



Conference Call
May 4, 2017
Minutes

Call Information: 712-432-3900 Code: 533249

Call Times

7:00 p.m. Louisiana and Jamaica Chapters
8:00 p.m. Texas and New Mexico Chapters
9:00 p.m. Arkansas Chapters

Opening

Soror Dangerfield informed sorors their phones were muted to eliminate background noises, the calls were being recorded and the calls would start momentarily once Soror Rogers was on the line.

An opening prayer was offered for each call.

- Louisiana/Jamaica-Soror LeDuff
 - Soror Rogers inquired about Soror LeDuff and her mother to see if her mom was doing better. Soror LeDuff indicated her mom was better and they were looking into moving her to a rehab facility. She thanked everyone for their prayers.
- Texas/New Mexico- Soror Reed
- Arkansas- Soror Barbee

Soror Dangerfield (985-788-4515) gave directions for attendance.

- State's abbreviation
- Chapter's Name
- Your Name
- Position (advisor to include name of chapter)
- Soror Dangerfield asked if Sorors would be so kind to text attendance information within 2 hours of the call.

Soror Rogers

Soror Rogers thanked everyone for being on the call. She was delighted to have everyone on the call.

Minutes: Soror Rogers informed everyone about the minutes from the last call. The city where the last call originated had some bad weather and the calls from that day have been erased. We will try to do our best to construct the minutes from the last meeting if we can. That is why you

do not have the minutes. Someone asked Soror Rogers about the minutes. She wanted to make sure you knew the reason why there were no minutes.

National Convention: Soror Rogers reminded everyone about the National Convention registration. Registration opened on April 5, 2017. It will close on May 17, 2017 or when we reach capacity. The last time Soror Rogers checked, we had roughly 800 sorors from the Southwest Region who had registered. That is a good representation of the Southwest Region. Soror Rogers encouraged everyone to go. It will be a good conference, although expensive. It will be a great convention; so please join us sorors.

Soror Rogers reminded us about the Crimson and Cream levels of sponsorship as well as individual sponsorships that are available to help support the 53rd National Convention. That information has been disseminated on numerous conference calls.

Mental Illness Information

During the month of May our focus is centered on mental illness. Our National President as well as Soror Rogers encourages chapters to renew their commitment to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and encourage those living with mental health conditions to get the help they need. In our organization, there are concerns around mental illness as well as in our families. We ask that you renew your commitment and we all work together to help and embrace those individuals who have mental illness.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has partnered with the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) to launch the Mental Health Across the Lifespan Initiative (MHAL). We have had the initiative for a while but now we are particular about raising awareness about issues around women and their families throughout the lifespan specifically including mental disorders such as postpartum depression, and issues that can impact mental health, including bullying and aging. It seems like every day for Soror Rogers there are issues centered on bullying and aging. We want to raise awareness and that is our May focus. Soror Rogers know that some chapters have health fairs and events scheduled around mental illness so she ask that you continue to do the work.

Social Action: Soror Rogers asked that you continue your efforts with legislators and addressing the issues. She knows all of you have been following what #45 is not doing and can see he is in disarray in terms of lackluster leadership. We will continue to pray and hope we be lead in a positive way.

Soror Doris Brown will talk about registration for the Louisiana Red and White Day. We ask you please come because our interaction with legislators is really important. Soror Rogers thanked everyone for the work they do. Continue to do what you are doing on the state and local levels with school boards and city councils so our voices can be heard as a sorority and as a people.

One App

The One App for the regional awards will be disseminated at the beginning of the next week for Program Planning and Development, Social Action, Membership Services and Collegiates. Many of you may remember last year when you completed the one application, you can indicate the awards you are interested in instead of having to complete an application for each award. We have an electronic application. The awards will be given out at the Regional Luncheon at the 53rd National Convention.

DST Emergency App- Text GET EMERGENCY to 90999- Be Prepared. Soror Rogers reflected on the weather disasters over the last 3-4 days with the tremendous rains that have lingered. We

ask that you continue to be prepared. If you do not have it, we ask that you get the DST app. Soror Rogers has mentioned it on several occasions. Soror Rogers wants to raise awareness as it is June and hurricane season is upon us. We ask that you remain prepared for any type of disaster. We usually don't have tornados but we have been having those lately. Sorors are encouraged to read up on it and be prepared.

Nominations and Elections

Some things have come to Soror Rogers' attention about nominations and elections. She has a few notes that serve as reminders. Each chapter should have a functioning nominating committee and a functioning elections committee. Those committees are separate with two different sets of people. The nominating committee is elected by the body as well as the chairperson and the elections committee is generally appointed by the president. The nominating committee should ask for the nominations from the body for their slate. Many chapters usually do this in January or February. In March, the nominating committee would then go forward to the chapter meeting prepared with a slate of officers. Nominations can be accepted from the floor. The president calls for nominations from the floor, not the nominating committee chair. The next meeting, you would have your elections. The nominating committee works up until the time of the election. At the time of the election, the elections committee goes forward with directions as to how the election will be conducted. Soror Rogers asked sorors to please make sure they follow the guidelines as it relates to nominations and elections. Again, your nominating committee needs to function. You should not just be accepting nominations from the floor. The nominations committee should be going forward with a prepared slate. Soror Rogers thanked everyone who are already doing the right thing and thanked everyone who are correcting it as quickly as possible.

Transition of Property

Soror Rogers asked chapters to make sure all of their officers are transitioned properly. Before you leave office, make sure all of the correct information is placed in the Red Zone so the new officers can start to receive emails from National and other important information. There should be a transition meeting where the transition of properties take place so the new officers can function for the upcoming year and the chapter can be in compliance. We want to make sure the bank signatures are changed so the chapter can still transact business. Soror Rogers will be disseminating reminder compliance information over the next month as well as membership intake information. That will come to you at the end of this year and at the beginning of next year.

Calls for New Members

There will be a new members' collegiate call on May 9, 2017 and on Monday, May 15, 2017 for new alumnae sorors. Both call times are as follows: 8:00 pm for Texas/New Mexico and 9:00 pm for Louisiana/Arkansas/Jamaica. You will receive a communication. Soror Rogers asked that you share this information. Chapter presidents and advisors can be on the call if you so choose. The call is to really give new members a platform to ask any questions they may have, share, and communicate with other individuals who have just been initiated. If a new alumnae initiate cannot be on one call then they certainly can be on the other call.

Soror Woodberry is not on the call. She is representing the Southwest at the National Scholarship and Standards committee meeting. We know she is representing us well.

Soror Rogers asked if there were any questions about any of the information that she had shared.

Soror MacKenzie Jenkins

Soror Jenkins wished everyone a Happy May! She congratulated all collegiates for making it through the spring semester and wished them good luck and said finish strong on finals. If you go to www.dstsouthwest.org, under the collegiate tab there is a link to Academic Resources, ASAP

(Academic Success Achievement Program). These resources may be helpful to you as you study for your finals and manage your time well.

A special congratulations to our graduating seniors. Collegiate chapter presidents please encourage graduating seniors to email their senior pictures to swrrjenkins@gmail.com so they can be recognized on our Southwest Region Instagram and be properly recognized.

Advisors are reminded to submit grades. Finals are coming and professors will be entering grades so please make sure grade reports are submitted.

As Soror Rogers stated, One App for awards for the Regional Luncheon will come out next week. Collegiate chapters are encouraged to submit an application for awards as well as pictures that can be displayed during the luncheon. Soror Jenkins just encouraged all collegiates to apply whether it is for PP and D or social action.

A leadership opportunity for collegiate sorors includes the National PanHellenic Council National Second Vice-President office from January 2018-2020. The application is now open. Soror Jenkins believes an email was sent for National. The dates for the Collegiate Retreat should be announced in about 2-3 weeks. Don't forget about the New Initiate Conference Call For collegiates on May 9, 2017 and May 15, 2017 for alumnae sorors. Both calls are as follows 8:00 pm for Texas/New Mexico and 9:00 pm for Louisiana/Jamaica/Arkansas.

Have a great summer! Be safe and I hope to see some of you in Las Vegas for National Convention.

Soror Michelle Brown

Red and White Day: Soror Brown reported that we had a very successful Red & White Day at the state capitol on April 17th. She extended a special thanks to the Texas State Social Action Coordinator, Soror Toni Rose, along with Soror Carla Roberson, Soror Kristen Wells-Lewis, one of the Regional Social Action Coordinators and Soror Avis Gipson, Austin Chapter President and the entire Austin Alumnae Chapter. They started out with outstanding speakers with topics including Education, Health, Mental Illness, Racial Disparities and Criminal Justice Reform. Sorors were extremely engaged and received a lot of information. We were treated to a complimentary Bar-b-que lunch, recognized on the Senate Floor and took a photo on the capitol's steps. Many sorors had the opportunity to then visit their Legislators and visit the Texas African American History Memorial. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in putting it together and especially to the 200 plus sorors who traveled to Austin for our Red & White Day at the capitol.

Collegiate Graduates: Congratulations to all of our Collegiate Graduates. Soror Brown hopes you have already decided which Alumnae Chapter you will be transitioning to. If not, be sure you make that decision soon so you don't miss a beat in your Delta Journey.

New Presidents Contact Info: Chapter Presidents, as Soror Rogers indicated earlier, those of you who are having chapter elections, please send Soror Brown the contact information of the new chapter presidents as soon as your elections and inductions are complete. Please include name, email address and primary contact number. We want to make sure that information and correspondence goes out to both during this time as you complete your transition.

Reactivated Chapters: Lastly, Soror Brown welcomed two reactivated chapters – Upsilon Epsilon at the University of Texas at Tyler and Gamma Epsilon at Texas College, also in Tyler.

Soror Claudette Barbee

New Officers: Many Arkansas Chapters have had elections and will be transitioning officers. Therefore, Soror Barbee is asking each chapter president (both Collegiate and Alumnae) to

submit to her attention the chapter president, email address and primary contact phone number for the 2017-2018 sorority year by May 19, 2017 to ensure all Arkansas chapters are kept abreast of upcoming events and information.

Compliance: Soror Barbee wants to thank each chapter, in advance, for their commitment to being 100% in compliance by the September 1, 2017 due date. Please let her know if there are any areas in which you need assistance and she will do her very best to either provide the needed information or align you with the appropriate person with information and/or tools to assist you.

Compliance is a critical tool in overall chapter management and she is sure each Arkansas chapter's aim is to continue in the tradition of obtaining the "Five Star Standard of Excellence" for outstanding achievement in the area of compliance.

Sharing Information: Presidents there's lots of information being shared so please continue to make sure information is being distributed accordingly. We want to ensure that Arkansas sorors are knowledgeable when it comes to national, regional and state programs and initiatives.

Congratulations to Seniors: Soror Barbee would like to join in with Soror Jenkins in congratulating our graduating seniors. She would especially like to send a special message of thanks and congratulations to Soror Markesha Davis, our State Facilitator as she graduates and transitions to the workforce.

She thanked each for all that you do each day serving those communities in which you live.

Soror Doris Brown

Safety: Soror Brown prays that each is well, dry and safe during the rain storms we are having. As Soror Rogers stated, please make sure you download an app to make sure you get the information. Sometimes you don't have much time to get to safety. It has not been good at all. Make sure you review all the ERT documents on the website and make sure you have evacuation plans.

Graduating Seniors: Soror Brown congratulated the graduating seniors and those finishing the semester with their academic excellence and doing well maintaining the academic stellar we have in the Southwest.

New Officers: We talked about transition of officers. It is so important that we get the names of the new officers. Those of you who have texted us the names of the new officers already we thank you for that. We will update the list to make sure they get the information. Alumnae chapters make sure you send us your information also.

Sharing of Information: There is a lot of information being shared. Chapter presidents, please make sure you are forwarding information to the appropriate sorors and to your membership. There are lots of deadlines we have had and lots more to come. We want to make sure we get those awards submitted and represent the wonderful work you are doing.

Project 13: A gentle reminder for Project 13. We are looking for your Project 13 chairperson, so please send that information in because that report is due.

Red and White Day: Red and White Day is June 1, 2017. Our co-coordinators along with the social actions committee have planned another fabulous day. Registration is online with PayPal and Google Doc. Please assist sorors who are technologically challenged and help them to get it in. We pushed registration deadline back to May 26, 2017 but as soon as you can, please register because it will help with our planning. We will begin with a breakfast followed by a debriefing and we will have a luncheon. It will be a dynamic program. There are things going on

at the state as well as the national levels. You have probably heard on the news regarding health care. We are faced with cuts and trying to resend the Affordable Health Care Act. With all of the flooding waters, there are issues due to funding being cut. Zika/Vector in Louisiana in Region 1 - New Orleans, Region 9 - Slidell and Region 3 - St. Charles. Soror Brown brings that up because women in childbearing age are at risk with the newborns having many issues due to developmental delays and neurological issues. We need to make sure our voices are heard at the capitol and now. We are looking forward to seeing all of you in your red and white. Make sure you are attending your city council and school board meetings.

Soror Rogers, every time we see a legislator, we should have something to say

Soror Dangerfield gave attendance information
(985-788-4515)

- State's abbreviation
- Chapter's Name
- Your Name
- Position (advisor to include name of chapter)
- Soror Dangerfield asked if Sorors would be so kind to text attendance information within 2 hours of the call.

New chapter presidents'/officers' information was requested to be emailed to delta17@charter.net for regional secretaries and state coordinators.

- Name
- Office
- Email
- Telephone

The calls ended with a closing prayer.

Respectively Submitted,

Dorable Dangerfield, SWR Secretary