

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 May Chapter Meeting
Held on Saturday, May 18, 2024

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

Chapter Members Present: Denise Arnold, Vallorie Coley, Sue Davis-Westmoreland, Kenya Ficklin, Melanie Floyd, Erica Glenn, Sheriah Johnson, Patricia Lee, Denise Livingston, Gloria Maddox, Angela Middleton, Alisha Moore, Georgette Riggans, Audrey Simmons, Francia Tolbert, Shirley Vereen, Deborah Washington, and Lisa Williams (**A quorum was present for the transaction of business.**)

Call to Order: Soror Sheriah Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:08 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 previous minutes were approved as printed. (General Consent)

Teachable Moment: Soror Alisha Moore gave a review of Delta's Protocol and Traditions to help remind members of certain guidelines before attending the regional conference. The purple violet and proper attire were exhibited.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President's Message: Soror Sheriah Johnson reported the following information from the **Executive Committee Call** that was held on April 16, 2024.

- **Collegiate Update (Soror Jailyn Martin):** The update concerned information for collegiate chapters.
- **Regional Updates (Soror Amaris Johnson):** Be on the lookout to receive regional conference communication within the next couple of weeks. There are several outgoing officers and Past National Presidents to celebrate and recognize. Alumnae chapters are asked to **donate \$150 for gifts** and collegiate chapters \$100. **The Dreams of the South jacket and necklace** order deadline has been extended. Soror Amaris Johnson is asking members to wear the necklace to the regional conference and to wear the jacket during the fall cluster cycle. The shipment of jackets will begin after April 1, 2024, for the ones that are not customized. For customized jacket orders, members should receive an email to acknowledge customization. Shipping will not happen until the order is acknowledged.
- **National Scholarship and Standards Committee (Soror Sabrina Polote):** It is compliance season. The committee has put together a **compliance how to guide**, which gives officers tips and tricks for each of the forms one must complete for compliance. The information is posted in the Compliance Hub. The **operation agreement** is now a fillable form. Once the form has been signed and sent to National Headquarters, a receipt of confirmation will be sent to keep it on file. The Scholarship and Standards Committee wants to make sure chapters include the **policies and**

procedures amendments only if the chapter has voted on any amendments. If there are no amendments, submit most recently approved policies and procedures only. The template will be updated during the regional conference cycle. Next year's submission will be on the new template. The **compliance deadline is June 30, 2024**. The committee recommends that chapters submit compliance information by May 31, 2024.

- National Finance Committee (Soror Toni Johnson): The **Annual Financial Report (AFR)** and the **Internal Audit Report (IAR)** were due on February 28, 2024, for the short year. Fiduciary forms will be due by June 30, 2024. The forms are in the Compliance Hub. The Red Zone needs to be checked for any alerts related to the AFR and the IAR. Soror Amaris Johnson reminded everyone compliance letters will not be sent. Check the report in the Red Zone for green check marks. If all check marks are not green, the chapter is not in compliance. This means the chapter cannot proceed with any activities.
- Regional Nominating Committee (Soror Candi Arthur): The **regional slate of candidates** is out. There are some vacant positions. A 60-day campaign period is implemented for all regions. Candidates were allowed to start campaigning on May 6, 2024, at 12 noon EST. Soror Sheriah Johnson will send chapter members any campaign material as it comes in. A **virtual candidate forum** will be held on May 30, 2024, at 9 p.m. Soror The slate of candidates is posted below.

Regional Director

Amaris L. Johnson, Tallahassee Alumnae Chapter

Regional Representative

Jada Crockett, Xi Alpha Chapter (Georgia Institute of Technology)

Noel Seymour, Upsilon Zeta Chapter (University of the Bahamas)

Member, National Finance Committee:

Vacant

Member, 2025 National Nominating Committee

Katrina Boyette Myricks Madison County (MS) Alumnae Chapter

Martha S. Lue Stewart Orlando Alumnae Chapter

Susan Vanderbilt Nashville Alumnae Chapter

Chair, 2026 Regional Nominating Committee

Sandra Miles Palm Coast Flagler County Alumnae Chapter

Tremetra Williams West Palm Beach Alumnae Chapter

Member, 2026 Regional Nominating Committee (3 Alumnae Positions)

Kelley Bolden Bailey Tallahassee Alumnae Chapter

Petula Gomillion Hinesville Alumnae Chapter

Nichole Ross Douglas-Carroll-Paulding Counties Alumnae Chapter

Member, National Finance Committee

Vacant

Collegiate Member, 2026 Regional Nominating Committee (1 Collegiate Position)

Vacant

- Communications and Public Relations (Soror Altoria White): Statistics from August 1, 2023 – April 14, 2024, were given for the regional social media presence of Facebook and Instagram. There is a lot of traction on social media. The **digital Southern Regional Conference Souvenir Journal prices** are as follows: full page \$1,000, half page \$500, Fortitude Patron \$100 (individuals' names listed), Regional Director Queen of Diamonds Club \$1000 (name on website, VIP seating, special designation on badge, jacket, invitation to meet and greet with RD, banner recognition,

early access registration for soror and guest for the sorority year. There are 100 of these memberships available.

MOTION: Soror Deborah Washington moved that the chapter accept the \$500 half-page digital ad. **SECOND:** Soror Erica Glenn **ACTION:** Motion failed one (1) in favor; Fourteen (14) opposed.

- Ritual and Ceremonies Committee (Soror Janice Harris): **T.H. Stemper Company** in Wisconsin is the official vendor to purchase official ceremonial properties. Chapters must reach out to them directly to get the catalog.
- Teachable Moment: Collegiate sorors at the University of Tennessee at Martin (UT Martin) made a presentation concerning sorority branding.
- Gifts for Outgoing Regional Officers: The chapter voted at the April 2024 meeting to donate \$150 for gifts. Soror Sheriah Johnson shared that Soror Lessie Lyttle, the North Georgia State Coordinator, gave thanks to the chapter for submitting the donation.
- Georgia Mountain Foodbank Presentation: Soror Sheriah Johnson, Soror Denise Arnold and Soror Erica Glenn presented a check to representatives of the Georgia Mountain Food Bank. The check funds were collected from the 2024 Georgia State Cluster. Even though it took a while to get the check to the organization, the donation was very much appreciated. The **donation of \$3,000** will provide 15,000 meals. A continued partnership with the organization is expected to continue.
- Souvenir Journal Digital Ad: The deadline to purchase the ad has been extended to June 1, 2024. A full page ad is \$1,000, and a half page ad is \$500. Soror Alisha Moore proposed a motion to purchase a half page ad for \$500. The motion was not considered by the executive board.
- Committee Chair Application Process: Please be on the lookout for **committee chair applications**. For the upcoming term, Soror Sheriah Johnson will send out a link with instructions for the application. The deadline for submission for sorors interested in serving as a committee chair will be included also.

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

First Vice President/Membership Services (Hospitality and Courtesies): Soror Denise Arnold reported that there are currently 35 financial chapter members. The May birthday celebrants are Soror ShaRhonda Kimbrough (5/27), and Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson (5/29). **Participation Rate at Membership Services Initiatives (MSC):** MSC hosted twelve events during the 2023-2024 sorority year and eleven events during the 2022-2023 year. On average, 35% - 50% of HCAC members attended/participated in the activities. During the 2024 - 2025 sorority year, MSC will strive for a 60% participation rate at all events. **Proposed Events for 2024-2025 Sorority Year:** The MSC recommended activities for the 2024-2025 sorority year are posted on the program calendar of events. **Retention Rates:** HCAC retained 85% of chapter members. A total of five sorors left HCAC. **Visitor Data:** During this biennium, the HCAC had eleven sorors who visited the chapter with 6 sorors deciding to join. Fifty-five percent joined the chapter. The six sorors are Neisee McArthur-Williams, Whitney McDowell-Robinson, Alfreida Paige, Sheila Tabron, Deborah Washington, and Tywonna Welchel-Payne. More detailed information was delivered during the meeting. **Reclamation Challenge:** During the 2023-2024 sorority year, MSC held its inaugural Reclamation Contest. Soror Neisee McArthur-Williams, Soror Sheila Tabron, and Soror Tywonna Welchel-Payne were reclaimed, as well as Soror ShaRhonda Kimbrough during the 2022-2023 sorority year. **End-of-Year Recognitions:** The Joy in Our Sisterhood Award recipients are Soror Alisha Moore (Delta Diva), and Soror Sue Davis-Westmoreland (Delta DEAR). An honorable mention recognition as a Delta Diva was given to Soror Francia Tolbert who completed twenty total steps and earned the fundraising edge over Soror Alisha Moore. An honorable mention recognition as a Delta DEAR runner-up was given to Soror Patricia Lee who completed twenty 20 total steps and earned the fundraising edge over Soror Sue

Davis-Westmoreland. **Recognition of Outgoing Executive Committee Members:** Soror Patricia Lee served as the treasurer, and Soror Jasmine Mays served as the financial secretary. Soror Denise Arnold recognized MSC members with a certificate of recognition to Soror Melanie Floyd, Soror Patricia Lee, Soror Denise Livingston, Soror Alisha Moore and Soror Shirley Vereen. Soror Sheriah Johnson thanked Soror Denise Arnold for her service.

Soror Denise Arnold submitted a report that is on file.

Second Vice President (Program Planning and Development): Soror Erica Glenn reported that the committee is proposing to keep the following standing events: Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign, Adopt-a-Family with a Twist (Nursing or Rehab Facility), Gainesville -Hall Hub, Thanksgiving Community Feed (Food Prep), Read Across America, Go Red for Women, Habitat for Humanity Builds, MLK Events, Patronize a Black Business, Get Out the Vote Campaign, and Sisterhood Sundays. The committee plans to implement two Impactful Empowerment Days in Hall County and in Forsyth County to focus on all Five-Point Programmatic Thrust initiatives. A voter registration/mobilization event was added to the calendar for September 14, 2024,

MOTION: Soror Erica Glenn moved to accept the proposed chapter calendar as is, knowing that modifications, additions and/or subtractions may occur throughout the year. **SECOND:** N/A **ACTION:** Motion carried fifteen (15) in favor; Zero (0) opposed.

Soror Erica Glenn recognized the Program Planning and Development Committee members Soror Kenya Ficklin and Soror Francia Tolbert with a certificate of recognition.

Corresponding Secretary: Soror Vallorie Coley relayed that the following was received from the post office box: a thank-you card from Soror Christy Johnson-Borders in reference to a floral arrangement sent during her time of bereavement. Soror Deborah Washington submitted a thank-you card to be read in reference of a peace lily that was sent during her time of hospitalization and recovery. 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 reported the financial secretary's report covering the period April 1, 2024 – April 30, 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, a wire deposit, an expense, and an ending balance that covered the period April 1, 2024 – April 30, 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 read a list of activities and needs for the Arts and Letters Committee. **MOTION:** Soror Melanie Floyd moved for a budget request of \$1,000 for the remainder-of-year activities. **SECOND:** N/A **ACTION:** Motion failed as Soror Sheriah Johnson ruled the motion out of order. Soror Sheriah Johnson stated that the next date for budget requests will be announced. The Arts and Letters Committee is considering an event for the film *The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat*. A poll for the event will be posted in the BAND app. The Membership Services Committee is preparing a venue

directory. There is an opportunity to volunteer with the Smithgall Arts Center in Gainesville. Soror Alicia Moore announced that the next Arts and Letters webinar is scheduled for July 25, 2024.

Budget and Finance: Soror Sheriah Johnson read the following report. The Budget and Finance Committee met on April 17, 2024, at 8 p.m. and discussed the following:

- Investing chapter funds into a no-risk CD at 4.5% interest for seven months. Currently, the funds are just “sitting” and not making any money for the chapter or gaining any interest dividends. If approved, the transfer will occur on June 1, 2024.
- Sharing with the chapter monthly, in the new sorority year, the remaining budget amounts for each line item
- Developing a process for committees with fund needs throughout the year that may not have been budgeted initially (Policies and Procedures)

MOTION: Soror Sheriah Johnson moved on behalf of the Executive Board and the Budget and Finance Committee to recommend that the chapter invest \$10,000 in a no-risk, seven-month certificate of deposit (CD) at a rate of 4.5%. **SECOND:** N/A **ACTION:** Motion carried fourteen (14) in favor; Zero (0) opposed.

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

Communication and Public Relations: Soror Melanie Floyd reported the following social media statistics for the chapter’s social media platforms.

- **Facebook: 1.6K Followers**
Reach: 653 (+18% from previous 28 days)
Engagement: 149 (+192% from previous 28 days)
Net Followers: 4 (-43% from previous 28 days)
- **What People Like: Pictures of Members**
Women: 73.8%, Men: 26.2%
US: 1.6K, Ghana: 2, Nigeria: 2, Brazil: 1, Atlanta: 127, Macon: 58, Birmingham: 52, Gainesville: 42
- **Instagram: 847 Followers**
April 14 through May 13: 190 accounts reached 23.7%, 36 accounts engaged 35.7%
HCAC Instagram Username: [hallcountyalumnaedst](https://www.instagram.com/hallcountyalumnaedst)

Soror Melanie Floyd submitted a report that is on file.

Emergency Response: Soror Sheriah Johnson read that the committee will post a survey in BAND to determine chapter interest of a CPR class at the cost of \$50 or \$60 per participant.

Fundraising: Soror Sheriah Johnson stated that the final Fundraising Committee report was given out at the April 20, 2024, meeting. Soror Denise Arnold distributed a Ladies and Gents Evening of Entertainment report that was dated May 18, 2024.

Internal Audit: Soror Alisha Moore reported that the Q1 Audit (January 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024) for FY 2024 is due in the Red Zone by June 1, 2024. Documents may be scanned and sent to audithallcountydst@gmail.com. The committee can accept legible copies of documents. Soror Alicia Moore recognized committee members of the Internal Audit Committee with a certificate of recognition. The following committee members were recognized: Soror Denise Livingston and Soror Sue Davis-Westmoreland.

Ritual and Ceremonies: Soror Sheriah Johnson noted that the Installation of Chapters Officers will take place as outlined on the agenda.

Scholarship: Soror Audrey Simmons relayed that as reported during the April chapter meeting, none of the scholarship applicants completed the requirements designated in the application by the April 19, 2024, deadline. The committee members met and agreed that to maintain integrity with the scholarship process, it is imperative that the chapter abides by the requirements previously established and approved for the scholarship. Therefore, the application deadline was not extended. Soror Audrey Simmons recognized her committee members with a certificate of recognition. The following committee members were recognized: Soror Erica Glenn, Soror Jennifer Simmons, and Soror Vallorie Coley.

Soror Audrey Simmons also recognized members of the Risk Management Committee. They are as follows: Soror Sue Davis Westmoreland and Soror Vallorie Coley. Soror Audrey Simmons thanked Soror Denise Arnold for making all the certificates.

Soror Audrey Simmons submitted a report that is on file.

Social Action/Political Awareness and Involvement: Soror Kenya Ficklin reported that the Social Action Committee has been given a \$1,000 grant to spend towards voting initiatives. The chapter is partnered with the New Georgia Project Action Fund. Plans are to canvas neighborhoods with the goal of knocking on one million doors to mobilize voters and prepare them to turn out to vote on Election Day. The Social Action Committee made a social media post concerning voting, which was uploaded to the chapter's Instagram and Facebook pages on May 2, 2024. This launched our social media campaign to promote voting for the primaries. This initiative will also inform the community about deadlines for voter registration and voting locations. Soror Kenya Ficklin submitted a report that is on file.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

May Week: In the absence of the committee chair, Soror Denise Livingston relayed the following report for May Week that took place on May 5 – 11, 2024.

- **Sunday, May 5, 2024:** Sunday Fellowship Service at Antioch Baptist Church, and Lunch at Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen (Soror Neisee Williams) 16 Sorors Participated
- **Wednesday, May 8, 2024:** Economic Development/International Awareness & Involvement (Soror Denise Livingston)
 - The City of Gainesville and The Carl Vinson Institute Government of the University of Georgia performed a study "A Vision for the Athens Street and 129 South Corridors" and has begun improvements in this historically Black community of Gainesville. The Zoom meeting "Our Turn, So Let's See the Work" brought awareness to the community regarding the project. The panelists consisted of members of the steering committee and community members. 41 Participants
 - Brenau University's Executive Director for the Miller Institute for Global Education and a Brenau student/soror shared updates on International Studies and experiences. Hall County Alumnae donated \$100 to Brenau University's Miller Institute for Global Education.
- **Thursday, May 9, 2024:** Educational Development, Social Action, Political Awareness and Involvement (Soror Natasha Iszard)
 - A drive for toiletries, socks, and underwear (any sizes) took place for The HUB at Gainesville High School. Photo is posted in BAND.
 - Thirty summer learning packets and grade-specific books for Gainesville reading tutorial program were delivered. Photo is posted in BAND,
- **Saturday, May 11, 2024:** Community Event – Social Action, Physical and Mental Health, Educational Development, and Membership Services (Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson)

- A voter registration drive, mental health first-aid station, medication disposal station (*Soror Alisha Moore needs to submit the number of medications received at the medical disposal station.*), yoga exercises, refreshments station, and kids’ activities were available. 44 Participants

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

Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business.

New Business

- There was no new business.

Announcements

- The first training for the RED Mentoring Program is scheduled for July 11, 2024. Soror Sheriah Johnson sent an email to members from Brandon Evans, the Gainesville City Schools Mentor Coordinator. The training registration link is included in the email, and the RED Mentoring Program flyer is attached.
- Soul Food Sunday is scheduled for June 2, 2024, at 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. The event will be held at Butler Park on Athens Street.
- Soror Francia Tolbert thanked the Educational Committee members for their work.
- Soror Alisha Moore thanked Soror Sheriah Johnson, Soror Denise Arnold, and the chapter Georgia State Cluster committee members.
- The Membership Services Committee presented a raffle. Winners received gifts.

Installation of Chapter Officers: Soror Georgette Riggans, a chapter charter member, was the installing officer. The outgoing treasurer, Soror Patricia Lee, was addressed. The outgoing fill-in corresponding secretary, Soror Vallorie Coley was addressed as well. The outgoing financial secretary, Soror Jasmine Mays, was not in attendance. The **Incoming 2024-2026 Officers** are listed below in the order of succession.

Soror Sheriah Johnson.....	President
Soror Denise Arnold.....	First Vice President
Soror Erica Glenn.....	Second Vice President
Soror Vallorie Coley.....	Recording Secretary
Soror Deborah Washington.....	Corresponding Secretary
Soror Denise Livingston.....	Financial Secretary
Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson (<i>Absent</i>).....	Treasurer

President Sheriah Johnson’s installation speech/presentation will be posted on the chapter’s website. She shared that we have done some great things as a chapter these past two years, and she looks forward to doing and being greater for the next two years.

Adjournment

- **MOTION:** Soror Patricia Lee moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:38 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, Recording Secretary

APPROVED: _____
Sheriah Johnson, President

DATE: _____

DRAFT