

THE DELTA DOWNLOAD



The monthly newsletter of the
Suffolk (VA) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Greetings Sorors,

The season is upon us to celebrate our mothers and mother figures in our lives. The admiration we hold in our hearts for these women is immeasurable. The lessons taught, the wisdom shared, along with the unconditional love they have given have shaped us to be the women we are today.

The ability to pass along the legacy of love and wisdom from our mothers to our own children, nieces, nephews, godchildren, and others blessed to be in our lives, is an invaluable gift. Happy Mother's Day to every member of SAC. I know each of you has been an inspiration to a child because each of you is an amazing woman. I thank God for each of you and I pray He continues to allow you to be a blessing to others.

Respectfully,

Tina M. Paul



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MAY WEEK 2021

Provided by The May Week Committee

May Week is a national program of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated that celebrates the academic and professional achievements of community leaders, organizations, and youth. The Suffolk Alumnae Chapter kicked off May Week 2021 – **Power In Our Voice, Service and Scholarship In Our Hearts** on Saturday, May 1, 2021, with a presentation of awards to the 2021 May Week Honorees and the acknowledgment of over \$10,000 in funds awarded to the 2021 Suffolk Alumnae Chapter Scholarship award recipients. Sorors were also recognized for their years of service, and academic and professional accomplishments, along with the presentation of the 2021 Alumnae Soror of the Year, Soror Sharon Slaughter, and the 2021 Delta Dear of the Year, Soror Vermelle T. Byrd.

2021 May Week festivities also included an entire week of community events and activities hosted from May 2-May 8 to include initiatives focused on health and wellness, social action, community services, teacher appreciation, and older Americans. The SAC Arts and Letters committee also presented daily spotlights of the many Suffolk Public Schools named after African Americans to include Florence Bowser Elementary School, Col. Fred Cherry Middle School, Mack Benn Elementary School, and Booker T. Washington Elementary School.

This year's May Week Committee consisted of Sorors Yilla Smith-Harry, Chair, Lakeila Powell, Co-Chair, Alexis Smith, Belinda S. Pitts, Janice Smith, Kier Holland, Lonice Darden-Williams, Pamela Jones-Watford, and Tia Hughes.

Chapter Awards and Recognitions



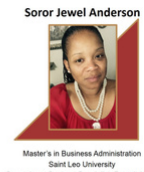
Soror President Tina Paul
Outstanding Leadership Service
2019-2021



50 Years of Service
Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck
Bennett College 1969



Soror Jessica Moore
Bachelor's of Science in Anthropology
Longwood University



Soror Jewel Anderson
Master's in Business Administration
Saint Leo University
Supervisory Contract Specialist, Branch Head



Soror Brooks-Buck
Suffolk School Board Third Term,
Elected November 2020
and
Chair, January 2021

Delta Dear of the Year



Soror Helivi L. Holland
Appointed 2021
General District Court Judge
City of Suffolk



25 Years of Service
Soror Bridgette Buckner
Auburn Alumnae Spring '96
Soror Felicia Delaiah
Hawaii Alumnae Spring '96
Soror Angela Hicks
Suffolk Alumnae Spring '96



Soror Brenda Boston
Master's in Business Administration
Regent University
Healthcare Management



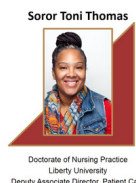
Soror LaCleder Odom
Master's in Business Analytics
Regent University
AvalonBay Communities, Inc.



Alumnae Soror of the Year



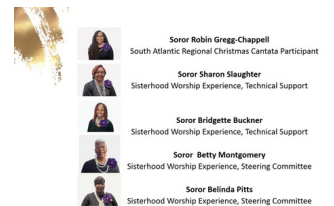
25 Years of Service
Soror Gail Pulley
Suffolk Alumnae Spring '96
Soror Malleseah Routree
Suffolk Alumnae Spring '96
Soror Deborah Sanford
Suffolk Alumnae Spring '96



Soror Toni Thomas
Doctorate of Nursing Practice
Liberty University
Deputy Associate Director, Patient Care



Soror Felita Stevenson
"Life Purpose Life Coach"
Certification
Hampton Drug Treatment Court



Soror Robin Gregg-Chappell
South Atlantic Regional Christmas Cantata Participant
Soror Sharon Slaughter
Sisterhood Worship Experience, Technical Support
Soror Bridgette Buckner
Sisterhood Worship Experience, Technical Support
Soror Betty Montgomery
"Life Purpose Life Coach"
Certification
Hampton Drug Treatment Court
Soror Belinda Pitts
Sisterhood Worship Experience, Steering Committee

SUFFOLK ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.



May Week 2021 Activities



Saturday
MAY
1st



May Week Celebration 2021



Sunday
MAY
2nd



Day of Worship



Monday
MAY
3rd

Spotlight: Florence Bowser Elementary School



Tuesday
MAY
4th

Teacher Appreciation Day
(Show your appreciation for a teacher)

Spotlight: Col. Fred Cherry Middle School



Wednesday
MAY
5th

Day of Service



(Post a picture of you providing community service)

Spotlight: Mack Benn Elementary School



Thursday
MAY
6th

Social Action Thursday

Spotlight: Booker T. Washington Elementary School



Friday
MAY
7th



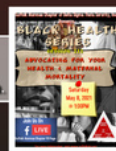
Recognition of Older Americans



Saturday
MAY
8th

Black Health Series (Session III)

Advocating for your Health and Maternal Mortality Risk – Black Women and Childbirth



For more information, please visit www.suffolkdst.org

Community Awards

Community Organization of the Year



- In 1984, an interest group of The Links, Incorporated to place in the home of the late Mrs. Violen O. Sharpe. The name Suffolk's Woman's League was chosen as the name of the interest group.
- In 1985, the group's name was changed to The Suffolk Chapter when 27 members were inducted into The Links, Incorporated.
- Mrs. Violen O. Sharpe was elected as the first president of the newly formed chapter.
- The chapter aims to embrace and enrich the lives of members and the communities in which it serves.
- Links members contribute more than 1 million documented hours of community service annually.

The Links Inc., Suffolk, Virginia Chapter

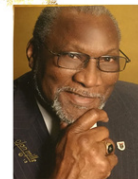
Female Community Leader of the Year



- Instrumentalist in bringing the first Head Start program to Nansemond County
- An active member of the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church
- A Charter member of the Nansemond County Community Center & served as secretary for 25 years
- Was a Delegate to the National Democratic Convention in Los Angeles in 1984
- Her motto: "I cannot do everything, but I can do some things. What I can do, I ought to do. What I ought to do, with the help of God, I will do."

Ruby Walden

Male Community Leader of the Year



- Married for sixty-two years to the former Susie Harrell
- A veteran of the United States Navy
- Retired General Foreman from the Newport News Shipyard (Huntington Ingalls) after thirty-six years of employment
- Longtime member of East End Baptist Church, and serves on several ministries
- First elected to Suffolk City Council in 1996
- Greatest accomplishment is his acceptance of the will of God in his life

Leroy Bennet, Vice-Mayor of Suffolk, Virginia

Youth Community Leader of the Year



- Honor Student at Colonel Fred Cherry Middle School (4.0 GPA)
- Inducted to the National Junior Honor Society
- A member of Ladies of Distinction
- President of the Student Council Association
- Competitive dancer for 10 years winning numerous national awards
- Accepted into several Joffrey Ballet School summer programs
- Approximately 500 volunteer hours in 12 months
- Hobbies: traveling, spending time with family, film/photography, & journaling

Ayana Johnson

Scholarship Recipients

- C. Greene, Lakeland HS
- S. Pitts, King's Fork HS
- K. Whitley, Lakeland HS
- B. Barnes, Lakeland HS
- A. Rountree, Lakeland HS
- T. Whitfield, Nansemond River HS
- M. Brown-Mayfield, Lakeland HS
- M. Walters, King's Fork HS

- M. Greene, Nansemond River HS
- M. Galloway, King's Fork HS
- A. Hyman, King's Fork HS
- M. Dupart, Kings Fork HS
- S. Hart, Lakeland HS
- C. Taliaferro, Nansemond River HS
- R. Brown, King's Fork HS

DELTA DEAR SPOTLIGHT

Provided by Soror Judith Brooks-Buck, E.D.



Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck was born in Norfolk, Virginia. When she graduated from Booker T. Washington High School, she had earned a full scholarship to Bennett College in Greensboro, NC. Judith pledged Delta in the Spring of 1969 on the first line at Bennett College, the Zeta Omicron Chapter. Soror Helivi Holland and her mother were two of the first Sorors she met from the Suffolk Alumnae Chapter. They were caring and always encouraged her to join the Chapter. When she joined the chapter, she found that the Sorors were genuinely kind, supportive, helpful, and encouraging. She gives a great deal of credit to the Sorors of the Suffolk Alumnae Chapter for helping her win her election.

Judith is an avid researcher, a national and international presenter, and author/editor. She has presented and/or published articles and books on the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996; child poverty and public policy; teaching remedial reading; Bilingual Education; Education Policy and Politics; and the politics of collegiate sports in America. Dr. Brooks-Buck is a retired full professor from Virginia State University. Included in her busy schedule is the position of reviewer for the SAGE Publication journal, Education and Urban Society, and Columbia University's Teacher College Record.

Before going to Virginia State University, Dr. Brooks-Buck served in numerous professional education roles. Brooks-Buck taught and administered public education programs for more than 25 years in four states and West Germany. In addition to her years in public education, Brooks-Buck has served as a Housing Authority Commissioner, Executive Director of a HOPE VI Family Self Sufficiency Program, Assistant Professor/Department Chair of the Hampton University Department of Education, and an Educational Consultant for the American Council on Education (ACE) and the Virginia Department of Education.

Dr. Brooks-Buck earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree (B.A.) in Special Education and Psychology, from Bennett College in Greensboro, NC; her Master of Education Degree (M.Ed.) in Administration and Supervision, and her Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D.) in Educational Policy Studies from the University of Virginia. The Honorable Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck was elected for a third term to the Suffolk School Board, representing the Nansemond Borough. She currently serves as Chair.

Dr. Brooks-Buck has been married to LTC (Ret) Henry Buck, Jr. for 50 years, and is the mother of Kimberly Buck Rouse (Jason), LTC Michael H. Buck (Cathy), and Paul A. Buck (deceased). Judith has three grandchildren. Her hobbies are singing and reading. She teaches Sunday School and is a member of the Diaconate at the Shiloh Baptist Church in Norfolk, Virginia.



Judith earned a full scholarship to Bennett College in Greensboro, NC. She pledged Delta in the Spring of 1969 on the first line at Bennett College, the Zeta Omicron Chapter.

SOROR SPOTLIGHT

Provided by Soror Ericka Counts
through Membership Services

Soror Ericka Counts is a native of Avenel, New Jersey. She is a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School in Iselin, New Jersey. She is the 2nd child of Brenda Counts and the late Karl Counts and was taught the values of equality and independence at an early age.

Ericka graduated in 1994 from Howard University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy. She has worked for the last 26 years teaching and providing her patients the opportunity to regain their independence. She facilitates their independence through rehabilitation, compensation, and adaptation.

With the compassionate care that she provides, her patients have an improved quality of life to participate in those tasks which are meaningful to them. Soror Counts is currently employed with Amedisys Home Health as the Sr. Occupational Therapist and South University as an adjunct professor. She is also pursuing her doctorate in Occupational Therapy with a concentration in business administration at the University of St. Augustine.

Soror Counts was initiated in the spring of 2018 (#11-Natural Beauty) on the line of the "28 DSTinct Forces of Vitality". She has served as the co-chair of Project13, is the current chair of the scholarship committee, and has served on various other committees. Ericka is an advocate for alopecia awareness and enjoys educating and sharing about alopecia. She thoroughly understands that God has given her the grace and the strength to overcome many obstacles. One of her many favorite scriptures is that "I am fearfully and wonderfully made, wonderful are your works that my soul knows right well." Ericka's interest includes traveling and spending time with family.



**"I am fearfully and
wonderfully made,
wonderful are your
works that my soul
knows right well."**

Psalm 139:14

DRESSING FOR ENDEAVORS

Program Planning & Development

On Saturday, April 10, 2021, the Chapter held the community service project “Dressing for New Endeavors”. The initiative consisted of a donation drive focusing on WOMEN. During this drive, gently loved purses filled with feminine hygiene products and toiletries were collected. At the end of the project, over 150 purses were collected and delivered to The Genieve Shelter and ForKids, Inc. Both organizations provide safe refuge and support to families and children. We are grateful for the support of every donor and Sorors who helped with the success of this project.



CELEBRATING DELTA D.E.A.R.S.

Membership Services

Suffolk Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

presents

Sister-2-Sister Connection

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021 @ 7 P.M. VIA 

DELTA D.E.A.R.S. BINGO

ALL SORORS ARE INVITED FOR FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!!



Back Row: Doris Johnson, Deborah Sanford, Gloria Spruiell, Guinelle Trower-Koonce, Joyce Powell Jones, Tamara McBride, Patricia Lynn Richards-Spruill, Sandra Parker, Carolyn Mayfield, Gayle Spencer-Ridley, Charlene Christian-Andrews, Jan Elion, Sharon Knight, Ernestine Kearney, Brenda Boston, and Vanessa Harris

Front Row: Jacquelyn Lawrence, Jacqueline Allen, Mary Hicks, Nancy Adams, Mary Stevenson, Judith Brooks-Buck, Jacqueline Matthews, Joyce Diggs, Vermelle Byrd, Juanita Glover, Helen Lewis, Gail Hinton-Copeland, Lula Holland, Gloria Mizelle, and Betty Montgomery

The Administration for Community Living leads the country in observing Older Americans Month every May. The Suffolk Alumnae Chapter is following suit and dedicating the monthly Sister to Sister Friday Night Connection to our **Dedicated, Energetic, Active, and Respected** sorors!!!! All chapter sorors are invited to join Membership Services as we recognize our Delta D.E.A.R.S. Each Dear will receive a "special delivery" game box that includes EVERYTHING for the BINGO night! Register for this event using the link below.

Register in advance for this activity:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlucO-trD8jG9McRoLVZXVQ4lyg-Fw3-TUq>

source: <https://acl.gov/oam/2021/older-americans-month-2021>

Honoring My Mom



What makes my mother special is that she is known as “your favorite teacher’s, favorite teacher.” “You cannot walk 10 feet in Wal-Mart, without someone saying ‘Hey Mrs. Matthews!’”

Some of my favorite times that I hold near to my heart began at the age of 4 or 5 and attending sporting events. Believe it or not, my father did not open my eyes to the world of sports; it was Soror Jackie! She is my influencer and my everything!

Soror Melody Matthews-Calloway,
SAC, Spr. 2006



Six years ago, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her strong faith in God during that time taught me that God has everything in control. Today, she is cancer-free and lives life to the fullest. She is a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, and true woman of God. I celebrate my mom, Jeanette Harper, not just on Mother’s Day but every day. On May 23rd, she’ll celebrate her 70th birthday. I am so grateful she’s still here.

Soror Janice Smith,
SAC, Spr. 2006,
SAC Webmaster



My Role Model

- Loving and Nurturing wife, mother, and grandmother
- Devoted sister, aunt, and mother-in-law
- Community service minded
- Educated and Professional
- Deeply rooted in the Lord
- Loyal neighbor and friend
 - Fun and funny
- Organized and organizer
 - Supportive
- Awesome communicator
 - Politically aware
 - DEDICATED DELTA

Martha Athalia Joyner Richards

Rest in Heaven;
You used your dash well
1922-2007

Love you, Mom,
Soror Patricia Lynn
Richards-Spruill,
SAC, Spr. 1988,
Arts & Letters Chair

Honoring My Mom

My Mom is the one, the only Ida Elizabeth Thweatt, a retired nurse. Everyone calls her Mickey! She has always been a powerhouse! A voice for the community and a mother not only to me, but everyone she comes in contact with. My Mom has beaten cancer when the odds were against her. Her faith is powerful, and her love for the Lord is contagious. She has NEVER met a stranger and ALWAYS has an encouraging word or something uplifting to say when someone is down. Although MANY memories and stories, the best times I cherish are of us staying up all night long, talking, laughing, and wrapping Christmas gifts. When I was a little girl, she would take me shopping to pick out a gift for each of my friends, and the tradition of us wrapping gifts lasted many years. Our home was the place for every holiday gathering. My Mom loves to cook, entertain AND is a wonderful poet and writer. She is a woman that is creative beyond words. She is a God-fearing woman of faith and courage! As I shared my Mom growing up with so many, I realized she ALWAYS devoted her time to me. She, to this very day, at the age of 88, STILL CALLS THE SHOTS! She's the best, and I love her to life!

**Soror Charlie Fairchild,
Lambda Eta - Old Dominion Univ., Spr. 1980**



Mothers are special people in our lives, but my mother is an exceptional one. Mary Steverson is not just my mom; she has been my rock, role model, biggest fan, and shoulder to cry on in my darkest hours. She is the strongest woman I know besides my grandmother (R.I.P.). I love my mother with all of my heart and would be lost without her. There is no doubt about the unconditional love she possesses, and I hope someday I can measure up to this amazing woman. She always has the best words of encouragement, and my favorite line of them all is, "I Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Me" – (Philippians 4:13). Thanks mom for being everything I have always needed you to be. I am where I am today because of her and because she loves me.

Lots of Love,

**Soror Felita L. Steverson, SAC, Spr. 2018
Arts & Letters Co-Chair**

GOOD TROUBLE

Provided by Social Action

Delta Days at the Nation's Capital (DDNC) kicked off Friday, April 23rd, and ended on Monday, April 26th, with an Advocacy Day. The schedule was filled with seminars that focused on activism in communities, advocate for HBCUs, women's issues, environmental justice, educational inequities, redistricting, policing, and voting rights. Over 4000 Sorors registered, the highest number of registrants to DDNC on record.

Likewise, record numbers watched the verdict in George Floyd's murder case where Derek Chauvin was found guilty on all counts of murder and taken into custody until his sentencing. Finally, some accountability for the murder of a black life at the hands of a white man. But is it justice? We are finally in a position to make demands about policing and other issues surrounding equality and inequity. Still, it requires voting and engagement in our community.

Early absentee voting for the Republican primary began March 8th, and it started for the Democratic Primary on April 24th in the Hampton Roads area. This is one of the most important primaries due to the number of candidates running for office and the importance of protecting the work that has been completed in the 2020/2021 VA General Assembly. Historically, there is usually a low voter turn-out in primaries; however, it is crucial that the community shows up in record numbers to vote in this one to protect many of the issues that were on the agenda at DDNC and to move closer to ensuring justice for future generations, so no one has to witness a black man beg for his life while calling for his mama. Sorors, mark your calendars and begin to spread the word about voting. Let's do what we do.... Lead and Vote!!



32nd ANNUAL Delta Days at the Nation's Capital
APRIL 23-25, 2021
Power in our **VOICE:**
POLICY • ADVOCACY • GOOD TROUBLE

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- △ D.C. Statehood
- △ Educational Disparities and Inequalities
- △ Health Equity
- △ Redistricting
- △ Reimagining Public Safety
- △ Voter Suppression

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

ADVOCACY DAY

April 26, 2021

#DDNC2021
#PowerInOurVoice




Secret Soror Reveal Coming Soon...



TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD

Provided by You



Congratulations to Soror Marion Monique Keeling (Kappa Sigma-East Carolina Univ., Spr. 1981) on receiving her Doctorate in Nursing Practice from Capella University.



Congratulations to Soror Tamara McBride who was selected as treasurer for the Virginia State Baptist Convention!

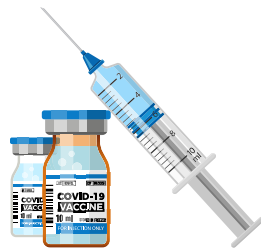


Congratulations to Soror Guinelle Trower-Koonce on moving into her new apartment. She is loving her smaller floor plan.

CONGRATULATIONS, SORORS!

VACCINATION CLINICS

Below is a schedule of faith-based clinics for the week of May 3rd. These clinics are in partnership with CVS Health and will be administering the Pfizer vaccine.



- | | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| May 3 | Oak Grove Baptist Church,
2635 E. Washington St.,
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. | visit cvs.co/VA-May3-8a or cvs.co/VA-May3-8b or call the church at 757-539-8012. |
| May 4 | First Baptist Church Mahan St.,
112 Mahan St.,
2 to 6 p.m. | visit cvs.co/VA-May4-9 or call the church at 757-539-6623. |
| May 5 | East End Baptist Church,
1056 Portsmouth Blvd.,
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. | visit cvs.co/VA-May5-14a or cvs.co/VA-May5-14b or call the church at 757-539-3324. |
| May 6 | Mount Sinai Baptist Church,
1600 Holy Neck Road,
12 noon to 4 p.m. | visit cvs.co/VA-May6-11 or call the church at 757-657-6212. |



CELEBRATING SORORS

Provided by Courtesy & Hospitality

May Birthdays

- 05/04 Bridgette M. Buckner
- 05/04 Mary Hicks
- 05/07 Beverly Washington-Williams
- 05/15 Vermelle T. Byrd
- 05/16 Jacqueline Allen
- 05/24 Ernestine Kearney
- 05/25 Robin Whitley
- 05/27 Tenesha Hicks
- 05/27 Tia Hughes



Deltaversary

Judith Brooks-Buck,
 Zeta Omicron - Bennett College, 1969
 Felicia DeLoatch, Hawaii Alumnae, 1996

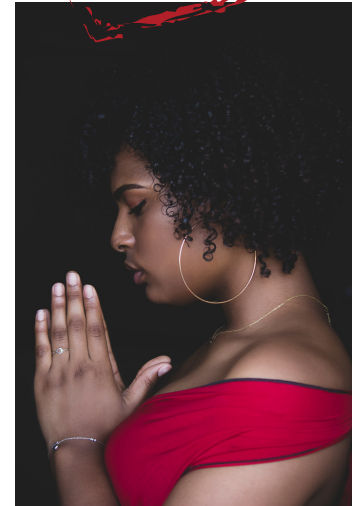
Correction from last month

Soror Davida Harrell-Williams was initiated
 in February 1989, not April 1989.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you!

Please continue to pray for our Sorors who have recently suffered a loss, are ill, recovering from surgery, have been under the weather, or are facing one of life's many challenges. Those that we are aware of include:

Sorors Nancy Adams, Erin Banks, Lorri Banks, Brenda Boston, Barbara Byrd-Walker, Katrina Cary, Lonice Darden Williams, Joyce Diggs, Robin Edwards-Clark, Juanita Glover, LaToya Gregg, Davida Harrell-Williams, Wendy Hicks, Gail Hinton-Copeland, Tia Hughes, Julia James, Pamela Jones-Watford, Sharon Knight, Jacqueline Matthews, Melody Matthews-Calloway, Betty Montgomery, Deborah Norris, Lakeila Powell, Joyce Powell Jones, Sharon Slaughter, Tess Turner, LaShawndra Walker, Robin Whitley, and Vicki Wiggins-Pittman

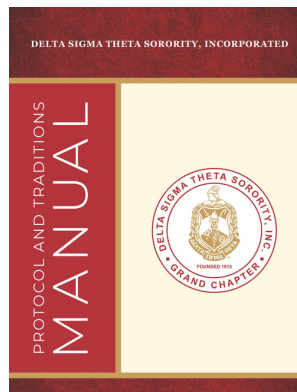


BEST BEHAVIOR

Provided by Protocol & Traditions



Violet from Powtoon



The 2021 edition of the Protocol & Traditions manual is available for download. Every member should have her own copy of this manual. It is located on the national website under the Members Only, National Area tab, Protocol and Traditions link.

Newsletter Contributors/Editors

Sorors Bridgette M. Buckner, Regina McKinney, & Robin Whitley

The Newsletter Subcommittee falls under the Media Relations Committee, Soror Sharon Slaughter, Chair and Soror Erin Lawrence, Co-Chair. *The Delta Download* is for us, about us, and by us. If there is something you would like to see featured in our chapter newsletter, let us know.

Committees, email all submissions to sacdst64.newsletter@gmail.com by the Friday after Executive Board Meeting, Friday, May 21, 2021. If you have any questions, feel free to email us.



