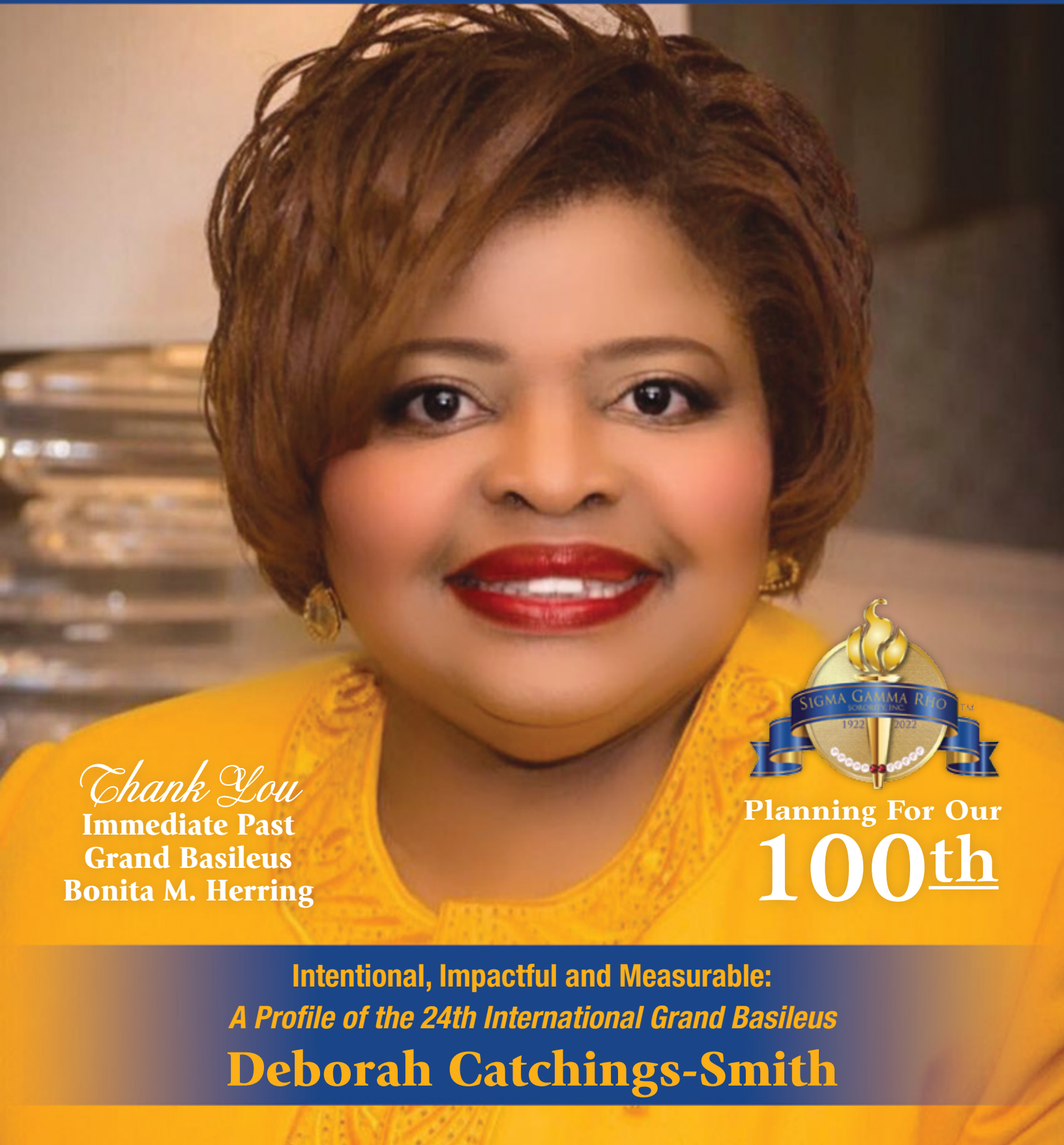


The Aurora

Fall/Winter 2016

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated



Thank You
Immediate Past
Grand Basileus
Bonita M. Herring



Planning For Our
100th

Intentional, Impactful and Measurable:
A Profile of the 24th International Grand Basileus
Deborah Catchings-Smith



Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
Special Boule 2017
July 21-22, 2017
Caesars Palace | Las Vegas, NV

Regular Registration*

March 11 – May 11

Late Registration*

May 12 – June 12

Incentives for Members who book a room at Caesars Palace.

- *No on-site registration. Payment plans available.
- **UNDER 21:** Undergraduate hotel registrants will book rooms through a sub-block with a special with a special passkey registration code.
- At least one person in the hotel room with undergraduate members must be 21 years of age or older.
- Wristbands for undergraduate members under the age of 21 will be distributed at the conference registration desk.
- Wristbands must be worn throughout the conference.

For further details, please visit
WWW.SGRHO1922.ORG or WWW.SGRHOBOULE.ORG

The Aurora

Volume 85, No. 2

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founded at Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana,
November 12, 1922.

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Deadlines:

Fall-Winter	July 15
Winter-Spring	December 15
Spring-Summer	April 15

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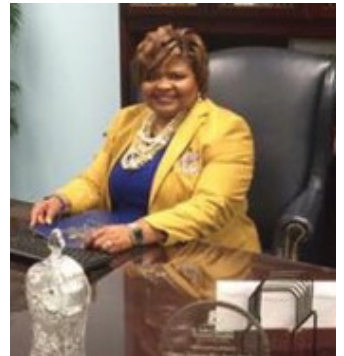
Greetings from the International Grand Basileus



**Soror
Deborah
Catchings-Smith**
24th International
Grand Basileus

Dear Sorors, Philos, Rhoers and Friends of Sigma Gamma Rho:

As promised, your volunteer leaders and staff are off to a great start and we have much to share that has been intentional, impactful and measurable! Your 38-member board of directors and board support team includes the 8 newly-elected national officers, Immediate Past International President Bonita M. Herring, 15 regional officers, 5 appointed directors, 2 board support members, and 8 international past grand basilei. Executive Director and Soror Rachel Morris serves as an ex-officio member of the board. Please visit the national website at www.SGRho1922.org to learn more about the team members.



Here's a few highlights of what has been accomplished from the office of your International Grand Basileus:

Going for Sigma Gold: 2015 - 2018 Strategic Plan

The board of directors continue the work of the Going for Sigma Gold strategic plan. Many of the strategic plan recommendations for constitution and bylaw changes will inform our agenda for the constitution boule this summer. Please provide your input as requested and participate in the upcoming webinars on this topic.



An ad hoc committee, led by Soror Syreeta Greene, is building on the previous work in this area to conduct a national member survey soon. The survey results will be important to shape all future Sorority operations, particularly the Centennial Committee and the yet to be formed strategic planning committee charged with creating the 2019 - 2022 plan.

Please review the current strategic plan on the SGRho1922.org website.

Communications



In September 2016, we introduced the **Golden Communiqué**, a monthly electronic communications tool to inform our Sisterhood of the Board of Directors' latest news, initiatives

and programs. It is sent by email and posted to our social media accounts and our website. It is sent on or near the 7th of each month. Please feel free to share this communication with inactive and potential members; and others who have an interest in our Sorority's mission towards "Greater Service, Greater Progress." Each issue provides a link for your comments, questions and ideas.

A special edition of the **Golden Communiqué - Travel Chronicles** is sent by email regularly. The purpose of this communication is to alert all members when an officer is traveling on Sorority business to your area. A simple request in advance may allow the officer(s) to attend your special event or meeting, speak to local media, and address civic organizations, for example. When it is appropriate, the **Communiqué** will invite members to attend the function or meeting to show support of Sigma Gamma Rho. This will always be spelled out in detail in the **Communiqué** as the officer(s)' time while traveling is often limited.

If you have information you'd like to share in the **Golden Communiqué**, please send it to International Grand Epistoleus Angela Spears at pressoffice@sgrho1922.org.

Representing Sigma Gamma Rho

One of our most important roles as leaders of this illustrious Sisterhood is representing the Sorority and sharing our mission and values to external audiences. Our website, social media posts and email blasts provide current and relevant activities for your review. The following is small snapshot of national initiatives where Sigma Gamma Rho was prominently positioned:

- Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority was included in the celebration of the grand opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, D.C. Your International Grand Basileus Catchings-Smith and First Grand Anti-Basileus were honored to represent the Sorority at this star-studded affair.
- Here with Phylicia Rashad at the Kennedy Center Celebration of the African American History & Culture Museum. Below with Soror and Congresswoman Robin Kelly outside the museum.



• Your International Grand Basileus and International First Grand Anti-Basileus Rasheeda Liberty represented Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority at the White House in December 2016. President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama invited your sorority to the annual holiday reception where we were able to share our mission and achievements with some of our nation's most celebrated leaders. Here before heading in to the White House Holiday Party. Posing with President Obama's senior advisor Valerie Jarrett.



- Collaborating with our partners is something we do well. We met with the USA Swimming leadership to outline our strategic plan for the coming years. Included in the meeting were Sorors Catchings-Smith, Secenario Jones, Debra Hughes, Rachel Morris and Karen Williams.



• During the National Council of Negro Women's 57th Annual Conference, the Grand Basileus updated US Ambassador and Civil Rights Pioneer Andrew Young on the work Sigma Gamma Rho does to give voice to those silenced by poverty and violence.



- Grand Basileus Catchings-Smith is welcomed at the IV/VI Area Meeting in Milwaukee, WI.



Thank You for Your "Measurable" Support - Examples of Our Sisterhood at Work:

- Successful launch of the electronic collection of community service hours by each member and affiliate. >
- Campaign for voter mobilization and voter education in collaboration with the National Pan-Hellenic Council supported by Sorors.
- Congratulations to the Seven Pearls Foundation and your new partnership with the American Heart Association.



- We saw a successful and swift implementation of our revised Membership Intake Program.
- Our social action partnership with Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. -#MoreThanAHashtag successfully launched.
- Goal to create process to distribute Sorority membership cards within 30 days of dues submission achieved.
- More than 24 Soror and Affiliate families impacted by flooding in Louisiana Disaster were supported by Sorority relief efforts.
- Partnership with USA Swimming expands: 1) successful strategic planning meeting held to guide our future efforts: 2016 USA Swimming Diversity and Inclusion Award Winner - First national sorority awardee! Past International Grand Basileus Joann Loveless accepted the award on the sorority's behalf.
- Because we were intentional with our efforts, we held our first-ever water safety/drowning prevention education booth at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation 46th Annual Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. More than 9,000 people stopped by our booth.
- Our St. Jude Walk/Run to End Childhood Cancer raised more than \$62,000 (GOAL - \$50,000).
- Remittance processing has been reduced! Processing time has gone down from 14 days to five business days.
- Surpassed National Founders' Community Service 7,000 Hours Challenge; 9,861 hours were recorded.



Congratulations on your hard work. Let's continue our focus of embracing our mission and values to be intentional, impactful and measurable throughout the New Year!

Yours In the Sisterhood,

Deborah Catchings-Smith
24th International Grand Basileus



Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated International Officers 2016-2018



**INTERNATIONAL
GRAND BASILEUS**
Deborah Catchings-Smith
St. Louis, Missouri



**INTERNATIONAL FIRST
GRAND ANTI-BASILEUS**
Rasheeda S. Liberty
Hendersonville, Tennessee



**INTERNATIONAL SECOND
GRAND ANTI-BASILEUS**
Kathrina Ruiz
Los Angeles, California



**INTERNATIONAL
GRAND GRAMMATEUS**
Karya Beamon-Evans
Nashville, Tennessee



**INTERNATIONAL
GRAND ANTI-GRAMMATEUS**
Dr. Griena Knight Davis
Birmingham, Alabama



**INTERNATIONAL
GRAND TAMIOCHUS**
Vanessa Tyson
Indianapolis, Indiana



**INTERNATIONAL
GRAND EPISTOLEUS**
Angela Spears
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CORPORATE LIAISON

Cherie Washington
Piscataway, New Jersey

NATIONAL PHILO COORDINATOR

Karen Bluitt-Evans
St. Louis, Missouri

BOULE CHAPLAIN

Cha-Tell L. King-Beckwith
Buffalo, New York

PAST GRAND BASILEI

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Ormond Beach, Florida

Katie Kinnard White, Ph.D., 17th
Brentwood, Tennessee

Joann Loveless, 22nd
Fontana, California

Annie L. Lawrence-Brown, R.N., Ed.D., 13th
Chicago, Illinois

Helen J. Owens, 20th
Jackson, Tennessee

Bonita M. Herring, 23rd
University Park, Illinois

Evelyn H. Hood, 14th
Atlanta, Georgia

Mynora J. Bryant, Ph.D., 21st
Silver Springs, Maryland

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rachel Morris
Cary, North Carolina

A Word from the Editor



**Soror
Jacki
Stennis Moore**
Editor-In-Chief

“There are five important things for living a successful and fulfilling life: never stop dreaming, never stop believing, never give up, never stop trying, and never stop learning.”
- Roy Bennett

Greetings everyone!

The new sorority year is a time for new beginnings and new journeys, especially in an election year. It is my extreme honor to have been elected as the Editor-in-Chief of our illustrious magazine, and to share my journey as your editor with you. This edition is an introductory one. It depicts new journeys, and the beginning of new sections, which I hope you will embrace and enjoy. It will introduce you to some and have you learn more about others. We also kept some of the wonderful sections such as, “Props”, “Alumnae On The Move”, “Affiliates and Undergraduates” sections. The submission guidelines have been updated, so please check the sorors only section of the website for the updated form.

There are some exciting things being planned. Plans to keep you informed and updated through differing channels. We will continue the collaboration with the International Grand Epistoleus and the International Board. We will also have an AURORA Magazine Team. I wish to thank you to those members who have signed up to serve. As I write this, a special Boulé edition is being worked on as well as the Winter/Spring edition planning, so please keep those articles and pictures coming!

I am always open to any ideas you may have and I look forward to being of service. Thank you for the opportunity and be on the lookout for more stories, more pictures, more information, and more communication. We have some outstanding members and I look forward to sharing your stories!

Jacki Stennis Moore

“A great accomplishment shouldn’t be the end of the road, just the starting point for the next leap forward.” – Harvey Mackey

On behalf of the International Corporate Headquarters, I welcome each of you to this new sorority year! I would like to thank each of you for attending our 56th Biennial Boule in Cleveland, Ohio. I would also like to extend a special thank you to Alpha Lambda Sigma chapter, Boule Volunteers and the International Corporate Headquarters Staff. Your assistance and deep commitment to our organization made this a memorable boule!

As the world evolves and transforms we must strive to meet diversity in an ever-changing society. In the current economy, it is important that the cultures and strategies of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. are innovative. Being an innovative sisterhood requires team work, tenacity, flexibility and creativity to achieve our greater heights. Implementing these characteristics will provide a wealth of knowledge and support for this great sorority.

During the boule, many of our customer service improvements over the past year were highlighted. Some of the improvements included reduction in fee document processing time frame by 70%, revised the membership and affiliate remittance forms to reduce submission errors and make them user friendly, enhanced calculations of membership statistics during record breaking sorority year for T.O.R.C.H. and financial members. Since the boule, the staff has been working with the leadership to ensure we are prepared to meet all the new recommendations that were passed.

As we transition to a new administration and we move into the 2016-2017 fiscal year teamwork will be ever more important. Our International Corporate Headquarters staff is committed to providing excellent customer service and working to assist the membership in keeping with our international biennium theme set by our International Grand Basileus, “Intentional, Impactful, Measurable: A Sisterhood for the Future.”

Sisterly,

Rachel E. Morris

Greetings from the International Headquarters



**Soror
Rachel E. Morris**
Executive Director



Interestingly, in the backdrop of the sorority's genesis stood the very powerful and dangerous Ku Klux Klan. Racism, no doubt, thrived in both Indiana and the country; racial injustice therefore sparked the birth of the second the Ku Klux

The Founding of

Klan. Established in 1915 in Stone Mountain, Georgia, the new Ku Klux Klan of the twentieth century evolved from two national events that year: the anti-Semitic lynching of engineer Leo Frank in Atlanta; and the release of D. W. Griffith's masterpiece, *Birth of a Nation*. Unlike the original Ku Klux Klan of Reconstruction, the second Klan targeted a variety of groups, including Jewish Americans, Catholics, recent European ethnic immigrants, Latinos, East Asians, and feminists.

The secret society grew to record proportions in the 1920s, especially in the Midwest. Indiana particularly stood out as a major center of Klan activity. With 300,000 members in the early 1920s, the Indiana Klan comprised one third of the native-born White male population in the state. D. C. Stephenson, the Grand Dragon of the Indiana KKK, since 1924, resided at 5432 University, in Irvington, Indianapolis, literally right next to Butler University.

Seven noble young women teachers of Indianapolis, Indiana, had a dream of a legacy for greater service and achievement through higher education. These women – Mary Lou Allison, Bessie Mae Downey, Hattie Mae Annette Dulin, Nannie Mae Gahn, Dorothy Hanley, Cubena McClure, and Vivian White – dared to dream of such a legacy because they were dedicated to the boys and girls for whom they sought to provide richness in life. To attain this, they felt deeply that certain definite needs must be met – higher education, living by the highest ethical standards and rendering unselfish service to make a better society.

In the 1920s most teachers were graduates of normal schools, two-year institutions specifically devoted to the training of teachers. Many, however, chose to continue their education at four-year institutions that awarded baccalaureate degrees. This was the case for Founder Allison Gardner Little, an Indianapolis native, and the six “ambitious and independent” friends she called to her home to discuss the idea of forming a Greek-letter organization for teachers.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

After definite and deliberate discussion with their leader, Mary Lou Allison, they decided to share their conceived plan for an organization with friends and others in their profession. As a result, these seven women who were enrolled in Butler University, Indianapolis, and the Normal School at Terre Haute, Indiana, established the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority on November 12, 1922, at Indianapolis. This, a Greek letter organization for teachers, was received with enthusiasm and welcomed by teachers far and near. In word and act, they said that this offered an opportunity for fellowship and it encouraged professional growth through the exchange of ideas that naturally would become a part of the group process in planned meetings of various kinds.

November 12, 1922, then, launched a great movement for thinking, planning and growing. From that day, the birthday of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, sorors thought together, planned together, and reached decisions together that they might render the highest possible service to young people. Doing this meant including all areas of living that affected a part of youth; their interest was educating the whole child. From the outset, then their idea assumed a broad concept of education which encompassed broad horizons and multi-dimensions. The first three years were formative years; hence, there was no time for national meetings. Alpha Chapter, the first chapter which included the seven founders and other teachers, had the responsibility of carefully planning an organization that would enjoy a long life. The group became an incorporated national collegiate sorority on December 30, 1929, when a charter was granted to Alpha chapter at Butler University.

Soaring To Greater Heights Of Attainment Around The World, *Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.*, as a leading national service organization, has met the challenges of the day and continues to grow through Sisterhood, Scholarship and Service.



Illustrious Founders



MARY LOU ALLISON GARDNER LITTLE

Little was raised by her family friend because both of her parents were killed when she was three. She graduated from Shortridge High School in 1915 and received a diploma from the Indianapolis Normal School in 1918 when she began teaching. In 1928, Little moved to Los Angeles with her husband and finished her undergraduate training in UCLA. She taught in the Los Angeles school system until her retirement in 1967.

The Mary Lou Allison Loving Cup Award is presented at each Boule to the chapter reporting the most successful program.

DOROTHY HANLEY WHITESIDE

Whiteside graduated from Shortridge High School and entered the Indianapolis Normal School in 1922, when in training as a cadet teacher she met the teachers who became her best friends and Founders of the Sorority. She taught school until 1951 when she retired and later helped her husband to develop a business. She also started her own millinery business and worked with her church and various organizations. After the death of her husband, she ran their business from 1955-1957 and returned to teaching in 1959 where she remained until her retirement in 1970.



VIVIAN IRENE WHITE MARBURY



Marbury attended Shortridge High School and the Indianapolis Normal School. She received a B.S. from Butler University and a Master's from Columbia University in New York city. Her professional career included teaching at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Director of Practice Training of teachers from Butler University, Indianapolis University and Indianapolis State University. She taught in the Indianapolis school system for nine years.

NANNIE MAE GAHN JOHNSON

Johnson was a product of the Indianapolis Public School System and received both B.S. and M.S. degrees from Butler University. In 1923, she received her first teaching assignment and over the years she was promoted to principal of one of the largest elementary schools in Indianapolis. She was also very involved with many clubs and organizations dedicated to community service and retired in 1966.



HATTIE MAE ANNETTE DULIN REDFORD



Redford graduated from South Bend Central High School cum laude, from Indiana State Teachers College with a B.S., and studied at Western Reserve in Cleveland and Indiana University extension. She taught one year in Terra Haute, and thirty-seven years in Indianapolis, Indiana. She was Grand Epistoleus, Grand Tamiochus, Financial Consultant and received various awards and honors for the sorority.

Plaques are awarded in Redford's name at each Boule for exhibits for chapter achievements.

BESSIE MAE DOWNEY RHOADES MARTIN

Martin was the youngest of six children and attended grade school in Indianapolis. She graduated from the Manual training High School and the City Teachers Normal. Martin taught school for over 25 years. She married twice and was a devoted wife and hard worker in school and the Sorority.



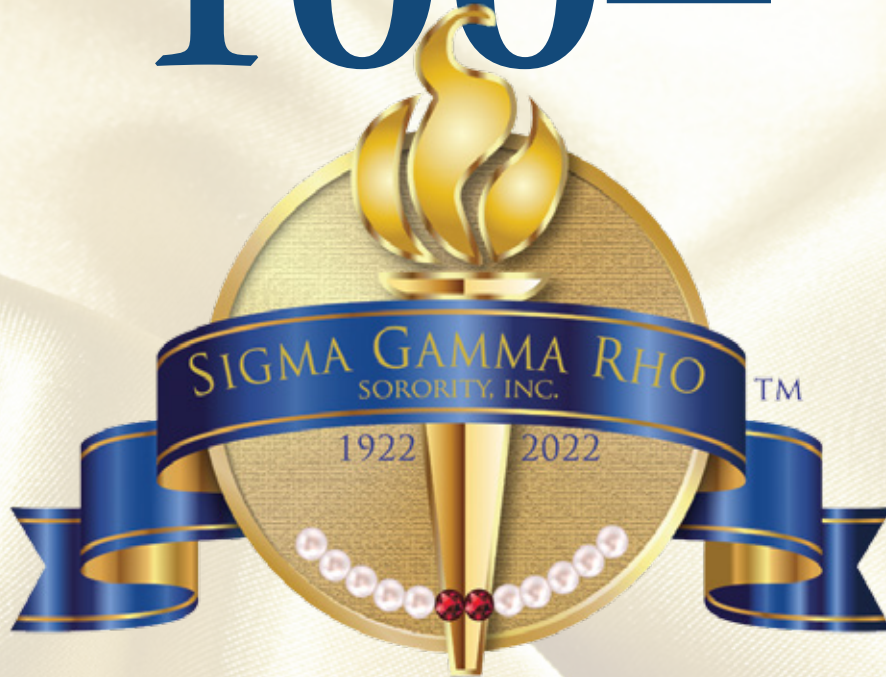
CUBENA McCLURE



Cubena McClure graduated from Shortridge High School, the Indianapolis City Normal School and attended Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. She won the Gregg Scholarship, which she planned to use to attend Columbia University, but due to illness she could not accept the scholarship. McClure was talented in art and she helped to design the Sorority pin. She died very young on August 24, 1924.

*Still reaching outward and upward with Intentional,
Impactful and Measurable goals to sustain A Sisterhood
for the Future now and forevermore!*

Planning for Our 100th



By Soror LaTisha Brandon
Centennial PR/Communications Chair

In just a few short years our Sisterhood will be celebrating 100 years of Scholarship, Sisterhood, and Service. Under the leadership of Immediate Past Grand Basileus, Bonita M. Herring, the Centennial Planning Committee was established and tasked with leading the planning efforts for this auspicious occasion.

Since inception, the Centennial Planning Committee, led by Past Grand Basileus Joann Loveless, has worked feverishly to establish the foundation for what is sure to be a celebration befitting our Sisterhood. The high-level planning infrastructure is now finalized with committees focused on specific areas including: membership, community service, fundraising, political advocacy, public relations, educational initiatives and historical archives.

During the 56th Biennial Boule in Cleveland, two recommendations were presented to the Grand Chapter that were integral in securing a significant portion of the funding needed to execute the quality of celebration reflective of our Sisterhood. The passing of both recommendations by the Grand Chapter has positioned the planning team to acquire the revenue needed to support the centennial budget.

Additional information will be provided on how to submit the assessment as well as how to participate in the **Centennial Leadership Giving Plan** for Sorors and Philos who would like to support the Centennial Celebration beyond the assessments, while receiving added benefits, access and incentives for centennial.

In keeping with the centennial theme selected by the membership and

affiliates *"Inspired by Sisterhood, Ignited by Service,"* measurable goals have been established for our planning that are achievable and aspirational. Here are some quick updates on the team's planning progress thus far:

Membership Challenge: In light of the success we experienced in year over year membership increases during the last administration, our membership goal will also increase. This will be achieved with continual collaboration with the Office of the International 1st Grand Anti-Basileus and by offering chapters, regions, and affiliates special recognition and incentives for achieving or exceeding the annual goals.

Community Service Challenge: Additionally, a goal to volunteer at least one million (1,000,000) hours of community service between July 2016 and June 2021 has been established. A webinar was hosted on Oct. 18 by the International Programs Chair that outlined the new electronic process for individual members and affiliates as well as chapters to document their service hours. The Centennial Community Service Challenge Team will use that same system to determine recipients of each of the annual as well as the culminating 2022 incentives and recognitions. If you missed the webinar, the session was recorded to allow financial members and affiliates to access it via the Sorors Only section of our official sorority website. A link will also be added to the Centennial website at www.SGRho100.org.

DTIA ... Don't Throw It Away! In our efforts to collect historical documents and artifacts owned by individual members, we are embarking on our DTIA campaign. Full instructions regarding the types of documents and articles of history that are of interest, as well as the process for review and then submission are included on the Centennial website at www.SGRho100.org.

New Planning Committee Formed: As a result of feedback received from the membership a new planning committee has been created: **International Education Initiative Committee.** Led by Soror Theresa Armistead, Western Region, this committee will develop recommendations and plans for execution regarding educational infrastructure projects to be undertaken by the Centennial Team in **both** the U.S. and abroad. If you are interested in working on this critical task, the team is looking for volunteers with the following skills:

- Elementary school curriculum and operational specialists
- Architects and/or general contractors with knowledge of the principles of design for school constructions and ability to review design drawings
- Insurance or risk management specialists
- Grant writers
- Materials coordinator
- Political and marketing liaison
- Real estate and land use specialists

Though the foundation has been established there is still a great deal of work to be done and the Centennial Planning Team needs YOU! If you are a financial soror or philo and would like to join the planning committee, please send a copy of your professional resume, your Sigma/Philo resume and area of interest where you would like to serve to CentennialCommittee@SGRho1922.org.



Intentional, Impactful & Measurable

A Profile of the 24th International Grand Basileus,
Deborah Catchings-Smith

With a vision of a Sisterhood that is "intentional, impactful, and measurable," corporate executive Deborah Catchings-Smith took office as the 24th International Grand Basileus during the 56th biennial boule in Cleveland, Ohio. She brings more than 28 years of senior management experience to our Sorority and 38 years as a Sigma Gamma Rho member and local, regional and national leader.

"I have a vision for our future and a plan to demonstrate our relevance to those within and outside our Sisterhood. I have a vision that includes fundamental leadership tenets for moving any organization forward. When we are intentional with the decisions that we make, create impact that supports our brand, and measure the return on investment of resources and volunteer hours, we become more strategic and proactive," said Soror Catchings-Smith. "As a board, we want to collaborate with our members to exceed expectations."

International Grand Basileus Soror Catchings-Smith sees her most important leadership role as working with staff and volunteer leaders to generate fresh ideas, bring a fresh perspective to the work of Sigma Gamma Rho and offer fresh leadership that keeps the legacy of our Founders in focus while building on our strengths: Sisterhood, Service and Scholarship.

According to Catchings-Smith, "we are guided by our current Going for Sigma Gold Strategic Plan. To accomplish the goals and complete the tactics outlined in the plan, the Board of Directors is committed to the leadership tenets outlined during my campaign: collaboration, fact-based decision making, effective processes, security and safeguards, and accountability."

Collaboration

We are strongest when we all work together, combining our talents and resources toward a common vision.

Fact-based Decision Making

Sustainable change and transformation happens when we are able to take a fact-based decision

making approach to Sorority business. When we face challenges or conflicts arise over which course of action to take, the road to take becomes clear when we use fact-based decision making.

Effective Processes

We will design and implement effective processes that reduce duplication of efforts, rework, stress and burnout. When change is recommended, we will pause and determine whether there is even a need for change, consider best practices and other options.

Security and Safeguards

Our membership and financial data, and the Sigma Gamma Rho brand are important assets to the Sorority. We will work collaboratively with our leadership, staff and International Legal Advisor to protect these assets.

Accountability

Often, our volunteer leaders are investing more hours doing the work of the sorority than with their own families. When members of the team don't deliver on their commitments, the entire organization suffers. Accountability is the guiding principle that defines how we evaluate and report on our progress, how we communicate when things go wrong, and how we define success. The board will hold itself accountable and ask that we hold each other accountable for what we say, do and deliver.

BACKGROUND

Soror Catchings-Smith's Sigma Gamma Rho journey began more than 38 years ago and continues to be filled with memorable moments of true Sisterhood, service and leadership. She shares that "being an active member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated has been one of the most enriching and rewarding experiences of my adult life. It is through the support of my family and this illustrious organization that I have been able to realize my childhood dreams."

Born in Jackson, Mississippi and reared in the Chicago, Illinois area, she was fortunate to witness the entrepreneurial spirit of her stepfather, Hillman Patton. He opened the first African-American Insurance Brokerage in Joliet, Illinois in the late 1960s. He then went on to open a fresh seafood market and when her family relocated to Decatur, Illinois, he opened a highly successful barbeque restaurant that was in existence for more than 20 years.

She was able to learn a great deal working alongside her parents in these successful business ventures. Witnessing the passion, hard work, dedication and brilliance of her parents engaged in these business enterprises had a significant impact on her, which has served as a driving force throughout her life.

When asked what attracted her to Sigma Gamma Rho, she reflects, "it was meeting members of the Sisterhood on my college campus at Illinois State who epitomized the same values of passion, hard work, dedication and brilliance that I embraced. Sigma Gamma Rho was a clear



Parents of Soror Catchings-Smith



Eta Mu Sigma Chapter Charter Members, November 7, 1991

choice me." She was inducted into the Sorority August 23, 1978, Epsilon undergraduate chapter. Upon graduating from Illinois State University with a business major and finance minor, she began her professional career and Sigma Gamma Rho leadership journey. Today, she is life member #425 and is a charter member of Eta Mu Sigma alumnae chapter in St. Louis, MO and was Charter Basileus. She has been an active financial member since joining the Sorority. Her volunteer engagement has included more than 40 roles as local, regional and international leader, committee and task force chair, and committee member.



Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis Women in Leadership Civic Leader Award

Presidential Life Time Achievement Volunteer Service Award; Citibank Volunteer Service Award - Recognition for more than 4,000 hours of community service; the Civic Leader Award: Women in Leadership - Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis and Outstanding Community Involvement Award - Kingdom House Neighborhood Association.

Soror Catchings-Smith has several, nieces, nephews, godchildren and mentees. She has been married to her best friend, greatest supporter and Sigma Gent, Robert, for more than 30 years and is a member of St. Alphonsus "Rock" Catholic Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

Soror Catchings-Smith wants the membership and staff to know, "I will continue to listen to your ideas and aspirations for our Sisterhood, transforming those ideas into workable plans, and building consensus to implement them. What matters to you, matters to me. You have entrusted me with the awesome responsibility to lead and speak on your behalf. For that, I am immensely grateful, and I will work daily to surpass your expectations."

To send comments or questions to International Grand Basileus Deborah Catchings-Smith, please use email: askIGB@sgr1922.com.

In her professional role, she is currently Vice President, Operational Risk Management Governance, Citibank, where she has been employed since 2000. Her career spans nearly three decades, holding positions with some of the world's most recognized financial companies in the consumer real estate lending business, operations, technology and other global support functions management of operational risk through governance and policy development.

Her awards and achievements are too numerous to mention here. Recently, she received the U.S.



Soror Catchings-Smith with her husband and Sigma Gent, Robert

This sorority year is off to a great start, with a renewed focus on our critical membership activities – recruitment, reclamation and retention. Membership, no doubt, is the basis of our sisterhood and the key factor in delivering upon our motto of “Greater Service, Greater Progress.”

At the 2016 Boule, the Grand Chapter made some critical decisions that impacted our membership intake process, T.O.R.C.H. significantly. With the help of the Membership Services department and our legal counsel, we updated our membership policies and risk management documents to create a foundation for a healthy fall intake process. This enabled successful recruitment with record numbers from many regions. At the same time, the regional leadership set growth targets and a plan of execution focused on both retention and reclamation. As a result, we have set a record percentage of returning members, new charters, and an influx of reclaimed members.

Our membership activities are supported nicely with two membership incentive programs, one being the relaunched Boule to Boule Contest. The Boule to Boule contest addresses recruitment, reclamation, and retention with a twist of average chapter size. The second initiative is driven by our Centennial with a long-term focus on growing the size of sorority and affiliate membership. In addition, we want chapters to boldly press towards 100+ members, or progressive growth over time.

It is one thing to set a goal, but another thing to have a plan of execution. To support our aggressive plans, we have developed several exciting promotional activities to educate our membership, provide resource toolkits, develop national branding support, encourage “out of the box” thinking with task force teams, drive social media activity and create an environment for shared learning.

All of the membership committee and task force members are positioned for greatness with clear objectives, a path to get there and a passion to see Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. progress. I am, indeed excited about our journey ahead.

Rasheeda S. Liberty

Note: If you are a graphic artist, videographer or photographer, we want to hear from you. Please contact the International First Grand Anti-Basileus at firstgrandantibasileus@sgrho1922.org.

From the Desk of



**Soror
Rasheeda S.
Liberty**
**International First
Grand Anti-Basileus**



Thank
you

Bonita M. Herring
23rd International Grand Basileus
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Bonita Marie Herring

has served her community locally, regionally and nationally. She embraced the importance of service in her early years and made an ultimate commitment to servant leadership, becoming the 23rd National President of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. in July 2012.

Soror Herring brings over 40 years of experience to her position and holds a bachelor of arts degree in English from the University of Illinois-Chicago and a MA in Communications and Training from Governors State University. She has the unique distinction of having been the only executive director in the sisterhood who has had the opportunity to serve as Grand Basileus.

During her tenure as executive director, she served as chairman of the Council of Executive Directors (COEDs) and received awards for her service in seven sorority administrations. Through the years she has focused on the importance of teamwork, sorority outreach and partnerships. One such outreach, which has proven to be a best practice for all National Pan-Hellenic Council Organizations, is to the Association of Sorority and Fraternity Advisors. Sigma Gamma Rho was the first sorority to bring a regional delegation to participate in the Fireside Chats. Today, all NPHC organizations have joined in support of this resource for campus advisors.

Networking and actively participating in the community is just one of the ways that Soror Bonita Herring has provided years of service. In addition to her many sorority commitments, she has served on the board of the Southeast Chamber of Commerce and she has held the office of vice president of membership for the National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners in earlier years. Currently, she serves as vice president of membership for the Chicago State University Chapter of Toastmasters International and is a member of St. Ailbe Church where she serves in the usher ministry and on the Sisters in Spirit Praise Team.

She currently holds the position of Director of the Office of Field Placement and Community Outreach at Chicago State University. There she manages the placement of student teachers and students who need field hours.

Soror Bonita Herring is married to Chester, a Certified Public Accountant. They have one daughter Chevonne who is also a Certified Public Accountant and a Soror as well.

Soror Herring is a committed servant leader who believes in hard work, but encourages all to take time for themselves. She has a collection of inspirational words that have guided her through life, but one favorite quote about limitless achievement comes from Harriet Tubman, "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

The motto, "Greater Service, Greater Progress" was created with Sorors like Bonita M. Herring in mind! We are so grateful to have the experience and leadership our International Grand Basileus brings to our Sorority! We thank you for your exceptional leadership!

A junior at University of Southern California and Questbridge Scholar, Kathrina Ruiz is currently studying Political Science with a minor in Forensics & Criminality, and Global Communication. With a desire to pursue a law career, Ruiz works for the Post Conviction Justice Project as a student assistant in the law clinic.

Born in New York and raised in Massachusetts area, Ruiz developed a passion for serving underrepresented communities, which has driven her interest in both teaching and practicing law to advocate directly for those populations. The choice to join Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. was an easy one for Ruiz, as she witnessed the service being provided firsthand on campus and in the surrounding communities by the sisterhood.

Personally, Ruiz is inspired by her mother and is motivated by the poem, "Don't Quit." She considers herself a role model to not only her younger brother, but to those who strive to help others despite the adversities they may experience. "

- **Goals:** I would like to become a civil rights lawyer so that I can represent my community, following my retirement I would like to become a professor.
- **School:** University of Southern California
- **Major:** Political Science
- **Minor:** 1. Global communication 2. Forensics and criminality
- **What you wish to accomplish during your term:** Internally my main focus is working with the undergrads to unite them. Hopefully this will help increase conference attendance as well as retention from graduating sorors into graduate chapters. Externally I will be working to design a new program that focuses on mental health within the black community.
- **Your Chapter:** The Elite Theta Epsilon chapter
- **Region:** Mighty Western Region
- **Sorority Offices Held:** Basileus, Grammateus, Epistoleus
- **Affiliate Organizations:** Black Student Assembly, Latino Student Assembly, Phi Alpha Delta (the first pre-law fraternity)

Kathrina Ruiz

From the Desk of



Soror Kathrina Ruiz International Second Grand Anti-Basileus

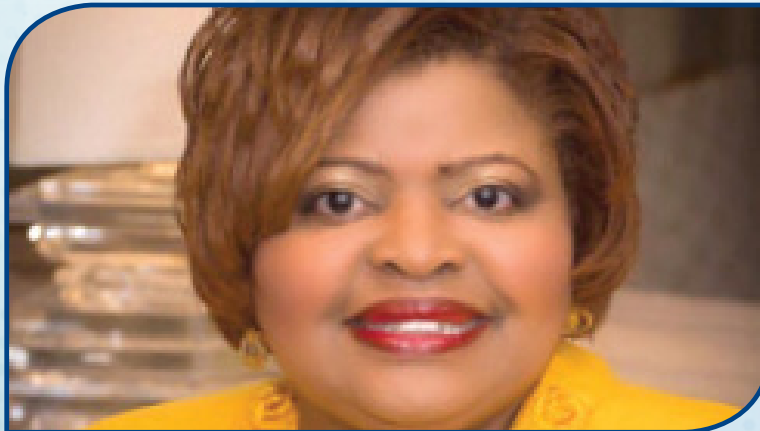


Deborah Catchings-Smith

International Grand Basileus

Eta Mu Sigma • St. Louis, Missouri • Central Region

*Vice President, Operational Risk Management Governance
at Citibank in St. Louis, Missouri*



Sorority Offices Held:

Local Offices

Basileus
Anti-Basileus
Grammateus
Anti-Grammateus
Tamiochus
Epistoleus
Nominations Chair
Elections Chair

Regional Offices

Central Region Syntaktes
Central Region
Undergraduate Chapter
Coordinator
Central Region
Grammateus
Central Region
Nominations Chair

National Office:

International First Grand
Anti-Basileus
International Grand
Basileus

Affiliate Organizations

Association of Fraternity
and Sorority Advisors –
2002- Present
Order of Omega National
Honorary Greek Society –
2007 - Present
Urban League of
Metropolitan St. Louis
Whitney M. Young Society
Leadership Giver
NAACP
United Way of Greater St.
Louis Charmaine Chapman
Society Leadership Giver
Fathers Support Center St.
Louis – Immediate Past
Board Member & Board
Secretary
Mathews-Dickey Boys and
Girls Club Volunteer
Order of Kentucky Colonels
National Honorary
Community Leadership
Society –
2009 – Present
St. Alphonsus “Rock”
Catholic Church



Rasheeda S. Liberty

International First Grand Anti-Basileus

Upsilon Sigma • Nashville, Tennessee • Southeastern Region

Senior Market Finance Leader

Mars Petcare U.S., Franklin, Tennessee



Sorority Offices Held:

Local Offices

First Anti-Basileus, Basileus
– Gamma Pi Sigma

Parliamentarian,
Nominating Committee
Chair, Election Committee
Chair – Upsilon Sigma

Program Committee
Chair, Budget & Finance
Committee Chair

Founder & Trustee of Sigma
Legacy Fund

Regional Offices

Southeastern Region
Syntaktes

Undergraduate Chapter
Coordinator

Central Region Tamiochus

Central Region Area
Coordinator, Central
Region Membership Chair

Southeastern Region Audit
Committee Chair

National Office:

Editor in Chief, The
AURORA

Strategic Planning
Co-Chair - Organizational
Structure

Boule Workshop Presenter,
Undergraduate Summit
Presenter

Regional Leadership
Committee Member

International First Grand
Anti-Basileus

Affiliate Organizations

Network of Executive
Women (NEW)

Financial Executive
Networking Group (FENG)

Association of Fraternal
Advisors (AFA)

Top Ladies of Distinction
(TLOD)

National Council of Negro
Women (NCNW)

London Business School,
High Performing Business
School Alumnae

Meet Sigma Gamma Rho's New Officers



Kathrina Ruiz

International Second Grand Anti-Basileus

Theta Epsilon chapter • Los Angeles, CA • Western Region

Junior at University of Southern California

Majoring in political science



Sorority Offices Held:

Basileus

Grammateus

Epistoleus

Affiliate Organizations

Black Student Assembly

Latino Student Assembly

Phi Alpha Delta (the first pre-law fraternity)



Karya Y. Beamon-Evans

International Grand Grammateus

Upsilon Sigma • Nashville, Tennessee • Southeastern Region

Title 1 Federal Grants Program Specialist and School Improvement Plan Team Lead, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, Nashville, Tennessee



Sorority Offices Held:

Local Offices

Tamiochus, Grammateus

Budget & Finance Committee Chair

Regional Office

Grammateus

National Office:

International Grand Grammateus

Affiliate Organizations

Tennessee Educators Association

Metropolitan Nashville Educators Association

Top Ladies of Distinction

National Council of Negro Women

Tennessee State University Alumni Association

Inner Peace Baptist Church

Meet Sigma Gamma Rho's New Officers



Dr. Griena H. Knight Davis

International Grand Anti-Grammateus

Alpha Zeta Sigma • Birmingham, Alabama • Southeastern Region

*Owner/Licensed Counselor of I CARE Wellness Services, LLC
in Birmingham, Alabama*



Sorority Offices Held:

Local Offices

Alpha Zeta Sigma Chapter- Anti-Basileus

Chi Sigma Chapter - Basileus, Rhoer
Advisor

Regional Offices

Alabama State Liaison

SE Regional Epistoleus

SE Regional UCC

SE Regional Syntaktes

National Office:

International Grand
Anti-Grammateus

Affiliate Organizations

Silver Life Member of the NAACP-Metro
Birmingham Chapter

Vice President of Membership for the
Summit Speakers Toastmasters

Life Member of the National Council of
Negro Women

Founder and President of SMART Girl,
Incorporated

Life Member of Disabled American
Veterans

Member of Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights
of St. Peter Claver Court #140

Life Member of the American Legion Post
#347

Life Member of the University of Alabama
at Birmingham National Alumni Society

Member of The University of Alabama
Alumni Association



Vanessa Tyson

International Grand Tamiochus

Indianapolis, Indiana • Central Region

*Business Solutions Operations Manager
Indiana University Health, Indianapolis, Indiana*



Sorority Offices Held:

Local Offices

Basileus

Anti-Basileus

Grammateus

Regional Office

Tamiochus

National Office:

International Grand Tamiochus

Affiliate Organizations

Silvanus International Ministries, Inc.

Healthcare Financial Management
Association (HFMA)

Oaklandon Youth Organization (OYO)

Butler University Minority Alumni
Council

Meet Sigma Gamma Rho's New Officers



Jacki Stennis Moore

International Editor-in-Chief of The AURORA

Eta Xi Sigma • Oak Lawn, Illinois • Central Region

Government Training Specialist, Chicago, Illinois



Sorority Offices Held:

Local Offices

Epistoleus
Archivist
Philo Affiliate Co-advisor
Philo Affiliate Advisor

Regional Office

Central Region Epistoleus

National Office:

International Editor-in-Chief of The AURORA

Affiliate Organizations

Alpha Chi National Honor Society
Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society
National Association of Black Journalists
National Education Fund Advocate



Angela Spears

International Grand Epistoleus

Gamma Omicron Sigma • Jacksonville, Florida • Southeastern Region

President of Angela Spears Communication, Jacksonville, Florida



Sorority Offices Held:

Local Offices

Gamma Omicron Sigma Chapter - 3rd
Anti-Basileus and Epistoleus

Regional Office

Southeastern Region Programs Chair

National Office

International Grand Epistoleus

Affiliate Organizations

Jacksonville Women's Business Center
Marketing and Communications Task Force
Jax Bridges



Lacritia Spence

International Sergeant at Arms

Gamma Pi Sigma Alumnae Chapter • Milwaukee, WI • Central Region

Owner of the Spence State Farm Agency, Milwaukee, WI



Sorority Offices Held:

Local Offices

Basileus, Gamma Pi Sigma
Anti-Basileus, Gamma Pi Sigma
Tamiochus, Gamma Pi Sigma
Grammateus, Gamma Pi Sigma
Sergeant at Arms, Gamma Pi Sigma
Parliamentarian, Gamma Pi Sigma
Philo Advisor, Gamma Pi Sigma
Pan-Hel Representative, Gamma Pi Sigma

National Office:

Sergeant at Arms

Regional Office

Regional Sergeant at Arms



Jacqueline Greely, MPA

International Program Coordinator

Lambda Delta Sigma • Annapolis, MD • Northeast Region

Grants Management Specialist, Maryland



Sorority Offices Held:

Local Offices

Lambda Delta Sigma Chapter - Basileus
Lambda Delta Sigma Chapter - Anti-Basileus
Lambda Delta Sigma Chapter - Rhoer Advisor

Affiliate Organizations

American Society for Public Administration
National Forum for Black Public Administrators
International Center for Traditional Childbearing

Leaders attend **SIGMA GAMMA RHO** *the Congressional* **LEADING AND INFLUENCING** *Black Caucus* **IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL**



Leadership of the Divine Nine



National Sorority Presidents of the Divine Nine



Sigma Leadership Representing at the CBC

New leadership. A new direction for Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. It's been a busy few months since International Grand Basileus Deborah Catchings-Smith's inauguration. The tradition of leading and influencing in the nation's capital, which started under the late 18th International Grand Basileus Corine J. Green, continues. The Sigma leadership team attended the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Foundation, Inc. 46th Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) in Washington, D.C. The theme for the 2016 conference held September 14 - 18 was ***"Defining the Moment, Building the Movement."***

"Attending CBC is always a wonderful opportunity for Sigma Gamma Rho. We talk one-on-one with lawmakers about issues affecting our communities. We learn about legislative plans in the pipeline. We then are able to pass on this critical information to our chapters," said Catchings-Smith.

Sorority members attending the conference participated in workshops, or brain trusts that focused on a variety of issues such as voting, the criminal justice system and our health. The brain trusts provided resources through discussions with experts from all fields. U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX - Dist. 18) shared some great advice during her workshop that focused on criminal justice reform. She advised us to stay actively involved in this issue. Per Attorney Ben Crump, "Everything starts locally. We have to show up at city council meetings and hold all elected officials as well as law enforcement accountable."

U.S. Rep. and Soror Robin Kelly (IL - Dist. 2) hosted her annual



National Undergraduate Leadership Representing at the CBC



Recognized by St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for our Service



Olympian and Soror Maritza McClendon at work during the Swim 1922 Clinic

health workshop. Members learned about ways to make a difference when it comes to our health. We need to bring the advances in science to benefit patients directly. It is important to get the right medication to the right patient at the right time. We must work with community partners to raise funds to gain resources to assist reducing the disparities in health care for African Americans.

Service is always at the center of Sigma Gamma Rho's foundation. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital recognized our work as well as the entire National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) for contributions to find cures and save lives. The Divine Nine has donated nearly \$3 million to ensure families never pay while a child is receiving life-saving treatments.

Members of the sorority and our partner, USA Swimming, also took time out to talk with children in the area about water safety during a Swim 1922 Clinic. Olympian and Soror Maritza McClendon and Natalie Hinds, Olympic trials qualifier, discussed the importance of learning how to swim and showed them basic swim techniques. "I love this sport. I love encouraging our kids to get in the water and not be afraid. Swimming is fun and saves lives," said McClendon. One little girl was so inspired by the community service project that she said she wants to be an Olympic swimmer.

For the first time during the conference, Sigma Gamma Rho and USA Swimming set up a booth in the main exhibit hall. Hundreds of people stopped by to pick up information about swimming and reporters talked with McClendon about sharing the facts when it comes to drowning in the African-American community. According to research for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, African-American children drown at a rate nearly three times higher than their Caucasian peers.

Another first involved the Divine Nine's top collegiate leaders. International Second Grand Anti-Basileus Kathrina Ruiz and her counterparts made history at the National Pan-Hellenic Council Presidents' Forum hosted by U.S. Rep. Marcia L. Fudge (OH - Dist. 11). The second grand was part of the first ever millennial leadership panel. She discussed ways to engage and educate millennials about the importance of voting. "The older generation should include the younger generation in the conversation about voting and encourage them to vote. Professors can offer extra credit before and after students vote (to get them involved)," said Ruiz. She also let the audience know that Sigma Gamma Rho hosts Golden Alert Town Hall Meetings around the country that focus on voting and social justice issues.

The Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference ended with the spectacular Phoenix Awards which recognized the accomplishments of the next generation of leaders and lawmakers doing amazing work in communities around the country. President Barack Obama was the keynote speaker. Awards were given to Secretary Hillary Clinton; Robert F. Smith, founder and CEO of Vista Equity Partners; U.S. Rep. Charles B. Rangel (NY - Dist.13) co-founder of the CBC; and U.S. Rep. Fudge.

"Sigma Gamma Rho is poised to make a difference and be leaders in our communities all over the country. Our members are empowered and inspired to continue to make a change through training opportunities and attending conferences like the CBC Annual Legislative Conference," said Catchings-Smith. ■



Beacon of Light

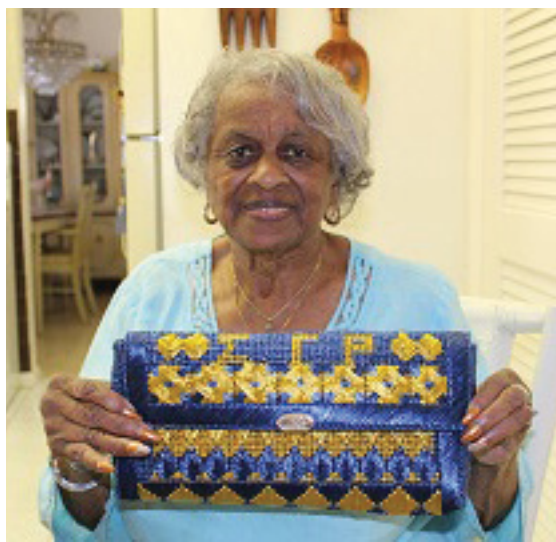
Soror Leola Massey Gainey ***A true Sigma Woman and Beacon of Light***

Sitting in the corner kitchen of the house she called her own in 1964, Leola Massey Gainey was a pointer sister in her hay day! No, not that Pointer Sister; a needle point sister. Born in Detroit, Michigan in May 1927, then Leola Massey, never knew the road she traveled would lead her to West Palm Beach, Florida and the Gamma Gamma Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated. After her formal education at what was once Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia, she went on to complete her bachelor's degree at Allen University in South Carolina. Gainey soon got married and the couple adopted their precious son. Beginning to embrace the south Florida life, Gainey became a Sigma!

"The initiation part was awful," declared Gainey. She mentioned several "shenanigans" during the process and stated she really enjoyed her experiences as a young Sigma woman. While not quite being able to recall some of the songs she and her line sisters would sing, Soror Gainey did remember, "We were called the Singing Grandmas!" As she reminisced about her life, Soror Gainey said her life has taught her to always live by the Golden Rule.

She was a world traveler; as Soror Gainey slowly reached over to her blue and gold scrapbook, she recalled, "I was a country girl" as she remembered her trips to Tokyo, Hong Kong, Cuba, and Paris.

While we sat, Soror Gainey remembered her needle point as she jumped up from her seat to retrieve a purse she made. The royal blue and gold



By Soror Rasheedah K. Guyden

needle point purse which bears the distinct letters of Sigma Gamma Rho was still in good condition. Gainey made another purse just like this one several years ago which she gave to Gamma Gamma Sigma chapter for display.

This very soft-spoken, gentle woman could not say what she attributes to her longevity, at almost 90, but stated she eats whatever she wants and regularly monitors her health. She still drives

herself around town and proclaimed she will, "drive as long as I can drive."

Having the opportunity to host Grand Basileus Dr. Cleo Higgins in her home when she was 29, Soror Gainey recalled how she and her grandmother shared a bed, while Dr. Higgins slept in her bed across the hall. She chuckled when she remembered how her grandmother asked her, "Ain't she gone turn that light off?" then yelled across the hall, "Hey Miss! You need to turn that light off in there!" Soror Gainey laughed and shrieked at her embarrassment.

As I listened to her story, I was amazed at the fortitude, determination and inner strength she had then, and possesses now. Soror Gainey's tenacity and grace are qualities all women should aspire to become and whose poise and grace we should attempt to emulate. Since 1955, Soror Leola Massey Gainey has been a Beacon of Light in the West Palm Beach chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated. The needle point days are gone but she is still inspiring women every day. Soror Gainey, we salute you!



Supporting Our Sisters

The cleanup of the devastating flooding along the Gulf Coast continues. We want to thank you for sending water, nonperishable food, towels and much more to support our sorors, Philos and Rhoers in need. We ask for your continued prayers.

The Southwestern Region has provided updates and we are now aware of the sorors and affiliates who have been directly impacted. Your help is needed now more than ever to assist with rebuilding. We are asking members of the Sigma Gamma Rho family to consider a minimum \$22 donation to the Sigma Gamma Rho National Disaster Relief Fund. Your donation will assist the organization

in adequately responding to the needs of our family.

We have established a 30-day goal of \$30,000. Please visit our website for the link to assist sorors and affiliates affected by the flooding.



We truly understand the meaning of our motto, “Greater Service, Greater Progress,” especially during these unforeseen circumstances. Community service and sisterhood are major focal points for Sigma Gamma Rho. We thank you in advance for your generosity in supporting our Sigma family. If you have any questions, please contact the International Corporate Headquarters at (888) 747-1922.

Breast Cancer Survivor and Warrior

A Personal Story of Strength and Courage

My Story begins in December 2006, when I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I was working out one evening and soon after my workout I fell asleep only to be awakened by small throbbing under my left arm. I began to feel around in the area where I felt the knobbing and then touched upon a small hard knot. It felt very unusual so I decided to call my doctor the next morning and let her know my findings, reminding myself that I had already made my mammogram appointment which was scheduled for two days after this emergency call to my physician. My doctor asked me to come in early for my appointment, and I did so. At that time, my blood was drawn, and I went through a series of tests, that of which discovered my diagnosis was breast cancer. I went through the usual testing for this type of disease; some of you may recognize the names MRI, biopsy, ultrasound, etc. I eventually had chemotherapy, surgery (lumpectomy), and radiation. In October 2014, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, I was self-examining my right breast and felt many lumps. I called my doctor. Due to my history, they asked me to come in for an examination. I remember saying to myself "this couldn't be happening again". After my tests were completed, the diagnosis was breast cancer, but in the right breast. The cancer was in multiple areas in the breast, which made me a candidate for a Mastectomy. But first I had to endure a series of more tests, chemotherapy, surgery followed by radiation. I thank God for a good support system. With prayer, family,



and friends your support system is very important – especially on the rough days.

My Story continues, on October 12, 2016, I had my annual mammogram, which I always try to schedule in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

On my mammogram film it shows new findings. I am currently scheduled for a biopsy on October 25, 2016. I am asking for continued prayers. God has been good to me, and I will continue to stand on His word even though I am facing yet another challenge. I pray that each of you continue your self-breast examinations and I encourage you to get your annual mammogram.

- **Philo Debra Lee-Williams**
Eta Xi Sigma Alumnae Chapter
Philo Affiliate, Oak Lawn, Illinois

Editor's Note:

EARLY DETECTION IS KEY!

The Susan G. Komen Organization suggests four Breast Self-Awareness Steps:

1. Know Your Risk
2. Get Screened
3. Know what is Normal for You
4. Make Healthy Lifestyle Choices

We thank Philo Lee-Williams for sharing her story. It is with fervent hope that her story will encourage everyone to get screened, and be aware of your body and any changes, no matter how minuscule, please seek out the advice of your physician. Philo Lee-Williams is also a motivational speaker who spoke at her alumnae chapter's Breast Cancer Awareness Event.

Soror Hattie McDaniel

Soror Hattie McDaniel was born on June 10, 1895, in Wichita, Kansas. In 1925, she became one of the first African American women on the radio. In 1934, she landed her on-screen break in *Judge Priest*. She became the first African American to win an Oscar in 1940, for her role as Mammy in *Gone with the Wind*. In 1947, she starred on CBS radio's *The Beulah Show*. She died on October 26, 1952, in Los Angeles, California.

She was born to a family of entertainers in Wichita, Kansas. She was her parents' 13th child. Her father, Henry, was a Baptist minister who played the banjo and performed in minstrel shows. Her mother, Susan Holbert, was a gospel singer. In 1901, Soror McDaniel and her family moved to Denver, Colorado.

Soror McDaniel landed her first major on-screen break in 1934, singing a duet with Will Rogers in John Ford's *Judge Priest*. The following year, McDaniel was awarded the role of Mom Beck, starring opposite Shirley Temple and Lionel Barrymore in *The Little Colonel*. The part gained Soror McDaniel the attention of Hollywood directors, and was followed by a steady stream of offers.

In 1939, Soror McDaniel accepted a role that would mark the highlight of her entertainment career. As Mammy, Scarlett O'Hara's house servant in *Gone with the Wind*, Soror McDaniel earned the 1940 Academy Award for best supporting actress—becoming the first African American to win an Oscar. All of the film's black actors, including Soror McDaniel, were barred from attending the film's premiere in 1939, aired at the Loew's Grand Theatre on Peachtree Street in Atlanta, Georgia.

Walter White, then president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, pleaded with African American actors to stop accepting such stereotypical roles, as he believed they degraded the black community. He also urged movie studios to start creating roles that portrayed blacks as capable of achieving far more than cooking and cleaning for white people.

In her defense, Soror McDaniel responded by asserting her prerogative to accept whatever roles she chose. She was known for saying, "Why should I complain about making \$7,000 a week playing a maid? If I didn't, I'd be making \$7 a week being

one." She also suggested that characters like Mammy proved themselves as more than just measuring up to their employers.

As the Civil Rights Movement progressed, the sort of roles for which Soror McDaniel was typecast began to gradually disappear. As a result of her conflict with the NAACP, she was also no longer a popular choice for film roles. Movie offers eventually stopped coming altogether.

Soror McDaniel reacted to the decline in her acting career by making a strategic return to radio in the late 1940s. In 1947, she took the starring role on CBS radio's *The Beulah Show*. Although Soror McDaniel was once again playing a maid, she managed—to the NAACP's approval—to use her talents to break racial stereotypes rather than reinforce them.

In 1951, Soror McDaniel started filming for a television version of *The Beulah Show*. Unexpectedly, she suffered a heart attack around the same time, but was able to resume filming after a short recovery period. When Soror McDaniel was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1952, actress Louise Beavers stepped in to assume her role on the TV show.

Soror Hattie McDaniel lost her battle with cancer in Los Angeles, California, on October 26, 1952. Since her death, McDaniel has been posthumously awarded two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Additionally, in 1975, she was inducted into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. lost one of its premier members, Hattie McDaniel, sixty-four years ago to breast cancer at the age of 57. The sorority commemorates her memory in the month of October. The members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. are committed to raising awareness of breast cancer prevention and treatment through workshops and partnerships. This is done in honor of her memory and contributions to society.



The National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

57th National Convention

By Thelma Johnson

The National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW) hosted its 57th National Convention in Washington, D.C. on October 7-9, 2016. The Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. delegation included International Grand Basileus Deborah Catchings-Smith, International Program Coordinator Jacqueline Greely, Executive Director Rachel Morris and Sigma Gamma Rho Liaison to NCNW Thelma Johnson.

NCNW is a national organization, celebrating over 80 years of visionary work in fostering the growth and development of women, children and families throughout the world. The 2016 conference theme was "Fortified by the Past...Focused on the Future."



Some of the highlights of the NCNW conference included:

- President's Luncheon which featured presentations by some of the leaders of the 40-plus member organization
- Town Hall Meeting which featured Mrs. Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, as the keynote speaker
- Bethune Height Luncheon which included tributes to Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune and Dr. Dorothy Irene Height
- GALA Reception and Dinner
- Plenary sessions focusing on the past successes of NCNW, the current state of NCNW and strategies for moving the organization forward.



2016 USA SWIMMING Diversity & Inclusion Award Winners

Each year the USA Swimming National Diversity & Inclusion Committee gives a top honor to an organization and/or an individual. The Diversity & Inclusion Award is presented to the person or group who has positively heightened the awareness of inclusion efforts through various modes and media resulting in the increase and successful participation of currently underrepresented groups in the sport of swimming.

Past award winners include Olympians Cullen Jones, Maritza McClendon and the Atlanta Hawks Youth Foundation.

This year the committee presented the award to both an organization and an individual.

Diversity & Inclusion Award - Organization Recipient - Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc.

In 2012, USA Swimming and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. launched a nationwide partnership aimed at increasing swim participation and decreasing drowning rates among at risk communities.

This partnership was the first of its kind partnership between a historically African American sorority and a National Governing Body (NGB). Since the announcement, the partnership named for the year the sorority was founded (Swim 1922) has led to hundreds of free swim lessons, clinics, and community events that have helped thousands learn how to swim.

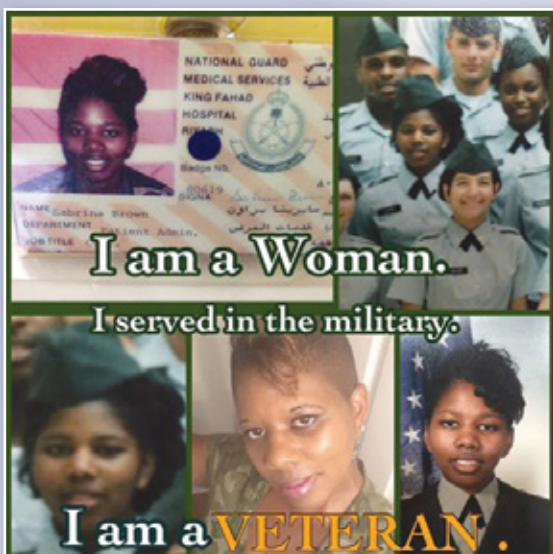


Pictured From Left to Right: USA Swimming National Diversity & Inclusion Committee Member - Naomi Grand'Pierre, Diversity & Inclusion Award - Individual Award Recipient - Coach Tommy Jackson, Diversity & Inclusion Award - Organization Recipient - Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc. - Past Sigma Gamma Rho International Grand Basileus Joann Loveless, USA Swimming National Diversity & Inclusion Committee Chair - Kathy Mendez



Veterans of Sigma Gamma Rho

Soror Sylvia Cook Being a military vet and a Soror have a lot of similarities. I became a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. in 1989 way before joining the United States Marine Corps. What I found is that the sisterhood bond in both is unbreakable. Once a Soror always a Soror, likewise, once a marine always a marine. In the military, we respect each other's opinions and values. We work together to get tasks completed and support one another to ensure that each person reaches his/her goals. I have developed personally and professionally in more ways than one and have so much pride in being a member of Sigma Gamma Rho as well as a vet. Semper Fidelis is the Marine's motto which is Latin for "Always Faithful" to one's self, brothers and sisters. This motto holds true with Sigma Gamma Rho today as it was 94 years ago with community service. The pride is stronger today as the day that I was initiated as a member of the sorority and with the Marine Corps when I received my Eagle, Globe and Anchor."



Sabrina Hagood, Gulf War Vet "I was a War Vet at 19, and I was scared. Never, in my wildest dream did I think I would be pulled out of college to serve, but it happened. When I boarded that plane heading to Saudi Arabia, there was some sense of pride. I was doing what my father before me had done! Serving the land that I love. At that moment, I learned sacrifice and courage.

This is a day that is truly about honoring the people who sacrifice It ALL for town and country. And I am proud to be included in that number. I am equally proud to be a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. I have sisters who share my up and downs. They are just a call away. I am a part of an organization that cares about its military sisters/Sorors and that is shown by its works and deeds. As I love my country, I equally love my sorority."

LET'S GIVE 'EM THEIR PROPS

Tracy M. Adams EdD



A hearty congratulations from Beta Psi Sigma Chapter of the Notable Northeastern Region to the chapter's own Soror Tracy M. Adams on the awarding of her Doctor of Education from St. John's University. Her thesis was "Breaking Through the Concrete Ceiling of the Long Island Public School Administrators: Perceptions of African American Female Administrators of the Underrepresentation in Long Island Public Schools and the Significance

of Mentoring in a Support Structure." The chapter salutes her excellence and accomplishments as she accepts her promotion to the title of Principal of Longwood Middle School which serves 5th and 6th graders of the Longwood School District of Longwood, NY.

Janet Simpson-Hardaway and Lakesha Oates



Natives of Racine, Wisconsin, two women relocated to the Metro Atlanta area in search of opportunities not available in their home state. They were committed to

continuing to serve the community and participate in spiritual outreach activities.

The Iota Zeta Sigma Chapter, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated embodied their core beliefs. With the leadership presence throughout the community, devotion to education, and commitment to Sorors near and far, this was the organization of choice. On fire to serve, Janet and Lakesha sought to join the Sorority.

On December 13, 2015, mother and daughter, Janet Simpson-Hardaway and Lakesha Oates, embarked on a life-changing journey together, being inducted into Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated. The two women bonded on another level that could not have been accomplished without this endeavor.

This mother and daughter team, who are now also Sorors, further solidified their unbreakable bond. Their common goals have continued to flourish. Together they promote the key principals of Greater Service, Greater Progress.

Nicolla Tebao



Online Professor [Argosy University], Curriculum Developer [Houston Community College], Adult Education Adult Instructor [Houston Community College], ESL Instructor, AutoCAD Instructor, Childcare Associate Instructor [Alliance Multicultural Community Services].

Nicolla successfully created manuals for Houston Community College Adult Education Program: Teller Training Associate, AutoCAD, Commercial Driver's License, Child Development Associate, CNA/Child Development Associate, Computer Support Specialist, General Office Support Services, Medical Billing, Welding and Pipeline Desing. Nicolla's community service activities include active involvement with the League of Women Voters as well as working diligently to collect water to send to the residents of Flint, MI due to the lead poisoning and other contaminations.

In her spare time she enjoys talking, writing, figure drawing community service, cooking and laughing. In the near future, Nicolla is preparing her book for publication "Invisible Forces of Life." In essence, Nicolla is best described as: reliable, dependable, responsible, energetic and loyal.

SIGMA GAMMA RHO CONGRATULATES NEW CHAIR OF AICPA



Top: Immediate International Past Grand Basileus Bonita M. Herring, Soror Ellison-Taylor, International Grand Basileus, Deborah Catchings-Smith

Bottom: Soror Ellison-Taylor with her family



Kimberly Ellison-Taylor Makes History as First African American To Lead Accountants

Orlando, Fla. October 25, 2016 – Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. proudly congratulates Kimberly N. Ellison-Taylor on her history making position as the 2016 - 2017 chair of the American Institute for Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). The AICPA consists of more than 400,000 members across the country. Ellison-Taylor is the first African American to lead the organization. She was sworn in during the 2016 Fall Council Meeting in Orlando.

“Members and affiliates of Sigma Gamma Rho are so proud of Kimberly’s accomplishment. She is dedicated to excellence. I am confident that she will excel and lead the AICPA to another level,” said Deborah Catchings-Smith, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority international president.

Ellison-Taylor joined Sigma Gamma Rho in spring 1990 at the University of Maryland Baltimore County and has served in numerous leadership positions. As president of Lambda Delta Sigma Alumnae Chapter in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, she executes the sorority’s mission of community service.

Ellison-Taylor is currently the global accounting strategy director for the Financial and Professional Services Industries for Oracle America, a leader in cloud solutions and enterprise technology. has worked with NASA Goddard Space Center, Motorola, KPMG and Prince George’s County, Maryland. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Information Systems Management/Technical Writing from the University of Maryland Baltimore County, a master’s degree from Loyola University and a Master of Science in Information Technology from Carnegie Mellon University. She is a certified public accountant and holds Chartered Global Management Accountant and Certified Information Systems Auditor Credentials.

SIGMA GAMMA RHO WELCOMES

THE FIRST LADY OF SAX

Corinthia Cromwell Sorority's Newest Member



Washington, D.C. September 17, 2016 – Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. is proud to welcome the First Lady of Sax, Corinthia Cromwell, as its newest member. Cromwell has an extraordinary background. She is a voting member of The Recording Academy and a protégé of Grammy Award Winner Wynton Marsalis.

"It is such an honor to induct Corinthia into our sorority. She is an amazing talent with deep seeded roots in gospel and jazz. We appreciate all of the work that she does with the next generation of musicians," said Deborah Catchings-Smith, Sigma Gamma Rho's international president.

"I am honored and humbled by being accepted into a sisterhood that promotes service and leadership as well as inspires women to fulfill their purpose and bond together as sisters. I prayed that the Lord would send me people and friends who exemplify the virtue of honesty and integrity. I am glad to now have all of this in my Sigma Gamma Rho sisters," said Cromwell.

Cromwell uses her music as therapy for children and seniors. She will soon release two new CDs, "Straight Roots" and "Because of the Blood." Fans and jazz greats describe her stirring performances as "breathtaking" and "inspiring." Cromwell, a saxophonist, vocalist, songwriter, composer, bandleader and producer, has been on stage with Grammy-nominated Maysa (a member of Sigma Gamma Rho), Kirk Whalum, Regina Carter, Marion Meadows and many more. She has received numerous awards and accolades. In 2001, the Baltimore Jazz Awards named her Up and Coming Jazz Artist of the Year. Lawmakers have even recognized her for her work in the entertainment industry.

REGION NEWS

OPERATION BigBookBag

Sorority members make available, to selected facilities across the nation, bookbags, notebooks, writing and drawing paper, pencils and pens, dictionaries, thesauri, rulers, glue, construction paper, textbooks, encyclopedia, typewriters, computers and many other needed school items. Made available also through the efforts of both memberships is a nation-wide tutoring and mentoring program designed for the benefit of the children housed at said facilities.

The effective and overall implementation of OPERATION BigBookBag serves as an invaluable resource to the children by: (1) Affording children with quick and easy access to reference materials and other studying aids and tools that will help them in their educational endeavors; (2) Providing the children with the means of completing their homework assignments in order that they may remain current and up -to -date on course projects and requirements and (3) Assisting the shelters, centers, schools and hospitals in their efforts to meet some of the educational needs of the children and young adults housed at the facilities.



As a leading international nonprofit, community service organization, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. continues to grow through Sisterhood, Scholarship and Service. Founded in 1922 on the campus of Butler University, the sorority's mission is to enhance the quality of life within the community.

Since 1992, Sigma Gamma Rho has partnered with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to

support its lifesaving mission of finding cures and saving children. Together, we won't stop until childhood cancer, sickle cell and other deadly diseases are eliminated. In partnering with St. Jude, we are able to assist in providing support so that families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing, or food — because all a family should worry about at a time like this, is helping their child to live.

Members, affiliates and friends from across the country joined in the fight against pediatric cancer and sickle cell disease by raising money through the 2016 *St. Jude Walk/ Run to End Childhood Cancer*.

REGION NEWS

RunJumpThrow (RJT) provides children a fun chance to learn and practice the foundational skills of all sports – running, jumping, and throwing. These skills are



the core of track & field and can be applied on the track or on nearly any other sport's playing field.

The **RunJumpThrow** plan consists of activities organized into 20 stations and includes guidelines for operating a fun competition for kids to test their

skills. This core plan is designed for non-technical event organizers or individuals who don't have physical education degrees. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., has partnered with USA Track & Field to promote youth activity nationwide through *RunJumpThrow*.

USATF and The Hershey Company in 2015 teamed up to create *RunJumpThrow (RJT)*, a hands-on learning program that gets kids excited about physical activity by introducing them to basic running, jumping and throwing skills through track and field. To date, the program has reached more than 100,000 children.

With nearly 500 chapters, Sigma Gamma Rho and its members aim to enhance the quality of life within the community through public service, leadership development and education of youth. Through its partnership with USATF, Sigma Gamma Rho chapters and members will host *RunJumpThrow* events locally, while USATF and the sorority will join forces to host national and regional *RunJumpThrow* events. Partnered events will include hosting RJT at Sigma Gamma Rho's Youth Symposiums.

"Statistics show that almost one in four children is suffering from childhood obesity, so we know that our children need more opportunities to exercise. Through the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority partnership with USATF and *RunJumpThrow*, our goal is to provide more opportunities for exercise and fun," said Bonita M. Herring, Immediate Past International President, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

"Partnering with Sigma Gamma Rho on *RunJumpThrow* is a great way to impact the lives of children and rally the support of college students and accomplished professionals," USATF CEO Max Siegel said. "With the partnership of nationally respected service organizations like Sigma Gamma Rho, the mission and goals of *RunJumpThrow* will reach an even wider audience and positively affect even more lives."

Through *RunJumpThrow*, kids participate in fun, hands-on learning events designed to build basic skills of running, jumping and throwing. *RunJumpThrow* may be conducted as a single-day event or as a six-week curriculum. The program includes a written lesson plan an instructional DVD, detailing instructions for as many as 20 physical activities.

REGION NEWS

CENTRAL REGION



Delia A. Harris ***Central Region Syntaktes***

Initiated into Sigma on November 5, 1995

Butler University - Alpha Chapter

Transferred to Alpha Sigma Chapter in 2000-2001 Sorority year. Maintained solid financial status

Life Member #724 (status gained Oct 2008)

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE/EXPOSURE

- 2013 - : Womens Fund Grant Committee
- 2012 - : Womens Fund, OPTIONS Alumnae
- 2012: Womens Fund, OPTIONS Class 12
- 2007 - 09: Indianapolis NPHC Treasurer
- 2006 - 08: Butler Univ. Black Alumni President
- 2005 - 07: Indianapolis NPHC President
- 2005 - 07: Butler Alumni Board of Directors
- 2004 - 06: Butler Young Alumni Secretary
- National Association of Women MBAs
- Association of Fraternal Advisors

2016-2018 Central Region Officers

Syntaktes	Delia A. Harris (<i>Alpha Sigma</i>)
UCC	Loreal N. Marshall (<i>Delta Sigma</i>)
YSC	ShaDe' Y. Phoenix (<i>Alpha Psi</i>)
Anti-Grammateus	Dr. Khalilah Shabazz (<i>Alpha Sigma</i>)
Grammateus	Rhonda Davis (<i>Epsilon Lambda Sigma</i>)
Tamiochus	Tina Johnson (<i>Rho Sigma</i>)
Epistoleus	L. Chanel Dickerson (<i>Delta Sigma</i>)
Nominating Chair	Yvonne C. Freeman (<i>Delta Omicron Sigma</i>)
Elections Chair	Sabrina Hunter (<i>Psi Sigma</i>)
Parliamentarian	Tanesa Thompson (<i>Rho Sigma</i>)
Legal Advisor	Ebonee Dawson (<i>Delta Sigma</i>)
Programs Chair	Dr. Angel Leake Worthy (<i>Theta Chi Sigma</i>)
Rhoer Advisor	Natisha Bowling (<i>Alpha Lambda Sigma</i>)
Philo Advisor	Linda Brown (<i>Eta Xi Sigma</i>)
Sergeant-at-Arms	Kesha Richardson (<i>Kappa Epsilon Sigma</i>)

REGION NEWS

Central Region

OPERATION BIG BOOKBAG

Alpha Sigma Sigma

Alpha Sigma Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. participated in the annual 2016 School Supply Giveaway on August 13, 2016 in Gary, IN.

Over 1500 students ranging from pre-school to college level received new backpacks filled with notebooks, pencils, paper, crayons, and ruler to give students the tools needed for a successful school year.

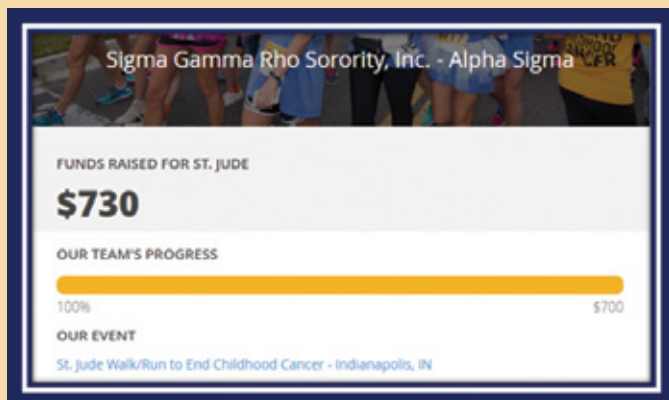


Operation BigBookbag

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National Program



REGION NEWS

Central Region

Delta Sigma

Delta Sigma Alumnae Chapter in participated in the 87th Annual Bud Billiken Day Parade on Saturday, August 13, 2016 in Washington Park on Chicago's Southside. The Bud Billiken Parade is an annual back-to-school parade and is the oldest and largest parade African American parade in the United States.

Led by Basileus, DuJuana Irvin, Reactivation Chair-3rd Anti-Basileus, Soror LaWanda Mahomes and assisted by chapter Sorors, chapter affiliate groups (Rhoers and Philos) and other volunteers, Delta Sigma distributed over 230 free book bags filled with supplies to deserving Chicago youth.



In a separate ceremony held a month prior (July 30th) the chapter awarded fully filled book bags to Chicago Defender Charities, Inc. Scholarship Recipients during a ceremony held at the DuSable Museum of African American History.

Delta Sigma Philos

Philos Sandra Evans, Philo Vernita Lawson, Philo Lynai Brown, Philo LaShonna Nesbitt and Philo Dawna Stinson joined Delta Sigma at the Bud Billiken Parade on August 13, 2016 for Operation Big Book Bag.



REGION NEWS

Central Region

Delta Xi Sigma



For the 4th year, the women of the Delta Xi Sigma Alumnae Chapter gave away book bags filled with school supplies to K-8th grade students in the Evanston/Skokie School District 65. The chapter hosted an information booth and an hourly raffle at the Evanston CommUNITY Picnic, which serves as the annual school year kick-off event for the school district. Rev. Valerie Riley, the chair of the project, and Basileus Hightower-Thomas, were excited to help the families of the district. This year's raffle gained the attention of Meijers and Evanston C.O.P.E., who are now excited to become partners for the chapter's Operation BigBookBag project.

Eta Mu Sigma



The Empowered Eta Mu Sigma Chapter Sorors & Rhoers made a great impact and a valuable investment into the lives of young scholars through the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. National Initiative, Operation Big Book Bag. On Saturday August 13, 250 Student Scholars in the Riverview School District received book bags with school supplies, and the chapter truly believes they have made a positive difference in their lives! The members of the chapter are sincerely grateful for the collaborative partnership with Rev. Dr. Linden Bowie and the Zion Travelers family, their commitment to serve the community is phenomenal and consistent. The chapter would like to give a Special Thank you to the NPHC of St. Louis President, Curtis Halley for stopping by to support their initiative. Thank you to the RHOyal

REGION NEWS

Central Region

Ladies and Rhoeers of the Empowered Eta Mu Sigma Chapter, who withstood scorching temperatures, to distribute book bags & school supplies. The smile on the children's faces as they received their book bags was Priceless. The members of Eta Mu Sigma are "Taking Sisterhood & Service to the Next Level."

Eta Xi Sigma



The members of Eta Xi Sigma donated 150 filled book bags to the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in addition to providing school supplies to ALL students and teachers from Pre-K through 8th Grade at John B. Drake Elementary School in Chicago, Illinois. Thanks to Eta Xi Sigma's commitment to the Operation BigBookBag Project, chapter members will assist with the tutoring component throughout the year at John B. Drake Elementary School on Thursdays. The focus will be on tutoring in Reading and Math. Their goal is to increase students Reading and Math scores by 12% by the end of the school year.



Gamma Zeta

This year for Operation BigBookbag the members are hosting a school supply drive on their campus to benefit the students at Avondale Meadows Academy in Indianapolis, Indiana. They are running their drive from September 1, 2016 - October 21, 2016, after which they will drop off the school supplies at the host site.

REGION NEWS

Central Region

Zeta Sigma

The Zeta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. under the leadership of Basileus Juanita Shaw started the 2016-2017 Sorority year with the theme "Creating Synergy to strengthen our Community". The Zeta Sigma Chapter has been serving St. Louis, MO since 1932, and is steadfastly pushing toward goals to reach more members of the community.



In an effort to reach more youth and families in the St. Louis Metropolitan area, Zeta Sigma formed a partnership with The Korey Johnson Foundation for the Annual Operation Big Book Bag service project which is a National Program of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. On Sunday, August 7, 2016, members of Zeta Sigma assisted the Korey Johnson Foundation with stuffing book bags that would be distributed to youth ages 5-13 in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. On Tuesday, August 9, 2016, members of Zeta Sigma were present at Skate King for the Annual "Can Skate" event to assist with registration of participants and book bag distribution.

The Zeta Sigma Chapter delivered book bags for students in need at Mann Elementary School. Mann Elementary is the school where our Beloved Soror Jocelyn Peters was a dynamic and dedicated educator. It is always a privilege to support the students and staff! We look forward to supporting them throughout the year. The chapter members will return as volunteers to help the students sort plastic lids that will be used to construct a bench which will be placed in the *Jocelyn Peters Memorial Garden of Peace*. Thank You to the Korey Johnson Foundation for supporting Operation BigBookBag!

REGION NEWS

Central Region

Alpha Sigma

Alpha Sigma, Indianapolis, IN - For Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Alpha Sigma supported the St. Jude Walk/Run to End Childhood Cancer. We created a team and set a monetary goal of \$700. As of today, we are proud to have exceeded that goal by raising \$730 in support of families that are affected by childhood cancer!

Delta Omega Sigma

On September 24th, 2016 the Delta Omega Sigma chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho participated in the Peoria based St. Jude's Walk/Run to end Childhood Cancer.

Sorors were serving in many respects. As a Silver Level donating organization, we proudly volunteering at the National Team Zone station, walked alongside survivors and other organizations, and most importantly, donated funds directly to St. Jude's. DOS was all in!



From L to R: Sorors Angela Clark-Terrall and Alethia Barnwell, proudly displaying the National Team Zone.



From L to R: Sorors LaDonna Helm, Staci Ward, Alethia Barnwell, Angela Clark-Terrall and Delores Lloyd volunteering at the National Team Zone Station.



Soror Melanie Kirkwood jumping for joy before taking off in the race!



Above: Delta Omega Sigma Sorors posing with the RHOyal golden poodle Teddy. Eee-yip!

Left: DOS Sorors posing for a Snapchat story! Check out the St. Jude's filter!

Of course, there was a lot of work, but there was also a lot of fun. Sorors welcomed photos with a golden poodle, Snapchatted friends using the St. Jude's filter, jumped for joy, and even got a little silly in the photo booth on-site.

It was a wonderful day of service and fun, working to end the fight against childhood cancer!

REGION NEWS

Central Region

Delta Omicron Sigma

The Sorors and Rhoers of #DOSProud began this beautiful Saturday by walking to end childhood cancer for #StJudes, raising over \$350, achieving beyond our goal! Thank you to all Sorors, affiliates and supporters for helping us! #SGRho #SigmaGammaRho

We also participated in the September 25th Walk to End Alzheimer's. Here was the social media description:



REGION NEWS

Central Region



#DOSPrroud was once again on the move, Walking to End Alzheimer's! Many thanks to all Sorors, affiliates and supporters who contributed to our team goal! #Walk2EndAlz #EndAlz #Columbus #SGRho #SigmaGammaRho

Eta Mu Sigma



The Empowered Eta Mu Sigma Sorors & Rhoers participated in the St. Jude Walk Saturday September 24. Our National Initiative with St. Jude is our annual effort to put an end to childhood Cancer. This is such a humbling experience. The Sorors & Rhoers of Eta Mu Sigma are committed to make a positive change in the

lives of others, especially children. We are Bold in our Approach and Consistent in our Engagement!

Gamma Rho

It started out as a cool, dreary morning but the weather did not stop the Gamma Rho chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. from participating in the St Jude's 5K Walk/Run to End Childhood Cancer. On Saturday, September 24, 2016 Sorors Candace Hinton, Coretta Jackson, Danielle Prude-Hines and Jazmine Woodall convened with hundreds of other walkers and runners at Illinois State University's Hancock Stadium in Normal, IL to help raise money for St Jude's Research Hospital.

The sun made its grand appearance simultaneously with the start of the race and quickly heated up the morning. Our Sorors pushed through the heat and conquered bee stings to complete the walk. We were proud to walk in honor of 2-year-old Jayvoni Jefferson, who was born with bilateral Retinoblastoma.

Be on the lookout for more news as our efforts to support St Jude's Research Hospital will continue in November with the "Up 'Til Dawn" event held at Illinois State University.

REGION NEWS

Central Region



Top Photo: Sorors Coretta Jackson, Danielle Prude- Hines, Jazmine Woodall and Candace Hinton having some pre walk fun in the photo booth!



Bottom left: (from L to R) Soror Jazmine Woodall, Soror Coretta Jackson, Soror Candace Hinton, and Soror Danielle Prude- Hines checking in at the Team Zone tent.

Bottom Right: Soror Coretta Jackson showing support for the honorary team member and survivor.

Zeta Sigma

St. Jude Walk/Run to End Childhood Cancer- St. Louis, MO. The end of childhood cancer starts with us, on Saturday, September 24, 2016 Sigma Gamma Rho -Zeta Sigma Chapter joined the Walk/Run to help the kids of St. Jude win the fight- we won't stop until no child dies from cancer.



L-R: Soror Geraldine Fleming, Soror Valerie Phillips, Basileus Juanita Shaw, Soror Lucy Holliam, Soror Myko Vaughn, Soror Shalonda Davis, Soror Earlene Bolton, (Not in the picture- Soror Lisa Brown)



REGION NEWS

NORTHEASTERN REGION



Marica Harris *Northeastern Region Syntaktes*

Theta Sigma Sigma located in the
Mid-Hudson Valley of New York

SORORITY OFFICES HELD:

- Syntaktes
- Undergraduate Chapter Coordinator
- Area V Coordinator
- Basileus, Anti-Basileus
- Epistoleus
- Committee Chair, served on local, regional and national committees

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS:

- National Council of Negro Women (NCNW)
- Association of Fraternity Advisors (AFA)

2016-2018 Northeastern Region Officers

Marica Harris	Syntaktes
Tiffany Davis-Nealy	Undergraduate Chapter Coordinator
Paola Duran	Youth Services Coordinator
LaTasha McIntosh	Anti-Grammateus
Sherell Benders Smith	Grammateus
Sharron Barnes	Tamiochus
Tierre Butler	Epistoleus
Berniece Johnson	Nominations Chair
Jeannine Hunte	Elections Chair
Joyvan Malbon	Legal Advisor
Dr. Christina Guillen	Programs
Dr. Cheryl Simmons-Gray	Philo Coordinator
Towanda Maddox	Rhoer Coordinator
Yolanda Davis-Koonce	Chaplain
Tahir Thomas Kinsey	Parliamentarian
Kimberly Parker	Sergeant At Arms
Ebony Lea	Area I Coordinator
Sellica Sellers	Area II Coordinator
Nakisha Boulware	Area III Coordinator
Pamela Washington	Area IV Coordinator
Area V Coordinator	pending
Cherie Washington	Area VI Coordinator
Vanetta Cheeks Reeder	Past Syntaktes
Deborah Walsh	Past Syntaktes
Felicia Blakeney	Past Syntaktes
Sylvania Preston	Past Syntaktes
Inez Vanable	Past Syntaktes
Shirley Smith	Past Syntaktes
Mynora Bryant	Past Syntaktes/Past Grand Basileus
Naomi Strange	Past Syntaktes

REGION NEWS

Northeastern Region

Kappa Sigma Chapter

NEW YORK CITY – OPERATION BIG BOOK BAG



On Sunday, August 28, 2016, the Kappa Sigma Chapter partnered with Take Care Of Harlem for their #CoolForSchool #Supply500 School Supplies Giveaway in conjunction with our staple Operation Big Book Bag programs. Take Care of Harlem is a local community organization that works towards the betterment of the Harlem Community and the residents

who reside there. The event took place at the Mural Pavilion at Harlem Hospital Center in New York, NY. The Kappa Sigma chapter was able to raise over \$500 towards the purchase of school supplies and donated 100+ backpacks to be given away at the event. In addition to snagging backpacks, notebooks, pencils and pens, families were able to enjoy live music, group fitness (facilitated by Harlem Run) and Harlem Jeopardy. Participants were also provided with goodie bags and giveaways from event's Partners, Metro PCS and Miss Jessie Hair Products. Mentorship group, Big Brother, Big Sister of New York City was also present to provide pamphlets and resources to those interested in their mentorship program.

The event received overwhelming support from Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. New York chapters and their affiliate groups with 27 Sorors, 2 Rhoers and 1 Philo in attendance. The event catered to 200+ attendees.

Eta Iota Sigma Chapter

SILVER SPRING, MD – OPERATION BIG BOOK BAG

The Eta Iota Sigma chapter partnered with Casa Del Alfarero Church in Silver Spring, Md. for the past four years to present Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.'s Operation Big Book Bag program. The event was featured on the Casa Del Alfarero's Facebook livestream. On August 6, 2016 at the Family and Friends Community day 160 book bags



with school supplies were distributed to the church's predominantly Latino at risk population.



Delta Tau Sigma

DOVER, DE –

OPERATION BIG BOOK BAG

REGION NEWS

Northeastern Region

Lambda Delta Sigma **ANNAPOLIS, MD –** **OPERATION BIG BOOK BAG**



The Lambda Delta Sigma Chapter had a successful Operation Big Book Bag event to start off the sorority year. For the past two years, Lambda Delta Sigma has partnered with the Georgetown East Elementary School in Annapolis, MD. The Lambda Delta Sigma Sorors, Philos, and Rhoers were able to donate over 2000 school supplies, including book bags for the teachers and students. Lambda Delta Sigma was thankful to have Principal Andre Dillard present to accept the donations.

Kappa Sigma & Eta Nu Sigma **NEW YORK – ST. JUDE WALK**



Delta Beta Sigma **& Omega Sigma** **VIRGINIA – ST. JUDE WALK**



Alpha Alpha Sigma **& Lambda Delta Sigma** **MARYLAND – ST. JUDE WALK**



Alpha Eta Sigma, **Epsilon Zeta Sigma** **& Theta Mu** **PHILADELPHIA ZOO –** **ST. JUDE WALK**



REGION NEWS

SOUTHEASTERN REGION



Jakimva Martin
Southeastern Region Syntaktes

2016-2018

Southeastern Region Officers

Syntaktes Jakimva Martin
UCC Cassandra Owens
YSC. Yabreon Kight
Grammateus LaTonya Jackson
Anti-Grammateus Keisha Simmons
Tamiochus Leslie Clark
Epistoleus. Armenia Hope
Nominating Chair Samantha Betton
Elections Chair Dr. Sheila Parson

The Sophisticated Southeastern Region of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. began the 2016-2017 sorority year with its 3rd Annual Rhoyal Family Cookout on August 27, 2016 in Aiken, SC. Sorority members, affiliates, family and friends met at Odell Weeks Park (1700 Whiskey Rd) from 11:00am-4:00pm. It was a day filled with food, family, fellowship, fun and friendly competition.



REGION NEWS

Southeastern Region

Members of the Sophisticated Southeastern Region are committed to supporting its organization's mission by enhancing the quality of life for families through community service. Under the leadership of Regional Director Jakimva Martin, the region has elevated its responsibilities in serving the community. Donations of wash clothes, shampoo, conditioner and soap will be given to Helping Hands, Inc. of Aiken, SC. Helping Hands mission statement:

"Helping Hands is committed to enriching the quality of life and well-being of children, youth and families in need through a continuum of residential and community-based services in order to improve their health independent living skills, educational outcomes, and/or resilience."

Submitted by Southeastern Region Epistoleus Armenia Hope



Left: Soror Ivy Alexis Baker donated school supplies to the Gadsden County Florida Public Library The 3rd Annual We've Got Your Back hosted by Delta Mu Sigma



Right: Members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. generously donated school supplies and backpacks to the Gadsden County Florida Public Library to share with youth active in the Library's Summer Reading Program. The Library System Director shown is Soror Tabitha Washington.



Left: Saturday, September 24, the Outstanding Omicron Sigma Chapter, Memphis TN participated in the annual St. Jude Walk/Run to End Childhood Cancer. The chapter not only walked during this annual event but hosted a cheer station as well.

REGION NEWS

Southeastern Region



Delta Upsilon Sigma- On August 5, 2016 Delta Upsilon Sigma hosted Operation Big Book Bag at SOS Children's Village, a social services agency that provides foster home care in Coconut Creek, Florida.



The state of South Carolina Sorors formed a united team of Sorors and participated together. We called ourselves Team SC SGRHO. As our Area Coordinator, Soror Dena Sharper stated, "We are stronger together!"



Zeta Alpha Sigma and members of Kappa Alpha Psi in support of OBBB



On September 15, 2016 Kappa Alpha Sigma donated school supplies to J.D. Davis Elementary School in Columbus, GA. In picture left to right: Soror Miriam Brundidge, Dr. Carla Henry Principal, Soror Kathryn Ricks

REGION NEWS

Southeastern Region



Above: Nu Sigma Chapter in Jackson Tennessee hosted Operation Big Book Bag at East Side Elementary School in Brownsville Tennessee. Soror Antoinette Nile, PGIB Soror Helen Owens, Principal of Eastside Elementary, Soror Cassandra Owens, Soror Monica Mathis.



Right: The Newly reactivated Kappa Chi chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. on the campus of Mississippi Valley State University held Operation Big Book Bag September 1-2, 2016 at the Jacob Aron Student Union on campus. The sisters gathered enough supplies to donate to 4 schools in the surrounding area (Carver Elementary-Indianola, MS, James C. Rosser Elementary-Moorhead, MS, Leflore County Elementary-Itta Bena, MS and Amanda Elzy Elementary-Greenwood, MS). Local Graduate Sorors helped to collect and distribute the supplies.

Bottom Right: The Sorors of Eta Sigma Atlanta Alumnae Chapter participated in St. Jude Walk/Run to End Childhood Cancer on Saturday, September 24, 2016 at Lenox Mall in Atlanta, GA. The sorors were joined by their Rhoer club, their undergraduates from Spelman's Epsilon Eta chapter and members of their 2016 Debutante Court. The Eta Sigma Rhoer club served as volunteers and worked as cheerleaders at the finish line while Sorors participated in the walk and run. As a team, Eta Sigma surpassed their fundraising goal of \$500 by raising \$532 to help end childhood cancer. The Heart and Soul of Atlanta continues living their spirit of service with a progressive beat.



REGION NEWS

SOUTHWESTERN REGION



LaShonda M. Johnson
Southwestern Region Syntaktes

Gamma Sigma Chapter, Houston, Texas
Life Member 829

SORORITY OFFICES HELD:

Region: Grammateus, Undergraduate Chapter Coordinator

Local: Sergeant-at-Arms, Rhoer Advisor, Anti-Grammateus, Grammateus, 1st Anti-Basileus, Basileus

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS:

Society for Human Resources Development

Association for Talent Development

National Council of Negro Women

University of Houston Black Alumni Association

NAACP

Association for Fraternity/Sorority Advisors

2016-2018 Southwestern Region Officers

Syntaktes	LaShonda M. Johnson
Undergraduate Chapter Coordinator.	Miranda Moore
Youth Services Coordinator.	Britney A. Bell
Grammateus.	Audrey Anderson
Tamiochus	Quiana Sawyer
Anti-Grammateus	Shaundria Woodard
Epistoleus	Vernelia McKnight
Rhoer Coordinator.	LaRona Snowden
Philo Coordinator	Barbara Foreman
Parliamentarian.	Lori Mosby
Sergeant-at-Arms	Juanice Shelton
Program Coordinator.	Alice Cryer-Sumler
Elections Chair.	Sundy Barjon
NEF Trustee	Karen Y. Williams
Legal Advisor	Glenda Clausell Elliott

REGION NEWS

WESTERN REGION



Kennessa R. Marshall *Western Region Syntaktes*

Gamma Tau Sigma Chapter

SORORITY OFFICES HELD:

Regional: Syntaktes, Undergraduate Chapter Coordinator, Grammateus, Nominations, Award and Achievements, and Western Region Membership Committee

Local: Anti-Basileus, Anti-Grammateus, Grammateus, and Community Service Chair

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS:

American Psychological Association

Association of Fraternity and Sorority Advisors

2016-2018 Western Region Officers

Syntaktes	Kennessa R. Marshall
Undergraduate Chapter Coordinator.	Michelle Aldridge
Youth Services Coordinator	Nneka Sinclair
Grammateus.	Evajuani Bynum
Anti-Grammateus	Shawn Rich
Tamiochus	Chaka Lockhart
Epistoleus	Tamika Williams-Clark
Legal Advisor	Jennifer Crittendon
Parliamentarian.	Alaina Jackson
Philo Coordinator	Anakarita Snellings
Rhoer Coordinator	Mable Hawkins
National Programs Chair.	Arizona Proctor
Nominations.	Karen Kimber
Elections	Wendy Lane
Sargent at Arms	Tadzia Jackson
NEF Trustee	Syreeta Greene

REGION NEWS

Western Region

Beta Theta Sigma

OPERATION BIGBOOKBAG

On Sunday, August 14, 2016, Beta Theta Sigma, Operation BigBookBag activity consisted of volunteering for the Oakland Natives Give Back 9th Annual Attend & Achieve: Back 2 School Rally. The Sorors of Beta Theta Sigma manned the Parent's Registration Table. After checking-in to the event the first stop was the Parent's table. Sorors gathered contact information which will be used to keep the families informed of upcoming events, and explained how to complete a vendor Bingo type card to be eligible for a gift bag or bag of groceries. Present at the event were local officials, students which were rewarded for perfect school attendance, and vendors. Also, backpacks, shoes, lunch, haircuts, gift baskets groceries were given away. Students were able to participate in a variety of activities such as rock climbing, face painting, and carnival games. 2000 Students grades K-12 were served.



Soror Sharlett Rose

Western Region Area II

ST. JUDE WALK/RUN SAN FRANCISCO ZOO

Western Region Area II Sigma Family was well represented at the St. Jude Walk/Run in San Francisco, CA. The call had already gone out from National Headquarters that all chapters were expected to participate in the St. Jude Walk/Run events. Well, the call went out to WR Area II to participate as a collective at short notice but, nonetheless, the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. family was present and accounted for.



Sorors Mary Harvey, Adeya Byrd, Ashley Hopkins, and Anaka Allen-Snellings



Sorors Adeya Byrd (left), Anaka Allen-Snellings (top), Ashley Hopkins (front), and Mary Harvey (right)

REGION NEWS

Western Region



Sorors Molly Ford, ,Brandi Lockhart, and Dominique De Berry



Sorors Marllana Whitaker and Anna Trunnell



Sorors Molly Ford, ,Brandi Lockhart, and Dominique De Berry



Sorors Marllana Whitaker and Anna Trunnell



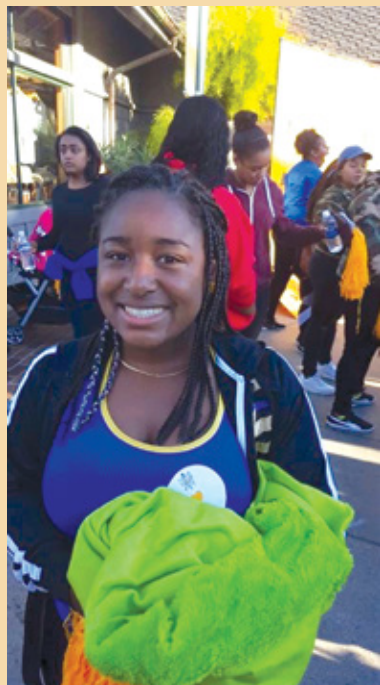
Sorors Adeya Byrd, Ashley Hopkins, and Anaka Allen-Snellings.



Beta Theta Sigma, Eta Alpha Sigma, Iota Beta Sigma, Beta Psi, Sigma Omicron, Eta Alpha Sigma Rhoer Affiliated, Iota Beta Sigma Rhoer Affiliate

REGION NEWS

Western Region



Beta Theta Sigma, Eta Alpha Sigma, Iota Beta Sigma, Beta Psi, Sigma Omicron, Eta Alpha Sigma Rhoer Affiliated, Iota Beta Sigma Rhoer Affiliante

Soror Chantal Davis

Gamma Tau Sigma

On August 13, 2016, the Gamma Tau Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. participated in Operation Big Book Bag. The event was held at The Midnight Mission Housing Facility located in Inglewood, California. The chapter had approximately 25 parents and students who participated in the event. The chapter provide 13 students with backpacks stuffed with various educational items such as, binders, paper, rulers, compasses, crayons, calculators, pencils etc. The families were very appreciative of the chapter's donations. The members were blessed to have Dr. David Morrow speak to the parents and students about time management, focusing on goals, staying organized, and going to college. Everyone in attendance shared why being organized and setting goals are important to be successful. The families enjoyed Dr. Morrow's speech and listening to Sorors stories on how staying organized helped them to get where they are today. The chapter is blessed to be able to donate to the Midnight Mission Housing Facility each year while giving so many students will the opportunity to begin the school year prepared.



REGION NEWS

Western Region

Kappa Nu Sigma



Some of the members of the Kappa Nu Sigma Chapter alongside undergraduate members at CSU Northridge.

The women of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Kappa Nu Sigma San Fernando Alumnae Chapter (KNS) kicked off the new sorority year by distributing school supplies to youth at the Boys and Girls Club of San Fernando Valley on Saturday, August 13, 2016. The chapter provided over 250 backpacks filled with pens, pencils, notepads, and other school-related items to the youth who attended.

"We chose the Boys and Girls Club, because of their

standing commitment to children," says KNS national program chair Soror Schelle Bohanon. "They provide a safe place for children to learn and grow along with life-enhancing and character development programs. As the chair, it is important for all children to start off school with the essential school supplies needed to have a successful school year." The director of the Boys and Girls Club of San Fernando Valley, Mr. Ian Smith, spoke to the members stating, "For some families that came in today, the school supplies they received will be the only school supplies they have." Mr. Smith thanked the members on behalf of his staff and families and invited KNS to partner with his club in the future.

Kappa Nu Sigma continued its service to the community by joining hundreds of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority chapters nationwide in its support of St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. On Saturday, September 24, 2016 at Paramount Studios in Los Angeles, the Kappa Nu Sigma Chapter participated in the annual St. Jude Walk/Run to End Childhood Cancer. Kappa Nu Sigma exceeded its fund-raising goal of \$1,922 by raising \$5,371.00 to support St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital's efforts in researching treatments of and cures to end childhood cancers.



Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Members from Area 1 – Southern California

For more information about Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. or Kappa Nu Sigma Alumnae chapter, please visit www.sgrho1922.org and www.sgrkns1922.com, respectively.

REGION NEWS

Western Region

Lambda Rho Sigma



(L-R) *Tiffany Hampton, Donna Nicol, Janna Jones, Jenell Bailey, Taisha Swain, Koni Austin, Altovise Abner, Leandra McLaurin, and Brittany Diego*

On August 14, 2016, the dedicated and hardworking ladies of the LuxuRiouS Lambda Rho Sigma Chapter in Santa Monica, CA set out to make a difference for over 200 young children and adolescents in the South Bay and Greater Los Angeles area. In partnership with Costco Wholesale, Laced Shoe Store, Trap Kitchen, and numerous notable Los Angeles barbers, Lambda Rho Sigma provided free backpacks, school supplies, haircuts, and barbeque to those in need. With a bounce house and a DJ to help provide entertainment, the event was an absolute success. Parents and children lined up along the busy Redondo Beach Boulevard to get prepared for the upcoming 2016-17 school year. Lambda Rho Sigma Chapter received plenty of community support but also had the support of the

Divine Nine. Members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. assisted with crowd control as Lambda Rho Sigma members worked tirelessly to give out supplies and connect with the community members. Planning for Operation Big Book Bag 2017 has already begun; this event cannot do anything but get bigger! "Greater Service, Greater Progress"



Theta Upsilon Sigma

The Theta Upsilon Sigma, Inglewood Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho raised over \$1500 to support St. Jude's fight against childhood cancer. Sorors from the chapter also participated in the Los Angeles Walk/Run event to show additional support. In addition, the chapter launched a social media campaign via Instagram and Facebook to spread awareness about childhood cancer and encourage support of St. Jude.



Sorors Ryketia Kelly, Cynthia Westbrooks and Kim Sanders walking to support St. Jude

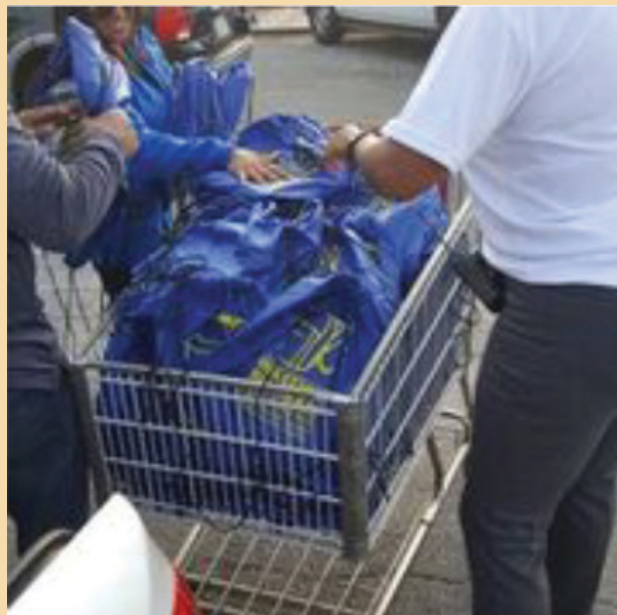


Sorors from Western Region Area 1 posing for a photo op before the walk

REGION NEWS

Western Region

The Theta Upsilon Sigma, Inglewood Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho proudly partnered with P4CM's Rhetoric 2016 (p4cm.com/event-rhetoric-2016) to donate approximately 2200 school supplies to support 200 students this year, which was 4 times what we donated last year! Backpacks and supplies were donated to Monroe Middle School, Orville Wright Middle School and Morningside High School. Students and administrators at all three schools were very grateful, and the chapter's photo is even featured on the Morningside High School website (mhs.myiusd.net/giving-back-members-of-sigma-gamma-rho-sorority-inc-providing-materials-and-supplies-for-mhs-students)!



Soror Kim Prepetit helping to load the cart full of backpacks and supplies at Morningside High School



Staff and students at Morningside High proudly displaying their backpacks along with Sorors of Theta Upsilon Sigma Chapter



Soror Andrea Magee, Monroe Middle School Assistant Principal Mr. Steve Donahue, Soror Kim Prepetit; Mr. Donahue accepting the donation on behalf of Monroe Middle School



Students at Morningside High picking up backpacks and supplies

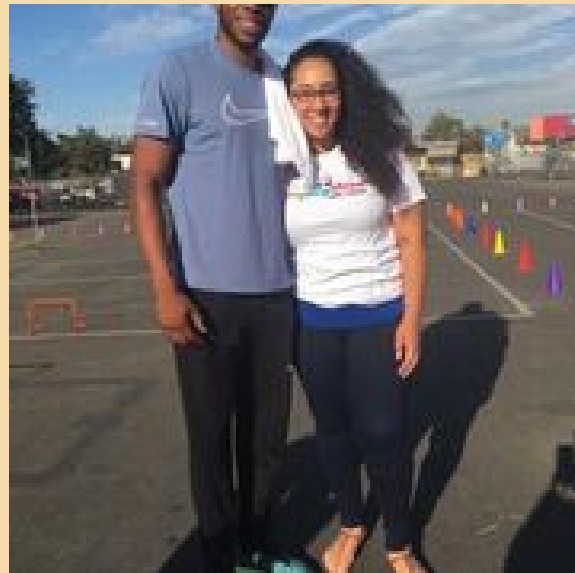
As Operation BigBookBag is one of the chapter's favorite programs, the members have created a dedicated website to accept donations in hopes to facilitate ongoing support of this national program. Visit sgrhotusobb.wixsite.com/info for more details.

REGION NEWS

Western Region

Run Jump Throw National Partnership Event in Southern California

On Tuesday, September 20, 2016, Sorors from the Western Region participated in USA Track & Field's (USATF) Victory Tour Stop at 52nd Street Elementary School in South Central Los Angeles. As a part of the USATF Victory Tour, Sigma Gamma Rho in collaboration with LA2024 and USATF conducted the Run Jump Throw Service Project. Over 900 elementary age students were serviced by Sorors in the Western Region.



Students, teachers, and administrators had the chance to interact with Gold Medalists from the 2016 Rio De Janiero Olympic Games. Allyson Felix, Reggie Wyatt, Jeffrey Henderson, and Will Claye were among the Olympians in attendance. Special thanks to Western Region Syntaktes Kennessa R. Marshall, Area I Coordinator Felishia Lewis, Gamma Tau Sigma, Theta Pi Sigma, Kappa Nu Sigma, Omicron Rho, and Pi Rho Chapters for volunteering their time to make this event a success.

Submitted by Tamika Nicole Williams-Clark, Western Region Epistoleus

WELCOME HOME

Ruby Nelson Mu Zeta Sigma Chapter

As a part of our “Welcome Home” campaign for reclamation, we wanted to highlight one of our reclaimed members. Ruby Nelson came home after 55 years.



“I recently reactivated my membership to Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Mu Zeta Sigma Chapter, after 55 years. My greatest joy upon returning is being a part of this wonderful sisterhood reaching out to make a difference in our community and world. I enjoy volunteering, doing projects and encouraging youth. Knowing the condition of our society, we need the beacon light of Sigma to forever shine. So, I’m back to continue this powerful work,” said Nelson.

You can follow the other “Welcome Home” stories and highlights on our social media platforms, using #SGRho, #SigmaGammaRho or #WelcomeHome.

Soror Sydney J. Golliday

The Drake Dragons are on the Move!



Since August of 2015, Soror Sydney J. Golliday has served as the proud Principal of John B. Drake Elementary School in Chicago's North Bronzeville Area. During her tenure, she has acquired a 4 year contract, received a new Fitness Center, secured several partnerships with various community organizations, hosted several school beautification projects to enhance the learning environment and school pride, received additional funding from CPS for increasing the school's enrollment, received more than \$150,000 in TIF monies from 3rd Ward Alderman Pat Dowell and much more.

On Friday, September 23, 2016, Soror Golliday and the Drake Dragons participated in a press conference with Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Chicago Department of Public Health Commissioner Julie Morita, Illinois Senator Mattie Hunter, 3rd Ward Alderman Pat Dowell, and Dr. Cynthia Boyd, Director of the Office of Community Engagement and Neighborhood Health Partnerships at University of Illinois At Chicago. During this press conference it was announced that John B. Drake Elementary School would be the proud recipient of a brand new state of the art Health Center that will service, students, staff, families and the larger community. This health center will be housed inside Drake Elementary School and will provide primary care services, mental health services as well as health and fitness initiatives.



Renovations will begin in the Spring and the New Drake Health and Wellness Center will be ready to serve the Drake Community in the 2017-2018 School Year.

Kudos to Soror Sydney J. Golliday and her leadership at John B. Drake Elementary School where they are One School ... One Family ... One Community Committed to Learning. In Soror Golliday's words "The Best is Yet to Come!"

Soror Sydney J. Golliday is a proud member of the Chapter that Exceeds Expectations ... Eta Xi Sigma Alumnae Chapter of Oak Lawn, Illinois. ■



A sorority founded by seven schoolteachers as a teacher's sorority, which its members are ever mindful and dedicated to the highest development of every phase of education, should provide a beacon of light on educators who are making a prominent difference in the communities they serve. The fall season brings about a return to the classroom for many and with times such as these a pertinent reminder as to why it is so important to honor those who have dedicated their lives as educators.

Soror M. Hammond so long ago inspired us all to the importance and re-dedication of the Education field, in her literary classic, Education.

***I am Education. I bear the torch that enlightens the world,
fires the imagination, feeds the flame of genius. I give wings
to dreams and might to brain and brawn.***

***From out the deep shadows of the past I come, wearing the
scars of struggle and the stripes of toil, but bearing in triumph
the wisdom of all ages. Man, because of me, holds dominion
over earth, air and sea; it is for him I leash the lightning, plumb
the deep, and shackle the ether.***

***I am the parent of progress, creator of culture, molder of
destiny, philosophy; art and science are the wheels of my hand.
I banish ignorance, discourage vice, disarm anarchy.***

***Thus I have become freedom's citadel, the arm of democracy,
the hope of youth, the pride of adolescence, and the joy of age.
Fortunate the nations and happy the homes that welcome me.***

***The school is my workshop; here I stir ambitions, stimulate
ideals, forge the keys that open the doors to opportunity. I am
the source of inspiration, the aid of aspiration. I am irresistible
power, education.***

If you are or know of an outstanding educator who is a beacon of light and making a positive impact in the community, please send the story to theauroramag@sgrho1922.org.

ENTREPRENEUR SPOTLIGHT

Soror Mellodie Powell

From Internet to Indianapolis: New storefront owner hopes to motivate others

By Ashley Williams – Undergraduate Intern



INDIANAPOLIS - The number of businesses owned by women rose the past few years; the same can be said for businesses owned by black women. For Soror Mellodie Powell, she now joins other entrepreneurs who are turning their dreams of starting a business into a reality.

From what started with one, single pin, has grown into something so extravagant, that the containment could not be held by an online storefront alone. Diva Starr specializes in many items not limited to: jewelry, handbags, shoes and a variety of Greek paraphilia. Soror Powell made it her goal to connect with other women and help them reach their full potential through her items. Her passion started with a few setbacks that soon led to a prayer and vision from God.

“I was having issues finding a full-time job. In my mind, I had two Masters’ Degrees, and I could not find a full-time job; so, from that turmoil came Diva Starr,” said Soror Powell. From there, with the inspiration

from her husband and children, she followed the direction God had for her. “When I started, I was so uncertain of where I was going in the business. As I followed God [’s] direction, he brought me through many trials and tribulations. I always try to encourage other women of color to start their own business, and I always use my testimony and any expertise that I have to offer them throughout their journey.”

She started small, creating blue and gold jewelry along with other items and, soon, sold them on her website. Powell said it feels amazing to have her own storefront opening soon. She plans to create new items for her customers and expanding to other Divine





Nine and Greek organizations as time goes on. “When I think of where I started and where I am going, I am in awe of the many blessings the Lord has bestowed upon me, and I don’t take it lightly,” said Soror Powell. “To think I started designing with one pin and, now look at where I am – hundreds of designs.”



Her advice to anyone wanting to own his or her own business is to keep God first and have faith. “Let him direct you. He is the author and finisher of our faith. Always fight to make your dreams come true; you will find strength in perseverance. Work hard and play even harder.”

The Grand Opening of Diva Starr was on November 19, 2016 at 10042 E. 10th St. in Indianapolis, Indiana at 11 a.m. Congratulations Soror Powell on your outstanding achievements. ■

If you know of an entrepreneur, who is embodying all things which are Intentional, Impactful, and Measurable for our Sisterhood in their business and community, please send their contact information and a blurb with their descriptive characteristics, to the Editor-in-Chief at: theauroramag@sgrho1922.org.



Dr. Alaina Jackson

International Parliamentarian

Inglewood, California • Western Region



Dr. Alaina Jackson's baccalaureate career began in 1997, at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. While at Northwestern, she followed in the footsteps of her mother (Dr. Frances Jackson), grandmother (Jessie Hubbard), and cousin (Ruby Pitts), and joined Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Eta Chapter in June 2000. In 2001, she graduated from Northwestern with a joint Bachelors of Science in Communications and Urban Studies, and a minor in Business Institutions.

Upon graduating, she was hired into the management trainee program of Robert Bosch Corporation where, during her tenure, she had the opportunity to work and live in Germany, France, Brazil, and Mexico. While at Bosch, she worked in both Human Resources and Finance Controlling, where she developed a cross-cultural training meant to prepare German, Spanish, Mexican and American managers to lead employees in each other's country, a conflict-resolution model, specifically intended for international work settings, and also assessed and resolved labor problems related to the company's productivity and profit targets. After seven years at Robert Bosch, Dr. Jackson returned to the United States to attend graduate school at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, CA, where she earned her Masters of Planning in 2009, and then her Doctorate of Policy, Planning, and Development in 2015. While matriculating through USC, she exchanged her member-at-large membership status for graduate membership in Sigma Sigma Chapter in 2010, where she has served on various chapter committees and is in her 3rd term as the chapter Parliamentarian. During her tenure in Sigma Sigma Chapter, she became Life Member #1080. Western Region welcomed Dr. Jackson with open arms and quickly put her to work via Past Syntaktes Power-Anderson's appointment of her as the Western Region Parliamentarian, a position in which she still serves.

Dr. Jackson has a professional background in finance, student affairs, and urban planning, and an academic consulting and research background in urban planning, local economic development, and social enterprise business models. Her professional and academic experiences span 16 years, and combine to create a unique professional profile, which is rooted in a desire to improve the quality of life for historically disenfranchised people and marginalized communities, through education, research, and the promotion of innovative urban planning and community economic development solutions and grassroots activism.

In addition to Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Dr. Jackson is an active member of the American Planning Association, the Los Angeles chapter of the National Association of Parliamentarians, and Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church. She is a Detroit native and has been married to Carlos Salcedo Maldonado since 2006.

Tips on Effective Chapter Meetings

- Make sure that all remarks are addressed to the chair.
- Members are not allowed to address each other directly.
- Members aren't allowed to just complain. If the chair notices this, she should ask the member if she is making a motion. If not, the chair should advise the member that her remarks are out of order.
- Sometimes members want to discuss a motion and provide rationale for it before they make the motion. The chair should not allow that. Instead, she should interrupt the soror and ask her to make a motion.
- The maker of the motion has first rights to speak on the motion.
- The proper way to move through items of business is to make a motion.

How to make a motion

Submitted by International Parliamentarian Dr. Alaina Jackson

Common Consent

Many items of a non-controversial nature can be handled by common consent. However, the President must make the statement, "If there is no objection," then she must pause so someone can object, and if nobody does, then she may state that the motion is adopted by common consent. This can be done with many items, such as approving the minutes, adjourning the meeting, and with many other items as long as the issue is not controversial and the President pauses to give members a chance to object to common consent.

For example:

"If there is no objection, (pause), the agenda is adopted by common consent."

"If there is no objection, (pause), the meeting is adjourned by common consent."

"If there is no objection, (pause), the minutes are adopted by common consent."

- After being acknowledged by the chair, the member should state, "I move..."
- for the adoption of the agenda"
- ... to increase dues by \$5"
- ... to delete "x" and insert "y"
- A member should not state:
- "I motion that..."
- "My motion is to..."
- "So moved"
- Do not speak out of turn. Wait for the chair to acknowledge you.
- Do not disguise complaints and storytelling as motions.
- Do not engage in debate while making your motion.

Undergraduate Pulse

Gamma Epsilon

Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

#GE Excellence

The Gamma Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. has made a great impression on their peers and the campus of Kent State University during the 2015 – 2016 school year. The members worked together as a chapter, and along with other campus organizations created and successfully conducted nearly twenty different events which engaged the Kent community. Their amount of service was not just limited to the college campus, but they also participated in several community service projects in the Cleveland and Kent areas. Some of their community service projects included the March for Babies Walk, Youth Symposium with Alpha Lambda Sigma Alumnae Chapter, and the Kent United Church of Christ – Rummage Sale. Several of the members participated with other campus activities where they also serve on the executive boards of those organizations. During the May, 2016 Campus Awards Celebrations, Gamma Epsilon Chapter was awarded a total of five campus awards; Greek Organization of the Year, Most Improved GPA, Excellence in Campus Involvement and Excellence in Community Participations, and Excellence in Community Service. Additional awards were presented to two of our chapter members; Activist of the Year – Soror Kiara White, past Basileus, and Rising Star – Soror Courtney Tate, current Basileus. This has been a very successful year and the chapter is making plans to continue their involvement into the 2016 – 2017 school year.

-Soror Courtney Tate, Basileus

Pi Pi

Christian Brothers University, Memphis, TN

Primetime Pi Pi exclusively offers the "Premium Package"



Pi Pi was dormant for eight (8) years until Spring 2016 when the chapter reactivated with Soror Jazzmyn Davenport, a sophomore Biochemical major. Soror Davenport worked intentionally the fall 2016 semester by sponsoring "Donations & Notes of Prayer" for the victims of the Louisiana flooding in September. The monetary donations and notes were sent to Mu Sigma Chapter in Baton Rouge. The "Wear Pink for Hattie McDaniel Breast Cancer Awareness" initiative was held on campus in October motivating the student body to wear pink attire in observance of breast cancer awareness. Pi Pi made an impact in such a short timeframe. Students were served cake and punch as they danced along to their favorite tunes to celebrate our 94th Founder's Day. Sigma Gamma Rho Week, "22K Magic", took place the first week in December. The week commenced with World Aids Day Awareness giving students the opportunity to sign pledge cards and wear red ribbons; followed by, "Random Acts of Chocolate" sharing designed bags of chocolate candy across campus; then, hosting a safety defense class for ladies on campus to learn techniques to keep themselves safe in the event

of an attack. The week ended with the fruits of Pi Pi's harvest of "Tune into Channel 22", the Neophyte show. Three new Sorors (Leah Brown, Lisheena Clark, and Eboni Holloway) were introduced to the campus and community. Success is measurable!

Alumnae On The Move

Alpha Eta Sigma

Philadelphia, PA

75th Diamond Anniversary Public Meeting

The "Accomplished" Alpha Eta Sigma Chapter held its annual Public Meeting on June 11, 2016. This year's event was a special commemoration of the 75th Diamond Anniversary of the Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter's charter on March 28, 1941. Chapter members, Philo and Rhoer Affiliates of Alpha Eta Sigma celebrated their community partnerships, presented scholarships totaling \$5,300.00 to college-bound students, and awarded their local and Northeastern Region Mwanamugimu Essay contest winner. Highlights of the sorority and chapter history were presented by chapter members, along with a pictorial review of chapter members, events, accomplishments, awards, and press coverage over the years.



Top L to R: D. Gossett-Rivers, N. Calin, S. Emanuel, J. Wright, C. Satchell, E. Boney, S. Harrell, D. Jones. Bottom L to R: T. Malcolm, L. Moragne, C. Gifford-Jackson, N. Strange.

For the past seventy-five years, members of Alpha Eta Sigma have united in sisterhood and service to provide quality programming and projects that benefit the Philadelphia area, which include distributing meals and resources to impoverished citizens, promoting health screenings, encouraging prenatal care and education to at-risk expectant mothers, and mentoring local youth. In addition to supporting local non-profits, Alpha Eta Sigma has consistently matched the efforts of Sigma Gamma Rho's national programs by sponsoring numerous Mwanamugimu Essay Contests, hosting 19 annual Youth Symposiums, and organizing 19 annual Operation Big Bookbag school supply drives. The chapter's annual signature event, the Dr. George Washington Carver Peanut Luncheon for Scholarship, has been successful in raising funds for an incredible 37 years.

Alpha Eta Sigma is proud of its established legacy

and looks forward to continued excellence in service to both Philadelphia and the global community!

Submitted by Soror Nicci Calin, Epistoleus

Alpha Rho Sigma Chapter

Waco, Texas

"Care Net Enters New Facility"

Two days after Mother's Day, Care Net Pregnancy Center of Central Texas, housed in Waco, had its Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. It opened the new structure (with bed accommodations for 28 people) and extended stay accommodations for those facing homelessness. Care Net helps new and expectant mothers and their children with support services. Present and representing Alpha Rho Sigma Chapter at this special occasion were Sorors Edna Trotter, Savannah Samuels, Gwendolyn Lee, Elwayne Gilbert, and Blanche Willis.



Alpha Rho Sigma Chapter members at Care net new facility opening. L-R: Sorors Edna Trotter, Savannah Samuels, Gwendolyn Lee, Elwayne Gilbert, and Blanche Willis.

The entire chapter has long supported Care Net endeavors and is proud to have participated in various fund raisers such as: Walk-A-Thon, Baby Bottle Boomerang (baby bottles filled with coins), chapter group baby showers, and more, which are helping to make life better for mothers, babies, and children.

"Ladies of Distinction Luncheon"

Alpha Rho Sigma Chapter was proud to select one of its own as one of five honorees from the health care field at its annual Ladies of Distinction Luncheon. Soror Blanche Willis, who is a retired registered nurse from the Waco Veteran's Hospital, continues to employ excellent nursing skills as the lead nurse for her church, Life Cathedral Worship Center, Church of God in Christ, in Waco, Texas.

Alumnae On The Move



Alpha Rho Sigma Chapter's Ladies of Distinction Luncheon. Sitting L-R: Sorors Edna Trotter, Olga Rodgers, Blanche Willis, Gwendolyn Lee, Elwayne Gilbert, and Ester Thomas. Standing L-R: Sorors Alta VAnn, Freda Cross, Savannah Samuels, Aura Merritt, Desiree Hardeman, Suzan Falkner, Sherry Harris, Chemise, Doyle Walker, Thia Allen, and Sylvia Higgins.

Soror Willis has received many accolades, which includes some of the following: First African American lead nurse for the LaVega Independent School new Waco, and First African American Director of Health Services at McLennan Community College, also in Waco of which she sponsored a citywide health fair. Soror Willis embodies the phrase, "Don't talk about it – be about it!" Her chapter family is so very proud of her achievements.

Submitted by Soror Edna D. Trotter, Epistoleus

Alpha Sigma Sigma

Gary, IN

"Hatitude 2016" is about Attitude! On May 1, 2016, in the township of Merrillville, Indiana, Sorors and invited guests were treated to a delectable lunch and a fashion show featuring beautiful hats.

This annual fundraiser serves as a celebration of the time honored tradition of "women who wear church hats." During this event, a special presentation included a reading of the history of hats to further explain the true meaning of the church hat. Other presentations were awarded for scholarship, local community service and "Sigma of the Year".



Special guests included International Past Grand Basileus Bonita M. Herring and Central Region NEF Representative Dr. Patricia Daniels.

Submitted by Soror Chandra A. Foreman, Epistoleus

Alpha Theta Sigma

Galveston County, Texas

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Alpha Theta Sigma of Galveston County, Texas presented plaques to 12 mothers for our 28th Annual Pre-Mother's day Scholarship Prayer Brunch. The mother's were recognized as being the keepers of their children as well as to other children they have raised and continue to foster under their care. The theme of this year's celebration was "The Devine Role of a Mother." Guest speaker,



Soror Dr. Gayle Lange, presented an outstanding presentation involving audience participation by integrating the remembrances tolerances and intolerances of her mother through the use of bible quotes and scriptures as it related to the theme. Soror Connie Hebert/basileus, Soror Nicolla Tebao (chair person for the event), Soror Dorothy Smith, Soror Laverne Turner, Soror Lawanda Allen, Soror Elmyra Hemphill, and Soror Maria Freeman where instrumental in making sure the event was fruitful.

Beta Psi Sigma

Long Island, NY

On Saturday, May 7, 2016, Beta Psi Sigma chapter of the Notable Northeastern Region was recognized by Sister Greeks for their exceptional community service. The

Alumnae On The Move

chapter was celebrated for the harmonious partnership it has built with Theta Iota Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. on the occasion of their 50th Chapter anniversary. A wonderful afternoon of song, dance and spoken word culminated in select organizations being presented awards for service and partnership. Beta Psi Sigma chapter was proud and thankful to receive the recognition for a strong bond and outstanding service.

In the past, the two Greek organizations have collaborated on coat drives, feeding the homeless, and a very successful fundraiser for Africare which resulted in a contribution of over \$1320.00. This has helped to uplift African villages in significant ways. Beta Psi Sigma and Theta Iota Omega chapters frequently support each other's ventures and thus exhibit true sisterhood which goes beyond the bounds of letters or colors, and is built on the sisterly intentions of all their Founders.

In addition to the Basileus, Soror Cynthia Browning Smalls, Sorors Danielle Stanford and Racheal Wright were on hand to receive the accolades, enjoy the beautiful program and represent the sisterhood. There are 17 members in the chapter, however its torch is being held high on Long Island, N.Y. as chapter members strive for "Greater Service, Greater Progress."

Prestigious Outstanding Service Award

On Monday, February 27, 2016 Beta Psi Sigma chapter of the Notable Northeastern Region was honored by New York State Assemblyman Phil Ramos for outstanding grassroots service to the Long Island community. The chapter's Operation BigBookBag, Youth Symposium, and Project Cradle Care were cited as examples of exemplary service to the less fortunate of the community.

Soror Joyce Mobley and Soror Renar Bondfield joined Basileus Cynthia Browning Smalls to accept this prestigious award on behalf of the Chapter. Every day Beta Psi Sigma strives to have a positive impact, as the members are committed to service and guided by sisterhood.

Submitted by Cynthia Browning Smalls, Basileus

Epsilon Beta Sigma

St. Petersburg, Florida

12th Annual Footprints Service and Scholarship Awards Brunch

The Epsilon Beta Sigma Chapter hosted its' 12th Annual Footprints Service & Scholarship Awards Brunch on Saturday, June 18, 2016 at the Hilton Carillon in St. Petersburg, FL. The EBS Chapter honored women

from the Tampa Bay area whose acts of service have impacted the community and reflect the sorority's motto of "Greater Service, Greater Progress."



The 2016 theme: "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government". EBS Chapter honored 12 women who work/or worked in public service, government or leadership, in which included honoring local basilei of sororities of the Divine 9 and National Pan-Hellenic Council.

The 2016 Honoree's:

Andrea Yvette Allen- EBS Chapter Basileus, Carrie Brown, Ann H. Burney, Marquina Butts-Fisher, Gwendolyn Glenn, Ruby Griffin, Twanna Monroe, Rosa Nesbitt, Angel V. Williams, Cassandra Williams, Kenya Woodard- Beta Kappa Sigma Chapter Basileus.

Epsilon Beta Sigma Chapter posthumously honored Army Spc. Brittany "Bria" Gordon, who was the first female from Pinellas County, FL to be killed in action in Afghanistan in 2012. Her father, Retired Assistant Police Chief of St. Petersburg, FL., Cedric Gordon, gave a moving tribute to Brittany, and reminded everyone that "Freedom" is not free, as he thanked the chapter for honoring his daughter's memory.

The EBS annual fundraiser is held to raise money for scholarships, as well as yearly community projects the chapter sponsors and participates in. The chapter gave away \$1750.00 in scholarships to four deserving young men from the Tampa Bay community.

Alumnae On The Move

Eta Xi Sigma Alumnae Chapter

Oak Lawn, Illinois

A Premier Partnership to Keep Teen Drivers Safe

For the second year, the Beacon of Light Foundation of Eta Xi Sigma Chapter, Oak Lawn, Illinois, through a grant from State Farm Insurance Company, has joined the Illinois Partners for Safety Traffic to host a Teen Driver Safety Fair. Students from all over the Chicagoland area was invited to attend this premier event.

Their goal was to reach not just teens who are in the process of obtaining their driver permits or licenses but to start at an earlier age and include "tweens" (preteens). At the 2015 Life Savers Conference, it was expressed that the traffic safety message should begin with tweens and include parents. Therefore, the programming efforts were tailored to reach tweens as well as their parents.



Students participated in various activities such as: Roll Over Simulators, Driving Simulators using impaired goggles, Motorcycle awareness, and Golf Cart Driving Ranges. They received swag bags containing giveaway items along with lunch. Additionally, there was a photo booth where students could take pictures. The message of Drive2N2 (2 Eyes on the road, 2 hands on the wheel) was imprinted on the picture strip and they were given a license plate that they could use as a frame.

This was the first year that parents were included in a separate workshop as part of the event. Their workshop included valuable information on a new driver program for drivers age 15-21; the State Farm Driver Feedback™ App, and information on "What to do in the case of a traffic stop".

The day ended with a speech from, Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White and a special performance by the renowned Jesse White Tumblers. It was a productive, fun and informative day.

Submitted by Soror Yolanda B. Edwards – National Programs Co-chair

Gamma Theta Sigma

Chattanooga, TN

Sisterhood, Scholarship and Service

Sisterhood

On April 22nd, Gamma Theta Sigma Chapter hosted a Meet the Poodles event at a local restaurant. Fellow NPHC organizations were invited to meet the chapter's newest members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Members recognized were Sorors Chassidy Moody, Rayna Henderson, and Olympia Pierce.

Scholarship

Gamma Theta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. awarded scholarships to six deserving seniors from local high schools. The scholarship recipients were chosen from a pool of 50 qualifying applicants. The recipients were selected based on their exceptional scholastic achievements, community service, and their essay.

Service

On May 20th, Gamma Theta Sigma Chapter partnered with a local middle school to sponsor a Student Health Expo in conjunction with the school's field day event. The Expo was a RunJumpThrow event that provided students an opportunity to move through a variety of fitness sessions and encouraged them to lead active lifestyles. In addition to sponsoring the event, the chapter also hosted a Swim1922 booth that provided swim safety information and gave students a chance to win swim related prizes if they answered the questions correctly. More than 400 students attended this event.

Submitted by: RaSharon King

Lambda Gamma Sigma

Pomona, CA

Growth, Accountability, Service

The Lambda Gamma Sigma Alumnae Chapter (Pomona, CA) serving the Pomona Valley area, has been on the move this sorority year focusing on "Uplifting our Legacy of Sisterhood, Leadership & Service." Lambda Gamma Sigma chapter had the pleasure of reactivating Pi Rho chapter at California State University, Pomona as well as focus on the growth and retention at the graduate level.

Continuing with the chapter theme "Growth, Accountability, & Service" or G.A.S, LGS hosted its first chapter retreat at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort and Spa in Indian Wells, CA in July 2016. Focused on

Alumnae On The Move

Sisterhood and Service, LGS participated in team building activities as well as had a successful Planning Meeting for the 2016-2017 sorority year.

LGS implemented various programs throughout the 2015-2016 Sorority year, forming local partnerships with organizations with Ganesha High School of Pomona, CA, City of Hope, and Helping Hands, Caring Hearts where chapter members participated in food, clothing, and school supply giveaways. LGS is excited for the 2016-2017 sorority year, continuing a standard of excellence in membership recruitment and retention, program implementation, partnership development, and support for undergraduate members. LGS is also excited to attend Boule in Cleveland in July 2016. For more information about LGS and/or events, visit www.sgrhopomona.com; Facebook @ Lambda Gamma Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc.; Instagram @ Sgrho_pomona.

Andrea Small, Epistoleus

Psi Sigma Chapter

Kansas City, Missouri

2016 Carolyn A. Booker Scholarship Winner

On July 9, 2016, Psi Sigma Chapter and the Sigma Salutes Cultural and Educational Foundation awarded the third annual Carolyn A. Booker Scholarship. Awarded in the name of Kansas City Freedom School founder and Cultured Pearl, Carolyn A. Booker, the scholarship is awarded each year to a deserving high school student in the Kansas City metropolitan area. The winner of the 2016 scholarship is Saally Campos of Sumner Academy of Arts and Science in Kansas City, KS. Ms. Campos excelled academically earning a 4.2 g.p.a., while involved in several student organizations. She will attend the University of Missouri at Kansas City this fall. Ms. Campos attended an awards ceremony hosted by the Sigma Salutes Cultural and Educational Foundation and was presented with a check in the amount of \$1,000.00.

The scholarship is named after Soror Carolyn A. Booker (Omega Rho) in memory of her tireless work as a lifelong educator in the Kansas City community. Soror Carolyn A. Booker spearheaded the development of the Freedom School initiative in the Kansas City area. In 1995, under Soror Booker's leadership, the first Kansas City Freedom School was established at the Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church. On May 23, 2005, she received the Kansas City Freedom School Initiative Pioneer Award celebrating the naming of the Carolyn Booker Skill Development Institute at the Muriel Kaufman Foundation in her honor. Soror Booker retired

from the Kansas City Missouri public school district in 1996 and subsequently retired from the Kansas City Freedom School in 2010.



Psi Sigma Chapter Sorors at Scholarship Awards Ceremony presenting check to 2016 Award Recipient, Saally Campos. Pictured (standing left to right): Sorors Andrea Crawford, Shampayne Washington, Kierei Broadus, Lisa Roberson, Maya Everette, Samara Molix, Amber Sellers, Pat Sevier, Cynthia Bradford, and Wanda Paige. (seated left to right): 2016 Scholarship winner, Saally Campos and 2015 Scholarship winner, Victoria Wilson.

Maya M. Everette, Epistoleus

Sigma Sigma Chapter

Los Angeles, California

Membership Chronicles

On March 2, 2016, the women of Sigma Sigma welcomed new members, Natali Gracia, Yvonne Nettles-Hayes, and Glenda Phillips-Smith, into its legacy for their Winter 2016 Class. Please welcome the newest members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc - Sigma Sigma Chapter.

They all attended their first Western Regional Conference in April, and two of them attended their first Boule this summer in Cleveland. Also, Sorors Vanessa Rickmon and Shanda Bailey have joined Sigma Sigma Chapter via reactivation through Campaign 1922. Soror Rickmon was inducted in 3-10-91 as one of the Charter Members of Mu Alpha Chapter on the campus of UCLA. Soror Bailey also came to Sigma Gamma Rho through Mu Alpha chapter. The chapter is very pleased to welcome their new Sorors to the Sisterhood, as well as their reactivating members back home.

Submitted by: Terri Lyons

Theta Pi Sigma Chapter

Sorority reaches out to San Bernardino children in the wake of recent tragedy

Inland Empire, CA – The Theta Pi Sigma Alumni Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. hosted their Operation Big Book Bag Project, on Thursday,

Alumnae On The Move

July 14, 2016 at Jefferson Hunt Elementary in San Bernardino, CA. The program comes on the heels of the recent tragedies in San Bernardino, where former Hunt Elementary student Travon Williams, age 9, was murdered along with his father and family friend outside a liquor store on July 11, 2016. "We wanted to show up for the children in the community to remind them that we are here to support them, as they attempt to grapple with this senseless crime and move forward towards the healing process," says Shannon O'Brien, Chair of the Theta Pi Sigma Fundraising Committee. O'Brien, who was inducted into the Chapter in May 2016, spearheaded the effort alongside her classmates, in fulfillment of their new membership class related service project.

Fifteen students of the Valley Star Community Services program titled *Promoting Resiliency in African American Children* received fully packed book bags which contained an abundance of school supplies, that ranged from pens and markers to paper and composition notebooks. The program provides mental health, Black History education and mentoring services to African-American children between the ages of 5-11 and their families in the San Bernardino City Unified School District.

Theta Pi Sigma Chapter, in collaboration with its community partner Children's Resources, Inc., received the generous donation of book bags and school supplies from Walmart in San Bernardino, CA.

Submitted by Shannon O'Brien



Please go to
www.sgrho1922.org
for further details
and information.



Affiliate News



Robin Birt
International Rhoer Coordinator
Alpha Omicron Sigma Dallas TX, Southwest Region

- Basileus - Current
- Regional Rhoer Coordinator SW Region
- Rhoer Advisor Alpha Omicron Sigma
- Anti Basileus for Delta Alpha at Prairie View A&M - Gamma Phi Sigma
- Anti Basileus Delta Alpha
- Basileus Delta Alpha
- All local undergraduate positions Delta Alpha

Rhoer History

Rhoer Clubs were founded in 1939 at the 14th International Boule held in New York City. The Rhoer Club consists of a diverse group of young ladies between the ages of twelve and eighteen who demonstrate high scholastic standards. Rhoer Clubs are organized, maintained, and sponsored by local graduate chapters within each of the geographical regions of the Sorority.

HOW TO START A RHOER CLUB

1. Be willing to serve or appoint a Soror who is willing to serve as the Rhoer Advisor
2. Order the 2014 Rhoer Handbook from Nationals and review all program materials
3. Have your Basileus update her officer report form to reflect that you are the new Rhoer Advisor
4. Complete the background check. Contact your Regional Rhoer Advisor for details and let her know you are a new advisor
5. Organize a Rhoer Round Up
 - a. Ask Sorors in the chapter if they have any young ladies of age that would be interested
 - b. Ask local schools if you can recruit
 - c. Post on social media
 - d. Set an induction price to include National and Regional obligations and a small amount for gifts
 - e. Have all paperwork ready for parents to take home and review
 - f. Set a deadline for fees and paperwork to be collected
 - g. Set an induction date. All remittance paperwork must be sent up at least 6 weeks prior to induction
6. Review the Rhoer handbook for a suggested calendar of events. You are not tied to this calendar. Be creative and tap into the needs of your Rhoer Club. Ask Sorors in your chapter to host workshops and assist with other Rhoer activities.
7. If possible appoint a Rhoer co-advisor.

Goals

- › Create a Rhoer Advisor Handbook
- › Update the Rhoer handbook to reflect needs and desires of this generation and generations to come
- › Update the Rhoer Awards to create a transparent and fair process
- › Revitalize the Rhoer Pageant to truly display the Rhoers talents and efforts
- › Be able to track our Rhoers through our Rhoer Transfer Program

Rhoers are the future of Sigma Gamma Rho

Sorors let's be "Intentional, Impactful and Measurable" for our future Sorors. They are our Sisterhood for the Future. For further information, questions or concerns, please contact Robin Birt, International Rhoer Coordinator at rhoercoord@sgrho1922.org, or see your respective region coordinator.

Affiliate News

ADVENTURES OF THE BAY AREA RHOERS BUTTERFLIES

Beta Theta Sigma Alumnae Chapter, Oakland, California



From top to bottom, left to right: En'Dia Laws, Tamia Robinson, Char'Lise Parker-Tipton; Amaya Edenburg, Ja'Nia Walker, Shelby Cryer; Tyla Cann, Symone Gurganious; Brea Williams-Moller

The Bay Area Rhoers spread their wings, flew south from Oakland, California and landed in sunny San Jose, California the second weekend in July for their third annual overnight retreat. Dubbed “The Butterfly Zone,” the retreat is funded by Beta Theta Sigma Alumnae Chapter and the West Oakland Youth Center, and acts as a catalyst for bonding and business.

“The retreat is a wonderful way to kick-off the sorority year for the girls,” said Rhoer Club Advisor Keka Robinson-Luqman, “The graduated Rhoers get to have one last bonding experience with the rest of the Rhoers and the newly inducted Rhoers emerge feeling connected, embraced, and a part of the group.”

“I like that we all have our own individual personalities but they don’t clash,” said Rhoer Shelby Cryer, who will be attending Alabama A&M University in the fall.

The Rhoers participated in several workshops during the retreat. The topics included self-love, goal-setting, fundraiser planning, and even self-defense. They also held elections for the executive board. Overall, though, the bonding was the most rewarding part.

“When we bond together, it’s always a party,” said Brea Williams-Moller, unanimously elected at the retreat to serve her second term as President of the Rhoer Club. “There’s nothing as priceless as us getting together and bonding.”

Affiliate News



International Philo Coordinator

Karen G. Bluitt-Evans

Zeta Sigma St. Louis, MO, Central Region

She was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri.

She graduated in 1971 from Charles Sumner High School (1st High School for African-American students west of the Mississippi River) and is listed on the United States National Register of Historic Places). She earned her Bachelors of Science degree from the University of Missouri –St. Louis in 1980 and later received her Master's in Social Work in 1990 with an emphasis on Children and Youth from Washington University - George Warren Brown School of Social Work in St. Louis. She is certified by the State of Missouri as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Soror Bluitt-Evans began her Sigma journey in November of 1983 in Zeta Sigma Alumnae Chapter, St. Louis Missouri in the Central Region where she has maintained her membership. She is a Ruby and a Life Member #667 and she is a Sigma Legacy, niece of the late Soror Mary Bannister (Past International Chaplain). Her aunt Mrs. Marie Mayo is a Philo (inactive).

- In her chapter Zeta Sigma she has served as: 1st Anti Basileus ; Recording Secretary; Anti-Grammateus and Philo Advisor.
- Served as Chairperson of the Courtesy Committee, Social Committee currently serves as chairperson of the Annie Malone Children and Family Service committee (one of our community service projects), Afro Arts Committee; National Project Committee.
- Certified HIV/AIDS trainer for Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and the American Red Cross.
- Regional Level: Central Region Philo Coordinator for 10 years; Mental Health presenter at Regional Workshops
- National Level: National Philo Coordinator
- Served as a Field Instructor for 20 years to local colleges, preparing students for their social work experience and licensure.
- Member of the Order of the Eastern Star (OES) and the Top Ladies of Distinction (TLOD)
- Served as the secretary for the Sumner Alumni Class of 1971 and holds a Golden Membership in the Sumner Alumni Association.
- Listed in International Who's Who of Professional Management

She has received numerous awards and certificates:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| • St. Alphonus Rock Church | • Washington University |
| • Sumner High School | • St. Louis University |
| • Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. - | • University of Missouri – St. Louis |
| Mother of the Year and Woman of the Year Award | • Cardinal Ritter Institute |
| • State of Missouri | |

She enjoys spending time with her family, reading, traveling, and working with children and assisting where she can be of service. She is married to Mr. Terry Evans Jr. and they have 3 children, 11 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. She is a lifelong member of West Side Missionary Baptist Church.

Goals:

I would like to see our Philo (Friends) increase membership and retain current membership, foster friendships, training opportunities, open lines of clear and concise communication and information. Continue to participate along with Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. to improve, develop, and restore our communities and to enhance quality of life and the societies that we live in and that we all serve.

Affiliate News

HOW TO START A PHILO AFFILIATE *IT'S EASY AS "ABC"*

By Arlecia E. Stamps, National Philo President

A Confer with the Syntaktes

- ☛ Initiate a conversation about starting an Affiliate
- ☛ Establish a plan of action
 - Hold Philo Interest Meetings
 - Conduct Round-ups
 - Send letters to Community Colleges, Trade Schools, Rhoer member's relatives

B Build the potential candidate base

- ☛ Must have a minimum of five (5) members, which includes:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Financial Secretary
 - Treasurer

C Charter

- ☛ Send documentation to Syntaktes, which includes:
 - Names of Inductees, which also must be sent to the following:
 - Headquarters
 - National Philo Affiliate
 - Region – Sigma Gamma Rho
 - Region – Philo
 - Affiliate Group Cost (Dues and Assessments), which also must be sent to the following:
 - Headquarters
 - National Philo Affiliate
 - Region – Sigma Gamma Rho
 - Region – Philo

☛ Bottom Line

- Affiliate Assessments
 - Sigma Gamma Rho \$25.00
 - National Philo Affiliate \$25.00
 - Region Sigma Gamma Rho \$25.00
 - Region Philo Affiliate \$75.00
- **Total Affiliate Assessment \$150.00**

☛ Cash outlay annually based on five members:

- Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. \$125.00
- National Philo Affiliates \$75.00
- Region Sigma Gamma Rho \$75.00
- Region Philo Affiliate \$100.00
- **Total annual cost \$375.00**

*This money should be generated through dues from membership. The Affiliate can be self-sufficient.

Affiliate News

D

- ☛ Set Induction Date Eight Weeks Out
- ☛ Invite Sigmas/Rhoers
 - Membership Chair
 - Anti-Basileus of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority
 - Vice-President of Philo Affiliate
 - Prepare a small reception and invite friends and family members

Helpful Information

Rules and Regulations

- ☛ Advisor's Handbook
- ☛ National Philo Handbook
- ☛ Region Philo By-laws
- ☛ Newly Revised Robert's Rules of Order
- ☛ S.H.I.E.L.D. – Membership training modules for new members

Assessment Forms

- ☛ Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
 - New Affiliate Group and Induction Form
 - National Philo Affiliates Report of Induction, Remittance of Funds and Assessments (Boule, National Project)
 - Region Sigma Affiliate Form
 - Region Sigma Philo Assessment, President's Gala, 1st Lady Pageant

If you have any questions, you may contact the following:

National Philo Coordinator – Karen Bluit-Evans
philocoord@sgrho1922.org

Regional Coordinators:

Central Region Philo Coordinator – Linda D. Brown
philocoordinator@sgrhocentral.org

Northeastern Region Philo Coordinator – Dr. Sheryl Simmons-Gray
ner.philocoordinator@sgrhoneregion.com

Southeastern Region Philo Coordinator – Paulette A. Waite
epaw210@bellsouth.net

Southwestern Region Philo Coordinator – Barbara Foreman
philo.coordinator@sigmaswregion.com

Western Region Philo Coordinator – Anakarita Snellings
a6allen22@gmail.com

S I G M A S P O T L I G H T

Arlecia E. Stamps

National and Central Region Philo President



Giving back to the community is part of Arlecia E. Stamps' DNA. "It's really an extension of who I am. My mother was very charitable and it was a part of my upbringing." She utilizes her membership in the Zeta Sigma Philo Affiliate as a means to share her time and talent. Stamps chairs many activities and wears two leadership hats as she serves as the Central regional and international Philo president.

Stamps began her journey as a Philo in 2006. "I was approached by Karen Bluitt Evans, a life member of Zeta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho. She is a life-long friend and felt I was at a point in my life where I could focus on something else, other than raising my family." Stamps' six children were older and didn't need her as much anymore. "I was told to come to a meeting and see how I like it. All I had to do was sit in a chair in the back of the room. Well, the rest is history. I didn't sit in the chair. My feet hit the ground running."

Stamps gave it her all. She was elected president of her local affiliate during her second year of membership. She was in charge of pageants and teas. Stamps really developed true friendships. "Many of the women in the group had come to my mother's beauty salon when I was a child. So, it was like I was at home again."

Stamps is a payroll supervisor. She is a second generation cosmetologist, a licensed skincare and beauty instructor as well as an HIV/AIDS screener. She sings, dances and acts. She is a woman with many talents. Stamps jokingly refers to herself as "a jack of all trades, a master of none." "I love being busy and being busy for a cause."

She takes pride in her ability to care for and unite others. That's why she decided to run as

Central Region Philo president in 2014 and was recently reelected to another term. “My goal is to unite the affiliates. It does not matter if we are neighbors or miles apart, I wanted to make us known to each other. I am a firm believer in the principle that people don’t care about what you know, it’s when you care that people notice.”

Stamps has many goals as the Central Region leader. She wants the membership numbers to spike; wants to garner a better understanding of who the Philos are; and improve the relationship between Rhoers and Sigma Gamma Rho. “Sometimes, there is a misconception of the role of the Philos that members of the sorority may have. Our main focus is to provide friendship and support as well as service.”

Making that connection has been key to Stamps’ success. “If I am able, I will take it upon myself to visit you and come to an event in your town. I will pick up a phone to call and check on my Philos.”

She has worked her way up the ladder. Stamps served as the international vice president for the Philos for a year and then her number was called to serve in the top spot. “I didn’t feel as if I was ready because I had only one year of training. But I was asked to run and told I would have the support of the body. I am happy that I have been able to connect all five regions, regardless of size, and encourage Philos to reach out to others.”

Stamps strives to retain and increase membership. She says she knows she can’t do it alone. She relies on the women who have become her sisters. “I can accomplish goals I have set for myself with the help of others. I have friends, rather sisters, to help me. It’s a community of like-minded individuals.”

Members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority are proud to partner with the Philo Affiliates. The Philos are friends of the sorority. They have been around since 1943 and were officially recognized nationally in 1980.

Arlecia E. Stamps is a member of the Zeta Sigma Philo Affiliate. She is “born, bred and planted” in St. Louis, Missouri. She has six children, an extended family of children, 49 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Stamps is also known as the neighborhood mom, but is quick to tell you, “I don’t babysit!”



Omega Rho



Ethel Lottie Moore Ulmer
Gamma Theta Sigma • Chattanooga, TN.

Ethel Lottie Moore Ulmer, 96 of Chattanooga, entered Omega Rho on Sunday May 22, 2016 at a local nursing home after an extended illness. Born of the union of William W. and Odelia Richardson Moore, she was the sixth of eight children. She was educated in the public schools of Davidson County (Nashville) Tennessee and received a Bachelor's of Science in Elementary Education degree in 1942 from Tennessee A & I State College in Nashville.

She met the love of her life, David Elliot Ulmer, Sr. in 1940 and married him in 1947 after he completed a tour of duty after World War II. To this union two sons were born, David E. Ulmer, Jr. and William (Bill) Ulmer. Ethel was very active in the Chattanooga education community, having taught for thirty-one years in the Chattanooga Public Schools. She was a proud member of several professional organizations within the profession including Chattanooga Education Association, Tennessee Education Association and the Chattanooga/ Hamilton County Retired Teachers Association.

She was a dedicated member of her church for twenty-six years and the Trustee Wives Ministry. She was a cultured pearl of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., a charter member of The Quettes' Club, which is an auxiliary to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., a charter member of the Smart Set Bridge Club, Tennessee State Alumni Association, and a member of the Diamond Duplicate Bridge Club.

Submitted by: RaSharon King

This information was taken from the obituary of Soror Ethel Lottie Moore Ulmer





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The Aurora

Submission Guidelines

The Aurora magazine editors strive to present accurate, quality information in each edition. The submission guidelines below allow for a professional and informative product.

Remember:

1. Submissions for Alumnae on the Move, Props, Undergraduate Pulse, Affiliates, Omega Rho and Beacon of Light must be **250 words or less**. Use Times New Roman, 12-point font and include the chapter's name in the subject line of all electronic submissions. *End-of-the year reports and newsletters are not acceptable.*
2. Before submitting an article, check for repetitions in the text, look for inconsistencies, ensure that all information is factual and reference the name of persons when giving direct or indirect quotes.
3. Include contact name, chapter name, location, school, city, state and suggested headline.
4. Spell check
5. All submissions are subject to editing and potential exclusion based on timeliness of content.
6. Submissions should be written in reporter format, excluding words such as "we," "our," and "us."
7. **Send good quality electronic photos** that are **300 dpi in JPEG format**. *Ensure that the photos are labeled and identification of the people in the photos is provided. If sending hard copy photos, send the original and not a color copy. **Note: A cost is associated with all photographs accompanying articles.**
8. Photo pricing is as follows:
Group image - \$25
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9. When submitting payment for photographs, please send a copy of the article, picture and cashier check/money order to:
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DEADLINES:

Winter/Spring Issue:
December 15

Spring/Summer Issue:
April 15

Fall/Winter Issue:
July 15

If you are not currently receiving The AURORA, please verify your mailing address with National Headquarters and/or submit the form established by the Grand Grammateus.

EXPULSIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

The International Board of Directors expelled the following individuals at the July 2016 Board of Directors meeting held in Cleveland, Ohio.

Tymeko Talbert, former member of Alpha Epsilon, Florida A&M University (Southeastern Region)

Ashley Mangual, former member of Alpha Epsilon, Florida A&M University (Southeastern Region)

Kaylen Nollie, former member of Alpha Epsilon, Florida A&M University (Southeastern Region)

Katelyn Thomas, former member of Phi Chapter, Clark Atlanta University (Southeastern Region)

Tandra Giles, former member of Phi Chapter, Clark Atlanta University (Southeastern Region)

Jatayah Sheed, former member of Delta Pi Sigma Chapter, Macon, Ga. (Southeastern Region)

Jasmine Davis, former member of Delta Pi Sigma Chapter, Macon, Ga. (Southeastern Region)

The International Board of Directors expelled the following individuals at the November 14, 2016 Board of Directors meeting held via conference call.

Hilda Phillips, former member of Eta Iota Sigma Chapter, Suitland, Maryland (Northeastern Region)

Kari Murray, former member of Theta Chi Chapter, Old Dominion University (Northeastern Region)

KeVonya Webb Riley, former member of Theta Chi Chapter, Old Dominion University (Northeastern Region)

Alesia Shelton, former member of Theta Chi Chapter, Old Dominion University (Northeastern Region)

Jada White, former member of Theta Chi Chapter, Old Dominion University (Northeastern Region)

Giselle Winston, former member of Theta Chi Chapter, Old Dominion University (Northeastern Region)

Keisha Patron, former member of Theta Chi Chapter, Old Dominion University (Northeastern Region)

Zaria Davis, former member of Lambda Epsilon Sigma Chapter, Salisbury, North Carolina (Northeastern Region)

Natasha Smith, former member of Eta Mu Chapter, East Carolina University (Northeastern Region)

Chandria Sharpe, former member of Eta Mu Chapter, East Carolina University (Northeastern Region)



**And it will not be tolerated by
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority. As outlined in
the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated
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***"... Any person who engages or participates
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