

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 September Chapter Meeting
Held on Saturday, September 21, 2024

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

Chapter Members Present: Denise Arnold, Vallorie Coley, Sue Davis-Westmoreland, Melanie Floyd, Erica Glenn, Sybil Ingram, Sheriah Johnson, Patricia Lee, Barbara Livingston, Gloria Maddox, Jasmine Mays, Whitney McDowell-Robinson, Wanda McRae, Angela Middleton, Alisha Moore, Georgette Riggans, Audrey Simmons, Sheila Tabron, Francia Tolbert, Deborah Washington, and Lisa Williams (A quorum was present for the transaction of business.)

Visiting Sorors: Bridgette Garnier, Rita Flowers, and Keoz Moore

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)

OFFICERS REPORTS

President's Message: Soror Sheriah Johnson welcomed sorors to the meeting. She gave her report as the voting delegate for the Southern Regional Conference that took place in Nashville, TN on July 4-7, 2024, using screen visuals during her report. She presented detailed information concerning plenary sessions, credentials reports, a Chapter Retirement Ceremony, State of the Region messages, and the Southern Region elections results. Soror Sheriah Johnson reported the following information from the Exec Check meeting that occurred on August 20, 2024.

- Soror Courtney Winn-Hamilton filled in for Soror Amaris Johnson.
- Collegiate Update (Soror Noel Seymour): Information for collegiate members was given.
- National Finance Committee (Soror Toni Johnson): The committee is still in transition. The 2023 short-year Annual Financial Report (AFR) is closed and will not be reopened. It was due February 28, 2024. If chapters are still missing this for compliance, they need to complete the template and send it to the National Treasurer and copy Soror Chante Obazee.
 - FY 2025 dues cover January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025.
 - Dues payable period (national and local dues) is July 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024.
 - Late fees period (\$10) is October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024.
 - Reinstatement fees are (\$15 or \$30) if non-financial or submitted after January 1, 2025.
 - Dues must be submitted via eCheck in the Red Zone within 30 days of receipt (no wire transfers or direct deposits).

- 2025 Corporate Fees Payable Period: Liability and bonding insurance, national and regional corporate fees are due by September 30, 2024. This covers January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025.
- Invoices have been released in the Red Zone portal payable in by eCheck.
- Budgets for FY 2025 must be approved by December 31, 2024.
- Membership Intake (Soror Bethaney Coleman Willis): Email communication was sent out on August 17, 2024, with essential information regarding membership intake voting. Chapters must be mindful of requirements and deadlines. All membership intake activities are required to be face to face, including all training. Training must be completed by January 10, 2025, for fall and spring intake. The alumnae chapter vote must be submitted in the Hub by September 22, 2024. 11:59 p.m. EST.
- Communication and Public Relations (Soror Dominga Gardner): Information about the presidential election will be posted on the region's social media accounts. Everyone is encouraged to share, like, and comment on the accounts. The Southern Region Hub for Facebook and Instagram is a new way to connect, share experiences and support one another. The committee is working on a TikTok account with instructions for the use of chapters. There is a request for chapter information, i.e., websites, social media handles, and logos. The deadline to submit is August 30, 2024. A new distribution list will be started.
- Social Action (Soror Alfreda Coward): Information was shared about Fortitude on the Frontlines and the importance of registration, education, mobilization, and protection. Look for Super Tuesday videos coming every week. A countdown calendar will be released.

Soror Sheriah Johnson shared that **new chapter email boxes** have been created. In support of the chapter's branding initiatives, the chapter is moving from Gmail to standard chapter email addresses with uniform signature blocks. The mailbox addresses will be posted in the members only section on the chapter website. Soror Sheriah Johnson submitted a detailed report that is on file.

First Vice President/Membership Services (Hospitality and Courtesies): Soror Denise Arnold reported that Hall County Alumnae Chapter has **35 financial members**. The membership list is included in the report. Reclaimed Soror Niviea Williams will be included on the FY 2025 membership roster. The visiting sorors introduced themselves. Summer birthday celebrants were recognized as follows: Soror Francia Tolbert (6/18), Soror Kenya Ficklin (6/25), Soror Sue Davis-Westmoreland (6/27), Soror Christy Johnson (7/4), Soror Angela Middleton (8/14), Soror Monica Hudson Cook (8/23), Soror Patricia Lee (9/1), Soror Erica Glenn (9/4), Soror Melanie Floyd (9/7), Soror Gloria Maddox (9/9), Soror Audrey Simmons (9/23), Soror Alisha Moore (9/24), Soror Deborah Washington (9/25), and Soror Deborah Mack (9/29). Soror Denise Arnold shared that Soror Kenya Ficklin was in an accident. She is at home recovering. The Membership Services Committee (MSC) has planned a **Sisterhood Workshop Day** for Sunday, September 29, 2024. Service begins at 9:45 a.m. The attire is red. A self-pay brunch will take place at Kelley's Tavern and Grill in Gainesville after the service. MSC will host the annual **Thanksgiving catered luncheon** after the November chapter meeting. The cost is \$20 per person. There is no cost for non-financial sorors. RSVP and make payments by November 3, 2024. The annual 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 10, 2024 - March 31, 2025.
3. Once the reclaimed soror becomes a member of HCAC, she will receive a "Welcome Home" form and asked for the name of the HCAC member who invited her. Only the soror listed on this form will receive credit for the Reclamation Challenge.

4. The HCAC member who reclaims the most sorors will be declared the winner of the Reclamation Challenge. The winning soror will have her local dues paid for the 2026 fiscal year by the Membership Services Committee. In the event of a tie, the tied sorors will have their names entered into a drawing. The soror whose name is drawn at random will be declared the contest winner.

The criteria chart for the **Joy in Our Sisterhood Award** was distributed. Soror Denise Arnold submitted a report that is on file.

Second Vice President (Program Planning and Development): Soror Erica Glenn gave a review of the chapter calendar for September 2024 through October 2024, and highlighted the following:

- September 14, 2024: D9 Coalition GOTV Block Party for Voter Registration and Mobilization
- September 21, 2024: National and local membership dues submission
- September 29, 2024: Sisterhood Worship Day at First Baptist on MLK
- October 5, 2024: HCAC Bootcamp removed from the calendar
- October 19, 2024: Chapter Risk Management Orientation

The committee has worked on solidifying participants for the chapter's Impact Day that will be held on November 2, 2024, at the Gainesville High School HUB. The focus will be on empowering the service area communities with knowledge regarding wills, estate planning, etc. Soror Erica Glenn relayed that once all Five-Point Programmatic Thrust chairs are in place, the committee's meeting schedule will be planned for the year. Soror Erica Glenn submitted a report that is on file.

Corresponding Secretary: Soror Deborah Washington reported that the following items were received from the post office box: campaign literature from candidate Dr. Kelley Bailey for Regional Nominating Committee, a thank-you note from Dr. Kelley Bailey for her campaign win; and correspondence seeking donations for the Gainesville High School Big Red Theatre Booster organization.

MOTION: Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson moved to pass on the opportunity of making a donation to the GHS Big Red Theatre Booster organization due to limited finances. **SECOND:** Soror Erica Glenn **ACTION:** The motion carried fifteen (15) in favor; Zero (0) opposed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Secretary: Soror Denise Livingston reported the collections covering the periods July 1, 2024 – July 31, 2024, and August 1, 2024 – August 31, 2024. Soror Denise Livingston submitted reports that are on file. The reports are posted on the chapter's website under financial documents.

Treasurer: Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson reported the operating account beginning balance, expenses, fundraising account income, and the ending balance that covered the period August 1, 2024 – August 31, 2024. Summer bank transactions for the months of May, June, and July were reported also. Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson submitted reports that are on file. The reports are posted on the chapter's website under financial documents.

STANDING COMMITTEES REPORTS

Budget and Finance: Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson reported that the committee met in August and in September. The 2025 Budget Request Form is live. The form will go out to committee chairs and officers. A vote for the chapter budget will take place in November. The committee will clear up the 2024 budget items to present at the October EB meeting. Currently, there has not been an investment into a certificate

of deposit. The committee plans to accomplish the transfer. Budget requests are due by September 30, 2024.

Fundraising: Soror Denise Arnold reported that the Fundraising Committee recommends that the chapter host a Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser from Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 5 p.m. through Monday, October 14, 2024, at 5 p.m. Members are asked to donate \$350. These funds can come from popcorn profit, donations, or a combination. The chapter will raise at least \$12,250, if all chapter sorors participate in the fundraiser and achieve the minimum fundraising goal. Partial proceeds from the fundraiser will support the Georgia Mountain Food Bank and the general fund. The chapter’s administrative expenses have exceeded local membership dues. Funds reserved are being used to cover expenses. Participation in this fundraiser will allow the chapter to cover expenses without borrowing from reserved funds.

Projected Revenue		
Popcorn Sales	35 sorors @ \$350 each	\$12,250.00
Total Revenue		\$12,250.00
Expenses		
Total Expenses		\$0.00
Net Revenue Over (Under) Expenses		\$12,250.00
Net Profit Ratio	100%	
Proceeds will be used as follows:		
▪ Chapter Administrative	70%	(\$8,575.00)
▪ Georgia Mountain Food Bank	15%	(\$1,837.50)
▪ Startup Money for Future Fundraising Events	15%	(\$1,837.50)
	100%	\$12,250.00

MOTION: Soror Denise Arnold moved by recommendation of the Executive Board that the chapter host a Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser from Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 5 p.m. through Monday, October 14, 2024, at 5 p.m. **SECOND:** N/A **ACTION:** Motion did not carry seven (7) opposed; Six (6) in favor.

Nominating: Soror Sheriah Johnson relayed that nominations for the positions on the Minerva Circle are conducted by the elected Nominating Committee of the chapter. She will make the Call for Nominations as noted on the agenda under new business.

Policies and Procedures: Soror Vallorie Coley reported that all committee chairs were sent an email on September 10, 2024, concerning the timeline for Chapter Policies and Procedures updates and approval, which follows:

- September 10, 2024: The Policies and Procedures Committee invites the Executive Board to begin submitting proposed changes.
- September 21, 2024: The Policies and Procedures Committee invites the chapter to begin submitting proposed changes.
- December 21, 2024: Proposed amendments are due.
- January 2025 and February 2025: The Policies and Procedures Committee meets to review and prepare all proposed amendments.
- March 11, 2025: The Policies and Procedures Committee reviews and discusses proposed amendments at the Executive Board meeting.
- March 15, 2025: The Policies and Procedures Committee reviews and discusses proposed amendments at the chapter meeting.
- April 16, 2025: All proposed amendments will be posted on the website.

- May 7, 2025: The 10-day written notification to vote on the proposed amendments to the Chapter Policies and Procedures will be emailed.
- May 17, 2025: Chapter members vote on the proposed amendments.

All policies and procedures documents that are needed for the amendment process are posted on the chapter website.

Social Action/Political Awareness and Involvement: Soror Erica Glenn reported that the chapter will partner with the D9 Coalition for the GOTV event. Set-up is at 10 a.m. in the St. John Baptist Church parking lot. The event will take place on Saturday, September 14, 2024, at 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Speakers have been invited from both political parties. Stroll to the Polls will be in conjunction with the D9 Coalition either on Saturday, October 19, 2024, or on Saturday, October 26, 2024, at 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Committee members have attended community meetings with the Newtown Florist Club concerning voting. Soror Erica Glenn shared that the chapter plans to adopt the Fair Street Polling Center during early voting. Details are forthcoming. Voting statistics were given about the location. The November 5, 2024, general election early voting hours and locations for Hall County and Forsyth County were noted. The committee is asking members to wear their Delta Go Vote shirt.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES REPORT

Elections: Soror Sheriah Johnson relayed that the Elections Committee oversees the election of the Minerva Circle. She will appoint the Elections Committee. The chapter will vote to proceed or not to proceed with the Membership Intake Process under new business. Standard qualifications for the election of members to the Minerva Circle.

Minerva Circle: Soror Sheriah Johnson relayed that the Minerva Circle is a special committee for the purpose of implementing the Membership Intake Process. The committee is dissolved at the conclusion of the intake process.

Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business.

New Business

- **Membership Intake:** The 10-day notification for the Membership Intake Vote was sent on September 10, 2024. The mandatory video “Preparing for Membership Intake - Ready to Vote” was shown. Afterwards, members took the vote on whether to proceed or not to proceed with membership intake via secret ballot. The results were eighteen (18) yes votes, and two (2) no votes. The two-thirds vote requirement was met.
- The floor was opened for the nominations of the Minerva Circle. The Call for Nominations resulted in the following:
 - **Leader of the Minerva Circle:** Soror Denise Arnold by virtue of elected office
 - **Nine Jewels (Only eight (8) sorors eligible):** Soror Vallorie Coley, Soror Erica Glenn, Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson, Soror Alisha Moore, Soror Audrey Simmons, Soror Shirley Vereen, Soror Deborah Washington, and Soror Lisa Williams
 - **Keeper of the Muses and Graces:** Soror Deborah Washington
 - **Convener of the Odyssey Experience:** Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson, Soror Alisha Moore (*Two (2) sorors running for the same position*)
 - **Chapter President:** Soror Sheriah Johnson by virtue of elected office
 - **Financial Secretary:** Soror Denise Livingston by virtue of elected office
 - **Technology Chair:** Soror Melanie Floyd by virtue of appointed position

Soror Sheriah Johnson named Soror Francia Tolbert as the Minerva Circle Elections Chair.

Announcements

- Annual chapter photos were taken prior to the meeting.
- Soror Angela Middleton shared that the North Georgia Black Business Alliance is asking for non-profits to join the organization for a \$150 membership. The first 50 non-profits will be listed as founding members. Individual membership is \$200.
- Soror Sheriah Johnson gave a reminder that the National President speaks for the Sorority, the regional directors speak for their region, and the chapter president speaks for her local chapter.
- Soror Georgette Riggans asked for members to support the Gainesville High School play that is appearing now.
- Congratulations to Soror Sybil Ingram! Soror Lisa Williams shared that Soror Sybil Ingram was named President of the Tennessee State University Alumni Cheerleaders for the 2024-2025 cheer season.

Adjournment

- **MOTION:** Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:31 p.m.
SECOND: Soror Wanda McRae **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: _____