Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

Gamma Xi Omega Chapter

65th South Atlantic Regional Conference

April 25 - 29, 2018

Gretchen B. Morgan, Basileus

Delegate Report

Sorors from Georgia, Florida and South Carolina embarked on Fort Lauderdale, Florida in record numbers. The sorors of Cluster I graciously welcomed all to the Broward County Convention Center. The theme “Anchoring Our Pearls & Cruising In Sisterhood” was carried out well and further increased our AKA spirit. The camaraderie among sorors was remarkable and rewarding.

**The Public Meeting:**

* Theme: “Exceeding the Vision: Inspiring Others through Service.”
* Madame Supreme, Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, eloquently and enthusiastically brought greetings.
* Tamron Hall, Television Journalist, address the well attended Public Meeting.
* Special recognition and community service awards were given to identified honoress in the five target areas of LNDS.
* The Greek Medley followed by the benediction concluded the program.

**The Opening Plenary Session:**

* Soror Sharon Brown Harriott, SARD, made her grand entrance followed by Cluster I’s exciting welcome presentation at the Opening Plenary Session.
* The conference was formally opened by Soror Sharon Brown Harriott which included the presentation and adoption of the conference agenda.
* Following the opening of the conference, the Rededication Ceremony was conducted by Soror Carolyn House Stewart, 28th Supreme Basileus.
* Soror Constance Gardner gave the Report of Rules to ensure that the plenary sessions ran efficiently and effectively.
* Soror Sharon Brown Harriott, SARD, State of the South Atlantic Region report showed that the SAR is in excellent standing and is “Pearl Perfect & Ivy Strong.”
* Chapter Basilei that attended the 2017 Leadership, Las Vegas, Nevada, received the Chapter Basileus Certification Companion Guide to further enhance leadership skills (265 sorors in the SA region received certification).

**The Second Plenary Session:**

* Madame Supreme gave the 2018 State of the Sorority report which showed that the sorority is doing well and is in excellent standing. The sorority’s membership has reached a historical milestone with approximately 75,000 active members and 1,012 chapters. With this significant increase in membership, risk management is of utmost importance so that possible internal risk can be identified and action strategies put in place to ensure that chapters operate efficiently and effectively. Through the tremendous efforts of sorors implementing the initiatives of LNDS, the sorority has provided a substantial and meaningful impact in our communities.
* Soror Danette Anthony Reed, Supreme Tamiouchos, reported that the sorority is financially sound. The 2019 - 2020 per capita tax remains the same as 2018 (undergraduate members at $95.00 each, graduate members at $125.00 each, and general members at $235.00 each. Late fines are 10% of the per capita fee, $9.50 for undergraduate members and $12.50 for graduate members). Additionally, all other fees related to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., will remain the same as the 2018 fees.
* Soror Thuane B. Fielding gave the Program Awards report:

1. SA Region donated 27,117 backpacks through the virtual store (partnership with Office Depot).
2. Family Strengthening Award (large chapter) - Gamma Xi Omega (1st place)

* The certified candidates running for the International Nominating Committee and SA Regional Director gave excellent speeches during the Nominating report. At the conclusion of the candidate speeches election procedures were given to the voting delegates (voting delegate strength = 919).

**The Third Plenary Session:**

* Soror Vivian B. Dowdy, SA Region Tamiouchos, gave the SA Financial report which showed the the SA Region is financially sound.
* Soror Lisa M. George gave the Time and Place report:

1. Undergraduate Roundup - 2nd week Sept. (tentative).
2. 2018 Cluster VI Conference - Vidalia, GA (Nov. 16th - 17th, 2018).
3. SA Regional Conference - Greenville, SC (April 10th -14th, 2018).

* Presentation of Chapter Awards and Individual Awards:

1. Lucretia Payton Stewart Guiding Torch Award - Gamma Xi Omega (Soror Kelli Burke, 2nd place).
2. Deloris H. Oliver Service to Mankind Award - Gamma Xi Omega ( Soror Carzenia Award, 2nd Place)
3. Irene Westbrooks McCollum “Outstanding Golden Soror” Award - Gamma Xi Omega (Soror Jacqueline Smalls, 2nd Place).

* Election Results (Soror Starlac McGhee):

1. International Nominating Committee (SA Region) - Soror Dianne Williams-Cox (380 delegate votes/43.93%).
2. SA Regional Director - Soror Carolyn G. Randolph (408 delegate votes/47.17%).

**Standards: Sustaining Expectations of Excellence in Chapter Operations (workshop 8)**

**Presenter: Soror Bernetta Jones**

* Provided fundamentals of operating an effective chapter.
* Key areas included: finances, records management and retention, mentoring, and joint meetings.
* If an undergraduate chapter is suspended, the governing graduate chapter must keep their documents.
* Be sure and do the right work so that the chapter is in line with the current national program.
* Chapter members cannot decide that they don’t like a particular target and don’t implement it.
* Foundations:

1. The foundation does not supercede the chapter president.
2. The foundation is the philanthropic arm of the chapter.
3. The foundation and the chapter should have two seperate sets of officers.
4. The chapter Basileus cannot serve as the president of the foundation.
5. The foundation can be used to support chapter programs.

* Budget:

1. Prepared in October and first reading in November.
2. Credit card and prepaid cards are authorized.
3. Debit cards are not authorized.

**Pinkprint for Success: Building Your Chapter Risk Management Plan (workshop 12)**

**Presenter: Soror Susan Simms Marsh and Soror Earlene Striggles Horne**

* A chapter is not required to have a risk management plan, but it is good to have one in place.
* A risk is anything that jeopardizes the health, safety, welfare of the chapter and the sorors that comprise it.
* Potential risks:

1. Facility/event venue safety - location of an event, where meetings are held (entrance/exit, clear walking pathway), have adequate security when collecting money or when having events that are publicly advertised.
2. Financial - misappropriation of funds, never seeing financial report.
3. Hazing - don’t share past experiences with sorors now…..it is 2018!
4. Transportation - make sure the insurance for any transportation company that is used adequately covers the date of the event.
5. Health - Identify a soror from the health target to be at meetings and events in case of an emergency.
6. Conflict resolution - may have to consider having a law enforcement agency to be on hand for conflict resolution.

* When you have an event, the chapter and the foundation should carry insurance.
* The Risk Management Committee is not a standing committee, but it can be included in your strategic plan.
* The chapter should educate its members regarding risks.

**Graduate Advisors’ Certification - Level I**

**(Facilitator: Soror Lorraine Benjamin Matthews)**

* GA Certification workshop is designed for sorors that plan to serve as a Graduate Advisor, serve as on the Graduate Advisory Council, sorors in leadership positions who have never been certified or has let a certification lapse.
* GA roles and responsibilities: (Presenter: Soror Lorraine Benjamin Matthews)

1. Collaborate with college/university officials (get to know the officials that are directly involved in greek life - Registrar, Dean of Student Affairs, Coordinator of Greek Life, faculty advisor).
2. Teach undergraduate sorors how to run chapter meetings.
3. Walk thru the campus - make your presence known.
4. Be familiar with the layout of the campus.
5. Understand that the life of a GA is 24 hours, 7 days a week.
6. Be observant of younger sorors.
7. Train the undergraduate sorors to be lifelong members.
8. Know your documents so that you can effectively advise.

* Parliamentary Procedure (Presenter: Martha Perrine Beard, Supreme Parliamentarian)

1. Only refer to Robert’s Rule if it is something that is not in any of the sorority and chapter’s documents (Charter, Constitution/Bylaws, Chapter Bylaws, Manual of Standard Procedure).

* Effective Communication (Presenter: Soror Bettina Durant) - helps keep members motivated, foster effective chapter operations and good relationships.
* Finance (Presenter: Soror Danette Anthony Reed, Supreme Tamiouchos)

1. Reference Financial Fundamental Guide to Chapter Financial Procedures.
2. Prepare chapter budget in September (the number of members determines chapter dues).
3. Cannot use cash app for AKA chapter fee payments (Paypal is accepted).
4. Non-members fees will be taxed (undergraduate chapters don’t have foundations).

* Social Media and The Alpha Kappa Alpha Brand (Presenter: Soror Crystal Pruitt) - be mindful of what is being displayed/posted on social media.
* Anti-Hazing (Presenters: Soror Melanie Bales, Soror Bernetta Jones) - AKA has zero tolerance for hazing!
* Graduate and Undergraduate Chapter Mentoring (Presenter: Soror Bernetta Jones)

1. GA is not the job for you:
2. If you don’t answer your phone after 9 pm or 10 pm.
3. If you don’t go out at night (after dark).
4. If you don’t drive long distances.
5. If you don’t know how to text or like texting.
6. Know how to get on instagram or access social media
7. As a GA you job is not to be their friend.

* Risk Management (Presenter - Soror Earlene Striggles Horne)

1. Number of expulsions:
2. 2000 = 31
3. 2002 = 19
4. 2004 = 53
5. 2006 = 35
6. 2008 = 45
7. 2010 = 66
8. 2012 = 69
9. 2014 = 37
10. NPHC sorority insurance claims have increased considerably (hazing = 84%).
11. Insurance companies don’t want to insure Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. because of the liability.

* Membership (Presenter - Kimberly Willis Green)

1. Encourage lifelong membership (transition from the undergraduate chapter to the graduate chapter).

* Chapter Programs (Presenter - Thuane B. Fielding)

1. LNDS - implementing the sorority’s international program on college/university campuses.