VDR is a volunteer trained and appointed by the county voter registrar to register voters in the county where they are appointed. Duties of a VDR include:

- Providing applicants registration applications to voters
- Assisting applicants in completing their voter registration application
- Accepting and reviewing completed voter registration applications and giving applicants

Persons looking to be trained to become a Voter Deputy Registrar for Travis County may do so by visiting https://tax-office.traviscountytx.gov/voters/volunteer-deputy-registrars to learn more.

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Social Action Committee!



Sorors, register for Equity Rally Day here,
https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=bAm2WzTg0aEOLET7N3stkNj7pF5apdPpPwOU49cpVZUNjRRSDdLWVJOMEh
OTExZWVIHWDFENEhPTS4u

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Social Action Committee!



AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Economic Development Committee!

Black Owned Banks and Credit Unions in Texas

OneUnited Bank - US

 First Black digital Bank and largest Black owned bank in the country.

Unity National Bank - Houston

- Δ Founded in 1963 and Later Chartered in 1985, is the only African American owned banking institution in Texas.
- Δ ATMs: 500+
- Δ Branches: 3

Mount Olive Baptist Church Credit Union - Dallas

A Primarily serves Mount Olive Baptist Church members and their families. Operates as a faith-based non-profit institution

Oak Cliff Christian Credit Union – Dallas

A Christian-based organization founded in 2008. Anyone who's a member of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship and its subsidiaries can apply for membership

Faith Cooperative Credit Union-Dallas

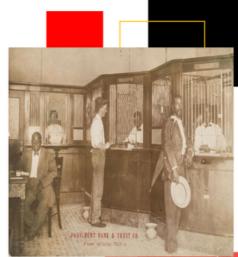
Δ A faith-based micro-loan institution

Economic Development

History

Black-owned banks have been around for more than 130 years, dating back to the charter of the True Reformers Bank in 1888. The bank came into existence after the failure of the Freedman's Savings Bank, which the U.S. government established in 1865 to offer financial services for newly freed African Americans.

https://www.bankrate.com



To be considered a Black-owned bank, a financial institution must serve minority communities and be at least 51% Black-owned.

How can you support:

One of the primary ways to support Blackowned banks is by doing business with them, either by opening an account or taking out a loan or line of credit. Another approach is to become an equity stockholder in a Blackowned financial institution. Although there are no local black-owned banks/CU in Austin please share with family and friends who may be looking for other options.





AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS



News from our Emergency Response Team

Welcome February 2023! It is a wonderful time to be prepared.

Anytime you want to update yourself on Emergency Preparedness, a great resource is Ready.gov. Launched in February 2003, Ready.gov is a National public service campaign to educate and empower the American people to prepared for, respond to and mitigate emergencies, including natural and manmade disasters. The goal of the campaign is to promote preparedness through public involvement.

(Information from Ready.gov)
Low and No Cost Preparedness

- 1. KNOW what kind of disasters and emergencies are common in your area
- 2. CREATE your emergency communications record.
- 3. MAKE SURE your emergency phone numbers are stored somewhere other than your cell phone.
- 4. **SIGN UP** for emergency alerts in your area to receive life-saving information from your state and
- local municipality.
- 5. DOWNLOAD the FEMA APP.
- 6. BUILD YOUR EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT.
- 7. **TALK** TO YOUR FAMILY AND MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD about where you will go if you are

told to evacuate.

- 8. **STORE** IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS (passports, birth certificates, electronics and chargers,
- medications) in a flood-safe place (a high shelf, upper floor of your home, water-tight plastic

bag...)

9. VISIT Floodsmart.gov to know your area's level of flooding risk.

(More information is available at Ready.Gov)

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Physical & Mental Health Committee



Red S.H.O.E Fitness Challenge Calendar

FEBRUARY 2023

Weekly Log Your: Steps Workouts Water Intake Sleep

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 GO RED! American Heart Association #WearRedDay	4
5 Self-Care Day	6	7	8	9	10	11 Group Exercise 10AM 2300 Rosewood Ave. Austin, TX (in Pavillion)
12 Self-Care Day	13	14	15	16	17	18 Group Exercise 10AM Walnut Creek Park
19 Self-Care Day	20	21	22	23	Group Exercise 6PM NKB Studio \$10 p/p	25
26 Self-Care Day	27	28		 		1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

Group Exercise Sign-up

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5O8OF4BA4AB2AABF85-redshoe







AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Physical & Mental Health Committee

Sorors, get ready to lace up your tennis shoes and join the Physical and Mental Health Committee in the Red S.H.O.E. Fitness Challenge for the month of February.

Weekly track your steps, workouts, water intake and sleep with the following links: Entries must be logged by 9 PM on Saturdays.

S.H.O.E. Challenge Preliminary Soror Information https://forms.gle/E8AjUfq8Gyu2RGyG9

Week 1: 2/1-2/4

https://forms.gle/qzU7xKvrgvEAgzph7

Week 2: 2/5-2/11

https://forms.gle/Pe5WHjkYNtYGVPYM9

Week 3: 2/12-2/18

https://forms.gle/HeKYMGC6AGgfWEfz5

Week 4: 2/19-2/25

https://forms.gle/PSD2HV5cUXEGxZic8

And don't forget to mark your calendar to workout with your Austin Alumnae Sorors on February 11th, February 18th and February 25th.

To get more details and sign-up, click the link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F4BA4AB2AABF85-redshoe

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Physical & Mental Health Committee



Central Texas Food Bank – MLK Service Day



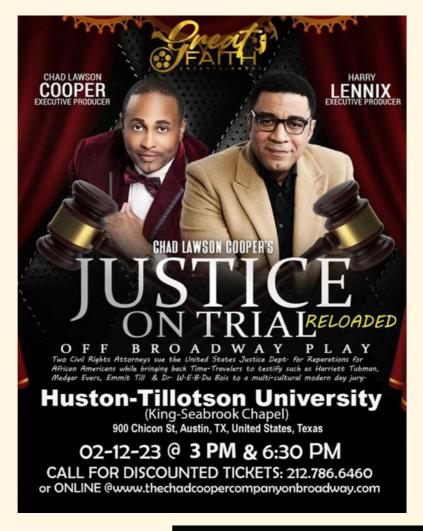


The Physical & Mental Health
Committee helped to provide
330 Boxes = 5,500 Meals to the Austin
Community!!!

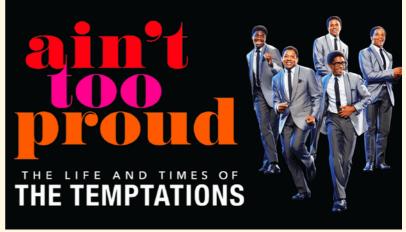


NEWS FROM OUR ARTS & LETTERS COMMITTEE

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



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



NEWS FROM OUR ARTS & LETTERS COMMITTEE

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



Key Dates

February 25 4th Annual San Antonio African American Book Festival
 Second Baptist Community Center & Carver Library

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-4th-annual-san-antonio-african-american-book-festival-tickets-516186757487

Folktales' Black Women's Literary Group is starting its 31st year in February.

Our selections include:

- February 17 Civil Rights Queen Constance Baker Motley and the Struggle for Equality (Tomiko Brown-Nagin)
- March 17 The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times (Michelle Obama)
- April 21 The Yellow Wife: A Novel (Sadeqa Johnson)

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

A Request from Our Historian and Heritage Archive Committee!

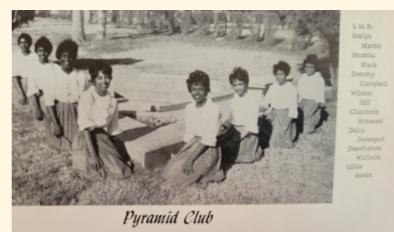
Heritage Archive Committee Collection Efforts

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.....

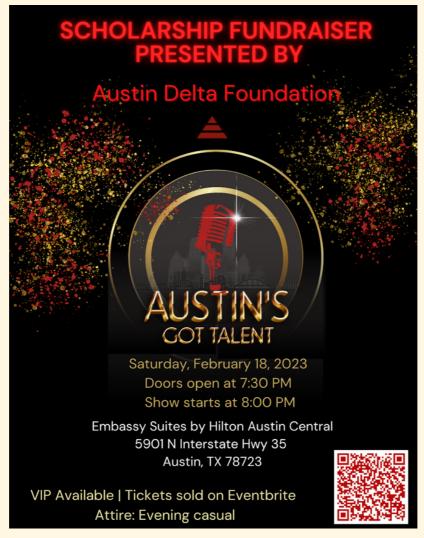
- Certificates
- Awards
- Trophies
- Plaques the chapter received during your tenure
- Chapter Rules of Order
- Policy and Procedures
- Constitution and By Laws during your tenure
- We need from chapter members.....
- Pictures of Charter Members
- Pictures of Past Presidents
- Founders Day programs
-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

IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION FROM AUSTIN DELTA FOUNDATION



Since 2001, the Austin Delta Foundation and Austin Alumnae Chapter have awarded over 100 scholarships to assist female high school seniors in achieving their academic endeavors; a total of \$140,000 recorded to date.

Austin Delta Foundation in partnership with Austin Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. continue the scholarship fundraising efforts through Austin's Got Talent. This event on February 18 celebrates and spotlights a variety of new and seasoned talent in the greater Austin area. Food, music, laughs, dancing, and a hand clapping, toe tapping, finger snapping experience await you. Tickets \$55.

Purchase Tickets: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/austins-got-talent-sponsored-by-austin-delta-foundation-tickets-460552594207

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Wells Fargo is seeking talented undergraduates and graduates to participate in our summer internships and full-time University Program hiring opportunities.

I am requesting your support in marketing this opportunity to eligible talent in your network. Please see below and attached for additional details and application links.

LinkedIn Post:

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ashleyacordova_wellsfargounive rsityprograms-wellsfargo-undergradute-activity-7021225178193960961--t1i?

utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop



IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

SANE DATES

Sisterhood Month Events

·3/5 - Delta Dolls "Sunday FunDay"

·3/11 - Delta DEARS event

·3/18 - Delta Divas event

-3/19 - Church service

Mt. Sinai Baptist Church @ 11:00 a.m.

(Tentative)

·3/26 -Founders Day Event

·3/31 - Sisterhood Social





Membership Spotlight Happy Birthday, Sorors!

Happy Birthday to our February birthdays!

02/01: Sondra Johnson

02/03: Dionne Bracken & Karen Ware

02/04: Andrea Edwards 02/06: Etta Ferguson

02/07: Roslyn Martin-Sessum

02/09: Glyn Walker 02/12: Youlander Dean 02/14: Diane Holland 02/17: Dewi Smith

02/18: Benee Brown & De'Sean Roby 02/20: Andrea Dixon & Courtney Nolan 02/21: Angela Woods & Helen Wright

02/22: Delbra Bradford 02/26: Jennifer Nix 02/27: Carolyn Golden 02/28: Susan McQueen

Coming Your Way...!

Odyssey and MIDpoint Message Deadlines

- February MIDpoint Message -- Submit all content by Tuesday, February 7
- March Odyssey -- Submit all content by Tuesday, February 21
- March MIDpoint Message -- Submit all content by Tuesday, March 7

*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).



Soror Scrapbook!

A few of our favorite photos from this past month! Sorors, please email your wonderful photos to dstatxphotos@gmail.com.













Austin Alumnae Leadership Team

2022-2023 Committee Chairs

Economic Development

Sylnovia 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

<u>Officers</u>

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 register and attend our upcoming
February Chapter Meeting,
Tuesday, January 7 at 6 p.m.,
held virtually!

Tap here to register,

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkfu6gqzwrGNXkI6CL3zhJtzqBQm2U4y0s



Sorors, please ensure you mark your calendar and register!

The Protocol and Traditions Committee will have their Rededication workshop on Thursday, March 9, 2023 from 7-8 p.m. during Sisterhood Month.

The committee is requesting that Sorors attending the workshop have available their

Protocol and Traditions Manual and their Ritual,

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwrdOGprDspHNQ75QCYhVEuyF5wGwXVU8Vt



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