

The Cultured Pearl Connection

Edition 9, Volume 9

September 2016

From the desk of the Basileus...

My Dear Sorors,

As we prepare to enjoy Labor Day with family and friends, we know that this holiday ushers in a new season---Fall. We excitedly look forward to returning full throttle to the love of our lives: Gamma Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated!

For everything we have accomplished during the interim, I express heartfelt thanks to each of you for your diligence in carrying out your varied responsibilities. We've had some serious and fun times: an impressive Boule' 2016 in Atlanta, Georgia, where Sorors Thuane Fielding and Lottie Otto kept GXO Chapter at the forefront, as they competently carried out their assigned roles; a superb Fall Retreat and Strategic Planning Session, and a dynamic and well-represented Undergraduate Round Up – with both graduate advisors and five sorors in attendance, and where Soror Thuane Fielding, once again, gave an energetic and interactive presentation on the International Program, and newly elected Soror Victoria Simpson of IO Chapter at the College of Charleston did a splendid job of presiding at the Opening Session.

We've also shared some sad times with the passing of Soror Bessie S. Allen-Holmes, but we celebrated her extraordinary life and showed up in great numbers for a beautiful Ivy Beyond the Wall Ceremony. Our new Protocol Committee, under the leadership of Sorors Harriett Simmons and Jacqueline Smalls, did a fine job of ensuring that we were in place and in order!

I sincerely thank Target and Committee Chairmen and members for their diligence in meeting, working and planning for our programs during the interim. We have several exciting events that are before us, among which are: Cluster VI (September 16th & 17th – Embassy Suites, N. Charleston), our Second Mortgage Burning (November 2016), and our Diamond Anniversary (February 2017)! What a great and proud time for us in GXO Chapter! I invite each of you to get prepared for our roller coaster ride, embrace it, choose your seat, and let's enjoy the tour! You are greatly appreciated for "Launching New Dimensions of Service" with such grace and dignity these past eight (8) months.

Welcome back to the last quarter of 2016, and thanks so much for catching the Gamma Xi Omega fever as we find "greater laurels to win and greater tasks to begin" for love of our great sisterhood!

Sisterly,

Soror Marguerite S. Middleton

2016 CHAPTER OFFICERS

Marguerite S. Middleton
Basileus

Gretchen B. Morgan
Anti-Basileus

Viette Aikens
Grammateus

Patricia H. Green
Anti-Grammateus

LaQuinta Yates
Pecunious Grammateus

April Rivers Bowman
Epistoleus

D'Jaris Whipper-Lewis
Tamiouchos

LoElla Smalls
Anti-Tamiouchos

Laurachelle White
Hodegos

Rosa Bowens
Philacter

Deborah Smalls
Parliamentarian

Karriema Calhoun
Ivy Leaf Reporter

Ruth M. Buck
Historian

Dena Magwood
Graduate Advisor

Margaret Thomas
Graduate Advisor

Erica Taylor
Pan Hellenic Representative

Carmelita Pryor
Pan Hellenic Representative

COMMITTEE CORNER

Target II-Health Promotion

Soror Saundra Middleton, Chairman

The **Walk to End Alzheimer** is a 2 mile walk that will take place on September 17, 2016. It is the world's largest Alzheimer's event to raise awareness, support, research and funds for Alzheimer's care. The National Alzheimer's walk will take place during our Cluster VI Conference. Sorors of GXO are asked to participate in a virtual walk by using your smart phones, iPhones, tablets or pedometers. Please begin recording your virtual walk at 10:00 am as you walk and move around the Cluster Conference. Once your 2 miles distance has been reached, you can stop recording and submit your information to Soror Rosa Bowens after the conference.

The Longest Day

"From Sunrise to Sunset"

Sorors of Gamma Xi Omega Chapter Alzheimer's Chapter Team!!!! Did you participate in the Longest Day Event June, 20-21, 2016? What did you do to fight Alzheimer's on June 20-21, 2016? Did you wear purple?

Please send documentation (photo, stories) of your activities to rosa.bowens@comcast.net

Hospitality/Sisterly Relations

Soror Laurachelle White, Chairman

The Hospitality/Sisterly Relations Committee has planned an outing for the Sorors of GXO. We will be going to the Charleston Tea Farm on October 1, 2016, at 11:00 AM. The cost of the tour is \$15.00 per Soror. This amount includes a 30 minute Trolley Tour and a 20 minute Factory Tour. At the end of the tours everyone will receive a Goodie Bag. We will meet at the Sorority Building at 9:45 in order to arrive on time for our 11:00 Tour.

Please sign up and pay at September's Sorority meeting. For additional information please contact Soror Laurachelle White. Thanks, and we are looking forward to an Eventful Outing!

LET'S GO GXO!!

Pearl Perfect & Ivy Strong!

Cluster VI Conference IS HERE!!

Friday, September 16, 2016
Registration/Opening/Pep Rally

Saturday, September 17, 2016
Conference Business Session

Sunday, September 18, 2016
Post Conference Worship Service
Mother Emanuel AME Church

All sorors of GXO will be checked in on Saturday, Sept. 10th immediately following sorority meeting.

Nominating Committee Poll:

We're looking for a few good members! The nominating Committee in seeking individuals interested in vying for the following positions:

- Grammateus
- Pecunious Grammateus
- Anti-Tamiouchos
- Hodegos
- Ivy Leaf Reporter
- Graduate Advisor

...and it could be filled by you!! If you're interested and would like to learn more, please contact Soror Karen Harvey or Soror Enid Jenkins to express your interest.

SAVE THE DATE: "Afternoon Tea and Real Talk"

When: Sunday, October 2, 2016

Time: 4:00-6:00 pm

Where: Sorority Building

Save the date for this elegant, fun, and fact-filled Afternoon. Come and enjoy a lite fare and panel discussion with present and former sorors who have served in each of the vacant positions. Learn about the benefits, requirements, how serving in these positions has enhanced their lives and the organization, and what to expect if you are elected.

Public Relations – Soror Karriema Calhoun Chairman

If any committee would like publicity coverage for events, please complete the Public Relations Coverage Request form and send it to Soror Karriema Calhoun at karriema_c@yahoo.com. Please submit all requests at least two weeks prior to the event.

Next Chapter Meeting:
Saturday, September 10, 2016
11:00 am



Congratulations!

Soror Erica Taylor, Honey-Do, Nathaniel, Soror Janetha Prioleau (grandmother) welcomed Lacee Christina Taylor to their family on August 9, 2016.



Alexis Aikens, daughter of Soror Viette Aikens graduated from Clemson University on August 5, 2016.



Soror Marlene O'Bryant Seabrook was honored at the 2016 Boule' with the Alpha Kappa Alpha Pioneering Sorors Open Doors Exhibition. Soror Marlene's inclusion was because in 1975, she became the first African American and one of only two women on the permanent (non-ROTC or adjunct) faculty of The Citadel. Beginning in 1842, The Citadel's faculty had always been all Caucasian males.

THE CITADEL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



(Photo-School Year 1979-80)

The late **Soror Septima Poinsette Clark, former Basileus of GXO**, was pictured on the Ribbon Cutting Page display at the Boule'. Her picture was also on the Program for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony by the Board of Directors and Former International Presidents.



Please see the last page of this newsletter for more information and pictures.

SICK & SHUT-IN, BEREAVEMENT – Our thoughts and prayers are with you...

Soror Thomasine Grant Soror Cecila Rogers
Soror Marguerite Mosely Soror Lydia Rhodes

Soror Gretchen B. Morgan, Recent Surgery (recooperating nicely)

Soror Randi Allen, death of her mother

~Happy Birthday~



September 2016

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|----|
| Sandra | Boozse Canon | 2 |
| Shanequa | Coakley | 2 |
| Margaret | Thomas | 2 |
| Lauretta L. | Dailey | 7 |
| Tonya | Houston | 7 |
| Akilah | Warley | 7 |
| Erica | Evans | 11 |
| D'Jaris | Whipper-Lewis | 12 |
| Tyesha | Drayton | 13 |
| Noni | Jenkins | 16 |
| Kathleen | Haynes | 16 |
| Bettye | Kenny | 22 |
| Selena | Wilson | 26 |
| Glover | Edna | 27 |
| Saundra | Middleton | 27 |
| Clarice | Lemmon | 29 |
| Delores | Kemp | 29 |
| Tazekqua | McIntyre | 29 |

Hostess Group ZETA - SEPTEMBER

Laurachelle White, Captain

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Shanequa Giliard | Terraine Ford Gathers |
| Kimberly Perrineau-Jackson | Florence Reed Jones |
| Valerie R. Scott | Rosemary Simmons-Brown |
| Brenda Snyder | Margaret Thomas |
| Camille Toliver | D'Jaris Whipper-Lewis |
| Gale Womack | Viette Aikens |
| Kathleen Haynes | Debra McCoy |
| | Tamia Simmons |

Soror Marlene O'Bryant-Seabrook was an Honoree in the impressive "Alpha Kappa Alpha's Pioneering Sorors Open Doors" Exhibit at Boule. The display was an outcome of a Sorority Research Team's request for documented info re: "cutting edge Sorors who were the FIRST to reach a milestone, break barriers, or make a notable achievement." There will be an online presence in November 2016.

