

April / May / June 2017

Vol. 6, Issue 1
(2016-2017 Wrap-Up)

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2017-2019

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The Torch



The Monthly Newsletter for Princess Anne Alumnae Chapter of
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

August 19th: PAAC Chapter Retreat

September 8th: Chapter DIDs

September 9th: Community Prayer Brunch

September 16th: First Chapter Meeting of Sorority Year and
Chapter Picture Day



SONYA'S SECTION—REFLECTIONS OF AN IPP (A REPRINT OF A LINKEDIN ARTICLE BY SONYA ON JUNE 18, 2017)

Yesterday, our 2017 - 2019 president of Princess Anne Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. held a Think Tank for the chapter. This meeting was a wonderful example of what needs to occur to continuously develop a good organization to a great one. Communicating a purpose, working collaboratively to develop a vision, and getting everybody "on the bus" to work on plans to fulfill the mission are all crucial steps to future success.

This meeting also served as a clear transition point for me into my new role as IPP (immediate past president). Though I was going to wait to post until after the official transition date of June 30th, I was compelled to write my thoughts down this morning. I wanted to briefly reflect on three highlights that stick out to me for my personal and professional development during the last four years:

- Helping me develop in so many of the skills we read about in Leadership books and LinkedIn, many that are core tenets of our sorority as well, such as teamwork (sisterhood), empathy (compassion), integrity, patience, responsibility, authenticity
- Supplying continuous support and encouragement to improve my comfort in public speaking off the cuff, which as a planner is often challenging.
- Being results-driven in our community, leading to two Eastern Regional awards in our Sorority for Programs that had clear impact in our service area - Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties. The team(s) worked hard in executing the service but also in the exemplary presentation of our efforts with the awards submission - these awards were the first ones ever submitted and won in our chapter 38 year history.

Thank you to my phenomenal sorors for all the love and support that lead to tremendous chapter growth and again development for me personally. The lessons learned are reflected in my personal and professional life and will forever be with me. I am eagerly anticipating where the chapter and my individual chapter members go in the future and with the direction and inspiration seen at our Think Tank yesterday.

Again thank all of you for your support over the last four years and I am excited about the next biennium. Look for words from 2017-2019 elected president, Sylvia Quinton in "Sylvia's Section" in the next newsletter.

***All of my love,
Sonya***



What Will You Offer to God...to be Your Best Self for Service?

Galatians 2: 20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

What will you sacrifice to get closer to God? That word, sacrifice, is defined as giving up something you want to keep, especially to get or do something else, or to help someone else. It's also described as the act of killing a person or animal (as a religious ceremony) as an offering to please God. What will you give up to get closer to God? It's interesting that we are called to die unto ourselves daily. God is giving us the opportunity to be less flesh focused and more spirit focused. We have to step out of ourselves or it continues to be all us. It is not (about us). It is about our relationship with God and how we can worship Him and serve others. We have an abundance of gifts from God. How will you use your time and your talents so that God is lifted up? When you're at work, will you worship God by how you treat your co-worker or by how you do your job or by how you minister to those who don't have a personal relationship with him? When you're at the store or getting gas or walking along the sidewalk, will you say something to someone that let's them know that the love of God is in you and that he loves them, too. You are God's beloved! He loves you dearly, and there is nothing you can do about that. So how will you respond to that love? Will you continue to please yourself; your flesh; or will you die to yourself daily? What will you sacrifice to be closer to God in your daily life? It may mean saying no to some really good and descent things in order to say yes to the things God has for you.

COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST

We invite you to attend our Community Prayer Brunch at the Richard Henson Center at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. The theme for the brunch is ***Bridging the Gap: Honoring the Past; Treasuring the Present; Shaping the Future*** and the speaker is Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn E. Boyd, 22nd National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Co-chair of National Social Action Commission. Tickets are \$35.



*Bridging the Gap:
Honoring the Past,
Treasuring the Present,
Shaping the Future*

Guest Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn E. Boyd
22nd Past National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Co-Chair, National Social Action Commission



Princess Anne Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Prayer Brunch Statement of Purpose

Under the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Political Awareness and Involvement Thrust, Social Action has always been and will continue to be a major part of who we are and what we do as Deltas. Founded by 22 women with Christian principles and impeccable values, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated also sees prayer as an integral part of our efforts to move forward with our Social Action agenda.

It is the belief of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and implemented on a local level by the Princess Anne Alumnae Chapter (PAAC), that the legislative agenda, as outlined by the Grand Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, moves our Social Action agenda forward. The sorority's Social Action agenda strives for the honoring of our ancestors and our past history, acknowledges the work being done presently by Sorors worldwide, and invests in and shapes the future for generations to come.

The goal of the PAAC 2017-2018 Social Action agenda is to bridge the gap that divides our families, communities and our nation. PAAC asks you to join us in a community prayer for the furthering of programs and services that will help with our Social Action agenda.

Specifically, the Social Action issues we support include but are not limited to:

- Healthcare** that allows for patient protection; children being insured through parents and protecting patients with preexisting conditions
- Education** funding for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation Program; Continued support for Pell Grants and Parent Plus Loans; Continued support for free and reduced school meal programs
- Voting Rights** that re-introduce and pass the Voting Rights Act in the 115th Congress; implement and advance protection from voting suppression
- Economic Development** that funds training for 21st century jobs and provides affordable and accessible child care
- Financial Security** that provides protection for workers' rights and sustains and increases Social Security funding; maintains the current definition of Social Security eligibility

The aforementioned issues are only a glimpse into the Social Action agenda of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. We remain committed to public service and to the uplifting of the black community.

Bridging the Gap: Honoring the Past; Treasuring the Present; Shaping the Future

Community Prayer Brunch

Saturday, September 9, 2017

University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Richard A. Henson Center Ballroom

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

\$35.00

To purchase tickets go to:

<https://paac-community-prayer-brunch.eventbrite.com>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Starting the Sorority Year with our second Regional Award for GEMS program at the Eastern Regional Conference
Implementation of Membership and growing our sorority with our Fall 2016 line – The Chosen Ones and the work of chapter members for the chartering at UMES of Upsilon Sigma in Spring 2017
Collaborations and new partnership is Key, Project 13 – Supporting other chapters and organizations
Our collegiate chapters – Nu Rho and Upsilon Sigma
ELOG, Somerset County Board of Health, Women Supporting Women, Gods Kitchen, Wicomico and Worcester County NAACP

SOCIAL ACTION

Attended Delta Days in Nations Capitol (2 attendees) and Delta Days in Annapolis (9 attendees)
Attended MD Lower Shore Andy Harris Town Hall
Social Action incorporation in all activities (i.e. September Zumbathon)
Facebook postings and communication from MD Social Action Agenda

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sector Member for the two Drug-Free Community (DFC) Coalitions on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. (see attached article)

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2015-2016 award winning GEMS – great workshops and community service ending with college tour plus design contest of anti-smoking campaign (using Tobacco Grant money)
Wicomico County Scholarships – three awarded
Sponsorship of local youth to the chapter viewing of Hidden Figures
Bras for A Cause – winning 2nd Place in Peoples Choice Awards

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Completion of anti-smoking campaign in Somerset County; awarded grant used with GEMS and Field Day.
World AIDS Day – creation and distribution of ribbons and awareness card
Bras for A Cause – winning 2nd Place in Peoples Choice Awards
Mental Health across the Lifespan:
Work with youth through GEMS
Work with aging population with Deers Head – Bingo and projectHEART
Journey to Wellness – March of Dimes Walk and three Zumbathons
Participant as quad member for second year with them of "Sisters Supporting Wellness" for Somerset County Field Day. The quad included information purchased from the Tobacco Grant as well as mental health information.

INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

Black AIDS awareness Day – display table at UMES
National Women and Girs HIV/AIDS awareness Day – display table at Salisbury University

ART & LETTERS

Red Carpet Viewing of "Hidden Figures"
SerendipiTea with UMES Jazz Ensemble (fundraiser)

INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT

MIT Training
Chapter Management DID (2)
Code of Conduct DID
Sisterhood DID
Transition Retreat with Collegiate Chapters – increasing the bond with our neighbors
Think Tank for 2017-2018 year – new ideas and setting stage for next sorority year and beyond

COMMUNITY AWARENESS and INVOLVEMENT

Increasing the service and awareness of our chapter in the community continuously grows through collaborations and impactful activities:

Somerset County Board of Health with Somerset County Community Field Day – "Sisters Supporting Wellness Quadrant" (Year 2)
Extraordinary League of Gentlemen (ELOG) with "Bright Minds, Bright Futures" Bookbag Drive and Operation Belly Full
Worcester NAACP – advertising their activities and partnering with Worcester County Zumbathon (Year 1)
Women Supporting Women supporting Women with Bras with a Cause with our own entry –
Salvation Army / Toys for Tots – GEMS

SISTERHOOD (Membership) – Internal Chapter Growth

Membership Activities (Evening with Janice Boettger, Founders Day Dinner, Paint Nite, First Wednesdays)

PROGRAMMING PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

DELTA GEMS



The G.E.M.S. ended the year strong. Eight G.E.M.S. attended the VIP Day at Cheyney University for the annual college tour along with their PAAC committee members. They were very excited to learn about college life and of course, the cute tour guide! In the same month, the G.E.M.S. were able to interact with six local African American females that are "bosses" in their particular field. The girls were able to hear their stories, gain insight on what it takes to be successful in that career, and interact with the panelists through comments and questions.

The final meeting of the year was held at Tickled Paint Art studios in Salisbury, MD. The girls were able to uniquely decorate their canvas with their initial. The committee was pleased to hear all of the compliments from the owners about how mannerly and pleasant the girls were! They really had a great time and have developed strong bonds throughout the year. This year we are pleased to share that all five of our seniors (two of which have been in the program all four years of high school) will be attending an institution of higher learning in the fall. Another great highlight is that two G.E.M.S. chose their college from a previous college tour with our program. We are elated at the growth of our participants and look forward to seeing them succeed as young adults.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SECTOR MEMBER FOR DRUG FREE COALITION

The Princess Anne Alumnae Chapter (PAAC) continues to serve as a sector member for the two Drug-Free Community (DFC) Coalitions on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. The Drug-Free Communities Support Program is an initiative of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The mission of the DFC Program is to strengthen collaboration among public and private organizations and reduce youth substance abuse. The participation of the PAAC as a sector member allowed both communities to receive \$625,000 each in federal funding over a five year period. In Somerset County, PAAC's EMBODI program serves as one of the youth-serving programs as well as PAAC members assist in various aspects of coalition development. In Pocomoke City in Worcester County, PAAC's members serve as mentors to youth in the Pocomoke Youth Coalition.

PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH



JOURNEY TO WELLNESS: MARCH OF DIMES WALK

The Princess Anne Alumnae Chapter participated in the March of Dimes walk that took place on Sunday April, 23 2017 at 10:00 am in Wicomico County. Sorors Hopkins, Miles, Mosley, and Sessoms with four of the charter members of the Upsilon Sigma Chapter participated in this event. The goal for our PAAC team was to raise \$200, we effortlessly exceeded that goal and raised a whopping \$316. All raised funds go directly to the March for Babies Foundation. The funding is used to fund research and create programs to promote successful growth and development for babies born prematurely. Our chapter plans to continue to support this event during the 2017 sorority year.

BRAS FOR A CAUSE—2ND PLACE PEOPLE CHOICE WINNERS

The Princess Anne Alumnae Chapter came in second place for the people choice award again this year with our “Humpty Dumpty” bra (we won second place last year). This year we raised \$735 in this creative fundraising event for Women Supporting Women—a local organization helping survivors and spreading awareness about breast cancer. Thank you to the collaboration with the Delta GEMS and the PMH committee to continue with creativity for the last three years.



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE CHANGING OF THE GUARD IN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Education is very important to local communities everywhere. During the 2016 election, Wicomico County, Maryland voters decided that they would like to elect schoolboard members starting with the November 2018 election. Until then, positions are still appointed and the School Board’s Nominating Committee has been tasked with appointing 3 new members to the Wicomico County School Board.

There was a public hearing held on June 26 the at James M. Bennett High School Auditorium which was an opportunity for the community to come and hear from 12 applicants who have applied for the board positions. The applicants shared their goals and reason for wanting to be a member on the board and the audience was able to share their desires for board members who would be representing them. Although there was no question and answer portion, the applicants seemed eager to take notes of the suggestions made by the audience. The process does not end here. The commission will host interviews the second week of July then deliberate on their final nominations. The 6 chosen nominees’ names will be sent to the County Council where the final decision will be made. All meetings other than the interviews are open to the public. Because education is so important to our community, it is imperative that we continue to have a presence at these meetings and hearings. Social Action and service to our community is very important and this is just one way to get involved.

If you have any upcoming events or questions for the Social Action Committee of the Princess Anne Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. please contact the Social Action Chair at paacsocialaction@gmail.com.



Happy Birthday to Sorors born in May, June and July !

May 17 - Cheryl Thompson
June 15 - Allison Matthews
June 18 - Kairlyn Miles-Smith
July 8 - Annette Noble
July 8 - Sylvia Quinton

July 14 - Undrea Blake
July 15 - Nicole Buffington
July 16 - Melva Wright
July 25 - Gayle Mason-Jenkins

MEMBERSHIP—FIRST WEDNESDAYS

FIRST WEDNESDAY SISTERHOOD SOCIAL

Wednesday May 3, 2017 from 5 to 7:30 pm
Washington Inn, 1784 Somerset Ave, Princess Anne, MD 21853
We will be celebrating our 38th Anniversary (May 3, 1979).
No need to RSVP but we hope to see you there!

a time for socializing
with Sorors in the
Princess Anne
Alumnae Chapter



perfectly. The Membership Committee and the chapter overall looks forward to continuing our monthly event next year, starting back in September. We look forward to seeing you then!

One day our charter members, Sorors Annette Noble and Sheila Richardson discussed an idea of a Sisterhood Social specifically for PAAC chapter members and those who we may want to reclaim. The purpose of this would be purely social, no business. This is how First Wednesdays were born! Thus far, we have had two—May and June. They have been a great time for us to get to know each other and we have a wonderful flyers by Soror Lauressa Wigfall that symbolizes the afternoons



EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM—SUMMER TIPS



As we are in the midst of the summer, ERT wants to leave the chapter with some summer tips. During this summer season, make sure to stay hydrated, use sun screen, be mindful of safety in reference to pools and other bodies of water and never leave a child or pet in a vehicle during these hot months for any length of time. Another tip is an emergency supply kit within your home which should include everything from sufficient water for all members of the home (FEMA recommends a gallon per person per day) to three days' worth of nonperishable foods. The national FEMA website is a resource to assist as a guide for the construction of these emergency plans. Lastly, the Zika Virus is still very present in the United States with a surprising 5,139 cases with 6 of those being reported in Maryland. This virus is transmitted by infected mosquitos and can negatively impact our nervous system and cause severe birth defects in pregnant women. The CDC recommends the use of repellent not only on skin but clothing as well. Long sleeves are also recommended. ERT looks forward to continuing partnerships with both with our local Red Cross and all health departments in the tricounty area in the upcoming year.

The submission deadline for the Torch is the last day of the month. If you have announcements, articles or information that you want to appear in the July edition of the newsletter, please send your submission to PAACCorrespond@gmail.com by :



Instagram



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