

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Gamma Xi Omega Chapter
Joint Sorority Meeting
Saturday, February 17, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

The February joint sorority meeting of Gamma XI Omega Chapter and Iota Omicron Chapter was held on February 17, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 12:00noon and presided over by Gamma Xi Omega Chapter's Basileus Gretchen B. Morgan.

ATTENDEES

There were 117 Sorors in attendance including 10 sorors from Iota Omicron Chapter and 1 visiting soror: Michelle Govan -Seymour.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Soror Ruby Martin and seconded by Soror Gwendolyn Button. Motion carried; agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

There were no corrections to the January 13, 2018 Sorority Meeting Minutes. A motion to adopt the Minutes as transmitted was made by Soror Marguerite S. Middleton and seconded by Soror Cheryl McWilliams. Motion carried.

MEDITATION

Soror Jacqueline Broughton led the meditation.

OFFICER REPORTS

BASILEUS REPORT: Soror Gretchen B. Morgan

Gamma Xi Omega Chapter began the 2018 calendar year with much excitement. This chapter had excellent representation at the Emancipation Proclamation Day Parade on January 1st, at the MLK Day of Service Project on January 15th, and at the Low Country Aid to Africa event on January 27th. This is the time that the newly-set goals, based on our reflections, lessons, and experiences of the past year, will be put into place. As members of this chapter, your talents, expertise and opinions are valued and necessary, so that we can continue to impact the community in which we live. Young girls are looking for guidance and mentorship, families need educational opportunities, as well as opportunities that encourage healthy lifestyles and prevent diseases that disproportionately affect people of color. Violence is shattering the peace that should exist in our neighborhoods, which further indicates that there is still so much work to

be done. I implore you to keep that message in your hearts this year as we move to continue our service to all mankind.

2018 Chapter Tax

- On Monday, January 8, 2018, I received an email from Felicia Perkins (Membership Department) stating that the 2018 chapter tax had not been paid. It was further stated that the chapter tax should be submitted through the mass payment system with the first submission of per capita fees. Additionally, the email stated that financial cards for the chapter would not be mailed until the 2018 chapter tax was paid.
- Initially, I thought that this was an error or that perhaps there was a glitch with the mass payment system, since the first submission of per capita fees was executed on December 24, 2017. However, after further investigation, it was determined that the 2018 chapter tax had not been paid.
- I immediately contacted Soror Desaree Boston regarding the non-payment of the 2018 per capita tax. We met on Tuesday, January 9th and submitted it through the online mass payment system.

Finance End of the Year Reports

- According to the instructions in the chapter report book, all finance reports should be submitted online by January 1st and considered late after February 1st, except for the W-9 forms, which are considered late after January 8th.
- I am pleased to report that on Friday, January 26th, the 2018 Chapter Budget Report, Statement of Financial Operation, and 2017 W-9 Forms, for services provided to the chapter that were \$600.00 or more, have been completed and submitted through Alpha Kappa Alpha's online finance reporting site.
- I would be remiss if I did not thank Sorors Terraine Gathers, LoElla Smalls, and LaQuinta Yates for assisting Soror D'Jaris Whipper-Lewis and going above and beyond the call of duty to make sure that these reports were completed accurately, so that they could be submitted electronically before the deadline of February 1, 2018.
- Additionally, as directed, a copy of the chapter's bylaws was sent electronically to Soror Sharon Brown-Harriott, South Atlantic Regional Director.
- With regards to the W-9 forms, please note that Soror Desaree Boston, Tamiochous, will have them available and completed by anyone that provides service to the chapter that is \$600.00 or more. This will prevent us from having to track the service providers down at the end of the year.

Committee Chairmen Online Report Submission

- Committee Chairmen online report submission is in place. The Technology Committee has created folders for each committee so that all chairmen can submit signed committee reports.
 - On Thursday, January 11th, committee chairmen met with Sorors Dena Magwood, Morgan Curry (Technology Chairman) and Camille Toliver (Technology Co-Chairman), and me, at the AKA Building, for an overview session that included training of the chapter's online report submission.
- The online report submission will allow immediate access to all committee reports. Please note that committee chairmen must still submit six signed copies to the Philacter, Soror LaTarsha Asby.

Upcoming Online Payment Center

- I am excited about the chapter's online payment processing center that is in its beginning stages.
- The PayPal accounts have been set up by the Tamiochous and Anti-Tamiochous for the general and housing accounts.
- The Technology Chairman and Co-Chairman are currently working on making the payment center a secure mechanism before it is launched. Additionally, they are working with Twenty Pearls Foundation to set up a link, so that sorors will be able to submit fees to the Foundation.

Constant Contact

- I hope that you will agree with me that this chapter is staying connected with "Constant Contact"!
- It is my goal to make sure that the messages are short, clear, concise, and easy to manage. I wanted to avoid messages getting "drowned" within the email and help us to stay on top of important information.

Housing Update

- On Friday, January 19th, Sorors Margaret J. Thomas (Housing Chairman), Thuane B. Fielding (Housing Co-Chairman), Dena G. Magwood (Anti-Basileus), and I met with Mr. Scott Dow of Dow Construction, Inc. with regards to external building renovation concerns that were identified. Mr. Dow ensured us that all of the concerns would be immediately addressed.
- In addition, we did a thorough walk-through of the building to show Mr. Dow the areas inside that need renovations. He will provide a SOW (scope of work) to the Housing Chairman/Co-Chairman once available.
- A full report will be forthcoming.

"Ivy Vine" Calendar

- The "Ivy Vine" Calendar is currently under construction. The Technology Committee is currently working on the calendar to make it a Google calendar. The Google calendar will not only look better but it will be easier to create/edit events.

Soror Welcome

- I am so excited to have Sorors Delores Hunt-Bellinger, Bernadette Pinkney, Echo Takeall, and Kara Washington reconnect/connect with this chapter. Let us do our part in making sure that we give them the attention and care that they need to further their development in this chapter.

Reminders

- Online registration is now open for SC AKA Day at the Capitol and the 65th SARC, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Only financial sorors can register for these events
- We are fast approaching the end of the month! If all chapter fees/assessments have not been submitted to Soror Felecia Wright, Pecunious Grammateus, and to Twenty Pearls Foundation of Charleston, I will not be able to submit your 2018 per capita to the Corporate Office. Therefore, you will not be in compliance with this chapter's guidelines and will be considered inactive. Any dues received after January, 31st, will require that the \$12.50 late fine that is imposed by the Corporate Office, be included.

Lastly and I quote, “Sisterhood is the essence of all the wisdom of the ages, distilled into a single word. You cannot see sisterhood, neither can you hear it nor taste it. But you can feel it a hundred times a day. It is a pat on the back, a smile of encouragement. It's someone to share with, to celebrate your achievements.” Let’s continue to embrace our sisterhood, develop and empower strong women, hold one another dear to our hearts, and pray ceaselessly for each other.

Thank you for your commitment and service to Gamma Xi Omega as we work together for the betterment of our chapter but also for your encouragement!

DISCUSSION/ACTION: None to report

ANTI-BASILEUS REPORT – Soror Dena G. Magwood

Our program year is off to a great start! Targets and committees are hard at work planning activities that carry out the goals and mission of international and chapter programming. I have witnessed collaboration at its best over the last month and look forward to many more opportunities where we work together to support each other in our service to mankind.

Target Reports:

Target I:

- Donated books to Florence Crittendon residents and Soror Maxine Riley provided information regarding the *Begin With Books* program for the MLK Day of Service Project.

Target II:

- In collaboration with the MLK Day Service Project - provided information regarding nutrition for mothers and infants to residents and Soror Violet Washington provided information on programs available through DSS, such as food assistance (SNAP) and financial assistance (TANF).

Target III:

- Chaired by Soror Kathy Whitaker, provided a healthy lunch, prepared by Soror Juanita Robinson, for the residents and sorors in attendance at the Florence Crittendon Home.

Target IV:

- Soror Barbara Wilson and Target IV provided useful information & handouts regarding playground safety and recycling tips on how to properly dispose of baby items like diapers.

I would like to gently remind all Target Chairmen to use the online reporting system that has been put in place by the Technology Committee. If you were not able to attend the workshop or if you are experiencing issues, please do not hesitate to inform me or the Technology Committee and ask for assistance.

Community Impact Days Report:

The MLK Day of Service Project was led by Soror Chenequa Simmons, Chairman. The focus of the MLK Day project was Childhood Hunger. The committee planned a beautiful baby shower at the Florence Crittendon Home on Monday, January 15, 2018 and provided gift bags that contained items such as diapers, wipes, lotion, ointment and books. The service project was a

collaboration with Targets I, II, III and IV. The AKA Connection Committee was represented by Soror Akilah Worley who provided voter registration information and applications to those residents eligible to vote.

Gamma Xi Omega Chapter participated in **Pink Goes Red for Heart Health** on February 2, 2018 by submitting photos to the Public Relations Committee capturing "acts of health and wellness" and sorors in red attire.

The service project for the 2018 South Atlantic Regional Conference will focus on backpack donations. The sorority will partner with Office Depot for the online purchase of backpacks at \$3/backpack. Backpacks will be shipped directly to the conference location. Each chapter is asked to purchase 3 backpacks/soror, based on active membership as of February 1, 2018.

During the month of January 2018, I served the chapter as Anti-Basileus in the following capacities:

Jan. 1st - Participated in the Emancipation Day Parade

Jan. 4th - Meeting with the Basileus

Jan. 7th - Participated on conference call with MLK Day of Service Committee

Jan. 10th - Participated on Founders' Day Committee Conference Call

Jan. 11th - Participated in Technology Reporting Workshop & YL Committee meeting

Jan. 13th - Attended GXO Chapter Meeting

Jan-15th - Attended MLK Day of Service Project @ Florence Crittendon & Founders' Day celebration w/ chapter @ One Love Restaurant

Jan. 18th - Attended Membership Committee meeting

Jan. 19th - Met at South State Bank to complete signature card

Jan. 22nd - Attended Twenty Pearls Foundation Annual Meeting

Jan. 27th - Attended Lowcountry Aid to Africa event

Jan. 29th - Attended Executive Board Meeting

DISCUSSION/ACTION: None to report

TAMIOUCHOS REPORT - Soror Desaree D. Boston

The General Operating and Programs accounts were reconciled. Both reports were presented and received as information.

DISCUSSION/ACTION: None to Report

ANTI- TAMIOUCHOS REPORT – Soror Desaree D. Boston for Soror Pearl Givens

The Housing account report was reconciled and received as information.

DISCUSSION/ACTION: The programs' report will be corrected to reflect check #2107. The check was written to Soror Barbara Wilson – Target IV.

HODEGOS REPORT – Soror Clarice Lemon

The Hospitality/ Sisterly Relations Committee will send Birthday Cards to all active Sorors that will celebrate a birthday in the month of February.

Acknowledgements were sent to the following Sorors:

- Soror Janetha Prioleau and family, A Sympathy card for the death of her cousin, Ms. Cynthia W. Bates.
- Soror Gloria Edwards and family, a Sympathy card for the death of her nephew, Mr. James Fordham.
- Soror Roberta Frasier and family, a Sympathy card for the death of her sister, Ms. Estelle L. Frasier.
- Soror Jacqueline Smalls, a Thinking of You/ Get Well Soon card and telephone call, wishing her a speedy recovery during a recent illness.
- Soror Delores Hunt-Bellinger, a Thinking of You with Deepest Sympathy card, for the death of her cousin, Ms. Chessington Marshall.
- Our Deepest condolences, along with flowers, cards, prayers and an Ivy Beyond the Wall Ceremony was extended to the family of our Beloved Soror Catherine M. McCottry.

Let us continue to keep all Sorors who are sick, elderly, and bereaved in our thoughts and prayers. Our Spiritual Advisor, Soror Lottie Otto is always in prayer with our Sorors in need.

DISCUSSION/ACTION: None to report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FOUNDERS' DAY COMMITTEE– Soror Sschune Rhodes

The 2018 Gamma Xi Omega and Iota Omicron Chapters Founders' Day committee met on Thursday, January 11th, and will meet on Thursday, January 25, 2018. The purpose of the meetings is to begin planning for the 2018 Closed Founders' Day program. The committee is off to a dynamic start – with having a very productive kick-off planning meeting and conference call. Recommendations and suggestions from Basileus Gretchen are for our Founders' Day to foster sisterly bonds, giving us an opportunity to mix and mingle, and have FUN. The Founders' Day budget is \$1,200.

Recommendation comes from the Founders' Day committee to move the Saturday, February 10th Sorority meeting/Rededication Ceremony to be held instead on Saturday, February 17th jointly along with the Founders' Day program. This option would give Sorors one free Saturday and preventing having to attend multiple meetings and programs.

Due to the number of Graduate sorors 171 est. and Undergraduate sorors 20 est., the committee researched the possibility of locating a venue other than the Sorority building to accommodate the meeting and program. The committee contacted several venues and reviewed the information provided and selected "Royal Baptist Church's Education Building" (the same room used for our 2017 Retreat) as the best venue based on the facility accommodations and pricing. We have a signed contract and have paid the deposit for the cost of the building rental fee. The lunch/food and beverage expense is \$10 per person (includes a salad bar, 1 meat,

starch, veggie, dessert). The committee recommended each soror be responsible for paying \$10 for their lunch and GXO Chapter will pay for IO sorors lunch out of the Founders' Day budget. This venue is large enough to accommodate Gamma Xi Omega and Iota Omicron Chapters Joint monthly meeting and our Closed Founders' Day program. The venue is on hold until Tuesday, January 16th pending approval from the body. In addition, if the venue is approved, we are requesting a check from the chapter for a security deposit.

At the recommendation of Basileus Gretchen, and in the spirit of fostering sisterly bonding, the committee also agreed and voted to worship together with a "Soror Sunday" church service at "Mt. Zion AME Church." Free parking will be available at the Wentworth & St. Phillip St. Garages by providing your church bulletin to the parking attendant and sorors are encouraged to carpool. A fellowship brunch Dutch-style (sorors pay for their brunch) following after church service will be held in the fellowship hall at Ms. Rose's Fine Foods or High Cotton (location is subject to change based on participation and will be confirmed - a survey will be sent to obtain headcount).

Several Subcommittees (and Chairs) were assigned: Program and Printing, Protocol/Sisterly Relations, Awards, Photography, Entertainment/Music, Fun Activity/Gifts, Technology, and Decorations. Also discussed were the proposed budget items required for the 2018 Founders' Day Program.

The 2018 Founders' Day Theme: TBD at the January 25th Founders; Day committee meeting

Sorority Meeting, Rededication Ceremony, and Founders' Day Date:

Saturday, February 17, 2018 Time: 12 noon - 4:00pm (Dresses/Skirt Suits any color – no Pants/Hats)

Place: Royal Baptist Church Education Building – 4750 Abraham Ave, North Charleston, SC 29405

Soror Sunday Worship Service Date: February 18, 2018 Time: 10:00 am Place: Mt. Zion AME Church 5 Glebe Street, Charleston, SC 29401

Soror Sunday Fellowship Brunch Date: February 18, 2018 Time: 1:00 p.m. Place: Ms. Rose's Fine Foods West Ashley or High Cotton downtown (to be confirmed)

DISCUSSION/ACTION: None to report

TWENTY PEARLS FOUNDATION - Soror Kathy Whitaker

Mrs. Gretchen Morgan and I had a conference call with Mrs. Cheryl Petty Garnette, Executive Director, Ivy Community Charities of Prince George's County on Thursday, January 18th. The purpose of the conference call was to get clarification for the following:

- Transferring of program funds in the form of a donation from the Chapter to the Foundation
 - Gamma Xi Omega can make a donation to the Foundation. However, the Foundation (501C3) should never make a donation to the Chapter (501C7)

- Should the Chapter collect any monies and will it be taxed?
 - The only monies that Gamma Xi can collect without being taxed is funds being paid by members of the Chapter. All other funds are to be collected by the Foundation.
 - Fundraising is done by the Foundation in collaboration with Gamma Xi Omega Chapter.
 - Checks written for community programs are written by Twenty Pearls Foundation of Charleston, Inc. (on the memo line in Collaboration with Gamma Xi Omega Chapter).
- The Twenty Pearls Foundation vouchers has been given to the President of Gamma Xi Omega for distribution among the Target and Youth Leadership Chairman. The vouchers are to be given to Karriema Calhoun along with receipts, contracts and all necessary documentations for payment.
- We are in the process of completing the 2018 Budget for the Twenty Pearls Foundation of Charleston, Inc. which includes the five (5) Targets and Youth Leadership.

DISCUSSION/ACTION: None to report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Soror Jackie Smalls' name was identified to complete the Golden Sorors' scrapbook submission. The chapter agreed to appointing Soror Jackie for the task through general consensus.

NEW BUSINESS

None to Report

FOUNDERS' DAY COMMITTEE – Soror Sshune Rhodes

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DISCUSSION/ACTION: None to report

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Soror Carmelita Pryor

- Mu Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity will be hosting their 73rd Annual meeting of the 6th District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. We are enlisting your support and cooperation by asking you to place a chapter or personal advertisement to appear in the souvenir booklet.
- Save the Date – SC Day at The Capitol Wednesday, February 21, 2018. 8:30am – 3:00pm. Contact Soror Laurachelle White with questions/concerns.
- Anniversary Celebration honoring Bishop David and Elder Dollie Brown. The invitation has been extended to the chapter to surprise Co-Pastor and first Lady Elder Brown. We are enlisting your support by asking you to place a \$75 advertisement.
- You are invited to *Reed to Lead – The Time is Now*, a fundraising Reception for Danette Anthony Reed (Candidate for International First Vice President, Saturday February 17, 2018 in Dallas Texas.
- Happy Founders’ day from Soror Stephanie Finley, Experienced Keynote Speaker and former US Attorney – Retired Lt. Colonel, United States Air Force (Retired). She can be contacted for your Keynote Speaker needs.
- 5th Annual Dream Girls conference will be held at Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist church Saturday March 24, 2018

DISCUSSION/ACTION: Motion to purchase full Ad for \$150 for the Mu Alpha souvenir booklet was mad by Soror Thuane Fielding and seconded by Soror Rosemary Carr. Motion to purchase \$75 Ad for Bishop and Elder Dollie Brown’s anniversary was made by Soror Barbara S. Wilson and seconded by Soror Vanessa Turner-Maybank.

SALUTE TO FEBRUARY SORORS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59pm

MINUTES RECORDED AND PREPARED BY:

Soror Kimberly Perrineau-Jackson - Grammateus

_____ (Signature & Date)

MINUTES APPROVED BY:

Soror Gretchen B. Morgan – Basileus

_____ (Signature & Date)