

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

55th NATIONAL
Convention



JOY IN OUR SISTERHOOD • POWER IN OUR VOICE • SERVICE IN OUR HEART

Atlanta, Georgia

November 19 - 22, 2021

**Tri-County (MD) Alumnae Chapter
Delegate's Report**

Voting Delegate – Soror Tracy Jones

Alternate Delegate – Soror Lucinda Jefferson

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated
55th National Convention
Atlanta, Georgia
November 19 - 22, 2021

Tri-County (MD) Alumnae Chapter Delegate's Report
Voting Delegate – Soror Tracy Jones
Alternate Delegate – Soror Lucinda Jefferson

Friday, November 19, 2021

Working in Convention for Voting/Alternate Delegate Orientation:

All Voting/Alternate Delegates attended a mandatory briefing session to discuss the convention processes and procedures relating to Robert's Rules of Order to seek recognition from the floor and to make motions. Soror Cooke-Holmes discussed the Keypads and flash card system for in-person voting delegates and the Pathable platform for voting and balloting for virtual delegates.

Impact Day:

Impact Day of Service honored our commitment to public service. The focus was on food insecurity which plagues many communities within the Metropolitan Atlanta area.

Public Meeting and Awards: Theme “Celebrating a Legacy of Joy, Power, and Service”

- Presentation of Awards
- Greetings & Gifts donated to DREF from National Organizations/Partners & Council of Presidents/National Pan-Hellenic Council
 - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. donated \$1,000 then \$25,000 (earmarked for HBCUs)
 - Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. donated \$1,000
 - Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. donated \$5,000

Praise and Worship Service

Rev. Dr. Howard -John Wesley guest speaker, Senior Pastor of the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA

Alfred Street Baptist Church donated \$50,000 (earmarked for HABCs) to DREF.

Host Chapters Welcome Reception

Saturday, November 20, 2021

Plenary Session I: Formal Opening

Presiding: Beverly E. Smith, National President & CEO

Greetings: Warm welcome greetings by our Past National Presidents.

New Honorary Members:

- Michelle J. Howard is a retired 4-Star Navy Admiral.
- Abby Phillip is an American Journalist with CNN as a senior political correspondent.
- Joy-Ann Reid is a MSNBC national and political correspondent.
- Ambassador Attallah Shabazz is the eldest daughter of Malcolm X and Soror Betty Shabazz. She is an author, motivational speaker, and diplomat.
- Collette V. Smith, first African American female NFL Coach.
- Leddy “Ledisi” Young is a R&B/Jazz recording artist who won her first Grammy after being nominated 13 times.

National President & CEO, Soror Beverly E. Smith speech highlights:

Legacy:

- Financial stability
 - \$55M in assets from \$30M
 - Increased profitability in investments
 - Coming under budget
- As of 2021: 80,135 financial sorors
- Improvements at HQ
- Donors/Sponsors donations of \$2.3M
- Chartered 15 new chapters, 11 Domestic, 4 international chapters including Toronto, Arabian Gulf, West Africa, and Southern Africa
- New HQ Department with diversity
- Expanded HQ - Purchased additional building at 1711 New Hampshire Ave
- Program manuals and guidebooks updated
- 100 virtual webinars, graduations, collegiate tassel turning, Career fairs, DDNC, UN
- MOUs that contained jobs, internships for the members
- Town Halls with record breaking attendance
- Ritual update (braille edition available)

Preparation for the future:

- Board approved the 5-year Strategic Plan
- 2021 Delta Census Report
 - 37,182 responses from financial and non-financial sorors
 - 113,533 emails sent to emails in the Sisters Only Portal
 - Age range: 18 years old to 98 years old
 - Mean Age: 35 years
 - Master's Degree: 54.4%
 - Comprehensive report with good data
 - 50% response rate
- Power in our Voice – we leveraged Social Action and became known as Social Action savvy.
- Partnered with OWN and now have 3-part series on Delta.
- Anniversary trip to Selma AL trip to remember the 1965 March which turned into “Bloody Sunday” on the Edmund Pettus Bridge.
- Only D9 to provide support to the Legal Defense Fund and joined voting suppression lawsuits
- Established a 501(c)(4) – focused on political activism. Home of the Chisholm-Jordan Institute to train sorors to run/be elected to office.
- Strong Brand name - 288k Social Media followers. 800k reach. 8% engagement.
- Soror Spotlight – local sorors
- Delta Red Tank on Wednesday – entrepreneur support
- Delta Red Pages – Delta businesses to grow financial impact
- Public meeting garnered donations from D9 and Alfred Street Baptist Church for more than \$100k
- Omega Omega – (2) Past Presidents, (10) Honorary Members and Executive Director Emeritus

Concerns for the future:

- Did not get to full Joy in the Sisterhood
- How we treat each other
 - Undiagnosed depression
 - Bullying Syndrome
 - Lack of self esteem
 - Find ways to resolve chapter problems so that we can heal
 - Take the Code of Conduct seriously

- We did not always get it right, but we tried hard

Convention Committee Reports:

The Credentials Committee Report chaired by Soror Tyler Johnson presented the first report for information only. Subsequent credential reports will be adopted at the final plenary.

The Rules Committee chaired by Soror Sumre Freshwater presented the proposed convention rules for adoption. By unanimous consent ordered by National President Smith, the proposed rules were adopted without any discussion.

Recommendations Committee chaired by Soror Kimberly Robinson provided the duties of the Recommendations Committee and she would finalize the information gathered at the final plenary to be referred to the National Board of Directors.

The Elections Committee chaired by Soror Stacey Mabry presented the proposed election rules for consideration of adoption. By unanimous consent ordered by National President Smith, the proposed election rules were adopted without any discussion.

Corporate Officer Report – Diamond Compton, National Second Vice President

Theme Address: Beverly E. Smith, National President & CEO “Celebrating a Legacy of Joy, Power and Service”

Social Action Luncheon:

Presiding: Rev. Shavon Arline-Bradley and Rhonda F. Briggins (Co-Chairs, National Social Action Commission)

Social Action Keynote: The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge, Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 21 National President, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Plenary II

Nominating Committee Report

Soror Shelia Jenkins, Chair - National Nominating Committee provided the role and responsibilities of the Nominating Committee. Soror Jenkins provided the names of those sorors who were slated and verified as eligible candidates for National Officers and Elected positions. National President Smith later opened nominations from the floor. The following candidates were added to the existing slate.

Soror Shevion Tribble, Collegiate Member, National Finance Committee

Corporate Officers Report:

Elsie Cooke-Holmes, National Secretary

Soror Pamela R. Hill, National Treasurer

Constitution & Bylaws:

The Honorable Sherina Maye Edwards and Octavia G. Matthews (Co-chairs, National Constitution and Bylaws Committee)

Soror Edwards and Matthews presented the Constitution and Bylaws reports into various categories for consideration of adoption. 1) Align with Delta's current practices; 2) Best Practices; 3) Clarity of Role and Responsibilities related to National Committees and the Board of Directors. Due to continuous debate on proposed amendments being included or excluded in the proposed block, the session ended, and time was established on Sunday, November 21, 2021, at 2:30 pm.

Plenary III

Meet the Candidates – Part I (Non-Officer Candidates)

Led by Soror Shelia Jenkins, Chair National Nominating Committee

Sunday, November 21, 2021

Ecumenical Service

Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn E. Boyd, 22nd National President, Worship Leader

Guest Psalmist: Crystal Aikin

Sermon: Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, National Chaplain

Plenary Session IV – Meet the Candidates / Part II Officers

Led by Soror Shelia Jenkins, Chair National Nominating Committee

Continuation of Constitution & Bylaws from Plenary II:

Based on the categories presented during Plenary II, the proposed block amendments were adopted by unanimous consent. National First Vice President, Soror Cheryl Hickmon presided over the proposed amendments to consider individually. All proposed amendments were adopted by Two-Thirds or by unanimous consent except for References 59 and 60 which failed by 330/368 Vote.

Resolutions 59 & 60 which were the Dues and Fees Section – the voting delegates rejected the recommendation to allow Initiation Fees to be set by the National Finance Committee and approved by the National Board of Directors, upon recommendation of the National Scholarship and Standards Committee.

Concurrent Workshops:

Plenary Session V – Business Session

DREF – Soror Carolyn E. Lewis

National prevention program – Project Impact: Diabetes

Institutional Research – Soror Corliss D. Heath, Chair Institutional Research Committee

Delta Census – preliminary report will be published soon.

Program Planning and Development Committee – Soror Andria Jeffries, Chair PP&D.

- ERT Safety Awareness campaign awards announced. Montgomery County (MD) Alumnae Chapter (Eastern Region) won the award.
- Economic Development campaign updates: Red Pages, dFree and Delta Red Tank. Partnership with Prudential Life Insurance. Awards were announced.
- Educational Development
- Youth Programs – EMBODI manuals updated, The PACE Manual, Presidential Youth Conference (theme: Power In Our Voice). Awards were announced.
- International Awareness & Involvement campaign updates-newsletter, DDUN and mission trips. Awards were announced.
- Physical & Mental Health campaign updates: DeltaCare Initiatives, Strategic Partners. Sustainability grants awarded.
- Risk Management: Updated manuals and other materials were released. Awards were announced

Step Show hosted by Ebony Steele

The Metro Atlanta Chapters performed as an exhibition team.

- Alpha Tau, Southern University A&M College - 1st Place \$5,000
- Xi Eta, Georgia Southern University - 2nd Place \$3,000
- Suburban Houston-Fort Bend Alumnae – 3rd Place \$1,000
- Gamma Iota, Hampton University
- Zeta Psi, University of Georgia

Monday, November 22, 2021

Plenary Session VI – Balloting/Election of Officers

(Executive Session for Voting Delegates Only)

Presiding: Diamond Compton, National Second Vice President

Memorial Observance

Presiding: Soror Beverly E. Smith, National President & CEO

Soror Cooke-Holmes presented over 2100 deceased sorors at the Memorial Observance.

Collegiate Luncheon

Theme: Bring It On!

- Soror Aisha “Pinky” Cole, owner/operator of Slutty Vegan, Atlanta based restaurant offers creative takes on plant-based burgers, was a speaker at the Collegiate Luncheon
- CEO of Double Good also attended the Collegiate Luncheon
- Alpha Gamma Chapter congratulates McCall Brown and Jaden Dawson for being awarded Collegiate Soror of the Year and Legacy of a Leader awards

- Zeta Delta Chapter's (Bowie State University – Eastern Region) Advisor was a finalist for Advisor of the Year
- Alpha Gamma won a few awards

Plenary Session VII – Re-Balloting/Election of Officers

(Executive Session for Voting Delegates Only)

Concurrent Workshops:

Plenary Session VIII – Business Session

Scholarship & Standards Committee (S&S) – presented by Soror Cheryl A. Hickmon, National First Vice President and Chair, National Scholarship and Standards Committee on the Re-Imagine Membership Intake and the new Policies & Procedures Template that will be due on June 30, 2022, for compliance.

Highlights of S&S Report:

- 9,335 new initiates
- In 2019-2020, \$300,000 given to outstanding Sorors
- \$45,000 in grants to chapters
- 192 Code of Conduct infractions. 85 referred to HQ. 48 Level 3 Appeals
- All Manuals revised
- Revised Code of Conduct for consistency
- Revamped Advisors Training Workshop
- Reviewed Policies & Procedures for over 900 chapters
- Communication with undergraduate schools to discuss Covid requirements
- Strategic Plan over the next five years is designed to be impactful, measurable in accordance with Constitution & Bylaws. It was approved by the Board July 24, 2021. The plan will focus on organizational health, appreciate our culture, empower women and girls, community impact and social action.

Social Action: Rev Shavon Arline-Bradley and Rhonda F. Briggins (Co-Chairs, National Social Action Commission)

The Co-Chairs presented Committee highlights, which included:

- 4,060 participated in DDNC.
- Selma anniversary trip.
- Sorors in Solidarity in response to George Floyd and other killings.
- The Republic of Korea so-hosted a mask mandate initiative. Census After Dark. Redistricting Tuesday's.
- D4 Women in Action 501(c)4 launched.

- OWN your Vote with Oprah.
- United Nations work aligns with our international initiatives.

Resolutions (See document for additional details).

The Honorable Gloria Reno and Khyla D. Craine (Co-Chairs, Resolutions Subcommittee)

Commemorative Resolutions:

- Named September 26th as Winnie Mandela Day
- Marsha Fudge on appointment as HUD Secretary

Resolutions adopted by unanimous consent were in the areas of Civil Rights, Criminal Justice, Economics, Education, Environmental, Health, International, Voting Rights/Elections.

The Subcommittee analyzed each of the previous Resolutions for relevancy and action. Many of the actions from 1954 to the present were reaffirmed.

Plenary Session IX – Formal Closing & Installation of Officers

Presiding: Beverly E. Smith, National President & CEO

Recommendations (12 submitted. 8 properly submitted)

- 1) Require all voting/alternate delegates to be in-person
- 2) Add additional day(s) to the convention schedule to conduct the business
- 3) Increase time between plenary sessions and consideration for distance traveled between meeting rooms
- 4) Increase access to food or provide boxed lunches for delegates
- 5) Consider adjusting the time/schedule of the convention
- 6) Provide process for C&B if block voting
- 7) Keep ERT information with registration

Credentials

	On-Site	Virtual
National Board of Directors	49	1
Past National Presidents	7	1
Honorary Members	8	
Voting Delegates	599	181
Alternate Delegates	541	270
Non-Voting Delegates	4,979	18,402
Hostess Chapter	1,106	396
Staff	34	
Exhibitors	143	
Family/Guests	79	

Grand Total: 18,853

Elections Results:

President – Cheryl A. Hickmon

National First Vice President – Elsie Cooke-Holmes

National Second Vice President – DeeDee Kong

National Secretary – Joi L. Moore

National Treasurer – Pamela R. Hill

Chair, 2023 National Nominating Committee – Tami Bass

Chair, National Finance Committee – Soraya Williams Farver

Chair, National Internal Audit Committee – Tonya Smalls

Alumnae Member, National Internal Audit Committee - Andrea Hampton and Teresita Jones-Thomas

Collegiate Member, National Scholarship and Standards Committee – Jordan Downtin-Dorsey

Collegiate Member, National Finance Committee – Sheivon Tribble

Collegiate Member, 2023 National Nominating Committee – Kendall McCoy

Collegiate Member, National Internal Audit Committee – Cameron Rawls and Akayla Williams

Installation of Officers:

President – Cheryl A. Hickmon

National First Vice President – Elsie Cooke-Holmes

National Second Vice President – DeeDee Kong

National Secretary – Joi L. Moore

National Treasurer – Pamela R. Hill

Chair, 2023 National Nominating Committee – Tami Bass

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Grand Sisterhood Soiree

Presiding Beverly E. Smith, National President & CEO

Guest Performer: Five Men on Stools

Signature Performer: Anthony Hamilton