



The Delta Voice

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Baton Rouge Delta Alumnae Chapter

Post Office Box 74139-Baton Rouge, La. 70874

Volume 3 Issue 12

November 2017

Baton Rouge Delta Celebrates 86 Years



Anna Baranco Chavis

The Baton Rouge Delta Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc was chartered November 28, 1931 as the Upsilon Sigma Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The initial meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Anna Baranco Chavis. Ruth Gwendolyn Smith, Vera Baranco, Mayola Givens Adams, Evelyn Edmond and Estelle Baranco were present. On January 10, 1931 the application for a Graduate Chapter in Baton Rouge was submitted by these Sorors who became the charter members. Oralee Barnaco, Thelma Weathers Johnson, Velma Wiggins and Naomi Irwin Evans were also involved with organizing the chapter. The first officers were Anna Baranco Chavis – President, Evelyn Edmond – Secretary, Mayola Givens Adams – Treasurer, Ruth Gwendolyn Smith – Sergeant-at-Arms and Estelle Baranco – Parliamentarian. Upsilon Sigma was the first chapter of Delta chartered in Louisiana.



Mayola Givens Adams



Estelle Baranco

During the tenure of the first president, Upsilon Sigma had an Advisory council to High School Seniors, sponsored essay contests on the value of education, honored Sorors returning home from graduate school and presented its first scholarship to a student at Southern University. The awarding of scholarships annually is still a part of Delta’s program. The chapter also initiated the Jabberwock as a cultural outlet for the community. The Del-Sprites and The Friends of Delta, a group of women from the community, were organized to help Delta achieve its public service goals were formed. Voter registration was encouraged and financial support was given to the NAACP.



Ruth Gwendolyn Smith

In December of 1956, by a vote of Grand Chapter, the name of Upsilon Sigma Chapter was changed to Baton Rouge Delta Alumnae Chapter.



Vera Baranco



Evelyn Baranco



Thelma Weathers Johnson



Agenda

Call to Order
 Ritualistic Opening
 Adoption of the Agenda
 Minutes
 Communications
 Reports
 -President
 -Budget and Finance
 -Executive Board
 -Committees
 Unfinished Business
 New Business
 Announcements
 Ritualistic Closing

**Lunch will be served
 immediately following
 sorority meeting.**

November Hostesses

Bettye Jackson - Chair
 Monica Bell-Malbrue
 Barbara Bilberry
 Florence Curry
 Udieth Dotson
 Shera Gardner
 Diane Lomas
 Yolanda Martin Singleton
 Vanessa Mickles

2017-2018 Dues

Golden/Diamond Life: \$295.00
 Regular Member: \$485.00
 2nd Year Graduate: \$325.00
 1st Year Graduate: \$250.00

Late Fee: (April 1-June 30) \$5.00
 Reinstatement Fee:
 \$15.00 (if not currently financial or remitted after June 30)
 \$25.00 (if not financial for two or more years)

November Birthdays

Patricia Baranco
 Avery Cook
 Vaneshette Henderson
 Adrienne Joseph
 Wilma Matthew-Weathers
 Natasha Seals
 Donna Washington



BATON ROUGE ALUMNAE CHAPTER
 926 Harding Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70807 - Phone: 225-775-5781





Chapter News

Chapter Policies and Procedures Available for You!

The Chapter Policies and Procedures are now available for you. Please pick up your copy at the November Chapter Meeting.

Election of the Minerva Circle

The Election of the Minerva Circle will be held during the November Chapter Meeting. Chapter Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

DID Workshop

The Delta Internal Development (DID) Workshop will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2017, from 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The cost for this workshop is \$10.00. The workshop topics for this session will be Code of Conduct and Sisterhood. Registration for DID will close on November 11, 2017.

All Chapter members who plan to participate in the chapter's membership intake process must complete two (2) required DID Workshops (conducted by their chapter) in their entirety prior to attending the Membership Intake Training Workshop.

Agenda for the Day includes:

- 9:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.- Workshop I
- 11:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.- Break (Lunch will be provided)
- 12:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m.- Workshop II



Social Action Committee Update

The Social Action webinar, Do's and Don'ts of Social Action, has been uploaded to the Members Only Area, of the National Website. This webinar includes the PowerPoint slides and recording of the webinar held on August 24th, 31st and September 5, 2017. The purpose of the webinar was to clearly communicate to sorors our commitment to social action and what individual sorors can do in their communities. The objectives of the webinar were to:

- Reaffirm Delta's Commitment to Social Action
- Feature the Do's and Don'ts of Social Action activity
- Clarify the sorority's position statement on wearing symbols during any direct action, and
- Provide short-term and long-term action steps to address current and recurring political challenges.

Early Voting Reminder

The Social Action Committee reminds you that early voting for the November 18, 2017 election begins on November 3, 2017 and continues through November 11, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., excluding Sunday and state holidays.

The Statewide Election will be held on November 18, 2017.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!





Soror Spotlight



Soror Alyson McCord was recently featured in an American Heart Association PSA that highlighted the Importance of Blood Pressure Awareness. The PSA was shot in New York City. The purpose of this PSA is to encourage everyone to know your blood pressure numbers, do something to lower it and get regular check-ups and screenings. Soror McCord wants to spread the word and increase awareness of this silent disease. Soror McCord was initiated in Baton Rouge Delta Alumnae Chapter, Spring 2002. She is a past-Chapter Officer, an attorney and wonderful mother to her beautiful daughter Aria Joy.

Upcoming Events

- ▲ January 21, 2018 - Cluster 4 Founders Day (Baton Rouge)
- ▲ March 2018 - Louisiana State Meeting (Baton Rouge)
- ▲ July 2018 - Southwest Regional Conference (Dallas, TX)
- ▲ Summer 2019 - National Convention (New Orleans)





Lois' Light

Give Gratitude to God



Several thousand years ago, God spoke directly to Moses and instituted a new festival for His people. In Exodus 23:16, according to Moses's record, God said, "Celebrate the Festival of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field."

Today countries around the world do something similar by celebrating the land's bounty. In Ghana, the people celebrate the Yam Festival as a harvest event. In Brazil, Dia de Acao de Gracas is a time to be grateful for the crops that yielded their food. In China, there is the Mid-Autumn (Moon) Festival. In the United States and Canada: Thanksgiving.

To understand the fitting goal of a harvest celebration, we visit Noah right after the flood. God reminded Noah and his family—and us—of His provision for our flourishing existence on the earth. Earth would have seasons, daylight and darkness and "seedtime and harvest" (Gen. 8:22). Our gratitude for the harvest, which sustains us, goes to God alone.

No matter where you live or how you celebrate your land's bounty, take time today to express gratitude to God—for we would have no harvest to celebrate without His grand creative design.

Dear Creator God, thank You so much for the wondrous way You fashioned this world—with seasons, with harvest-time, with everything we need to exist. Please accept our gratitude.

~Dave Branon



Gratitude is the memory of a glad heart.



Louisiana Statewide Summit

Save The Date

Louisiana

**STATEWIDE
SUMMIT 2018**

MARCH 23-25, 2018

**SISTERHOOD
SCHOLARSHIP
SERVICE
SPIRITUALITY**

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The Journey Continues...



2017 Southwest Regional Leadership Retreat

The Southwest Regional Leadership Retreat was held October 12-15, 2017 in New Orleans, La. With a theme of “We are One! One Heart, One Purpose.... Southwest,” the weekend was filled with networking, fellowship, education and personal development opportunities. The Breakout sessions provided tools and resources for successful Program Planning and Development, Leadership Development and Risk Management. A spirited-filled Ecumenical Service closed the weekend with words of encouragement and a call to continue to serve our communities.





Affordable Care Act Reminder

The official start of open enrollment for health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act began on November 1, 2017. Since in 2013 in communities across the country, especially in the African American Community, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., has helped educate, empower, and enroll individuals and their families in Quality affordable health insurance.

Unfortunately, this open enrollment period is shorter than in previous years. This means we need to amplify our efforts to make sure the communities we serve GET COVERED! The 2018 Enrollment Period runs from November 1, 2017 to December 15, 2017. Go to www.healthcare.gov to enroll in a 2018 insurance plan.



Important Enrollment Reminders and Resources

- Enroll in Affordable Health Insurance – www.healthcare.gov
- Get Covered Connector tool -www.deltasigmatheta.org/about_getcovered.html

Dates and Deadlines for 2018 Health Insurance:

- November 1, 2017: Open Enrollment started --first day to enroll, re-enroll, or change a 2018 insurance plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace
- December 15, 2017: Last day to enroll in or change plans for 2018 coverage. After this date, you can enroll or change plans only if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period.
- January 1, 2018: 2018 coverage starts, if premium paid.





Arts and Letters

The Arts & Letters Committee kicked-off its first Red Carpet event for the Sorority year as they highlighted history through cinema with the viewing of “Marshall” on Friday, October 13, 2017, at the Cinemark Perkins Rowe. Over 12 Sorors and guests attending the movie, starring Chadwick Boseman, Josh Gad, Kate Hudson, Dan Stevens, Sterling K. Brown, and James Cromwell. MARSHALL is based on a true incident in the life of Thurgood Marshall when he was a young lawyer, long before his appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Arts & Letters committee would like to thank everyone who came out to support the first Red Carpet event of the Sorority Year. Look for more opportunities from the Arts & Letters Committee to allow us to be entertained while we continue to celebrate the arts in our community.



Book Club Reminder

Mark your calendar and join the Arts & Letters Committee Book Club at the Eden Park Library on December 2, 2017, to discuss the novel “Jam on The Vine” by LaShonda Barnett.



International Awareness and Involvement

The International Awareness and Involvement committee implemented the Change for Change program during the October meeting. Each month, the committee asks that you empty the loose change in your pocketbooks. At the end of the sorority year, the total amount collected will be donated to DREF for international programming. Be the change you want to see by donating to the International Awareness Involvement Committee. We love the coins that jingle but will also accept those denominations that fold, too!



World AIDS Day is Friday, December 1, 2017. Look for more information from the International Awareness and Involvement Committee on events and activities schedule to bring awareness to HIV/AIDS Awareness'.





Physical and Mental Health

Has your favorite black dress or Delta T-shirt gotten a little snug over the last year? Would you like to slip into those favorite jeans that flatter your curves? You know the holiday season is upon us and those menus are good to our taste buds and deadly to our waistline. Let's take this opportunity to get a Head start on the Holidays and lose a few pounds and get motivated to make healthier choices during this upcoming holiday season.

The Physical and Mental Health Committee is charged with managing our national Journey to Wellness campaign, which focuses on chronic disease prevention, identification of mental illness, nutrition, physical activity and weight management. Head start on the Holidays is our effort to meet our goals for the Delta S.I.Z.E.D. initiative, which is the competitive physical activity challenge. To engage our chapter in regular physical activities, we have decided to launch a weight loss challenge. This fitness challenge will be competitive and will be based on the percentage of weight lost by the May 2018 sorority meeting. The Soror with the largest percentage lost, WINS!

Entering this challenge is easy and only costs you \$10! Your \$10 goes into the prize vault and will be added to the total amount for the winnings. Every person that enters with their \$10 becomes eligible to win the grand prize and the competition. You could win the jackpot! The more Sorors that enter, the larger the jackpot. Who's in?

Following the November 2017 meeting, please be prepared to weigh in to record your baseline weight and measurements and pay your entry fee of \$10. You really have nothing to lose by trying this.... except a couple of pounds. Who doesn't like that??? Get ready ladies it's on! There are a few of us already claiming the winning title... Are you going to show them whose better? You've got this! See you at weight in table immediately following the November Chapter Meeting.

Delta...



Sorors
Invigorated
Zealous
Energized &
Determined

"A Journey To Wellness"

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



National Officers



National President - Beverly Evans Smith

National 1st Vice President - Cheryl A. Hickmon

National 2nd Vice President - Jaria Martin

National Secretary - Elise L. Cooke-Holmes

National Treasurer - Deborah A. Jones-Buggs, CPA

Chair, National Finance Committee - Doreen A. Dixon

Chair, 2019 National Nominating Committee - Deborah Stapleton

Chair, National Internal Audit Committee - Soraya Farver

Collegiate Member, Scholarship & Standards Committee - Jaleah Rutledge

Collegiate Member, 2019 National Nominating Committee - Tanaja Kidd

Collegiate Member, National Finance Committee - Victoria I. Brown

Collegiate Member, National Internal Audit Committee - Tiara Brooks &
Kiersten Hargett



Volunteer Service Hours

This form is designed to compile data of volunteer service hours of a chapter and its individual members. The term "volunteer service hours" is defined as service hours that reflect a soror's commitment to the 5 Point Programmatic Thrust of the sorority (Economic Development, Educational Development, Physical and Mental Health, Political Awareness and Involvement and International Awareness and Involvement). Sorors may report and receive credit for the time spent at chapter, executive committee/board and committee meetings, etc. Volunteer service hours should not be reported for time spent as part of your profession, i.e. a teacher performing after school tutorials or part of your employer's Adopt-a-School program.

| DATE: | PROGRAM/ACTIVITY* | 5-POINT THRUST | HOURS |
|-------|---|----------------|-------|
| | Executive Board | ED | |
| | Sorority Meeting | ED | |
| | Budget and Finance | EC | |
| | Economic Development | EC | |
| | ED – Delta Academy | ED | |
| | ED - GEMS | ED | |
| | ED - DREAM | ED | |
| | ED - EMBODI | ED | |
| | Physical and Mental Health | PH | |
| | International Awareness and Involvement | IN | |
| | Political Awareness and Involvement | PO | |
| | Arts and Letters | ED | |
| | Social Action | EC | |
| | Delta DEARS | PH | |
| | Founders Day/May Week | PH | |
| | | | |

I certify that the above information is a true record of my volunteer hours.

Signature: _____ Phone: _____

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