



The Delta Connection

Hinesville Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Volume 1 Δ Issue 2

January 2015

The President's Corner



Happy New Year Sorors:

By the time you all read this message the Holiday Season of Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year have passed and now you all are basking in the memories of being with family and friends along with a few

extra pounds from all the holiday

meals you have partaken in. I hope during that time that you did not forget about those who are less fortunate than you.

We are half-way through our 2014-2015 Sorority year. We have accomplished a lot in the past 6 months. Right out the gate, Soror Stevens and I worked to meet the requirements to get our Chapter in compliance, an Executive Board Retreat was held, there have been 3 fundraisers (Crimson Friday, Car Wash and Ricefest) that have brought in a little over \$1100. KUDOS to everyone who assisted in those endeavors and for the 1st time, we have held a Chapter meeting outside of Hinesville. In October, we held our monthly meeting at the Wayne County Library in Jesup, GA. We had over 16 Sorors present and I am proud of each of you who embraced the change and was able to attend.

As your Chapter President, it has been an honor to represent you and the Chapter. I believe that I have one of the best Vice-Presidents in the world, Soror Stevens! She has not only served as our Vice-President but she also serves as our Risk

Management Coordinator, Membership Services Coordinator, Program, Planning and Development Chair and Scholarship and Award Committee Chair. She should be applauded for everything she has done for us. THANK YOU Soror Stevens!

As I continue to highlight some of our noteworthy accomplishments, I would be remiss to not mention that in the month of October, the Chapter held its Are You Ready? Initiative by raffling off an Emergency Preparedness Kit at our October Chapter Meeting, Soror Edith Anderson was our winner! CONGRATULATIONS! Soror Anderson. Soror Shirley Frasier introduced us to our 1st Edition of the Delta (See President page 3)

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The Vice-President's Corner



Greetings Sorors,

I am excited as we move forward with the programs Hinesville Alumnae have adopted this sorority year under Project 13 (P-13). We chose four of the thirteen programs: St.

Jude Children's Research Hospital, the American Heart Association, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the National Council of Negro Women.

On November 22, 2014 we completed our first program, the *St. Jude Give Thanks Walk*. Hinesville Alumnae registered as virtual walkers with a goal of \$1,000.00. I am pleased that we exceeded our goal, raising \$1,255.00. Thanks to our chapter members, family members and friends for their contributions. To date, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has raised \$117,262.00, exceeding the \$100,000.00. We're taking strides against childhood cancer and other deadly diseases.

We want you to get ready for the NAACP Membership Drive. In February 2015, 13% of our chapter membership is asked to purchase NAACP memberships. If you're currently not a member of the NAACP, please prepare to become a member. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the NAACP continue to focus on disparities in economics, health care, education, and voter empowerment.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is teaming up with the American Heart Association to raise heart disease awareness. February is Heart Disease Awareness Month and is dedicated to raising awareness to the #1 Killer of Women in America. As part of the "*Delta's GO Red*" Campaign, we are asked to wear Red on the

25th day of February to raise awareness for Heart Disease. Our goal is to live a Heart Healthy Lifestyle.

DST has teamed with the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). This partnership is to increase awareness of the continual work of the NCNW and to increase the membership numbers for NCNW as they lead, develop, and advocate for women of African descent supporting their families and communities through charitable partnerships initiative. Our chapter is asked to commit to have 13% of our membership to purchase membership (\$30 annually) within NCNW. DST and the NCNW promote leadership development, champion women's rights and civil rights, works to reduce health disparities, promotes educational opportunities, promotes international relations, as well as work to effect policies.

Ladies of Hinesville Alumnae, we can accomplish these goals! Let's do it!

Soror Sarah C. Stevens

Chapter Vice President

Inspirational Thoughts

Gratitude

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a

feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.

Deltas Spotted at the Special Viewing of the Movie Selma



Delta's after the movie viewing of Selma



Delta Sigma Theta and Alpha Kappa Alpha sisters gather for a group picture after viewing Selma, January 8, 2015.

President

Connection Newsletter! The Newsletter is OUTSTANDING and KUDOS to Soror Frasier. In November, the Chapter History and Archives Template was completed, the Arts and Letters Report was completed, Chapter Membership Services Report completed, Risk Management Chapter training and report was completed. We also embarked on selecting our Project 13 Initiative Organizations; and to start things off, we participated and raised \$1,255.00 through our virtual St. Jude's Children Hospital Research Walking Team. Next we will GO RED with a Bowling Event in February along with membership drive for NAACP and NCNW.

As you can see Sorors, Hinesville Alumnae

Chapter has been a Chapter of doers and I look forward to us doing more in the 2nd half of this Sorority year. Don't forget that your membership dues can be collected at the Executive Board and Chapter meeting starting January through March 2015. Your dues must be paid in full. Our local dues are now \$150 plus \$135 for the Grand Chapter.

Lastly, I just want to THANK each of you for being YOU!

Yours In Delta,

Soror Petula Y. Gomillion

Chapter President



January

- 9 Lillie Kelly
- 20 Dalmyra Caesar
- 20 Valarie Luckey-Merritt
- 22 Sarah Baker

February

- 1 Tamika Torres
- 16 Anita Harvin
- 20 Yvonne Woods

March

- 19 Jacqueline Lett
- 28 Natasha Motley

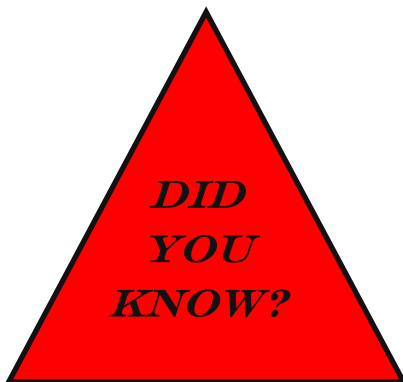


Reclaimed Sorors

As of December 31, 2014, Hinesville Alumnae has reclaimed Sorors Daisy Jones, Dominique Logan, Linda McKnight, , Cassandra Moss, Clara Rowsey-Stewart, and Vivienne Shipman-Davis.



Welcome back Sorors!



Osceola Macarthy Adams, a founding member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., was one of the first Black actresses on Broadway. She was the Director of the Harlem School of the Arts and directed the theatrical debuts of Harry Belafonte and Sidney Poitier.

Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman member of the U.S. Congress, was the first African-American and first woman to run as a major party candidate for the presidency of the United States.

Women in Harmony with Themselves: Professional Women Converse with the Delta GEMS

Submitted by Soror Chanté' Martin

"A Woman in harmony with her spirit is like a river flowing. She goes where she will without pretense and arrives at her destination prepared to be herself and only herself."

—Maya Angelou

On November 1, a panel of accomplished career women participated in a roundtable discussion with the Delta GEMS as part of their monthly workshop series. The discussion, entitled "Sister to Sister: A Professional Roundtable," featured three dynamic women who shared stories and insights with 16 GEMS and 6 members of Hinesville Alumnae Chapter (HAC). The panelists were: Major Dalmyra Price-Caesar (Soror), Human Resource Specialist with the 3rd Infantry Division; Dr. Kameelah Martin, Assistant Professor of English and African American Literature at Savannah State University; and Dr. Karla Sapp (former HAC Delteen [1996-1998], Drug Treatment Specialist with the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

The two-hour workshop was divided into two parts. The first segment consisted of a formal panel discussion which was moderated by Soror Chanté Martin. The second portion, a "Chat and Chew" session, afforded GEMS an opportunity for small group discussion with the guests over lunch. Both segments resulted in a lively, candid, and informative dialogue where the panelists openly shared personal and professional stories and the GEMS asked thoughtful, probing questions. Overall, sorors, GEMS, and panelists alike enjoyed the workshop. Everyone found it especially valuable and memorable.



GEMS in Service

submitted by Soror Gwen Starr

This communication is to inform you of our Sorority's Delta GEMS continued participation in community service activities throughout the community. As you all know, one component of the Delta GEMS program requires us to keep the participants actively involved in service learning and community service opportunities. This sorority year the GEMS have already completed three community service projects. Their first community service project was held on October 7, 2014, "The Inspired Pink" hosted by Community of Inspired women. In support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the GEMS served as ushers. This was an opportunity for the GEMS to present themselves to the community through service as well as learn how to assist in preserving order during a program. Their second community service project was held on November 22, 2014, at Liberty County Manna House. The GEMS sorted and packed 100 Thanksgiving bags that were distributed on November 24, 2014, to needy families throughout Liberty County. This community service was an opportunity for the GEMS to serve others through their time and effort. Their third community service project was the 15th Annual Illuminated Christmas Parade on December 5, 2014, the GEMS volunteered to assist Atlantic Area CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates),

a non-profit organization that recruits and train volunteers to advocate for their children who have been abused, neglected and placed in foster care.

**Trailblazing GEMS**

Congratulations to **Aliyah McMillan** (former Delta GEM). She is currently a sophomore at Georgia Southern University and was inducted into the Golden Key Society on November 6, 2014. The Golden Key is comprised of high-achieving college students. Membership is by invitation.

Congratulations to **T'Keyah Lowder**, (current Delta GEM), who was the first place winner of the Rice Fest Essay Contest held on November 8, 2014.

Congratulations to **Mikia Frazier** (current Delta GEM) daughter of Soror Debra and Michael Frazier who was crowned Miss Homecoming Queen for Liberty County High School 2014-2015 school year.



Newsorthy Recognitions



Hinesville Alumnae Chapter participated in the National Pan Hellenic Council Christmas toy drive. Soror Cynthia Smith is pictured fifth from left.

Health Tip: Tips for a Safe and Healthy Life

Take steps every day to live a safe and healthy life.

Eat healthy.

- ♦ Eat a variety of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains every day.
- ♦ Limit foods and drinks high in calories, sugar, salt, fat, and alcohol.
- ♦ Eat a balanced diet to help keep a healthy weight.

Be active.

- ♦ Be active for at least 2½ hours a week. Include activities that raise your breathing and heart rates and that strengthen your muscles.
- ♦ Help kids and teens be active for at least 1 hour a day. Include activities that raise their breathing and heart rates and that strengthen their muscles and bones.

Physical activity helps to:

- ♦ Maintain weight
- ♦ Reduce high blood pressure
- ♦ Reduce risk for type 2 diabetes, heart attack, stroke, and several forms of cancer
- ♦ Reduce arthritis pain and associated disability
- ♦ Reduce risk for osteoporosis and falls
- ♦ Reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety

Protect yourself and your family.

- ♦ Wear helmets, seat belts, sunscreen, and insect repellent.
- ♦ Wash hands to stop the spread of germs.
- ♦ Avoid smoking and breathing other people's, or (second hand), smoke.
- ♦ Build safe and healthy relationships with family and friends.
- ♦ Be ready for emergencies. Gather emergency supplies. Make a plan. Be informed.

Manage stress.

- ♦ Balance work, home, and play.
- ♦ Get support from family and friends.
- ♦ Stay positive.
- ♦ Take time to relax.
- ♦ Get 7-9 hours of sleep each night. Make sure kids get more, based on their age.
- ♦ Get help or counseling if needed.

Get check-ups.

- ♦ Ask your doctor or nurse how you can lower your risk for health problems.
- ♦ Find out what exams, tests, and shots you need and when to get them.
- ♦ See your doctor or nurse for regular check-ups and as often as directed. Get seen if you feel sick, have pain, notice changes, or have problems with medicine.

2014 Hinesville Illuminated Christmas Parade

For their December public service activity, the GEMS participated in the Liberty County Christmas Parade on December 5th. The majority of the GEMS represented local high schools in the parade. Two GEMS from Bryan and Long counties walked the route and distributed candy in conjunction with South Georgia Bank and Atlantic Area CASA program. Supervision was provided by Sorors Starr, Martin, Caesar, Covington and Stevens. Sorors Gomillion, Carter, Torres and Boozier joined the GEMS in this endeavor.



We Honor Our Veterans



(L-R) Sorors Neshaszda Brown, Gwen Starr, Petula Gomillion, Valerie Luckey-Merritt, Dalmyra Caesar and Cynthia Smith.

established with a proclamation by President Woodrow Wilson which reads in part: "Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations." On June 1, 1954, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. veterans.

On Veterans Day this year, we remembered and honored sorors who gave of themselves, and let us continue to pray for our men and women currently serving in the military.

Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, the day when a peace agreement was signed with Germany ending World War I. Armistice Day was

“The Season of Giving” submitted by Soror Gwen Starr

On December 6th, GEMS participated in their third Workshop entitled, “The Season of Giving: Giving of Self Through Service.” Sixteen GEMS as well as seven sorors were in attendance. The session was designed to: a) provide girls with a practical definition of service and facilitate a discussion on its importance in everyday life; and b) offer GEMS an opportunity to identify and design a service project of the group’s choice for an upcoming public service activity. Soror Daisy Jones, City of Hinesville Homeless Program Coordinator, facilitated the 30-minute workshop and was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation. Based on Soror

Jones’ talk and their group discussion, the GEMS proposed working with preschoolers at Riceboro Headstart as their service project.



Following the December workshop, GEMS were treated to a Christmas Celebration. Participants were treated to lunch and had the opportunity to do some crafts. GEMS made bracelets and exchanged their creation with another GEM along with words of encouragement written on a precut Christmas shape cutout. The Gems then made a fleece scarf which they kept.

Soror in the Spotlight

Submitted by Soror Edith Anderson



A Remarkable Lady. She reigned as Miss Savannah State College for one year, but served as an English teacher for 35 years.

In 1966, Soror Yvonne Lecounte, a native of Riceboro, Georgia, and 1963 graduate of Liberty County High School, Midway, Georgia, was elected as Miss Savannah State. This was certainly an honor for her, and she reigned with grace and dignity.

After graduating from college, she married the love of her life, Donell Woods, and returned to her alma mater where she taught English and World Literature for several years.

The county's two high schools were integrated in the early 1970s. Soror Woods was transferred from the predominately African American Liberty County High School to the predominately white Bradwell Institute in Hinesville.

For three decades, Soror Woods taught approximately 4000 students. "I am grateful for the opportunity to have taught so many students," said Soror Woods. She taught 10th graders (World Literature) for 30 years, and spent the last years of her career teaching 11th graders (American Literature). She had a genuine love for teenagers and teaching was her passion. Her favorite age group was the 15 - 16 years old.

In 1987, she was appointed to serve as Chairperson of the English Department. She retired in May of 2003.

Soror Woods' love for teaching and her students helped her in so many ways. Her favorite quote, "It is nice to be important, but it is much more important to be nice," served as a constant reminder of her duty as a teacher. She also shared with her students, another one of her quotes, "What is popular is not always right; what is right is not always popular." In addition to her passionate love for teaching, Soror Woods has a spirit of volunteerism. When you mention the names of people who constantly give their time and service to the Liberty County community, you will often hear her name. She spends many hours working with various

Meet Soror Yvonne Woods

organizations within the community. A very knowledgeable and hard-working dedicated professional, she builds relationships and works toward providing service to all mankind. Soror Woods has the ability to work independently or with a group, and has excellent verbal and written skills.

She serves as Vice President and Scholarship and Essay Chairperson of the Liberty County Emancipation Proclamation Observance Day Committee; Chairperson of the Arts and Letters Committee of the Hinesville Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Leadership Breakfast Chairperson and Scholarship and Essay Chairperson of the Liberty County Martin Luther King Observance Incorporation; Treasurer of the Hi Fidelity Club and Liberty-Long Retired Educators; and a member of the Superintendent's Community Advisory Council, Georgia Retired Educators Association, City of Hinesville Citizens Sign Appeals Board, and Liberty County Planning Commission. She is the former President and Treasurer of the Hinesville Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc, and former Chairperson of the Chatham/Bryan/Liberty Regional Library Board. Soror Woods is a former member of the Board of Directors Court Appointed Special Advocate, Hinesville Area Arts Council, and a Liberty County poll manager. She is also a proud life member of the NAACP.

Because of her countless hours of service to the community, Soror Woods has been recognized with numerous awards. She is the recipient of the following awards: Georgia Retired Educators Association Community Service Award, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award, Coastal Empire Black History Month Citizenship Award, Emancipation Proclamation Committee Citizen of the Year Award, and NAACP - E. B. Cooper Leadership Award.

Soror Woods participates in the Annual Donell Woods Holiday Basketball Tournament. This tournament is held in memory of her late husband, Coach Donell Woods, who died in 1980. It gives 9th grade boys and girls the opportunity to participate in an end of season tournament. The tournament is also another sign of the love and unity Soror Woods has kept with Donell's immediate family, the Woods and Bakers.

She is very active in her church, First African Baptist Church (the oldest African American church in
(See Soror page 11)

Delta By Soror Valerie L. Thomas

Long ago and far away
 Twenty-two began a brand new day.
 They wanted more than just a social life
 They desired to be more than just a wife.
 These twenty-two had a larger vision
 And that soon caused them great division.
 Some went left, but most went Right
 And strove to reach a higher light.
 They wanted to make a better place
 And give their children a broader space
 To expand their minds and their hearts
 And give to the world the best parts
 Of being Intelligent, Female, and Black.
 These twenty-two started the forward motion
 But theirs was just the tip of this Delta notion
 They gave the foundation and an example to follow
 They made it strong and solid, not hollow.
 Their legacy remains as a directional arrow
 And the time is now to release the sparrow
 To fly free and soar to heights unknown
 But she must never travel alone.
 Along with her sisters the job gets done.
 Along with her SORORS the battle is
 Won.

2015 - We Celebrate 102 Years of Sisterhood and Service**Soror**

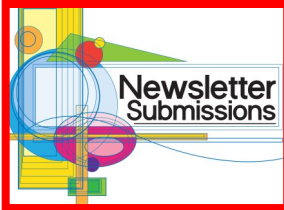
Liberty County), Riceboro, Georgia. She serves as the Treasurer of the Pastor's Aid Committee, Chairperson of the Annual Black History Celebration, and a member of the home mission ministry.

Soror Woods enjoys spending time with her immediate family (her son, Donny; sister, Lula; and niece, WTOC News Anchorwoman, Dawn Baker). She also loves to travel, spend time volunteering, and reading books by her favorite authors, Toni Morrison and W. E. Dubois.

“I am proud to be a golden life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. During my tenure as president, we initiated the Jabberwock fundraiser. Sorors Doris Barrett, Edith Anderson, Carolyn Riles Brown, Camilla Quarterman, and Marsha Simmons daughters have served as my contestants. Because of our teams' hard work in raising money, the sorority was able to purchase a \$10,000 CD,” said Soror Woods.

2014-2015 Hinesville Alumnae Chapter Elected Officers

- President - Soror Petula Gomillion
- Vice President - Soror Sarah Stevens
- Recording Secretary - Soror Alicia Mullice
- Corresponding Secretary - Soror Dalmyra Caesar
- Financial Secretary - Soror Cynthia Smith
- Treasurer - Soror Virie Walton
- Chaplain - Soror Debra Covington
- Parliamentarian - Soror Gwen Starr
- Sergeant-at-Arms - Soror Tamika Torres



This quarterly chapter newsletter is what we make it! Please submit articles and photos to the chapter journalist at Hac_journalist@yahoo.com.

Article submissions for the next newsletter are due by March 6, 2015. Try to keep your article to 500 words or less or your article may have to be trimmed to fit into the Newsletter.

Refocus Δ Reaffirm Δ Reconnect

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE