



## Chapter Meeting Minutes April 17, 2021

**Call to Order/Greeting:** The Basileus, Soror Cherise Story, greeted the chapter and called the April 17, 2021 virtual meeting of the Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated to order at 11:00 a.m. There were **522** sorors who joined by laptop, desktop, tablet or telephone.

**Virtual Meeting Etiquette:** Soror Rhonda Haralson, Technology Committee Co-Chairman, presented virtual meeting etiquette for the day.

**Adoption of the Rules & Parliamentarian Tip:** Soror Veronica Johnson, Parliamentarian, presented virtual rules to accommodate a virtual chapter meeting and the parliamentary tip: A motion to go into or out of executive session is a question of privilege and is adopted by majority vote.

**Approval of Agenda:** Basileus Story announced agenda packets were uploaded to the Members Only section of the chapter website for review. There was one revision to the agenda: Soror Pippa Brown Andrews, Anti-Pecunious Grammateus, would present the Pecunious Grammateus Report. With no objections, the revised agenda was adopted by general consensus.

**Meditation & Prayer:** Soror Charlyn Kyles, Chaplain, gave the meditation on the theme, **Keep the Faith** and requested prayer for:

- Supreme Basileus Glenda Baskin Glover, in the loss of her sister, Soror Rayverne Baskin Wilson.
- The retrieval of the body of the soror/student from Louisiana State University.

### **Basileus Message:**

Basileus Story thanked all sorors who assisted with scrapbook submissions to the 89<sup>th</sup> South Central Regional Virtual Conference. Scrapbook winners will be celebrated at the May 2021 chapter meeting.

### **Basileus Story announcements:**

- Modified Membership Intake Process (MIP) Manual arrived last month. Soror Edwina Johnson, Membership Committee Chairman, completed her observation of Gamma Psi Chapter and is shadowing Epsilon Lambda and Omicron Gamma chapters for their MIP. Soror Johnson and Basileus Story will review the MIP manual. Soror Johnson will bring forward her observations to the Membership Committee and to Alpha Kappa Omega chapter.
- Basileus Story encouraged sorors to make contributions to First Supreme Anti-Basileus Danette Anthony Reed's fundraiser. Donations will be accepted until May 31, 2021. Donations can be made through the chapter's PayPal account or by sending directly to Soror Rayya Carrington, Pecunious Grammateus or to Soror Pippa Brown-Andrews, Anti-Pecunious Grammateus. As of Wednesday, April 14, 2021, the chapter collected \$1,025 for the fundraiser.
- Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter received a letter, dated March 24, 2021, from Soror Michalyn Demaris Porter seeking support from Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter members, via a letter of support, in establishing an interest group to charter a graduate chapter, with service coverage in the Lake Jackson, Freeport, Richwood, Brazoria, Sweeny, West Columbia, Angleton, Danbury, and Liverpool communities of southern Brazoria County. The letter of support should be submitted by April 24, 2021.

**Action Taken:** Soror Jennifer Rachal moved that Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter endorse the potential interest group. Seconded by Soror Andrea Bonner, Anti-Basileus of Operations. Basileus Story asked for any discussion.

### **Hands Raised:**

- Soror Pamela Etienne Branch inquired of the impact the potential interest group has on Psi Mu Omega Chapter boundaries. Basileus Story responded she did not know with specificity the boundaries of Psi Mu Omega Chapter.
- Soror Diana Johnson suggested Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter find out Psi Mu Omega service area boundaries before moving forward to support the interest group. Basileus Story responded that Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter was only being asked to comment on how the interest group impacts our chapter's service area.
- Soror Darlene Johnson commented that she thought Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter had already voted on the interest group at the last chapter meeting. Basileus Story responded that we voted to support a different interest

group during last month's chapter meeting.

- Soror Helen Houston commented the subject interest group would not affect the Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter service area.
- Soror Pippa Brown Andrews commented Brazoria County is a very large, much like Harris County, providing ample room to fulfill service needs.
- Soror Yvonne Jackson reminded sorors the subject interest letter indicated "southern Brazoria county" as the impact service area.
- Soror Jana Williams inquired of what would Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter's support entail. Basileus Story responded the subject interest group is seeking our chapter support to ultimately become a viable chapter. Further, since Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter's service area is Houston, the proposed service area from the subject interest group would not impact our chapter's service area. With no further discussion, Basileus Story called for the vote, requesting sorors to use the **raise your hand** feature.

**In Favor: 261**  
**Opposed: 29**

Basileus Story announced the motion to support the potential interest group passed.

- Houston Independent School District (HISD) will virtually celebrate fifty years of its **Volunteers in Public Schools Programs** on Friday, April 23, 2021. HISD will honor Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter with the **Gold Apple Service Award**, for our chapter contributions to HISD over the years. Only the chapter's executive committee and VSGs have been invited due to the limited capacity at the virtual event.
- As the chapter continues to honor the chapter's past basilei in the newsletter, Madam Basileus encouraged sorors to review this month's feature, **Soror Charlotte Bryant**, to learn of the great service rendered under her administration.

**Introduction of Reactivated & Transferred Sorors:** Soror Allonie Moncriffe, Reactivation Committee Co-Chairman, welcomed reactivated and transferring sorors into the chapter. The names of all reactivated and transferring sorors were displayed virtually on screen during the chapter meeting.

#### **Update on Challenged Sorors:**

Basileus Story requested prayer for the following sorors and their respective families:

- Soror Shalondra Moore, who mourns the loss of her aunt, Ms. Linda Moore.
- Soror Patricia Ingram and family, who mourn the loss of their uncle, Rev. Aubrey Jones of St. Louis, Missouri.
- Soror Pam, Johnson, who grieves the loss of her sister, Ms. Betty Lemond Kuykendall.
- Soror Delores Clark requests healing prayers.
- Soror Clara Dotson, who is hospitalized.
- Soror Helen Harvey, who is rehabilitating at home following a hospital stay.
- Soror Lillie Rollin, who requests prayer.
- The family of the LSU student, whose body has been recovered.

Basileus Story reminded chapter members to reach out to our vulnerable sorors and their families.

**Introduction of Service Project:** Soror Sahira Abdool, Target 3, Building Your Economic Legacy Committee Chairman, announced April 2021 is *Money Month* and thanked sorors for supporting Black-owned businesses throughout the month to include:

- The Food Truck Takeover at The Power Center, April 9-11, 2021 and
- The Sundays on Southmore in Third Ward

To date, Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter has invested \$1,561.23 in Black-owned, food truck vendors, businesses and products. Sorors were encouraged to send receipts from purchases from Black-owned businesses to the committee. Later during the month of April, the committee will share financial facts to help education chapter members on investment strategies to become financially positioned to build their economic legacy.

### **OFFICER & STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Please reference the chapter website for Officer Reports.*

**Approval of the Minutes:** Basileus Story reported the March 20, 2021 chapter meeting minutes were recorded by Soror Susan Bynam, Grammateus, and were uploaded to the Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter website for review.

**Action:** With no corrections or objections, the chapter minutes were adopted by general consensus.

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**Correspondence:** Soror Mary Smith Johnson, Epistoleus, highlighted correspondence printed in the April 2021 correspondence report in the agenda packet.

**Pecunious Grammateus Report:** Soror Pippa Brown-Andrews, Anti-Pecunious Grammateus, presented the Financial Summary Report for the reporting period of March 31, 2021 and provided the following March 2021 highlights: The pecunious grammateus collected \$4,454.84; the anti-pecunious grammateus collected \$1,720.50. Total monies collected for March 2021, \$6,175.34. Total year-to-date for 2021, the pecunious grammateus and anti-pecunious grammateus collected \$117,048.29. Additional highlights included: 2021 per capita: \$1,155; hostess fees: \$1,464; 2021 reactivation and transfer fees: \$1,720.50; 2020 license plate royalties: \$335.50. This report will be referred to the Audit Committee for review.

Additionally, chapter member financial cards will be distributed at The Power Center on April 21, 2021 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on April 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The chapter is in receipt of approximately ¼ of financial cards from recently reactivated and transferred sorors. Old financial cards from previous years will also be available for pickup during the distribution period this month.

**Tamiouchos Report:** Soror Keri Myers, Tamiouchos, provided financial highlights and updates for month-to-date and year-to-date totals for March 2021, including highlights on the Zoom screen for sorors who were unable to download the agenda packet.

INCOME AND EXPENSES AT-A-GLANCE for March 2021		
	March YTD	Year-To-Date
Total Income	\$ 157,240.64	\$271,502.00
Expenses	\$ 102,277.99	\$271,502.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 54,962.65	\$ ---
Balance Sheet		
Total Assets	\$ 510,773.14	
Total Liabilities	\$ 21,443.72	
Total Equity	\$ 489,329.42	
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 510,773.14	
Monthly Bank Reconciliations		
Total Adjusted Bank Balance	\$ 506,910.91	
Outstanding Transactions		
Outstanding Checks	\$ 5,080.92	
Grant and Self-Sustaining	\$ 263.52	

**For the month of March 2021, Soror Myers highlighted the following income and expenses:**  
**INCOME:**

- Membership Dues, in the amount of \$21,388.00
- Total Income: \$21,988.34

This year, the chapter budgeted dues based on 700 sorors. As of April 16, 2021, the chapter has 862 active sorors.

**EXPENSES:**

- HBCU 4 Life – A Call to Action: \$533.16 (HBCU College Fair hosted by the chapter)
- Courtesies: \$1,396.14 (majority of this expense related to the DPGS Celebration forthcoming)
- Room Setup: \$756.84 (February and March 2021 Zoom meeting fee)
- Charity and Appeals: \$2,000.00 (Texas winter storm relief provided to sorors in the chapter)
- Contributions: \$3,000 (Includes \$2,500 chapter donation to Target Hunger and \$500 chapter donation to The Ensemble Theater for the Young Performers Program)
- Regional Conference: \$750.00 (89<sup>th</sup> SCRC delegate registration)
- Electronic Voting Expense: \$1,497.60 (Simply Voting expense for delegate voting and run-off election)
- Total Expenses: \$15,988.99

**NET INCOME for March 2021:** \$5,999.35

• Soror Myers highlighted the monthly bank account reconciliations:

- Operating: \$321,376.88
- Housing: \$120,449.71
- Grant & Self-Sustaining, \$45,910.94
- Savings, \$19,173.58

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**Total Bank Accounts:** \$506,910.91

**Total Accounts Receivable:** \$1,062.50

**Total Other Current Assets:** \$2,799.73

**TOTAL ASSETS:** \$510,773.14

**Total Liabilities:** \$21,443.72

**Total Equity:** \$489,329.42

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY:** \$510,773.14

Soror Myers report will be referred to the Audit Committee for review.

**Executive Committee:** Soror Felicia Wright, Anti-Grammateus, presented an oral report of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter met virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 7 p.m. There were **36** executive committee members, committee chairmen and other members present. The Executive Committee brought forth the following recommendation for ratification:

- The chapter purchase a full-page ad, in the amount of \$250.00, for the Prairie View A&M University 50<sup>th</sup> Alumni Celebration Reunion Memory Book, with funds coming from the publicity budget. Basileus Story called for discussion. None heard. Basileus Story called for the vote.

**In Favor:** 253

**Opposed:** 6

The recommendation to purchase a full-page ad at a cost of \$250.00 for the Prairie View A&M University 50<sup>th</sup> Alumni Celebration Reunion Memory Book was ratified.

**Membership Committee:** Soror Edwina Johnson, Membership Committee Chairman announced the committee met on April 8, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, with 87 members in attendance. Chairman Johnson reported observations from the virtual MIPs and the Modified MIP Manual will be taken to the Membership Committee meeting for discussion. The Membership Committee will attempt to address all chapter concerns and will bring forward any recommendations to the chapter. If any questions, sorors are encouraged to email Chairman Johnson or attend the next Membership Committee meeting on May 7, 2021.

The **Alpha Kappa Omega 2021 Chapter Retreat** will be a two-part event:

- **Friday, August 13, 2021, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.**  
**Pearls, PJs or Paraphernalia, #PartOneI** (sisterly relations activities, fun and entertainment)
- **Saturday, August 14, 2021, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**  
**Reflect, Relax and Rejuvenate in the Alpha Kappa Omega Pink Rose Garden, #PartTwo** (business workshops). Kudos to Soror Lisa Brooks for creating the Save the Date, #Part II event flyer.

## EXCELLENCE IN PROGRAMMING REPORTS

*Please reference the chapter website for Programming Reports.*

**#CAP Signature Program:** Soror Chantule Bacchus, #CAP Committee Co-Chairman, reported the committee met virtually on Thursday, March 25, 2021, with students from Madison High School for the workshop, **Money Management Tips**, led by Soror Bonita Morgan, #CAP Signature Program Co-Chairman and the following presenters: Sorors LaTanya Graham, Erica Moore and Karen Aubrey, along with undergraduate sorors from Omicron Gamma Chapter, University of Houston-Downtown. The workshop provided tips on budgeting and saving money while attending college, and apps were introduced to assist with money management skills.

**Target 1: HBCU for Life:** Soror Janice Argudin, Target 1: HBCU for Life Chairman, reported the committee met virtually by Zoom on March 2, 2021 to discuss the upcoming partnership with the Houston area HBCU College Fair on March 6, 2021. The committee was designated to serve as the hostess group for the event to set up the hospitality suite. For the college fair, the committee provided sandwiches, pastries, coffee chips, fruit, water and juices, via donations, from Chick-Fil-A, Jason's Deli and Panera Bread. Approximately 440 high school students and over 30 colleges participated at the college fair.

**Target 2: Women's Healthcare and Wellness:** Soror Cheryl Duncan, Target 2: Women's Healthcare and Wellness Committee Chairman, reported the committee met by Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on April 7, 2021, with 44 members in attendance, to finalize the chapter's participation with **Sisters Network, Inc. Stop the Silence Virtual**

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**5K Run/Walk** on Saturday, April 10, 2021, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Chairman Duncan reported the committee collected \$8,000.00, which included \$1,000 from the chapter, monies collected from 105 walk registrations, and all donations. Chairman Duncan thanked Soror Lottie Perry for leading the event and all sub-committee members for their efforts and participation. Additionally, during the walk, the committee implemented a Step Challenge for the entire day. Participating sorors are encouraged to take a photo, with their electronic tracking device with steps recorded and email to [akomegahealth@yahoo.com](mailto:akomegahealth@yahoo.com). The top three sorors with the highest number of steps recorded on April 10, 2021 will receive a prize.

#Pretty Vaccinated Campaign Survey closed April 1, 2021. Survey results are as follows: 239 responses (36%), 62% received both doses; 27% received the first dose; 2% considered the vaccine unsafe; 6% are waiting. 77.8% said vaccine was helpful; 8.8 % said vaccine was not helpful; 13.4% said maybe. Chairman Duncan thanked Soror Pamela Cormier for initiating the survey and extended appreciation to the sub-committee members for their support.

**Additional updates:**

- **Women's Health Webinar: May 26, 2021, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**, in collaboration with Omicron Gamma Chapter, University of Houston, Downtown.

**Target 4: The Arts! Committee:** Soror Tracy Warner, Target 4: The Arts! Committee Chairman, reported for Black History Month 2021, chapter members were invited to view, *I Too Am America*, presented by The Ensemble Theatre video on demand, a production exploring historic moments of the African American experience. On Saturday, March 27, 2021, the committee held their virtual Harlem Heritage Book Club event via Zoom, featuring the book of the month, **Bunheads**, by Misty Copeland, detailing Misty's early experience with dance and her love for ballet. Book narration was provided by Anaish Johnson, a student at Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Visual Arts (HSPVA) and Soror Monica Adeeko, who stood in for her daughter, Mariah Adeeko, also a student at Kinder HSPVA. An inspirational video dance performance by Kendall Lockhart, principal ballerina with College Dance Collective in Memphis Tennessee, concluded the event. The committee's next event will be the **Poetry Slam** on May 22, 2021.

**Target 5: Global Impact Committee:** Soror Michelle Lastrapes, Target 5: Global Impact Committee Co-Chairman, reported the committee met at 8 p.m. via tele-conference on March 25, 2021, with 19 members in attendance to discuss final details for:

- **Pillowcase Project:** Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter exceeded goal of 100 dresses for regional conference. Currently, the committee has 300 garments to submit for the 2021 South Central Virtual Regional Conference. Special thanks extended to Soror Andrea Bonner and the Houston Community College Fashion Department for completing 50 shirts and Soror Mary Cureau and her church members for making 20 shorts for boys, in addition to the 70 dresses.
- **Global Impact Day – Drive Thru Food Drive, Friday, April 9, 2021, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.:** Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter, along with sorors from Gamma Psi Chapter (Texas Southern University), Epsilon Lambda Chapter (University of Houston) and Omicron Gamma Chapter (University of Houston - Downtown), hosted a drive-thru food drive for Refugee Services of Texas, collecting more than 700 non-perishable items.
- **World Refugee Day, June 20:** Stay tuned for event updates.
- **Next committee meeting:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 8 p.m. via Zoom conference call.

## Committee Reports

Please reference the chapter website for Committee Reports.

**Courtesy Committee (DPGS Celebration):** Soror Pamela Cormier, Hodegos and Courtesy Committee Chairman, reminded sorors to attend the **Diamond, Pearl, Golden, and Silver Soror Celebration**, to be held on **Saturday, April 24, 2021 at 4 p.m.** via Zoom, as the chapter celebrates, **Service and Sisterhood Over the Decades**, honoring 1 Pearl Soror, 22 Golden Sorors and 27 Silver Sorors, for a total of 50 sorors. Gifts (i.e., sashes, crown and a personal gift from the chapter) were hand-delivered to all chapter honorees. Chairman Cormier thanked the entire planning committee to include: Sorors Cherise Story, Andrea Bonner, Laura Allen, Helen Houston, Tamara Cubit, Anitra Provost, Thearodesia Williams, Angela Price, LaDonna Harris, Mary Ann Donatto, Vickie Windham, Dawn Brown Benjamin, Jo Carolyn Goode (*who developed the video for the event*), Tera Brown Daniels, and Etta Hill.

**Connection Committee:** Soror Shelly Davis Smith, Connection Committee Chairman, reported the committee met on February 2 and March 12, 2021 via Zoom to address and discuss the following action items:

- Registering eligible high school students to vote

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- Hosting a Townhall with Texas legislators to address various house bills, voter suppression attempts and recent redistricting attempts, tentatively scheduled for May or June 2021
- **AKA Day at the Capitol**, held on March 17, 2021, consisted of 105 registered attendees from Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter.
- Local elections are taking place on May 1, 2021, to include the local political subdivisions, i.e., various boards of the municipal utility districts and various independent school districts. Early voting begins on Monday, April 19, concluding on Tuesday, April 27, 2021.
- Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter, in conjunction with Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office will host a Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar (VDVR) Training on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 6 p.m., to become a certified, volunteer deputy voter registrar, as the Connection Committee gears up for the March 2022 primary and the general election in November 2022. Harris County experienced a technical glitch, erasing all persons previously registered for this event. If any soror registered for the training on or before April 15, 2021, please register again for the event, using the link provided in the Connection Committee report.

**NOTE:** Basileus Story also noted the link in the chapter e-blast will is also usable to register for the VDVR training.

**Diamond Pearl Golden & Special Needs Committee:** Soror Anitra Provost, Diamond Pearl Golden & Special Needs Committee Chairman, met twice in the month of March via Zoom:

- **March 9, 2021:** The committee met to discuss the purpose of the committee and to clarify its identity distinction from the committee, Diamond Pearl Golden and Silver Celebration Committee), i.e., to assist, engage and interact with Diamond, Pearl, Golden and Special Needs sorors; to help them navigate Zoom and other digital platforms; and help them feel connected to the chapter and not lost. Soror Lavonda Johnson volunteered to draft a letter of introduction by March 16, 2021.
- **March 23, 2021:** A second committee meeting was held to determine a plan of action and who might need the committee's services. The plan of action consisted of mailing a letter to the Diamond, Pearl, and Golden sorors, introducing the committee member assigned to the soror, including the soror's name and telephone number. Chairman Provost will assign each committee member two to three sorors. Once the introductory letter is approved by Basileus Story, the committee member should first attempt to mail by U.S. mail and email the letter, if possible.

**Next meeting:** April 19, 2021 via Zoom.

**NOTE:** Basileus Story announced a message was received by the chapter from Supreme Basileus Glenda Glover stating the sorority would host its first, combined Boule/Leadership Seminar, virtually, starting on July 12-16, 2021, requiring selection of Boule delegates from Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter.

**Nominating Committee:** Soror Jo Carolyn Goode, Nominating Committee Chairman, reported the committee met on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 via conference call to discuss the process for election of delegates for the 2021 combined Boule/Leadership Seminar. Due to our chapter membership size, Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter is allowed 12 delegates: 6 are automatic, occupied by our chapter leadership (Basileus, 2 Anti-Basilei and 3 Graduate Advisors) and the chapter will vote for 6 sorors for the remaining delegate positions. The Nominating Committee will receive nominations beginning Saturday, April 17 – Friday, April 30, 2021, via email: [nomakomega@gmail.com](mailto:nomakomega@gmail.com). Nominees are asked to submit their full names and headshots by the April 30 deadline. Per the Nominating Committee's new plan to certify nominees, the committee chairman and co-chairman will verify all eligible sorors based on the most updated financial list. All nominees will receive an email to record their acceptance or denial of the nomination. **All eligible nominee names received by Friday, April 23 will be published in the Monday, April 26 chapter e-blast, thereby giving sorors four days to either remove or add their name to the ballot before the final list of candidates is sent to Soror Carolene Goffney on May 1, 2021 to create the final ballot for Simply Voting. To vote, sorors must register and be in attendance at the Saturday, May 15, 2021 sorority meeting. The delegate voting will occur the following Sunday on May 16, 2021 from 12 p.m. until 5 p.m.**

Soror Sheri Cole, Nominating Committee Co-Chairman, read the Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter 2021 Delegate Election Guidelines. Soror Carolene Goffney, Technology Committee Chairman, provided information on how chapter members would proceed with voting through Simply Voting.

#### **Hands Raised:**

- Soror Monica Baynard sought clarification on the dates for nominee submission and publication of the nominees. Soror Jo Carolyn Goode responded that nominations would be taken from April 17 through April 30, 2021. To avoid any errors with candidates presented on the ballot, all nominees received by April 23 will be published in the chapter's April 26 e-blast. However, candidate nominations will still be taken up through April 30, 2021.
- Soror Darlene Johnson sought clarification on Guideline No. 6: A soror shall vote for 6 delegates and 12 alternates. Soror Goode responded that the chapter will only have one ballot, and sorors will vote for 6 sorors for the 6 remaining delegate positions. The 6 sorors who receive the highest number of votes will be the 6 remaining delegates and any of the next 12 sorors in voting order will be alternates.

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- Soror Tishauna Washington provided an addendum to Soror Goode's voting structure: All chapter members must ensure their email address has been synced with the corporate office **prior to the day of voting**. All ballots come from the roster that the corporate office provides to the chapter.

- Soror Lisa Brooks sought clarification on Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter's utilization of financial cards as voter ID numbers for the election process. Soror Goffney responded that the ID number corresponding with the elector ID is a unique ID number, which is the number utilized to identify each soror. No one sees an individual soror's elector ID number upon voting. The chapter is utilizing the corporate office's financial list to solely use as the elector ID to correspond to those sorors who attended the chapter meeting and for no other purpose. Basileus Story commented delegates are known in advance for Regional Conference and Boule, so the corporate office can correspond directly with the soror, with an elector ID, which is randomly selected. Since we do not know who will actually attend chapter meeting, it is imperative a process be in place to identify, with accuracy, attendees at the chapter meeting, such that a ballot can be sent to the attending soror.

**Program Committee:** Soror Laura Allen, Anti-Basileus of Programs and Program Committee Chairman, reported the Parade of Committees was held on April 6, 2021, beginning at 7 p.m., via Zoom, to highlight committee offerings to members of the chapter, including recently reactivated and transferred sorors and those sorors looking to become more active on committees. There were 221 sorors in attendance. Chairman and co-chairmen were creative in their presentations, utilizing music, varied backdrops, slides and movies. Door prizes were given to sorors for correctly answering questions about varied committees. Soror Astria Carter won a Pappadeaux gift card for being the first reactivating or transferring soror to name the committee she planned to join in service.

**Sisterly Relations Committee:** Soror Shanda Provost, Sisterly Relations Committee Chairman, reported the committee met on April 5, 2021 at 6:35 p.m. via Zoom, with 35 sorors in attendance to plan and coordinate sisterly relations activities for the forthcoming months. Meetings highlights included:

- Discussing details regarding the collaboration with the Courtesy Committee in presenting Diamond, Pearl, Golden and Silver Sorors.
- May 2021 Theme: **Flowering Our Legacies**, showcasing legacies by virtual, video tribute. The **data form and photos** for the Legacies Celebration are due **May 3, 2021**.
- In keeping with the Summer theme, Summer Fun in the Sun, the Sisterly Relations Committee will present, **The Masked Soror** on **Saturday, June 26, 2021** via Zoom. All interested sorors must submit a two-minute audition video by May 8<sup>th</sup> to [maskedSOROR1928@gmail.com](mailto:maskedSOROR1928@gmail.com).

As a reminder, the Sisterly Relations Committee meets the first Monday of each month.

### Graduate Advisor Reports

**Gamma Psi Chapter, Texas Southern University:** Soror VeRonique Williams, Graduate Advisor, provided updates on Gamma Psi Chapter activities:

- **Kovergirl...Skee Week Edition**, during March 28, 2021 – April 2, 2021, for students at Texas Southern University
- **Global Impact Day – Drive-Thru Food Drive**, benefiting Refugees Services of Texas, on April 9, 2021, in partnership with Alpha Kappa Omega, Epsilon Lambda and Omicron Gamma Chapters
- **Pillowcase Project**, and its progress with the "Gamma Psi" challenge of completing 100 dresses and 30 shirts for submission to the 89<sup>th</sup> South Central Virtual Regional Conference
- Congratulations to Soror Randy Wright for winning the position, Student Government Association – Student External Affairs Senator for the academic year 2021-22
- Gamma Psi Chapter held Membership Intake, March 21-28, 2021, with great success, announcing **Flight 37: The Layover**. The new initiates were introduced by a video slideshow during the Gamma Psi Chapter report. If interested in serving as mentor to one of the new Gamma Psi initiates, submit your name, phone number and email address of preference to Soror Williams at: [Veronique\\_wms@yahoo.com](mailto:Veronique_wms@yahoo.com)

**Epsilon Lambda Chapter, University of Houston, Central Campus:** Soror Jennifer Rachal, Graduate Advisor, provided updates on Epsilon Lambda Chapter activities:

- Successful virtual rush on March 21 in preparation for the Spring 2021 Epsilon Lambda Membership Intake Process. The chapter looks forward to welcoming and training the new candidates beginning April 18, 2021.
- **Say Yes to the Dress**, a virtual little dressmaking event on Microsoft Teams on March 24, 2021, where Soror Rachal led participants in a "no sew" technique using an iron and hemming tape, placing a huge dent in meeting the Gamma Psi challenge of completing 100 little dresses.

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- **Global Impact Day, Drive Thru Food Drive on April 10, 2021**, in partnership with Alpha Kappa Omega, Gamma Psi and Omicron Gamma Chapters, benefiting the Refugees Services of Texas.
- Epsilon Lambda supported **Sisters Network Stop the Violence 5K Walk**, meeting its goal of \$150 by sharing the chapter's donation link on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.
- Skee-Week 2021: Epsilon Lambda hosted, **Elam PARK**, April 11-17, 2021, filled with innovative activities including a virtual pop-up shop to support Black-owned businesses and a Harlem Renaissance themed game night.

**Omicron Gamma Chapter, University of Houston Downtown:** Soror Dina Williams, Graduate Advisor, provided an update on Omicron Gamma Chapter activities:

- Omicron Gamma will begin the **Membership Intake Process** starting April 18-25, 2021.
- **#CAP Signature Program** at Madison High School, in partnership with Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter, providing money management tips as a college student.
- **Spring Skee-Week, March 29 – April 7, 2021**, dedicated to mental health, with the focus on **Saving SuperWoman** and highlighting areas that cause women daily stress and suggestions on alleviating stress.
- **Global Impact Day, April 9, 2021**, Drive Thru Food Drive, in partnership with Alpha Kappa Omega and Gamma Psi Chapters, benefiting Refugees Services of Texas.
- **Little Dress Project**, Omicron Gamma sorors are sewing little dresses on Saturday, April 17, 2021, to work towards meeting the 100 little dress challenge presented by Gamma Psi Chapter.

**Unfinished Business:** None heard.

**New Business:** Technology Committee acknowledged hands raised.

**Hands Raised:**

- Soror Yvonne Jackson inquired if the chapter would be sending anything to the family of the deceased Louisiana State University student. Madam Basileus responded the chapter can send a sympathy card.
- Soror Lisa Brooks moved that financial cards for members be mailed, the budget for postage be utilized and if that line is depleted, the funds to come from contingencies. Motion was seconded.

**Basileus Story called for discussion.**

- Soror Monica Baynard sought clarification if all cards would be mailed or only those cards of sorors who do not feel comfortable picking up their respective cards, in person. Soror Baynard also requested Tamiouchos to verify if the budget had a COVID line item in place to mail financial cards. Soror Keri Myers, Tamiouchos, confirmed a pandemic task force line item with \$450.00.
- Soror Wendell Robbins proposed financial cards be made available for pick up on the two slated dates and after those two dates, the financial cards be mailed to sorors.
- Soror Keri Myers commented on the potential mishap of all financial cards being mailed and them being lost in transition.
- Soror Diana Johnson commented on the extra expense of mailing out financial cards and suggested a third date be considered for retrieving cards in person.
- Soror Darlene Johnson commented that financial cards can also be printed from the corporate website.
- Soror Jamilla Lloyd sought clarification on the motion. Madam Basileus clarified the motion was to mail financial cards, with cost coming from postage line item or contingencies.
- **Soror Christina Allen-Crowder moved to amend the motion to mail financial cards to those sorors who are unable or unwilling to pick them up, in person. Second to amend the original motion by Soror Andrea Miller.**

**Madam Basileus called for discussion on the motion to amend.**

- Soror Monica Baynard sought clarification from the Parliamentarian if the amendment has to be accepted by the person who made the original motion. Soror Veronica Johnson, Parliamentarian, commented the amendment is a separate motion and there is no need for the maker of the original motion to accept the amended motion.
- Soror Diana Johnson suggested financial cards be mailed only to those sorors who were unable to pick up their cards.

**Action Taken: Basileus Story called for the vote on accepting the amended motion:**

<b>In Favor:</b>	<b>205</b>
<b>Opposed:</b>	<b>43</b>

**The chapter voted to accept the amended motion.**



***Action Taken:*** Basileus Story called for the vote on the amended motion to mail financial cards to those sorors who don't pick them up, with funds coming from postage or the contingency line item.

In Favor: 190  
Opposed: 43

The amended motion passed for financial cards to be mailed to those sorors who don't pick them up.

**Hands Raised:**

- Soror Monica Baynard stated she had comments for discussion, but her hand was not recognized. Soror Baynard commented the pandemic line item in the budget was established by the Finance Committee to mail financial items and should not come from postage or contingencies. Madam Basileus commented the mailing of financial cards would be handled, appropriately.
- Soror Elnora Flewellen commented she sent in two ads on last month to the Epistoleus—one for Soror Mae Jemison's book and the other for Soror Marquette Green Young and was wondering why they were omitted or not announced. Soror Mary Smith Johnson, Epistoleus, responded that she had not received anything. Soror Flewellen commented that she would re-send the ads. Soror Flewellen also requested an update on the Ivy Beyond on the Wall (IBTW) articles for Alpha Kappa Omega. Madam Basileus responded that IBTW articles were being sent to the Ivy Leaf; the chapter was catching up on notifications and to the corporate office and articles to the Ivy Leaf; and a recent article was submitted on behalf of Soror Billie Mayfield to the Ivy Leaf.

**Announcements:**

- Diedra Fontaine, President of the Ivy Educational and Charitable Foundation of Houston, Inc., reminded chapter members to download the Double Good virtual app to set up respective pop-up stores for the ***What's Poppin'*** popcorn, virtual fundraiser starting Thursday, April 22 – Sunday, April 25, 2021. The Foundation will receive 50% of the monies raised to support scholarships for deserving students and community programs. For questions or assistance in setting up pop-up stores, contact Diedra Fontaine at (832) 332-8013.

**Birthday Acknowledgment:** On behalf of the Hostess Committee, Soror Paulette Frederick acknowledged all sorors celebrating birthdays during the month of April 2021. A presentation of names of all sorors celebrating birthdays in April was shown virtually on screen, accompanied with a happy birthday salute by Stevie Wonder.

**Closing Prayer – Pink and Green Prayer Team:** Soror Stacie Hawkins provided closing prayer.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

**Submitted by:**



Susan Bynam  
2021 Grammateus



Cherise Story  
2021 Basileus

Please contact Soror Susan Bynam via email at [Grammateus.AKOmega@gmail.com](mailto:Grammateus.AKOmega@gmail.com) with any suggested corrections.