

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated
Saginaw Alumnae Chapter

Midwest Regional Conference Report

September 2018



President's Message

By Soror Karen L. Lawrence-Webster,

On behalf of the 20 members of the Saginaw Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., it is truly my pleasure to welcome you to read our reflections from the Midwest Regional Conference. This regional conference allowed us to learn, fellowship, collaborate and listen to new ideas from other chapters.

Our Chapter Policies and Procedures requires the Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate to remit a report to the chapter after each regional conference and national convention. Along with our report, I asked each Non-Voting Delegate to provide reports/reflections from the conference.

This document will give highlights and as the year progresses we will share more information and also direct Sorors to the national website for additional insight.

I would like to thank those Sorors who attended the conference and sharing your reflections with the chapter.

Sincerely,

Karen L. Lawrence-Webster

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Conference Overview

By Soror Karen L. Lawrence-Webster

The Midwest Regional Conference of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., was held on August 16 – 19, 2018 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Thursday was filled with workshops for collegiate chapters, their advisors and Membership Intake Training. Delegates and Alternates attended require Formal Opening Rehearsal.

The National President gave a powerful address that challenges ALL Sorors to be sisterly while taking care of the business of Delta Sigma Theta. President Smith has flattened the organization chart of the organization and emphasized that chapters don't have to do all national initiatives. Her challenge was for chapters to survey their community, fill gaps and seek out partnerships.

Regional Director Mona Davenport and the Midwest Leadership Team provided a festive atmosphere and great hospitality at every turn. The welcoming highlights were a balloon arch with the names of each founder on individual balloons and window cut outs on a train that allow for great photo opportunities.

Finally, there were four past national presidents at the conference who activity participated in the workshops, plenary sessions, luncheons and banquet (Past Presidents Walker, Butler-McIntyre, Rice, Fudge and Daley)

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. – Saginaw Alumnae – Conference Attendees

Beverly Harge	Beverly Westbrook	Deborah Williams	Delores Williams
Felicia Peters	Georgia Barkley	Gina Osborne	Lisa Ingram
Gwen White Bowman	Melleretha Moses-Johnson	Michelle Vasquez	RoShawnda Lewis
Rhonda Farrell-Butler	Sharon Floyd	Stella Johnson	Sylvia McAfee
Tammie Gillespie	Tiffacy Collins	Karen Lawrence-Webster	Tracey Floy

Alternate Delegate Report

48th Midwest Regional Conference

The conference was exciting and festive, the theme was Soul Train. Dr. Mona Davenport- Midwest director reported the following:

- 2016-2018 over 98-100% Compliance each year by fiscal deadline
- Conducted DID trainings, Founders Days as well as conducted Advisors Trainings and we put the Midwest on the same expiration cycle for all Advisors.
- During the past 2 years 112 chapters took in 1,329 members.
- Destination 22 – the effort to get more Sorors attend Delta days in the nation’s capital 250 Midwest Sorors in 2017 and 2018 over 279 Sorors went to DC.
- Scholarship in the region improved in 2017 90.37 of the grades were above 2.75 and in 2018 92.21% were above 2.75.
- Two chapters were chartered: Upsilon Upsilon (DePaul University) and Greater Toronto Area Alumnae.
- Self-Encouragement, Love and Faith webinars on Stress Management were started.
- The goal to collect 10, 00 items for the community service project to help victims of human trafficking and those transitioning from homelessness was surpassed 12, 667 items were collected.
- The National President expressed a need for reclamation, establishing National Delta Red Pages, a new Delta Gem Manual is coming, more mission trips to Africa and Hatti.
- The new Midwest Region leaders are Soror Sarahjini Spencer, Regional Director and Soror Ja’Rae Loving (Eastern Michigan – Delta Beta Chapter the home of Sorors Rance and Lawrence-Webster) is the Regional Representative.
- There were 118 voting Delegates, 105 Alternates, 2,108 Deltas in total.
- In addition to attending the plenary sessions. I went to the financial officers and audit sessions. In the financial officers workshops a good overview of roles and responsibilities of fiscal officers was presented. In the audit session, I got a clearer understanding of the expectations of my role as financial secretary is to the quarterly audit.

It was awesome seeing Saginaw Alumnae Deltas participate in the choir throughout the conference especially during the luncheons, closing dinner and Ecumenical service. I have sent the power point that Soror Davenport presented to our Technology Committee for website posting.

Sisterly

Soror Ingram

Delegate Report

48th Midwest Regional Conference

It was my great honor to serve as the Chapter's Voting Delegate. The Voting or Alternate Voting Delegate are required to be seated at each Plenary Session. This is a pleasurable responsibility because the information shared at our regional conference and national convention is always relevant. Although I attended 100% of the plenary sessions, two luncheons, two workshops (Branding Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. How Local Chapters and Members Shape the Brand and Leading with Purpose – Lessons in Leadership Fireside Chat) and the closing banquet, my report will reflect on recommendations for our chapter that I gleaned by talking to Sorors outside of formal settings at the conference.

Mission Statement

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated is an organization of college educated women committed to the constructive development of its members and to public service with a primary focus on the Black community.

- Constructive development of its members was on display during the regional conference. National, Regional and State leaders were generous with sharing their chapter best practices and our past presidents were in attendance to facilitate a successful transition of officers. This led me to place our mission statement on our meeting agenda so that it is constantly before us.

Chapter Branding

Who is Saginaw Alumnae Chapter, a question that I was asked and when I started to describe our chapter, I realized that other chapters have brochures that clearly show not only who they are but what they do. If we don't brand ourselves, someone else will. Therefore, we will focus on website enhancement and chapter brochures. This will prepare us for sponsorship solicitation and partnerships.

Delta Dears and Friends

I intentionally asked every Soror that I sat by about their Delta Dears and how are they honored in their chapter. First, they all had a committee called Delta Dears. Secondly, they celebrated their Delta Dears in varying ways. Prior to regional conference, the Senior Citizen Committee had met and had the heart to implement some of the ideas that I received from other chapters at conference. Therefore, I will be recommending that we change the name of our Senior Citizen Committee to Delta Dears and Friends.

Finally, listed to the right of this report is a list of the workshops that were provided at the conference. Throughout the year, we will review relevant information that will assist with the constructive development of Saginaw Alumnae Sorors.

In Delta Love,

Soror Karen

Regional Conference Workshops ..

- Fix My Audit Life
- University – College Relationships
- Arts and Letters – Creative Programming
- Leading with Purpose
- What Every Delta Should Know
- Collegiate Advisor Relationship
- It Takes More Than a Survey
- Risk Management – Don't Take the Risk
- Delta's History Matters
- Power in Our Voices – Delta, We Are the Change
- Sexual Assault Awareness
- There is No Place Like Home - #RECLAIM 4K
- Whose Job is It Anyway – Roles and Responsibilities
- Fiscal Officers Training
- Delta Emergency Response Team
- Got Social Media – Don't Get Caught Up
- Health and Wellness – Lupus and the African American Woman
- Back to the Basics – Honoring our Past and Preserving our Future
- Branding Delta
- Fit to Serve – Achieving Work Life Balance
- Hazing Prevention
- Delta Dears and Why We Love Them
- Working in Partnership with DREF

Fix My Audit

By Soror Felicia Peters

Why audit

Tool used to safe guard chapter assets and as a test of internal controls. Audits serve to improve chapters not as a punishment.

Make sure recommendation are reasonable for your chapter demographics and still meet the standards of the audit guide.

What makes an audit successful

S.I.S.T.E.R.S.

- S Proper planning and Scheduling
- I Improve Operations
- S Systematic and disciplined approach ---not subjective
- T Testing and proper sampling
- E Objective Evaluation of controls
- R Reporting and monitoring
- S Support necessary change with recommendations

Preparation for the Audit

- Create schedule for audit committee to meet
- Request the documents from the fiscal officers at least 4 weeks prior to audit
- Should include audit schedule on chapter calendar
- Determine Correct Samples: 100% dues collections submitted within 30 days, 50% of deposits, 25% of check disbursements, 10% of non-check disbursements; check for dual signatures, separation of duties, receipts attached, budget implications etc.

Communicating the Results

- Some errors may not be caught until a later audit, important to fix them before the annual audit is due
- Make sure to be general and objective in the summary report not calling on any specific Soror, recommendations should be clear and based on procedures
- Detail reports should be constructive and balanced
- Report results sequence: First to Fiscal Officers, then Executive board, then Chapter

Work – Life Balance in Delta

By Soror Tiffany Collins

The ABC's of life gave insight on self-care. Self-care is important in order to achieve the work ... but how do you break down self-care?

- A – awareness ... of your physical body and responsibilities
- B – balance ... prioritize to find your balance in work, personal life and Delta
- C – connectedness ... be connected with the “right” people, not individuals who are withdrawing from you but to people who are depositing into you.

A QUESTION FOR SORORS WHO ATTENDED OUR MW REGIONAL CONFERENCE

By Soror Beverly Westbrook

Sorors, of all the photos you took (and posted to social media), were any of them pictures of the bags of items collected as our Region's donation to the Cincinnati area women?

I'll be the FIRST to admit that I DID NOT...I saw and 'liked' the photo of this donation posted on our Official Sorority Facebook page.

This scenario is my big takeaway from the "*Branding Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc--How Local Chapters and Members Shape the Brand*" Session that I attended. We must protect our Sorority's brand (public service as a priority) by making sure that it (public service) is visible, especially on social media.

Sorors, please do the following:

- 1) If you did snap a picture of those donated items that were stacked up on display by the Registration area, please post it, and
- 2)

Go to the DST Facebook page, scroll down, and Like and/or Share their post of our public service accomplishment of over 12,000 items donated.

'More than a Survey'

By Soror Beverly Harge

In this workshop, there was open discussion in small groups on the successes and challenges chapter have with programming.

1. Every chapter should plan strategically.
2. The sorority initiatives are in the Red Zone. Awards are based on these programs.
3. Look at long range planning
4. Where can you collaborate with other organizations for larger impact, cost sharing?
5. Use a logical approach.
6. Suggestions to evaluate your program:
 - a. Survey Monkey
 - b. Evaluation Team
 - c. Survey participants, collaborators, Sorors
 - d. Be Hones

Who's Job Is It Anyway?

By Soror Beverly Harge

Presented by Members of National Leadership Academy

1. The workshop started with a discussion of what is a leader and what is leadership in Delta Sigma Theta.
2. Governing documents that chapters use:
 - a. State Law
 - b. Constitution and Bylaws
 - c. Ritual
3. President-
 - a. Signs all contracts. Committee chairs are not bonded and do not sign contracts.
 - b. Some chapters have an attorney review all contracts before the president signs.
 - c. Suggestion was to include this in P&P.
4. Recording Secretary-
 - a. The custodian of all records for the chapter.
 - b. Official minutes
 - c. Official vote
 - d. Maintains all committee reports
 - e. Records should be housed where secretary has access.
 - i. Legible
 - ii. Never reflect secretary's opinion (record the facts)
 - iii. Actions taken by the chapter.
5. Corresponding Secretary-
 - a. Nothing goes out without President's approval.
 - b. Maintains documents received
 - c. Creates ads
 - d. Refrain from sending sensitive Delta material including financial reports.
 - e. Use personal vs. business email.
 - f. Follow Delta internet guidelines.
 - g. Record retention process should be in P&P. Procedures in 'Hot Off The Press' 2015.
6. Parliamentarian
 - a. Advises the President
 - b. No abstention in DST. Silence is consent.
7. Committee Chair
 - a. Appointed by President
8. Programming
 - a. Should be ambitious and realistic.
 - b. Based on community conditions and predictions for the future.
 - c. Clearly defined.
 - d. Access-community needs, resources, joint programs.
 - e. Implementation, evaluation tools, develop recommendations.

Reflections

By Soror Sharon M. Floyd

48th Midwest conference was outstanding. I had an opportunity to reconnect with Beta chapter Sorors, Sorors that I have met over the years as well as meeting many others. Overall it was a wonderful conference.

Overview of sessions attended

Back to the Basics- Honoring our Past and Preserving our Future - Ritual and Ceremonies

It is very important that Sorors realize the sacredness of Delta Sigma Theta Ritual and ceremonies. Therefore, before any ceremony takes place it is imperative that ALL participants are familiar with the procedures that are to take place.

KEY COMPONENTS

REHEARSE
IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE MUSIC
READ OVER MATERIALS PRIOR TO EVENT
ATMOSPHERE AND EXECUTION IMPORTANT
ALL SORORS ARE PARTICIPANTS
DO NOT ADLIB – DO CEREMONY AS OUTLINED
NO ONE ENTERS LATE
REVIEW LIST OF PROPERTIES AND HAVE AVAILABLE,
ALSO REVIEW TABLE DIAGRAM
CLEAN ALL PROPRERTIES BEFORE AND AFTER
CEREMONY
HAVE EXTRA CANDLES
REDEDICATION CAN BE HELD ON FOUNDERS' DAY OR AFTER
SORORITY MEETING ONLY (NOT AT WHIM OF MEMBERS)
SORORS ARE TO REMAIN SEATED FOR PROCESSIONAL,
STANDING FOR RECESSIONAL
SIGMA IS LIT FROM BACK OF SYMBOL (LEFT OF RIGHT)
ATTIRE – NO PANTS (SEE PAGES 19-22)
ALL SORORS ARE DUE OMEGA OMEGA SERVICE, EXCEPTION,
EXPELLED
IF FAMILY DOES NOT WANT OMEGA OMEGA SERVICE,
RESPECT WISHES OF FAMILY. HOWEVER, A PRIVATE OMEGA
OMEGA SERVICE CAN BE HELD AT END OF SORORITY
MEETING.

What every Delta should know -Protocol and tradition

Protocol and tradition manual has not been updated since 2014. Can be downloaded from website. Many questions asked about appropriate and acceptable dress.

Ecumenical service

There is power in God's purpose (Exodus 2:1-10), provision (Ruth 2:12) and presence (Luke 1:26-38)

Self Care

By Tammie Gillespie

- Take time for yourself
- Focus on your personal goals
- If certain programs aren't working, don't continue to do them.

Reflection

By Soror Deborah Williams

I found the choir participation to be a task but to be such a spiritual experience as well. I attended the financial officers training and the material was truly in depth. The chain of command of monies is very specific. Going to regional after not being in attendance for such a long time, revitalized my love for the work of Delta. It is my intention to do as many duties in our local chapter as I can physically handle. What a great time of learning and fellowship.

Workshop Notes

By Soror Michelle Vasquez

Working in partnership with DREF-

1. Service portfolio consists of Community Empowerment Grants, Scholarships, Educational programs, DTEC/TAG, Research on African American Women, Chapter Technical Assistance, Health, Fund Management
2. We can appoint a chapter liaison to interact with DREF (I would love to be the liason
3. We can receive grant funds for charitable & educational activities in Delta with our chapter

Leading with Purpose: Lessons in leadership fireside chat

1. Former Past Presidents shared several nuggets of wisdom of their experiences in Delta and recommended the Leadership academy and doing chapter retreats and invite speakers.
2. Most important aspect is sisterhood is Love. Making sure everyone has a voice and that everyone feels included.
3. All of the past Presidents were full of helpful guidance during Q&A session. It was totally inspiring!

Opening Session

By Soror Karen Lawrence-Webster

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. - Midwest Regional Conference
Plenary I

Midwest Choir - O Happy Day

118 Voting Delegates at the Opening Ceremony

August 16, 2018 – Credential Committee

24 Executive Board Members

4 Past President

0 Honorary Members

111 – Voting Delegate

97 – Alternate Delegate

1,218 – Non-Voting Delegates

142 – Host Chapter

17 Delta Staff

1751 – Total Deltas

8 – Staff

137 – Program Participants

6 – Press

109 – Exhibitors

1,861 – Grand Total

Password – DSTSoul

Past National Presidents – Sorors Marcia Fudge, Louise Rice, Cynthia Butler McIntyre and Paulette Walker

Regional Director Report – Soror Mona Davenport

The Five Disfunctions of a Team – book read for her team
SEFirst Series
New Chapters

DePaul University

Toronto, Canada

National President and CEO Soror Beverly E. Smith

Lost of 2 past presidents on the same day – big shoes

Social Action

Waffle House shooting

Charolettesville VA

Gun Violence press conference – view by 55,000

United Nations televised session

Ipad registration process – efficient process

Share with inactive Deltas what is going on in Delta

- 11,700 reclaimed last fiscal year

- 80,000 have never become active after initiation

Financial Strategy

Share financial status on a quarterly basis

2016/2017 - 43,419 dues paying and 61,190 Life

- Need financial help from life members

National Convention will be 4 days (Thursday – Sunday)

Volunteer Soror Attorneys

Reduce the size of Executive Board - 76 to 47

Subcommittees to focus on specific initiatives

Chair structure are subject matter experts

OUR COMMITMENT TO DST IS NOT TO A POSITION

I Will Rise Up – National President's song