

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 October Chapter Meeting
Held on Saturday, October 19, 2024

Pre-Meeting Safety Briefing: Soror Erica Glenn presented the safety briefing via PowerPoint.

Chapter Members Present: Denise Arnold, Vallorie Coley, Erica Glenn, Sheriah Johnson, Patricia Lee, Denise Livingston, Gloria Maddox, Neisee McArthur-Williams, Whitney McDowell-Robinson, Angela Middleton, Alisha Moore, Georgette Riggans, Audrey Simmons, Sheila Tabron, Francina Tolbert, 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 10:05 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 Audrey Simmons presented the Chapter Risk Management Orientation. Soror Audrey Simmons gave the October 2024 update from the National Program Planning and Development Committee that states the following: Effective November 1, 2024, the background screening for Risk Management via InfoMart will also include a federal criminal search to foster an even more comprehensive background screening process. With this additional service, an additional \$15.50 will be added to the background screening process. This will be in addition to the current \$19.50 state fee and any mandatory fees assessed by each individual state and/or county. InfoMart will provide the new fee structure. This change is consistent with the background screening required for Membership Intake.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President’s Message: Soror Sheriah Johnson reported that the following updates were presented at the September 2024 Exec Check.

- Collegiate Update: Soror Noel Seymour gave the collegiate update.
- National Finance Committee: Soror Toni Johnson, the immediate past member of the National Finance Committee, relayed that the 2024 Annual Financial Report (AFR) template is posted on the website. The AFR is due by February 28, 2025. The 2025 dues payable period is July 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024. A late fee (\$10) is applied after October 1, 2024. A reinstatement fee (\$15 or \$30) is applied after January 1, 2025. Dues must be submitted via eCheck in the Red Zone. The 2025 Corporate Fees are due by September 30, 2024. All chapters have been invoiced.

Sample Chapter Budget Timeline

MONTH	ACTION
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August	Budget requests are due to the Budget and Finance Committee from chairpersons.
September/October	The Budget and Finance Committee meets to develop and document budget recommendations for review and consideration for approval.
October/November	Budget(s) for the ensuing year (2025) are presented at the Executive Board meeting approval.
October/November	Budget(s) for the ensuing year (2025) are presented at the chapter meeting for approval.

Important Note: The 2025 Chapter Budget must be approved by November 30, 2024. If no budget is in place by January 1, 2025, the chapter will not be able to function.

- Social Action Committee: Soror Amaris Johnson presented in the absence of Soror Alfreda Coward, the chair of the committee. The Social Action team put together the “do something” initiative for the region, encouraging chapters and sorors to repost and reshare. Soror Amaris Johnson reminded sorors to go through the elections do’s and don’ts. She encouraged everyone to download the frame Fortitude on the Frontline.
- Membership Intake: Soror Bethaney Coleman Willis, the Region MI Coordinator, shared that the Membership Intake Fireside Chat is scheduled for September 24, 2024, at 8 p.m. EST. This event will help to manage expectations for membership intake.
- Advisor Roles: Soror Lessie Lyttle gave an update on advisor roles, the council, and requirements.
- Communications and Public Relations: Soror Dominga Gardner asked sorors to like, comment, and share social media communications. Use the hashtags #SRDST, DST1913, SRDOSOMETHING, and FORTITUDEONTHEFRONTLINE. Join the Southern Region Hub. There are about 500 members now. This is only for the Southern Region members (Facebook, IG, and Tik Tok). DST vote signs are available for download and printing for each state. Sorors are encouraged to take pictures and post on social media pages.
- DST2 (Developing Sisters and Dismantling Sanctions Together): A chapter that has had a disciplinary action or issue will be featured each month to help others learn preventive measures. The Tau Epsilon Chapter gave a presentation titled “Lessons in Accountability: The Journey through Adversity and Redemption.”

Soror Sheriah Johnson shared that Georgia chapters received an invitation from Soror Candace J. Delaine, the State Social Action Coordinator, regarding participation in the Voter Engagement Forum / Texas - Georgia joint webinar. The joint webinar is scheduled for October 21, 2024, at 8 p.m. – 10 p.m. EST. Soror Sheriah Johnson shared the purpose of the joint webinar, the target audience, talking points, etc. Soror Sheriah Johnson relayed the announcement about the first ever member benefits program, Delta P.E.R.K.S. The benefit will offer financial members exclusive online deals and discounts on everyday and luxury products. The service is now active and available for access from the national website.

Soror Sheriah Johnson shared that Soror Amaris Johnson, the Southern Regional Director, has given the chapter approval for membership intake.

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 35 financial chapter members. Her written report lists the names of the chapter members. The

list includes reclaimed sorors for FY 2025, and they are as follows: Soror Rita Flowers, Soror Genelda Stovall, and Soror Niviea Williams. Soror Jasmine Mays is an October birthday celebrant. Soror Denise Arnold thanked sorors who attended the **Sisterhood Worship Day** on September 29, 2024, at First Baptist on MLK. The sorors celebrated Soror Deborah Mack’s birthday on this day. The **Thanksgiving Luncheon** is scheduled for Saturday, November 16, 2024, immediately following the November chapter meeting. This is an opportunity to invite an inactive soror to attend a chapter meeting and to fellowship with members of HCAC. The luncheon is a catered, self-pay event. The cost of the luncheon for HCAC members is \$20 per person. There is no charge for non-financial sorors. Members can begin submitting their RSVP and paying via PayPal or cash after the October chapter meeting. All RSVPs and payments are requested no later than Sunday, November 3, 2024. The Membership Services Committee (MSC) invites members to participate in the annual **Reclamation Challenge**. MSC is asking each member to help reclaim at least one soror. For a soror to count as reclaimed, she must be nonfinancial for both the current and the prior fiscal year. The rules for the Reclamation Challenge are as follows:

1. Sorors who participate 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 must give the name of the HCAC member who invited her. Only the soror listed on the 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 FY 2026 by MSC. In the event of a tie, the named members of the tie will have their names entered into a drawing. The member whose name is drawn at random will be declared the contest winner.

MSC also implemented the **Joy in Our Sisterhood Award** to encourage and reward regular participation in chapter events. The awards will be presented at the May 2025 chapter meeting for those who complete the most steps in the categories: Delta Doll, Delta Diva, and Delta DEAR. The Joy in Our Sisterhood Award guidelines were distributed in the meeting and are posted on the website. Soror Denise Arnold submitted a report that is on file.

Second Vice President (Program Planning and Development): Soror Erica Glenn reported the Program Planning and Development calendar for the months of October, November, and December, which follows:

OCTOBER	
10/8/2024	EB Virtual Meeting 7 p.m.
10/19/2024	Chapter Meeting 10 a.m.
10/19/2024	Chapter Risk Management Orientation
10/19/2024	Stroll to the Polls 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
10/19/2024	Submission of Budget Requests
NOVEMBER	
11/2/2024	Impact Day
TBA	Thanksgiving Community Feed Volunteer
11/12/2024	EB Virtual Meeting 7 p.m.
11/16/2024	Chapter Meeting 10 a.m.
11/16/2024	Collection of Dues
11/16/2024	Thanksgiving Luncheon
DECEMBER	
12/14/2024	Red Kettle Campaign 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Kroger
12/10/2024	EB Virtual Meeting 7 p.m.
12/21/2024	Chapter Meeting 10 a.m.
12/21/2024	Adopt-a-Family with a Twist

Soror Erica Glenn relayed that the committee will meet on the first Tuesday of each month. Soror Erica Glenn announced that she has been promoted as an assistant poll manager. Soror Erica Glenn submitted a report that is on file.

Corresponding Secretary: Soror Deborah Washington reported that the following was received from the post office box: a postcard from Building Bridges for America with voting information, a bank statement, and a thank-you card from Soror Kenya Ficklin for expressions of kindness given during her illness and recovery.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Secretary: Soror Denise Livingston presented the financial secretary's report with general funds receipts' amounts covering the period September 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024. The report shows that there are 34 financial members for FY 2025. Soror Denise Livingston submitted a report that is on file. The report is posted on the chapter website under financial documents.

Treasurer: Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson presented the general funds account and fundraising account that included transfers, deposits, expenses, other transactions, and balances that covered the period September 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024. Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson submitted a report that is on file. The report is posted on the chapter website under financial documents.

STANDING COMMITTEES REPORTS

Budget and Finance: Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson is working on the budget and thanked everyone who submitted budgets on time. Plans are being made to meet with a bank representative concerning the certificate of deposit.

Communications and Public Relations: Soror Sheriah Johnson asked for members to send their articles for the newsletter to Soror Melanie Floyd.

Fundraising: Soror Denise Arnold said that she received an email from For Educators Only, which is an approved Delta vendor. Soror Denise Arnold reported that the Fundraising Committee carefully investigated the purse fundraiser. Soror Simone Hand created the purse fundraiser for chapters as an alternative to current fundraising options, i.e., dances, popcorn. The concept is simple. Each soror can purchase paraphernalia for herself while making money for her chapter. Soror Simone Hand confirmed that this fundraiser went out to every alumnae chapter in the organization. Since this product can only be sold to sorors and was specifically set up to be sold within a chapter. Soror Denise Arnold spoke to Soror Simone Hand about the specific challenges of smaller chapters and asked for suggestions to overcome them. Soror Hand Simone gave the following recommendations: sell the purse to inactive sorors; sell the purse to collegiate sorors; sell the purse to alumnae sorors who are not participating in the fundraiser; or increase the sales price of the purse. Pictures were shown in BANDS of the \$135 three-piece bag set. Let Soror Denise Arnold know by the end of next week if you are interested in purchasing the set for yourself. This fundraiser is not recommended by the committee nor the executive board.

MOTION: Soror Alisha Moore moved to reconsider the popcorn fundraiser for each soror amount to be a net profit amount for \$300. **SECOND:** Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson **ACTION:** Motion carried with Soror President breaking the tie of eight (8) in favor; eight (8) opposed.

Internal Audit: Soror Alisha Moore reported that the Q2 Audit covering the period April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024, for FY 2024 has been posted in the Red Zone. There were no aberrant findings. There were satisfactory financial internal controls. Soror Alisha Moore reported that the review supports the existence and utilization of internal controls. The Q3 Audit covering July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024, is due by October 31, 2024, to Soror Alisha Moore. The internal audit must be filed in Red Zone by December 1, 2024. Soror Alisha Moore submitted a report that is on file.

Nominating: Soror Patricia Lee reported that the Minerva Circle Election will take place as outlined on the agenda.

Social Action/Political Awareness and Involvement: Soror Erica Glenn reported that Stroll to the Polls is in conjunction with the D9 Coalition is today, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Gainesville Civic Center voting precinct. Be on the lookout in BANDS for opportunities for phone banking or text banking through Fair Fight Georgia. Members of the committee have been attending community meetings with the Newtown Florist Club, Fair Fight Georgia, and other non-partisan organizations to ensure that our communities are informed on all 2024 community and faith-based voter engagement events. The chapter will adopt the Fair Street Voting Precinct on Election Day. Details are forthcoming. Soror Erica Glenn is waiting on details from the Hall County Election Board to provide clarity on what the chapter can and cannot do. Notify Soror erica Glenn if you are volunteering with organizations' phone banking, voter registrations or canvassing. The committee will include your Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts in Social Action Committee report. A list of GOTV opportunities were noted. Chapter members will receive the Delta yard sign after the meeting today. Soror Erica Glenn submitted a report that is on file.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Elections: Soror Francia Tolbert, the Elections Committee Chair for this election, read the Administrative Procedures for Membership Intake for 2024 – 2025 as follows:

- The election of the Minerva Circle is by secret ballot and members of the Minerva Circle are determined by a majority vote of chapter members present and voting.
- The newly elected Minerva Circle will meet to determine which Jewel positions the members elected as a Jewel will represent during the Membership Intake Process.

Soror Francia Tolbert conducted the Minerva Circle Election via Election Runner. The Minerva Circle Election resulted in the following:

Minerva Circle via Election

Position	Name	Votes (Yes - No - Abstain)
Convener of the Odyssey Experience	Alisha Moore ✓	9 – 8 – 0
Convener of the Odyssey Experience	Whitney McDowell-Robinson	8 – 8 – 1
Keeper of the Muses and Graces	Deborah Washington	14 – 3 – 0
Jewel	Vallorie Coley	17 – 0 – 0
Jewel	Erica Glenn	17 – 0 – 0
Jewel	Whitney McDowell-Robinson	17 – 0 – 0
Jewel	Alisha Moore	15 – 2 – 0
Jewel	Audrey Simmons	17 – 0 – 0
Jewel	Shirley Vereen	17 – 0 – 0
Jewel	Deborah Washington	17 – 0 – 0
Jewel	Lisa Williams	16 – 1 – 0

Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business.

New Business

- There was no unfinished business.

Announcement

- The Tau Eta Chapter will have its Induction Ceremony today at 3 p.m. The ceremony will be held in the Jacobs Building on the campus of Brenau University.

Adjournment

- **MOTION:** Soror Deborah Washington moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:48 p.m. **SECOND:** Soror Patricia Lee **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: _____

