

**Gastonia Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Executive Board Meeting Minutes~March 29, 2021~ 6:32pm
Zoom Meeting**

Opened with prayer by Soror Harris

COMMUNICATIONS

Local- Soror Frierson

- 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>
- Thank you letter from Soror Annie Robinson for Sisterhood Month.
- Postcard from Soror Laura Onafowora for Sisterhood Month
- Gift catalog from an Releasing Children from Poverty an organization we gave a donation
- Thank you card from Mr. Saunders

National/Regional/Local- Soror Pettiford

- On March 21st a Town Hall Meeting was held that included the National President and the Executive Committees. An update was provided in regards to where Delta is at as an organization in relation to COVID. The discussion was about when Chapters can come back together. Delta can't delegate state by state. We will continue to operate as we have (virtual meetings, no gatherings).
- The Call to Convention will come out on May 1st. Registration will open up between June and July. It will be a hybrid convention (virtual and in person). There will be some vendors on site and virtual.
- Scholarship and Seed Grant Application Extension: The Application deadline has been extended to April 16th, 2021. The general Financial Aid and Special Scholarship is due April 16th, 2021. The information can be found in the Members Only section on the Nationals website.
https://delta.dstonline.org/DSTMember/Special_Pages/Scholarship_Grants.aspx
- Information and a recorded webinar about Nominations and Elections will be shared with the Election Committee.

Chapter Officer Reports

Financial Secretary-Soror Frierson

- Submitted for information only

Treasurer-Soror Walker

- Submitted for information only
- Disbursements for March: Founders Day, Courtesy, and Dues. Checks written for Scholarship & Education
- Proposal for the Budget needs to be voted on in the Chapter meeting.

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.

1. **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)
 2. **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).
 3. **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.
 4. **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.
 5. **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.

Delta Academy & Gems- Soror Knight & Soror Brewer

- Our monthly meeting and workshop took place on Saturday, March 20th via Zoom. Thank you Soror 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.

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

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)

Nominating Committee- Soror Leach

- The Nominating Committee would like to open the floor for Nominations as stated in the Policies and Procedures. If names are presented during this run for 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.

Elections 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

- 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:

1. To vote at the May Chapter meeting on Election Runner, Sorors MUST have their first and last names displayed and their camera on.
2. 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).
3. 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.
4. At the end of the voting process, Elections Committee members (Faye, Adrienne and Myself) will enter a Zoom breakout room to obtain & process the results.
5. The Chair of Elections will announce the Sorors who got the majority vote and the Chair announces the winner.

6. The Chair will ask for a motion to accept the results of the Election Committee. Members/Sorors will vote to accept the motion.

Dance- Soror Reynolds

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

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.
- 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.

Technology- Soror Johnson

- Submit zoom meeting request and flyer request at least two weeks before the meeting/event. There is no guarantee late request will be honored.

Unfinished Business

- Soror Hilliard will have a sign up sheet at the next Executive Board meeting for Sorors to be responsible for a Delta Dear.

New Business

- None

Announcements:

- Continue to pray for complete healing for Sorors and their families (Soror Leach, Soror Duggins and daughter, and Soror Davis nephew).
- Soror Rebecca Brown admitted to Morningside

Adjournment:

8:50 p.m. prayer by Soror Harris

Present:

Michelle Pettiford
Deardre Gibson
Treva Johnson
Johnsie Richardson

LaShannda Walker
Andrea Frierson
Yolanda Burris
Marilyn Green
Faye Harris
Wanda Grier
Renee Knight
Renee Davis

Cheryl Perkins
Deb Bowden
Joylette Hilliard
Lisa Reynolds
Dawn Maxwell
Lillian Williams
Donyel Barber
Robin Leach
Brenda Ballard
Priscilla Brewer

Helpful Links:

Committees:

[GAC Committees 2020-2021](#)

Reimbursement Form

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QBIDmazviZ1gZAyq9gJC1pmE9INQRale/view?usp=sharing>

Committee Summary Report:

<https://gacdst.wufoo.com/forms/q10e8lc10u9rkvi/>

Zoom meeting request link

<https://s.surveyplanet.com/-Jx5D1L6y>

GAC Fundraiser Link

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

