



# Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated

Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter ♦ Houston, Texas

MINUTES ♦ NOVEMBER 19, 2011

The Basileus, Soror Tamara Cubit, called the November 19, 2011, regular meeting of the Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, to order at 11:00 am, at The Power Center, 12401 South Post Oak Road, Houston, TX 77045.

**Adoption of Rules:** Soror Rita Roberts presented the rules governing all chapter meetings. A motion was made to adopt the rules; the motion carried. Soror Roberts provided the following parliamentary tip: for ballot votes, a Tellers Committee is appointed by the Basileus; collects and counts the ballots; presents the voting results and provides a copy of the report to the Basileus, without declaring the winners. The Basileus reads the report into the record, identifies, and declares the elected candidates. A protocol tip was provided; the order of rank must be followed when positioning sorors for photographs, pursuant to the official Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Protocol Manual.

**Meditation/Prayer:** Soror Cubit asked the chapter to pray for Soror Barbara Roberts and family. Soror Margie Taylor provided a meditation and prayer.

**Approval of Agenda:** Soror Cubit moved for approval of the agenda, with the following correction: add the word "Report," after "Treasurers;" the motion carried.

**Update on "Challenged" Sorors:** Soror Tamara asked the body to continue to pray for "challenged" sorors and their families. Sorors Cubit also asked sorors to keep the following sorors and their families in prayer: Maurie Carpenter, Willie Mae Evans, and Lillie Allen.

**Hostess Committee/Service Project:** Soror Martina Judge recognized the members of the November Hostess Committee. Soror Ashley Kellum reported that the committee will collaborate with the Health Initiative Committee; sorors are requested to donate an unwrapped "green" toy at the December 18, 2011, sorority meeting. Toys will be donated for the "Santa at the Ensemble" event.

**Introduction of Visiting Sorors:** Soror Cheryl Mitchell recognized the chapter's distinguished sorors, and welcomed all visiting, transferring and reactivating sorors. Two special guests of Soror Polly Turner were also recognized; Soror Lucretia Payton Stewart, former South Atlantic Regional Director and Supreme Parliamentarian; and, Soror Caroline Lattimore, former Mid-Atlantic Regional Director.

## OFFICER REPORTS

**Approval of Minutes:** Soror Karen Grays moved for approval of the Saturday, September 17, 2011, meeting minutes, as printed. The motion carried; the minutes were approved.

**Finance:** Soror Paulette Frederick, presented the following reports, for the period ending October 31, 2011: *Comparison of Budget to Actual; Statement of Financial Position; and, Monthly Bank Reconciliations Monthly Financial Statement.* Soror Frederick reported that the "hospitality" budget line item will experience a shortage of approximately \$10,000; based on the fact that hostess fees, included in chapter dues, are insufficient to cover the actual cost of meals. This shortage will be absorbed by carry-forward funds from 2010 in the amount of \$10,000.00. A motion was made to refer the above-referenced reports for audit; the motion carried.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION -- ASSETS			
Chapter Operations	90,868.13	Savings	19,085.89
Grants and Self-sustaining	27,069.04		
Housing	65,251.47	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$202,274.53</b>

**Correspondence:** Soror LaDonna Harris presented the Correspondence Report. The chapter received "thank you" cards from: Sorors Teresa Bolden, Lillian Bourgeois, Judy Hampton, Marsha Jackson, and Mable Lewis. Correspondence received are as follows: Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Eta Rho Sigma Chapter, 98<sup>th</sup> Founders Day Scholarship Banquet, January 27, 2012, Hilton Southwest Hotel, 7:00p; Annual National Black Pre-Law

Conference and Law Fair 2011, November 17, 2011; SEARCH Homeless Services, Third Annual Picnic, November 11, 2011; Texas Children's Hospital, request for support; *South Central Regional Reporter*, from Soror Gwendolyn Brinkley; *Varnett Gazette*, from Soror Annette Cluff.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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**Executive:** Soror Karen Aubrey presented the report of the Executive Committee, which met at The Power Center on Wednesday, November 16, 2011, 6:30 p.m., with 20 committee members present. The Executive Committee approved the following recommendations for action: (1) that the chapter supports Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Eta Rho Sigma Chapter and the CAUSE Foundation, Inc., by purchasing a one-half page ad in the amount of \$50.00. A motion was made to purchase the ad in the amount of \$50.00; the motion carried.

**Nominating:** Soror Bianca Anderson presented the Nominating Committee Report. Soror Anderson reminded sorors that the election guidelines and preliminary ballot were presented at the September 17, 2011, chapter meeting.

**Election of 2011 Chapter Officers:** Soror Tamara Cubit provided the following corrections to the ballot: Nominating Committee, "delete" Angel Johnson; "add" Sandria James. Soror Cubit opened the floor for nominations. The candidates ran unopposed for the following positions: Anti-Basileus, Grammateus, Anti-Grammateus, Tamiouchos, Hodegos, Reporter to the Ivy Leaf, Graduate Advisor, Omicron Gamma @ University of Houston-Downtown. Soror Diana Johnson requested to be removed from the ballot for the Anti-Pecunious Grammateus position. Nominations from the floor for the Nominating Committee are as follows: Mary Smith Johnson, and Diana D. Johnson. A motion was made to close the floor for nominations to the Nominating Committee; the motion carried. Sorors were asked to mark their ballots. Soror Karen Grays requested to be informed of who was the first choice for the Graduate Advisors' position for the Gamma Psi chapter. Soror Anderson responded that the names on the ballot are in the order of the undergraduate chapter's preference. Soror Cubit appointed the following sorors to the Tellers Committee: Cheryl Johnson, Chairman, Angel Johnson, Arlene Lawson, Nekeidra Brown, Kesha Bimage, Mae Rose Smith, Nikita Harmon, Dorothy Booker, Elnora Flewellen, and Shannon Smith. The ballots were collected by the members of the Tellers Committee.

**Standards:** Soror Shirley Johnson presented the Standards Committee report. Soror Johnson and the committee provided the 2011 chapter evaluation forms to all sorors present and were requested to complete and return all forms on today's date. Soror Johnson also informed the chapter that the committee is considering alternative methods of issuing the evaluation documents; in order to obtain 100% participation. Soror Cubit informed the chapter that Alpha Kappa Omega was not included in the Fall 2011 Ivy Leaf resulting from the chapter's failure to receive the required percentage of completed evaluations from chapter members. Soror Cubit stressed the importance of chapter members responding appropriately.

**Archives:** Soror Jo-Carolyn Goode presented the Archives Committee report. Soror Karen Grays submitted a nomination form. The committee saluted, "*Pearlific Profiles*," honoring Soror Esther Hamlett Payne "flash-back soror," who served as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Basileus of Alpha Kappa Omega; 13<sup>th</sup> Mid-Western Regional Director; Supreme Parliamentarian; and, Soror Mattelia B. Grays was recognized as the "flash-forward soror." Soror Grays served on numerous chapter committees; served as Basileus, South Central Regional Director, and remains the youngest soror to be elected the Supreme Basileus Elect and Supreme Basileus.

**Finance:** Soror Paulette Frederick submitted the proposed 2012 proposed budget; presented at the September 17, 2011 for consideration. Soror Karen Grays asked how the shortage in hostess fess would be addressed in 2012; based on the shortage reported in 2011. Soror Frederick responded that carry-forward funds would again cover the shortage. A motion was made to approve the 2012 proposed budget; the motion carried.

**Founders' Day:** Soror VeRonique Williams provided the Founders' Day Committee report. The Founders' Day celebration, "Treasures of the Past, Visions of the Future...Unleashing the Power of Leadership," will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2012, at The Power Center: Rededication at 10:00 am, no pants; Luncheon (open to the public) at 11:00 am; tickets \$40 (graduate sorors & guests), \$30 (undergraduate sorors). The attire will be shades of pink and green. The First Supreme Anti-Basileus, Soror Dorothy B. Wilson, will be the guest speaker. No recommendations were presented.

**Membership:** Soror Lillian Bourgeois reminded sorors to participate in the annual Christmas Ornament Exchange at the December sorority meeting. All chapters members are invited to attend the chapter social on Sunday,

December 18, 2011, at Boudreaux's Cajun Kitchen, 3:00-6:00 pm. Meals will be on your own. No recommendations were presented.

**Pan-Hellenic Council:** Soror Darlene Johnson informed sorors that the chapter will again host along with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the Breakfast with Santa activity, on December 3, 2011, Blue Triangle Community Center, 3005 McGowen Street, 7:30 am. The Pan-Hellenic Annual Christmas Dinner will be held on December 12, 2011, Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center. Sorors were asked to volunteer to assist with set up and to attend the dinner. Chapter dues for 2011-2012 will be \$300.00. No recommendations were presented.

**80<sup>th</sup> South Central Regional Conference:** Soror Cubit informed sorors that all members of Alpha Kappa Omega are expected to serve on a regional conference committee; sorors were requested to contact Soror Tamara or the General Chairman, Soror Evelyn Thornton. Sorors were also informed that the Steering Committee discussed the conference attire for members of the Southeast Texas Cluster; blazers are being considered at an estimated cost of \$75-100. Additional details are forthcoming. No recommendations were presented.

**Southeast Texas Cluster Retreat:** Soror Cubit recognized all sorors who attended the cluster retreat. The chapter was recognized and received acknowledgments/certificates from the following: American Heart Association; The Diaper Foundation; and, the Educational Advancement Foundation, Inc., awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,000.00, for the chapter's Emerging Young Leaders ("EYL") Committee. No recommendations were presented.

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### PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORTS

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**Emerging Young Leaders ("EYL"):** Soror Margie Taylor presented the committee report. Soror Taylor informed sorors that only ten sorors signed up to be a mentor; which is insufficient to serve 85 girls. In addition, the girls wrote essays entitled, "Why I Want to be an Emerging Young Leader." The EYL students also expressed their desire for additional tutors in math and reading. No recommendations were presented.

**Global Poverty Initiative:** Soror Clara Cooper thanked sorors for participating in the following activities: National Hunger Awareness—feed the homeless at Bread of Life, September 21, 2011; in recognition of Good Nutrition Month—global poverty walk at Sam Houston Park, November 12, 2011; providing Thanksgiving baskets to five (5) families, November 21, 2011. Volunteers were requested to participate in the "Good Nutrition Tips to the Community-residents of Cuney Homes, Tuesday, November 29, 2011, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. In addition, Christmas lunch will be provided to 50 seniors at the Julia C. Hester House on December 15, 2011, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Soror Cooper requested approval to submit two (2) check requests for The Bread of Life, in the amount of \$100.00; and, the Partnership Walk-Houston, in the amount of \$300.00. A motion was made to approve the report; the motion carried.

**Social Justice and Human Rights:** Soror Sahira Abdool thanked the chapter for agreeing to host the book signing event featuring Ms. Serita Jakes and her new book "The Crossing," which addresses the real issue of domestic violence and the impact on our society on Friday, October 14, 2011, at the African American Library at the Gregory School. The event was a great success. Sorors were asked to participate in the Angel Tree Christmas project, whereby 75-100 children at the Change Happens organization will be provided with a Christmas gift. This project is to support and assist children of incarcerated parents, foster care and/or youth transitioning programs. No recommendations were presented.

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### GRADUATE ADVISOR REPORTS

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**Gamma Psi Chapter:** Soror Mary Smith Johnson reported that Gamma Psi chapter members were extremely busy during the month of October. The chapter participated in the following: book drive for local elementary students; Alpha Phi Alpha picnic, blood drive benefitting the Sickle Cell and Kidney Walk; Texas Southern University homecoming Greek step show; the chapter won first place; and, the Joint Chapter meeting. The chapter also participated in several events during the month of November. Soror Johnson thanked sorors for their generous support during her 4-year tenure as Graduate Advisor.

**Omicron Gamma Chapter:** Soror Pamela Lazard informed sorors that members of the Omicron Gamma chapter partnered with Soror Polly Turner to award the 2012 Dr. Polly Sparks Turner Health/Economic Security Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00, to a deserving student at the University of Houston-Downtown. The recipient must be a full-time, sophomore, junior or senior student, with a GPA of 3.0, or higher. In addition, Omicron Gamma members extended a "thank you" to Soror Tamara Cubit and Alpha Kappa Omega chapter for allowing them to participate in

several program events. Soror Pam also thanked Soror Mary Smith Johnson and members of Gamma Psi for their support and collective efforts over the past year.

**Unfinished Business:** No unfinished business.

**New Business:** No new business.

**Birthday Recognitions:** Soror Pamela Johnson recognized all sorors with November birthdays. Sorors sang happy birthday; each soror was presented a small, token gift.

**Announcements:** Soror LaDonna Harris presented the final announcements.

**Sorority Hymn and Pledge:** Sorors sang the sorority hymn, directed by Soror Clarice Gatlin; accompanied by Soror Ardener Franshaw; and, recited the pledge.

At this point on the agenda, the Tellers Committee report was not yet completed; therefore, Soror Cubit moved to recess the meeting at 1:07 pm; the motion carried.

Soror Cubit called the meeting to order at 1:53 pm, to receive the Tellers Committee report.

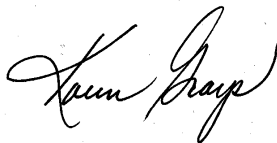
**Tellers Committee:** Soror Cheryl Johnson, chairman, reported the following: ballots issued-299; voting strength-292; disqualified ballots-7. Soror Johnson read the voting results for chapter officers, as follows: ANTI-BASILEUS: **Marianne Walker-243**; GRAMMATEUS: **Karen Grays-250**; ANTI-GRAMMATEUS: **Karen Aubrey-246**; EPISTOLEUS: **LaDonna Harris-234**, Beverly Dancer-43; TAMIOUCHOS: **Paulette Frederick-245**; PECUNIOUS GRAMMATEUS: **Lisa Brooks-98**, Michalyn Demaris-94, Cherise Story-96; ANTI-PECUNIOUS GRAMMATEUS: **Sandra Campbell-107**, Sheri Cole-92, Thedrial Jackson-79; PHILACTER: **Christina Alen-Crowder-199**, Donna Miles-79; HODEGOS: **Cheryl Mitchell-228**; REPORTER TO THE IVY LEAF: **Jeania Mitchell-212**; HISTORIAN: **Nkenge Berry-Owens-144**, Staci Fullmigher-96, Ashley Kellum-46; GRADUATE ADVISOR, GAMMA PSI (TSU): Khalimah Shakir-99, **Jo-Carolyn Goode-150**, Darlene Johnson-29; GRADUATE ADVISOR, OMICRON GAMMA (UHD): **Pamela Lazard-231**.

Soror Johnson read the voting results for the Nominating Committee, as follows: **Bianca Anderson-162**, **Eugenia Cain-186**, **Dorothy Gabriel-118**, **Thedrial Jackson-128**, Trela Landry-Parker-114, **Betty Merritte-Williams-138**, Yolanda Murdock-61, **Angela Williams-165**, Teresa Bolden-34, **Andrea Bonner-153**, Arlene Carter-92, Charvela Fearon-76, Deneen Ford-82, Fanny Hawkins-102, Sandria James-59, Cynae Johnson-81, **Beverly Maddox-120**, Kenya Parks-39, DiAnn Robinson-87, Tracy Warner-100, VeRonique Williams-56, Felicia Wright-52, **Mary Smith Johnson-162**, Diana D. Johnson-104.

Soror Johnson provided a hard copy of the Tellers Committee report to the Basileus; who, in turn, accepted the Tellers Committee report; read the results; and, identified and declared the elected candidates who are denoted in "bold" print above. Soror Johnson provided the ballots to the Grammateus. A motion was made to approve the Tellers Committee report; the motion carried. Soror Cubit introduced the newly elected chapter officers and Nominating Committee members..

**Adjournment:** Soror Cubit adjourned the meeting at 2:01 pm.

**Submitted For Approval By:**



Karen Grays, Grammateus



Tamara Cubit, Basileus

**Please contact the Grammateus, via email at [kyg08@aol.com](mailto:kyg08@aol.com) or call 713.799.8038, by Tuesday, December 13, 2011, with any suggested corrections.**