

**Gastonia Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Chapter Meeting Minutes~June 10, 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 with adding Policy & Procedures under Committee Reports made by Soror Richardson; seconded by Soror Ballard. Motion carried with a vote of 38.

Motion to adopt the May Chapter meeting, May Executive Board meeting with the addendum to the Chapter meeting minutes of the following Policy & Procedures corrections: Page 9, Section 1: Duties and Responsibilities of Elected Officers A. President #9. Reviews, approves, and distributes all chapter communication, publications, etc. **Motion to accept the recommended changes were made by Soror Richardson; 32 for and 3 opposing. Motion failed.** Page 10, C. Recording Secretary #2. Ensures minutes of previous Executive Board or Chapter Meeting are presented to the President **and Technology Committee 1 week prior to the meeting.** There was much discussion over this recommended change. The original request was for the minutes to be sent to the president and technology committee the Sunday prior to the chapter meeting. Various points were made relevant to the benefits of receiving minutes sooner rather than later. The committee offered a compromise of instead minutes being sent 2 weeks prior as our current policy states that it be changed to 1 week prior to chapter meeting, with the final vote and approval resting with the chapter. **Motion to accept the recommended changes were made by Soror L. Williams; 40 for and 2 opposing. Motion failed.** Page 30, Section 1: Eligibility Criteria for Holding Office, add **F. To serve in the office of The President of the Chapter one must reside in the chapter's service area.** Much discussion ensued after this recommended change, committee members vacillated about including the Vice President under this recommended criteria. **Motion to accept the recommended changes were made by Soror Richardson; 35 for and 13 opposing. Motion failed** was made by Soror Richardson; seconded by Soror Williams. Motion carried with a vote of 38.

COMMUNICATIONS

Local- Soror Richardson

- The Coretta Scott King Book Awards Reading Club meets every Wednesday at 1:30 pm by Zoom June 16th-August 11th. They are looking for volunteers.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8465119686>
- The 3rd annual Ebonyfest Juneteenth Festival at the Rotary Pavilion. Anyone interested in presenting a speech contact Soror Tasha White at info.ebonyfest@gmail.com
- Thank you cards from Soror Patsy Martin, Soror Betty Worthy and Soror Faye Harris were sent to the Chapter in recognition of the Delta Dear lunch delivered on May 22nd.

National/Regional/Local-Soror Pettiford

- Call to Convention-the 55th National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia will officially open on November 20th with the pre-convention Public Meeting and Host Chapters Welcome Event taking place on November 19th. The National Convention will close with a celebration on the evening of November 22, 2021. Get convention ready by downloading your copy of the Call to Convention, which is now available on the [Member Portal](#) and DST Sorority App. Registration is \$545.00 (In person) and \$200.00 (Virtual).
- As of July 1, 2021, Delta Sigma Theta's is lifting the ban on in-person chapter meetings, programs, social gatherings, and community service projects with the condition that you must adhere to your local and state governmental guidelines.

Chapter Officer Reports

President-Soror Pettiford

- Finalizing the 2020-2021 fiscal year in the Red Zone. An email will be sent to committee chairs to complete the calendar of events for 2021-2022.

Treasurer-Soror Pettiford

- Submitted for information only

Financial Secretary-Soror Frierson

- Submitted for information only
- February and March report amended due to PayPal.

Committee Reports-5 min each, please

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

Delta Academy & Gems- Soror Knight

- The Delta Academy & GEMS had the closing end of year virtual event Saturday, May 15th via Zoom.
- The program consisted of a Move up ceremony for those moving from Academy to GEMS, recognition of our 3 graduates, and celebrating the amazing year we had each and every month this year with our talented, gifted and dedicated ladies.
- Each girl received a red and white monogrammed bag -'2020-20201 Delta Academy & GEMS' inside was a gift card to subway, a certificate of completion. In addition- Our grads received the book " Oh, the Places You'll Go!", and a framed certificate.
- Our parents were recognized and they gave heartfelt comments of appreciation to our committee. We thank all sorors that supported us this year and although it was Virtual our committee feels it was one of the most successful years and the impact we made on these young ladies was positively significant.
- We know that we will have a greater number next year and that this program will continue to flourish like none other.

- Gaston Community Run: Total raised with donations was \$355.00. Soror Knight will send out a "Thank You" note to our donors. Participation moving forward will be assessed.
- Soror Brewer and Soror Knight want to extend a special "Thank You" to our committee for it's support and work with each workshop, making deliveries and just overall support . We truly have an amazing dedicated committee. We are a "TEAM".

Arts & Letters- Soror Green

- The National Arts and Letters Committee has worked hard this year to keep us encouraged and to keep us busy reading and just having dialogue with each other! Sorors, did you know that 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. Sorors, we have so many choices when it comes to how we spend our **time**. Sometimes we even ask ourselves, ***"Why should we read when there are movies, TV shows, video games, and more"***? Reading both fiction and non-fiction comes with a wide range of benefits. All of the benefits are great but some of the really long term benefits are:
 1. **Reading Reduces stress- Stress is a common problem these days and there are many ways to deal with it. Reading is one of the best. A 2009 study discovered that after people read quietly for just six minutes, their heart rates slowed down and they had less muscle tension. Their stress levels actually reduced by an impressive 68%, making reading more effective than talking a walk or **listening** to music. By focusing their minds on what they were reading, people could distance and distract themselves from anxious thoughts and feelings.**
 2. **Reading could extend your life** - Reading can actually help you live longer. In a 12-year study performed by Yale University, researchers monitored 3600 adults over 50-years old. Those who read books for at least 30 minutes a day lived around 2 years longer than those who read newspapers or magazines. While we can't say that reading ensures a longer life, this study does show a connection. It could be that reading and its ability to improve cognitive functions keeps neurological diseases like Alzheimer's at bay.
 3. **Reading boosts your empathy-** Empathy is the ability to understand and sympathize with other people, even when we don't agree with them on something. While some people possess lots of natural empathy, most of us could use a bit more. Reading can help. In 2013, different members of a group read different genres such as literary fiction, popular fiction, and nonfiction. A control group read nothing. Throughout the experiment, researchers learned that people who read literary fiction were better at identifying facial expressions and guessing how the characters in their books would act. This is because in literary fiction, characters tend to be complex. Readers must pay closer attention and exercise empathy in order to understand them. Those skills translate into the real world.

4. **Reading expands your understanding of the world** - Speaking of the real world, reading both fiction and nonfiction can change your perspectives on things. How? Books are like windows. By looking through them, you can see different views on humanity, current events, history, culture, and more. If you intentionally seek out voices and authors who are very different from you, your understanding expands even more. So Keep reading Sorors!

We have a read total of 6 books this year:

1. Michelle
 2. Finding Joi
 3. The Vanishing Half
 4. Perfect Peace
 5. A Walk Down Phonics Lane
 6. Who Asked You
 7. This is the Fire
- We have walked, jogged and tried swimming. We have tried to keep track of how much we exercised because we want to change our lifestyle for a healthier heart, mind, body and soul.
 - National Arts & Letters still would like us to have virtual watch parties, “Chat and Chews”, Family Night, Girls Night In. National is still encouraging chapters to watch movies individually and then do a zoom, which is what we still want to do and send these pictures to National. National wants us to watch movies with our youth groups and even partnering with other Greek letter organizations and we can do these things as well.

Sorors, below is a list of things to watch:

- Disney Plus has the “Falcon and the Winter Soldier”
- HULU has Woke, a comedy series
- Prime Video is still showing “All In The fight for Democracy”, Stacy Abrams insight around voter suppression
- Netflix has Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom, Mother of the Blues 1927
- SOUL is still on Disney Plus
- Marian Anderson, Voice of Freedom
- 4 Icons, during the Civil Rights Movement, called One Night in Miami with Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, Jim Brown, Sam Cooke on Amazon Original Prime,
- Netflix, has Malcolm and Marie
- Hip Hop Culture on FX Documentary Series

- Judas and the Black Messiah is called one of the best films of the year on HBO Max
- The Black Church, hosted by Henry Louis Gates
- Billie Holiday, with Soror Andra Day, is still on Hulu
- The Soul of a Nation, which will focus on critical issues in the lives of Black Americans, a 6 part series
- Coming to America 2, prime video
- Aretha, National Geographic
- On May 14, The Underground Railroad will be on Amazon Original and it is a limited series.
- For the summer months, we have not decided what book(s) we will read but you can believe we will continue reading all summer long, so stay tuned for the name of our summer reading list. Sorors A& L meets every 1st Thursday and The Book Club meets every 4th Thursday.

Audit-Soror Burris

- The audit was performed and in regards to dues; 5 missed due to PayPal and added to the Red Zone.
- Deposits need to be made within the 3 day time frame.
- Recommendation for future use of PayPal, Sorors need the proper training on how to use the system for documentation purposes.

Dance- Soror Reynolds

- The Sweetheart Ball Committee met and agreed to move forward with having two Ballrooms for the 2022 Ball. With the anticipated large attendance, to make the guest feel comfortable in the expected crowd, The seated Ballrooms consist of the large ballroom and the Queen ballroom. The Queen Ballroom will have music originating from the '60s, '70s, and '80s genres. The committee received feedback from prior events. Sorors and some guests indicated the lack of music from these eras. The large ballroom will have music played by DJ06. The committee will locate a DJ or small band to play the music for the Queens in the Queen's ballroom. Both ballrooms will have seated dinner, music, dance floor, and dancing.
- The committee also discussed finalizing the theme to have flyers and tickets ready for sale beginning in October 2021. Possible Theme - Viva Vegas, Vegas Style , or Diva Vegas Style. Ticket price-65.00 per ticket. Advance ticket sales only.
- Submit signed agreement and deposit check to the Hilton Charlotte Airport Hotel by May 26, 2021.
- There are 30 rooms blocked off \$130 per night (includes breakfast), \$119 per night (no breakfast).

Education- Soror Burris

- The committee ordered box lunch for the 33 young ladies and 2 adults that would be eating with them. The lunch was delivered on May 18th with our last gift of ABC Affirmations. We collected \$70 for the girls to have treat day on May 24th. Ms. Reed is going to send pictures and they said the girls were very excited to receive our gifts and were very appreciative.

Elections Committee-Soror Green

- On May 13, 2021, The Gastonia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., using the Program called Election Runner, cast their votes for the 2021-2023 Chapters administration.
- Every effort was made to assure the chapter that votes were cast by ONLY Members/Financial Sorors and that everyone who could vote was able to vote before the deadline that was given out to the chapter. There were NO illegal votes cast and NO run-off election was needed.
- The Elections Results were voted on and adopted by the chapter and the results were shared with the President so she can submit the report to National in June, for chapter compliance purposes.
- Thank you to everyone who helped make the chapter's first virtual election process a success! Huge thank you to The Technology Committee, the Nominating Committee and to the Elections Committee!

Heritage & Archives-Soror Knight

- Soror Horton designed and created a survey based on the original committee decision to create a survey for sorors initiated through the GAC; Survey was reviewed & discussion ensued on whether to add to/modify the current survey; Committee decided to add to the survey to make it more comprehensive, i.e., to include additional information about the chapter's history and activities.
- Soror Adrienne Perkins will modify/add to the survey created by Soror Kandice Horton to include the following items, in addition to items already on the survey related to sorors initiated in the GAC:
 1. Omega Omega Service (Name of Soror & Date of Service)
 2. Scholarship Recipients (Name, Date of Scholarship, University Attended)
 3. Jabberwock Winners & Years
 4. Sweetheart Ball Themes & Years
 5. Five Point Programmatic Thrusts Community Service Activities & Years (Will list each thrust separately)
- GAC Sorors will be requested to complete an online survey (Google Form) to assist the Heritage & Archives Committee in collecting information on historical chapter activities from 1980-2020; Survey will be sent on 06/11/21 and due on 06/30/21.
- Updates on Past President reports/packets/journals:

- ❖ Information received from/for Brenda Boyce, Johnsie Richardson, Lillian Pryor-Williams, Jane Patrick, & Tequel Hager
- ❖ Soror Renee Knight has nearly completed the journal entry based on information received from Soror Marilyn Green
- ❖ Information needed from/for Past Presidents Anne Robinson, Ann Corry, Dorothy Dingle, Barbara McClain, Michelle Mills, Dorothy Chambers, Barbara Tate, & Donyel Barber
- Confirmation that Soror Renee Knight will continue to serve on the committee along with other committee members. If Soror Lisa Reynolds decides to relinquish the position of Committee Co-chair, Soror Cheryl Perkins proposed and the Committee members agreed that Soror Adrienne Perkins will become the committee co-chair.
- Committee will meet again in July or August.

Social Action-Soror Williams

- Recommendation to solicit members who are homebound that need the vaccination. Forms will be passed out at June's meeting to take to your churches.
- Ten volunteers are needed for the Gaston County Backpack Weekend Food Program in the two months of October 2021 and April 2022.

Technology-Soror Spruill

- New committee alignment please see previous minutes for that information
- Converting to google suite for new email account to collect new zoom request forms and flyer request forms
- Meeting protocol slide (on mute until recognized, attire, logged in under only one device, etc.) on all chapter meeting PowerPoint presentations
- Required zoom training for committee chairs date TBD
- Zoom committee meetings need to be requested for the entire year. This will be sent out with the information requested by Soror President who will then share with the committee..
- Event requests submitted 2 weeks before event
- Pictures of the Chapter and new officers will be taken after July 1st.

Policy & Procedures-Soror Barber

- A new form will be distributed to the Chapter Members to recommend changes to the Policy & Procedures.

Unfinished Business

- Sign-up for the Delta Dears Sponsor will be emailed Monday

New Business

- Municipal elections this summer and phone banking in the fall.
- Video shown of Delta Academy & GEMS Women's Month presentation.

Announcements:

- Soror Barbara McClain is still in CaroMont Hospital, please continue to send prayers. Also continued prayers to those that have family emergencies and illnesses.
- Covid vaccines will be offered at Highland Health Center 609 N. Highland St. Monday-Friday 8am-5pm.

Installation of Officers-Soror Green

- The Chapter officers for 2021-2023 were installed as followed:
 - President- **Lisa Reynolds**
 - Vice President- **Renee Knight**
 - Recording Secretary-**Treva Johnson**
 - Corresponding Secretary-**Wanda Grier**
 - Financial Secretary-**Dawn Maxwell**
 - Treasurer-**Yolanda Burris**
 - Internal Audit Chairperson-**Johnsie Richardson**
 - Nominating Chairperson-**Africa Otis**
 - Nominating Committee Members (Vote for 4 Members)- **Tega Crawford, Rekita McDuffie, Angela Wilson and Betty Worthy**

Motion made to adjourn made by Soror Leach; seconded by Soror Worthy.

Adjournment: 8:17 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
Joylette Hillard McCray
Cherie Feemster
Jennifer Joyner
Robin Leach
Dawn Maxwell
Betty Worthy
Mary Connor
Romilda Glasgow
Kandice Horton
Renee Knight
Cheryl Perkins
Sherry Smith
Donyel Barber
Deb Bowden
Brenda Boyce
Renee Davis
Africa Otis
Brenda Ballard
Erica Berry
Gale Bess Raynor
Martha Davis
Jannelle English
Karitsa Khalid
Starla Littlejohn

Rekita McDuffie
Vontina McGrant
Evelyn Pressley
April Spruill

