



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

Alpha Kappa Omega



Meeting Minutes ♦ June 18, 2016

The Basileus, Soror LaDonna Harris, called the June 18, 2016 regular meeting of the Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated to order at 11:03 a.m. at The Power Center, 12401 South Post Oak Road, Houston, TX 77045. The meeting was attended by 286 sorors.

Meditation/Prayer: Soror Melba Henry, Chaplain, delivered a meditation and prayer on paying homage to fathers.

Update on “Challenged” and “Bereaved” Sorors: Soror Harris reported on “challenged” and “bereaved” sorors asking members to continue praying for them and their families. Soror Diana Stobaugh mourns the loss of her mother, Mrs. Ruth Davis and the funeral services are at 11:00 a.m. on June 18, 2016, at Unity Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. Soror Willie Mae Evans mourns the loss of her brother, Mr. Leroy Henry, Jr. He is the uncle of Soror Pamela Evans and Soror Michelle Evans Smith and funeral services are at 11:00 a.m. on June 18, 2016, at the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Beaumont, Texas. Soror Greta Mitchell and Soror LaShane Eaglin mourn the loss of their aunt, Mrs. Helen Boutte. Funeral services are on June 18, 2016 in Opelousas, Louisiana. Soror Imogene Felder mourns the loss of her first cousin, Lela Holland, in the recent floods. The brother of Soror Yolanda Murdock is critically ill.

Introduction of the Hostess Committee: Soror Karen Allen, Chairman of the June Hostess Committee, recognized all hostesses serving the chapter today. Soror Lucy Bremond and Soror Davida Boling served as Co-Chairmen. The June service project focused on Target I, One Million Backpacks and school supplies for Boule. Backpacks can be purchased today.

Soror Allen also reported that a quorum was established for the meeting.

Introduction of Visiting Sorors: Soror Thedrial Jackson, Chairman of the Courtesy Committee, introduced Extraordinary Pearls of the chapter and welcomed five visiting sorors to the meeting.

Approval of Agenda: Soror Harris presented the meeting agenda, noting a change from the Bylaws Committee report to Report of the Parliamentarian. The agenda, as modified, was adopted without objection.

Reading of the Rules: Soror Lucy Anderson, Parliamentarian, presented the special rules of order related to debate that were adopted in December 2005 to govern all chapter meetings.

Approval of the Minutes: Soror Cherise Story reported that minutes of the May 21, 2016 chapter meeting were previously distributed and no corrections were received. The minutes were approved as distributed.

OFFICER REPORTS

Correspondence: Soror Staci Taylor Fullmigher, Epistoleus, presented the Correspondence Report. Cards were received from nine sorors, as listed in the Correspondence Report, thanking the chapter for cards, text messages, emails, ivy plants and the love shown during their time of need or celebration. In addition, Soror Natalie Carrol thanked the chapter for expressions of sympathy on the loss of her sister, Soror Patrice Carroll Lockett. Additional communications also detailed in the Correspondence Report included the following. 1) The Education & Charities Foundation of Houston announced establishment of the Horace W. Grays and Charles E. Grays Scholarship for Excellence in Community Service and requested support in the form of tax deductible donations. 2) The Blue Triangle Multicultural Association will host its 2016 Living Legends Luncheon at the Power Center at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 24, 2016. Sorors Beverly Dancer, Varnita Reed, Maudie Reece, Dr. Fennoye Thomas and Vinnie Traylor will be honored. 3) Julia F. Thompson, Inc. will host the Pink on the Green golf tournament on October 7, 2016, at the Quail Valley Golf Club. 4) The chapter is invited to attend the annual Founder’s Day service at University Christian Church at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 17, 2016. Dr. Jonita Wallace Reynolds, Soror and CEO of Gulf Coast Community Services, will deliver the message.

Soror Marsha Penn followed up on the announcement of the Horace W. Grays and Charles E. Grays scholarship by making a motion that the chapter donates \$500 to the Excellence in Community Service scholarship. **The motion carried.**

President's Report: Soror Harris reported on the following items.

- Sorors attending the Boule should email their contact and hotel information to Soror Karen Aubrey, Anti-Basileus, for emergency purposes.
- Sorors were instructed to pick up 2016 financial cards at the Finance table. They will be needed at Boule.
- Boule attire will be available for pick up after the chapter meeting today.
- Three sorors were honored as Sorors of the Month. Soror Thearodesia Williams and Soror Mary Barnett were recognized for going above the call of sisterhood including working in the Houston heat with a can-do spirit to ensure that Acts of Green activities were executed. Soror Laura Allen was honored for leading the Lifelong Learning summer program benefiting children at Woodson Elementary with energy and excitement for the past two years.

Treasurer's Report: Soror Lisa Brooks, Tamiouchos, presented the following reports for the period ending May 31, 2016: *Comparison of Budget to Actual; Statement of Financial Position; Monthly Bank Reconciliation; and Outstanding Checks.* Chapter assets as reported in the *Statement of Financial Position* are listed in the chart below.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - ASSETS			
Chapter Operations	\$97,866.00	Housing	\$79,282.88
Grants and Self-Sustaining	\$90,526.77	Savings	\$19,150.22
TOTAL ASSETS			\$286,825.87

The Finance Committee met in May and will meet again in August to review the 2016 budget and prepare the 2017 budget. Budget request forms were emailed to Committee Chairman and are available for download from the chapter website. Completed forms should be returned to the provided email address by July 15, 2016.

During the 84th South Central Regional Conference sorors were informed of a proposed budget increase that will be voted on at the 2016 Boule. A \$35 per capita increase will be requested for each graduate and general member soror. A \$25 per capita increase will be requested for each undergraduate soror. The increases are to enhance the corporate office technology system, increase corporate office staffing, establish a Boule Funding account supported by \$5 of the per capita dues increase from each soror, and fund ongoing maintenance of the corporate office. The Finance Committee voted in favor of the Boule budget proposal in its May 15, 2016 Finance Committee meeting.

Soror Harris asked the chapter if there were any objections to suggesting that chapter delegates to the Boule vote in favor of the proposed increase. No objections were presented and the proposal was accepted. Soror Mattelia Grays, 18th Supreme Basileus, addressed the membership to inform sorors that Alpha Kappa Omega would be the first chapter to benefit from the establishment of the Boule Funding account.

Financial Secretary's Report: Soror Erica Moore, Pecunious Grammateus, presented the *Financial Summary Report* as of May 31, 2016. Funds of \$6,493.83 were collected during the month resulting in a total of \$180,452.67 collected year-to-date.

Executive Committee: Soror Sheri Cole, Anti-Grammateus, presented the report of the Executive Committee, which met at The Power Center on June 15, 2016, at 6:30 p.m., with 31 Executive Committee members and Committee Chairmen present. The Executive Committee recommended that the chapter: 1) support the Blue Triangle annual Living Legends Luncheon by purchasing a souvenir journal full page ad for \$150. Sorors to be honored from Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter are Soror Beverly Dancer, Soror Fennoye Thomas, Soror Vinnie Traylor, Soror Varnita Reed, and Soror Maudie Reece. - **Recommendation Passed** 2) support Storm Recovery Houston by donating \$500 to storm victims. The donation will be taken from the license plate fund. – **Recommendation Passed**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AKA One Million Backpacks Committee: Soror Terrie Tillman, Co-Chairman, reported that the committee partnered with the Lifelong Learning Committee on June 9, 2016 at Woodson K-8 by donating and distributing over 50 backpacks. The Committee met its goal of 270 backpacks for Boule. Backpacks received today as part of the service project will be added to that number. Volunteers were requested to assist with backpack distribution over the summer at the Church Without Walls on August 13, 2016 and at Windsor Village on a date to be determined in August 2016. An eBlast will be disseminated with additional information. Soror Lucy Bremond assisted in development of a special offer for targeted backpack giving for specific purposes. Under the program sorors may donate backpacks to churches, schools or other organizations of their choice at a cost of \$2.75 per pack or \$66 per case. Order forms are available on the tables and can be turned in today or by July 5, 2016. Sorors will be notified when backpacks are ready for pick-up.

Report of the Parliamentarian: Soror Lucy Anderson, Parliamentarian, presented ten amendments endorsed by the Directorate that will be voted on at the Boule. Forums were held at each 2016 Regional Conference to discuss the proposed amendments and to answer questions. The Directorate asked for reading of and voting on the amendments at chapter meetings to provide direction for chapter delegates voting at the Boule. Included in the meeting packet is a cover letter dated April 2016 from the Supreme Basileus and Supreme Parliamentarian attached to a document containing the proposed amendments. Soror Cherise Story moved that the recommendation from the Parliamentarian and also the Directorate requesting that the Chapter instructs its delegates to vote "yes" on each of the 10 proposed amendments be adopted. **The motion was accepted.**

Entertainment Committee: Soror Nedra Washington, Chairman, reported that at the request of senior sorors the committee is hosting a free bus trip to the Couthatta Casino on Saturday, June 25, 2016. The bus will leave at 8:30 a.m. from the Food Town parking lot located at 8800 W. Sam Houston Parkway, and will return at 7:00 p.m. Interested sorors must see Soror Allonie Moncriste today and sign-up for the event. Family and friends are invited. The next event will be a tour of the Dionisio Winery in Pearland, Texas on Saturday, July 30, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person to be paid at the winery. Contact Soror Camilla Jackson to sign-up. An event is being planned for December 2016 and details are forthcoming.

Global Impact Committee: Soror Chrisite Newsome, Chairman, reported that one of the international service projects for Boule is to donate 29,000 pillowcase dresses to young girls in Africa in partnership with Africare and Little Dresses for Africa. The chapter plans to present 600 pillowcase dresses for the service project. All sorors are asked to participate in the Ribbons and Bows dressmaking parties that will be held at the Hiram Clark Multi Service Center on June 21st, 25th and 29th. Other ways to support this project are to donate fabric, sewing supplies, ribbons, bows and pillowcases. Please contact Soror Newsome if dresses are being sewn at home so they can be included in the final count. Several dresses were displayed at sorority meeting for sorors to view the beautiful results of this project. Further information is detailed in the committee report. Soror Darlene Johnson requested scheduling a sewing party in a more centralized location for sorors living in other parts of the city. It was recommended that sorors who are unable to attend existing events make a donation to a soror who is able to attend or sew dresses at home for their donations.

HBCU Committee: Soror Monica Baynard, Chairman, reported that at the April 2016 chapter meeting, \$231.67 was collected for Huston-Tillotson in addition to an \$8 Think HBCU receipt and checks totaling \$259 for a total of \$499 collected to Effect Change at the university. In May 2016, \$1,800 was donated directly to Southern University. The chapter has 9 GEMS: six Diamond, one Emerald and two Pink Topaz. The next event is the Think HBCU Forum and College Fair that will be held in partnership with the Fountain of Praise Church in September 2016. The Think HBCU Spirit and Pride Pep Rally held on May 6, 2016 generated \$648. Over \$120 in prize money was donated to the schools giving the most contributions so far this year. Fisk, Wiley and Grambling University were the first, second and third place winners, respectively. At the event, over \$25,000 in receipts were received from sorors that had already made donations directly to their HBCU, largely from Fisk University. Sorors were thanked for their generous donations. In addition, Soror Angela Price, Soror Beverly Dancer, Soror Shelly Smith and JMS Promotions were thanked for the prize donations. In 2016, the chapter will contribute \$44,939 toward the sorority-wide goal to raise \$2 million for the HBCU campaign by June 2016. Soror Baynard was proud to report that the total chapter contribution for the campaign, which ran from September 2015 to June 2016 total, is \$74,364. The Committee participated with the Lifelong Learning program by sharing information about HBCUs. At the request of Soror Elnora Flewellen, Soror Baynard will provide a detail of the amounts contributed to all schools during the corporate HBCU initiative to raise \$2 million and it will be published online. In response to a question from Soror Gwendolyn Brinkley, 23rd South Central Regional Director, Soror Baynard explained that the GEM program pertains to donations made online to the '08 Campaign. It does not include donations made directly to an HBCU. The committee will discuss changes in the GEM program guidelines for recognition of all HBCU donations. Further information is detailed in the HBCU Committee report. The next committee meeting is June 23, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. via teleconference.

Health Committee: Soror Janice Chilton, Co-Chairman, reported that the committee will host its final Community Impact Day, the *Longest Day*, on June 20, 2016 to acknowledge the efforts of caregivers attending Alzheimer's disease patients. The chapter will partner with the Alzheimer's Association at their facility. All sorors were requested to log into the Alzheimer's Association website, www.alz.org/aka, and sign-up for activities. The committee appreciates any amount of time sorors can volunteer. An agenda detailing activities for the day is in the Health Committee report. The book discussion of *Before I Forget* by B. Smith and Dan Gasby, spearheaded by Sandra Wiley, is a sold out event.

Leadership Academy Committee: Soror Karen Grays, Chairman, presented information on the inaugural Leadership Development Summit, "Reaching New Dimension of Leadership, Finding the Leader in You!" It will be held at Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law on Saturday, October 1, 2016, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sorors were invited to submit proposals for roundtable discussions and forums designed to enhance the leadership and organizational skills of attendees. Sorors were reminded that their awesome expertise should be shared with the chapter.

An inspiring keynote speaker will address attendees and all attendees have the opportunity to participate in three breakout sessions. A detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) is attached to the committee report, placed on meeting tables and will be distributed by chapter eBlasts. RFPs should be submitted by midnight July 22, 2016. All Leadership Academy Committee members stood for recognition as resources to contact with questions and concerns. Special thanks to curriculum team leaders, Soror Karen Aubrey, Soror Tishauna Washington (Committee Co-Chairman), Soror Betty Merritte-Williams and Soror Marsh Penn.

Housing Committee: Soror Elnora Flewellen, Chairman, presented the committee report indicating that the chapter has three options on how to proceed. 1) Do nothing and continue to fill the pockets of another business because it's easy, comfortable and convenient. 2) Reflect on where we could have been if we had pushed past our fears 15 years ago and wish that we had made a different decision. 3) Make a decision that the time has come for the chapter to move forward after 88 years. Sorors were referred to the Housing Committee report to review the vision of the committee, the balance in the housing fund, which was \$79,279.65 on January 1, 2016, and the rationale for active engagement of the Housing Committee. The 2016 budget for hospitality is \$99,000. Through April 2016, \$47,431.44 was spent, an average of \$11,857 per month. The Housing Committee recommended an increase in the current housing assessment included in chapter dues from \$5 annually to \$60 annually, the equivalent of \$5 per month. The budget increase would raise approximately \$36,000 per year based on 600 members, or \$108,000 over a three year period. There were several questions for clarity and discussion on the effect of the increase given the proposed per capita increase that will be voted on at Boule, whether approval of the recommendation will be an automatic increase in the 2017 Budget, an option to have assessment checks written to the Foundation for tax deductibility, and the timeframe, type of property and amount of money envisioned that will be needed. A motion was made to postpone indefinitely the Housing Committee recommendation. A standing vote was taken and the motion to postpone indefinitely passed.

Lifelong Learning Committee: Soror Laura Allen, Chairman, announced that 50 sorors participated in the Lifelong Learning Summer Literacy program held June 6, 2016 through June 9, 2016 at Woodson Leadership Academy. The IEACF was thanked for a monetary donation to purchase books. Sorors donated over 200 books for the book fair. In addition, Final Four mini backpacks were given to the 51 students who participated. The Houston Public Library made available the technology bus for students to read and participate in hands-on activities. The HISD bookmobile allowed students to take home one fiction and one non-fiction book. There was collaboration with the HBCU, One Million Backpacks, Connection and Global Impact Committees. Special thanks to Soror Beverly Dancer for obtaining many goodies from TSU; Soror Deidra Fontaine and Soror Tabatha Westbrook for Prairie View A&M donations; and Soror Ruth Robbins for University of Houston – Downtown donations. Soror Lucy Bremond worked with TSU to sponsor a bus for a tour of the campus. Soror Shirlette Milton was a catalyst for the tour and gave a presentation on local African Americans in Black history. More details of the program are documented in the committee report.

In response to a question raised during the Housing Committee report, Soror Harris read definitions from *Roberts Rules of Order* to differentiate between the motions to *Lay on the Table* and to *Postpone Indefinitely*.

Membership Committee: Soror Mary Smith Johnson, Chairman, reported that the committee met to plan and discuss the chapter retreat. The theme is the "Pink Print – Building & Strengthening the Bonds of Sisterhood." The retreat will be held on August 6, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Suites Houston Galleria. The cost of the retreat is \$45. A Friday night social is scheduled for August 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. and the cost is \$27. Tickets can be purchased today through July 29, 2016. Event Bright will be set-up for ticket sales. All hotel rooms are suites and cost from \$80.73 for single occupancy to \$104.13 for a quad. Refer to the Membership Committee report for additional details addressing activities, tickets and hotel rooms.

Nominating Committee: Soror Nedra Washington, Co-Chairman, reported that nominations for 2017 officers will be accepted by any member of the Nominating Committee after approval of the 2016 Election Guidelines. All positions open for 2017 officers, and the names of Nominating Committee members are detailed in the committee report. The Nominating Committee report was approved as presented.

Graduate Advisor's Report – Omicron Gamma: Soror Faye Phillips reported that Omicron Gamma sorors were invited to celebrate the birthday of charter member Gloria Melton on May 30, 2016. Viola Butler Scholarship recipients Soror Amanda Trinity, Soror Sania Broom and Soror Bryshanna Curtis spoke to high school scholarship recipients on May 1, 2016 about the college educational experience. Soror Amanda Trinity won the first place award for Best Graphic Designer at the University of Houston Art Show. Five Omicron Gamma sorors will attend the Boule. Little Dresses for Africare pillowcase dresses and backpacks will be donated in support of Boule service projects. Tokens of appreciation were distributed to the Graduate Advisory Council.

Announcements: Sorors Staci Taylor Fullmigher made the following announcements.

1. The Xi Alpha Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will host the Ultimate Pink & Green Caribbean Day Party, Saturday June 25, 2016, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Belvedere. Contact Soror Amie Francis at atfrancis@yahoo.com.
2. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Epsilon Tau Sigma Chapter is hosting its second annual Steppers Cabaret Saturday July 16, 2016 at the Northside Columbus Club. Contact Kenyetta House at kay*1922@gmail.com.
3. The next 2018 Boule Invitational Presentation rehearsal will held on Sunday, June 26, 2016 at Texas Southern University Health and Physical Education Building.
4. The AAU Junior Olympics is celebrating its 50th anniversary and organizations are invited to provide volunteers as support. Interested parties should contact Soror Fullmighter to obtain specific information regarding volunteer opportunities.

Other Announcements were as follows.

1. Soror Beverly Dancer announced that President Barack Obama named a post office in New Orleans after her cousin, Officer Daryle Holloway, who was slain in the line of duty.
2. Soror Janice Warner announced chapter directories are available for pick-up at the back of the room. They will be given to sorors that do not have access to the internet. Other sorors may purchase a directory for \$10.

Rituals Committee: Soror Helen Houston, Chairman, informed the chapter about changes in the Ivy Beyond the Wall ceremony that were presented at the Regional Conference Rituals workshop. Soror Houston led a demonstration of the revised ceremony enacted by a group of sorors.

Soror Shawn Simmons presented an announcement about EAF raffle tickets available for purchase by the membership after the meeting. The grand prize is a 24 month lease of a Mercedes Benz. Other prizes included jewelry, a hotel stay in San Francisco, Marriott hotel drawings, a \$500 Visa gift card and an AKA luggage set. The cost is \$25 per ticket or five tickets for \$100.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Birthday Recognitions: Soror Davita Boling recognized sorors celebrating June and July birthdays. The chapter serenaded them by singing happy birthday.

Soror Harris announced that Boule attire is available and chapter t-shirts may be picked up today from Soror Chantay Morris and Soror Evelyn .Holloway, respectively.

Adjournment: Soror Harris adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Submitted By:



J. Cherise Cade Story
2016 Grammateus



LaDonna H. Harris
2016 Basileus

Please contact Soror Cherise Story via email at kes691@aol.com by September 14, 2016 with any suggested corrections.