**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.**

**Gamma Xi Omega Chapter**

**64th South Atlantic Regional Conference**

***“Launching New Dimensions of Service”***

**Delegate’s Report**

**Delegate: Soror Marguerite S. Middleton, Basileus**

It was my honor and pleasure to have represented Gamma Xi Omega Chapter as a delegate at the 64th South Atlantic Regional Conference, which was held in Atlanta, Georgia at the Marriott Marquis Hotel and the Georgia World Conference Center (GWCC), from March 22-26, 2017. Though I did not find the hotel check-in staff to be very welcoming to the sorority, the conference was very well-attended. Conference registration was smooth, and the host sorors, in striking contrast to the hotel check-in staff, were very friendly and accommodating, as we again painted the city of Atlanta in beautiful shades of pink and green!

**SUMMARY OF REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:** *(This report consists of a brief summary of Regional Events. Specific delegates have been asked to cover specific events. Their reports will be accessible online, Members Only, by May 15, 2017.)*

**Wednesday, March 22, 2017:** Arrived in Atlanta in the afternoon, got settled in my room, and attended a lively and enjoyable Sisterly Mixer from 8:30 to midnight.

**Thursday, March 23, 2017:**

* 8:30-9:45 a.m. - Picked up registration packets and completed Delegate Certification.
* Backpack donations received, in which, Gamma Xi Omega Chapter participated.
* 8:30-10:00 a.m. - Third Annual Prayer Breakfast - Our Soror Lottie Otto played a major role in its success, and made us GXO Proud!
* 12:30-2:30 p.m. – EAF Luncheon - The theme was *“Jazzy Emeralds & Pearls.”* During this event, Gamma Xi Omega Chapter was recognized as a Platinum Chapter for its monetary contribution. As such, I participated in the Gold, Platinum and Silver Chapter Parade, while donning a mysterious mask and carrying a lovely umbrella decorated by Sorors Rosa Bowens and Carzenia Brown. These relics are now a part of our Archives.

3:00-4:30 p.m. – Basilei Chat with Madam Regional Director, Sharon Brown Herriott.

Introductions and welcome made by Chief of Staff/ Soror DeVetta Williams Hughes.

Today’s session was called “Stomp the Regional Director.”   Sorors were told as the Chapter Basilei we’re in the driver’s seat, so opportunity being given today to ask Madame RD questions that are concerning to us.   Questions from the floor and those previously forwarded via email were asked and answered by Madame Regional Director.

**Question 1** – How to deal with a former Basileus to transition from being a former difficult leader but instead operate in a supportive role?

Answer- Be sensitive to the difficult soror, kill her with kindness and give her something to do.

**Question 2** – What is best practice in using information?

Answer – Be consistent, be timely in using.  You set the tone by modeling, dignity, class and respect.  If unsure of a procedural matter, speak to the Parliamentarian, then present to your executive board, then the goes before the chapter floor.

**Risk Management** was discussed – We’re on a path to destruction if chapters don’t have a risk management plan.  One representative from each chapter must attend the session at Leadership.  We must mitigate risk to the point where it could take us down.  Can’t allow that and look forward to our 110th year sorority anniversary.

**Question** regarding where proceeds from regional T-shirts go?

**Answer** – The shirts add value to the conference experience.  $185 doesn’t cover all expenses.  The region is trying to keep us financially solvent and we supplement with things like offering a regional shirt.

Madame Regional Director shared she’s received 30 request for upcoming MIP sessions.  Fall Intakes get the same timeline of acceptance as Spring request.  Chapters must be local ambassador for Soror Sharon.  Alpha Kappa Alpha has policies and procedures we must follow and if we don’t, there are consequences.

Soror Sharon issued Basileus Ribbons to the basilei and instructed basilei to wear throughout the duration of conference and upon return home.

Technology updates- Share Point information for entering reports at the end of the year was presented SharePoint credentialing information was sent in February.  Don’t share this information, as for basilei.  End of year reports are to be sent to SAREOY@gmail.com

Presentation made by Soror Charletta Wilson Jacks, Supreme Tamiochus.  Advised sorors to be transformative, be in the driver’s seat and follow this recipe for success and don’t skimp on the ingredients:

1.)   Seek feedback and be self aware;  2.)  Provide individualized consideration;

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3.)  Set attainable goals

4.)  Encourage lifelong membership

5.)  Inspire sisterhood; it’s bigger than me, be sisterhood sensitive

6.)  Make a decision and don’t be on the fence

7.)  Have a vision, be communicative and utilize critical thinking

Soror Jacks inquired of basilei: What three behaviors can I improve on and to write using positive sentences.  Soror Jacks closed by encouraging sorors to be Ethel, be Nellie and be the leader GOD planned for me to be!

Presentations on Conflict Resolution and Sisterly Relations weren’t made due to running out of time.  These presentations will be emailed to basilei.

Chat concluded.

* 5:30-7:30 P.M. – 2017 Carolyn House Stewart Diamond, Golden, Silver Star and Chapter Anniversary Ceremony and Dinner

Gamma Xi Omega Chapter recognized as a Diamond Chapter!

Soror Ruth M. Buck recognized as Golden Soror!

Soror Latecia Abraham recognized as a Silver Star!

**Friday, March 24, 2017:**

* 7:15-8:45 a.m. – The Mary Shy Scott Leadership Breakfast for Basilei, Leadership Fellows and Sorors of the Year. Held in honor of our Twenty-Third Supreme Basileus, Soror Mary Shy Scott, this year’s theme was, *“Pearls of Excellence: Serving our Communities, Leading with Love.”* Soror Lecretia Peyton Stewart, Thirteenth South Atlantic Director, gave an excellent speech in which she reminded us of one of the greatest gifts that was consistently exhibited by Soror Mary, and that gift was that of genuine love for our sisterhood and for mankind. She challenged those present to be more like Soror Mary in our interactions with each other, for by so doing, we will demonstrate the strong bond of love that exists between sisters, which makes our great sisterhood the strong organization that it is today.
* **9:30 – 12:30 p.m. – Opening Plenary Session** – The Opening Plenary Session was held at the Georgia World Center. The Meditation was delivered by our very own Soror Vertelle Mitchell Middleton. As usual, she did a superb job, and made us all proud to say, she is from GXO Chapter! Following the Cluster IV Welcome Presentation, which was very lively and entertaining, the conference was formally opened by Madam Regional Director, Soror Sharon Brown Herriott, who also gave a very comprehensive and impressive State of the Region Report. This report will be accessible online in its entirety in our Members Only Section**. We were led in**  a beautiful Rededication Ceremony by Soror Mattelia B. Grays, 18th Supreme Basileus. The session ended with the usual International Committee Reports.
* **3:00-5:00 p.m. – Second Plenary Session –** During this session, GXO Chapter again stood tall, as Soror Thuane B. Fielding so aptly presented Programs and Program Awards. The major highlight of the session was Madam Supreme’s State of the Sorority Report, which was also very comprehensive and well delivered. It addressed the International Program, including Membership, Risk Management, Advocacy, Corporate Office Renovation, Accountability and Conferences. As usual, this report was very well-received.
* **7:00-9:00 p.m. – Public Meeting –** The theme was, *“AKAs…Branches of Service to All Mankind.”*Though on the program for bringing Greetings, the Honorable Fredericka S. Wilson, Congresswoman from the State of Florida – 24th District, was obviously not present, as she had to return to Washington for President Trump’s Healthcare vote. However, beautiful greetings were delivered by Madam Supreme, Dr. Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, and the Honorable Kasim Reed, Mayor of the city of Atlanta. A challenging keynote address was given by the Honorable Andrew Gillum, Mayor of the city of Tallahassee, Florida. The following were Community Awards Honorees:
1. Educational Enrichment: Ms. Lillar Shepheard
2. Health Promotion: Dr. Judy Mandrell
3. Family Strengthening: Mr. Darryl Jones
4. Environmental Ownership: Mr. Donnell “DJ” Demp Benson
5. Global Impact: Mrs. Amy Pernie and Daughter, Ms. Chesney Pern

**Saturday, March 25, 2017:**

* **12:30-2:00 p.m. – Undergraduate Awards Luncheon – Iota Omicron Chapter** at the College of Charleston made us AkA Proud as they were recognized in several areas!
* **3:00-5:00 p.m. – The Third Plenary Session -** One highlight of this session was Undergraduate Activities, presented by Sorors Kennice Gray, Second Supreme Anti-Basileus: Antoria Frazier, Undergraduate Member at Large; and our Victoria Simpson, Undergraduate Member at Large from the College of Charleston. These young sorors gave a polished and professional report, which again tugged at our AKA chords of great pride. Another highlight was
* **8:00-12:00 Midnight – Closing Gala and Dinner Dance – The theme: Speak Easy – Jazz -** Fine cuisine and fabulous fellowship were enjoyed by all, as we danced the night away!

**Sunday, March 26, 2017:**

**9:15-9:45 a.m. – Ivy Beyond the Wall Ceremony – Soror Vertelle Middleton, 12th South Atlantic Regional Director, assisted. Immortalized from Gamma Xi Omega Chapter were Sorors Marjorie Alston Steplight and Bessie Allen Holmes.**

**10:00-12:00 p.m. – Ecumenical Service followed by the Closing Plenary Session.**

Please accept my sincere thanks for the opportunity of serving as your delegate at the 64th South Atlantic Regional Conference. As always, the experience was priceless!

Respectfully submitted,

Marguerite S. Middleton, Basileus