



The Minerva

Richmond Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sorors and welcome to 2023,

This is the month of our organizations founding, where we will *"Celebrate 110 Years of Moving Forward with Fortitude"*.

The legacy of our 22 Founders has endured and we are blessed to be a part of this illustrious Sorority of Sisterhood, Scholarship, Service and Social Action. We will continue the celebration this upcoming weekend, while we attend the Virginia Area Founders Day Celebration in Norfolk VA. We will fellowship with Sorors from across the state and the South Atlantic Region. Continue to use the official Founders Day hashtags #DecadesofDST #DST110 #DST1913 to showcase the 22 reasons to be proud.

January is also the start of the 2nd half of our sorority year. I know that the Richmond Alumnae Chapter is poised and ready with superior programs and excellent events. Let's get ready for the DDVGA event, annual L. Rita Davis Oratorical Contest, Entrepreneurship Program, International Food Crawl, Read Across America and AHA Go Red Luncheon. That takes us only through February with lots of other engaging and informative programs in the coming months.

I wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Sisterly,
Vanessa

Happy New Year

REMINDER:

JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING IS CANCELLED

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Takeisha Brown, Chaplain
chaplain.dstrichmond@gmail.com

PRAYER CALL

Join us for prayer, song, and an inspirational word on
Sunday, January 22, 2023, from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85866509184?pwd=endGbFhJeUxKQWc2RVV3UUVCaTJ6dz09>

Meeting ID: 858 6650 9184

Passcode: 704858

Welcome	Soror Carla Jackson, Assistant Chaplain
Opening Prayer	Soror Melissa Young
Inspirational Song	Soror Tawana Ferguson
Inspirational Word	Soror Francine Young
Closing Prayer	Soror Charlene Jones Fox
Benediction	Soror Carla Jackson



Richmond Alumnae Chapter



Delta Sigma Theta!

When: Jan 22, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: January Prayer Call

Register in advance for this webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85866509184?pwd=endGbFhJeUxKQWc2RVV3UUVCaTJ6dz09>

Meeting ID: 858 6650 9184

Passcode: 704858

REMEMBRANCE

Condolences to Soror Thelma Pettis on the loss of her brother Hovey Young, Jr. on January 8, 2023 in New York, NY. Informal services will be held in keeping with his wishes. Mr. Young Jr. is the uncle to Soror Karen Pettis-Walden and Soror Kyra Walden.

Condolences to Soror Beth Morgan on the loss of her brother-in-law, Mr. Abraham Lincoln who passed on January 12, 2023. Funeral services will be held January 17, 2023 at 1pm in Columbia SC. The funeral will be live streamed from Leevy's Funeral Home.

Condolences to Soror Ann Willson on the loss of her sister-in-law Mrs. Denise Reeves Wilson of Birmingham, AL, who passed away on January 17, 2023. Mrs. Wilson is the aunt to Soror Dana Dargon.

Get Well Wishes to Soror Brenda Long as she recovers from surgery. She is recuperating at home.

Please keep these sorors in your thoughts and prayers.

CHAPTER CALENDAR

Kimberly Dabney, Vice President PP&D
3rdvicepres.dstrichmond@gmail.com

JANUARY

- 1/21 RAC January Chapter Meeting / *CANCELED*
- 1/21 In-Person Founders Day Program | Norfolk Alumnae Host Chapter
- 1/21 Get Financially Fit | Economic Development
- 1/21 Jabberwock Workshop | Scholarship
- 1/22 *Chapter Prayer Call*
- 1/23 Delta Day at the Virginia General Assembly-Legislative Day at the Capitol | Social Action / Political Awareness & Involvement
- 1/28 EMBODI Youth Conference | Educational Development

FEBRUARY

- 2/4 33rd Annual L. Rita Davis Oratorical Contest | Arts & Letters
- 2/7 Executive Board
- 2/18 Chapter Meeting / *Virtual*
- 2/22-4/19 Entrepreneurship Program | Economic Development
- 2/24 Diner en' Rouge | Arts & Letters
- 2/25 Delta Youth Day Conference | Social Action / Political Awareness & Involvement
- 2/25 International Food Crawl/Fashion Show | International Awareness & Involvement
- 2/26 *Chapter Prayer Call*
- 2/27-3/3 Read Across America | Educational Development

Bernita Williams, Vice President Scholarship
1stvp.dstrichmond@gmail.com

Scholarship Committee Application

The Scholarship Committee is looking to add new members. If you are interested in advancing our Scholarship programs, please consider applying for a position on the committee. Deadline: January 16, 2023. For more information and to apply, please contact Soror Bernita Williams.

SOROR SPOTLIGHT

ANTOINETTE M. ROGERS



Soror Antoinette M. Rogers joins DREF as Director of Programs.

Soror Rogers brings extensive professional experience in the areas of K-12 and postsecondary education, and non-profit management. She has previously worked as a public-school teacher, college professor and non-profit manager.

Rogers is a native of Richmond, Virginia where she was initiated into our beloved sisterhood through Richmond Alumnae Chapter in 1992. She proudly hails from a family of Deltas and actively serves as co-chair of Richmond Alumnae's Arts and Letters Committee.

She holds an undergraduate degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education from Hampton University and both a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction and Doctor of Philosophy in Instructional Leadership from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Her hobbies include studying Black History, gardening, listening to music, singing, dancing, and cooking.

Congratulations, Soror Rogers on your new position.

National Communications:

- o Days of Delta | Sisterhood Giving Campaign emailed December 22, 2022
- o Keeping You Connected with DREF emailed December 22, 2022
- o Wishing You a Wonderful Holiday Season emailed December 23, 2022
- o The 2021 Delta Journal emailed December 27, 2022
- o Public Website Outage Notification emailed December 2, 2022
- o 2021-2022 International Awareness and Involvement Newsletter emailed December 28, 2022
- o National Headquarters Holiday Closure emailed December 29, 2022

Regional Communications:

- o South Atlantic Region Christmas Greeting emailed December 25, 2022
- o Happy New Year message emailed January 1, 2023

"Thank You" Notes:

- o Lois Johnson for condolences and remembrance for the loss of her sister-in-law
- o Kim Thompkins for the flowers and car sent to her and her mother
- o Yvonne Mimms-Evans for caring expression during knee surgery
- o Stephanie Miller for retirement card

Organization/event announcements received from:

- o Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia will host a documentary screening of "The Lives Between the Lines," which tells the story of inspiration for and construction of the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers at the University of Virginia. Soror Valencia Adams will be the moderator of a panel discussion following the screening from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, January 26, 2023. The event is free, but registration is required at <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ejl1rw1z4352bd6d&oseq=&c=&ch=>

2023 Oratorical Contest



Richmond Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Arts and Letters Committee
presents

The L. Rita Davis 33rd Annual

ORATORICAL CONTEST

*Creativity Is My
Mind's Paintbrush*

Saturday
Feb. 4, 2023 * 9:30 AM

John Marshall High School
4225 Old Brook Road
Richmond, Virginia

**YOUTH FROM PreK - 12TH GRADE
ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE!**

Contact your school administrator to register

Questions? Contact
artsandletters.dstrichmond@gmail.com

Happy New Year Sorors

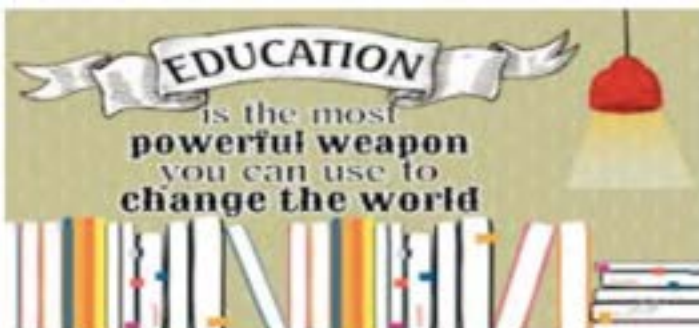
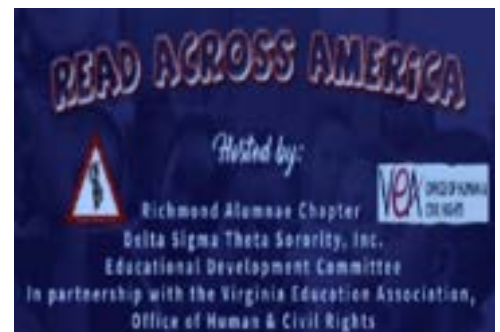


If anyone in this organization truly deserves a commendation, it is you! Thank you for the hats, gloves, and mittens you bigheartedly donated to Overby Sheppard Elementary School. Because of your generosity, we were also able to donate items to Oak Grove Elementary School! Your love and kindness truly make a huge difference in our community and your support over the years has helped to bring warmth and comfort to hundreds of children in Richmond Public Schools. Even one item makes a difference when we put our donations together! You are simply AMAZING



The committee's next initiative is our annual support of Read Across America which will be held February 27 – March 3, 2023, at the following schools: Maymont Preschool, Mary Scott Preschool, Woodville, Blackwell, and Redd Elementary Schools. We know that fostering a love of learning early on is key to improving literacy in America and ensuring our children's success in school and life.

Research indicates that fewer than one in five children who read below their grade level in third grade go on to college. Giving children the skills to succeed in school – like reading at grade level – sets them up for lifelong success. In fact, it lays a foundation that will span generations to come. Education is the change that lasts. With that said, please plan to support this event by signing up to read during that week at one or more of the schools. Sign-ups will begin in February!



May this year bring new happiness, new goals, new achievements, and a lot of new inspirations on your life. On behalf of the Educational Development Committee, we wish you a year fully loaded with happiness. Thanks again and again for your tremendous support!

2022-2023 FITNESS CHALLENGE

Sorors, let's step out on the right foot in 2023. Now is the perfect time to increase your movement. It's not too late to join our 2022-2023 fitness challenge. Register using the link below or input your information. We've even made it easy for you to include all exercises and convert them to steps by using the conversion calculator. We will report the results at the end of each quarter. If you have any questions, email: racfitnesschallenge2018@gmail.com. [RAC DST Fitness Challenge 2022-2023 Activity to Steps Converter](#) | [Good Calculators](#)



Join us as we celebrate our 1st Quarter leaders!

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION - GO RED FOR WOMEN LUNCHEON

When: Friday, February 24, 2023

Where: Richmond Marriott, 500 East Broad Street

*Event details and volunteer opportunities will be shared once available.

HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

[What Is Cervical Cancer?](#) | [Types of Cervical Cancer](#)



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first steps. – Martin Luther King

JANUARY 2023 PROTOCOL MOMENT

JANUARY 13, 2023 - DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC. WILL CELEBRATE ITS TWENTY-TWO FOUNDERS AND 110-YEARS OF SISTERHOOD, SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE!

RESPECT AND RECOGNITION FOR FOUNDERS: The twenty-two Founders represent the history and ideals of the Sorority, and we honor the legacy they passed on to us. The names of the Founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated should be listed on all Founders Day programs. The Founders should be revered and honored; therefore, the use of their pictures should be limited to official documents, posters, and wall hangings. Their pictures are not for casual usages, such as on T-shirts, tote bags, puzzles, screen savers, etc.

PROTOCOL AND TRADITIONS

THE QUESTION IS ...

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1. When the National President and Past National Presidents enter a Delta assembly (closed only), the membership remains standing until these revered sorors are seated. The membership remains seated during the recessional until the National President and members of the dais have exited.

True or False?

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D

2. When the Regional Director and/or Regional Representative enter a regional or chapter activity and when they are introduced, the membership stands and remains standing until these revered sorors are seated. The membership remains seated during the recessional until the Regional Director, Regional Representative, and members of the dais have exited.

True or False?

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3. Sorors who organized chapters are called Charter members, not Founders. Their names should be listed on the chapter's Founders Day Program. If Charter members are present at a chapter's Founders Day program, members stand when they are introduced?

True or False?

4. Honorary Members are held in high esteem, and the membership stands when they are introduced to an (open or closed) assembly.

True or False?

Appropriately worded protocol can be found on our [national website](#) or the app: Home page > Member Portal > Grand Chapter > National Committees > Protocol and Traditions Committee > Page One

NOT TO STAND?

ANSWERS: 1 = F, 2 = T, 3 = F, 4 = F

2022-2023
RICHMOND ALUMNAE
CHAPTER AWARDS
NOW
ACCEPTING MAY
MONTH CHAPTER
AWARDS NOMINATIONS
JAN. 2ND THROUGH FEB. 24TH
Applications via Google Forms
BUSY BEE AWARD
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
DELTA DEAR OF THE YEAR
DELTA OF THE YEAR
FORTITUDE AWARD
PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR
APPLICATION
DEADLINE
FEB. 24th
at
5pm
For Questions, Please Contact the Nominating Committee at:
nominating.dstrichmond@gmail.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

A SPECIAL ELECTION for the 4th District (Virginia) of the United States House of Representatives has been scheduled for February 21, 2023.

Below are important dates and information for all voters of the 4th Congressional District:

Candidates:

- Democratic – *Jennifer L. McClellan*
- Republican – *Leon Benjamin, Sr.*

Important Dates:

- o Friday, January 7, 2023: The first day of in-person early voting at your local registrar's office.
- o Friday, February 10, 2023: The deadline to apply for a ballot to be mailed to you. *Your request must be received by your local voter registration office by 5:00 p.m.*
- o Saturday, February 11, 2023: Voter registration offices open for early voting.
- o Tuesday, February 14, 2023: Deadline to register to vote or update an existing registration. (Voters may register after this date, through Election Day, and vote using a provisional ballot).
- o Saturday, February 18, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.: The last day of in-person early voting at your local voter registration office.

For more information, to register to vote or apply for an absentee ballot, use the Citizen Portal on the website of the Virginia Department of Elections

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/Voterinformation>

Carolyn Johnson, Chair
policiesprocedures.dstrichmond@gmail.com

As a gentle reminder, the deadline to submit proposed amendments to the 2022-2023 Policies and Procedures is February 1, 2023. All submissions need to be provided to the committee via the Proposed Amendment form and sent by e-mail to policiesprocedures.dstrichmond@gmail.com.

The committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM via Zoom.



The time has come to renew your annual chapter and Grand Chapter dues for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated's extended 2022-2023 fiscal year. **Dues for July 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023 are payable now through March 31, 2023.**

FISCAL YEAR CHANGE

As you may recall, Grand Chapter elected to move the annual accounting period to a calendar year fiscal reporting beginning January 2024. **Grand Chapter has also elected to extend the 2022-2023 membership period by six months to accommodate the change in the fiscal year.** Payments of membership dues at this time will make you financial for the extended 2022-2023 fiscal year and eligible to participate in all activities from July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

MEMBER PAYMENT TO CHAPTER

Chapter dues for the **extended 2022-2023 fiscal year** are payable January 1, 2023 through March 31, 2023, if you are a member of a local chapter. For those currently financial for 2022-2023, no further late or reinstatement fees will be applied, as the national dues have been paid. However, each member must pay six months of chapter dues (\$77.50) by July 1, 2023, to keep financial status for the extended period of July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023. **You will go into a non-financial status if you do not pay the associated chapter dues.**

Please mail your personal check, certified check or money order to the chapter's P.O. Box or use the Square link 2023 Annual Dues. If Square is used, you will be responsible for paying the convenience fee.

If you are reclaiming a Soror or are currently not financial for the 2022-2023 sorority year, please remember that Sorors must pay dues for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 **before** they may pay dues for July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023.

If you have questions, please reach out to the Financial Secretary at finsecretary.dstrichmond@gmail.com.