



## Alpha Sigma Graduate Chapter Meeting

Order of Business

March 23, 2019 – 10:15am

IUPUI Fairbanks Hall – Room #1110

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**“GREATER SERVICE, GREATER PROGRESS”**

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### Alpha Sigma Chapter Attendance – 43 Sorors in March vs. 45 Sorors in Feb. 2019

1. Kaylyn Adams	2. Jocenelle Alcime	3. Shira Amos
4. Rishawnda Archie	5. Tabitha Barbour	6. Lora Bingham
7. Tashika Carlton	8. Jennifer Clayton	9. Marier Cox
10. Nieka Davis	11. Metai Ezell	12. Shawna Farmer
13. Sonya Gilbert	14. Daphne Gilmore	15. Stephanie Groves
16. Rolanda Herron	17. Jalissa Hills	18. Aikim Hoggs
19. Deitra Jackson	20. Sharron Jones	21. TaMeca Joshua
22. Valerie Ligon	23. Yolanda Mattox	24. Edna May
25. Patshawna Nickeo	26. Remitha Norman	27. Martha Riley
28. India Samuels	29. Karin Sarratt	30. Tanika Scott
31. Alicia Seawood	32. Khalilah Shabazz	33. Sherelle Smith
34. Tamika Scott	35. Janell Smith	36. Kennedy Smith
37. Andrea Terrell	38. Marian Turner	39. Ti’auna Williams
40. Charlene Williams	41. Charonda Woods	42. Dawn Wright
43. Syntaktes Delia Harris		

### Opening / Devotional / Reciting of Pledge

The presiding officer, Basileus Wright, called the Alpha Sigma Graduate Chapter meeting to order at 10:15 am. Soror Terrell, Chaplain, led us in prayer and this was followed by reciting the Sorority Pledge.

### Roll Call / Introductions

Sorors introduced themselves to include their name, induction chapter, year inducted, office held (if applicable), and what you’re excited about as we welcome in the Spring.

### Adoption of Agenda /Reading of Minutes (Silently)

Basileus Wright called to adopt the agenda, with modifications. There are some adjustments to the agenda because some reports were not submitted. Motion was made to adopt the agenda with the modifications. The motion was dully passed.

Basileus Wright call for approval of the February 2019 meeting minutes. Soror Kathy Jones asked that we clarify the deadline for donation items/money for Soror Shabazz and that a follow up e-mail be sent to the Chapter with additional details. After consulting with Soror Shabazz, we agree to provide this clarification in an e-mail when the March 2019 minutes are submitted.

Basileus Wright again called for approval of the minutes. Soror Shabazz made a motion that the February 2019 March Minutes be approved with adjustments. Soror Joshua seconded and the motion dully passed.

## Officer Reports

### Basileus (Composite pg. 2)

Basileus Wright highlighted that the Educators Panel has been rescheduled to April 13, from 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm, The Blackout Masquerade hosted by Iota Xi Sigma Chapter on April 27, from 7:22 pm – 12 am. Please note the upcoming Chapter Meeting Dates and Save the Dates.

Soror Leila Darden has been appointed as the 2019 Founders Chair. She will begin to report out for this role at the April Chapter meeting.

Alpha Sigma was recognized at the Central Region Conference for top fundraising for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Fundraising Event. A follow up question was asked about what other awards recommendations Basileus Wright submitted on behalf of Alpha Sigma. Basileus Wright indicated that she applied for any of the National Projects, to include service hours, and she also nominated Soror Yelder for Advisor of the Year.

Soror Ligon shared a sincere "thank you" for attending the Ruby Ceremony at the Central Region Conference. "It meant a lot to have you there to support me." She also went on to share that she was disappointed that Alpha Sigma was not captured in the Souvenir Book.

Basileus Wright accepted responsibility for not ensuring that Alpha Sigma was appropriately captured in the Souvenir Book, which was a monumental event. She acknowledged that she and Soror Greer discussed getting an ad for the Central Region Conference Souvenir Booklet, but the follow up did not occur and she sincerely apologizes.

### Anti-Basileus (Composite pgs. 3 - 5)

Soror Amos shared special Poodle Shout Outs to all Sorors that participated in interviews on March 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.

Welcome back to the Sisterhood Soror Daphane Williams!

Congratulations on our milestones, we're at an 85.84% retention rate and we've grown by 2.65%. Our Spring 2019 Aspirants are captured in the Composite. They will soon be Candidates later today after the Affirmation Ceremony and Rhoyal Tea. We started with 20 Aspirants, but two Aspirants removed themselves from the process due to personal reasons, but they remain very interested in Sigma Gamma Rho. Refer to the Composite for a complete listing of Alpha Sigma's Spring 2019 T.O.R.C.H. calendar.

More than 32 Sorors completed the Mentor Training Webinar - - thank you! We will complete another webinar in the new Sorority year. For the 16 Sorors that completed the webinar, they will receive a certificate of completion once they have successfully completed the knowledge quiz.

We did receive the membership development grant for \$800. Our goal is to create a reclamation event outside of our annual Round Up event. Plan to highlight this as a *Sigma Homecoming!*

Soror Kathy Jones asked what time the New Member Presentation will begin. Soror Amos made a date correction, it should be listed as Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:22 pm.

Please refer to the Composite for upcoming Membership Committee events.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Basileus – UGC (Composite pgs. 6 - 11)

During the 79<sup>th</sup> Central Region Conference, Beta Beta Chapter was recognized as the Top Three T.O.R.C.H. Classes. There are a total of 14 Candidates. Please note that there will be two induction ceremonies, with one being today at 5:22 pm for one

Candidate, and the other induction will occur tomorrow, March 24 at 12:22 pm. As a reminder, you have to be financial and T.O.R.C.H. trained. The new member presentation will be on April 13<sup>th</sup> and a flyer will be forthcoming with more details. Soror Williams highlighted that we do have several legacies in the membership class but they will be unable to participate in the T.O.R.C.H. program because they are not financial and appropriately trained.

Please note the candidate highlights to include jacket and shirt sizes, and mentor names.

Special Poodle Praise goes to Sorors Gilbert, Mattox, Harris, Yelder, Amos, Haynes, Sarratt, Norman, Howard-Taylor for assisting with workshops and/or modules. Also special thanks to all of the mentors!

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Basileus – Alpha (Composite pg. 12)**

Alpha Chapter has officially completed T.O.R.C.H!! Thank you to each and every Soror who was able to support Alpha Chapter in any capacity.

“Pretty Poodle Shout Out” to Soror Valerie Ligon for agreeing to be the mentor for our newest inductee. Her support and encouragement through this process has been immeasurable and Alpha Chapter wanted to say "Thank You" for all of your interest and engagement.

Congratulations to Soror Long for recently receiving a certificate at the Central Region Conference for earning and maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or higher. We are so proud of her. She will be graduating in May and will be staying in Indy for at least two years.

Soror Williams provided feedback that Kat did an exceptional job yesterday. Congratulations!

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Anti-Basileus – Mu (Composite pg. 13)**

Soror Williams provided the Mu Chapter report on behalf of Soror Yelder. Congratulations to the Spring Mu Chapter Inductees. Please note that their new member presentation will be held on March 30<sup>th</sup> 7:22 pm at Ball Gym.

There are NO graduating seniors this May, so they will enter Fall 2019 with 8 Sorors and they are planning to have another T.O.R.C.H. class.

Sorors were asked to review the Composite for upcoming Mu Chapter events and make every effort to be supportive.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Anti-Basileus – Gamma Zeta (Composite pg. 14)**

Basileus Wright provided an update on Gamma Zeta. The hearing panel found sufficient evidence to declare allegations of hazing were fully founded and credible. Refer to the Composite for more details about those involved and the results of the formal hearing. There are specific directives in place to include Gamma Zeta remaining under a cease and desist until the Region can confirm they have complied with all directives from the formal hearing.

#### **Anti-Grammateus (Composite pg. 15)**

Soror Sarratt provided project updates on the Chapter Directory and Sorority Name Badges. The next round of updates for the Chapter Directory will be requested this week, as well as the next order for the Sorority Name Badges. Payment for the Name Badges will be submitted this week and the proofs will be provided for review/approval.

Soror Sarratt encouraged Sorors to please read the Alpha Sigma weekly newsletter, when published. The metrics suggest that the click /open rates for the newsletter are low. This is the best method we have for keeping Sorors informed.

Finally, Soror Sarratt asked that Sorors be mindful that when they sign up for events, please make every effort to keep your commitments. Specifically for the Affirmation Ceremony and Rhoyal Tea today, more than 10-12 Sorors have cancelled at the last minute. We spend money and plan events based on the RSVPs we receive, we're counting on everyone to do what they can to keep their commitments.

### **Grammateus (Composite pgs. 16 - 36)**

Soror Clayton shared that she has provided three separate reports for the Chapter to review.

Payment plan options for Sorority year 2019-2020 are already set up and available. For returning Sorors, the March payment is \$108.50 and for Life Members, the March payment is \$71. These payments would continue until the payment plan concludes in June 2019. Soror Clayton is already tracking assessments being paid for 2019-2020 Sorority year in a separate financial report.

Sorors are being asked to ***"Make the pledge and donate to Alpha Sigma through Time and Service"***! Every Soror is being asked to pledge to select and commit to one service day at the Racetrack. Save the dates for May 11<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> is a critical date and we need a minimum of 15 volunteers to sign-up. This shift will run from 4 am – 2 pm on this date.

Become a member of the ***exclusive Raceway Poodle Club*** and receive a commemorative gift, which will be announced later! You will also be entered in a raffle for a variety of prizes as follows:

- 1 entry per service date completed
- 1 entry for every non-Soror you pledge (sign up and service completion)

Sorors can also donate \$90 or \$100 to help support Chapter programming, scholarship, and youth engagement, centennial planning, and potentially bringing back the CCC Float!

Soror Norman stated that it is disappointing to see that our Scholarship amounts have been reduced. She encouraged Sorors to engage with the Speedway to help us "get this money" so that we don't have to raise dues. If you can do the Speedway volunteerism, you can pledge a time or money. Soror Norman challenged Sorors to step up.

Refer to the Composite for additional information.

### **Tamiochus (Composite pgs. 37 - 41)**

Soror Clayton provided the Tamiochus report on behalf of Soror Clark. The Chapter had a February ending balance of \$36,195.89 vs. a March ending balance of \$36,666.54.

Please note the reminder about PayPal Payment protocol. You can also see the various Assessment fee breakdowns so that you know how your assessment is determined. A copy of the reimbursement form and reimbursement categories are in the Composite.

### **Epistoleus (Composite pgs. 42 - 43)**

Soror Mattox provided the Epistoleus report on behalf of Soror Greer. Please refer to the Composite for our Social Media stats and upcoming action items. A minimum of two weeks is requested to flyers and/or promotional items. The links to the requests forms are in the Composite.

Please refer to the Composite for a sincere apology from Soror Greer in which she accepts full responsibility for not getting the Chapter Ad in the Souvenir book for the Central Region Conference. She formally apologized to Syntaktes Harris and the Chapter for this error. She is committed to doing a better job and has learned invaluable lessons from this experience.

Basileus Wright again apologized for the error as well.

### **Parliamentarian (Composite pg. 44)**

Soror Jones provided "Poodle Praises" to the AS Chapter Delegates for reviewing the final dispositions for the region in advance of the Central Region Conference.

Soror Jones shared that when she was Basileus, she gifted a Gavel to the Chapter, but we lost track of it over time. The goal was for the gavel to pass from Basileus to Basileus each Sorority year. She purchased and donated a new gavel for the Chapter. In addition, she also gifted a "block" to compliment the gavel. The block actually reflects the name of the current Basileus and the hope is that we will be able to maintain this practice going forward.

Soror Cox shared that she has some information on an upcoming training session for Parliamentarians on May 4, 2019 and she asked that Soror Jones see her after the meeting for more details.

Soror Jones closed out by saying she is on the very last voting cards, but she will be having more printed for the new T.O.R.C.H. class. Please let her know if you still need a voting card for this Sorority year.

#### **Rhoer Club Advisors (Composite pgs. 45 - 46)**

Soror Mattox reported that we inducted 11 Rhoers on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. We were scheduled to have 12 Rhoers inducted, but one dropped out. Sorors should refer to the Composite for upcoming Rhoer Club events.

Please refer to the details about the Rhoer Regional Conference. She's still looking for volunteers to help chaperon the Rhoers for this weekend, which we are the conference hosts from Thu., April 4<sup>th</sup> – Sun., April 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Embassy Suites Downtown. Assistance will also be required to transport National Officers who will attend the conference. Please send Soror Mattox and e-mail if you're able to assist for the wonderful Rhoer weekend!

Soror Mattox expressed her disappointed to see an announcement come out that we're planning Community Service on the same weekend that we'll be hosting the Rhoer Regional Conference. She further expressed her hurt and disappointment that the Chapter doesn't support our girls. For the Sorors that have volunteered already, thank you. These girls need to see more support from our Chapter.

Basileus Wright asked Soror Mattox if she had reached out to Soror Anderson to discuss the conflict and Soror Mattox shared that she just read the information last night, so no she did not reach out. Basileus Wright indicated that we will resolve this conflict after the meeting today and the service date will be adjusted so that we do not have a conflict.

Soror Norman asked if we have a way to do fundraising for the Rhoers. Soror Mattox clarified that Sorors can send monetary donations for our Rhoers via PayPal, with a note indicating the donation is for the Rhoers. Soror Mattox also confirmed that she's asking for donations for two graduating seniors.

Soror Shabazz spoke on behalf of the Regional to echo the points that Soror Mattox made about the importance of supporting our Rhoers. We have more than 100 Rhoers that have registered and we need to show up to support our Rhoers.

#### **Chaplain (Composite pg. 47)**

Soror Terrell thanked Sorors that are reading the inspirational comments. Details are in the Composite about the upcoming prayer call on Mon., March 25 at 7:22 pm.

Soror Doretha Nance continues to recover from a stroke. Praise God she is being moved out of her rehabilitations center to her home. Continue to keep her in our prayers. Please keep these Sorors in your prayers for their personal situations as well: 1) Soror Cox shared they've had a recent death and are planning a funeral, 2) Soror Turner shared that her only sibling has been placed in hospice, and 3) Soror Anderson also had a family member pass away, which is why she wasn't at the meeting.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Local Community Service (Composite pgs. 48 - 49)**

Basileus Wright shared the Community Service report on behalf of Soror Anderson. Refer to the Composite for a summary of past events and upcoming Service planned. Please note that Soror Anderson will no longer include service participants on the report. She will have the sign in sheet available for review, upon request.

##### **NPHC – No Report Submitted**

Basileus Wright shared that Soror Haynes will providing a report with key NPHC dates. A few of the highlights are captured in the Basileus Wright's report.

##### **Health & Wellness (Composite pgs. 50 - 51)**

Soror Seawood provided an update on the addition of two new Sorors to the committee, Sorors Fletcher-Jones and Willis. She also thanks existing Committee members, Sorors Gwen Fine, Soror Karen Moore, Soror Jamia Jones, Soror Toni Watson,

and Basileus Wright.

The Committee hosted their 1<sup>st</sup> event, *Matters of the Minority Mind!* Poodle Praises given to Sorors Haynes and Soror Williams for their participation on the panel.

Refer to the Composite for details on Committee initiatives to include: Mental Health Monday's and Wellness Wednesday's, Getting Fit with Sigma, "Overwhelmed & Over It", and the Indiana Black Expo Health Fair participation and fitness simulation!

The next event will be a Ladies Night Out: Rhock Climbing at Climb Indy on March 28 at 6:30 pm. This event is for all fitness levels, and you do not have to be experienced in rock climbing.

#### **Indiana Black Expo (Composite pg. 51)**

Soror Ezell shared that the IBE dates will be Thu., July 18 – Sun., July 21<sup>st</sup>. She shared that we're currently not planning to have a booth given the expense. Soror Ezell was asked to explore lower cost options that may be available to the Chapter. She agreed to follow up after the meeting.

She asked for a "call out" to any Sorors that are teachers within our Chapter if they have an interest in being sponsored to attend the Education Conference on Thu., July 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 am – 4:30 pm, contact her directly.

Refer to the Composite for more information about how to support the IBE.

#### **Awards & Achievement (Composite pg. 52)**

Soror Sarratt provided the report on behalf of Soror Yelder. The Awards and Achievement Celebration is scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm at IUPUI Taylor Hall, room #104. There will be a Nautical Theme: *"7 Seas of Alpha Sigma"* and a formal invitation will follow soon.

Assistance will be required for set up | tear down | and an award crew! If you're interested, please contact Soror Yelder @ divadyelder@hotmail.com

#### **Youth Symposium (Composite pgs. 53 - 58)**

Basileus Wright provided the update on the Youth Symposium that was held on Sat., March 9. Alpha Sigma joined SGRho chapters nationwide to host this event and the discussion centered on human trafficking and how youth, parents, and guardians can protect themselves and others from becoming victims.

Please refer to the Composite for Poodle Praises for Sorors J. Love, T. Smith, S. Anderson, J. Alcime, R. Archie, D. Gilmore, C. Williams, T. Bowman, A. Holland, K. Jones, D. Doub, and M. Thomas. There were more than 81 attendees, which includes 41 youth, 28 Sorors, and 12 guests.

Basileus Wright shared that more than 40 Sorors had registered for this event, but did not attend. We need to be mindful of the commitments that we make to attend events.

Soror Williams shared a personal observation that she learned that this isn't something that happens immediately, but instead it typically occurs over a period of 6 months to a year for these relationships to be cultivated. This was very informative and a good job done by all involved.

Basileus Wright stated that this was a challenging topic. She also shared that we don't currently have a National Projects Chair, so in the interim, she will continue to lead these efforts. Project Cradle Care and the Water Safety class will be the next focus areas. She plans to reach out to Soror Maggie Lewis to see if she has an interest in partnering with the Girls and Boys Club on the Water Safety class, which will focus outside the pool.

Soror Kathy Jones shared that during the parent session, she learned that 40% of the kids that get pulled into human trafficking get lured away by family members.

### **Unfinished Business - None**

### **New Business (New Items / Projects Not Yet Discussed) - None**

### **Good of the Order – Announcements and/or Remarks**

Soror Riley shared that she will provide a detailed report at the April Chapter meeting focused on the Centennial. Our Centennial will be held in Indianapolis and she stressed the importance of having Sorors volunteer. There will be no Soror left behind because there will be many, many ways to get involved. She also reminded the Chapter that the donation levels have been published and Sorors should consider how they can contribute.

Soror Davis, IN State Coordinator, shared that she will be hosting a T.O.R.C.H Level One Training session next Sat., March 30 @ 10:30 am. Sorors can register via the link on the Central Region website and the cost will be \$11.

Soror Cox shared that through her Teach Plus platform, she's had the opportunity to be a guest speaker for the Senate on several occasions recently. This platform allows her to be an advocate for teachers and she always represents Sigma in her Royal Blue attire!

The meeting concluded at 11:58 am.

### **Closing – Hymn**

### **Meeting Adjourned**

***“Defining our legacy through servant leadership”***