

**Gastonia Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Chapter Meeting Minutes~April 8, 2021~ 6:30pm
Zoom Meeting**

Ritualistic Opening-Sorors Pettiford and Gibson

A quorum was present

Call to Order Adoption of Agenda: Motion to adopt the agenda made by Soror Richardson; seconded by Soror Ballard. Motion carried with a vote of 46.

Motion to adopt the March Chapter meeting, March Executive Board meeting with the addendum to the Chapter meeting minutes of the spelling of DREF, eliminate T and culminating spelling made by Soror Sido; seconded by Soror Worthy. Motion carried with a vote of 46.

COMMUNICATIONS

Local- Soror Richardson

- The Community Run 2021 will be April 21st. The last day to turn in money so it will count for the Academy & GEMS girls will be April 23rd by 5pm.
<https://www.cfgaston.org/default.aspx>
- The Concord Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma theta Sorority, Inc. plans to commemorate their 30-year milestone of achievement by including a three-day virtual celebration beginning on **Friday, April 23, 2021 and concluding with worship service on Sunday, April 25, 2021**. Please see Soror President for more information.
- The Sorors of the Durham Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated are excited to extend a warm-hearted invitation for you to attend our virtual three-night revival which is called **“Nine Pearls of Promise, 2021: The Revival.”** This Christ centered, soul stirring, virtual three-night event is coming soon!!! It will feature nine different Delta preachers representing eight different chapters within our region. Each preacher’s sermon will focus upon one of our Nine Cardinal Virtues. **The worship service will begin at 7 o’clock each night. The dates are Monday, April 26, Tuesday, April 27 and concluding on Wednesday, April 28, 2021.** Please see Soror President for more information.
- The Brothers and Quettes of Pi Phi Chapter are excited about hosting the 76th Annual Sixth District Meeting in Charlotte, NC on **April 22nd - April 25th, 2021** in Uptown Charlotte, NC. They are enlisting our support and cooperation by asking us to place a chapter or personal advertisement that will appear in the Souvenir Booklet.

National/Regional/Local-Soror Pettiford

National:

- Nationals has decided the \$10 late fee and the \$15 and \$30 reinstatement fees will be waived for the 2021-2022 sorority year. The waiver of the fees is only applicable for 2021-2022 dues that have not yet been paid.
- There will be a Red Zone training session on Tuesday April 20th and 27th @ 7:30pm. This training is for Chapter Presidents, Treasurers and Internal Audit Chairs must attend.

- Scholarship & Seed Grant Application -Due April 16th
- SA, Policies and Procedures S&S Hotline session for Presidents and Policies and Procedures Committee Chairs/co-chairs-April 12 @ 7:30pm
- National Call to Convention Conference: May 1. **Registration to open June 1.** It will be a hybrid convention (virtual and in person). There will be some vendors on site and virtual.
- Delta Days at the Nation's Capital-April 23 – 25. Project HERS – May 21 – 22

Regional:

- Williamsburg Alumnae Chapter's Mother's Day Raffle: Tickets are available until May 1, 2021. See Soror President for more information.

Local:

- The Highland Community Garden is being updated. Cost to buy a plot will be discounted. Contact Carlie @ 704-869-1008 for more information.

Chapter Officer Reports

Financial Secretary-Soror Frierson

- Submitted for information only
- Soror Frierson will mail receipts to Sorors and she will be reimbursed from the Chapter for the stamp purchases

Treasurer-Soror Walker

- Submitted for information only
- Disbursements for March: Founders Day, Courtesy, and Dues. Checks written for two Scholarships & Education
- Motion to add a line item of \$100.00 each to the budget for contribution to the African American Museum and Gaston County Community Concerns was made by Soror Reynolds; seconded by Soror Waddell. Motion carried with a vote of 46.
- Finalized Budget for 2021-2022 year will be voted on at the May Chapter meeting.

Membership Services-Soror Gibson

- None
- Membership Services Committee will meet to discuss May Week activities.

Committee Reports-5 min each, please

NOTE: Committee Reports need to be submitted prior to the Executive Board meetings each month.

Arts & Letters- Soror Green

- Here are 5 Reasons YOU should read every single day for 15 to 20 minutes.
 - 52 **Reading Improves Brain Function:** A person who reads everyday gets better at it over time. Not surprisingly, daily readers also gain more enjoyment from it than those that read less often. It can even improve memory and critical thinking skills. And activities like reading have been linked to a lower risk of **Alzheimer's disease**.(Alls)\$
 - 62 **Reading Reduces Stress:** Modern life is stressful - period. Reading may reduce stress more than walking, listening to music or playing games. When people read a really engrossing book it actively engages their imagination, which in turn distracts from daily stresses (at least for a little while).\$

- 72 **Reading Can Improve Your State of Mind:** People who are well read tend to be more empathetic and have higher self-esteem. When we read about other people it introduces the idea that people are human. We're all different, we have flaws, things are not always perfect and that's okay.\$
- 82 **Reading Improves Overall Wellness:** Spending 30 minutes a day reading a good book does a body good (and burns calories - who knew?). People who read daily may live longer. And reading before bed can help improve sleep. Just try not to stay up all night reading unless you have zero obligations the next day.\$
- 92 **Reading Aloud to Children Has a Lasting Impact:** Reading aloud to children from day one is incredibly important. And making it part of the daily routine helps children to cultivate good reading habits and a love of reading. It can have a lasting impact on a child's life. These children tend to have higher vocabularies and often become frequent readers themselves.\$
- Our Book Club meeting met on this past Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 6:30pm. We discussed the first 150 pages of our new book from Terry McMillan called **"WHO ASKED YOU" where there are over 15 characters and if you like Terry McMillan, this book is for you! This book will make you appreciate your Grandparents, your Mother, your siblings, and on and on.**
 - **Our next Book club Meeting to discuss the ending of the book will be April 22, 2021 at 6:30pm**
 - **Our next Arts & Letters Meeting will be this Thursday April 1, 2021 at 6:30pm.**
 - Sorors we are also asking that when you exercise by walking or jogging, send us the total number of miles, etc and we will keep up with this. So every Sunday, send us how many miles you walk, so keep your fitbit charged.
 - **Programs and Documentaries to Watch:**
 1. Mahalia, the story of Mahalia Jackson, comes on April 3, 2021 on Lifetime at 8pm
 2. Watch The Black Church this is our story, The Roots of Black Religion, with Soror Vashti Murphy McKenzie on WNSC channel 15.
 3. The Black Messiah HBO Max
 4. Billie Holiday: with Soror Andre Day on HULU
 5. RESPECT starring Soror Aretha Franklin aired Sunday March 21, 2021 at 9pm on National Geographic Channel
 6. Coming to America 2 -Netflix
 - Lastly, Sorors please send us your book recommendations and keep exercising walking , swimming and reading and join us even if you have not read our new book.

College Day-Soror Brewer

- The college day committee hosted our College Day Fair, virtually, on Saturday, March 27, 2021 at 11:00am. The fair was very informative as we had two awesome presenters. The first presenter was Soror Lisa Brooks. Soror Brooks presented on

SAT/ACT Prep. She talked about scoring, dates and deadlines, college admission, encouraged students to speak with their counselors, tips on preparing for testing, and provided websites for parents and students to visit in preparing to take the SAT/ACT. She also went into debt to talk about average scores for different North Carolina universities and minimum requirements.

- Our next presenter was Ms. Natesha McMillon who is the CEO for H.E.L.P (Higher Education Literacy Provider). She is also a Financial Aid adviser at Saint-Augustine's University. Ms. McMillon also did an awesome presentation on scholarships and grants, loan forgiveness such as teacher loan forgiveness, public service loan forgiveness, income-driven repayment plans, income contingent plans, federal plus loans, and private loans. She also talked about financial aid, the process of financial aid and the importance of creating a CFNC account.
- Parents and participants had an opportunity to ask questions at the end. Ms. McMillon also informed us about other workshops she will be hosting in the near future to educate our parents and youth, especially in the African American community.
- The college day fair was a huge success as both presenters did a phenomenal job!
- College Day Part 2 will be April 24, 2021 at 11am

Dance- Soror Reynolds

- Met to discuss 2022 Dance ideas-Follow up with venues for event, date: February 12, 2022-Save The Date
- Save the date to chapter once cleared by Nationals
- Confirm DJ and confirm theme

Delta Academy & Gems- Soror Knight & Brewer

- Our monthly meeting and workshop took place on Saturday, March 20th via Zoom. Thank you Soro Ford from the technology committee. We had a total of 19 participants including Sorors.
- Soror Coley shared the presentation of some of our young ladies' video presentations on notable African American Women. These ladies did a phenomenal job and we thank Soror Coley for putting it all together.
- Soror Gibson conducted our March workshop on "Emergency Preparedness". Soror Gibson shared her powerpoint that included vital information needed to prepare for natural or man-made disasters and emergencies. The presentation was interactive and the girls left with a wealth of information. Thank you Soror Gibson for the informative presentation!
- The girls were reminded about the College Fair Saturday, March 27th @ 11:00 a.m.
- The next workshop will be held Saturday, April 17th @ 10 a.m. - Topic: Mental Health/ About our best health. We asked our girls to use their journal to reflect on how this past year has impacted their "mental well being". Soror Frierson will assist us with this workshop.
- The committee will meet on Thursday, March 25th to plan the close out program for May along with our graduate recognitions.

- **IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Sorors please remember to support our Academy & GEMS by making donations to the Community Run 2021- under the name of “Delta Research and Educational Foundation” (DREF). Registration is now open. You can also register to be a virtual runner.

<https://www.cfgaston.org/default.aspx>

Education- Soror Burris

- Bracelets were delivered to 30 students with a note attached. We are preparing the April activity. There is currently someone working to create journals that will be delivered in April.
- Currently planning the May activity which is an end of school year party.

Heritage & Archives- Soror Perkins

- Former GAC President Reports from Nationals: Lisa Reynolds updated the committee on 02/08/21 via email indicating that she had contacted Nationals by email and calls/voicemail messages; Still no response from Nationals.
- Letter & Journal Entry Booklets: Mailed/sent by Soror Perkins in February; Packet received from Past President Soror Marilyn Green; Soror Renee Knight will put the information from Soror Green into the provided template (just received the packet on 03/21/21); Sorors have been assigned to check with the past presidents who have not submitted a packet. Deadline is 03/31/21.
- Membership Intake Survey: Soror Horton will create a membership intake survey to be sent out to Sorors seeking information regarding the GAC lines who were initiated into GAC since 1980; Survey to be discussed at April chapter meeting.
- Project Completion: Committee members will organize the packets and type information received throughout the summer and Fall of 2021; Tentative Due Date for Project Completion: February 2022 (by the chapter's 68th anniversary)
- Soror Reynolds will continue to reach out to Nationals to seek GAC's annual president's/chapter's reports.
- Committee members have been assigned several Past Presidents whom they will reach out to regarding the submission of their president's packets (which are due on 03/31/21).
- Soror Horton will develop the GAC Membership Intake survey before the April chapter meeting.
- Committee members will organize and write materials for the booklet over the summer/fall with a tentative deadline for publication of February 2022 (by the chapter's 68th anniversary).
- Completing the GAC History Project (since 1980) will begin by sending journals to collect information from the following past Chapter Presidents: Brenda Boyce (1980; 2003-2005); Anne Robinson (1981- 1983); Ann Corry/Deceased (1983-1985); Johnsie Richardson (1985-1987; 2001-2003); Lillian Pryor-Williams (1987-1989); Dorothy Dingle (1989-1991; 1999-2001; 2005-2007); Barbara McClain (1991-1993); Jane Patrick (1993-1995); Michelle Mills (1995-1997); Dorothy

Chambers/Deceased (1997-1999); Barbara Tate (2007-2009); Donyel Barber (2009-2011 & 2011-2013); Marilyn Ashford Green (2013-2015 & 2015-2017); Tequel Hager (2017-2019 & 2019-2020)

Social Action-Soror Williams

- The Social Action Committee requests the Gastonia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated to participate in volunteering with the Gaston County Backpack Weekend Food Program. This program feeds children on the weekends during the school year from September through April. Initially, the Social Action Committee suggests our Chapter volunteer in the two months of October 2021 and April 2022 at the warehouse of the Program to receive the monthly foods, pull food orders and distribute to Program Partners who will deliver the foods to the various schools. Motion made by Soror Williams to participate. Motion carried with a vote of 35.
- This program feeds approximately 900 students a year who otherwise may not have enough food at home to eat during the weekends. Ensuring that children are eating healthy on the weekends during the school year enables them to be better prepared for learning on Monday mornings. The Social Action Committee will also explore Sponsoring A Child with the Backpack Weekend Program which consists of directing a donation of \$350 to help feed a child or children for an entire school year. Unspent money the committee had will be used to fund this initiative.
- Planning stages for a coalition to help with the distribution of the vaccine are in the works.
- The virtual 32nd Annual Delta Days in the Nation's Capital presents Power in Our Voice: Policy... Advocacy... Good Trouble April 23rd-25th

Technology-Soror Bowden

- Submit zoom meeting request and flyer request at least two weeks before the meeting/event. There is no guarantee late request will be honored.
- New Technology alignments will be presented to the Chapter in May for the upcoming fiscal year.
- Website is up and running, please visit.

Nominating Committee- Soror Leach

- The slate of Chapter officers and positions were presented and the floor was opened for nomination:
 - President-**Soror Yolanda Burris nominated Soror Lisa Reynolds and she accepted**
Michelle Pettiford
Lisa Reynolds
- Vice President-**No nominations from the floor**
Deardre Gibson

- Renee Knight
 - Recording Secretary-**No nominations from the floor**
Treva Johnson
 - Corresponding Secretary-**No nominations from the floor**
Karita Duggins
Wanda Grier
 - Financial Secretary-**No nominations from the floor**
Dawn Maxwell
 - Treasurer-**No nominations from the floor**
Yolanda Burris
 - Internal Audit Chairperson-**No nominations from the floor**
Johnsie Richardson
 - Nominating Chairperson-**No nominations from the floor**
Africa Otis
 - Nominating Committee Members (Vote for 4 Members)-**No nominations from the floor**
Tega Crawford
Rekita McDuffie
Angela Wilson
Betty Worthy
- The names presented from the floor, the committee will get together with the financial team to ensure that the Soror is eligible and to verify that they meet the criteria. If names are given, the slate will be presented at the Executive Board Meeting and then to the Elections Committee.

Election Committee-Soror Green

- The 2021-2023 Election process will take place after the Opening Ceremony at our May 13, 2021 Chapter Meeting on Zoom. Immediately following the ritualistic opening, Voting will begin at approximately 7:00 pm. Voting will close promptly at 7:30 pm. NO ballots will be accepted after the voting window closes!
- Sorors: **The Election Committee will use Election Runner** for the electronic voting process.

MOCK ELECTION

- You will receive mock voting instructions from Soror Adrienne Perkins on Monday April 12, 2021. We will send out a mock election ballot on April 15, 2021 to the email addresses on file with the chapter. If you have had any changes to your emails, please send them to us to Soror Adrienne Perkins (email to adriennebperkins@gmail.com or text to 704-466-8779), immediately as we do not want to leave anyone out when it is time to vote. The mock election will run

from April 15, 2021 - April 22, 2021. If you have not received a ballot via email by April 16, 2021, please check your Spam folder. If it is not in there. Please contact Soror A. Perkins via text message to 704-466-8779 or via email to adriennebperkins@gmail.com.

VOTING PROCESS FOR DEARS

- We have **2 Members/Dears** with emails that are either not working and/or they are unable to adequately access technology. These Sorors will receive letters via US mail (mailed by April 13, 2021), informing them about the Election process, time and date. An Elections slate including names, positions desired, and a photo will be sent with the letters. Soror Robin Worthy's Leach contact /cell number as Chair of Nominating Committee will be sent so that she may answer any questions. In addition, they will receive information about participating in the Mock Election from April 15th - 22nd.

The Dears/Members who have email but still may not be able to vote due to location (nursing homes assisted living facilities) or technology issues are below:

1. Helen Love
2. Barbara McClain

- This same information mailed to the Dears via U.S. mail will be emailed to **ALL** Members/Sorors (including the Dears) to the email address on file with the chapter, on April 13, 2021 (30 days before Election Day). **NOTE: ALL Sorors (including our Delta Dears) must have active email addresses and be present at the May Chapter Meeting on Zoom in order to vote.**

ELECTION NIGHT/CHAPTER MEETING

At the May Meeting (on Election Night):

- Pictures of each candidate, and the position they are running for will be shown on the screen (document will be the same as the election slate that is mailed to the Delta Dears). An Elections Committee member will read the candidate's name and position that they are running for.
- An Elections Committee member will quickly review the procedures for voting using Election Runner (same information that will be mailed/emailed).

How to vote:

- To vote at the May Chapter meeting on Election Runner, Sorors **MUST** have their first and last names displayed and their camera on.
- An Election Committee member will launch the Election Runner ballot which will send an email to each Soror present at the meeting (Again, to be sent a ballot/vote, your camera must be on with your first and last names displayed).

- In case of a tie, Sorors (including Dears) will follow the same voting procedure, i.e., re-launching the Election Runner software for members to vote again - only on the position(s) for which there is a tie.
- At the end of the voting process, Elections Committee members (Faye, Adrienne and Marilyn) will enter a Zoom breakout room to obtain & process the results.
- The Chair of Elections will announce the Sorors who got the majority vote and the Chair announces the winner.
- The Chair will ask for a motion to accept the results of the Election Committee. Members/Sorors will vote to accept the motion.

Unfinished Business

- Soror Hilliard discussed that a monetary gift of \$300.00 should be sent to the Regional Director Soror Johnson who spoke at our Founders Day program in January. The budget for Founders Day was \$100.00. A corsage was gifted to Soror Johnson during Founders Day and was reimbursed to Soror Werts. The \$300.00 will be taken from the Regional/National Gift line item from the budget.

New Business:

- Scholarship application for 2021 was received after the Executive Board meeting. The applicant will be attending NC A&T in the Fall. An informal interview has been scheduled with the candidate Tuesday April 13th at 6:30 pm.
- Links Incorporated-Piedmont Chapter has a scholarship that is due May 1st. There is also a book award for any student currently in college.
- Audit papers need to be worked on after the March reconciliations are completed. So the next quarter can be completed.
- Business Attire and Guidelines must be followed for the May meeting in order to attend.
- Soror Ann Miller's Birthday is May 13th. She is the only chartered member. Soror Hilliard and Soror Williams will discuss this matter for a drive-by celebration.

Announcements:

- The Policy & Procedure Committee will meet April 14, 2021 at 6pm.
- On April 15, 2021, The City of Gastonia will officially cut the ribbon to Fuse District Stadium on East Franklin Street. The ballpark will be home to the Gastonia Honey Hunters, the newest minor league baseball team in the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball.
- On April 17, 2021, from 3pm-6pm there will be a Community Day at the Fuse District Stadium. You will be able to tour the ballpark and play games.
- On April 17, 2021 at 2:30pm the Epsilon Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi will have a probate at their new building on N. Highland Street.
- Soror Duggins thanked the Chapter for the prayers and reaching out in regards to her daughter. She gave us an update on her prognosis.

Motion made to adjourn made by Soror Williams; seconded by Soror Maxwell. Motion Carried with 36 votes.

Adjournment: 9:06 p.m.

Ritualistic Closing

Present:

Michelle Pettiford

Deardre Gibson

Treva Johnson

Johnsie Richardson

Andrea Frierson
LaShannda Walker
Yolanda Burris
Lisa Reynolds
Faye Harris
Karita Duggins
Wanda Grier
Marilyn Green
Lillian Williams
Priscilla Brewer
Williette Herring
Joylette Hillard McCray
Cherie Feemster
Jennifer Joyner
Robin Leach
Tabatha Lynch
Dawn Maxwell
Betty Worthy
Mary Connor
Katrina Corbett
Tega Crawford
Tameka Dunlap
Romilda Glasgow
Valerie Waddell
Kandice Horton
Renee Knight
Cheryl Perkins
Elizabeth Sido
Denika Wallace
Adrienne Perkins
Sherry Smith
Donyel Barber
Deb Bowden
Brenda Boyce
Renee Davis
Africa Otis
Wanda Reid
Betty Werts
Angela Wilson

GAC Sorors:
Jamie Brooks
Tasha McCluney