



Austin Alumnae Chapter

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

MINUTES | CHAPTER MEETING
November 4, 2023

Legal Notice – Soror Donna Jackson

Emergency Response Team (ERT) – Sorors Ollie White | Tanya Rippenkroeger

- Δ Safety Measures Communicated
 - Emergency exits
 - Rally point
 - Fire extinguisher locations
 - “Red Envelope”
 - Emergency number 9-1-1
 - Frequent handwashing or sanitizer

ERT Moment

Soror Tanya Rippenkroeger – Holiday Safety

Following the ritualistic opening, Soror Robin Blackmon called the Austin Alumnae chapter meeting to order at 10:22 a.m. A quorum was present for the transaction of business.

Agenda – Soror Kacey Hanson moved to adopt the agenda noting that Protocol, Social Action, and Physical and Mental Health moments will be presented sequentially following the Special Committees reports. The motion was properly seconded.

Vote 74–0. The motion was adopted.

Welcome Visiting Sorors – Sorors Ruthie Coaxum, Chamene Woods, Angela Wright, Joella Brooks, and Sandra Isiguzo.

Minutes – Soror Donna Jackson *for* Soror Darralyn Johnson, Recording Secretary

The minutes of the October 7, 2023 chapter meeting were approved as previously distributed with no corrections.

Correspondence – Soror La’Kisha Crenshaw, Corresponding Secretary

- Δ “Thank you” card from family of Soror Martha Lou Rison
- Δ \$2500 scholarship donation from Lenora Jones (2006 scholarship recipient)
- Δ Letter from National Scholarship and Standards Committee noting the approval of the Chapter’s service area as Hayes, Travis and Williamson counties
- Δ Letter from Soror Elsie Cooke-Holmes, CEO and International President noting Austin Alumnae has been selected to host the 2024 Southwest Regional Conference

Chapter Reports

Officers

President – Soror Robin Blackmon

- Δ Thank you, Social Action Committee and sorors who traveled to San Antonio for the judicial hearings for Texas Senate Bill 1, the restrictive voting law enacted in September 2021.
- Δ Sister II Sister Circles leads encouraged to double check list as there are sorors whom have not been contacted.



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- Δ Thank you, Soror Pamela Hall and the ad hoc committee for their work on identifying the Chapter's service area.
- Δ Sorors Avis Gipson and Pamela Hall will be co-chairs for the 2024 Regional Conference
- Δ Austin Alumnae is partnering with Austin Delta Foundation (ADF) for annual Scholarship Fundraiser. Sorors are asked to sell five tickets. Cost \$85.
- Δ Arts and Letters will host a private, theater buyout, Red Carpet event on December 9, 2023 for an exclusive viewing of *The Color Purple*. Cost is \$30.
- Δ Regional update
 - Several members of Austin Alumnae attended Southwest Regional Leadership Retreat.
 - Regional Director, Crystal Barker, introduced the "*I am Southwest 100*" fundraising campaign to raise money for 2024 Regional Conference. Sorors are encouraged to donate at least \$100 and in return will receive a commemorative lapel pin.
 - Delta Internal Development (DID) must be completed by April 2024. Soror Jacqueline Habersham is working to secure a date. A quorum is required. Training will be virtual.
 - When writing letters for Membership Intake candidates, please utilize resources available on the National website within the *Members Portal*.

Financial Secretary – Soror Anita Daniels

For details regarding collections, please see financial secretary's full report on the chapter website behind the *Members Only* area.

- Δ 288 Members on the roster for SY (Short Year) 2023
- Δ 256 Members on the roster for FY (Fiscal Year) 2024
- Δ FY2024 dues are as follows:
 - Life: Golden | Diamond — \$195
 - Regular (Financial 2022/2023 & SY2023) — \$385
 - \$395 (\$385 plus \$10 late fee after 10/16/2023)
 - Regular (Nonfinancial one year) — \$400
 - Regular (Nonfinancial two or more years) — \$415
- Δ Reminder to include member number when paying dues via PayPal

Full financial secretary's report can be found on the chapter website behind the *Members Only* area.

Treasurer – Soror Deborah Shaw-Boatner

- Δ For detailed information regarding balances, please see treasurer's full report on the chapter website behind the *Members Only* area.
- Δ *I am Southwest 100* donations are not reflected on current posted report as the funds were not transferred prior to date of report.

The full report from the treasurer | Budget and Finance Committee can be found in the *Members Only* area of the chapter website.

Budget and Finance – Soror Deborah Shaw-Boatner, Chair

- Δ Budget and Finance meeting 10/11/2023. Multiple line items of SY2023 budget were increased due to additional income from dues collections and adjustment related to actual expense for the Chapter's retreat.



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Recommendation: Soror Deborah Shaw-Boatner moved that the report of adjustments from the Budget and Finance Committee and Executive Board be accepted as presented for the SY2023 year.

Vote 87–0. The motion was adopted.

- Δ For FY2024 multiple budget adjustments made as a result of increase in financial members from 200 to 250.

Recommendation: Soror Deborah Shaw-Boatner moved that the report of adjustments from the Budget and Finance Committee and Executive Board be accepted as presented for the FY2024.

Vote 84–0. The motion was adopted.

Recommendation: Soror Deborah Shaw-Boatner on behalf of the Executive Board moved that the \$2500 donation received and designated for scholarship purposes be donated to the Austin Delta Foundation (our scholarship partner) towards their scholarship fundraiser.

Vote 88–0. The motion was adopted.

- Δ Reminders - Schedule for processing voucher requests.
 - Vouchers received the Sunday before chapter meeting through the 15th of the month will be mailed by the 20th of the month.
 - Vouchers received between the 16th of the month and the Saturday before chapter meeting will be available at the chapter meeting unless you request the check be mailed.
- Δ To assist in closing out books for the SY2023 fiscal year, **ALL** voucher requests must be received at the December chapter meeting or by 12:59 p.m. on December 3, 2023. Please plan to request payment for any deposits for future projects and supplies for current or future projects to ensure you meet the deadline for voucher submission.

Committee Reports

Five-Point Thrust

Educational Development – Soror Paulette Walls, Chair

- Δ Soror President presented an award given to Austin Alumnae Chapter from Gamma Eta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha in recognition of our partnership on the 2023 College Tour. Physical award will be given to Heritage and Archives Committee.
- Δ Early Childhood Literacy is a local initiative and Oak Springs Elementary School has been identified as a campus partner.
 - School supplies have been identified as an area of need.

Recommendation: Soror Paulette Walls moved on behalf of the Executive Board that the Educational Development Committee solicit the chapter for school supplies to donate to Oak Spring Elementary School with collections at the November and December chapter meetings.

Summary of Discussion: Communication regarding specific needs, various methods of donations (e.g. Amazon Wishlist), dates and logistics of collecting supplies will be communicated at a later date.

Vote 91–0. The motion was adopted.



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International Awareness & Involvement – Soror Akeshia Smothers

- Δ World Aids Day is 12/1/2023.
- Δ 12/1/2023 | 6 p.m.– 9 p.m. | Community STAR Awards (a formal gala) | Cost: Free
 - Austin Alumnae is partnering with City of Austin/Austin Public Health, Austin Area HIV Planning Council, What's in the Mirror and Avita Pharmaceuticals
 - Committee asking at minimum 22 sorors to attend gala

Standing Committees

Nominating – Soror Carla Roberson, Chair

Recommendation: Soror Carla Roberson moved on behalf of the Executive Board a re-opening of the Awards Nomination timeframe to garner more entries in order to ensure a full slate with the further support of a *Nomination Form* training session on November 6, 2023 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Summary of Discussion: 16 submissions received. Only four met all required PEARLS. Sorors expressed difficulty with process. Will accept additional nominations November 6–25, 2023 at 5 p.m. Sorors will be notified regarding status of previous submissions. Nominating Committee will review and bring forth recommendations to the Policies and Procedures Committee to further clarify the Founders Day Awards process.

Vote 82–6. The motion was adopted

Special Committees

Elections – Soror Latisha McGee for Soror Terina “Renee” Conley, Chair

- Δ Due to the connectivity issues at the in-person meeting site, the election for awards will not be electronic and paper ballots will be used.

Recommendation: Soror Latisha McGee moved on behalf of the Executive Board that the Founders Day Awards winner for each category be selected by popular vote (highest number votes) instead of majority vote (more than half the votes). A second ballot or runoff will be conducted only if there is a tie vote in any award category.

Summary of Discussion: Elections will take place in person. No absentee ballots will be accepted. Is this appropriate for per Policies and Procedures? Soror Patricia Shorter, Parliamentarian, indicated that voting guidelines for the Founders Day Awards are not defined in the Chapter's Policies and Procedures.

- Δ 11/22/2023 written notification of chapter vote will be sent to chapter members
- Δ 12/3/2023 voting will take place at chapter meeting
 - 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | Attendance verification
 - 11a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Balloting
- Δ Election Committee members will be responsible for distribution and collection of ballots.

Vote 80–1. The motion was adopted.

Protocol Moment

Sorors Brenda Hanson and Toni Williams – Business Attire Guidelines



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Social Action Moment

Sorors Kelly Noble and Gloria Frazier – Boards and Commissions Initiative of the Social Action Committee

Physical and Mental Health Moment

Soror Sherri Fleming – Seasonal Affective Disorder

Announcement

49th Southwest Regional Conference – Soror Pamela Hall, Co-chair

- Steering committee chairpersons have been identified
- Sign-up form will be forthcoming. Sorors are asked to sign up for at least two committees.

Soror Kacey Hanson moved the meeting be adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The motion was properly seconded. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

The meeting was concluded with the Ritualistic Closing.

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Summary of Actions

| Committee | Recommendation | Moved | Seconded | Count | Results |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Budget and Finance | The report of adjustments from the Budget and Finance Committee and Executive Board be accepted as presented for the SY2023 year | Soror Deborah Shaw-Boatner | On behalf of Executive Board | 87-0 | Passed |
| Budget and Finance | The report of adjustments from the Budget and Finance Committee and Executive Board be accepted as presented for the FY2024 | Soror Deborah Shaw-Boatner | On behalf of Executive Board | 84-0 | Passed |
| Budget and Finance | The \$2500 donation received and designated for scholarship purposes be donated to the Austin Delta Foundation (our scholarship partner) towards their scholarship fundraiser. | Soror Deborah Shaw-Boatner | On behalf of Executive Board | 88-0 | Passed |
| Educational Development | The Educational Development Committee solicit the chapter for school supplies to donate to Oak Spring Elementary School with collections at the November and December chapter meetings. | Soror Paulette Walls | On behalf of Executive Board | 91-0 | Passed |
| Nominating | The Awards Nomination timeframe to garner more entries in order to ensure a full slate with the further support of a Nomination Form training session on November 6, 2023 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. | Soror Carla Roberson | On behalf of Executive Board | 82-6 | Passed |
| Elections | the Founders Day Awards winner for each category be selected by popular vote (highest number votes) instead of majority vote (more than half the votes). A second ballot or runoff will be conducted only if there is a tie vote in any award category. | Soror Latisha McGee | On behalf of Executive Board | 80-1 | Passed |

Soror Donna R. Jackson, Recording Secretary

Soror Robin Blackmon, President