



THE ODYSSEY

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

JANUARY 2024

Presidential Press

Vol. 5

THIS ISSUE

- **Presidential Press**
Page 1
- **Chaplain's Message & Prayer Corner**
Page 2
- **This Month's Highlights**
Page 3
- **Happy Birthday, Sorors!**
Page 14

Happy New Year Sorors!

As we usher in a new year, new season, and new goals, I've chosen the word "**Intentional**" to guide my actions and mindset in 2024. Being **intentional** about self-care, such as attending water aerobics, prioritizing sleep, and making healthy food choices, will serve as a wonderful commitment to my well-being.

Reflecting on our founders and their **intentionality** in creating a sisterhood rooted in service inspires me as a servant leader. The longevity and success of our organization, with over 111 years of Sisterhood, Scholarship, Service, and Social Action are a testament to the impact of our founders' **intentional** actions.

We will celebrate Founders Day this year with our annual Delta Day of Service on January 13 and our Founders Day luncheon on January 14. In our open celebration, we will focus on the theme "Better Together: Impacting Communities Through Service & Partnerships." Regional Director Crystal T. Barker will serve as our guest speaker as we recognize our community partners.

Sorors, this is the tip of the iceberg for what's in store for Austin Alumnae in 2024. Let's be **intentional** every step of the way ensuring our efforts align with the goals and objectives of our organization. Set aside time to read your chapter communications so you can stay connected and engaged.

I'm looking forward to a year filled with purpose, fulfillment, and continued success in all of our intentional endeavors. Happy Founders Day!

Yours in Service,

Soror Robin T. Blackmon



REMINDER:

Our chapter meeting is in-person at **10 a.m. on Saturday, January 6 at Highland Campus, Austin Community College** (Building 2000, Room 1550). **Parking is available in the South Parking Garage:** 6018 Wilhemina Delco Drive, Austin, Texas 78752

Chaplain's Message

Shared by April Briscoe

Peace Comes from Letting God Lead

John 14:27, Micah 5:4-6

Have you ever woke up knowing that no matter what the day brought, you were going to be fine? Peace is a wonderful feeling. We know it when we have it, and we all want more of it.

In John 14:27, Jesus says, “Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” Jesus doesn’t say we won’t have trouble; He says we don’t have to let ourselves be troubled. When we have God on our side, we can live securely. We can experience peace.

Living in peace is possible in every aspect of our day — from the moment we wake up in the mornings, throughout the day as we work and attend school, and in the evenings when we return home. Wherever we are going, we can walk confidently and have peace.

We weren’t designed to carry the weight of the world, but God can.

This unshakable peace comes from knowing God and trusting Him with every detail of our lives, like sheep in the care of a good shepherd. “He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth” (Micah 5:4).

No matter the things we go through, we have someone watching over us. And even though we can’t always see it, we are secure.

God’s peace is available to all of us; we just have to humble ourselves and allow Him to run our daily lives. We weren’t designed to carry the weight of the world, but God can.

Prayer Corner

Members are encouraged to send cards, visit (if allowed by the family), or telephone sorors for additional courtesies. Sorors, please continue to lift the following in fervent prayer:

- The family, friends, and sorors for the loss of Soror Sandra “Sam” Yvette Willis;
- Soror Jeffrey Archer at Lakeway Baylor Scott and White in Room 5107. Please pray for her recovery;
- Soror Jo Helen Bell who recently had hip surgery. She is doing well and resting;
- Soror Rippenkroeger and family for the loss of her mother;
- Soror Livingston and family for the loss of her father;
- The mother-in-law of Soror Sondra Johnson, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson passed; and
- Soror Doris Wilhite has been moved to hospice care at the Sedona Health and Wellness 8324 Cameron Rd, Austin, TX 78754;

Sorors, tap the enclosed link to submit your prayer requests and bereavement notices, <https://dstatx.org/contact-page/pb-request-form/>

January Omega Omega Assignments


Soror Audlandra Aaron-Magee through Soror Monica Brewer



This Month's Highlights


AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Founders Day Celebration!



Austin Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

Guest Speaker
Southwest Regional Director
Crystal T. Barker




FOUNDERS DAY

*"Better Together: Impacting Communities
Through Service & Partnerships"*

JANUARY 14, 2024

BALCONES COUNTRY CLUB
8600 BALCONES CLUB DR.
AUSTIN, TX 78750

SOROR RED & WHITE SOIREE 1-2PM CELEBRATION 2-4PM
\$75



Sorors, the **Chapter Rededication Ceremony** will be held on **Saturday, February 3, 2024, at 9 a.m.**

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Greetings Sorors!

We are excited about our upcoming Founders Day weekend to include our annual Delta Day of Service activities on Saturday, January 13, 2024 and our Founders Day celebration on January 14, 2023. On Saturday, January 13, we ask that you join us with your Delta red sweatshirts and or t-shirts to assist with one of the service projects around the Austin area. This year we have also included a virtual option that allows you and the public to assist with donating baby and feminine supplies by clicking on the Amazon link below. Purchases can be made through the link and mailed directly to the address provided or items can be purchased from any store and delivered to the Austin Delta Foundation House on January 13, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. You can also deliver items at our January chapter meeting and at the Founders Day celebration. If you have any questions please email dstatxfounders@gmail.com.

On January 14, please join us in your best Red & White attire (pants suits or dresses) as we welcome you to our Soror Soirée featuring a band, photo booths, gifts and mocktails. Immediately following the reception, we will celebrate Founders Day with our guest speaker, the Southwest Regional Director, Crystal T. Barker. We will recognize several community partner organizations and sorors receiving their anniversary recognition. This celebration is open to all Deltas and to the public. Purchase your tickets as soon as possible via the QR code included in the flyer or the included link , https://form.jotform.com/233178368237060?utm_source=AAC+2023+Short+Year+Roster&utm_campaign=403dd05435-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_12_12_04_14&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-403dd05435-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D

The option to pay via check is included on the registration, but you must register first and mail your check to the chapter at: Austin Alumnae Chapter; P.O. Box 143381; Austin, TX 78714 by January 4, 2024. For more specific details and to register for the service projects and the Founders Day celebration please use the enclosed links,

- **Lunches with Love SignUp Genius:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45A9AE2AA6FF2-46538537-lunches>

- **Blankets with Love SignUp Genius:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45A9AE2AA6FF2-46538755-blankets>

- **Baby & Feminine Supplies with Love SignUp Genius:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45A9AE2AA6FF2-46538823-baby>

- **Baby & Feminine Supplies Amazon Wish List:**

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1GDOT4C0Q1JEN?](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1GDOT4C0Q1JEN?ref_=wl_share&utm_source=AAC+2023+Short+Year+Roster&utm_campaign=403dd05435-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_12_12_04_14&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-403dd05435-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

[ref_=wl_share&utm_source=AAC+2023+Short+Year+Roster&utm_campaign=403dd05435-](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1GDOT4C0Q1JEN?ref_=wl_share&utm_source=AAC+2023+Short+Year+Roster&utm_campaign=403dd05435-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_12_12_04_14&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-403dd05435-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

[EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_12_12_04_14&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-403dd05435-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1GDOT4C0Q1JEN?ref_=wl_share&utm_source=AAC+2023+Short+Year+Roster&utm_campaign=403dd05435-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_12_12_04_14&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-403dd05435-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS



DELTA

DAY OF SERVICE JANUARY 13, 2024

Join the Austin Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, as we collectively serve the Austin community.



Central Area Lunches with Love

Ronald McDonald House
1315 Barbara Jordan Blvd,
Austin 78723
Sorors Only



North Area Blankets with Love

Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center
811 SE Inner Loop
Georgetown 78626
Sorors Only



Citywide Baby and Feminine Supplies with Love

Austin Diaper Bank
Collection details:
1/6/24 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Chapter Meeting
1/14/24 Founders Day Celebration
Sorors Only

1/13/24 8a.m.-10 a.m. ADF House
Open to the Public

For more information:
Benée Brown
piperbrown1@yahoo.com



Scan QR code for the
Amazon Wishlist



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Social Action Committee News!

Austin Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.
supports
Austin Area Heritage Council

2024 ANNUAL
MLK
COMMUNITY
FESTIVAL

Members of the Austin Alumnae chapter will be tabling and providing residents of Travis & Williamson County an opportunity to verify their voter registration status, complete address changes for their voter registration, and/or register to vote.

**JANUARY
15**
11:15 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY
900 CHICON ST
AUSTIN, TX 78702

Learn more about the march and festival
<https://mlkcelebration.com/celebration-events/march-and-festival/>

Austin MLK

Mark
your
Calendar

Austin Alumnae Chapter is embarking on new heights as we bring our seat to the table at the City of Hutto. Mark your calendars and join us, February 15, 2024 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Registration will open soon, and we want to have a presence in the city. We will have an opportunity to engage with leaders within the city of Hutto.

Delta continues to be the change agents in the world, and through our local civic engagement, we will do our part in ensuring that the generations to come have a better place in which to strive, thrive and live.

Details will be coming soon.

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Emergency Response Team!

Winter Weather PREPAREDNESS TIPS



During Freezing Weather (1-2 days)

■ Protect indoor faucets

Open cabinets beneath kitchen and bathroom sinks to allow warmer air to circulate around pipes. Be sure to remove any toxic substances located in these cabinets if there are children or pets living in the residence.

■ Drip only if needed

After the measures above are taken, drip one cold-water faucet slowly if you feel your pipes may still freeze. The faucet you choose should be the one that is the greatest distance from your main shutoff valve. It does not need to be a running trickle. If you do drip your faucet, capture the water for future use.

■ Power outages

If you experience a power outage for more than 24 hours, stop dripping your faucets and turn off your water at the meter.

For an Extended Freeze (more than 2 days)

Austin Water will monitor conditions that impact our water infrastructure throughout the freeze. Follow instructions from Austin Water for the best guidance on protecting your pipes and Austin's water system infrastructure:



austinwater.org

- Facebook/AustinWater
- Twitter/AustinWater @AustinWater
- Instagram/AustinWater (@austin_water)
- www.youtube.com/channel/

For updates and instructional videos go to:
austinwater.org

Thawing Pipes After a Freeze

After a period of freezing weather, if you turn on a faucet and discover only a trickle of water coming out, or no water at all, it is possible you have a frozen pipe or water meter. Take the following steps:

■ Test all faucets to see which are frozen

If you find that none of your faucets are working, then the frozen pipe is located near the main water pipe entering the residence. If none of the faucets on the same floor are working, then the frozen pipe is located between the different floors. If none of the faucets in the same room are working, then the frozen pipe is located between the main water pipe and where the water enters the room.

■ Find the frozen part of the pipe

After you figure out which pipe is frozen, trace along the affected pipe to look for signs of freezing like bulges, frost, or ice. If there are no visible signs, pay attention to the pipe's temperature and find where the pipe feels the coldest.

■ Thaw the pipe slowly

Even the faintest trickle of water will help thaw a frozen pipe. If any of your faucets can run any water at all, turn them on. Completely open the cold-water faucet closest to the frozen pipe to relieve pressure and reduce the chance of breakage. If the frozen pipe is only in one area, you may be able to thaw the pipe by opening cabinets and allowing warmer air to circulate around the pipes. Use warm water to soak towels, then wrap the towels around the frozen pipes. You can use a hair dryer or a portable heater to thaw a pipe, but DO NOT use electrical appliances if there is standing water. **NEVER** thaw a pipe using an open flame.

If these steps do not work, contact a licensed plumber or your property manager for assistance.

Sign up on the myatxwater.org customer portal to track water use and get alerts when water use increases for possible leaks.



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Emergency Response Team!

Winter Weather PREPAREDNESS TIPS



Prepare for Freezing Weather



Locate your water shutoff

Make sure everyone in your residence knows where the water main shutoff valve is located and keep it clear of debris and obstacles at all times.

In an emergency, Austin Water recommends you always try to shut off your water at your property owner's cutoff valve first. For most homes in our service area, the property owner's shutoff valve is on your side of the water meter at the meter box. If you are not sure where, check the property inspection report from when you purchased your residence. For renters, please consult with your property manager.

If you cannot find your shutoff valve or if it is damaged, then you should be prepared to access the City shutoff valve in the meter box. You may need a water meter key to open the meter box, during an emergency, which can be purchased at most hardware stores.



Keep out cold air

Tightly close doors and windows to the outside. Make repairs to broken or drafty windows, doors, and walls. Seal all leaks in crawl spaces and basements. Winterize unheated spaces and close garage doors for the duration of the freeze.



Exposed pipes and water heaters

Insulate pipes in unheated and drafty areas, such as an attic or garage. Also check manufacturer recommendations for your tanked and tankless water heaters. Hardware and plumbing supply stores carry insulation to help keep pipes from freezing.



Outside faucets

Turn off outside faucets. Remove all connected hoses and wrap faucets with towels or a Styrofoam insulator. Turn off and drain automatic sprinkler systems.

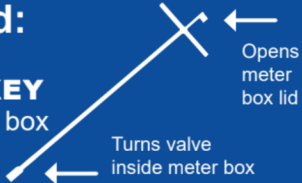


Prepare before leaving town

If you plan to be away during a time when freezing temperatures are possible, turn off your water at the meter and set your thermostat to 65 degrees or higher.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES to have on hand:

- **WATER METER KEY** to access your meter box if necessary



- **INSULATION** for indoor and outdoor pipes



- **HOSE BIB COVERS** for outdoor faucets



- Battery powered **RADIO** and **FLASHLIGHT**



- Have enough water for **1 GALLON PER PERSON PER DAY FOR 7 DAYS**



New My ATX Water meter box lids have been exchanged, but should be accessible with a standard meter box lid key. There is a spring mechanism that requires pressing down with the meter key before turning the key to open the lid. Note that the lid is wired to the meter inside the box. Be careful to avoid damaging these wires.



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Emergency Response Team!



State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR)

The State of Texas offers the option to register with the STEAR program, a free registry that provides local emergency management planners and responders with information related to your needs during an emergency.

Who Should Register?

- People with disabilities
- People who are medically fragile
- People with functional needs such as:
 - Limited mobility
 - Communication barriers
 - Require additional medical assistance during an emergency event
 - Require personal care assistance
- People who require transportation assistance



Register online at
Stear.tdem.texas.gov



Call 2-1-1 or use your video
phone relay option of choice

Registering in STEAR **DOES NOT** guarantee you will receive a specific service during emergencies.

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Physical & Mental Health News!

CENTRAL TEXAS AFRICAN AMERICAN
FAMILY SUPPORT CONFERENCE 2024

February 6, 2024

STRENGTH OVER STIGMA

KEYNOTE
SPEAKER:

**KEVIN
BERTHIA**



PALMER EVENTS CENTER | AUSTIN, TEXAS

February 6th, 2024



Central Texas African American
Family Support Conference

REGISTER TODAY

 [CTAAFSC.COM/REGISTER](https://ctaafsc.com/register)


2024 THEME:
STRENGTH OVER STIGMA

Register here,
ctaafsc.com/register

This Month's Highlights


AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Educational Development Committee News!



**AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.**

_____ *in collaboration with* _____



GAMMA ETA LAMBDA CHAPTER LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTES

ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.

HBCU COLLEGE TOUR

March 10 – March 15, 2024

_____ Contact: _____
Latasha Robinson
_____dstEdDev@gmail.com_____
512.716.9065


\$395

ATLANTA, GA

- CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
- MOREHOUSE COLLEGE
- MORRIS BROWN COLLEGE
- SPELMAN COLLEGE

ALBANY, GA

- ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY



COLLEGE BOUND

This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Arts & Letters Committee News!

Our next book club meeting will be on Saturday, January 20 at 1:00 pm. We will be discussing *The Other Black Girl*, A Novel by Zakiya Dalila Harris.

Description of the book:
Twenty-six-year-old editorial assistant Nella Rogers is tired of being the only Black employee at Wagner Books. Fed up with the isolation and microaggressions, she's thrilled when Harlem-born and bred Hazel starts working in the cubicle beside hers. They've only just started comparing natural hair care regimens, though, when a string of uncomfortable events elevates Hazel to Office Darling, and Nella is left in the dust.

Then the notes begin to appear on Nella's desk: LEAVE WAGNER. NOW. It's hard to believe Hazel is behind these hostile messages. But as Nella starts to spiral and obsess over the sinister forces at play, she soon realizes that there's a lot more at stake than just her career.

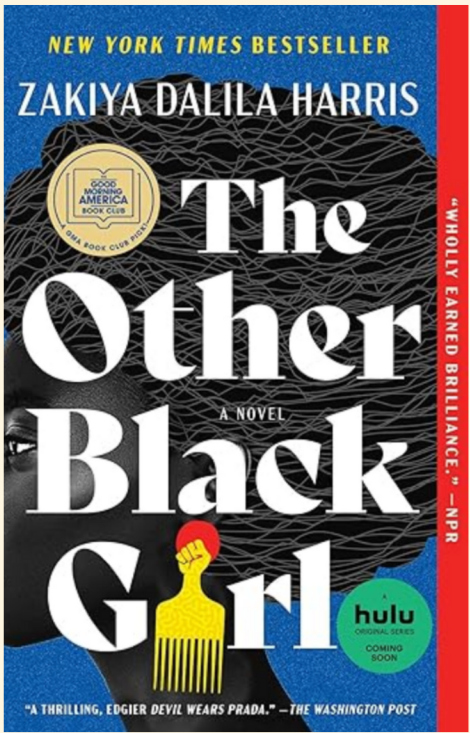
A whip-smart and dynamic thriller and sly social commentary that is perfect for anyone who has ever felt manipulated, threatened, or overlooked in the workplace, *The Other Black Girl* will keep you on the edge of your seat until the very last twist.

We will meet on ZOOM.

Register in advance for this meeting:
https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMkc-CurTopGdfdBkw_5ugtTWy_TQWvegg_

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. This is a link you can use to register for all of the remaining book club meetings.

We hope to see you at the next book club meeting!



This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Arts & Letters Committee News!



<https://tickets.austintheatre.org/10364>



<https://texasperformingarts.org/season/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater-2024-bass-concert-hall-austin-texas>



Membership Spotlight

Happy Birthday, Sorors!

Happy Birthday to our January birthdays!

- 01/01: Monica Brewer & Stephanie Shipp
- 01/03: Elnita Lee
- 01/08: Pretesia Hunt
- 01/09: Stephanie Charles & Vanessa Henry
- 01/10: Antowonett Parks & Suzanne Piper
- 01/11: Sherrie Edwards
- 01/13: Sharlene Andrews
- 01/14: Alnita Foote & Avis Gipson
- 01/16: Audlandra Aaron-Magee
- 01/19: Delphea Jester
- 01/20: Barbara Wilson
- 01/22: Tamela Saldana & LaPortia Smith
- 01/23: Kelsey Woodard
- 01/25: Zaria Sumling
- 01/27: Cleann Cameron
- 01/30: Estella Akins

Sister II Sister Circle Outings!



Soror Scrapbook



*In Memory of Our Beloved Soror
Sandra "Sam" Yvette Willis
and her contributions to Founders Day and
Delta Day of Service*

Soror Sam, your presence will be missed, but your spirit and legacy will forever live on...



Austin Alumnae Leadership Team

2023-2024 Committee Chairs

<u>Economic Development</u> Sylnovia Holt-Rabb & Avis Gipson	<u>National Pan Hellenic Representative(s)</u> Kim Whitlock & Darralyn Johnson
<u>Educational Development</u> Paulette Walls	<u>Nominating Committee</u> Carla Grace
<u>International Awareness & Involvement</u> Akeshia Johnson Smothers	<u>Parliamentarian/Chair of Policies and Procedures</u> Patricia Shorter
<u>Physical and Mental Health</u> Sherri Fleming & April Briscoe	<u>Charitable Partners</u> Pamela Hall & Sonya Harry
<u>Political Awareness and Involvement/ Social Action</u> Celeste Williams & Veronica Johnson	<u>Protocol and Traditions</u> Cedel Evans & Sandra Marshall
<u>Arts and Letters</u> Jonna LaGrone-Haynes & Tamara Diggs-Tate	<u>Records Management and Retention</u> Darralyn Johnson
<u>Risk Management Coordinator</u> Nancy Knight-Brown	<u>Ways and Means</u> Alnita Foote
<u>Internal Audit</u> Sophia Williams	<u>Communications and Public Relations</u> Autumn Caviness
<u>Rituals and Ceremonies</u> Michelle Scruggs	<u>Heritage and Archives</u> Nancy Thompson, Historian & Tashia Coleman
<u>Technology</u> Kathryn Foster & Khaison Reed	<u>Program, Planning, and Development</u> Kacey Hanson
<u>Emergency Response</u> Ollie White & Tanya Rippenkroger	<u>Chaplain</u> Dedurie Kirk
<u>Founders Day</u> Tamela Saldana & Kelly Smith	<u>Strategic Planning</u> Dewi Smith

Officers

- Robin T. Blackmon, President
- Jacqueline Habersham, 1st Vice President
- Kacey Hanson, 2nd Vice President
- Deborah Shaw-Boatner, Treasurer
- Kimily Johnson, Asst. Treasurer
- Darralyn Johnson, Recording Secretary
- La’Kisha Crenshaw, Corresponding Secretary
- Courtney Nolan, Asst. Corresponding Secretary
- Anita Daniels, Financial Secretary
- Tennile Thomas, Asst. Financial Secretary
- Laronica Moise, Sergeant at Arms
- Autumn Caviness, Journalist
- Immediate Past President Lisa Newman

Sorors,

**Please don't forget our Chapter meeting
is in-person at 10 a.m. on
Saturday, January 6,
Highland Campus
Austin Community College
(Building 2000, Room 1550).
Parking is available
in the South Parking Garage:
6018 Wilhemina Delco Drive,
Austin, Texas 78752**

Southwest Regional Conference Committee Signup!

Sorors,

We are excited to present this opportunity for you to be involved in the planning and the work of our upcoming **49th Southwest Regional Conference**.

Below, you will find the link to the Jotform. Please review carefully and if your schedule allows, sign up for two (2) committees.

The co-chairs will contact you for meeting information and next steps.

Tap the enclosed link to signup now,

<https://form.jotform.com/AustinAlumnaeDST/committee-registration-form>

Sorors, please remember, we have several key documents available on our **Member Only Portal**. Please review the upcoming meeting documents under **Chapter Meeting Docs**, located on our Member's Only portal..



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