



### Esteemed Founders

Gladys C. Nunery, Julia A. Barnes, (Mother Founder) Gladys M. Ross, Florence S. Hunt, Ella W. Butler, Marguerite Gross, Mildred M. Williams

Not Shown- Edna McConnell

\*All are in Omega Chapter

### Purpose

- To stimulate professional growth among teachers.
- To foster a true spirit of sisterhood.
- To promote the highest ideals of the teaching profession.
- To encourage the development of the potential of our youth.

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# ALPHA NEWS

VOLUME III

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MAY 2016

## 76th Eastern Regional Conference

Hi sorors! Welcome to the month of May. Trees and flowers are blooming in a variety of colors and the weather is becoming warmer. There is a wonderful feeling in the air of restored energy. With that in mind, let us review the purpose of the sorority and put our best foot forward in supporting Alpha Chapter; especially, as we prepare for the 2016-2017 sororal year at Alpha Chapter's Planning Meeting which will be held at the end of June.

Last month I attended the annual Eastern Regional Conference as your delegate at the Sheraton Bucks County Hotel in Langhorne, Pennsylvania April 21-24, 2016, along with Sorors Rhonda Baskerville (1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Basileus/Delegate) and Soror Mary Ennon (2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Basileus/Alternate Delegate). The conference was informative and interesting. Supreme Basileus, Soror Charlotte Williams and Eastern Regional Director, Noreen Little provided much pertinent information during the course of the weekend.

The Leadership Institute was held Thursday evening. Soror Noreen Little reviewed the role of the Basileus and provided each chapter Basileus with a "Basilei Handbook." This book was organized in a binder clearly labeled and outlined the duties of the Basileus, contained necessary forms, finance information, Eastern Regional By-Laws and Membership information. She reiterated the role of the Basileus and the importance of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Basilei in the chapter and the challenges of the sorority in regard to Membership. Sorors and Basilei were asked to break out into Cluster groups for discussion on challenges, findings, and solutions. Our own Soror Sandra Webster (Executive Advisor) presented a workshop entitled, "An Exercise in Leadership." Dressed in a Super Woman costume she played the appropriate music to excite us to open our minds as Leaders and Innovators. The power point emphasized that the Basileus needed to have a vision, be able to prioritize, and run the chapter efficiently. The workshop was entertaining and inspiring.

Officer's Workshops were held Friday, morning with each Regional Officer presenting information regarding their specific area through power point and discussion. Soror Charlotte Williams spoke about updating The Manual of Policies and Procedures, with Soror Noreen Little reiterating the importance of Regional Officers reviewing their duties. Next our Soror, Mary Ennon spoke about Membership initiatives in the areas of

Recruiting, Retaining, as well as Reclaiming sorors and ways to enhance our recruitment efforts.

The "Every Member Forum," involved a discussion on the topic, BREAKING IT DOWN. THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE. Areas addressed included the Court System, working with Local Government, Parent involvement, Juvenile Detention, and School Policies.

Soror Baskerville and I attended the Literacy Luncheon at noon where to our delight, a four year old student, Miss Macyn Belfon, was being honored for her academic and reading abilities. Alpha Chapter presented 37 books to the Early Learning Academy where Macyn attends school.

At 5pm I joined other Alpha Sorors and attended the RAP Dinner chaired by Soror Carolyn Jones-Irving. The topic of discussion was, "Digital Learning: What Does It Look Like in The East"? Three educators from various schools and grade levels and the sorors collaborated on the use of Technology as an enhancement for learning in the classrooms.

The First Plenary Session was held later in the evening with a Tribute to Past Supreme Basileus, Betty Dixon who expired December 31, 2015. Additionally, Past Eastern Regional Directors were recognized with Red and Gold stoles from Eastern Regional Director Little.

Saturday morning, Soror Rhonda and I were up at 6:00am to vote for the National and Eastern Regional Recommendations and to attend the Vital Issues Breakfast. The speaker for the morning was Dr. Vilicia Cade, Senior Director of Secondary Education in the Christina School District. Her message for the day was, "How Do We Get Youth Who Experience Trauma to Excellence?" She told the audience a portion of her life story which involved abuse. She told how she excelled academically in spite of personal circumstances such as being in foster care, and being labeled with a learning disability. She asked us to focus on early learning for our students and help schools form partnerships with agencies and support groups. Personal Development Workshops took place after the Breakfast.

The Second Plenary Session began around 2pm with reports from the various remaining Committee Chairs, Election Results were given, Credentials report and remarks from Soror Florence King,

President of the Perpetual Scholarship, and Soror Juanita High for the ERFRS, Inc. Our Soror Stacy Abdul-Qawi introduced the KOT and each student spoke about their future goals and aspirations. This session concluded with the Medication for Ill and Deceased Sorors.

The Awards Banquet was held Saturday evening with the announcement of the Eastern Region Youth Scholarship recipients and the National Scholarship winners. It was announced that Alpha Chapter won 1<sup>st</sup>. Place for its Activity Book. Congratulations to our Soror Sandra Webster and her committee for a job well done! We were Serenaded by the Anthropolos, after the presentations of the Achievement and Citation Awards.

Sunday Morning, sorors attended the Worship Service. Our speaker, Dr. Cecilia Dennery, an ordained elder, performed a dramatic presentation of a Bible story entitled, Queen of Sheba's Visit to the King. The Interpretive dance and storytelling were very unique and inspiring. We were impressed with the exceptional way she explained the scriptures. The Third Plenary Session took place with final reports being given by the ER Conference Observer, Credentials and Amenities. The Resolution by Soror Anona Huntley, Alpha Chapter was read and approved. Alpha Lambda Chapter will host the 2017 youth conference. Pi Chapter, Trenton, NJ, did a performance to invite us to the 2017 Eastern Regional Conference to be held in Princeton, NJ.

Alpha Chapter Sorors, Congratulations for receiving 1st Place for National Project **Read Across NSPDK 2015-2016**



Sisterly,  
Gwendolyn Jackson, Basileus

## NSPDK, INC.

### Alpha Chapter Officers

Basileus Gwendolyn Jackson  
 1st Anti-Basileus Rhonda Baskerville  
 2nd Anti-Basileus Mary Ennon  
 3rd Anti-Basileus Stacey Abdul-Qawi  
 Grammateus Gail Andrew  
 Epistoleus  
 Francenia Britton-Sheppert  
 Tamiouchos Diana Ondande  
 Tamias Shawnte Williams  
 Custodian of Properties  
 Doreen Bryant  
 Executive Advisor Sandra Webster  
 Parliamentarian Verna Sims

Chapter Office  
 155 Martin Luther King Drive  
 Jersey City, NJ 07305



### Alpha News

Editor : Soror Mary E. Ennon

### Contributors:

Basileus Gwendolyn Jackson  
 Sorors Anona Huntley Aretha  
 Harris, Sandra Webster,  
 Perry Jackson



Soror Adrienne  
 Lofton  
 Amenities Chair

## Lilies and Pearls Cotillion

The 2016 Lilies and Pearly Cotillion was held on Sunday April 10, 2016 at the Newark Liberty International Marriott Hotel in Newark, NJ. There were 21 participants in this year's cotillion. Alpha Chapter's last Cotillion was in 2010. This event was a culmination of many weeks of preparation, special events and hours of rehearsals. More than 270 guests attended this event. Music was provided by our own Soror Leisa Brown and the Mistress of Ceremonies was Soror Cartayah Hawkins-Reid. Sorors Anona Huntley and Aretha Harris-Jackson were chairpersons.

The winners were: 2016 Miss Lilies and Pearls: Daimyn Hilliard; 1st Runner-up: Christal Hammond; 2nd Runner-up and Miss Congeniality: Jade Reynolds; Miss Sub-Deb: Lecia Williams; Honorable Mention: Briana Wilkins; Mr. Escort: David Ondande; Miss Calla Bud: Sydnei Brown; Honorable Mention: Cirsten Cannon; Mr. Calla Buddy: Jaylen Sims. It was a beautiful affair and a special night to remember for the participants.



Miss Lilies and Pearls  
 2016



Mr. Escort



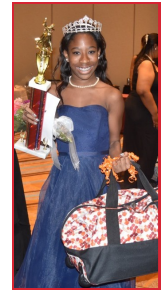
1st and 2nd Runners-Up  
 and Miss Congeniality



Miss Calla Bud



Mr. Calla Buddy



Miss Sub-Deb

## Alpha's Youth At Community Service

On Saturday, May 7, 2016, more than 25 Xinos and Kudos, six Xinos pledges, Advisors and Hub Parents performed community service by volunteering at the Community Food Bank of New Jersey in Hillside, NJ. This was the second day of service at the Food bank of their program year. The group emptied boxes, sorted and organized items and placed them in order on shelves.

Alpha Chapter is extremely proud of its youth who have made a huge positive impact in Hudson and Essex Counties. They have received many accolades from the mayor of Jersey City as well as several other community leaders.



Three of the four Hard working  
 Youth Advisors



Alpha's Youth on the Move with  
 Community Service



Alpha's Very Supportive Hub Parents



Volunteers Were Welcomed

## Gifts and Good Will

Send Shout-Outs to the Following Sorors who are celebrating birthdays in the **Merry Month of May**: Soror Cynthia Jones, 5/1; Soror Doreen Bryant, 5/28. Please send messages of comfort to Anthropos Floyd and Soror Anona Huntley on the passing of Anthropos Huntley's brother-in-law; Soror Johann Rene, Epsilon Chi Chapter on the passing of her

grandmother; Soror Deleva Hall, Alpha Lambda Chapter on the passing of her son; Soror Melanie Hill-White on the passing of her mother-in-law; Soror Farel Howie on the passing of her brother; Soror Joan Williams, Delta Nu Chapter on the passing of her mother. Please lift up Soror Etta Carter, Southwest Region and the Carter family in

prayer on the passing of her brother-in-law. Send messages of cheer to Soror Patricia Cook, Eta Chapter as she recovers from surgery.

Please give a call or send a Thinking of You card to our Red and Gold Sorors. Also, Soror Brenda Calloway's mother passed. Send her messages of comfort





E.R. Director Little

Several Sorors of the mighty Eastern Region of the NSPDK, Inc. gathered at the Bucks County Sheraton Hotel in Langhorne, PA for the 76<sup>th</sup> Eastern Regional Conference April 21-26, 2016. Rho Chapter of

Wilmington, DE, under the leadership of Basileus Constance Young, and Conference Chairperson, Cheryl Calicott-Trawick and her co-chair did an awesome job as hostess of this event. The Eastern Regional Kappa Omicron Tau conducted their 10<sup>th</sup> KOT Conference and the Eastern Regional Anthropos conducted their 48<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference in conjunction with our regional conference. Supreme Basileus Charlotte M. Williams and other current National Officers from the Southeast and Southwest Regions were also in attendance.

Eastern Regional Director **Noreen E. Little**, opened her first regional conference, with the theme, **Enriching Lives: Pursuing Excellence for All**, Thursday evening with the Basilei Institute. Sorors were energized through discussion within their clusters to identify major concerns and seek solutions. We were charged to become "Super Sorors" and pursue roles of leadership within our chapters by Alpha Soror Sandra Webster, chair of Leadership Training. The professional development was further enhanced by the Officers Workshops Friday morning that sought to inform each Soror of the duties and responsibilities of chapter and regional officers and to encourage mentoring within the chapters to assist other Sorors to seek offices within our organization.

**During the first Plenary session** Soror Little, in her first official address to the region charged each of us to improve our chapters by recalling the dream of our beloved Founders; to refocus upon our youth and rekindle ourselves through the production of exemplary programs, to become excited again about what we do so others will see our worth and aspire to become members, to become a "Teacher's Teacher." Soror Little also, honored the past Eastern Regional Directors for their years of invaluable service to the Region with the presentation of specially designed stoles. These ladies were formally and officially designated as the Past Regional Directors Council formed to provide support, guidance, and counsel to the Eastern Regional Directors.

## The 76th Eastern Regional Conference

The Eastern Region expressed grief at the sudden passing of Past Supreme Basileus Betty J. Dixon, who was to be our guest Past Supreme Basileus at this conference. We acknowledged that she will be sorely missed and her untimely death was honored with a memorial tribute by Past Supreme Basileus Margaret Nelson and a memorial chair symbolizing her absence and a visual tribute reminiscent of her time spent here in the East was displayed throughout the remainder of the conference.

**Saturday morning's** Vital Issues Breakfast speaker, Dr. Vilicia Cade, inspired us with a story of how love saved her life. She challenged us to let love guide us to see each child's potential and make the "impossible, possible" for every child. She encouraged us to use



Supreme Basileus Williams

the processes of leverage, eradication of obstacles, vowing to see things through, and endurance to excellence, when dealing and interacting with our students. The breakfast was followed by Personal Development Workshops.

**During the Second Plenary session** election results were given for the Eastern Region Nominating Committee and the National and Regional Recommendations. All National Recommendations passed. One of the two Eastern Regional Recommendations passed. Services for the Ill and Deceased Sorors was conducted in a most revered manner followed by the Torch Lighting service.

The Saturday night banquet was exceptional, as usual with attendance by Anthropos, Kappa Omicron Tau members and other guests. Awards were given to Achievement and Citation winners. Alpha Chapter won First Place for its Activity Book. It is announced that a certificate will be mailed to the Chapter at a later date. Many sincere Thanks to our Soror Webster and her committee for the beautiful, award-winning display of the numerous activities the chapter has accomplished.

Sunday morning's worship service featured Dr. Cecilia B. Denney who presented the Word through a one-woman play that brought the scriptures to life. **The Third Plenary** concluded following the reading of the Eastern Region Resolution for the 2016 Conference and the invitation to the 2017 Eastern Conference by Pi Chapter, Trenton, NJ.



Soror Constance Young, Rho Basileus and Soror Estella White



Alpha Basileus and 1st Anti-Basileus take their seats as delegates.



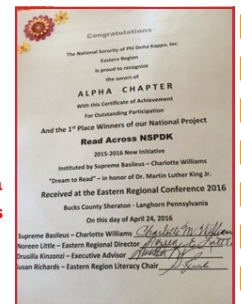
Conference Chair, Cheryl Calicott-Trawick



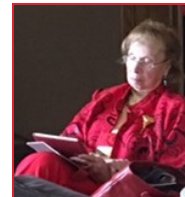
Sorors attending the Rap Dinner listening to presenters discuss uses of technology in classrooms



Soror June Day received a special stole from Basileus Jackson presented to all Past ER Directors by ER Director, Noreen Little.



Certificate presented to Alpha Chapter for Read Across NSPDK National Initiative



Soror Wilkerson takes a moment to relax.



Visiting Sorors (SE) Flora Parker, Delores Hills; (SW) Sylvia Williams and Etta Carter formally of the Eastern Region



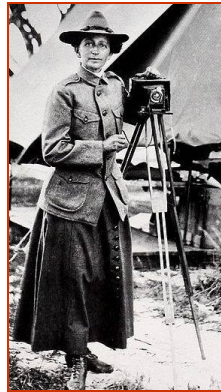
Sorors pose for photo after the Vital Issues Breakfast (not shown Sorors Sheppard and Jones)



**Dr. Eliza Ann Grier**

Dr. Eliza Ann Grier was an emancipated slave and the first African American woman licensed to practice medicine in Georgia. It took her seven years to complete her medical education because she alternated each year of school with a year of picking cotton to pay tuition.

## A Bit of African American History



**Mary Bayard Morgan Wootten**

Mary Bayard Morgan Wootten was a pioneer in the field of photography. Born in 1875, Wootten attended New Bern Collegiate Institute and the State Normal and Industrial College, now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. At 17, Wootten taught art at the Arkansas School for the Deaf for a year and then taught at the Georgia School for the Deaf. Wootten stopped teaching to help raise her sons, but continued painting. Around 1902, Wootten's neighbor, **Caleb Bradham**, asked her to design a logo for the new drink he had invented, **Pepsi-Cola**. It became the first trademark for the drink. Wootten was also interested in photography. She borrowed a camera to take photos until she could afford her own. Wootten began working as a free-lance photographer and took publicity photos for the North Carolina Guard. She was offered an official membership into the Guard, making her the first woman to join the North Carolina Guard. She was also given a uniform and a title, chief of publicity. In 1914, Wootten took what might have been the first aerial photographs by a woman while flying in a Wright Brother's plane. Her work was so impressive, Wootten became the official photographer for the Grand Central Palace in New York City. Wootten worked as a photographer until 1948 when she suffered eye hemorrhage. During her career she took more

## Alpha's Hub Parents

The Alpha Chapter Hub parents met Monday, May 9 to execute plans that were made at their February meeting. The plans were to have a bowling fundraiser Saturday, May 21 at Hudson Bowling Lanes. The parents, assisted by Soror Diana Ondande and soror Perry Jackson discussed items needed to prepare three baskets to be raffled at the bowling event. The basket themes stated were a Summer Basket, a BBQ Basket and a Movie Basket. Additionally, a 50/50 raffle will be held. Hub Parents who were not in attendance contributed by texting items that they will contribute from a suggested listing. HUB Parent Chairperson Donna Coates discussed who would be needed at the event to sell raffles and possible sale costs. Parents volunteered for the areas needed.

Hub Parent Liaisons, Soror Ondande and P. Jackson announced that there will be a Closing Party BBQ to be held at the home of Soror Perry Jackson. It was also, announced that the senior Hub Parents will be honored. Pictures were taken of the senior parents present at the meeting.



**Seated; left to right, Kudos parents, Sandra Tune and Chairperson, Donna Coates, Xinos parent Standing; left to right Xinos parents Nichelle Knight and Evonne Pinckney**

## Retired Soror on the Move

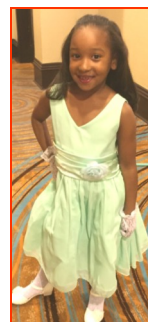


**Soror Webster ready to judge fashion designs**

Soror Sandra J. Webster, Alpha Chapter's Executive Advisor, attended the Family Career and Consumer Leaders of America (FCCLA) Conference which was held in Cherry Hill, NJ in March. Soror Webster was a judge for the Fashion Design, Runway Event. This event consisted of students designing and making outfits, presenting oral presentations on the process and modeling their creations in a fashion show.



**1st Anti- and Basileus putting their heads together at the Lilies and Pearls Cotillion**



**Aniah Bryant strikes a Calla Bud pose after her performance**

## Save \$ for These Important Dates

**Eastern Region Retreat-** October 7-9, 2016: Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Poconos Mountain, PA

**Eastern Region Conference-** April 20-23, 2017: Westin of Princeton, Princeton, NJ, Host- Pi Chapter of Trenton, NJ

**94th Anniversary Conclave-** July 15-20, 2017, Little Rock, AR



**Participants of the 2016 Lilies and Pearls Cotillion**



**Cotillion Co-chairpersons: Sorors Anona Huntley and Aretha Jackson-Harris**