



AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER  
MINUTES OF THE Virtual EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
Apr 18, 2023

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President Robin T. Blackmon called the virtual Austin Alumnae Executive Board meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. on Tuesday, Apr 18, 2023. A quorum was present, via Zoom, for the transaction of business. The agenda as distributed was approved. The motion was properly made, seconded, and passed with no opposition.

Meditation / Reflection – Soror Dedurie Kirk

Soror Kirk offered the following words from Proverbs 31:8-9 to remind us that we are called to serve and we call to follow the passion in our hearts to speak out for others in need.

Minutes – Soror Janet Marshall, Recording Secretary

There were no edits from the AAC body to the Mar 2023 E-board meeting minutes.

Correspondence – Soror Tiffany Holmes White, Corresponding Secretary

- Thank you card: Austin Alumnae Chapter, Thank you for your prayers, calls, cards and expressions of love & support. May God bless you for you have blessed us. The Smith Family (Soror F. Smith)
- Thank you card: Dear Soror Blackmon, Trust this note finds you well. I just want to know if your chapter has a month set for the next collegiate line at Texas State University. Sincerely, Soror Staggs
- Thank you card: We deeply appreciate your expression of sympathy and love during this difficult time. Your support means so much, and will always be remembered. Love, Soror Youlander Dean and Soror Sydney Cross
- Donation request: American Red Cross
- Donation request: Central Texas Food Bank
- Thank you card: Words cannot fully express how much we appreciate your kindness, support and expressions of sympathy during this difficult time. We are forever grateful. Kimily Johnson

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## Chapter Reports

### Officers

**President** – Soror Robin T. Blackmon

### Austin-Local

- Congratulations on a successful Red and White day. We had a historic number of Deltas in attendance, almost 500. Thanks to every member of Austin Alumnae that stepped in and worked as Boots on the Ground to make it happen. Hats off to Celeste Williams our Social Action Co-Chair for serving on the Committee and keeping AA abreast of everything. And Soror Jeri Brooks, let's recognize her for the outstanding work she did with the entire day but definitely the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the building named in honor of our Soror Barbara Jordan.
- DID – Sorors we have not met our quorum registration for DID which is Saturday, April 20, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. If you have not registered, please do so. If we do not meet quorum, we will have to do the session over again.
- Both Chapter Delegates have registered for the National convention during the special registration designated for the President and Delegates

### Regional

- SWR Sisterhood week – Sorors we reported \$8,924.43 in purchased to black owned businesses. We had 7 sorors read during the week.
- SWR communication - Delta Authors on Tour in the SW Region hosted by Dallas Alumnae Chapter on June 3, 2023.
- SWR communication – Love Letter Sisterhood Edition

### National

We have received several Informz messages, please be sure to read them.

- 4/3 - 56<sup>th</sup> National Convention Scarf and Fan Set
- 4/5 - Applications for Leadership Cohort
- 4/7 – State of recent expulsion of Tennessee Lawmakers
- 4/10 – National PPD Committee Updates
- 4/10 – Project Ace Fuel Your Engine
- 4/11 – 2023 Delta Heritage Celebration Award



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- 4/12 – Call for Resolutions
- 4/13 - The Quill and the Reel Webinar
- 4/15 – Delta Sponsorship Opportunities
- 4/15 – Fiscal Forum Webinar
- 4/16 – Leading with Fortitude: Virtual Candidates Forum
- 4/18 - Scholarship and Seed Grant Application Season
- 4/18 – National Financial Aid and Special Scholarship Announcement
- 4/19 – Call for Submissions for National Arts and Letters Awards
- 4/20 – Calling all Steppers to the Front 56<sup>th</sup> National Convention Step Show
- 4/24 – Introducing Crimson Stage – Host a Broadway Show
- 4/26 – Compliance Submissions
- 4/27 – Madree Penn White Award
- 5/1 – Deltas on the Fairway Golf Tournament
- 5/2 – Grand Chapter Quarterly Financial Report
- 5/2 – Freedom to Learn Rally
- 5/3 – Good Start, Good Growth, Good Living Initiative Round Table Discussion

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** – *Soror Kacey Hanson*

- Calendar Activities – 72
- Chapter Management – 21 (29%)
  - E Board Meetings
  - Chapter Meetings
  - Budget & Finance Meetings
- AA/DST Member Programs – 21 (29%)
- Public Service Programs – 30 (42%)
  
- The current budget requests to date exceed the available income to date; the following was discussed during the re-visit with the programs chairs.
  - Standardized speaker honorarium amounts
  - Distinguished organization support versus chapter programming
  - Identified programming needing budgetary support
  
- The proposed calendar was presented
  
- **RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the 2023-2024 proposed Austin Alumnae Chapter Calendar, to submit for approval, having identified some programming will need additional budgetary support in order to execute. The recommendation was properly made, seconded, and passed with a vote of 18-2,



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**Financial Secretary** – Soror Jacqueline Habersham for Soror Anita Daniels

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

- 309 members on the roster for FY 22-23
- 216 members on the roster for '23 short year.
- FY 22-23 dues are as follows
  - Δ Life – \$195
  - Δ Regular – \$385
    - \$400 if you have been financially inactive for one year
    - \$415 if you have been financially inactive for two years or more

**\*\*Important Information – Shift to Calendar Year Basis**

- Short Year (to complete the 2023 Calendar Year) – Jul – Dec 31, 2023
  - Currently Financial Sorors
    - Payable Jan 1 – Mar 31, 2023: \$92.50
    - \$92.50 represents one half of the local dues
    - For the short year conversion period, **if you are currently financial**, please send no more than \$92.50
    - No late fees on the \$92.50. **Update:** there will now be late fees applied if received after Oct 1, 2023!
      - **Non-Financial/Reclaimed Sorors**
        - If non-financial for one year, the \$385 becomes \$400.
        - If non-financial for two years or more, the \$385 becomes \$415
          - So, if non-financial for 1 year, the total is \$492.50 (\$92.50 plus \$385 plus \$15 late fee)
          - So, if non-financial for 2 year+, the total is \$507.50 (\$92.50 plus \$385 plus \$30 late fee)
      - **A currently non-financial soror does not just pay the \$92.50 alone! Please see Financial Secretary!!**
- Full Year (to start the 2024 Calendar Year) – Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2024
  - Payable Jul 1 – Sep 30, 2023: \$385 Regular or \$195 Lifetime Member
  - Represents a full year of local and national dues
  - Late fees begin Oct 1, 2023
    - If non-financial for one year, the \$385 becomes \$400



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- If non-financial for two years or more, the \$385 becomes \$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**
- Please remember to include your member number, no matter your means of payment!

**Treasurer/Budget and Finance** – *Soror Demitra Alexander*

For detailed information of the Treasurer's Report, please see Treasurer or Recording Secretary or **please visit the website.**

**Committee Reports**

**Five Point Thrust**

**Social Action** – Soror Veronica Johnson

- Giving Austin Labor support
  - May 20, 2023. Donation drop-off at the ADF House. Time TBD
  -
- Boards & Commissions
  - To date, nine sorors have expressed interest
  - Surveying for dates: May 15 or May 20



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- Contact Sorors Marva Overton or Patricia Hicks
- Soror Diwi Smith will share her experience with boards & commissions
- A couple of notable bills being followed
  - HB 567 by Bowers. The Crown Act would prohibit race-based hair discrimination in schools, workplaces, and housing.
  - HB 2229 by Goodwin. The Natalia Cox Act would require the police to tell victims of domestic violence about resources available to them – including how to break a lease. The bill is named for a 21-year old Huston-Tillotson University student who lost her life in her apartment in Mar 2021
  - Natalia Cox is a member of Delta Sigma Theta.
- **General information:** The Social Action committee meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

### Standing Committees

#### Ways and Means – Soror Alnita Foote

- Double Good Popcorn Sales Start Date – May 4, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
- Double Good Popcorn Sales End Date – May 8, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
- Sales Instructions
  - Create your store
  - Download Double Good app
  - Add Code LDM EWD
- Double Good Popcorn Sales
  - Austin Alumnae profited \$12,404 in 2022
  - Let's double our profit in 2023
  - If 150 sorors sell \$500 in popcorn, AAC would profit \$37,500
  - If 150 sorors sell \$750 in popcorn, AAC would profit \$56,250
  - Donations will be accepted, just as last year: \$421. Donations go directly to AAC.
  - Prizes will be awarded for the top three sellers. The cash prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> will be \$75, \$50, and \$25 respectively.
  - A summer activity to support our 5-point programmatic Thrusts.



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- The Arts and Letters Red Carpet fundraiser is contingent upon National direction regarding potential movie. Stay tuned.

**Policies & Procedures** – Soror Patricia Shorter

- Committee members
  - Sorors Patricia Shorter, Jeffrey Archer, Avis Gipson, Donna Jackson, Honorable Brenda Kennedy, Mary Lewis-Winston
- Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws
  - Informz Message Notification – Jan 31, 2023
    - Per Article XI of Grand Chapter's Constitution
    - Per Article XX of Grand Chapter's ByLaws
  - Series of webinars and overview of amendments
    - Clarity in duties and responsibilities
    - Clarity and consistency
    - Align with current practices
    - Recommend best practices
  - 35 Amendments proposed
    - 1 global change to CBL
    - 5 amendments proposed to the Constitution
    - 29 amendments proposed to the Bylaws
    -
- **RECOMMENDATION** – The Policies and Procedures Committee recommends the chapter delegate votes in favor of the 35 amendments proposed by the National Constitution and Bylaws Committee during the 56<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Indianapolis, IN. The motion was made by the committee, voted upon, and passed with a vote of 19-0.

**Heritage & Archives** – Soror Tashia Coleman

- Reminder to submit any pictures, etc. of historical Austin Alumnae chapter information to [dstatx.ha@gmail.com](mailto:dstatx.ha@gmail.com) by Tuesday, Apr 25, 2023.

**Ad hoc/Special Committees**

**Founders Day** – Soror Donna Jackson

- Post Founders Day Celebration Feedback
  - Budget the service day project as a separate line item from Founders Day
  - General information: 187 tickets were sold at \$75 each equals \$14,025
  - It was a long day! Consider having the rededication ceremony on a separate day.



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- Itemize, for example, the hotel, hotel taxes, and hotel fees
- Joint Cluster meeting
- Consider starting the Founders Day line item at \$10K seed money, so the committee does not have to go back to request additional.
- Budget Summary
  -

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Budget              | \$11,650.00   |
| Fundraising Income  | +\$14,025.00  |
| Available           | =\$25,675.00  |
| Total Spend to Date | - \$21,589.76 |
| Rem'g Balance       | \$ 4,947.65 * |
|                     |               |

\*Note: the presentation displayed a remaining balance of \$4,947.65, but if the numbers presented above are correct, the mathematical remaining balance should be as follows: \$25,675 minus \$21,589.76 equals \$4,085.24

**Service Area (Ad Hoc)** – Soror Pamela Hall

- Committee Members
  - Sorors Genia Antoine, Robin Blackmon, Raissa Ferron, Alnita Foote, Pamela Hall, Brenda Hanson, Zabrina Hoggard, and Freda Mills
- Service Area Data Reviewed included
  - AAC Rosters
  - AAC Service Programs
  - Service Area of Surrounding Chapters
  - Cities in surrounding counties
  - Target population
- Chapter Rosters

| ○ <b><u>City</u></b> | ○ <b><u>2018-2019</u></b> | ○ <b><u>2022-2023</u></b> |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ○ Austin             | ○ 56%                     | ○ 47%                     |
| ○ Pflugerville       | ○ 17%                     | ○ 19%                     |
| ○ Round Rock         | ○ 13%                     | ○ 12%                     |
| ○ Leander            | ○ 3%                      | ○ 3%                      |
| ○ Hutto              | ○ 1%                      | ○ 3%                      |
| ○ Manor              | ○ 1%                      | ○ 3%                      |
| ○ Cedar Park         | ○ 2%                      | ○ 2%                      |
| ○ Georgetown         | ○ 1%                      | ○ 2%                      |



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- Percentage of Programs/Projects by city from 2018-2023

| • City         | • Percentage |
|----------------|--------------|
| • Austin       | • 56.9%      |
| • Kyle         | • 2.0%       |
| • Bastrop      | • 2.0%       |
| • Round Rock   | • 9.8%       |
| • Pflugerville | • 5.9%       |
| • Manor        | • 2.9%       |
| • Lockhart     | • 2.0%       |
| • Leander      | • 3.9%       |
| • Hutto        | • 3.9%       |
| • Georgetown   | • 3.9%       |
| • Del Valle    | • 2.0%       |
| • Dale         | • 2.0%       |

- Other slide presented showed the service areas for surrounding chapters, the associated cities in those surrounding counties, and target populations
- RECOMMENDATION: The Service Area Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the service area of Austin Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. be defined as Travis County and Williamson County.
  - There was a proposed amendment to add Hays County. The reason mentioned by Soror Lisa Newman is that AAC serves the Iota Omega Chapter on the campus of Texas State University.
  - Opposing sides to the amendment directed the chapter to the Chapter Management Handbook which does not refer to advisory roles to a collegiate chapter as a service.
  - Soror Newman responded that AAC advisory role is actually augmenting the collegiate chapter which allows it to be able to serve the community.
  - The amendment to insert Hay County was properly made, seconded, voted upon, as passed with a vote of 14-4.
- The **revised** recommendation read as follows: The Service Area Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the service area of Austin Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. be defined as **Hays County**, Travis County and Williamson County. The final recommendation was voted upon and passed with a vote of 17-4.

**New Business**

**Announcements**



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**Adjournment**

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:39 PM. 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              | Motion to adopt the Apr agenda  | Soror Avis Gipson  | Soror Deborah Shaw Boatner  | 15-0             | <b>Passed</b>                         |
| PPD                   | Adopt the 2023-2024 proposed Austin Alumnae Chapter Calendar, to submit for approval, having identified some programming will need additional budgetary support in order to execute.  | Soror Kacey Hanson   | Soror Avis Gipson   | 18-2             | <b>Passed</b>                         |
| Policies & Procedures | The Policies and Procedures Committee recommends the chapter delegate votes in favor of the 35 amendments proposed by the National Constitution and Bylaws Committee during the 56 <sup>th</sup> National Convention in Indianapolis, IN. | Soror Patricia Shorter on behalf of the committee              | N/A   | 19-0             | <b>Passed</b>                         |
| Service Area          | The Service Area Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the service area of Austin Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. be defined as <b>Hays County</b> , Travis County and Williamson County.                                    | Soror Pamela Hall on behalf of the committee                   | The amendment to add Hays County was seconded by Soror Alnita Foote | N/A              |                                       |
|                       |   | The amendment to add Hays County was made by Soror Lisa Newman |   | 14-4<br><br>17-4 | Amend Passed<br><br>Final Vote Passed |

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Soror Janet Marshall, Recording Secretary

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Soror Robin T. Blackmon, President