

**HALL COUNTY ALUMNAE CHAPTER
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
North Georgia Community Foundation
340 Jesse Jewel Parkway, Suite 600
Gainesville, GA 30501
Minutes of the January Chapter Meeting
Held on Saturday, January 20, 2024**

Pre-Meeting Safety Briefing: In the absence of the Emergency Response Coordinator, Soror Vallorie Coley relayed the emergency protocol.

Chapter Members Present: Denise Arnold, Vallorie Coley, Sue Davis-Westmoreland, Erica Glenn, Natasha Iszard, Avery Johnson (Mitchell), Sheriah Johnson, Patricia Lee, Gloria Maddox, Jasmine Mays, Whitney McDowell-Robinson, Angela Middleton, Alfreda Paige, Audrey Simmons, and Shirley Vereen (A quorum was present for the transaction of business.)

Visiting Sorors: Coretta Lawrence and Sheila Tabron

Call to Order: Soror Sheriah Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. The meeting proceeded with the ritualistic opening.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted as printed. (General Consent)

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes were approved as printed. (General Consent)

Officers Reports

President's Message: Soror Sheriah Johnson greeted sorors with Happy New Year! Soror Sheriah Johnson reported the following from the Executive Committee Call with the Southern Regional Director on December 19, 2023:

- Regional Updates (Soror Amaris Johnson): Registration is open for Delta Days at the Capital (DDAC) in Georgia, which will be held on January 28-29, 2024. Soror Amaris Johnson encouraged sorors to register for Delta Days. She will put challenges to states and chapters to increase participation. Soror Amaris Johnson relayed that members should have received the save-the-date email for Delta Days in the Nation's Capital (DDNC). The save-the-date email for regional conferences was sent out. The Southern Regional Conference is scheduled for July 4-7, 2024, in Nashville, TN. Virtual attendance will be available.
- Finance Committee Updates (Toni Johnson): Soror Toni Johnson gave a review update on dues payments.
 - 2024 Dues: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024
 - Late Fees Period: (\$10) October 16, 2023 – December 31, 2023
 - Reinstatement Fees Periods: (\$15 or \$30) Non-financial or submitted after January 1, 2024
 - 2024 Budget: All budgets must be approved by 12/31/2023, and the approval should be reflected in chapter meeting minutes.
 - Liability Insurance: There is now a portal under the member portal where chapters can go to purchase additional liability insurance. This is only for events that are open to the public and the chapter needs additional insurance.

- Annual Financial Report (AFR): The 2022-2023 short year is due by 2/28/24.
- Fiscal Matters Webinar: The next webinar is scheduled for January 21, 2024, at 5 p.m.
- Regional Nominating Committee Update: The 2024 Call for Nominations is out. There are updated guidelines and instructions for seeking office that are available. Southern Region open positions are Regional Director; Regional Representative; Member, National Finance Committee; Member, 2025 National Nominating Committee; Chair, 2026 Regional Nominating Committee; and Members (4), 2026 Regional Nominating Committee. Applications are due on January 28, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. EST.
- Omega Omega Request: The chapter has received a request to do an Omega Omega Service for Soror Kimberly Baylor who is from Gainesville, Georgia. Her sister, who is also a soror, is having a Memorial Service for her and requested this Rite of Passage. The service will be today at 12:30 p.m. at Antioch Baptist Church.
- Awards and Recognition: The application for chapter awards was made available. The deadline was extended to January 4, 2024. Soror Sheriah Johnson submitted an application on behalf of the chapter. The chapter did not receive an award.
- North Atlanta/North Fulton Chartering Interest Group Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): The chapter will vote on the MOU under new business today, which is presented as follows: With respect to the cities of Alpharetta, Suwanee, Duluth/Johns Creek: The Hall County Alumnae Chapter will maintain the areas of these cities that fall within the boundaries of Forsyth County. The Hall County Alumnae Chapter will relinquish the areas of these cities that fall within the boundaries of Fulton County. The Hall County Alumnae Chapter will maintain all areas of the city of Cumming as it solely sits within the boundaries of Forsyth County. The Hall County Alumnae Chapter will conduct membership intake for Hall County and Forsyth County.

A question was posed concerning the statement about relinquishing the areas of the cities that fall within the boundaries of Fulton County, even though Fulton County is not a part of HCAC's service area. Soror Sheriah Johnson conveyed that Soror Amaris Johnson (SRD), advised for the chapter to include the statement in the MOU.

Soror Sheriah Johnson thanked Hall County Alumnae for showing up and showing out at the Georgia State Cluster. Soror Sheriah Johnson and Soror Denise Arnold presented gifts to Cluster Committee Chairs and members. Soror Patricia Lee asserted "Lights, camera, action!" "We're the smallest chapter, but the mightiest!" Soror Sheriah Johnson submitted a detailed report that is on file.

First Vice President/Membership Services (Hospitality and Courtesies): Soror Denise Arnold expressed that the committee realizes that sorors have several chapters in the area to join, and the committee is honored that sorors are members of the Hall County Alumnae Chapter. A list of the 32 financial members is included in the report. Soror Alfreda Paige introduced herself as a new member of the chapter. Soror Denise Arnold suggested if members know a non-financial soror, especially one who resides in our service area, to please invite her to a chapter meeting or an upcoming event. Soror Avery Mitchell was recognized as a January birthday celebrant. **Sisterhood Month** is rapidly approaching. If you would like to submit a recommendation for the 2024 Sisterhood Month Calendar, please email them by Wednesday, January 24, 2024. The Membership Services Committee (MSC) will discuss the calendar and would like to hear your suggestions. Submit your suggestions to hallcountymembershipservices@gmail.com. The inaugural **Reclamation Challenge** theme is "Each One Reach One." Chapter members are asked to help reclaim at least one soror. For a soror to count as reclaimed, she must be non-financial for both the current and the prior fiscal year. Soror Neisse McArthur-Williams and Soror Tywonna Whelchel-Payne have been reclaimed. The Reclamation Challenge rules are as follows:

1. Sorors participating in the Reclamation Challenge must be current financial members of HCAC.
2. The reclaimed soror must pay her dues during the contest period, which is September 16, 2023 – March 31, 2024.
3. Once the reclaimed soror becomes a member of HCAC, she will receive a Welcome Home Form and will be asked for the name of the HCAC member who invited her. Please note, only the soror listed on this form will receive credit for the Reclamation Challenge.
4. The HCAC member who reclaims the most sorors will win the Reclamation Challenge. The winning soror will have her local dues paid for the 2025 fiscal year by the Membership Services Committee.
5. In addition, all non-winning sorors who reclaimed at least one soror will be eligible to participate in a Reclamation Challenge drawing. Each participating soror will receive one raffle ticket for each soror she reclaimed. All raffle tickets will be entered into a random drawing for a chance to win one \$25 gift card. Two gift cards will be awarded.

The **Joy in Our Sisterhood Awards** were created to encourage and reward regular participation in HCAC events. The Membership Services Committee (MSC) will recognize sorors who complete the most steps of the given criterion. A Delta Doll, Delta Diva, and Delta DEAR will be recognized at the May chapter meeting. Committee chairs are asked for their assistance by emailing Soror Denise Arnold their attendance lists after each committee meeting. **Superior Performance and Outstanding Tenacity (S.P.O.T.) Awards** are honorable mentions to recognize sorors for service on a committee, kind acts, or widespread support of HCAC. The committee will accept nominations throughout the year and will present the S.P.O.T Awards quarterly during the November, February, and May chapter meetings. Soror Denise Arnold submitted a report that is on file.

Second Vice President (Program Planning and Development): Soror Erica Glenn thanked sorors who participated in any of the MLK ceremonies. The upcoming January events are as follows:

- Scholarships for Children of Chapter Members: Consideration of applicants shall end on January 31, 2024, of this sorority year. The scholarship application document for other high school seniors will be distributed on February 1, 2024.
- Go Red for Women
- Delta Days at the State Capital
- Patronize Black Businesses: Soror Angela Middleton had 2024 calendars of Black businesses for \$20 each.
- Delta Internal Development (DID) Workshop
- Ladies and Gents Fundraiser: February 3, 2024

Corresponding Secretary: In the absence of the corresponding secretary, Soror Sheriah Johnson reported that bank statements were received from the post office box. All regional and national correspondence is emailed to every chapter member. Soror Sheriah Johnson announced that Soror Vallorie Coley will take over the corresponding secretary duties since the previous office holder is no longer financial.

Financial Reports

Financial Secretary: Soror Jasmine Mays presented a report covering the period of December 2024. The report indicated that there are 26 financial members. Soror Jasmine Mays relayed that renewal forms still need to be submitted from several sorors so that they can be marked financial in the Red Zone, even if they have already paid. Dues and the renewal form are required to be financial. Soror Jasmine Mays needs the outstanding forms so she can update her records for the sorors who had submitted dues without the renewal form. The dues were processed justly. Soror Jasmine Mays submitted a report that will be filed for audit.

Treasurer: Soror Patricia Lee read the operating account beginning balance, disbursements, restricted funds,

and ending balance that covered the period December 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023.

Committee Reports

Budget and Finance: Soror Patricia Lee suggested that the chapter consider making small investments in the near future. The Budget and Finance Committee will be researching options.

Communication and Public Relations: In the absence of the committee chair, Soror Vallorie Coley relayed the EB report that the Ladies and Gents fundraiser flyer has been posted on social media sites.

Educational Development: In the absence of the committee chair, Soror Vallorie Coley relayed the EB report that after the committee's meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 10, a follow-up report will be given at the chapter meeting.

Fundraising: Soror Sheriah Johnson shared that the Ladies and Gents fundraiser flyer is posted on social media. Sorors are asked to try and sell at least five tickets. There is a discount code for chapter members. Fifty tickets have been sold thus far.

Internal Audit: In the absence of the committee chair, Soror Denise Arnold read the report that was sent via text. The Annual Internal Audit Report (IAR) for the short year is due in the Red Zone by February 28, 2024. The second quarter audit documents should be turned in today, January 20, 2024. The information will be presented to the Executive Board in February.

Nominating: Soror Avery Mitchell read the 2024 Call to Nominations and the Criteria for Slating Applicants. Information concerning the Candidate Data Profile Form was given also. The documents are posted in the members only section on the chapter website. Soror Avery Mitchell submitted a report that is on file.

MOTION: Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson moved that the chapter move forward with accepting the recommendation of the Nominating Committee with regards to the 2024 slating documents. **SECOND:** Soror Erica Glenn **ACTION:** Motion carried twelve (12) in favor; zero (0) opposed.

Policies and Procedures: Soror Vallorie Coley reported that the committee did not receive any recommendations from chapter members. The committee will still look at needed revisions to present to the chapter. Soror Vallorie Coley gave the National Scholarship and Standards updates from the Southern Region Exec Check Call that was held on January 16, 2024. The National Policies and Procedures Webinar for February 5, 2024, has been cancelled. A new language change to existing policies and procedures will be sent for chapters to cut and paste the revised language. The enhanced policies and procedures templates will be rolled out during the 2024 regional conference cycle. There will be an alumnae version and a collegiate version. Soror Vallorie Coley submitted a report that is on file.

Social Action/Political Awareness and Involvement: In the absence of the committee chair, Soror Sheriah Johnson announced that the last day for registration for Delta Days is today, January 20, 2024. Soror Vallorie Coley stated that the EB notes reflect that Soror Kenya Ficklin, the committee chair, stated that she plans to attend Delta Days on the Sunday (Jan. 28), but not the Monday (Jan 29). Soror Sheriah Johnson asked if anyone is interested in attending to please notify her.

Technology: In the absence of the committee chair, Soror Vallorie Coley relayed the EB report that any committee chairs needing something shown on screen at chapter meetings are to notify Soror Melanie Floyd.

Georgia State Cluster Committee: Soror Denise Arnold, Host Chapter Cluster Co-Chair, reported that the Georgia State Cluster was held on January 12-14, 2024, at the Classic Center in Athens, GA. Athens Alumnae, Hall County Alumnae, and Lake-Oconee Area Alumnae Chapters were the host chapters. This year's Georgia State Cluster was the largest to date with approximately 2,350 sorors registering for the event. Soror Denise Arnold thanked members for attending the chapter's Founders Day fellowship dinner at Southern Kitchen in Athens, GA. Twenty-two sorors attended the dinner in between the cluster events. Overall, sorors reported that they had a great time at the 2024 Georgia State Cluster. The Welcome Reception, Club Delta, and Ecumenical Service were standing room only. Although Hall County Alumnae Chapter was the smallest of the host chapters, we were seen working throughout the entire weekend. Soror Denise Arnold shared that she sincerely thanks everyone who volunteered to serve as a committee chair, committee member, and a volunteer. Soror Denise Arnold conveyed that many chapter members served on multiple committees and worked all weekend long. Soror Denise Arnold shared that we represented our chapter well, and she is truly proud of our efforts. Soror Denise Arnold submitted a report that is on file.

Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business.

New Business

- **Upon recommendation of the Executive Board, Soror Sheriah Johnson stated that the Hall County Alumnae Chapter Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the North Fulton Chartering Group will be as follows:**

With respect to the cities of Alpharetta, Suwanee, Duluth/Johns Creek:

- The Hall County Alumnae Chapter will maintain the areas of these cities that fall within the boundaries of Forsyth County.
- The Hall County Alumnae Chapter will relinquish the areas of these cities that fall within the boundaries of Fulton County.
- The Hall County Alumnae Chapter will maintain all areas of the city of Cumming as it solely sits within the boundaries of Forsyth County.
- The Hall County Alumnae Chapter will conduct membership intake for Hall County and Forsyth County.

A call for the vote of the recommendation resulted in thirteen (13) in favor of the MOU, and zero (0) opposed.

Announcements

- President Sheriah Johnson invited chapter members to dinner at South Kitchen in Athens, GA. The invitation was sent via a digital Punchbowl card. Twenty-two members attended the gathering on January 13, 2024, Founders Day.
- The chapter received a request to have an Omega Omega Service for Soror Kimberly E. Baylor. The service will take place at Antioch Baptist Church, 1010 Mill St., Gainesville, GA 30501, at 12:30 p.m. today, January 20, 2024.
- Soror Audrey Simmons announced that the deadline for chapter members to notify the Scholarship Committee of their high school senior student is January 31, 2024.

Adjournment

- **MOTION:** Soror Erica Glenn moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:21 a.m. **SECOND:** Soror Shirley Vereen **ACTION:** Motion carried with no opposition.

Soror Sheriah Johnson closed the meeting and proceeded with the ritualistic closing.

Respectfully submitted,

Vallorie Coley, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: _____
Sheriah Johnson, President

DATE: _____

DRAFT