

The Cultured Pearl Connection

Edition 20, Volume 20

August 2017

From the desk of the Basileus...

My Dear Sorors,

Can you believe it? The month of August is here, and its arrival signals the rapid approach of the last quarter of the year! But as you know, where others would be planning to rest, we in Gamma Xi Omega Chapter continue to be immersed in rendering “*Service to All Mankind*” through the work of our chapter and sorority, on both the local and national levels.

First, I would like to thank those sorors who traveled to Las Vegas in July for the Leadership Conference. I’m certain that you managed to have some FUN, while carrying out the work of the sorority. I especially thank those who actively represented us at the conference in an official capacity, and returned with written reports for the chapter: *Sorors Gretchen Morgan, Margaret Thomas, Gloria Wilford, Lottie Otto and Kimberly Greene!* I invite the chapter to visit The Members Only section on our website to review the interesting and informative reports filed. To all conference attendees, I thank you for providing that good ole’ GXO Chapter visibility and presence at the conference!

Secondly, huge accolades to *Sorors Emily Smith, Violet Washington* and the *Fall Retreat Committee*, and *Soror Latonia Allen* and the *Standards Committee* for providing commendable leadership during the planning and execution of this important event. The Retreat was held at Royal Missionary Baptist Church on August 5, 2017, and in a word, it was AWESOME! We were very pleased to have had sorors from Iota Omicron with us. Kudos are extended to our capable presenters: *Sorors Gretchen Morgan* (Final Steps of LNDS), *Gloria Wilford* (Risk Management Overview), *LaQuinta S. Yates* (Chapter Financial Responsibilities), and *LoElla Smalls* (Chapter Officers Nominations for 2018). The break-out session was interactive and well-structured; the food was excellent; and talent and fun abounded throughout the event! As we know, the Retreat heralds the end of our summer and a return to “business as usual”. What a way to end summer! All attendees left the Retreat with the following benefits:

- Increased knowledge about chapter operations and programs;
- Opportunities to socialize and improve upon sisterly relations ; and
- Were re-AKA-tized for service in Gamma XI Omega Chapter!

Don’t forget about the *Undergraduate Round-Up & Retreat* on August 25th-26th in North Charleston. I’m certain that *Soror Margaret and the Graduate Advisory Committee* would appreciate any assistance we can offer in support of Iota Omicron Chapter. As you know, it is up to each of us to help guide and mold our younger sorors, so that they will be prepared to be active and successful members in their future graduate chapters. Let’s do our parts to achieve this goal. Let’s also mark our calendars and plan to support other scheduled events during the month, i.e. the Connection Forum, CCSD’s First Day, etc., as all of these events correlate to our Target Programs.

Lastly, let’s continue to enjoy our time with family and friends before the season changes. Take time out for each other, for we ARE our sisters’ keepers. With that in mind, I hope you continue to strive to be your best selves, not only for your family and friends; but also for you and the sorority!

As usual, *Sorors*, thanks again for catching the *Gamma Xi Omega fever*, as we continue to find “*greater laurels to win, greater tasks to begin*” for love of our great sisterhood!

Sisterly,

Soror Marguerite S. Middleton

2017 CHAPTER OFFICERS

Marguerite S. Middleton
Basileus

Gretchen B. Morgan
Anti-Basileus

Kimberly Perrineau-Jackson
Grammateus

Patricia H. Green
Anti-Grammateus

Felicia Wright
Pecunious Grammateus

April Rivers Bowman
Epistoleus

D’Jaris Whipper-Lewis
Tamiouchos

Pearl Givens
Anti-Tamiouchos

Clarice Lemon
Hodegos

Rosa Bowens
Philacter

Deborah Smalls
Parliamentarian

Dronica DeBerry
Ivy Leaf Reporter

Ruth M. Buck
Historian

Margaret Thomas
Graduate Advisor

Noni Jenkins
Graduate Advisor

Carmelita Pryor
Latarsha Asby
Pan Hellenic Representatives





AKA Connection – Soror Laurachelle White, Chairman

All are invited, sorors and the public, to a forum entitled: **“Empowerment Forum/Pearls of Promise,”** August 17, 2017, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The forum will take place at the Sorority Building. Please come and invite others to come with you.

Target II – Health Promotion – Soror Latecia Abraham, Co-Chairman

The Longest Day website for 2017 will remain available to accept individual/group donations until August 31, 2017. The Walk to End Alzheimer’s event is September 16, 2017. The location is Riverfront Park, 1001 Everglades Avenue, Charleston, S.C. 29405. The route length is 2.5 miles. Registration is on-site at 9:00 a.m. and the ceremony is at 9:45 a.m. The walk begins at 10:00 a.m. Gamma Xi Omega Sorors may invite family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to participate in the walk with them. This event accepts donations in the fight against Alzheimers disease at the walk. Alzheimers motto is: “Our vision is a world without Alzheimers disease.”

Target 1 – Educational Enrichment – Soror Sylvia Gilliard, Chairman

The ASCEND program is now accepting applications for the final phase of Launching New Dimensions of Service. Applications can be accessed on the GXO website under Programs. The deadline for completed applications is August 31, 2017. Please contact Sorors Sylvia Gilliard, Tyesha Drayton, Desaree Boston, or Karriema Calhoun to submit your application or for information.

Mother Emanuel partnered with Samaritan Feet and distributed new socks and tennis shoes to children and adults on Saturday, June 24, 2017. Sorors R. Buck, C. Lemon, L. Bennett, R. Bowens, and J. Prioleau were among the many volunteers.



Public Relations – Soror Dronica DeBerry, Chairman

If any committee would like publicity coverage for events, please contact Soror Dronica DeBerry at ddeberr@gmail.com for a request form. All requests should be submitted two weeks prior to the event.



Please keep our sick, shut-in and bereaved sorors in your prayers.

*Soror Thomasine Grant Soror Geneva Bennett
Soror Vertelle M. Middleton*

All sorors who have experienced illness or bereavement.

Happy Birthday!



Mosley, Marguerite P.	Aug 8
Abraham, Latecia M.	Aug 9
Middleton, Vertelle M.	Aug 10
Mack, Henrietta	Aug 12
Fields, Vonda	Aug 16
Brown, Akilah	Aug 17
Gilliard, Sylvia Harleston	Aug 18
Smalls, Deborah M.	Aug 18
O'Bryant-Seabrook, Marlene	Aug 21
Smalls-Robinson, Tameka L.	Aug 21
Fielding, Conchita L	Aug 24
Scott, Avis S.	Aug 25
McPherson, JoTavia L.	Aug 26
Dawson, Amorette	Aug 27
Scott, Valerie R.	Aug 27

Upcoming

Undergraduate Round-Up: August 25-26, 2017
(Late Registration closes August 11th)

GXO & IO Joint Chapter Meeting: September 9, 2017

Cluster VI Conference: September 29-30, 2017
(Regular Registration closes August 31st Late
Registration closes September 15th)

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Soror Houston Marie Rhodes graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology in July with a Master of Biomedical Innovation and Development Program. Soror Houston is the daughter of Soror Sshune and Dr. Harold Rhodes.



Honey Do Seaward and Basileus Visiting with Soror Vertelle.