



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Uncompromising Commitment to Communities: Service, Leadership, Empowerment

53rd National Convention Report

Submitted by Dr. Danielle Riddle Price, President - Voting Delegate

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Friday, August 4, 2017 – Delta Praise & Worship Service	
Saturday, August 5, 2017	
❖ Albuquerque Alumnae Chapter Lunch at Hard Rock Cafe	
❖ Step Show	
Sunday, August 6, 2017	
❖ Interfaith Worship Service	
❖ Southwest Regional Luncheon	
❖ Gospel Concert	
Monday, August 7, 2017	
❖ National Clergy Council Regional Facilitators at Morning Meditation	
❖ Social Action Luncheon	



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
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53rd

National Convention Report

Las, Vegas, NV August 3-9, 2017

Respectfully Submitted by,

Dr. Danielle C. Riddle Price

President, Albuquerque Alumnae Chapter

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

Voting Delegate

September 9, 2017



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Workshops.....11
Sorors who attended may provide reports and are encouraged to do so for the workshops they attended. Due to Constitution and Bylaws rolling over to three days, the Voting and Alternate Delegate were unable to attend any workshops. I was however able to obtain brief reports from other Sorors I know and have included those reports in this section.

Chapter Vice President
Coverage You Can Count On
Internal Audit
Policies and Procedures
Risk Management
Ritual and Ceremonies
Social Action
The Three P’s of Project 13

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Appendix (See Website for Additional Information and slides until placed on National Headquarters website)



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Introduction

Sorors, the scene was absolutely beautiful when we arrived in Las Vegas, NV not to mention HOT! We were of course greeted by Sorors at the airport and then to travel in a van with even more Sorors to our respective hotels.

The first day at convention, after registration, all Voting and Alternate Delegates had to gather in the MGM Garden Arena for a rehearsal for the Formal Opening on Saturday, August 5th. This was a fiasco, but we made it through.

Convention Overview

The 53rd National Convention of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was held in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Mandalaybay Convention Center and the MGM Garden Arena Center. The convention dates were from Thursday, August 3rd through August 9th of 2017. There were 18 Plenary Sessions, due to two additional plenary sessions to cover the Constitution and By-Laws.

***Albuquerque Alumnae Chapter Convention Attendees 15
(Represents approx. 35% of the chapter's membership, which is about a 5% increase from the 2015 convention)***

Dr. Danielle Riddle Price, President (Voting Delegate)	Suzanne Johnson	Amala Waldon (Treasurer)	Nellie Ward
Ramona Dillard	Jasmyn Madison 1 st Vice(Alternate)	Dionne Rodgers	Brenda Steele
Gloria Fadipe	Jane K. Gates	Karon Stevens	Sonya Smith
Cynthia Mc Donald	Valerie Webb-Jaramillo	Vicki Scott	



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Plenary 1

The Formal Opening of the 53rd National Convention was a wonderful experience where all sorors gathered to officially open the convention. One Honorary Member was presented to the body: Patience Stephens, PhD. We then heard greetings from Past National Presidents and a theme address from our National President, Dr. Paulette C. Walker. (Theme stated up above in header).

Plenary 2

787present

A. Presentation of Presidential Youth Program Participants – all of the youth that were participants of the Presidential Youth Program were presented. Youth were also awarded scholarships for 1. Behind the Camera Scholarship Award- \$500 for one of the Morristown Alumnae’s EMBODI members 2. Arts and Letters Award collegiate- Kappa Omicron Chapter University of NC Chapel Hill 3. Arts and Letters Award Alumnae- Fayetteville Alumnae

B. Strategic Partnership Task Force (SPTF)

Delta Authors on tour 26 stops this year in all 7 regions

P13 Top 3 Regions to take part are: The Blazing Southwest , South Atlantic and Southern.

C. Corporate Partnerships Task Force

The presenters shared their efforts in gaining national recognition and creating additional partnerships with several organizations on a national level.

(\$576,906 raised, goal was \$250,000)

Plenary 3

787 present

This plenary of the Hazing Prevention Task Force opened up with a brief video presentation creatively displaying our National President sharing sentiments as “Don’t Do It!”, ‘Don’t Try It!’ and that this is ‘Serious Business”. It was a very profound message that was given to all in attendance.

The goals and objectives of the Hazing Prevention Task Force is to assist the sorority in the reduction and ultimate eradication of hazing and to heighten awareness of what is considered as hazing and the repercussions for hazing.



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There are multi-faceted areas of penalties:

- ❖ Hazing is a crime in 44 states
- ❖ Can be sued civilly
- ❖ Schools can suffer consequences
- ❖ Can be charged by the District Attorney's Office and may be sentenced and go to prison

Plenary 4

787 present

The Nominating Committee presented the following candidates who were running for the following offices. Please note that there were 11 total offices with 13 positions available and there were 6 Sorors nominated from the floor and 21 total candidates.

National President	Beverly Evans Smith
National First Vice President	Barbara L. Bagneris Cheryl A. Hickmon Doris McEwen *Cheryl Turner Linda R. Wilson
National Second Vice President	Jaria Martin Shelby Mitchell Maribel Okiye
National Secretary	Elsie L. Cooke-Holmes Octavia G. Matthews Joi L. Moore Beverly J. Schembri Natalie T. J. Tindall Judy L. Wright
National Treasurer	Deborah A. Jones-Buggs
Chair, 2019 National Nominating Committee	Aisha K. Childs Deborah Stapleton
Chair, National Finance Committee	Doreen A. Dixon Myrna Phillips Idalene Richmond Williams
Chair, National Internal Audit Committee	*Elaine Campbell Soraya Farver
Collegiate Member, Scholarship & Standards Committee	Chandler Madison Rhea Moore Jaleah Rutledge *Tresa Reynolds
Collegiate Member, 2019 National Nominating	Tanaja Kidd



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Committee	
Alumnae Member, National Finance Committee	Victoria I. Brown
Collegiate Member, National Internal Audit Committee (2 positions)	Tiara Brooks Kiersten Hargett

- *Nominated from the floor*

Plenary 5

787 present

Corporate Officers Report: Our National Treasurer, Soror Deborah Buggs shared the Treasurer’s report along with several slides that were extremely important to understand the reason for the increase to our national dues. Presentation slides can be found on the www.dstanya.org website for your review. In short we leased another portion of a building as we needed the space, and due to oversights with the budget we are currently borrowing from foundations and other areas within Deltas structure to cover overages. Currently we are over by 2.1 Million from Conventions etc.

Delta Research and Educational Foundation: Albuquerque Alumnae along with about 49 other chapters received grants. Ours was for our PMH Health Fair in the amount of \$1,500.

Status of International Chapters: (have slides)

Plenary 6

(Have slides for this presentation) There were a series of webinars discussing this over the past 2 years. The Nonprofit Corporation Act is the law by which nonprofit organizations are governed within the District of Columbia. The issue was whether the sorority should continue to operate pursuant to the law under which it was founded – the old act – or whether Delta should choose (“opt in”) to operate under the new act. The Executive Board decided to opt-in to the new act. However, it was further determined that the sorority will need to develop and implement a process by which we can educate and familiarize sorors with these changes; prior to presenting them at the 2019 National Convention.



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Plenary 7 and 8

775 present

A. **CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS** – this was reviewed within 4-5 separate Plenary sessions. Noteworthy highlights are as follows:

- National dues increase from \$125 to \$190 annually
- Distribution of the notification of membership intake vote can be done via email
- Audited financials were changed from 120 days to 60 days from the close of the fiscal year

All updates will be posted to the website in the Fall 2017 and new Constitution and By-Laws will also be available to the membership.

Plenary 9

Meet the Candidates - At this time, all candidates gave a brief speech as to the reason(s) why they would like to run for office.

Please see details from Plenary 4 of the Candidates that were running for office.

Plenary 10

786 present

KEEPING IT REAL

- National President Paulette Walker had a “real” conversation regarding our financial spending and the future of our sorority, if the national membership dues are not increased.
 - Communicated that our national conventions did not cover the actual cost per person and should have been higher registration fees
 - Investment needed to be made in the areas of national headquarters technological advances and updates



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MEMBERSHIP INTAKE SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Policy recommendations were provided to address the concerns regarding Gender Identity:

- Policy #1 – Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. should consider for membership including potential applicants, candidates, pyramids, new and existing members, any female regardless of her assigned sex at birth, or her expression, or the perceived expression of her gender
- Policy #2 - – Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. should consider for youth initiatives any female/male, any individual who self identifies as a female/male, regardless of her or his assigned sex at birth, or her or his expression of his or her gender
- Policy #3 – Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will consider volunteers for youth initiative (that are not members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.) cisgender individuals only.

Plenary 11

786 present

During this plenary is where the National Convention Plenary Committee shared the details as to how they prepare for our biennium convention and they provided several highlights:

- Awarded a total of 94 sorors across the country \$341,250 in scholarships
- Awards to 16 sorors our Delta Founders and Past President Endowed Scholarships in the amount of \$201,500
- 44 chapter innovative seed grants were awarded in the amount of \$17,800
- \$5,600 was awarded to support the Maryland Educational Opportunity Center
- \$2,700 was awarded to support scholarships awarded by the National Achievement Merit Scholarship (NAMS) organization
- \$18,000 was set aside for collegiate chapter Advisors Recognition Gifts

There were several other accomplishments in the areas of:

- Governance of Standards
- Governing Documents & Tools
- Policy Development and Revisions
- Collaborations with other National Committees
- Training
- Other Assigned Tasks during the Moratorium



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Plenary 12

786 present

STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL CHAPTERS

Our Past National President, Soror Butler-McIntyre shared that we have approximately 13 international chapters. They are listed as follows:

Jamaica Alumnae	Germany Alumnae	St. Croix Alumnae
St. Thomas Alumnae	Sigma Psi – Virgin Islands	Sigma Omega (inactive)
Tokyo Alumnae	Okinawa Alumnae	Republic of Korea Alumnae
Bermuda Alumnae	Nassau, Bahamas Alumnae	Grand Bahamas Alumnae
Upsilon Zeta		

Temperature Check

- ❖ Chapter logistics
- ❖ Communications is still an issue as there are high long distance costs incurred
- ❖ Relationship with respective regions
- ❖ Involvement on the Regional and National Committee levels
- ❖ Electronic-aided meetings has resulted in a 90% improvement rate since 2015
- ❖ Calendar options for MIT is still a concern and working with the Region to address each concern
- ❖ Average of 3.85 on a scale of 1-5 (5 being the best) to rate their relationship with their respective regions
- ❖ Almost 100% of chapters have members on Regional Committees
- ❖ 3 international chapters have members on National Committees

Plenary 13

Review of Constitution and By-Laws continued - Please see Plenary 7 & 8.



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Plenary 14

The following candidates were elected in to their respective offices for the sorority year 2017-2019:

National President	Beverly Evans Smith
National First Vice President	Cheryl A. Hickmon
National Second Vice President	Jaria Martin
National Secretary	Elsie Cooke-Holmes
National Treasurer	Deborah A Jones-Buggs
Chair, 2017 National Nominating Committee	Deborah Stapleton
Collegiate Member, National Finance Committee	Doreen A. Dixon
Chair, National Internal Audit Committee	Soraya Farver
Collegiate Member, Scholarship and Standards Committee	Jaleah Rutledge
Collegiate Member, 2017 National Nominating Committee	Tanaja Kidd
Collegiate Member, National Internal Audit Committee (2 positions)	Tiara Brooks Kiersten Hargett
Collegiate Member, National Finance Committee	Victoria I. Brown

Plenary 15

Credentials and Site Recommendation:

Executive Board	73
*Past National Presidents	6
Honorary Members	9
Voting Delegates	789
Alternate Delegates	707
Non-Voting Delegates	8,234
Hostess Chapter	125 (3 Voting/3 Alternate)
SUB-TOTAL DELTAS	9,730
Staff (Non-Deltas)	16
Program Participants	154
Press/Media	20
Career Fair	0
Exhibitors	1,111 (187 companies)
Family/Guests	1,501



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OTHER PARTICIPANTS SUB-TOTAL	2,796
GRAND TOTAL	12,523
TOTAL ACTIVE CHAPTERS Alumnae - 535 Collegiate - 380	915
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHAPTERS PRESENT	789

SITE COMMITTEE REPORT

54th National Convention 2019- July, 2019 New Orleans, LA
Southwest Regional Conference - July 2018, Dallas, TX

Plenary 16

Review of Constitution and By-Laws continued - Please see Plenary 7 & 8.

Additionally note that all of the proposed amendments were not reviewed due to time constraints and the remainder will be reviewed at the 54th National Convention.

Plenary 17

Formal Closing and the Installation of Newly Elected National Officers 2017-2019.

Workshops - Wednesday, August 9, 2017

1. Chapter Vice President Workshop

Please accept these brief points regarding the Vice President's workshop.

Responsibilities

The facilitators emphasized the responsibilities of the Vice President.

- The goal of Retention is maintain the engagement of financial sorors.
- The goal of Reclamation is to increase the engagement of financial Sorors and assist non-financial Sorors to be financial and engaged.



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- The goal of Transition is to assist collegiates in the transition to Alumnae chapters.

Each of these components should be considered in each activity and event and should be a part of the final report.

Annual planning

Each chapter is encouraged to have a written plan for the membership and its goals for the programming year.

Programming

Programming components were briefly reviewed. Chapter programming should cover the 5 Point Programmatic Thrust.

Leadership

The facilitators explained the balance between conducting delta business and fostering sisterhood. Both must be addressed and given appropriate attention. They then transitioned to discuss leading versus managing. As members of the leadership team, we must use the appropriate skills at the appropriate time to have an effective chapter leadership team.

2. Workshop: Coverage You Can Count On

- Social Media should be a part of the Public Relations Committee
- **ABC's of writing:** Accuracy (no errors), Brevity (each word of a story should do a job) Clarity (leave no questions unanswered)
- **Use the inverted pyramid for story structure:** 1). Lead paragraph (this should "hook" the reader) 2). Interesting facts and colorful details 3). Least important facts
- Write in third person
- Leverage Social Media to engage partners & influencers
- Create a social media plan and calendar
- Develop a process for gathering and storing media clips
- Use hashtags to create more visibility to posts about events (1-2 are ideal)
- **Working with the media:** Brief the spokesperson, create talking points, schedule interviews and pitch ideas to reporters.



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- **Create Media Materials:** Create press releases, media alerts/advisories, blog posts and event recap articles – the aforementioned should answer who, what, when, where, why and how
- **What is newsworthy?** Events/Articles that are a novelty, have a human interest, proximity, impact, relevance, timeliness and prominence
- **Camera phone tips** – Crop photos don't zoom, avoid using the flash and seek natural light instead, use editing apps (snap seed, camera awesome and photoshop express), seek action and candid shots of people and use a plain background
- **Delta Newsletter/Journal Submissions:** Submit articles about chapter news, the five- point program initiatives, Omega news and sorors' unique accomplishments-only one photo (cost \$20.00) per article will be accepted.

3. Ritual And Ceremonies Commission Workshop

- I. The objectives of the workshop were:
 - A. To increase participants knowledge of the Ritual;
 - B. To provide guidance on preparation, execution and adherence to the Ritual, and
 - C. To provide information regarding major changes in the Ritual.
- II. Presenters reviewed that changes that have been introduced in the most recently printed Ritual. An addendum, which addressed said changes was printed and distributed; it was recommended that additional copies would be printed and distributed to the membership.
- III. A Compendium to the official Ritual was distributed. This document was in response to the numerous questions that have come to the Commission about Ritual and ceremonies.

4. Policies and Procedures Workshop

The take aways from the Policies and Procedures Workshop were to adopt a more formalized motion practice procedure for meetings and ensure that every soror received an updated hard copy of the Policies and Procedures.



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5. Risk Management Workshop

Risk Management take aways were that the risk management manual has been updated and a national vendor identified for background checks. Cost should be \$25.

6. The 3 P's of Project 13: Planning, Partnerships and Producing Great Results Workshop

- Every chapter is requested to implement a minimum of two P13 programs and appoint a P13 Chair.
- P13 Partners – American Cancer Society; American Diabetes Association; American Heart Association; Delta Research & Educational Foundation; March of Dimes; National Association (NAACP); National Caucus & Center on Black Aging, Inc. (NCBA); National Council of Negro Women (NSNW); National Urban League; Sickle Cell Association of America; Sickle Cell Disease Foundation of California; Sisters Network, Inc. and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.
- Presentations were made by the American Diabetes Association, March of Dimes, American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association.

The American Diabetes Association

- The vision of the American Diabetes Association is to have a life free of diabetes and all its burdens.
- 86 million Americans have prediabetes and 90% are unaware that they have it.
- The goal of Deltas Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.'s partnership with the American Diabetes Association is to increase public awareness of diabetes and provide support for those impacted by this disease.
- Chapters are encouraged to host health fairs and/or invite the Association to provide educational presentations and resources for chapter members.
- Chapters may register a walking team for the Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes or Community walk fundraising events (this can be accomplished via virtual walks as well).
- Chapters are encouraged to support and implement Association national awareness campaigns, i.e. American Diabetes Month (November) and Alert Day – the Association has year-round engagement opportunities.



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March of Dimes

- March of Dimes works together with partner organizations in communities and share a goal to help more babies have a fair chance for a healthy start.
- 1 in 5 Preterm Babies born in the United States is Black
- Funds raised though Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. assist in funding research to prevent premature births, support programs to educate and create awareness and support families of premature and sick babies.
- World Prematurity Day is November 17th
- Chapters are encouraged to participate in the March for Babies Walk- Contact your local chapter of the March of Dimes for details.

American Cancer Society

- Nearly 1 in 2 African American men and 1 in 3 African American women will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime.
- The American Cancer Society supports activities and relationships that focus on eliminating health disparities.
- Relay for Life is the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Chapters are encouraged to participate in this event which brings communities together to remember lost loved ones, honor survivors and assist in making a global impact on cancer.

American Heart Association

- The impact goal of the Heart Association is by 2020 to improve the cardiovascular health of all Americans by 20%
- Heart disease is the #1 killer of women
- Stroke is the #5 cause of death in the United States
- 3.6 million stroke survivors alive today are women
- February is Heart Month and Go Red for Women – for events, programs or a run requests should be made 75 days in advance for assistance for the American Heart Association
- Cardiovascular disease kills nearly 1 in 3 women every year
- Stroke is the #5 cause of death in the United States
- June 1-June 7, 2018 is CPR Awareness Week



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7. **Social Action Workshop**

We were encouraged to have a social action component to our committees with several potential activities that can be initiated as appropriate. Sorors were enthusiastic about the sorority's commitment to social action in our communities. Sorors were encouraged to be ready for involvement in the electoral process at all levels.

I would like to include notes from our chapter Sorors to be a part of this official report.

Recommendations

1. Update the Constitution and By-Laws as per decisions made at the 53rd National Convention
2. As this was my recommendation every year, it remains that I would like to strongly encourage sorors of the Albuquerque Alumnae Chapter to begin submitting reports of our accomplishments throughout the year for recognition at Southwest Regional Conference and National Convention. This will be spearheaded by the Chairs of the Program Planning Committee.
3. To have Albuquerque Alumnae Social Action Committee align with programs implemented by Grand Chapter and actively participate in the submission of resolutions.
4. To have those Sorors in leadership positions, those aspiring to be in leadership and our fiscal officers attend yearly trainings to stay abreast of the vast changes that occur in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated.
5. Given the many ways to receive trainings, ie webinars, regional meetings, conferences and conventions, I strongly recommend that members, all members attend as many trainings and webinars as possible so all are on the same page as to what Delta expects and align with Deltas ways to avoid confusion and lengthy debates on "Dos and Don'ts" .



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Sorors, this was my last National Convention as your President and Voting Delegate. That brings some sadness and some joy. It has been a pleasure serving you in this capacity. You learn so much just by being in the room around great minds. I couldn't possibly express in this report the spiritual and educational things I have gained from these meetings and interactions with our Sorors from around the world and in leadership positions. This year I meet and was able to sit and talk with Sorors from TOKYO! (Who by the way want us to come visit as a chapter.) It was my absolute pleasure to serve as your Voting Delegate for the 53rd National Convention. It was an even greater experience to be an active participant in furthering the cause of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Thank you Soror Jasmyn Madison, for being a wonderful Alternate Delegate and helping me pose questions and pushing me to be brave and go to the MIC! I know it is difficult to just sit but it is necessary and I thank you for your diligence. A special "YOU GO GURL" to our Neos, Soror Karon Stephens and Soror Nellie Ward for hanging in there and soaking it all in. What a joy it was to watch you ladies experience your first National Convention. Also, Soror Ramona Dillard who also attended her first National Convention. You all were troopers and made it to everything, right with me! Thank you to all sorors, for those that attended the 53rd National Convention and caucused with our Regional Director. I don't think there was a prouder President than I, when Madam Rd looked around and saw all those lovely Albuquerque Alumnae Sorors in attendance at the caucus. She quickly said, "I need a picture with these Sorors! Welcome Albuquerque Alumnae." Onward, we go Sorors!

**Respectfully Submitted by,
Dr. Danielle C. Riddle Price
President, Albuquerque Alumnae Chapter (2014-2018)
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated**