

**HALL COUNTY ALUMNAE CHAPTER**  
**Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.**  
**Meeting via Zoom**  
**Minutes of the January Executive Board Meeting**  
**Held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025**

**Attendance:** Denise Arnold, Vallorie Coley, Melanie Floyd, Erica Glenn, Sheriah Johnson, B. Denise Livingston, Whitney McDowell-Robinson, 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 7:04 p.m.

**Meditation:** Soror Deborah Washington gave the meditation.

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

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

**OFFICERS REPORTS**

**President's Message:** Soror Sheriah Johnson gave an update from the **Exec Check of December 17, 2024**, as follows:

- **Collegiate Updates:** Soror Noel Seymour gave the collegiate updates.
- **Regional Update:** Soror Amaris Johnson gave a reminder about cluster dates and instructions on how to get on the waitlist. Plans are to clear the waitlist within the next two weeks. Advisor training links have been emailed. Soror Amaris Johnson answered questions about expired certifications and reading the notes at the top of the registration to know how she will prioritize the approvals.
- **National Finance Committee:** Soror Chante Obazee relayed as far as the 2025 dues, we are entering the reinstatement fee period, which is \$15 or \$30 after January 1, 2025. Dues are to be submitted via eCheck in the Red Zone. If a 2025 budget is not in place, any funds disbursed after January 1, 2025, would be deemed unauthorized funds. The 2024 Annual Financial Report (AFR) template is on the website. It is due by February 28, 2025. Any questions concerning the AFR should be sent via email to Soror Chante Obazee. The following items are located in the Members Only Area: chapter treasurer's reports, including budgets; internal audit reports; financial secretary's reports; and the membership directory/roster.
- **Protocol and Traditions:** Soror Daphne Monix Higgins reported that Founders Day is around the corner. The committee is available to help chapters to not only plan for Founders Day, but other chapter events, which would include preparing for Delta dignitaries and other special guests. The Georgia contact person is Soror Elenor Rene Lovelace.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Soror Iris Stover shared that the awards and recognitions application is open. All applications must be submitted by December 23, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. Submissions should be for program and activities from the 2023-2024 sorority year. Things to remember when applying are to understand the award criteria, to articulate programs goals and objectives, to provide quantifiable outcomes, to highlight social action component, and to emphasize how program/activity aligns with the strategic plan.

- Advisor Coordinator Team: Soror Denise Gregory gave a reminder that the team serves as the liaison between the regional and state leadership teams and the collegiate chapter advisors. There should be one email address for the advisor council that all advisors have access to. The Advisor Coordinator Team will have regularly scheduled advisor town hall meetings. A new initiative that Soror Amaris Johnson asked the team to implement was a call with university officials, so the officials understand Delta concerns and the requirements of Delta colleges.
- Communications and Public Relations: Soror Dominga Gardner reported that she has received several emails from sorors expressing that they are not getting emails. She noted that if you hit the unsubscribe button, that unsubscribes you for all communications from the region. Please do not unsubscribe, simply delete and move on. To prevent bounced emails, make sure to add [dstsouthernregion.com](mailto:dstsouthernregion.com) domain to your Whitelist or Safe Sender List for your email account.
- Social Action: Soror Alfreda Coward asked for sorors to save the date for DDAC 2025 in Georgia, which is March 2-3, 2025. She reminded chapter presidents to update the chapter's Social Action Chair information.
- National Communications and Updates: The 'Tis the Season' fiscal compliance webinar email was sent on December 10, 2024, and is held today. The Delta Red Carpet notice was sent out in November. The webinar will be held on December 19, 2024. PP&D December updates were sent on December 5, 2024. The 2025 Call for Nominations was sent on December 6, 2024. The webinar will be on January 5, 2025. The Collegiate Summit information was sent on December 2, 2024, and will be held on March 20-21, 2025. The Six Triple Eight webinar will be Thursday, December 19, 2024.
- 2025 National Nominating Committee: Soror Katrina Myrics put a call out to the Southern Region members to register for open positions. She is looking for colleges to run for office. They should reach out to the committee for assistance. The next webinar for the 2025 Call for Nominations is scheduled for January 5, 2025. Please register for it.

Soror Amaris Johnson wanted to address something that was trending on social media, which was the Sticky Challenge trending on Tik Tok. She shared that when you put it out there on the internet, it is public information. She asked if sorors think it is a good representation of our organization. She questioned how do we get to the place where one person creates this trend, and there is no counter message to it. Soror Amaris Johnson also questioned how did we get here. There was an open discussion with sorors on the call. Soror Amaris Johnson reminded sorors of the rules of the organization, representation of our brand on the internet, and the risk and impact to our organization. She noted that risks are being placed on the organization when we are not mindful of our individual actions. When we talk about sponsorships and internships, this impacts our brand reputation. She shared that we are a 60 million dollar organization, and the privilege of the brand that we are allowed to wear can be revoked at any time.

**Please note that all Exec Check recordings are emailed to chapter members.**

After the Exec Check report, Soror Sheriah Johnson shared information about the Divine Nine Joint Founders Day Observance at St. John Baptist Church with the AKAs and the Zetas that is scheduled for Sunday, January 19, 2025. The Executive Board members shared their thoughts concerning the event. Afterwards, the following motion was made.

**MOTION:** Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson moved to pass on the opportunity to attend the Divine Nine Joint Founders Day Observance and for Soror Sheriah Johnson to relay to the AKAs and Zetas to

make sure all groups are represented in the planning of combined events. **SECOND:** Soror Vallorie Coley  
**ACTION:** Motion carried seven (7) in favor; Zero (0) opposed.

The Executive Committee meeting to be held after the Executive Board meeting was cancelled.

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

**First Vice President/Membership Services (Hospitality and Courtesies):** Soror Denise Arnold thanked everyone for attending the Founders Day dinner. She reminded sorors that Sisterhood Month is approaching and to submit recommendations for the month by February 15, 2025, to [firstvp@hallcountydstd.org](mailto:firstvp@hallcountydstd.org). Committee chairs need to submit committee meeting logs also.

**Second Vice President/Program Planning and Development:** Soror Erica Glenn reviewed the chapter calendar for upcoming activities, i.e., Stepping Soror; scholarship applications; Go Red for Women; Georgia State Cluster; patronize Black businesses; Healthy Mind, Body and Spirit; and 286 items collected for Santa's helpers. The chapter raised \$270.66 for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. Soror Erica Glenn stated that the PP&D Committee met on January 28, 2025. She is asking for chapter members to sign up for at least two committees.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Soror Deborah Washington reported that the following items were received from the chapter's post office box: two South State Bank statements, \$50 donation for HCAC fundraiser from Soror Madlyn, \$150 from Soror Sue Davis-Westmoreland for popcorn sale, \$300 from Soror Deborah Mack for popcorn donation, a thank-you card from the Senior Life Center for the donations of senior supplies, and correspondence concerning the Community Uplift Foundation Scholarship Brunch. Soror Sheriah Johnson read the letter from the foundation, which asked for the purchase of a sponsorship. After discussions were held, the following occurred.

**MOTION:** Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson moved to pass on the sponsorship opportunity and to share the information at the chapter meeting for individual sorors to consider participation. **SECOND:** Soror Denise Livingston **ACTION:** Motion carried with seven (7) in favor; zero (0) opposed.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

**Financial Secretary:** Soror Denise Livingston presented the financial secretary's report covering the period December 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024, which shows the general funds receipts for the current month and the year-to-date total receipts. The report shows that there are 36 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. Soror Denise Livingston asked for members to update their personal information in the Red Zone.

**Treasurer:** Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson presented the general funds account and fundraising account. The report shows deposits, transfers, expenses, balances, and restricted funds that cover the period December 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024. The CD investment account was noted as well. 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

**Arts and Letters:** Soror Melanie Floyd shared that the committee is recommending for members to attend the following event during February for Black History Month:

- Genealogic Research from Afro-American Historical Society (AAHS): AAHS members present their current research and share how individuals can conduct genealogy and what methods to use if encountering a roadblock in current search. The event will take place on February 20, 2025, at 7 p.m. at the Post Road Library in Forsyth County.
- 1912 The Forsyth County Expulsion and Its Aftermath: In 1912, over 1000 Black residents were “expelled” from Forsyth County through fear and intimidation. Sophia Dodd, a digital storytelling production research manager at the Atlanta History Center, will take attendees on a deep dive into a personal story that changed the landscape of North Georgia forever. The event will take place on February 22, 2025, 2 p.m. at the Cumming Library.
- An Afternoon of Jazz with Dwan Bosman: Saxophonist Dwan Bosman will host a live jazz concert featuring the music of Charles Parker and Miles Davis. The event will be held on February 23, 2025, at 2 p.m. The event will be held at the Sharon Forks Library in Forsyth, Georgia.
- The 3rd Annual Gainesville Hall County Black History Society Gala Dinner: The themed “Taste of the Southside” event will take place on February 22, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Gainesville Civic Center. This is a black tie event. The cost is \$75.

Soror Melanie Floyd relayed that the intent is to engage with the communities we serve. Members are asked to consider attending events as a group wearing paraphernalia and prepare to introduce themselves as HCAC members.

Soror Melanie Floyd submitted a report that is on file.

**Emergency Response Team:** Soror Melanie Floyd shared ways members and their families can stay warm on a budget, which are to drink warm liquids like broth, hot chocolate or herbal tea; avoid caffeine and alcohol for they constrict blood vessels, which makes it harder for warm blood to circulate; keep heat in rooms that are being used by closing doors to empty rooms; push rolled towels under the doors to block drafts; open blinds on south-facing windows to capture sunlight and close them at night to keep the heat in; optimize ceiling fans by reversing ceiling fans to the clockwise direction. This helps to push hot air down and is especially useful if one is using a fireplace or other source of wood heat. Soror Melanie Floyd also noted that the Farwest Region is collecting donations for sorors and members impacted by the recent fires in Los Angeles. Donated funds will support members of DST who have been affected by the 2025 Los Angeles wildfires. The link is <https://bit.ly/FarwestReliefFund>.

Soror Melanie Floyd submitted a report that is on file.

**Fundraising:** Soror Denise Arnold stated that she will give a final fundraising report at the January 2025 chapter meeting.

**Policies and Procedures:** Soror Vallorie Coley reported that all documents pertaining to the chapter policies and procedures, i.e., the timeline for updates and approvals, the 2023 Chapter Policies and Procedures, 2023 Rules of Order, the 2023 P&P and ROOF Approval Letter, and the amendment form are posted on the chapter’s website. Proposed amendments were due on December 21, 2024. The date was extended to January 7, 2025. The committee will meet on January 22, 2025, to begin the group’s review of the submitted proposed amendments. She thanked everyone who has submitted suggested amendments.

Soror Vallorie Coley submitted a report that is on file.

**Social Action/Political Awareness and Involvement:** Soror Erica Glenn reported that the MLK March will be held on January 18, 2025. The program is scheduled for January 19, 2025. Rev. Rose Johnson will be the keynote speaker. The event will be live on Facebook.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Minerva Circle:** Soror Denise Arnold reported that the Rush flyer is posted. The Rush is scheduled for Sunday, January 19, 2025, at the Gainesville High School HUB at 3 p.m. A call meeting was held on January 3, 2025, to approve the membership intake budget.

**Unfinished Business**

- There was no unfinished business.

**New Business**

- There was no new business.

**Announcement**

- There were no announcements.

**Adjournment**

- **MOTION:** Soror Whitney McDowell-Robinson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.  
**SECOND:** Soror Deborah Washington **ACTION:** Motion carried with no opposition.

Respectfully submitted,

*Vallorie Coley*

Vallorie Coley, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:

*Sheriah Johnson*

Sheriah Johnson, President

DATE:

2/11/2025