

FORWARD WITH FORTITUDE: Honoring Our Legacy, Empowering through Advocacy



35th ANNUAL
DELTA DAYS IN THE
NATION'S CAPITAL



Social Action 201: Empowering through Advocacy at the Chapter Level

Social Action Commission

Workshop Presenters



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Learning Objectives:

- ☐ The chapter's role in social action
- ☐ The duties of the chapter social action chair
- ☐ How to organize an effective social action committee
- ☐ The duties of the chapter social action committee
- ☐ The four steps of social action
- ☐ Social action vs. program planning



Social Action in the Chapter



Social action is how the Sorority implements the Political Awareness and Involvement Programmatic Thrust.

- Each chapter is expected to include a social action component in its operating structure.
- Each chapter should establish a social action committee - *not a political awareness and involvement committee*- headed by a committee chair.

Chapter Social Action Chair





- Is appointed by the chapter president
- Sends report of chapter social action activities and program to the state social action coordinator
- Reports on social action committee work at every chapter meeting
- Submits a Social Action Activity Request Form for all chapter social action activities
- Attends meetings at the call of the state social action coordinator
- Is familiar with chapter's calendar and works with other committee chairs to bring a social action dimension to the chapter's programming
- Convenes committee meetings

SAMPLE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING TOPICS

- Updates from National Social Action Commission
- Highlights from current monthly report
- Movement on pertinent legislation
- Upcoming events and associated action items
- Pertinent public/community issues (not covered by resolutions or public statements) that will need to be submitted for approval



Activity Request Form

2:10    

AA  form.jotform.com 



Social Action Activity Request Form

The purpose of this form is to gather and quantify data about Delta's social action activities throughout the regions to assess impact and effectiveness. Most events will require approval, particularly requests for any public testimony.

How to Organize a **Strong Social Action Committee**



- Utilize the guidance and best practices for chapter committees as published by the National Leadership Academy
- Encourage interested sorors to become members of the committee
- Meet and set the committee agenda for the year
- Consider choosing a theme and outline the issues on which the chapter will focus. Be sure to tailor the agenda to include the national social action legislative priorities.

How to organize a strong social action committee



- Include in your plan the opportunity to monitor emerging local and national issues, e.g., federal budget under consideration in the Congress.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of each of the programs or projects. Considerations should include whether the program is meeting community needs and whether it should be revised or discontinued.

Duties of the Chapter Social Action Committee



The Social Action committee implements the chapter's Political Awareness and Involvement thrust.
The committee:

- Receives social action information from state social action coordinator or the National Social Action Commission.
- Plans chapter social action activities and programs in the local community and/or on college/university campus, in alignment with the national social action priorities and established policy positions

Duties of the Chapter Social Action Committee



- Coordinates Delta Day at City Hall and encourage chapter participation at Delta Day in the State Capital, Delta Days at the UN, and Delta Days in the Nation's Capital.
- Encourages chapter submissions for social action awards.
- Researches and writes proposed resolutions for Grand Chapter

THE FOUR STEPS OF SOCIAL ACTION

Four Steps of Social Action

Identify the national priority that you are looking to address

Research the topic so you have a clear understanding of the subject matter

Educate your chapter and your community

Advocate *for policy change, legislative change or funding*

Until you have added in the advocacy, you have not yet incorporated Social Action

Four steps of social action – IDENTIFY

Step one: Identify the national priority that you are looking to address

- ☐ Is it connected to the national social action legislative priorities?
- ☐ If not, does Delta Sigma Theta have a resolution about the issue?
- ☐ How has the issue manifested in your community?

National Social Action 2024 Legislative Priorities



Voting and Civic
Engagement



Health Equity



Reproductive
Justice



Economic Justice



Reimagining
Public Safety



Environmental
Justice



Education

Driving Change Through Social Action



Social Action priorities are established by the National Social Action Commission under the advisement of the International President, Grand Chapter, and the Board of Directors.

Four steps of Social Action – RESEARCH

Step Two: Research the topic so you have a clear understanding of the subject matter

- ☐ **Examine the priority through a national lens**
- ☐ **Visit websites, read policy papers of credible allies, news organizations and scholars**
- ☐ **Examine how the priority is manifested in your community**
- ☐ **What are the state and local laws that involve the priority?**

Four steps of social action – EDUCATE

Step Three: Educate your chapter and your community

- ☐ If the issue is a high priority, hold an internal chapter webinar about it to get sorors' attention and buy-in
- ☐ Host an external webinar or in-person meeting or panel discussion
- ☐ Draft a white paper and share it with key stakeholders
- ☐ Social media campaign

Four steps of social action – ADVOCATE

Step Four: Advocate for policy change, legislative change and/or funding

- ☐ The goal of social action is to impact change
- ☐ When we see a pressing issue in our community, social action answers the question “What are we going to do about it?”

****Until you have added in the advocacy, you have not yet incorporated social action*

Four steps of social action – ADVOCATE

Step Four: Advocate for policy change, legislative change and/or funding

- ☐ Letter writing/email campaign
- ☐ Social media campaign
- ☐ Rally
- ☐ Mock trial
- ☐ Send white papers to legislators
- ☐ Legislative visits

SOCIAL ACTION ACTIVITIES

Deltas use their influence to **enact laws and policies** to sustain and expand the rights and privileges of citizenship and to protect the vulnerable and unfortunate.

Under the auspices of the National Social Action Commission, members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. accomplish this through:

- Active engagement in the legislative, executive, judicial and regulatory affairs of the nation
- Provide fact-based information to elected officials and voters to create policy change
- Research and advocacy of critical issues
- Monitor national, state, and local legislation
- Voter registration, education and mobilization
- Educate the public on policy issues
- Encourage Deltas to run for elected office



Case study - The four Steps of Social Action

Identify

Breast Cancer Disparities

Research

Working collaboratively with PMH and national partner ACS

Educate

Provide information to the community

Advocate

For funding for access to care, policies to address bias in health care

Case study - The four Steps of Social Action

Sex Trafficking

Identify

How is sex trafficking an issue in my state?

Research

What is happening in my community?

Educate

Teach the community what it is

Teach the community how to identify it

Case study - The four steps of social action

Sex Trafficking Advocate

Ask the community to join with you to demand legislation to address it- stiffer criminal penalties, state budgetary resources for victims, mandatory training for front line professions



PROGRAM PLANNING & SOCIAL ACTION

Program Planning vs. Social Action



There is a difference between the programmatic work of the chapter and social action.

Programmatic activities-

Implement the work of the following programmatic thrusts: Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, and Physical and Mental Health

Social Action activities-

Implement the work of the Political Awareness and Involvement thrust

Program Planning

+

Social Action

While program planning has different goals than social action, the social action committee should consider working with other chapter committees to incorporate a social action element in other chapter activities.



Program Planning + Social Action



A **program** is a comprehensive plan to respond to a societal problem. A program consists of many projects and is long-range.

A **project** is a specific effort to reach a program goal. It is often a one-time effort or is of short duration, but it can be repeated.

When a chapter engages in **social action**, it identifies existing public policy on an issue or the need for public policy and designs and implements a plan to take action to affect public policy. Because the enactment of public policy is often slow, social action requires ongoing advocacy activities, e.g., monitoring action on a public policy issue.

Programs, Projects and Social Action

Program	Project	Social Action
Example 1		
Example 2		
Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy	Sponsor an after-school activity for the participants in the Academy	Advocate for federal funding to create after-school programs in low-income communities
	Tutor Academy participants in math and science	Compile and distribute legislative report cards on lawmakers' voting records on legislation to provide funding for math and science education
Example 3		
Domestic Violence Initiative	Sponsor a forum to educate women on the issue of domestic violence	Review current laws and legislation on obtaining protective custody orders; consult and align with other organizations and legislators about plans to make changes in the law
		Co-sponsor training sessions on proposed changes in the law
		Conduct advocacy campaign for changes in local, state, national legislation



Program Planning + Social Action Exercise

SOCIAL ACTION SCRAMBLE

Directions: Each group will receive an issue. On the paper provided, match an item on this slide that relates to your issue with the following categories: Research Source, Education Strategy, Advocacy Strategy, Program Planning Partner, National Social Action Legislative Priorities

- Social media campaign aimed at allies to raise awareness
- Economic Justice
- Write letters to elected officials
- Physical and Mental Health Committee
- American Cancer Society website
- Environmental Justice
- Moms Demand Action website
- Health Equity
- Economic Development Committee
- Planned Parenthood website
- Delta Sigma Theta resolutions
- Social media campaign aimed at lawmakers
- International Awareness and Involvement Committee
- Draft white paper to send to lawmakers
- National Education Association Racial Justice in Education Resource Toolkit
- Draft white paper to send to allies
- Voting and Civic Engagement
- Participate in a nonviolent rally in support of (or opposition to) a specific policy
- Reimagining Public Safety
- Educational Development Committee
- NAACP Environmental and Climate Change website
- Reproductive Justice
- Southern Poverty Law Center Economic Justice website
- Education
- Amnesty International website



Questions?