



## FALL/WINTER 2010-2011 NEWSLETTER

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have been thinking a lot about commitment. What does it take to honor one's word and do what one says one will do? At the time of interviews and membership intake, talented women promise to serve the community and to do whatever it takes to become a Delta. Then, time progresses and work begins, and attendance wanes. This is not just a problem with our chapter, but is a growing problem with BGLOs. The lack of financial support and physical support has created a movement calling for the Divine Nine to develop a policy that will remove non-financial members from membership after a given period of time. The rationale is that those non-financial members are carried on the rolls, but do nothing to support the work of the organizations. This would be a tremendous paradigm shift and I really don't know how I feel about it. It is, however, a clear indication that we have a problem and we must find a solution.

I don't know how elimination from the rolls would help reclaim inactive, non-financial sorors, or encourage sorors to come to meetings and support projects and programs. I just don't know what could be done. Are we in need of a more stringent screening process? How do we communicate the workload that a lifetime commitment brings? What needs to be done to help sorors keep the vows? Do we need to provide financial assistance if cost is a factor? What kind of restructuring could be done to keep members in the fold?

I have heard that sorors aren't coming to meetings or participating because something was said or done that angered them. I have heard that projects and programs aren't supported because a member didn't vote for them. I don't know; I think if change is needed, it is easier to make that change happen from the inside. I can't express the times that I have wanted to stay home when it was snowing or when I didn't feel well. But I made a commitment to the chapter and to the sorority, and I take those vows so seriously that I often pull myself out of bed. More often than not, once I do this and get where I need to be, my spirits are lifted and I experience the joy that comes from doing Delta's work.

As I've said, I don't have the answer, but I do wonder what is going to become of not only Delta, but all BGLO organizations if the trend of non-participation continues. We are a part of a glorious legacy. I hope we find solutions so that this legacy continues and our posterity will be able to reap the benefits and joys that we have experienced. I am a part of three generations and I would hope, with all of my heart, that the opportunity to participate will be there for my grandchildren and their children. I hope that we will be able to reclaim and retain our membership, making sure that we grow stronger than ever. I hope this for all BGLOs. There is a great need for what we do.

I was just thinking about commitment and the forty years of my life that have been a part of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Blessings to you and yours my beloved sorors.

Love and violets,  
*Regina*



*Our Mission*

**Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated is an organization of college-educated women committed to constructive development of its members and to public service with a primary focus on the Black community.**



**SOROR REGINA L. MASON**  
AAAC CHAPTER PRESIDENT

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## REPORT FROM NATIONAL CONVENTION 2010

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC., 50TH NATIONAL CONVENTION! "Were You There?"

Fortunately, I was able to travel to New Orleans while the 'good DST times were rolling.' However, rather than just read my point of view, I asked other sorors in attendance to give their reflections on the incomparable experience of our cream and crimson sisterhood's national convention. As our Soror National President said, "Love had everything to do with it."

If you weren't in New Orleans to attend the 50th National Convention of DST or if you've never been to a DST National Convention, continue reading. At least a week before the official opening of Convention, the city of New Orleans began to be flooded with specks of red and white, cream and crimson, and sorors with their families, sorors with their 'line sisters,' sorors on walkers, sorors on go carts, sorors with amputated limbs, sorors—tall, short, old, young, in-between, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., began painting the "Big Easy" red and white; and the city noticed.

By the end of convention, more than 16,000 members had spent up to six days in NO having traveled from every corner of the U.S. We converged on the streets of NO wearing any imaginable DST paraphernalia to showcase our commitment to service with specific emphasis during that week in the Crescent City in its recovery. We traveled by bus, car, airplane, and we were all eager to "let the good times roll."

Because we were hosted by the local chapters of DST, the convention was the perfect opportunity to help boost the city's economy which had suffered such devastation from Hurricane Katrina almost five years before. The shopping was endless with some sorors hoping there be enough "credit" left on their bank cards to get back to their hometowns. We enjoyed the hospitality of the finest hotels and everything else the city had to offer including its urban traditions, succulent foods and even our own Delta-Style Mardi Gras Parade. The beads we were given upon arriving at the airport were added to with more beads during the parade which featured local bands, spirited marchers, regular floats, themed floats and among the floats, one representing the New Orleans Saints and one featuring a likeness of Michael Jackson. It is impossible to describe a single occasion which defined the DST aura. From the first "day of twenty-two service projects" which benefitted the city's community to the closing banquet, the Deltas were 'moving and shaking' and 'inspiring and being inspired,' by each other and the people of New Orleans whose warm smiles spoke volumes.

At one point during an opening plenary, our National President, Cynthia Butler-McIntyre, was overcome with emotion at the sight of the vast number of sorors in attendance. In her message, Soror Butler-McIntyre referenced a Tina Turner song, noting that in Delta Sigma Theta, "Love has EVERYTHING to do with it."

Convention was a memorable week-long experience which fostered a renewed commitment to everything for which DST stands. At our closing banquet, many sorors wore outfits of gold or gold accessories to celebrate the convention's golden jubilee. Strobe lighting with special effects added to the Center's ambiance and our spectacular assembly. The entire event was literally a 'sight' to behold and to reference another well-known song, "NOBODY DOES IT BETTER," nobody bothers to compete because they know that Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., will do it better.

- Soror Doris Miree



The formal Opening was held on Saturday morning. The processional of former presidents walking down the red carpet was exciting. I missed the presence of Dorothy Height in her hat being rolled down the aisle.

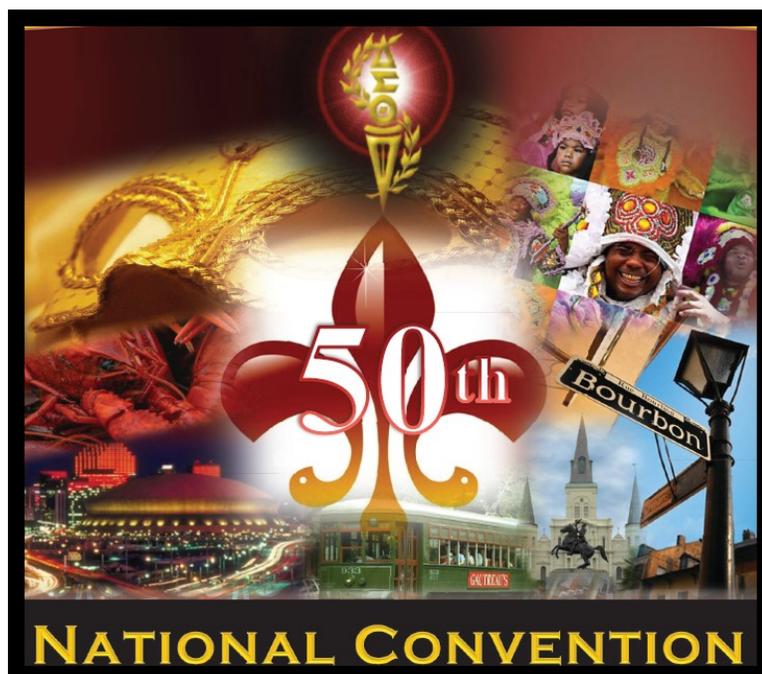
President Cynthia Butler-McIntyre gave the opening address. The theme was "Love has everything to do with it". She quoted from Tina Turner's song "What's love got to do with it. Daphne Maxwell-Reed was made an Honorary Delta. The president said that we should not become Delta just to wear the colors, but to remember that we are built on Christian Principles and our call is to serve. The lasting words were "Deltas, we are not a monument but a movement". We must get on with the business of what our founders did in regards to social action.

We were told by Andrew Young, Ben Jealous of the NAACP, Roland Martin, Al Sharpton, Marcia Fudge and others, that we must not sleep in this election, because they are not expecting a big turnout with the black vote. Marcia Fudge told us to let them know that there are Deltas in the area. We were given a letter to send to our politicians. It seems that Deltas were very present during the Alexis Herman era. When referring to Deltas, we want to hear them say, ooh ooh, here they come.

The gospel and Signature Gala started late for some of us. The Arts and Letters Commission awarded several recipients in the area of acting, singing, and gave a special tribute to Lena Horne.

Delta Dears were given priority when riding the bus, reserved tables, and so forth. I must admit I loved it. (Of course, I was questioned a few times about my credentials.)

- *Soror Doris Harris*



## REPORT FROM NATIONAL CONVENTION 2010, CONT'D

I feel that this was an outstanding convention and one that I will remember for years to come. I don't recall any other host city sponsoring a parade for the Sorority. That was a definite plus! The convention got off to a great start with the Praise and Worship Service that was attended by about 4,000 Sorors. I enjoyed the Public Meeting. It was great having the leaders of the other Greek organizations honor our National President, who is an outstanding leader. The tape that accompanied "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" is a MUST SEE for everyone! The Social Action Luncheon was outstanding! It gave me a new appreciation for Rev. Al Sharpton! Of course, Rev. Vashti McKenzie was outstanding at the Ecumenical Service. I enjoyed seeing Rev. Gwendolyn Boyd take an active role in many of the meetings.

The National Executive Committee should be commended for dedicating the 50th National Convention to Soror Dorothy I. Height. It was most appropriate. It is always good to see the former National Presidents in attendance. In terms of entertainers and guests, it was "first class" all the way. As far as the hotel accommodations were concerned, they were fine with me. My hotel was great. The Lord willing, I definitely plan to be in attendance in Washington, DC in 2013!

*- Soror Sandy Harris*

I really enjoyed attending the National Convention. It offers an opportunity to reaffirm my commitment to DST. The Convention opened with a powerful opening with our National President, Cynthia M. A. Butler-McIntyre as our speaker for the Theme Address. She made outstanding comments regarding the need for the Sorority to not become a monument, but to continue to foster the beliefs of our founders and to remain a movement. She spoke about the relevance of the Sorority and challenged each Chapter to go back to their members and make a self assessment in terms of their status, relevancy and how they fit with the vision of our founders.

I was also impressed with the panel discussion on the day designated for Social Action. The panel, led by moderator Soledad O'Brien, was very interesting and again challenged the Sorors to not rest on past laurels, but to understand that there remains work to be done nationally and at the State level to have our voices and views heard as it relates to civil and human rights. I came back home re-energized and ready to work!!! The food was excellent and the networking was also wonderful. And as always, I enjoyed shopping in the exhibit area.

*- Soror Joyce Parker*

First, let me say how I enjoyed the time I spent at the convention. Things I enjoyed: Spending time with a wonderful group of Delta Sisters; Seeing Sisters I had not seen in over 8 years and reminiscing; Seeing Sisters that I brought into this wonderful Sisterhood and pinned (wow!). All are officers in their local chapters. Meeting new Sorors and starting a new found friendship. Being a Delta Dear at a National for the first time - I felt so special! I really enjoyed the panel discussion from Social Action Commission and also attended the workshop on maintaining membership. Being Blessed to have traveled safely to the 50th. Anniversary, and returned safely. To God Be the Glory.

*- Soror Joyce Johnson*

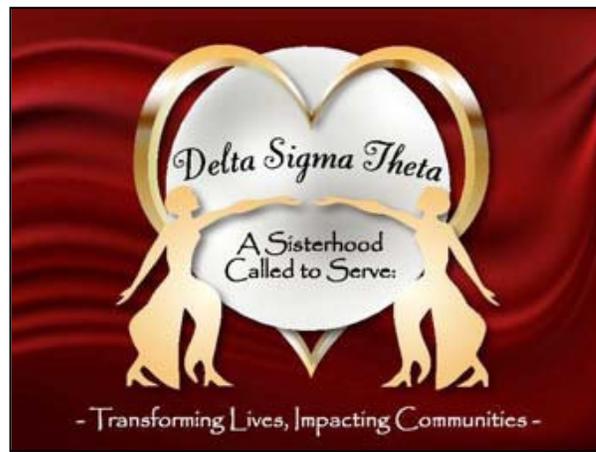
## DELTA ACADEMY UPDATE

The Terri Lynn Johnson Delta Academy participants spent the November 20th 2010 session developing their artistic sides. Soror Maria Thompson led the young ladies in painting with watercolors and showed them different techniques. The young ladies enjoyed the activity and created lovely pieces of art.



On December 4th 2010 the Academy attended a production of Pippi Longstocking at EMU's Quirk Theatre. One young lady stated that she enjoyed the play so much that she went to the library to check out all three books by Astrid Lindgren, the author of Pippi Longstocking.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE UPDATE



**BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES** - In September, the Community Service Committee was able to donate school supplies to students in Washtenaw county because of the generosity of our Ann Arbor Alumnae sorors. This was our second annual drive sponsored by the Community Service Committee. Through our donations we were able to impact the lives of many children and families in our community. Our donations were distributed between SOS and The Salvation Army.

**LITTLE DRESSES FOR AFRICA** - In October, the Community Service teamed up with a senior group in Canton and sorors donated new pillowcases in order to make dresses for young girls in Haiti. Through our combined efforts, we will be able to make and donate over fifty dresses for this worthy cause. Once again, the sorors of the Ann Arbor Alumnae Chapter opened their hearts to help those less fortunate from an international perspective.

**ADOPT-AN- APARTMENT** - In December the Committee participated in the SOS Community Services' Adopt-an Apartment giving program. This program benefits homeless families and children currently residing or participating in the center's Shelter Transitional Housing Program. Our members donated new household items such as furniture, cleaning supplies and personal care items that can be used to supply various apartments at the shelter or those relocating to permanent housing. Thanks Sorors for making a difference!

The community service project for January will be for the The Education Project for Homeless Youth through the Washtenaw Intermediate School District. We will collect new hats and gloves, socks and underwear for school age children in Washtenaw county.

*"We make a living by what we earn, but we make a life by what we do for others."*

Winston Churchill

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT CALENDAR

<b>Month</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Coordinating Soror</b>
September 2010	Back-to-School Supplies (collected at Round-up)	Doris Anderson
October 2010	Collection of pillow cases for Dresses for Africa	Doris Anderson
November 2010	Brown Bag Lunch Collection for Hope Center (lunches will be assembled at Ypsilanti Salvation Army location)	Kim Hambright
December 2010	SOS Adopt-An-Apartment	Doris Anderson
January 2011	Serving Meals at Delonis Center through Food Gatherers	Lisa Hurst
January 2011	Hat and Gloves, Sock and Underwear Drive through The Education Project (Washtenaw Intermediate School District)	Henri Parker
March 2011	Fleece blankets – “Warm Fuzzies” for UM Cancer Center	Monique Washington
April 2011	Brown Bag Lunch Collection for Hope Center (lunches will be assembled at Ypsilanti Salvation Army location)	Kim Hambright
May 2011	Serving Meals at Delonis Center through Food Gatherers	Lisa Hurst
June 2011	Dress for Success (scarf, shoes, accessories collection)	Monique Washington

UPCOMING EVENTS

# SAVE THE DATE

BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOM NOW!

## Michigan Statewide Founders Day

“22 Women Paved the Way ... Leadership from the Heart”

MARCH 25-26, 2011



KEYNOTE

*Regional Director Regina Harper*

Registration \$80 Alumnae, \$60 Collegiate

**Inn at St. John's**

44045 Five Mile Road

Plymouth, MI 48170

Room Rate \$109.00 plus 6% sales tax and 4.5% occupancy tax  
(based on single double occupancy; \$20.00 per person charge for triple and quad occupancy.  
3 Room types available: 1 King Bed; 2 Queen Beds; 1 King Bed and 1 Pull out Sofa



For room reservations call (734) 414-0600 and request the “Delta Sigma Theta” room block.

SOME ROOM TYPES ARE LIMITED! CUT-OFF DATE FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS IS FEBRUARY 25, 2011.

Have an article, photo or other news item for the AAAC Newsletter?

Email your submission to [info@annarbordeltas.com](mailto:info@annarbordeltas.com) no later than

**Sunday, March 27, 2011**

to see your content featured in the next issue!

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