



LEGACY OF SISTERHOOD:
HONORING THE PAST, INSPIRING THE FUTURE

FOUNDERS DAY

Gala

MARCH 8, 2025
7 P.M.

SHERATON NEW ORLEANS HOTEL
500 CANAL ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130

BELENCIA D. BREAUX, PRESIDENT
DR. SHELITA CANNON-HOEY, CHAIR
VERA CHAPMAN SEALS, CO-CHAIR
DR. SHERYL KENNEDY HAYDEL, CO-CHAIR



HISTORY OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., is a prominent and impactful non-profit organization, that continues to uplift its focuses on sisterhood, scholarship, service, and social action, with a strong emphasis on uplifting the Black community. A vision created by 22 collegiate women was founded in 1913 at Howard University. Comprised primarily of African American college-educated women, the Sorority has become one of the preeminent service-based sororities, with more than 350,000 initiated members and over 1,000 chartered chapters across the globe.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a powerful force for positive change, driven by their commitment to their core values. Active engagement in community service, advocacy, and initiatives aimed at tackling social issues was sparked in March of 1913. The collegiate members participated in their first public service act during the Women's Suffrage Parade. The Founders' legacy continues through a Five-Point Programmatic Thrust, addressing critical issues in Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health, and Political Awareness and Involvement.

FOUNDERS

Osceola Macarthy Adams
 Marguerite Young Alexander
 Winona Cargile Alexander
 Ethel Cuff Black
 Bertha Pitts Campbell
 Zephyr Chisom Carter
 Edna Brown Coleman
 Jessie McGuire Dent
 Frederica Chase Dodd
 Myra Davis Hemmings
 Olive C. Jones

Jimmie Bugg Middleton
 Pauline Oberdorfer Minor
 Vashti Turley Murphy
 Naomi Sewell Richardson
 Mamie Reddy Rose
 Eliza Pearl Shippen
 Florence Letcher Toms
 Ethel Carr Watson
 Wertie Blackwell Weaver
 Madree Penn White
 Edith Motte Young

All Founders are now in the Omega Omega Chapter.



HISTORY OF NEW ORLEANS ALUMNAE CHAPTER

In 1936, eleven vibrant women filled with faith and hope organized and applied for a charter from the Grand Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. On June 20, 1936, a charter was issued for Alpha Zeta Sigma Chapter. In November 1936, the Chapter's name was changed to the Alpha Eta Sigma Chapter. Due to transformation in the sorority's nomenclature, the chapter became the New Orleans Alumnae (NOA) Chapter.

With a long and rich history, the New Orleans Alumnae Chapter continues to uphold the sorority's Five-Point Programmatic Thrust. Community partnerships in Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Bernard parishes have thrived since the chapter's inception, with a strong record of public service, providing scholarships to local high school and college students, and collaborating with various organizations. The Chapter's reach extends to places like Haiti and Jamaica in support of global issues. NOA is home to prominent National, Regional, and State leaders of Delta Sigma Theta. The New Orleans Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., has a distinguished history of service, leadership, and community engagement, consistently striving to make a positive impact.

CHARTER MEMBERS

Ema Joyce Adams Bailey

Julia Washington Bond

Melva Dier Borris

Sadie N. Boyce

Elizabeth Stubbs Davis

Naomi E. Evans Washington

Jessie Covington Dent

Irene Colbert Edmonds

Oralee Baranco Mitchell

Sylvia A. Labat Randal

Estelle V. Baranco Turpin

All Charter Members are now in the Omega Omega Chapter.

Greetings,

The New Orleans Alumnae Chapter is elated to commemorate Founders Day of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Tonight's Gala is presented under the theme, *Legacy of Sisterhood: Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future*, where we will highlight the rich 112 years of history of our sisterhood and Founders.

I bring greetings on behalf of the Executive Board, New Orleans Alumnae Chapter Members, Past Chapter Presidents, 24th National President Cynthia M.A. Butler-McIntyre, Past National Secretary Gloria Bryant-Banks, Past National Treasurer and Past President of the Board of Directors of Delta Research and Education Foundation Carolyn E. Lewis, past Southwest Regional Director Pamela M. Rogers, and Past Regional Representative Michelle R. Easton.



Tonight's Gala pays homage to our 22 Founders, highlighting their vision of the work of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. We will recognize the extraordinary service of organizations in the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Bernard. The work of these organizations is directly related to the Five-Point Programmatic Thrust of our organization. A Call to Action will be issued, bringing support of causes for advocacy. You will be introduced to the 2025 Delta of the Year, Dr. Margaret Montgomery-Richard, for her untiring dedication and commitment to service. Our chapter members who have achieved 25 and 50 years will also be celebrated.

Many thanks to the Founders Day Leadership Team led by Dr. Shelita Cannon-Hoey as Chair, with Dr. Sheryl Kennedy Haydel and Vera Chapman Seals as Co-Chairs. You have led this committee in the spirit of excellence. To the Founders Day Sub-Committee Chairs and committee members, you have done a phenomenal job preparing us for this grand celebration.

To our guests, we are grateful to have you share this evening with us. We are confident this inaugural Founders Day Gala will not only entertain you but enlighten you of the vision of our Founders and the work of the New Orleans Alumnae Chapter as we continue the journey toward the goal of Evolving Traditions in Sisterhood, Service, Scholarship, and Social Action.

Blessings,

Belencia D'Clare Breaux

President, New Orleans Alumnae Chapter

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR & CO-CHAIRS

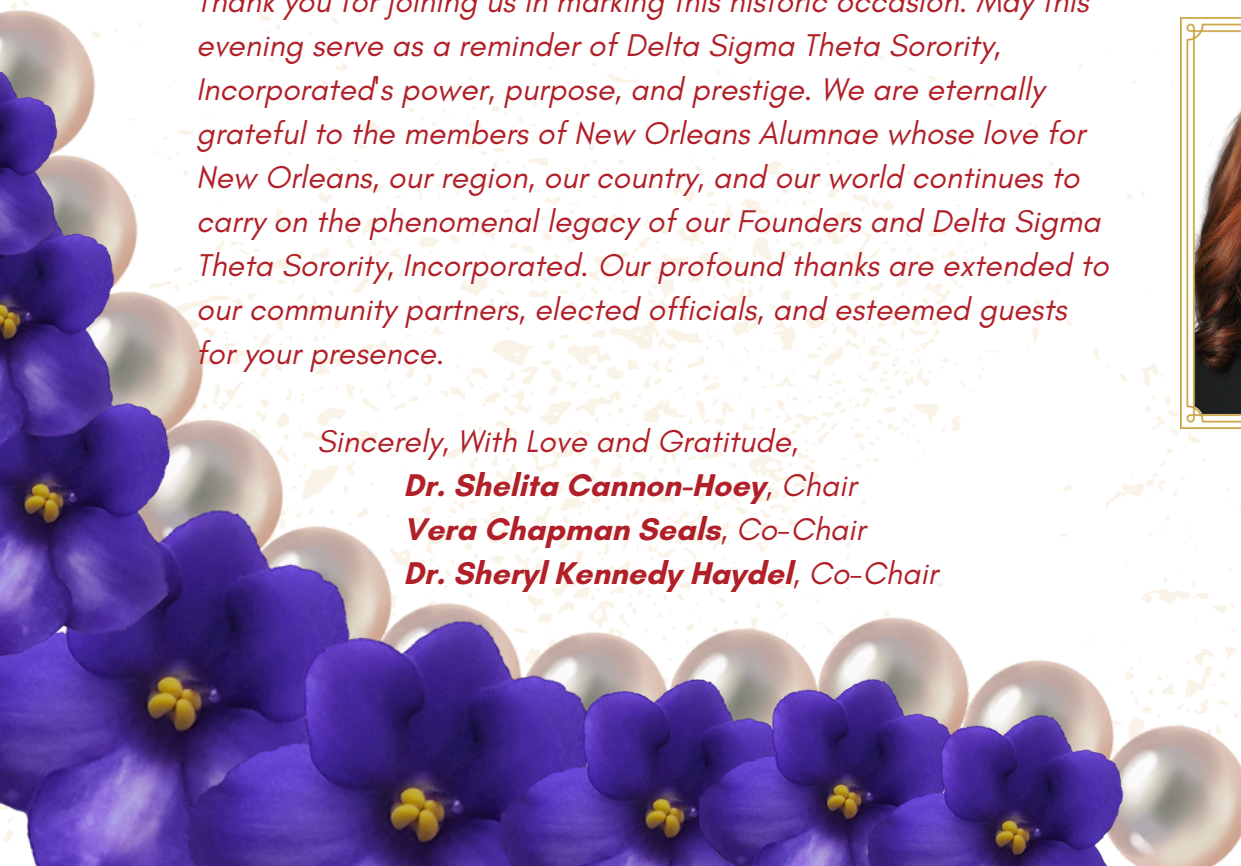
Welcome to the Inaugural Founders Day Gala of the New Orleans Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Each year, we gather to celebrate women of strength and power, our Founders. As we reflect on the monumental achievements of our 22 Founders, we revel in their resilience in sisterhood, scholarship, service, and social action—a legacy filled with triumph over societal and institutional barriers. By forging through obstacles, our beloved Founders paved the way for us to shatter glass ceilings through higher education, leadership, and meaningful community service.

This year, we honor this legacy in a prodigious way by hosting our Founders Day Gala. The vastness of our 112 years of history underscores the transformative work accomplished across the globe. Founders Day is more than a tradition; it is a moment of reflection, gratitude, and renewed commitment to our mission. This evening we uplift those who have reached milestone anniversaries in Delta, acknowledge the impact of our chapter in the community, reaffirm our dedication to the principles that bind us together, and honor the work of storied organizations who have worked with us to help elevate every corner of our communities, which are often forgotten or marginalized.

Thank you for joining us in marking this historic occasion. May this evening serve as a reminder of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated's power, purpose, and prestige. We are eternally grateful to the members of New Orleans Alumnae whose love for New Orleans, our region, our country, and our world continues to carry on the phenomenal legacy of our Founders and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Our profound thanks are extended to our community partners, elected officials, and esteemed guests for your presence.

Sincerely, With Love and Gratitude,
Dr. Shelita Cannon-Hoey, Chair
Vera Chapman Seals, Co-Chair
Dr. Sheryl Kennedy Haydel, Co-Chair

FOUNDERS DAY
Gala



MESSAGE FROM THE 24TH NATIONAL PRESIDENT

FOUNDERS DAY
Gala

One step! Some 112 years ago, the Founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. took one step that began a journey toward sisterhood, scholarship, service, and social action that continues to this day.

Together 22 visionary, courageous, and intelligent young women from Howard University in Washington, D.C. boldly moved forward to advocate change for themselves and others. That collective step blazed a trail for more than 350,000 initiated members to advance the Sorority's commitment to constructive development and public service.

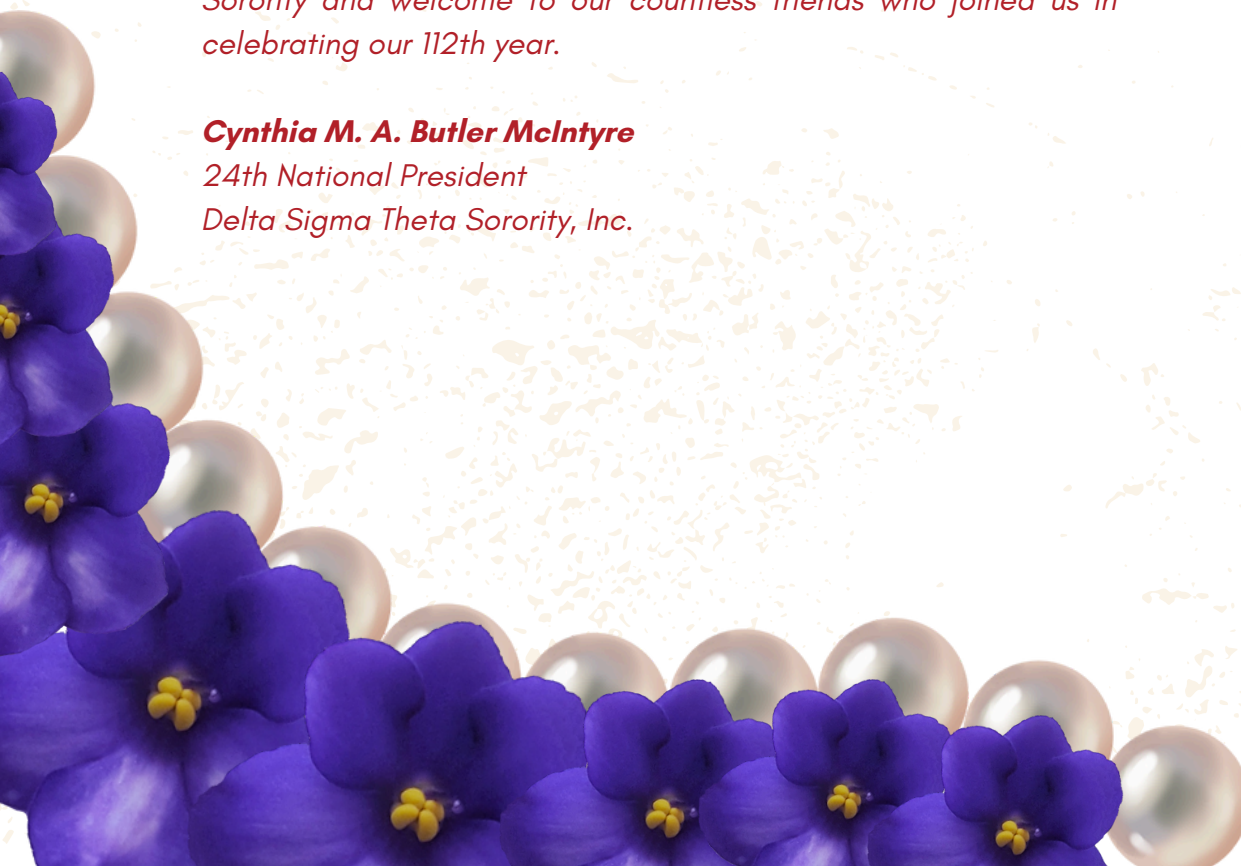
It is indeed a joy to honor their legacy and commemorate the incalculable achievements they inspired. Every step taken to bridge the wealth gap in the Black community, cross thresholds that lead to healthy lifestyles, span the globe to aid those in need, traverse the political divide, and open the door to educational opportunities is a fitting tribute to the hopes and dreams our Founders imagined. While enjoying tonight's gala, remember that each of us has the power to take the next step into the future.

Happy Founders Day to my beloved sisters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and welcome to our countless friends who joined us in celebrating our 112th year.

Cynthia M. A. Butler McIntyre

24th National President

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.





EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM BRIEFING

TYRA JOHNSON BROWN
CHAIR, EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

INVOCATION AND BLESSING OF THE MEAL

LINDA MCGARY
CHAPLAIN

LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING

ARRANGED BY ANTHONY D. MAYS | COMPOSED BY JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

JESSICA HARVEY
MEMBER

GREETINGS

BELENCIA D. BREAUX
PRESIDENT

HOW DELTA SIGMA THETA MADE HISTORY VIDEO PRESENTATION

**OCCASION & INTRODUCTION
OF CELEBRITY HOST**

DR. SHELITA CANNON-HOEY
CHAIR, 2025 FOUNDERS DAY

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NOA CHAPTER
OFFICERS & ELECTED OFFICIALS**

GINA SWANSON
CELEBRITY HOST

PRESENTATION OF MILESTONE MEMBERSHIP

ROXANNE WATTS
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP

DINNER IS SERVED

PRESENTATION OF COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARDS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - **NEW ORLEANS AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT - **STEM NOIA**

INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT - **DELTA RESEARCH & EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH - **METROPOLITAN HUMAN SERVICES DISTRICT**

POLITICAL AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT - **NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN - NEW ORLEANS SECTION**

PRESENTATION OF THE DELTA OF THE YEAR

DR. EBONY TURNER
CHAIR, SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS

A CALL TO ACTION

**DR. MARGARET MONTGOMERY-RICHARD,
HATTIE BROUSSARD & ADELE LONDON**
SOCIAL ACTION LEADERSHIP TEAM

CLOSING REMARKS

**VERA CHAPMAN SEALS, CO-CHAIR
DR. SHERYL KENNEDY HAYDEL, CO-CHAIR
DR. SHELITA CANNON-HOEY
BELENCIA D. BREAUX**

BENEDICTION

LINDA MCGARY

GENERAL DANCING
ENTERTAINMENT BY ROYAL ESSENCE

PROGRAM

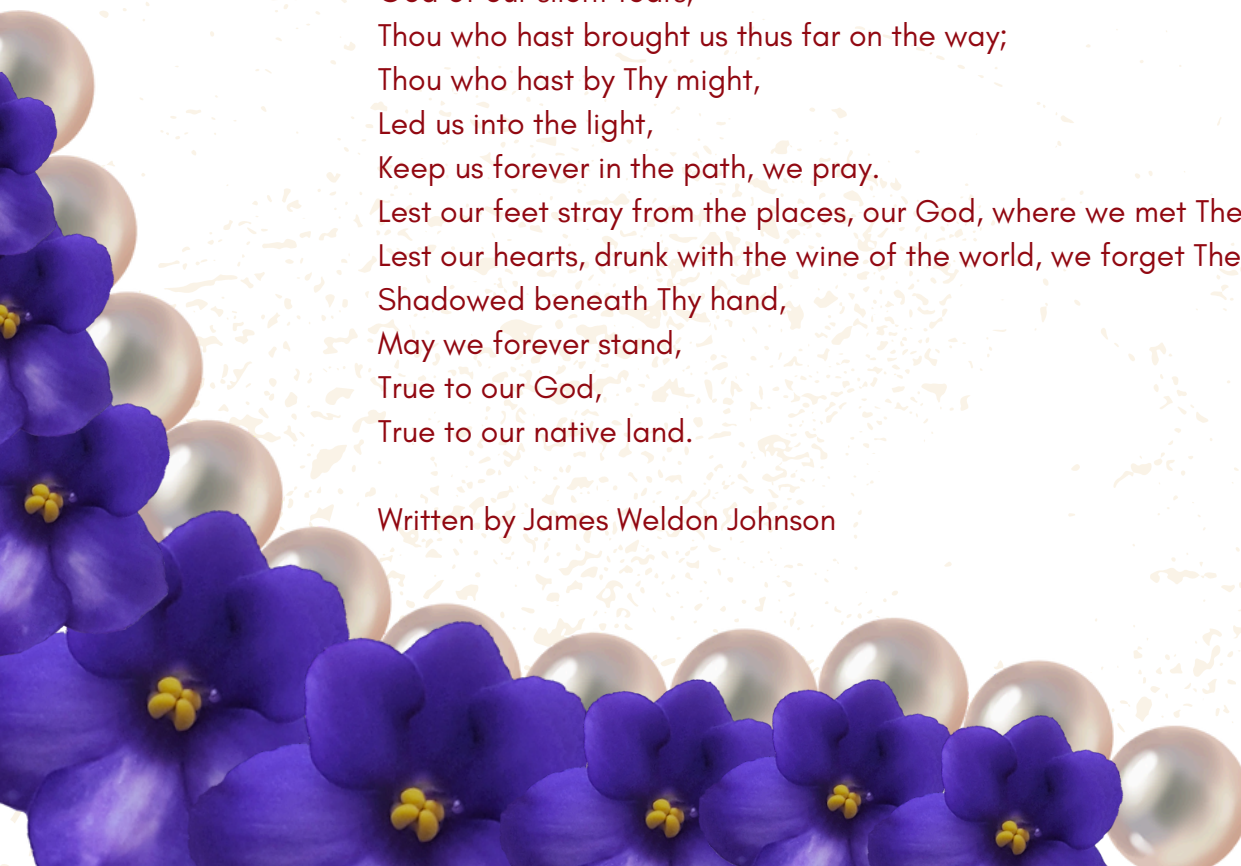


Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

Written by James Weldon Johnson



COMMUNITY PARTNER HONOREES

Economic Development

New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity

Marguerite Oestreicher, Executive Director

Learn more at www.habitat-nola.org



New Orleans Area

**Habitat
for Humanity®**

Educational Development

STEM NOLA

Dr. Calvin Mackie, Founder & CEO

Learn more at www.stemnola.com



International Awareness & Involvement

Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF)

Karla M. Green, Executive Director

Learn more at www.deltafoundation.net



CREATING POSSIBILITIES ...
IMPROVING LIVES

Physical & Mental Health

Metropolitan Human Services District

Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham, Executive & Medical Director

Learn more at www.mhsdla.org



**METROPOLITAN HUMAN
SERVICES DISTRICT**

Political Awareness & Involvement

National Council of Negro Women - New Orleans Section

Alex DeLarge, President

Learn more at www.ncnw.org



DELTA OF THE YEAR

FOUNDERS DAY
Gala



Margaret Montgomery-Richard, Ph.D.



25 Years

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Niketa Bienemy | Zabeth Eskind |
| Jeri Brumfield | Shannon Hagan |
| Kristy Brumfield | Salandra Johnson |
| Elisha Collins | Allison McKenzie |
| Jerrela Drummer-Sanders | Sherrye Smith |
| Warlene Dumas | Brittney Spears |
| Erica Ellis | Latasha Westley |
| Keione Wilson -Jackson | |

50 Years

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Carla Gibson Baker | Jonetta Gilbert Jackson |
| Edra June Ballard | Mavis McCall |
| Joycelyn Butler | Lynda McCray |
| Rhonda Charles | Carolyn Spruille |
| Carolynn Hardesty | Perretta White-Mitchell |



NEW ORLEANS ALUMNAE CHAPTER OFFICERS



- Belencia D. Breaux**, President
- Dr. Andrea Thomas-Reynolds**, First Vice President, Programs
- Roxanne R. Watts**, Second Vice President, Membership
- Atty. Chanelle Collins**, Recording Secretary
- Daezha Brooks**, Assistant Recording Secretary
- Kathy Fields McLeod**, Corresponding Secretary
- Julienne Louis**, Assistant Corresponding Secretary
- Lauren Lewis**, Financial Secretary
- Charlene Cannon**, Assistant Financial Secretary
- Jezell Jones**, Assistant Financial Secretary
- Karen Price-Fortuna**, Assistant Financial Secretary
- Shelia Simmons**, Assistant Financial Secretary
- Rhoda M. Gorman**, Treasurer
- Artelia Bennett-Banks**, Assistant Treasurer
- Nikita Drummond Clark**, Assistant Treasurer
- Nakia Hamilton-Collins**, Assistant Treasurer
- Rochelle Jones**, Assistant Treasurer
- Donyette Love**, Assistant Treasurer
- Trecenia Conerly Lewis**, Internal Audit Chair
- Dr. Kimiyo Williams**, Nominating Committee, Chair
- Dr. Shelita Cannon-Hoey**, Nominating Committee, Member
- Atty. Monique Drake**, Nominating Committee, Member
- Aisha Jones**, Nominating Committee, Member
- Keva Jones**, Nominating Committee, Member
- Troye Madison Washington**, Nominating Committee, Member

NEW ORLEANS ALUMNAE PAST PRESIDENTS

1936

Emma Joyce Adams Bailey*

1937

Jessie Covington Dent*

1938

Julia Washington Bond*

1939

Ruby Brown*

1939-1941

Irene Colbert Edmonds*

1941-1943

Oralee Baranco Mitchell*

1943-1945

Thelma Johnson Mitchell*

1945-1947

Estelle Baranco Turpin*

1947-1949

Octavia Tenette English*

1949-1951

Mildred Edinburgh Washington*

1951-1953

Edna Paul Coleman*

1953-1955

Inez Berry Henderson*

1955-1959

Peggy Spooner Carter*

1959-1960

Geni Fields Butler

1960-1961

Antoinette Gabriel Lyles

1961-1963

Mattie Clarkson Braden*

1963-1965

Mildred Edinburgh Washington*

1965-1967

Evangeline R. Jones*

1967-1969

Gloria Bryant-Banks

1969-1971

Alfreda Dabney Brumfield

1971-1973

Clara Pointdexter Antoine*

1973-1975

Aromenta Evans*

1975-1977

Edna Quiet Lewis*

1977-1979

Joy Wells Hill*

1979-1981

Margaret Ferguson Washington

1981-1983

Hazel Stamps Moore*

1983-1985

Urselle P. Lunnon*

1985-1987

Joyce Washington Ivery

1987-1989

Carolyn E. Lewis

1989-1991

Melinda Bartley-Martin*

1991-1993

Cynthia M. A. Butler-McIntyre

1993-1995

Pamela Moore Rogers

1995-1997

Patricia Tate Bivins

1997-1999

M. Renee Brunt

1999-2001

Sylvia Stanley Turner*

2001-2003

Gloria Bartley Moultrie

2003-2005

Sharon A. Cannon

2005-2007

Marsha Grady Gonzalez

2007-2009

Sharon Barnett-Starks

2009-2011

Jacqueline T. Dennison*

2011-2013

Rachel Washington Mercadel

2013-2015

Leslie Howard

2015-2017

Cheyra Jenkins*

2017-2019

Pamela White

2019-2021

Linda Howard Curtis

2021-2023

Rita B. Weary

FOUNDERS DAY
Gala

*Omega Omega Chapter

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Cynthia Butler-McIntyre, 24th National President
Mattie Clarkson Braden, Past 2nd National Vice President
Gloria Bryant-Banks, Past National Secretary
Carolyn E. Lewis, Past National Treasurer and Past DREF President
Beverly Johnson Jelks, Housing & Properties Committee Member
Dr. Treva Lee, Institutional Research Committee Member

SOUTHWEST REGION LEADERSHIP

Gloria Bryant-Banks, Past Regional Director
Cynthia Butler-McIntyre, Past Regional Director
Pamela M. Rogers, Past Regional Director
Dr. Michelle Easton, Past Regional Representative
Sharon Barnett-Starks, Sisterly Reconciliation Chair
M. Renee Brunt, Small Chapter Support Co-Chair
Charlene Jackson Greenlee, Risk Management Committee Member
Diedra Green Mondy, Advisor Support Member
Tracey L. Rollins, Membership Services and Courtesy Support Committee Member
Dr. Ebony Turner, Special Projects Committee Member
Dr. Andrea Thomas-Reynolds, Risk Management Committee Member
Rita B. Weary, Awards & Recognition Committee Member
Cherylann Foster Westerfield, Protocol Chair
Dr. Kimiyo Harris Williams, Sisters Supporting Sisters Committee Member
Dr. Adrian Woods, Program, Planning and Development Committee Member

STATE LEADERSHIP

Sharon Barnett-Starks, Past Louisiana State Coordinator
Wilhemina Hogan Stroughter, Arts & Letters Coordinator
Leslie Howard, Membership Intake Trainer
Rochelle Jones, Chaplain
Dr. Ebony Turner, Special Projects Committee Member
Cassandra Williams, Arts & Letters Committee Member

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elsie Cooke-Holmes, International President & Chair, Board of Directors

Cheryl W. Turner, National First Vice President

Sade Ried, National Second Vice President

Joi L. Moore, Ph.D., National Secretary

Rosalyn L. Glenn, National Treasurer

SOUTHWEST REGION OFFICERS

Crystal T. Barker, Regional Director

Kamyia Gibbs, Regional Representative



2025 FOUNDERS DAY LEADERSHIP TEAM



Belencia D. Breaux

President, New Orleans Alumnae
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Dr. Shelita Cannon-Hoey

2025 Founders Day, Chair

Dr. Sheryl Kennedy Haydel

2025 Founders Day, Co-Chair

Vera Chapman Seals

2025 Founders Day, Co-Chair

Decorations

Atty. Raina Edwards, Chair
Kianté Wilson, Co-Chair

Logistics

Dr. Ebony Turner, Chair

Emergency Response Team

Tyra Johnson-Brown, Chair
Nadia Magee, Co-Chair

Photography

Trecenia Conerly Lewis, Chair
Precious Kirk, Co-Chair

Entertainment

Renee Dolliole, Chair
Bobbie Mason - Co-Chair

Protocol

Cherylann Westerfield, Chair
Kim Rabb Crump, Co-Chair

Evaluation

Dr. Treva Lee, Chair
Dr. Alyssa York, Co-Chair

Publicity & Graphic Design

Shandrell Briscoe, Chair

Finance

Rhoda M. Gorman, Chair
Lauren Lewis, Co-Chair

Service Project

Dr. Shannon Goode, Chair
Aisha M. Jones, Co-Chair

Heritage & Archives

Judy Boudreaux, Chair
Cassandra Williams, Co-Chair

Souvenir

Pamela Higgins Francois, Chair
M. Renee Brunt, Co-Chair

Hostess

Reia Brooks, Chair
Kabrina Smith, Co-Chair

Reception

Leila Eames, Chair
Katherine Dukes, Co-Chair
Tracey Rollins, Co-Chair

Ticketing

Gizelle Johnson-Banks, Chair
Charlene Cannon, Co-Chair

2025 FOUNDERS DAY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Kendra Alexis
Trudy Adams Allen
Bettye Andrews DeLarge
Janice Bailey-Walker
Dr. Troy Lynn Baldwin
Sharon Barnett-Starks
Gloria Bartley Moultrie
Selika Bates
Kelly Bentley Dixon
Kelli Bertrand
Tameka Blackstone
Chloe' Boudreaux
Wanda Boudreaux
Judy Bracy
Kesha Briscoe
Janice Briscoe
Hattie Broussard
Terry Brown-Alsanders
Paulette Brown-Carey
Alfreda Dabney Brumfield
Jeri Brumfield
M. Renee Brunt
Evonda Burnside
Gloria Bryant-Banks
Sharon A. Cannon
Jahanna Cannon-Brightman
Bridget Carter
Tiffany Chase
Nikita Clark
Denise Coffey
Marcia Cottles Williams
Alfreda Dabney Brumfield
Elaine Darensburg
Brandye DeLarge
Tonda Dixon

Adrienne Dixson
Nikita Drummond Clark
LaSandra Dudley
Wendy Durant
Lesley Eugene Thomas
Margaret Ferguson Washington
Renée Ford
Dana Garner
Tiffany Gautier Chase
Beverly Gilbert
Charlene Gordon Cannon
Josline Gosserand Frank
Marsha Grady Gonzalez
Iola Graves
Shannon C. Hagan
Jessica Harvey
Alicia Hoey
Leslie Howard
Linda Howard Curtis
Jocelyn Ingram
Janet Jackson
Constance Jackson
Ernestine James
Jasmine Paige-McCorvey
Gizelle Johnson-Banks
Ashley Jones
Faith Joseph
Jean Kennedy
Trecenia Lewis
Carolyn E. Lewis
Adele London
Donnyette Love
Nadia Magee
Nelita Manego-Ramey
Sharon Maney-Charles

Linda McGary
Yolanda McPherson Lloyd
Ciara Mercadel-Lowe
Malana Mitchell
Diedra Mondy
Dr. Margaret Montgomery Richard
Pamela Moore Rogers
Victoria Mosley
Suzette Myles
Robin Pittman
Sametta Raybon Brown
Robin Reed
Zera Sherman
Marie Short Benoit
Enjoli Sims -Theodore
Lacey Smith
Dr. Camacia Smith-Ross
Tenisha Stevens
Erica Stewart Mitchell
Connie Tate
Lesley Thomas
Natalie Thomas
Shevonda Thomas
Dr. Andrea Thomas-Reynolds
Paulette Tipton
Kedra W. Green
Troye Washington
Rachel Washington Mercadel
Deanna Watkins
Roxanne Watts
Rita Weary
Kim Wesson
Cherylann Westerfield
Pamela White
Damita Williams Swanson
Tonya Winfield



**PROGRAM, SERVICE PROJECT, A
CALL TO ACTION & EVALUATION**



New Orleans Alumnae Chapter

ΔΣΘ

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Chartered June 20, 1936

SCHOLARSHIP, SERVICE,
SISTERHOOD & SOCIAL ACTION