

**Gastonia Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Chapter Meeting Minutes~February 11, 2021~ 6:32pm
Zoom Meeting**

Ritualistic Opening-Sorors Pettiford and Gibson

A quorum was present

Call to Order Adoption of Agenda: Motion to adopt the agenda with the addendum of Social Action and Physical and Mental Health report made by Soror Richardson; seconded by Soror Worthy. Motion carried with a vote of 38.

Motion to adopt the February Executive Board meeting minutes and January Chapter meeting minutes made by Soror Harris; seconded by Soror Green. Motion carried with a vote of 35.

COMMUNICATIONS

Local- Soror Richardson

- None

National/Regional/Local-Soror Pettiford

National:

- Operating in a COVID environment the September 4, 2020, directive from the National President remains in effect. While the sorority cannot control personal lives, if you gather under the auspices of Delta, such gatherings are prohibited and if continually ignored, could result in sanctions. Please follow the directive.
- While chapters may use any merchant account of their choice, there is a caveat; it must be an approved business account, not a peer to peer account (reference Fiscal Officers Manual). Peer to peer accounts are those such as Cash App, Venmo, and Zelle and are not backed by banks so there is no recourse if a mistake is made sending money. Approved accounts such as PayPal, Stripe, and Eventbrite are connected to banks.
- Metamucil is offering a two-week challenge to individuals in support of HBCUs. Through the HBCU and Divine 9 Challenge, Metamucil will donate up to \$10,000 in scholarship funds to the schools and Greek organizations with the most sign ups
- If interested, sign up at <https://www.metamucil.com/en-us/two-week-challenge>. Select your HBCU or Divine 9 affiliation when you register. Sign-ups will be open through 2/28/2021. Winners will be announced on March 27 during the NAACP Image Awards on BET.

Regional:

- Presidents' Roundtable was held on February 4, 2021
- Thirty-four chapters have been approved for membership intake. Continue sharing what chapters are doing, which may be used to create some type of memory book. Thank you to all who have invited the Regional Director and Representative to attend your events. The Regional Director recognized several chapters for their creative programming during the pandemic.
- Proposed Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws: There are 74 recommended amendments. The Amendments will be highlighted over the next couple of Chapter meetings. Reference 1: Definition of legacy returning to original intent.

Reference 3: Change to requirements for alumnae primary residence that addresses persons in areas not in any chapter's service area (small towns). Reference 9: P & P Rules of Order formalized as operating agreement requiring approval. Reference 56: Eligibility for local office. Makes it clear it cannot exceed what is required by the Grand Chapter. Soror Johnson noted that sometimes chapters, given smaller sizes, may be creating difficulty for the chapter with some eligibility requirements creating situations where few are eligible to seek office.

- Dues are to be paid and submitted to National Headquarters (not earlier than February 22, 2021). Please ensure fiscal officers are familiar with this information.
- Soror Johnson reemphasized that all in person activity is prohibited. When something in our region is brought to her attention, the protocol is that the chapter is contacted and asked to remove it. If the request continues to be disregarded and/or repeat offenses occur, she will be compelled to move to the Code of Conduct to pursue appropriate action. We must adhere to what the National President has directed. Thanks to those who are complying with the September 4, 2020, directive. Anything prior to that is not covered. When posting, if it is of an event that occurred prior to the directive, including a reference date would be prudent. Contactless drive by is still acceptable.
- Soror Johnson advised chapters to be careful of what is shared on social media as it may be misinterpreted. Suggested that the state presidents' monthly meetings might be the best venue for sharing such ideas.
- Many have seen the notice from Korea about a raffle in which the prize is the payment of dues. Soror Johnson spoke to National Finance and we are not permitted to hold raffles to pay dues. Chapters must also not include chapter members as eligible to win prizes when it presents a conflict of interest. An acceptable option would be to have money as the prize. The laws in your state should be consulted, particularly when awarding money is involved. In general, chapters should also give thought to how to get prizes to people in a way that does not delay the awards, especially when services such as the mail face delivery issues in this pandemic environment.
- **Save the Dates** (some may be subject to change)
 - 1. National Convention: No specific date yet, but it will occur in Atlanta this fall and will be a hybrid event (electronic and in person). Limited number of people, dependent upon COVID conditions. **Call to Convention is April 1. Registration to open June 1.**
 - 2. **February 13 at 4pm:** Omega Omega for Honorary Member Cicely Tyson will be live streamed. More information will be provided by National Headquarters.
 - 3. **April 23-25:** Virtual Delta Days in the Nation's Capital. The Collegiate Day will be on Friday. Registration fee is \$50 for alumnae and \$25 for collegiate.

Chapter Officer Reports

Financial Secretary-Soror Frierson

- Submitted for information only

Treasurer-Soror Walker

- Submitted for information only

- Dues for the 2021-2022 fiscal year will be due March 31, 2021. Trying to get the amount lowered from \$250.00 (local)
- Disbursements checks for new Sorors (MIT).
- Outstanding checks six months old or older a suggestion was made to stop payment on those checks between a certain check range. A new check can be issued. There will be another attempt to reach out to individuals with the outstanding checks. If there is no response a stop payment will be issued.
- Committee Chairs need to submit a budget request by February 20, 2021.
- Motion to change dues collection via PayPal + fees (Soror responsibility) in the Policy and Procedures made by Soror Harris; seconded by Soror Gibson. Motion carried with a vote of 26.

Membership Services-Soror Gibson

- Paint & Groove Party on February 26th at 7:00pm. Cost is \$27.00 and it includes canvas, paint, brush, and easel. This is voluntary.
- Scholarship Committee will meet on February 16th to revise the application for 2021

Committee Reports-5 min each, please

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

Nominating Committee- Soror Leach

- The Call for Nominations
- The following officers and positions are up for election: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Chair of Nominating Committee, Core members of the Nominating Committee, and Chair of the Internal Audit Committee.
- The responsibilities and duties for these positions can be found in Article 3 Section 1 in the Policies and Procedures Manual
- The Candidate Profile application will be sent out after the meeting. The completed profile is due on or before midnight on February 26, 2021 and will be returned to nominating@gastoniaalumnaedst.org
- Candidates for nomination should have attended one State Meeting, Regional Conference, and/or Nationals Convention prior to her nomination. Candidates for President and Vice President should have attended all three. All candidates must be financial for the 2021-2022 fiscal year by the end of March.
- The slate of Chapter officers and positions will be presented at the March Executive Board meeting for information purposes only. The slate of Chapter officers and positions will be presented at the April Chapter meeting. Voting will occur in May.
- There will be no campaigning.

Election Committee-Soror Green

- More information to follow at the March meeting in regard to the electronic voting process. Soror Green made a motion to move forward with the election process being electronic. Motion carried with a vote of 31.

Arts & Letters- Soror Green

- The Arts & Letters Committee will meet every 1st Thursday so our next meeting is March 4, 2021 at 6:30pm.
- The GAC BOOK Club meets every 4th Thursday at 6:30pm, so our next book club meeting will be January 28, at 6:30pm.
- The book for this month, and we will read the first 150 pages, is a Nonfiction book recommended by Soror Jennifer Joyner called *Perfect Peace* by Daniel Black. We will also read the 9 page book by Soror Cherie Feemster called: *A Walk Down Phonics Lane*.
- The next featured film we will watch is called: *SOUL* on Disney Pixar and *Sylvie's Love* is on Amazon Prime.

Courtesy-Soror Crawford

- The following courtesies were extended:

January

- Soror Cynthia Ndelo Murray, Congratulations card for the birth of her baby boy, Aiden in December

College Day-Soror Brewer

- Asking the sorority to send in college scholarship information to Soror Pettiford so the committee can continue to plan for College Day. A google doc form will be sent requesting the information.

Dance- Soror Reynolds

- Met to discuss 2021 Dance ideas- virtual or continue to postpone until 2022
- Possible early fall dance, will connect with the technology committee to brainstorm options
- Asking Sorors to connect with the previous guest by sending a card to let them know they are not forgotten.

Delta Academy & Gems- Soror Brewer

- On February 20th, the Academy and GEMS virtual meeting topic will be "Internet Safety, Privacy, Security and Your Digital Footprint" presented by Soror Joyner.
- Black History projects will be due of Iconic Women from History
- Valentine Day gifts-flowers; will be delivered at the doorstep of each participant.
- The Gaston Foundation Virtual Run-February 1st Sign-up and donations. April 17th event day and one volunteer per non-profit. When making a donation select DREFT.

Fundraiser- Soror Maxwell

- The following ideas will be presented to the chapter:
 - Walk a thon. To take place during Sisterhood month. It can be virtual or at Martha Rivers park. Fee has not been determined. It will include a t-shirt . We will work with the wellness committee.
 - Dining with Deltas luncheon. This will also take place during Sisterhood month. We will coordinate with a restaurant to pick up

lunch (i.e boxed lunch from Honeybaked Ham). We would also like to give a gift bag. We can invite anyone to participate. Cost TBD.

- Gift basket raffle.
- Artful Greetings will continue until the end of June.

<http://www.artfulgreetings.com/>

- We will schedule bi weekly meetings to plan these activities.
- We will ask technology to help us with marketing our current fundraiser. It needs to be distributed to other organizations.
- The committee discussed our current fundraiser and where we are financially. We also discussed additional ways of raising funds. Suggestions were to do a virtual bingo, gift basket raffle or May week tshirts. Another suggestion was to ask each Soror to donate \$100.00 that was voted on by the Chapter for the 2021-2022 year.

Heritage & Archives- Soror Reynolds

- 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)

Note: the packets have been received from the individuals in bold

- Committee members have been assigned to obtain documents from the family members of our deceased past Presidents
- Lisa Reynolds will contact the Grand Chapter to see if we can obtain annual reports from each Chapter President's term.
- The Letter & Journal Entry Booklets will be ready to be sent out to past Presidents by January 15, 2021.
- A survey for collecting information from GAC sorors initiated since 1980 will be created

Risk Management-Soror Lynch

- No Report

Social Action-Soror Williams & Soror Reynolds

- The Social Action Committee asks the chapter to support the Covid-19 live stream on February 28th at 7pm. Six local medical doctors will share vital information and attempt to rid some of the myths about Covid-19 and the importance to be vaccinated as soon as the age categories are made public. By the time of this live stream, educators and other school officials will be added to the list along with those 65 and older. Chapter members are being asked to use the flyer to help inform the community by posting this

information through their social media outlets, calling and texting family members, friends and associates.

- The committee also asks the Sorors help with this Chapter initiative by calling numbers on the phone bank distribution list provided by the Social Action Committee. Also please distribute to your church website about this event. This event will be virtual.
- Delta Days at the Capitol will be April 23-25th. This event will be virtual.

Physical & Mental Health- Soror M. Davis

- The following items were donated to Mira Via Services on February 5, 2021: 43 bars of soap, 22 bottles of body wash, 40 toothbrushes, 30 tubes of toothpaste, 3 bottles of shampoo, 3 bottles hair conditioner, 9 large boxes of tampons, 3 individual packs of feminine sanitary pads, 9 bottles of lotion, 39 packs of baby wipes, 9 individual packs of diapers of varying sizes, 5 large boxes of diapers of varying sizes, 3 bottles of nail polish, 1 hair comb, 3 bottles of nail polish remover, 9 children's coloring books, and 11 boxes of crayons.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business:

- None

Announcements:

- February 24th Mt. Zion Resurrection Church will be hosting a virtual COVID-19 forum
- February 13th Friendship Missionary Baptist Church (Charlotte) hosting vaccine distribution to 65 year old or older.
- Technology-Two new members were added to the Technology Committee, Steffani Ford and Treva Johnson. Need for committee chairs to move from personal emails to the website emails. All pictures have been taken for the website.

Motion made to adjourn made by Soror Richardson; seconded by Soror Waddell. Motion Carried with 27 votes.

Adjournment: 8:36 p.m.

Ritualistic Closing

Present:
Michelle Pettiford

Deardre Gibson
Treva Johnson
Johnsie Richardson
Andrea Frierson
Yolanda Burris
Lisa Reynolds
Faye Harris
Karita Duggins
Wanda Grier
Marilyn Green
Lillian Williams
Priscilla Brewer
Williette Herring
Africa Otis
Joylette Hillard McCray
Erica Berry
Deb Bowden
Cherie Feemster
Steffani Ford
Jennifer Joyner
Robin Leach
Tabatha Lynch
Dawn Maxwell
Rekita McDuffie
April Spruill
Tamara Thomas
Betty Worthy
Brenda Ballard
Mary Connor
Katrina Corbett
Tega Crawford
Donyel Barber
Renee Davis
Tameka Dunlap
Romilda Glasgow
Wanda Reid
Valerie Waddell
Betty Werts

GAC Sorors:
Jamie Brooks
Adrienne Perkins
Sherry Smith