

**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 April Chapter Meeting
Held on Saturday, April 20, 2024**

Pre-Meeting Safety Briefing: Soror Melanie Floyd presented the safety briefing via PowerPoint.

Chapter Members Present: Denise Arnold, Vallorie Coley, Kenya Ficklin, Melanie Floyd, Erica Glenn, Sheriah Johnson, Patricia Lee, Neisee McArthur-Williams, Angela Middleton, Alisha Moore, Georgette Riggans, Audrey Simmons, Sheila Tabron, Shirley Vereen, and Lisa Williams (**A quorum was present for the transaction of business.**)

Call to Order: Soror Sheriah Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. The meeting proceeded with the ritualistic opening.

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

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

Teachable Moment: Soror Melanie Floyd presented “The Good and Bad of Automated Intelligence (AI).” She gave interactive examples of how AI can manipulate images and messages. Soror Melanie Floyd checked sorors on their ability to find oddities in the given examples.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President’s Message: Soror Sheriah Johnson welcomed sorors to the meeting and reported the updates from the **Executive Committee Call with the Regional Director** that took place on March 19, 2024. Soror Amaris Johnson was not on the call. Soror Jailyn Martin conducted the meeting.

- Collegiate Updates (Soror Jailyn Marting): The updates were related to collegiate chapters.
- Regional Updates (Soror Jennifer Riley): Members should have received the email with links for regional conference registration and volunteer signups. Registration support links are included if anyone has any issues.
- Dreams of the South (Soror Taylor McCain): The Dreams of the South Merchandise Store features exclusive items for the Southern Region: “The Homecoming” reversable jacket, and “The Tour of the South” interchangeable medallion necklace. Check your email for making orders.
- National Finance Committee (Soror Toni Johnson): The Annual Financial Report (AFR) was due by February 28, 2024. Chapters must complete the AFR as soon as possible if not done so already. One hundred and seventy-five chapters have submitted the AFR with 161 chapters in balance. Thirty-seven chapters, eight alumnae and 29 collegiate, have not made submissions.
- National Scholarship and Standards (Soror Sabrina Polote): The notification for the Membership Intake Trainer Pre-Certification announcement was sent on March 11, 2024. If selected for pre-certification, sorors must attend the in-person training at the Southern Regional Conference on July 4, 2024, which is the first step of a three-step process before the final decision for selection was made. The deadline was March 23, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. The deadline to apply for the Scholarship and Seed Grant was March 22, 2024.

- Leadership Academy (Soror Patsy Patman): Soror Demica Sanders gave the update on the Leadership Excellence Achievement Development (LEAD) Program. Each chapter is asked to have a LEAD Program. The purpose is to enhance overall leadership skills and build confidence. Alumnae chapter presidents took a quick survey to find out which chapters have a LEAD Program. The academy will be hosting monthly webinars on this topic.
- Social Action (Soror Alfreda Coward): At the time of the call, Alabama and The Bahamas had not held their DDAC events. All the states were sold out. All chapters must report all Social Action events and must seek approval for certain non-Get Out the Vote (GOTV) events. Use the National Social Action Commission link to make event reports: <https://form.jotform.com/DSTHQ/social-action-activity-request-2024>. Non GOTV efforts will require at least a two-week lead time for approval. Every Tuesday is a Super Tuesday. Over 40 chapters in Georgia have applied for the Vote Your Voice Grant for Georgia. All chapters were funded one hundred percent. Amounts varied based on the request. The total amount of funds awarded was \$150,000.
- Program Planning and Development (Soror Pamela Hill): The focus of the Five-Point Programmatic Thrust is as follows:
 - Economic Development: An economic project will be announced at the regional conference.
 - Educational Development: There is a focus on literacy awareness and public speaking.
 - International Awareness and Involvement: There is a focus on shelter support and the DST International School.
 - Physical and Mental Health: Resources on health initiatives are forthcoming.
 - Emergency Response Team: It is hurricane season. Make sure member emergencies are reported.
 - Risk Management (RM): A lot of offsite requests are being received, and RM is asking for patience on responses. RM is managing background screening inquiries.
 - Projects vs. Programs: Ensure chapters are implementing sustainable programs.
 - Program Calendar: Review programs completed and programs to sustain for the next program year as well as the demographic report.
- Arts and Letters (Soror Angela Ray): The movie *Kemba* is playing on BET+. The movie *Shirley* premiered on Netflix on March 22, 2024. Chapters are asked to host an in-person gathering or a virtual Red Carpet experience.
- Membership Services (Soror Dewanda Nealson): National Sisterhood Month activities were reviewed. There is a sisterhood theme for each week.
- Compliance Update: Compliance forms are due by June 30, 2024. It is strongly recommended that compliance forms are submitted by May 31, 2024.
- Operations Forms: The Operating Agreement is a new fillable form that must be completed by June 30, 2024. The policies and procedures (P&P) document has new submission requirements. These new requirements are specific to chapters who have voted to make amendments to their P&P. If a chapter has made any amendments to their P&P, the chapter must submit the most recent P&P and the required Policies and Procedures Amendment Form that was revised in 2021. Any amendment forms with the changes must be submitted in one complete document.
- Fiduciary Forms: The fiduciary forms are now due by June 30, 2024. The form will only need to be completed by newly added fiscal officers or existing fiduciary officers who did not complete the form between July 2023 – December 2023. If there are no changes to fiscal officers or the term dates listed currently in the chapter's AROCO, there is no further action needed unless the existing officer did not previously complete the form.
- Regional Conference Update: In-person registration for the Southern Region ended on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. EDT. Virtual registration will open on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at

noon EDT and will close on Monday, May 13, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. EDT. Notify Soror Sheriah Johnson or Soror Denise Arnold if you plan to attend the regional conference either in person or virtually.

Soror Sheriah Johnson submitted a detailed report that is on file.

First Vice President/Membership Services (Hospitality and Courtesies): Soror Denise Arnold greeted good morning to sorors, and shared that the Membership Services Committee (MSC) realizes that sorors have several chapters in the area to join and MSC is honored that you are a member of the Hall County Alumnae Chapter. There are currently **35 financial members** in the chapter. A list of members is included in the report. New members for FY 2024 are Soror Neisee McArthur Williams, Soror Sheila Tabron, and Soror Tywonna Welchel-Payne. Soror Denise Arnold asked for members to invite a nonfinancial soror to a chapter meeting or upcoming event, especially if she resides in the service area. The **April birthday celebrants** are Soror Vallorie Coley (4/2), and Soror Georgette Riggans (4/25). MSC thanks everyone who supported the **Sisterhood Month** initiatives. Whether you posted in BAND, participated in the Delta Internal Development (DID) workshop, Secret Soror, or community service initiatives, MSC appreciates your participation. MSC strives to develop programs and activities that align with your interests. Please take a few minutes to respond to the **brief survey** sent by the committee to ensure your feedback is received. For the **Reclamation Challenge**, MSC is pleased to announce that the following sorors will each receive \$100 paid towards their 2025 local dues: Soror Erica Glenn, Soror Patricia Lee, and Soror Deborah Washington. The **End-of-Year Recognition Program** will be held during the May chapter meeting. Make plans to join MSC and fellowship afterwards for a small reception. **The Joy in Our Sisterhood Awards** were created to encourage and reward regular participation in HCAC events. MSC will recognize the Delta Doll, Delta Diva, and Delta DEAR who complete the most steps during the May chapter meeting. Soror Denise Arnold has emailed an attendance sheet to each committee chair. To use the committee attendance data for award consideration, be advised that Soror Denise Arnold must receive the completed form no later than Saturday, April 27, 2024, at 5 p.m. **Superior Performance and Outstanding Tenacity (S.P.O.T.) Awards** are honorable mentions to recognize members for service on a committee, kind acts, or widespread support of HCAC. MSC will accept nominations throughout the year and will present S.P.O.T. Awards quarterly during the November, February, and May chapter meetings. The S.P.O.T. nomination form was emailed to every chapter member this week. If you would like to recognize a member during the May meeting, please submit your form by Monday, May 13, 2024. The information was included on the chapter meeting email reminder. Soror Denise Arnold submitted a report that is on file.

Second Vice President (Program Planning and Development): Soror Erica Glenn reviewed the chapter calendar for the months of April, May, and June. Scholarship applications are due, and interviews will be held in April if there are any candidates. May Week will occur on May 5, 2024, through May 11, 2024. Five-Point Programmatic Thrust initiatives are included in the May Week activities. Juneteenth 2024 details are forthcoming. Compliance documents are due in June. The committee plans to meet to discuss the remainder of the sorority year and the upcoming sorority year. Soror Erica Glenn submitted a report that is on file.

Corresponding Secretary: Soror Vallorie Coley reported that SouthState Bank mail was received from the chapter's post office box. All regional and national correspondence is sent to each member via email. A card was received from Soror Denise Arnold to give thanks to sorors for their prayers, calls, and the chapter floral arrangement in remembrance of her nephew's passing. Soror Vallorie Coley submitted a report that is on file.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Secretary: In the absence of the financial secretary, Soror Sheriah Johnson reported the financial secretary’s report covering the period March 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024. Soror Jasmine Mays submitted a report that is on file. The report is posted on the chapter’s website under financial documents.

Treasurer: In the absence of the treasurer, Soror Sheriah Johnson reported the operating account beginning balance, deposits, transfers, expenses, and ending balance that covered the period March 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024. Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson submitted a report that is on file. The report is posted on the chapter’s website under financial documents.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arts and Letters: Soror Melanie Floyd reported that the committee is in the process of looking for activities in the service area. The committee will continue sharing events via BAND. The committee will plan to host a viewing of *Shirley* for the community soon at the chapter’s meeting location or at the Northeast Georgia History Center. The committee will request an Arts & Letters budget. Soror Melanie Floyd submitted a report that is on file.

Budget and Finance: In the absence of the committee chair, Soror Vallorie Coley read the committee’s EB report as follows: The committee has not met yet to open a new checking account. The committee would like to transfer some funds into a certificate of deposit.

Fundraising: Soror Denise Arnold distributed copies of the Fundraising Committee report. The Ladies and Gents Evening of Entertainment Fundraising report is as follows:

Tickets	
Couples Tickets	\$4,650.00
Ballroom Tickets	\$1,920.00
Sunroom Tickets	\$1,365.00
Entertainment Only	\$150.00
Donations	
Community Builder Donations	\$480.00
Champion Supporter Donations (Balance)	\$440.00
HCAC Donations	
Additional Donations	\$700.00
Photos	\$40.00
Total Revenue	\$9,005.00
Total Expenses	
Catering	\$2,500.00
Decorations	\$794.46
Entertainment	\$2,100.00
Facility	\$100.45
Fees (PayPal and Ticket Stripe)	\$159.94
Insurance	\$200.00
Security	\$75.00
Total Expenses	\$5,729.85

Profit/Loss	\$3,275.15
HCAC Profit Share from Fundraising Proceeds	\$1,637.58
Additional Donations	\$950.00
Photo Sales	\$40.00
HCAC Total Fundraising Profit	\$2,627.58
Proceeds will be allocated as follows:	
Scholarships and Community Service Projects	\$1,839.31 (70%)
Chapter Administrative	\$394.14 (15%)
Startup Money for Future Fundraising Events	\$394.13 (15%)

Internal Audit: Soror Alisha Moore reported that the Q1 Audit is due in the Red Zone by June 2024. Financial documents should be submitted to audithallcountydst@gmail.com. Soror Alisha Moore gave an update that Audit and Corporate Compliance is the committee’s name for National Headquarters and Internal Audit is the committee’s name for chapters.

Nominating: In the absence of the committee chair, Soror Vallorie Coley reported that the 2024 Slate of Candidates was confirmed at the March 16, 2024, chapter meeting. The incoming President will appoint the Nominating Committee Member vacancy. Soror Vallorie Coley read the names of the members who are seeking an office or position that is outlined below.

President	Sheriah Richardson Johnson
First Vice President	Denise D. Arnold
Second Vice President	Erica Nicole Glenn
Recording Secretary	Vallorie Victoria Coley
Corresponding Secretary	Deborah Washington
Financial Secretary	Barbara Denise Livingston
Treasurer	Whitney McDowell-Robinson
Chair, Nominating Committee	Kenya F. Ficklin
Nominating Committee Member	Patricia Ann Lee
Nominating Committee Member	Vacant
Chair, Internal Audit Committee	Alisha Denise Moore

Chapter elections will take place today as outlined on the meeting agenda. A committee report was submitted and placed on file.

Scholarship: Soror Audrey Simmons gave the status of submitted scholarship applications that were received on April 19, 2024, by 5 p.m., which was the deadline. The report outlined each applicant’s name, school, GPA, letters of reference, college acceptance letter, and transcript. No applicant is eligible. The committee will meet to determine if follow-up communication will occur to allow one business day to receive any outstanding application materials. Soror Audrey Simmons submitted a report that is on file.

Social Action/Political Awareness and Involvement: Soror Kenya Ficklin reminded sorors to exercise their right to vote as we approach the general primaries. Early voting begins on April 29, 2024, and ends on May 17, 2024, followed by the official election on May 21, 2024. The last day to register for the General Primary is Monday, April 22, 2024. A person’s voting status can be checked at mvp.sos.ga.gov. The Social Action Committee would like to partner with the May Week Committee to hold a voter registration Get Out the Vote Drive. Soror Sheriah Johnson mentioned the \$1,000 mini grant for the committee. Soror Kenya Ficklin submitted a report that is on file.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elections: Chapter elections were held via Election Runner. Soror Sheriah Johnson declared the result of the vote for the 2024-2026 biennium as follows:

Chair, Internal Audit	Position
Name	Votes
Alisha Denise Moore	15
Nominating Committee Member	Position
Name	Votes
Patricia Ann Lee	15
Chair, Nominating Committee	Position
Name	Votes
Kenya Ficklin	15
Treasurer	Officer
Name	Votes
Whitney McDowell-Robinson	15
Financial Secretary	Officer
Name	Votes
Barbara Denise Livingston	15
Corresponding Secretary	Officer
Name	Votes
Deborah Washington	15
Recording Secretary	Officer
Name	Votes
Vallorie Victoria Coley	15
Second Vice President	Officer
Name	Votes
Erica Glenn	15
First Vice President	Officer
Name	Votes
Denise D. Arnold	15
President	Officer
Name	Votes
Sheriah Richardson Johnson	15

May Week: In the absence of the committee chair, Soror Neisee McArthur-Williams gave the report. May Week is scheduled for Sunday, May 5, 2024, through Saturday, May 11, 2024. The May Week flyer is posted in BAND.

- **Sunday, May 5, 2024:** Worship and fellowship at Antioch Baptist Church will begin at 10 a.m. Wear red attire. After the service, a self-pay lunch will be at Cheddar’s Scratch Kitchen.
- **Wednesday, May 8, 2024:** A Zoom event “A Vision for the Athens Street and the 129 South Corridor: Our Turn, Let’s See the Work” is scheduled. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. All meeting contact information is on the flyer.
- **Thursday, May 9, 2024:** A community service initiative will take place at the Gainesville High

School HUB for members to deliver supplies. Report at 3:45 p.m. Summer reading packets will be delivered to the Northeast Georgia History Center at 4:15p.m.

- **Saturday, May 11, 2024:** A “Spring Fling and Community Expo” will take place on the front lawn at Brenau University at 10 a.m. until noon. The following activities are planned: a voter registration drive, mental health first-aid information, medication disposal, yoga exercises, refreshments, and activities for kids.

Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson submitted a report that is on file.

Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business.

New Business

- Southern Regional Conference Gifts: Soror Sheriah Johnson relayed that each alumnae chapter is expected to give \$150 to purchase gifts for outgoing Southern Region officers. The chapter took the vote.

MOTION: Soror Denise Arnold moved to donate \$150 to support the Southern Region gifts for outgoing officers. **SECOND:** Soror Georgette Riggins **ACTION:** Motion carried eleven (11) in favor; one (1) opposed.

Announcements

- Membership Services held a raffle. Winners received gifts.
- Kayla Jackson, a Gainesville native, was initiated into the Sorority at the Eta Chapter of Fort Valley State University. She will graduate on May 11, 2024.
- Taniya Moore, a Gainesville native, was initiated into the Sorority at the Delta Rho Chapter of Albany State University.
- Please keep sorors who are dealing with family or personal issues in prayer.
- The Chartering Ceremony for the North Fulton Alumnae Chapter is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2024, at 5 p.m. The ceremony will be held at St. James Community Church, 3000 Webb Bridge Road, Alpharetta, GA. The invitation will be posted in BAND.

Adjournment

- **MOTION:** Soror Patricia Lee moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:11 p.m. **SECOND:** Soror Alisha Moore **ACTION:** Motion carried with no opposition.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Vallorie Coley

Vallorie Coley, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:

Sheriah Johnson

Sheriah Johnson, President

DATE:

5/18,/2024