

# The Delta Word



Sorority Year  
2020-2021

February 2021  
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Happy  
Years of Service

1921



2021

On February 3, 2021, we celebrated the Centennial Charter Day of the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc! For 100 years the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter has had a positive impact on the residents of the District of Columbia through their commitment to providing relevant programming and scholarships.

We are sisters Working together, Dedicated to service, Changing lives, Advocating for the Communities we serve.

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# WDCAC 100:

## Memories Through The Years

### \*PAST PRESIDENTS EDITION\*



Alice Davis  
President 1966-1968

Initiated  
Beta Iota 1937

How long have you been in WDCAC?  
Since 1941

What are your fondest memories and/or accomplishments of being in WDCAC?

My biggest accomplishments were Delta towers being erected and being a founder of the Delta Housing Corporation in 1975 with fellow Past Chapter President Ruth Micheaux. My fondest memories are being able to get together and plan activities, attending the Red and White Ball and Distinguished Men Cooking with the Deltas.

What are you looking forward to most about our Centennial Year?

Strengthening our bond, even though the pandemic has limited visits and getting together, wealth building and economic empowerment.

What is WDCAC's biggest impact?

We have great members



that you can call on and they keep us involved in the community.

Marjorie Kinard  
President 1978-1980

Initiated  
Beta Kappa 1962

How long have you been in WDCAC?  
48 years

What are your fondest memories and/or accomplishments of being in WDCAC?

My fondest memories are bringing the Jabberwock back after many years of not having it, putting the roof on Delta Towers and having a ceremony and when we located the burial site of Founders Olive Jones and Edna Brown Coleman. Another accomplishment I am proud of is the development of the archives of the chapter and working on the history

book that spans the 100 years of WDCAC.

What are you looking forward to most about our Centennial Year?

I am most looking forward to all of the activities that we have planned. The kickoff, book launch and collaboration with the NY Alumnae Chapter, which is significant because we've never done anything in recent memory with that chapter.

What is WDCAC's biggest impact?

Our work in the community to empower young people and young professionals.

Venida Hamilton  
President 1994-1996

Initiated  
WDCAC Spring 1973

How long have you been in WDCAC?

I've been in the chapter since my initiation.

What are your fondest memories and/or accomplishments of being in WDCAC?

One of my fondest memories was being president during the 75th anniversary. We ended up having Founders Day in Virginia because the hotel in DC

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cancelled on us at the last minute. Mayor Marion Barry came to our Founders Day and said only for Delta would he come to VA. It was also memorable because Billy Dee Williams was in the hotel and he was selling paintings outside of the ballroom and caused a commotion among the ladies. During my presidency was also the only time WDCAC had a New Years Eve ball. We also had a hat fashion show during chapel brunch.

What are you looking forward to most about our Centennial Year?

Us making an impact with our centennial scholarship and some kind of culminating event that will make everyone say "Wow!"

What is WDCAC's biggest impact?

People have always looked to us for leadership in many areas. We were considered the go to chapter for many years. We had many respected members on all levels and we took over.

Anntoinette White-Richardson  
President 2006-2008

Initiated  
Mu Beta 1978

How long have you been in WDCAC?  
Since 1980.

What are your fondest memories

3

and/or accomplishments of being in WDCAC?

My fondest memories are whenever I've been able to go to national conventions and regional conferences with the chapter and hanging out with my posse, becoming president of WDCAC as a native Washingtonian, and

being on the inaugural step show committee. I also remember attending Delta Days at the Nation's Capital and being able to dine in the senate dining room. Membership intake was an important accomplishment and near and dear to me

because we have to grow the organization and I've been there to witness my sister, niece, and lots of close friends coming into the chapter.

What are you looking forward to most about our Centennial Year?

Looking forward to us having a come together celebration in person. One that involves members and the community.

What is WDCAC's biggest impact?

Deltas were always putting themselves in position to run Washington, DC. We have been activists in the forefront and behind the scenes. WDCAC helped shape a lot of the history of DC.

Nichelle A. Poe  
President 2014-2018

Initiated  
WDCAC Spring 1993

How long have you been in WDCAC?

27 years

What are your fondest memories and/or accomplishments of being in WDCAC?

My fondest memories are working



on committees, the camaraderie, SASE, Greek step show and how we got to know each other. Learning under so many Delta mentors was also memorable.

What are you looking forward to most about our Centennial Year?

I'm most excited about us moving forward. I like watching us change and grow and adapt to society.

What is WDCAC's biggest impact?

We've made a huge impact and we are an integral part of the DC community. We have people on councils, politically involved and we are a sustaining force.

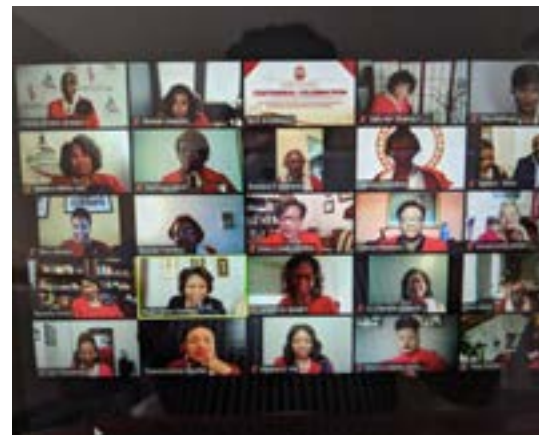


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# WDCAC's CENTENNIAL KICKOFF

by Marjorie Kinard

Saturday, February 6, 2021, will go down in the history of the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., as a day of memories for which we have been planning for more than two years. It was the "Centennial Kickoff" which begins a year of celebration for the members of our chapter. The beautifully planned and executed program was, virtually held, in the presence of more than 650 Deltas and guests. It was witnessed by invited guests from other chapters and members of the National and local Pan-Hellenic Councils around the country.



Rev. LaWanza Spears prayed the Invocation. Our Centennial President, Cherie Brown Jackson, welcomed our guests, followed by greetings from the Centennial Planning Committee Chair, Nichelle A. Poe, and her co-chairs Anntionette White-Richardson and Jan Burt. Beverly Smith, National President of DST, brought words of encouragement, followed by Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Boyd, 22nd National President, Rosie Allen-Herring,



Eastern Regional Director, and Nadege DeBrosse, Eastern Regional Representative. The local Presidents of the Pan-Hellenic Council brought greetings from their organizations.

Mayor Muriel Bowser and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton brought encouraging remarks. The event was hosted by local newscaster Allison Seymour, also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and her husband Marc Clarke. Entertainment was performed by Ledisi and Raheem Devaughn. Also featured in song were Teriauna Duran and Cheryl Gilbreath, and in dance, Alexandra Clark.

We were proud of the highlights given to the Charter Members and Notable Members of the chapter. Our service in the community was referenced by the chairs of those specific committees. One of the most interesting features of the "Kickoff" was a panel discussion with the following theme: "We Strolled to the Polls, Now What: The Continued Importance of Black Women in Social Justice Movements". The participants included Brandon Neal, Sonia Wiggins Pruitt, and Tria Stallings. The time was well spent by all present. What a wonderful event!!!



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# Service for Seniors

## FCAC and WDCAC Host a Metropolitan Area-Wide Founders Day DMV Day of Service

by Linda Lowe

This year the traditional Metropolitan Area-Wide Founders Day luncheon transitioned into a Day of Service (DoS) collaboration between Federal City Alumnae Chapter (FCAC) and the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter (WDCAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The theme for the DoS was "Elder Care – The Greatest Expression of Love" and offered services and support to seniors, their caregivers, and communities within DC through three activities: a letter-writing campaign, donating care packages, and virtual self-care webinar.



"The conditions of the pandemic have impacted the way we conduct our programs, but the service that we provide to the communities within the District are just as critical now as when Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was Founded 108 years ago," said WDCAC President Cherie Brown Jackson.

The initial goal for the letter-writing campaign was to provide 5,000

uplifting letters to seniors. In partnership with the District of Columbia Department of Aging and Community Living and with the support of local collegiate chapters, the campaign exceeded its initial goal and delivered 12,647 letters acknowledging their care and love for seniors in the district.

The Area-Wide Founders Day committee also collected essential care items, including socks, hand sanitizer, face masks, hand wipes, and latex gloves to create 350 senior care packages for senior residents in DC. Other novelties included in the care packages were crossword puzzles, pencils, and a personal greeting card. The committee delivered the care packages to residents living in senior apartments and to the DC-based nonprofit, East River Family Strengthening Collaborative, Inc., for distribution to other senior residents in DC.



A free, two-hour virtual self-care webinar rounded out the last DoS activity. The webinar touched on mental health and



overall well-being to seniors and their caregivers, the physical isolation some may be feeling during the coronavirus pandemic in addition to nutrition, estate planning, and other resources essential to seniors. The DoS webinar was moderated by leading experts in the senior care field and was attended by more than 320 community members. To view a recording of the webinar, [click here](#).



Congratulations to the committee and committee chairs and co-chairs Elisabeth B. Jones and Tracey Tolbert Jones (WDCAC), Sharon Williams Jackson, and Plina M. Doyle (FCAC) for leading this impactful and successful Day DMV DoS.

# The 2020 Virtual Gospel Brunch

by Kim Bradshaw

While this past year had its share of difficulties, the ladies of the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. didn't let the negativity of 2020 stop them from tapping into their charitable spirits while still having a great time. On November 22, 2020 they hosted over 300 people at their virtual Gospel Brunch Fundraiser. The event was a huge success as it exceeded the fundraising goal of \$30,000 for scholarships and programs, which will benefit the residents of the District of Columbia immensely.

"I am most proud of the fact that we were able to pull it off," said committee member Randi Bazemore. "We didn't really have anything to look to for a point of reference, but it came together well thanks to team work and dedication."



This dynamic event started off with an inspirational word from the 22nd National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.,

Gwendolyn E. Boyd. Her passionate convocation set the tone for an incredible performance by featured artists Geneva Renee and Teriauna Duran.

The audience was able to enjoy this soul nourishing Sunday brunch due to an incredible amount of hard work and pre-planning behind-the-scenes. The Sunday Gospel Brunch was co-chaired by Juanita Price and Norma



Jenkins Stewart, and the event committee did a phenomenal job in spite of the challenges involved in producing a completely virtual event for the first time.



"The virtual gospel brunch was a testament to the resilience, creativity and talent of our Chapter members and the generosity of our patrons and sponsors," said Price.



# DOUBLEGOOD: THE POPCORN FUNDRAISER FOR A GOOD CAUSE



During this Centennial year, WDCAC had its largest fundraiser in history with the Double Good Ultimate Gourmet Popcorn Fundraiser! This event took place from January 21-25, 2021 and consisted of 97 popcorn popups and nearly 3,000 supporters that spanned 41 states. In just four days, the Chapter raised a grand total of \$143, 119 with **\$71,559.50** in profit to be used for scholarships and programs that benefit Washington, DC.

While this is the first such fundraiser for WDCAC, Monica Bailey Delissaint, chair of the event and the Chapter's Third Vice President stated, "I believe the success had to do with the short fundraising period and the encouragement of [Chapter member] Dana Anderson that ignited the competition." This friendly competition took the fundraiser to a new level with several chapter members bringing in thousands in donations individually.

Special congratulations are in order for the top 10 sellers in the Chapter. They are: **Thennie Freeman \$8,367; Krystal Brumfield \$7,215; Stacey Childs \$6,120; Charlette Woodard \$5,501; Kamaria Hill \$4,107; Aeva Gaymon-Doomes \$3,795; Felicia Davis \$3,705; Roneal Josephs \$3,456; Terri Stroud \$3,305; and Patrice Clement \$3,232.**

Thank you, thank you, thank you for supporting Washington DC Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. in our fundraising efforts. Your purchases of popcorn benefited first responders and increased our reach to award scholarships and provide programming for residents of the District of Columbia.

## Professional Networking Program:

*Boss Up to the C-Suite: Deltas at the Table*

by Shameka Walker



On Sunday, January 24, 2021, the Professional Networking Program Committee held its second event, "Boss Up to the C-Suite: Deltas at the Table." The goal of the event was to help more Deltas get powerful, decision-making roles by learning how to strategically "boss up." Eastern Regional Director, President and CEO of United

Way Rosie Allen-Herring; Executive Director of the Greater Washington Black Chamber of Commerce, Tene Dolphin; and President/Founder of CRP, Incorporated, Carolyn Rudd of WDCAC, were panelists at the event.

The panelists engaged in a lively discussion, answering questions from Edna Moffit of WDCAC, who served as the moderator. After the panel discussion, there was a question and answer period and breakout rooms where participants had an opportunity to network and engage in further discussion. The event also featured music from DJ Sparkle. To view the program, visit WDCAC's YouTube channel [here](#).

# Making H&Rstory

## Casting a Historical Electorate Ballot

by Sylvia Thomas Ballinger



**W**omen lead. It is the legacy of Delta's founders and the hallmark of our Sisterhood. While 2020 was a year filled with turmoil, the year also marked an important time in our nation's history for women with the 100th anniversary of the ratification of

the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote.

The D.C. Democratic Party wanted to recognize this important movement and decided to pick a slate of women – nonelected officials- to cast the electoral votes for the nation's capital, and one of them was Meedie Bardonille, a member of the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc and chair of the District of Columbia Board of Nursing.

As a cardiac nurse in the ICU, graduate of Howard University and Spring 2008 initiate of Washington DC Alumnae Chapter, Bardonille's role in this significant moment was front and center in her mind. "When I first received the call from Mayor Bowser, I was overjoyed at the opportunity to serve and represent the residents of the District!" she said.

Bardonille felt elated and humbled to cast her vote because she understood the magnitude of the moment. "Being a nurse during the COVID-19

pandemic, and 2020 being the "Year of the Nurse and Midwife," being a Delta standing on the legacy of our beloved 22 Founders, an HU graduate standing in the shoes

of Patricia Roberts Harris, to cast the ballot for the first woman, an African-American HBCU grad, fellow Bison, D9 member, Madam Vice President Kamala Harris!" Bardonille added.

On December 14, 2020, Bardonille and two other women, Jacqueline Echavarria and Barbara Helmick cast their electoral votes for the nation's capital. Casting her vote was part of the continued legacy of the Founders of Delta, the 22 brave young women who were segregated to the back of the women's suffrage parade in 1913 by its White organizers, and who helped pave the way for future Black political activists.

