

THE ODYSSEY

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

APRIL 2024

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REMINDER:

Our next chapter meeting is inperson at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 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

Presidential Press

Vol. 8

Each change of season has its own purpose and meaning. Spring is all about new beginnings and transformations; it's a season that symbolizes starting fresh and starting over. After the winter months of cold temperatures and fewer hours of daylight, spring reawakens us and our surrounding environment, bringing everything back to life. I don't know about you, but I am definitely experiencing the reawakening in this season.

This season in Delta is ushering us into the end of a sorority year. But we are not finished sorors, we still have a lot of work to do. It goes without saying that we are laser focused on executing an outstanding conference and are springing forward with finalizing the plans. This effort will take our continued commitment to excellence and teamwork.

Our April calendar includes: Community Impact Day on April 13, DID training on April 20, Relay for Life on April 26, and Arts and Letters Book Club on April 27. We have also been invited to support the AKA Regional Conference Public Meeting on April 25. Also, our National Chaplain, Soror Vashti Murphy McKenzie will be speaking at CrossWork Christian Center on April 28. Sorors, we look forward to your attendance and support at these events.

Sorors, this has been a great year, and I am honored to be part of this chapter in this season. Let me leave you with this quote: "Great things come from three things... Commitment, Hard Work, and Strong Finishes. Sorors, we have demonstrated our commitment and we have put in the hard work. Now let's **Finish Strong**!

With all of my love,

Soror Robin J. Blackmon



Chaplain's Message

Shared by Soror Tanya Rippenkroeger Our Leaves Should Be Ever Green

In Rev. 22:1, John saw "the river of the water of life... flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb." John noticed that the leaves of the trees that lined the river's banks were used for "the healing of the nations" (Rev. 22:2). When I think of that, I think of "the healing of our community," What a beautiful picture. We may borrow the picture and apply it to ourselves, for scripture uses the same symbol to describe the happy person who is planted by the river of God with her roots in the river of life.

As a sisterhood devoted to service, our lives should offer relief from the heat and shelter from the storm to those who need it. People should take one look at our ever green lives and make a beeline for us. Our lives should be full of healing, relief, and support.

Are your leaves used for healing or support? You can be a tree of life for others. If we think about our lives in recent days and/or years, we should ask ourselves, "Have people beaten a path to our door because they know where help can be found?" We should want to be a tree like Jeremiah describes with its roots in the river, its leaves ever green, and fruit that never fails.

As we heard about our sorors failing health and or death, we knew the heat was on. We knew there would be lots of opportunities to offer our leaves for healing to the families in the days to come. But this was our great test, too! We all struggled with a huge sense of loss. The question we should ask is how could we help others when we needed a lot of help ourselves?

The answer was the river, the river of life. Life in the Spirit offered a source of life to us in the very face of death. Our job is to keep our roots in the river, our leaves full of sap, and stay ever green. It is a hard, hot, desert experience for us, but the Spirit of God is sufficient to supply all needed, not only for our chapter but also for others. God is indeed a life-giving spring.

Let's ask ourselves: What can you do to help make a difference in the lives of our families, neighbors, or communities? How many times do we walk by someone's troubles without even giving a thought to rolling up our sleeves and getting involved? As Deltas, we are to live a life of compassion and service to others. Remember, love (which is an action word) is a servant.

Our 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:

- Soror Liz Holliman for the loss of her father Alvin Harvey; and
- Soror Delbra Bradford as she recovers from back surgery.

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

https://dstatx.org/contact-page/pb-requestform/

April Omega Omega Assignments

Soror Julie Dixon-Cartwright through
Soror Pamela Gray



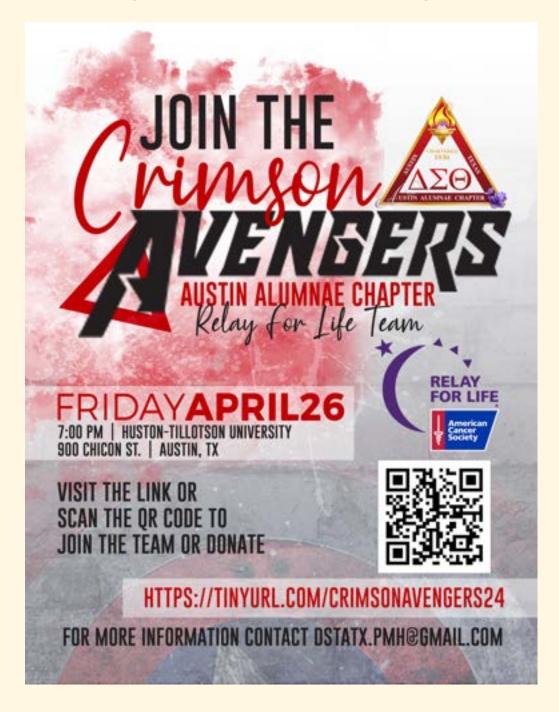
AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Economic Development News!



Join us on April 13 as we partner with Austin Black Real Estate
Professionals and Greater St. Johns as we present Community Impact
Day on important housing program initiatives.
Invite the community to join us.

CHARITABLE PARTNER NEWS



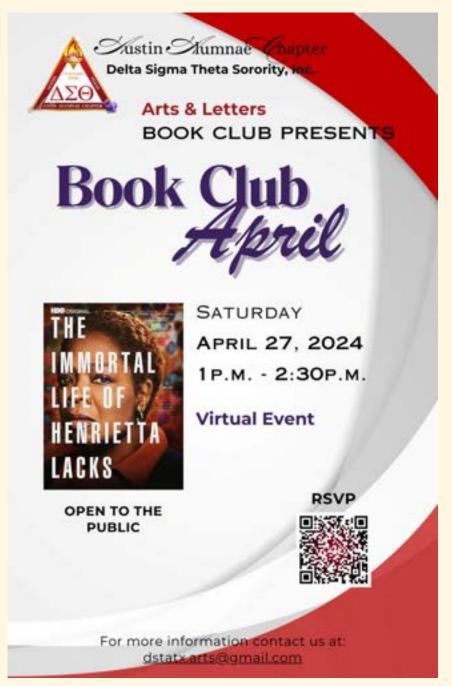
We are excited to support the Austin Relay for Life again as the Crimson Avengers. Please sign up now to join us in raising funds to fight this disease. Invite your friends and family to donate to this worthy cause.

We want to see you on April 26.

Register here, https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR/RelayForLife/RFLCY24SOR?
team_id=2739108&pg=team&fr_id=108703

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Arts & Letters Committee News!



Book: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot
Join us and bring a Sista-Friend! This is a public event and ALL are welcome to attend!
The discussion will be led by our own Soror Dr. Dominique Willaims!
Questions? Contact Soror Tamera Diggs-Tate at tdt1023@gmail.com
Zoom Link: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMkc-CurTopGdfdBkw_5ugtTWy_TQWvegg_

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Policies and Procedures Committee News!



Austin Alumnae Chapter DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

Moving Forward: One Delta, One Bond, One Love - We are One!

March 6, 2024

Dear Austin Alumnae Chapter Member,

The Austin Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will vote on amendments to the Chapter's Policies and Procedures during the April chapter meeting. This meeting will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at 10:00 AM, at the Austin Community College, Highland Campus in our routine meeting area.

We carefully listened to members present during last month's Q&A Session and have modified areas that you will be pleased with as we move forward with the amendment process. You may review the final recommendations available in the member portal of the Chapter's website (www.dstatx.org). Please plan to attend chapter meeting, if possible and exercise your vote.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Patricia Shorter, Parliamentarian and Policies and Procedures Chair.

Yours in Service,

Robin T. Blackmon

Robin T. Blackmon Chapter President Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Austin Alumnae Chapter Blackmon.pres@gmail.com

Patricia D. Shorter

Patricia D. Shorter
Parliamentarian, Policies and Procedures Chair
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Austin Alumnae Chapter
dstatxpolicies@gmail.com

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Social Action Committee News!

VDRs We Need You!

Sign up now for Travis County Voter Registration Opportunities!

https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2FTravisCountyVDR



Wondering where to register voters this spring? Sign up for a shift or two and get involved!

As the 2024 election season ramps up, keep an eye out for emails from Travis County pointing you toward volunteer opportunities near you.

Don't forget to join the Travis County VDR Facebook group below!

Thank you for your voter registration efforts.



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities



Travis County

4/5-4/6: Rancho Alegre Conjunto Fest

4/20: Preservation Austin Block Party

4/26: Dragon Boat Festival

5/4: Pecan Street Festival

5/11: For The Love of Parks Fest

5/11: Pun-Off Championship

5/15: Cine Las Americas Film Festival

5/23: The Drop In Concert Series

5/23-5/26: Austin Sketch Fest

5/30-6/2: ATX TV Festival

Rancho Alegre Sign Up

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https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2FTravisCountyVDR



League of Women Voters

3/29: Alamo Drafthouse

(Lakeline, Lamar, Mueller, Slaughter) 3/30: N. Austin YMCA Easter Event 3/30: Five Star MC Family Celebration 3/30: Austin Flea, Nomadic Outpost 4/3: FirstVote! @ Northeast ECHS 4/4: FirstVote! @ Northeast ECHS 4/5: Alamo Drafthouse (Lakeline, Lamar, Mueller, Slaughter) 4/6: Alamo Drafthouse (Lakeline, Lamar, Mueller, Slaughter) 4/6: Open Canopy @ Canopy Austin 4/12: Alamo Drafthouse (Lakeline, Lamar, Mueller, Slaughter) 4/13: Alamo Drafthouse (Lakeline, Lamar, Mueller, Slaughter) 4/14: Frida Friday Selena's B-day 4/21: La Mujer Celebration @ MACC 4/19: Alamo Drafthouse (Lakeline, Lamar, Mueller, Slaughter) 4/20: 8th Annual KidsFest @ NECHS 4/20: Alamo Drafthouse (Lakeline, Lamar, Mueller, Slaughter) 4/26: Alamo Drafthouse (Lakeline, Lamar, Mueller, Slaughter) 4/27: Alamo Drafthouse (Lakeline, Lamar, Mueller, Slaughter) 5/4: Open Canopy @ Canopy Austin



CTX Votes

3/28: Spokesman Coffee South 3/29: Cosmic Coffee (Pickle Rd) 3/30: Austin Creative Reuse 3/30: Waterloo Records

3/30: Veracruz All Natural - East Austin 3/30: Cherrywood Coffeehouse 3/30-3/31: Patika Coffee

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

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https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2FTravisCountyVDR



Headcount

3/28: Chelsea Cutler @ Stubb's - Waller Creek Amphitheater 3/30: Sleepytime Gorilla Museum @ The Mohawk

4/6: Chastity Belt @ The Mohawk 4/7: Cars & Coffee @ Circuit of Americas 4/10: Tyler Childers @ Moody Center

4/11: Tim McGraw @ Moody Center 4/12: Lauren Daigle @ Moody Center 4/19: Rock the Park @ Mueller Lake Park 4/19: Andrew Schulz @ Moody Center 4/21: Nate Bargatze (afternoon show) @ Moody Center

Moody Center

4/21: Nate Bargatze (evening show) @

Moody Center

4/26: Bad Bunny @ Moody Center 4/27: Bad Bunny @ Moody Center

4/28: Kane Brown @ Moody Center

4/30: Hozier @ Moody Center 5/5: Luis Miguel @ Moody Center

5/6: Greta Van Fleet @ Moody Center

5/7: AJR @ Moody Center

5/12: Nicki Minaj @ Moody Center

5/17: Pepe Aguilar @ Moody Center 5/17: Rock the Park @ Mueller Lake Park

5/18: Bert Kreischer @ Moody Center

5/24: Melanie Martinez @ Moody Center

5/26: Warpaint @ The Mohawk

5/28: Madison Beer @ Stubb's Waller Creek

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Social Action Committee News!

Weigh in on Austin/Travis County's First-Ever Food Plan

The Food Team at the Office of Sustainability has been working hard to get the draft goals and strategies for Austin/Travis County's first-ever food plan ready for public review.

What is a Food Plan?

A food plan sets clear goals and strategies to move toward a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient food system and provides a coordinating structure for all food-related initiatives.

What is a Food System?

The Office of Sustainability defines the food system as an interconnected network that includes everything that happens with food — where and how it is grown, distributed, sold, consumed, wasted, or recovered. These goals and strategies are now available online and employees are invited to participate in sharing their views and providing input.

Right now, there are two main opportunities to do this: (1) View and provide input on the goals and strategies via Public Input survey; and (2) Attend a Food Plan Virtual Review meeting on April 3

Contact: Amanda.Rohlich@austintexas.gov

https://cityspace.austintexas.gov/News-articles/Weigh-in-on-AustinTravis-County's-First-Ever-Food-Plan

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Emergency Response Team!

Hail safety and readiness



Hail can occur in any strong thunderstorm, which means hail is a threat everywhere. When it hits, it can shred roof coverings and lead to water damage to your ceilings, walls, floors, appliances, furnishings, and contents. Significant hailstorms result in millions—and sometimes billions—of dollars in damage to commercial roofs, siding, and outdoor and roof-mounted equipment.

Hailstorm safety tips

In an automobile

- Stop driving. If you see a safe place close by (like highway underpass or under a service station awning), drive to it as soon as you can. Make sure you pull completely off the highway.
- · Do NOT leave the vehicle until it stops hailing.
- Stay away from car windows. Cover your eyes with something, like a piece of clothing. If
 possible, get onto the floor face down or lie down on the seat with your back to the
 windows.
- · Put very small children under you and cover their eyes.

In a building

- · Stay inside until the hail stops.
- · Stay away from windows.
- · Account for all family members, building occupants, pets, etc.
- Do not go outside for any reason.

Outside

- Seek shelter immediately. If you can't find something to protect your entire body, find something to protect your head.
- · Stay out of culverts and lowland areas that may suddenly fill with water.
- Seeking shelter under trees should be a last resort. It is common during severe storms for trees to lose branches.

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This Month's Highlights

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Emergency Response Team!

Tips to prepare your home for a hailstorm

- Ensure your roof is in good condition. The roof is your home's first line of defense and years of severe weather, heat and other factors can take its toll. Hire a professional to inspect and complete any necessary maintenance.
- Protect windows, doors and skylights. Storm shutters can greatly reduce or eliminate damage from hail and high winds. Consider installing these shutters if you live in areas prone to hail damage. If you are replacing windows, consider installing impact resistant options that can weather even the harshest storm.
- Secure outdoor items or bring them inside. Move patio furniture or other outdoor
 equipment to a safe space like a garage or shed. For larger items that can't be moved to a
 secure place, cover them with a tarp or similar protective barrier to mitigate against
 damage.

Find other ways to protect your family by making your home more resilient to severe weather by visiting the Institute for Business and Home Safety website at <u>disastersafety.org</u>; www.weather.cover/mlb/hail_rules.

2024 Emergency Response Plan

An Emergency Response Plan is a document that lays out the series of steps our organization will take during a critical event. It serves as a crucial resource in ensuring the safety of all members and the swift and coordinated response to any unforeseen events.

We are pleased to inform you that the 2024 Emergency Response Plan has been finalized and is now available for your review. You can access the plan in the Member Only portal on our chapter website.

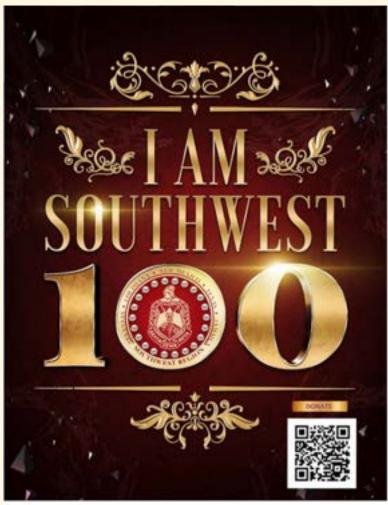
Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to the safety and well-being of our chapter members.

Document uploaded to: Documents Library -> Governing Docs & Agreements

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Count Me In! I am Southwest 100!





Sorors, thanks for supporting the chapter, the region and the conference by ensuring you are Southwest 100. At this time, about 1/3 of our membership has donated. The ultimate goal for our chapter is to have 100% participation. Our contributions to this campaign will demonstrate our commitment to corporations and other organizations as we ask for their support. You can make your contribution in \$25 increments or the full \$100. All donations will go to put on a Southwest Regional Conference to remember.

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

49th Southwest Regional Conference

VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS NEEDED!

Sorors, we need your help in soliciting volunteers to assist with our 49th Southwest Regional Conference in Austin Texas June 13-16, 2024. A variety of volunteer opportunities are available during the conference. There are also preconference volunteer opportunities available. If you have not signed up to volunteer or to work with a steering committee, please consider doing so. You may express your interest by completing the following sign up form. Just follow the instructions, select "volunteers" and submit the form. We will assign you to work with one of the committees as a volunteer. We request that all forms are submitted by April 20, 2024.

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

We welcome and invite non-financial sorors to volunteer for the conference. Their name, email address, and phone number may be sent to: dstvolunteers49rc@gmail.com

Those from the community (non-Deltas) may express their interest in volunteering by submitting their name, email address, and phone number to: aacdstcommunityvolunteer@gmail.com

Sorors, you also may feel free to submit names of interested volunteers. We appreciate your assistance in getting out the word on our volunteer efforts as we prepare for a fantastic conference!

Link to Sign Up to Serve on a Committee and/or as a Volunteer https://form.jotform.com/AustinAlumnaeDST/committee-registration-form

Link to Send Referrals for the Corporate Sponsorship Program

https://dstatx.us18.list-manage.com/track/click? u=f73c0e3b7cc7e81e9fe60cd4e&id=121e54283f&e=9b3e8f9d0a

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

49th Southwest Regional Conference

VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS NEEDED!

Let's Paint Austin Crimson and Cream!

As the Austin Alumnae Chapter continues to prepare for the upcoming regional conference, the Sponsorship committee needs YOUR help with raising financial support from friends, family, businesses, corporations, etc. who want to be part of this journey with us. There are two avenues available for gaining support...sponsorship or souvenir journal ads!

Reach out to your network of family and friends, businesses, corporations and community partners who share Delta's enthusiasm for making a difference, and let them know about this opportunity to be a part of something extraordinary. Here are some suggestions:

physicians insurance companies cable company car dealerships dentists retail stores nail salons dry cleaners hair stylists hospitals attorney family churches accountant friends funeral homes restaurants

We have been charged with raising \$300,000 and your help is needed! Attached is a copy of our sponsorship packet and the souvenir journal ad form for you to share with potential supporters.

We know time is tight, however, we've got the energy, enthusiasm, and sisterhood spirit to make things happen in no time. Let's show up and show out!

Ready, Set, Go . . . Charge up your phones, unleash your charm, and let's make those calls, send those emails, and create a wave of support that will reach far and wide. Together, we can make this happen!

Please let us know who you send the sponsorship packet to by completing the Jotform here to keep our tracking in order. It is not necessary to share information about those who may purchase ads.

Sponsorship Committee 49th Southwest Regional Conference Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

Tap this link to let us know who you send the sponsorship packet to so that we may keep our tracking in order,

https://form.jotform.com/240128848130048

COMMUNITY NEWS



COMMUNITY NEWS



Level Up: Secure Your Summer Internship!

Tuesday, April 16, 8 P.M. ET / 7 P.M. CT / 5 P.M. PT

Join BigFuture's virtual Real Talk event designed specifically with Black students like you in mind as we connect on how to secure your summer internship. Discover expert tips from Black industry professionals and student leaders that explain how to craft the perfect resume, how to ace your interview, how to use BigFuture's Career Quiz to get started, and how to stand out when applying for internships in competitive fields.

Tap in on #RealTalkTuesday, and bring your questions!



What is Real Talk?

Real Talk is a career and college exploration initiative designed to connect Black students and families with Black professionals and representatives from colleges and access organizations across the country. We empower Black students to own their future their way.

Start Planning for Your Future

Real Talk is a safe space for you to learn and engage, while also getting answers to your most pressing questions about life after high school. No matter where you are on your journey, we're here for you. Family members and educators are also encouraged to participate!



Sorors, you are invited to attend College Board and BigFuture's Real Talk events for parents and high school students.

Real Talk's Director is Soror Autumn Caviness.

Register to attend "Level Up: Secure Your Summer Internship!" on #RealTalkTuesday, April 16, at 7 p.m. at bigfuture.org/RealTalk!



Membership Spotlight Happy Birthday, Sorors!

Happy Birthday to our April birthdays!

04/02: Alexis Roberts

04/04: Krishella Chandler-Robinson & Kerri Lang

04/05: Mary Caldwell

04/08: Kimily Johnson & Courtney Robinson

04/10: Raissa Ferron

04/14: Janet Bray

04/15: Brenda Turner

04/17: Pamela Gray & Michelle Scruggs

04/21: Natasha Bedford & Lillie Stevens

04/22: Lillian Turner

04/23: Tashia Coleman

04/24: Kathy James

04/25: Jennifer Kelly

04/26: Kacey Hanson

04/28: Erica Breedlove

Soror Scrapboook









$\Delta\Sigma\Theta$ Soror Scrapboook















Soror Scrapboook

















Soror Scrapboook





#Sisterhood



Austin Alumnae Leadership Team

2023-2024 Committee Chairs

Economic Development

Sylnovia Holt-Rabb & Avis Gipson

Educational Development

Paulette Walls

International Awareness & Involvement

Akeshia Johnson Smothers

Physical and Mental Health

Sherri Fleming & April Briscoe

Political Awareness and Involvement/

Social Action

Celeste Williams & Veronica Johnson

Arts and Letters

Jonna LaGrone-Haynes & Tamara Diggs-Tate

Risk Management Coordinator

Nancy Knight-Brown

<u>Internal Audit</u>

Sophia Williams

Rituals and Ceremonies

Michelle Scruggs

<u>Technology</u>

Kathryn Foster & Khaison Reed

Emergency Response

Ollie White & Tanya Rippenkroger

Founders Day

Tamela Saldana & Kelly Smith

National Pan Hellenic Representative(s)

Kim Whitlock & Darralyn Johnson

Nominating Committee

Carla Grace

Parliamentarian/Chair of Policies and Procedures

Patricia Shorter

Charitable Partners

Sonya Harry

Protocol and Traditions

Cedel Evans & Sandra Marshall

Records Management and Retention

Darralyn Johnson

Ways and Means

Alnita Foote

Communications and Public Relations

Autumn Caviness

Heritage and Archives

Nancy Thompson, Historian & Tashia Coleman

<u>Program, Planning, and Development</u>

Kacey Hanson

Chaplain

Dedurie Kirk

Strategic Planning

Dewi Smith

<u>Officers</u>

Robin T. Blackmon, President
Jacqueline Habersham, 1st Vice President
Kacey Hanson, 2nd Vice President
Khaison "Shon" Reed, 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, April 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

Sorors, HOT off the press!

*Please be on the lookout for email correspondence about (1) attending a service where the National Chaplain will be speaking on April 28; and (2) attending the AKAs regional Public meeting

*The National Scholarships and Standards Committee has approved our Chapter Rules of Order and Policies and Procedures

*Our Policies and Procedures and signed Rules of Order Form will be uploaded to our Members Only portal

*Visit our Members Only portal located here, https://dstatx.org/login/



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

