

HALL COUNTY ALUMNAE CHAPTER
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Meeting via Zoom
Minutes of the April Executive Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Attendance: Vallorie Coley, Kenya Ficklin, Erica Glenn, Natasha Iszard, Sheriah Johnson, Whitney McDowell-Robinson, and Alisha Moore (**A quorum was present for the transaction of business.**)

Call to Order: Soror Sheriah Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Meditation: Soror Sheriah Johnson gave the meditation.

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 reported the following 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 and gave the collegiate updates.

- **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 (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):** A Membership Intake Trainer Pre-Certification announcement has been sent. Members who are selected must attend the in-person training that will be held at the Southern Regional Conference on July 4, 2024. There was a three-step process before a 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 are 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 forth coming.
 - 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 handling 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 – 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: Registration for the Southern Region will end on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. EDT, or until capacity is reached. 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 Sheriah Johnson shared that Soror Denise Arnold will give her report at the April chapter meeting.

Second Vice President/Program Planning and Development: Soror Erica Glenn reviewed the program

calendar for April and May. She shared that the chapter should host a committee chair training at the planning meeting in August 2024. The Five-Point Programmatic Thrust initiatives will be met. Soror Erica Glenn stated that she will be trained for a lead position for the general elections.

Corresponding Secretary: Soror Vallorie Coley reported that the following was received from the chapter's post office box: three items of correspondence from SouthState Bank. In the recording secretary's email account, the following was received on March 18, 2024: a letter from Soror Amaris L. Johnson, Southern Regional Director, stating that the 2024 Georgia Grant Review Committee has approved a total grant of \$1,000 to the Hall County Alumnae to provide restricted support for the Social Action activities for seven months during the 2024 election cycle. All stipulations are identified in the letter. All regional and national correspondence is sent to each member via email. Soror Vallorie Coley submitted a report that is on file.

Financial Reports

Financial Secretary: In the absence of the financial secretary, Soror Sheriah Johnson relayed 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: Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson 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 Natasha Iszard gave the report for the committee. The posting of events on BAND will continue. The committee will solicit a budget. The committee is in the process of looking for activities in the chapter's service area. The committee plans to host a viewing of *Shirley* for the community soon. Netflix movies cannot be shown at Brenau, according to the university's policy. Educational components for movie viewing are required. The committee would like to partner with the Northeast Georgia History Center for future programs.

Budget and Finance: Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson stated that the committee has not met yet. There is a plan to open a new checking account and turn some funds into a certificate of deposit (CD).

Communication and Public Relations: A report was not presented.

Economic Development: A report was not presented.

Educational Development: A report was not presented.

Emergency Response: A report was not presented.

Fundraising: Soror Sheriah Johnson relayed that she and Soror Denise Arnold will give a final report for fundraising at the April 20, 2024, chapter meeting.

Heritage and Archives: A report was not presented.

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 audithallcountyst@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.

International Awareness and Involvement: A report was not presented.

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.

The 2024 Slate of Candidates is as follows:

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

Special Note: Chapter elections will take place at the chapter meeting on April 20, 2024. Soror Sue Davis-Westmoreland is the Elections Committee Chair. The Nominating Committee report is on file.

Physical and Mental Health: A report was not presented.

Policies and Procedures: A report was not presented.

Protocol and Traditions: A report was not presented.

Ritual and Ceremonies: A report was not presented.

Risk Management: A report was not presented.

Scholarship: In the absence of the committee chair, Soror Vallorie Coley read the report. The committee has received two applications. Both students have completed the electronic application, but all other supporting documents are outstanding. A reminder has been sent to each applicant to provide all application materials by the April 19, 2024, deadline. Soror Audrey Simmons submitted a report that is on file.

Social Action/Political Awareness and Involvement: Soror Kenya Ficklin gave a reminder for 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 May 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.

Technology: A report was not presented.

Special Committee Reports

Elections: Soror Sheriah Johnson stated that chapter elections will be held on April 20, 2024. Soror Sue Davis-Westmoreland is the Elections Committee Chair.

May Week: Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson reported that May Week is scheduled for Sunday, May 5, 2024, through Saturday, May 11, 2024. The agenda is noted as follows:

- Sunday, May 5, 2024: Fellowship service at Antioch Baptist Church and lunch at Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen (Soror Neisee Williams)
- Wednesday, May 8, 2024: Economic Development, International Awareness and Involvement (Soror Denise Livingston)
 - The City of Gainesville and The Carl Vinson Institute Government of the University of Georgia performed the study "A Vision for the Athens Street and 129 South Corridors" and has begun improvements in this historically Black community of Gainesville. May Week will bring awareness to the community regarding the project as it is "Our Turn, So Let's See the Work." Panelists will consist of elected officials, members of the steering committee, Gainesville City staff, and community members. The event will be held via Zoom.
- Thursday, May 9, 2024: Educational Development, Social Action, Political Awareness and Involvement (Soror Natasha Iszard)
 - Toiletries, socks, and all-size underwear drive (The HUB)
 - Deliver summer learning packets and grade-specific books for Gainesville reading tutorial program and the HUB community service event at Gainesville City Schools (drop-offs and photo opportunities)
- Saturday, May 11, 2024: Community event on the front lawn at Brenau for Social Action, Physical and Mental Health, Membership Services (Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson)
 - Voter Registration Drive
 - Mental Health First-Aid Station
 - Medication Disposal Station
 - Yoga Exercises
 - Refreshments Station
 - Activities for Kids

Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business.

New Business

- There was no new business.

Announcements

- Kayla Jackson, a Gainesville native, was initiated into the Sorority at Eta Chapter of Fort Valley State University. She will graduate on May 11, 2024.

- Soror Erica Glenn shared that another Gainesville native was initiated into the Sorority at the Delta Rho Chapter of Albany State University. The initiate’s name is not known at this time.
- Please keep sorors who are dealing with family or personal issues in prayer.

Adjournment

- **MOTION:** Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.
SECOND: Soror Alisha Moore **ACTION:** Motion carried with no opposition.

Respectfully submitted,

Vallorie Coley
Vallorie Coley, Recording Secretary

APP ROVED: *Sheriah Johnson*
Sheriah Johnson, President

DATE: 5/14/2024