



National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Incorporated

Alpha News

Parting Thoughts

Volume 6 Issue 4

June 2019



Esteemed Founders
Gladys C. Nunery, Julia A. Barnes, Gladys M. Ross, Florence S. Hunt, Ella W. Butler, Marguerite Gross, Mildred M. Williams
Not Shown- Edna McConnell
**All are in Omega Chapter*

Dear Sorors,

I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude for your support during my tenure as Basileus from 2015-2019. These past four years as your leader have given me the wonderful opportunity to see our chapter continue to grow in membership and sororal responsibilities as we promoted the Y.E.S. Program. The Youth and College Groups; Xinos, Kudos, and KOT have showcased their talents and academic successes continuously each year. Thank you to our Hub Parents and Anthropos who have exceeded our every expectation with their dedication and undeniable support of our youth and Alpha Chapter's sororal activities and scholarships.

We have had many successes. Among them is our Sponsorship of the Lily Pearl Foundation which provides a daily hot meal to over 4,000 students in the After School Program for Jersey City Students. The newly renovated office at 155 Martin Luther King Drive has given us a place to have our monthly meetings and workshops since its Grand Opening in 2015. I was interviewed by Mayor Steven Fulop and his television crew with

questions regarding the 'At Risk' Food Program. What an opportunity for the city politicians and residents in the area to visually recognized the importance of the sorority in the community. Workbooks and Scrapbooks from the Chapter and Youth Groups have proven to be exceptional in awarding them 1st place winners several times.

I have attended the 92nd and 94th Anniversary Conclaves in Winston Salem, NC and Little Rock, AR where we voted for a new Supreme Basileus. I had an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the "Little Rock Nine" marking the 60th Anniversary of the desegregation of the Central High School, and visit the Library of the former President of the United States, Bill Clinton.

Leadership Institutes from the Eastern Regional Conferences and Biennial Conclaves gave me the qualities to understand my role as Leader of the chapter in promoting: Sisterhood, Increasing Membership, and Communicating with sorors not just through e-mail but with conference calls and Zoom.

An opportunity to meet Dr. Sue Henderson, President of New Jersey City University, and Ms. Jane McClellan, Executive Director of the

Alumni Relations. was presented through Soror Mary Ennon's appointment as chairperson of the Florence Steele Hunt Scholarship, at the University. This provided me the privilege of speaking at the NJCU 2019 Commencement as a Fifty Year Graduate.

I am proud that Alpha Chapter has participated and was successful in every required Y.E.S. Program component. Now, let us look forward to a new sororal year with our new Basileus.

It is my hope that we will continue to Participate in all chapter events and meetings, Foster a Spirit of True Sisterhood, Stimulate professional growth, and Support our Youth.



Sisterly,
Gwendolyn L. Jackson
Basileus

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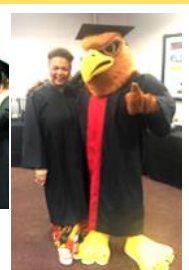
Celebrating Milestones

On Thursday, May 16, 2019 our Basileus, Soror Gwendolyn Jackson celebrated the 50th Anniversary of her graduation from New Jersey City University (NJCU) and Soror Sandra Webster also, celebrated the 50th Anniversary of her graduation from Montclair State University (MSU) on May 23. Both sorors were graduates of the class of 1969 and were invited to march with the 2019 graduating classes.

Soror Jackson was among those invited to speak during the NJCU Ceremony. She provided information on her college experiences in the 60s and gave encouraging words to the graduates.



Soror Jackson in her cap and gown is congratulated by NJCU President Dr. Sue Henderson following her speech and in photo with Ms Jane McMillian, Alumni Relations Director.



Soror Webster in her cap and gown and posing with members of her 1969 graduating class and the MSU mascot.



79th Annual Eastern Regional Conference

On April 25-28, 2019 several Alpha Chapter sorors attended the 79th Eastern Regional Conference at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Richmond, VA-Midlothian with Soror Gwendolyn Jackson, Basileus and Soror Francenia Britton-Sheppert, 1st Anti-Basileus, as Delegates. Hosted by Alpha Zeta Chapter, the Conference Theme: **'Meeting the Needs of the 21st Century Learner'** was carried out in each component of the weekend agenda. The events included the Leadership Institute, Professional Development activities, the Every Member Forum, Educational and Professional Development Workshops, and the Vital Issues Breakfast.

The Officers' and Administrative Workshops provided by Regional Officers and Chairpersons were informative and provided information for current chapter officers, chairpersons and those seeking positions in the future.

Soror Sandra Webster campaigned for the position of Eastern Regional Director. However, Dr. Patsy Squire who ran from the floor won the necessary votes for the position. Alpha Chapter "strutted their stuff" for Soror Webster, though.

The Chapter won 2nd Place for the Read Across NSPDK initiative and 1st Place for its Activity Book. The chapter also received a certificate for being a Red Letter Chapter.



NSPDK, Inc.—Who We Are ...

The **National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.** a 501C3 organization of educators was founded in 1923 by eight young teachers in Jersey City, N J. As a professional institution of educators, the Sorority addresses strong educational issues through numerous programs designed to improve instruction and offer opportunities to scores of young children, youth and adults. NSPDK has sponsored initiatives to assist beginning teachers, support good health habits, promote academic achievement, and preserve African American History.

Membership is open to women holding a degree from accredited colleges or universities who are state certified and actively engaged in the field of education. The Sorority seeks to attract individuals who possess good moral character, exemplify respect for themselves and others and exhibit admirable integrity.

The National Program constitutes the activity center of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. and is carried out by each of the 115 active chapters in the five regions of the United States. The Program, **Youth, Education and Service (Y.E.S.)** provides activities for high school young ladies, Xinos and gentlemen, Kudos, and college students, KOT, entering the education field.

Scholarships are provided to two students entering the education area of study in each of the five regions. Chapters also provide scholarships to qualifying high school seniors entering the area of education. Additionally, all chapters support Sickle Cell Research at Meharry Medical College, in Nashville, TN, Afri-care and the Florence Steele Hunt Endowment at New Jersey City University, in Jersey City, NJ

Celebrating Our Founders' 2019

On May 19, 2019 the members of Alpha Chapter celebrated Founders' Day with sorors from Beta Epsilon, Epsilon Chi, Delta Nu Chapters and Delta Nu's Krinon Club members. Worship service took place at Christ Episcopal Church, Teaneck, N J where Rev. Dr. Michelle White is Priest. Her sermon centered around the need for "change."

The Torch Lighting Service and Program were conducted at the Stony Hill Inn, Hackensack, NJ. The Theme was **1923 Trivia** which included historical events, food and clothing costs, housing and furniture prices and role-playing of an Interview with Founder Florence Steele Hunt taken from the **1997 Spring Courier**. Following NSPDK Trivia questions with each winner receiving a Cali Lily reward, the afternoon concluded with the Founders' Day Litany, **We Speak Your Name**.



Rev. Dr. White



Epsilon Chi Chapter



Beta Epsilon Chapter



Soror Ennon, Chair



Sorors of Alpha Chapter



Delta Nu Chapter with their Krinon Club



Presentations to Church were made by all chapters



Trivia from 1923 - History, Food, Clothing



Basileus Gwendolyn Jackson greeted everyone and welcomed visiting sorors



Interview with Founder Hunt—Skit



Trivia from 1923 Housing and Furniture

Con't on page 4

Founders' Day Out Reach Project

As participants in the Eastern Region Initiative, several sorors gathered at the Office on May 21 to prepare gift packages for distribution at the Gladys Cannon Nunery School #29 in Jersey City.

On May 23, 2019 Sorors JoAnn Alston, Stacey Abdul-Qawi, Mary Ennon and Basileus Gwendolyn Jackson gathered at the Gladys Cannon Nunery School carrying Dunkin Donuts coffee, Munchins, fruit and our gift bags. We met several teachers and staff members to whom we expressed who we were and the purpose of our visit to the school. What a wonderful Founders' Day this was!



East Orange Clean Up– Kudos Johnathan Dale

The Alpha Chapter Kudos participated in the East Orange, NJ Clean-up with Eastern Region Kudos Advisor, Soror Marilynn Jones on Saturday, June 1, 2019. The young men went to City Hall and met different council persons and the Mayor, Ted R. Green. The Kudos also met some members of Omega Psi Phi and Iota Phi Theta Fraternities. The event began with a light breakfast and then the people were given the tools with which to work.



Retired Sorors– Soror Hazel Williams

Alpha Chapter's Senior/Retired sorors have been quite busy collecting empty plastic pill bottles. These containers were sorted by color and type, the labels removed and the bottles washed. Once the bottles were cleaned and dried, the lids were placed back on them and they were placed in large

Ziplock bags. The bags were placed into a box and mailed to the Matthew 25 Ministries located in Cincinnati, Ohio. The bottles are used for shipment of medicines to third world countries.



Installation of Officers

On Saturday, June 8, 2019 Alpha Chapter Basileus Gwendolyn Jackson conducted the Installation Ceremony of newly elected chapter officers.

Congratulations to the following:

Sorors Perry Jackson- Basileus, Donna Scott-Motley- 2nd Anti-Basileus, Bernadette Robinson- Custodian of Properties, Dr. Lavetta Ross- Grammateus, and Gail Andrew- Tamias.



Gifts and Goodwill Soror Adrienne Lofton

Birthdays to be celebrated in July

Sorors Tynetta Harris-7/3;
Dr. Tamika Pollins- 7/15;
Soror Francenia Britton-Sheppert-7/15
Soror Diana Ondande- 7/27

Birthdays to be celebrated in August

Soror Anna Burch-8/3
Soror Rhonda Baskerville-8/10
Soror Bernadette Robinson- 8/31

Birthdays to be celebrated in September

Soror Frances Harold-9/10
Soror Verna Sims- 9/14
Soror Leisa Brown- 9/16
Soror Mildred English- 9/19
Soror Adrienne Lofton- 9/26
Soror Hazel Williams- 9/30

Please continue to pray for Soror Cynthia Jones and send Get Well Wishes.

Pray for Soror June Day and her sister, Alma.

Pray for and send **Thinking of You** messages to Sorors Mildred Dorsey and Dorcia Berry.

Congratulations to Soror Adrian Braker-Davis on her Retirement after more than 40 years of teaching.

Best Wishes to Soror Bernadette Robinson as she goes on sabbatical.

Please respond with messages of **Get Well** to Soror Gwendolyn Watts, Delta Pi Chapter and messages of **Condolence** to Zeta Chapter on the passing of Soror Marsha Wells.

**Alpha Chapter
Wishes Everyone a
Wonderful Summer
Respite
Enjoy and Be Safe!**

The Men in Our Lives Soror Bernadette Robinson

The Anthropos of Alpha Chapter sponsored an educational tour to Niagara Falls, NY and St. Catharine's, Canada where we were told of the Underground Railroad and the settlements of Harriett Tubman. While visiting two British Methodist Churches, we were able to hear stories of the experiences people who were led to freedom and their descendants. At the historic British Methodist Episcopal Church information was provided by Pastor Lois Dix who told the group about R. Nathaniel Dett and Wilma Morrison who is regarded as custodian of Black history in Niagara Falls. Salem Chapel of the British Methodist Episcopal Church prides itself with being a place where Harriett Tubman worshiped. Both churches are National Historic Sites of Canada, Kevin Cottrell was our tour guide.



Anthropos Jackson, Bryant, Robinson and Sims—Great Job!



Alpha Sorors enjoying the activities



Kevin Cottrell Tour Guide

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St Catherine's British Methodist Episcopal Church



Three sets of biological Sisters joined the sorority sisters of Alpha Chapter



Wilma Morrison— Ontario-born Black Canadian



R. Nathaniel Dett Memorial Chapel, British Methodist Episcopal Church



Rev. Lois Dix, Pastor



Youth Presentations

On Saturday, June 8, 2019, four of the five Senior Xinos and four of the five Senior Kudos and their parents attended the end of year scholarship presentations from the Anthropos and presentations from the Xinos and Kudos advisors. Additionally, each senior received a monetary gift from Alpha Chapter. The Anthropos give five scholarships to graduating Kudos. A Book Scholarship was awarded to a Xinos and the Third Place scholarship winner received a gift of \$1000. The men in our lives also, received Certificates of Appreciation for their tremendous support of Alpha Chapter and its programs.



Advisors' Presentations to Xinos



A Gift to remember and cherish was given to each Xinos by their advisors



Advisors' Presentations to Kudos included items for their dorm room



A warm thank you from the Kudos



Advisors, ER Kudos Chair and Basileus congratulate Kudos



Certificates and scholarships from the Anthropos



Anthropos, with Chair, Co-chair, and Basileus congratulate Kudos

Youth Presentations con't



Alpha Chapter Anthropos receive Certificates of Appreciation. They awarded scholarships to five Kudos



3rd Place Scholarship Winner with her mom



Sorors Sandra Webster and Helen Brooks awarded Scholarships in memory of loved ones to two Xinos who will be majoring in Art.



A Xinos' parent extends sincere gratitude to the sorority for assistance in rearing her daughter and for the book and art scholarships she was awarded.



Basileus Gwendolyn Jackson thanks Hub Parents for their support



Scholarship winners with parents and scholarship chair

Youth Cookout

On Saturday, June 23, the Xinos, Kudos, youth advisors, Hub Parents and friends came together at Liberty State Park in Jersey City, NJ for their annual end-of-year culminating event. Their cookout was a fun-filled time for all in attendance.

The young people had an opportunity to reflect on the year's activities, share summer and future plans over delicious food and play some games.

Sincere thanks to the youth Advisors; Sorors Rhonda Baskerville, and Shawnte Williams, Xinos, and Sorors Francenia Britton-Sheppert and Anona Huntley, Kudos, as well as Hub Parents and their committee chairs, Sorors Perry Jackson and Diana Ondande for a wonderful yearly event.



79TH Eastern Regional Conference April 25-28, 2019

The 79th Eastern Regional Conference held at the Double Tree Hotel in Richmond, Virginia was hosted by Alpha Zeta Chapter. The Conference Theme was “**Meeting the Needs of the 21st Century.**” Sorors from Alpha Chapter traveled Thursday Morning to Virginia and attended the Leadership Institute entitled “**Passport to NSPDK, Leadership,**” that evening, with our own Soror Sandra J. Webster giving us a viable message of Commitment, Protocol, and Unity within the chapter.

Friday Morning, April 26th the Basilei Institute was chaired by Dr. Etta Carter, Supreme Basileus bringing greetings and National Updates. Among them were the monthly newsletter and 2023 Conclave information. She reiterated that NSPDK, Inc. is a professional organization of women and everyone should be able to discuss its purpose and programs. They should guide family, church members and friends to view the WebSite. They should also Mentor the young sorors in their chapter so that they can run for office. She emphasized that chapters should not relinquish senior sorors of their duties. The Eastern Regional Director, Noreen Little, also stated that the first year for a new soror is also an indecisive time, and they should be mentored and transitioned into committees. During the morning the Anthropos were in session, Activity Books were displayed for viewing, and “**Every Member Forum,**” chaired by Soror Felicia Laury took place. Sorors were divided into groups to share information and voice concerns on the following:

How to Attract Younger Sorors
How to Bring Sorors Together
Using Social Media in the Classroom
How to Help Students Refocus on Education

Following the Every Member Forum, the Literacy Luncheon occurred with a welcome from Soror Dianne Gary-Jones, President of Alpha Zeta Chapter and Soror Susan Richards, Literacy Chair, who explained the purpose of the luncheon. Through role call each chapter responded with a monetary gift or a donation of books to two schools designated by the Host Chapter; Kennedy O’Neal, Elementary School and Taylor Ellis, Middle School. Alpha Chapter donated 37 books to their library.

Educational Workshops were held for the entire afternoon and the “**Rap Dinner**” commenced around 5:00pm. Soror guests were welcomed by Chairperson Carolyn Jones-Irving (Epsilon Alpha) and Soror Sandra Webster (Alpha Chapter) facilitated the Table Discussions, “**THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON-PIPELINE.**” The Dais Panel consisted of Salena Scott, Head School Counselor at the Martin Luther King Middle School (Richmond, Virginia), Judith McCollum-Stallings, Counselor Chimborazo Elementary School (Richmond, Virginia), Allison Davis, Academic Support Exceptional Education (Richmond Virginia), and Dr. Shedrick McCall, Assistant Professor of Psychology (Petersburg, Virginia). Discussion centered around the **Plight of the Black Male In our Society.**

First Plenary Session commenced in the Evening at 7:30pm. After the Ritualistic Ceremony followed by Roll Call, Soror Noreen Little, Eastern Regional Director, presented a **Message for the Region:** Support each other as Educators, Reclaim Sorors, Utilize various types of Technology, Motivate Sorors to run for Chapter Positions, and Continue the Y.E.S. Programs. Plenary Session continued with the 78th Conference Evaluation, Membership Report, Regional Retreat, Recommendations, Election Committee, 25/50 Membership Presentations, Each chapter was given a portion of the registration from the Youth Leadership Conference because of a problem at the hotel with a note to all chapters to use the returned monies from the 2019 Youth Conference for the Youth in whatever capacity needed.

Saturday, April 27th, the chapter was presented with another day of various activities. The Vital Issues Breakfast was chaired by Soror Willy A. Davis who introduced the speaker for the morning, Dr. Michelle McQueen Williams, a motivational speaker in K-12 Education and an adjunct instructor at Virginia Union University. She spoke about “**The Dream Dasher;**” a person who discourages the youth from fulfilling their dreams. She encouraged the audience to help improve the public schools because their agenda is under fire: students are not learning. As educators our goal should be to build relationships, tutor, volunteer, and offer encouragement by our presence in the schools. Dr. Williams referenced the Book. “**A Dream Deferred**” by Langston Hughes.

The second Plenary Session began at 2:00pm at which time the following reports were reviewed and discussed: Conference Marshall’s, Perpetual Scholarship, E.R.F.R.S, RAP Dinner, and Credentials. Elections results were given. Three invitations to the 2019 Conclave by the Supreme Basileus, Soror Etta Carter, the 2020 Youth Conference by Zeta Chapter of Philadelphia, and the 2020 Eastern Region Conference by Beta Tau Chapter of Salisbury, Maryland. That evening the **Awards Banquet** was held with Soror Zymora Scott as the Mistress of Ceremonies. What a beautiful event with our Supreme Basileus, Dr. Etta Carter, Past Supreme, Charlotte Williams, and the Eastern Region Director, Noreen Little bringing greetings to the audience. Following the meal several presentations took place: National and ER Scholarships, Citation and Achievement Awards, and the Activity Book Awards. Congratulations to Alpha Chapter as the 1st Place winner for their Activity Book. Thank you to Soror Sandra Webster and her committee for a job well done. Our wonderful Anthropos were introduced by their Chairperson, Soror Valeria Edwards and their President, Charles Watts brought greetings.

Sunday April 28th the last day of the conference began with a wonderful Worship Service led by Soror Marian Banks. The inspirational message for the morning was given by the Reverend Delores L. Quinn, Associate Minister at New Bridge Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia.

The Third Plenary Session began immediately after with Roll Call, reports from Credentials, Resolutions, Conference Observer, and Conference Evaluation, followed by the Installation of the newly Regional Offices. The Eastern Regional Director Elect Dr. Patsy Squire would be installed at the 2019 Conclave. We ended our Conference with the Meditation for the Ill and Deceased, Ritualistic Closing and the Torch Lighting Ceremony.