



**NORTHERN  
VIRGINIA**  
ALUMNAE CHAPTER  
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

Post Office Box 4310 • Arlington, Virginia 22204-9998 • [novac@dstnovac.org](mailto:novac@dstnovac.org)

**October Chapter Meeting**  
**Saturday, October 18, 2025**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**Cynthia Batson, President**  
**[president@dstnovac.org](mailto:president@dstnovac.org)**

Chapter Meeting Minutes

**Formal Call to Order**

The Northern Virginia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. formally opened the chapter meeting on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. with the Chapter President Cynthia D. Batson presiding. A quorum was reached at 10:14 a.m. for the conduction of business. Total Sorors in attendance: 243

**Adoption of Agenda:** The October 2025 Chapter Meeting agenda was adopted with changes as noted for presenters for 2VP/PP&D and Health Committee.

**Approval of the Minutes:** The September 2025 Chapter Meeting minutes were approved as presented.

**President's Report (Cynthia Batson)**

Acknowledgement of Breast Cancer Survivors (presented by the **Health Committee - Naomi Bowman**)  
Chapter members were recognized for their years of survivorship

National Updates:

- Honoring the life of our 25th National President, Dr. Paulette C. Walker (Our Numbers National President) Omega Omega Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Detroit, MI. Live Stream is available. Homegoing Services will be held on Friday, October 24, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.
- Dues Payment Issue (updates from Finance Team) due to National System update.
- Presented National Scholarships & Standards Committee and Program, Planning, & Development updates. Continue to watch for Hot Topics updated by the Second Vice President.

Regional Updates:

- Fall Leadership Meeting will be hosted by the Lexington Alumnae Chapter on October 31-November 1, 2025 in Greensboro, NC.
- Area Wide Founders Day will be held January 17-18, 2026 in Fredericksburg, VA. More to follow regarding the need for Chapter Volunteers.
- SAR Fundraiser remains open until October 20, 2025.
- Weekly Sensational Round-up – be on the lookout for these emails.

NOVAC Activities:

Reports from committees

- Reports from committees
  - Broadening our Alexandria and Arlington County outreach
  - All members are welcome to attend the events (exception for youth activities)
- Membership Intake
  - Nominating Committee
  - Elections Committee
- Polls will open for Chapter Voting

**Nominating Committee (Angela Allen)**

### Committee Activities Within Last 30 Days

- After a vote in the affirmative to proceed with Membership Intake at the September Chapter meeting, the Nominating Committee conducted a thorough review and audit of all submitted Minerva Circle applications.
- Nominating Committee meeting was held on September 28, 2025.
- October 5 – 6, 2025, all applicants for a Minerva Circle position received an individual email on behalf of the Nominating Committee; affirming candidates that have been slated and informing candidates that are ineligible to move forward as a slated candidate.

### Minerva Circle Application Activity Snapshot:

MC Position	# of Nominations	# Ineligible	# Withdrawals	# Slated Candidates
MC Assistants (MCAs)	11	1	1	9
Jewels	16	1	2	13
Keeper of the Muses and the Graces	1	0	0	1
Convenor of the Odyssey Experience	2	0	0	2
Leader of the Minerva Circle	2	0	0	2
				<b>TOTAL Slated: 27/32</b>

**Minerva Circle Associate Candidates:** Antionette Rainey, Antionette Mann, Bronia Ashford, Christina Powell, Crystal Dickerson, Deborah Foreman, Grace Katabaruki, Regina Mitchell, Samantha Sargent

**Jewel Candidates:** Anshia Crooms, Celeste Chapman, Cheron Reed, Christi Lee Johnson, Cynthia Brown, Dalmyra Caesar, Erica Burton, Francine Chance-Smith, LaNisha Washington, Lauren Walker, Patricia Harris, Tasha (Logan) Charles, Twana Maben

**Convenor of the Odyssey Candidates:** Celeste Chapman, Freda Briggman

**Keeper of the Graces and Muses Candidate:** Michelle Smith

**Leader of the Minerva Circle Candidates:** Fawn Coleman, Jameece Pinckney

### **Elections Committee Report (Janae Johnson)**

Chair provided procedural process for voting. The Chapter will be using the Election Runner platform for today's election process. A quorum is needed for all election activities. And a majority vote is needed for all positions. Election results will be anonymous. The Chair will alert the chapter when the voting starts.

### Questions/Comments from the Report

*Soror Regina Jones-Austin* - will the ballot go to the email I registered for the Chapter Meeting?

*Madam President* responded, yes. Elections Chair, Soror Johnson confirmed.

### **IVP (Christi Lee Johnson/Twana Maben) Membership Services**

Two (2) visiting Soror in attendance at today's virtual chapter meeting.

Celebrating Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Mental Illness Awareness Month

### First Vice President and Membership Services Committee Activities Within the Last 30 Days

- Attended the SAR Membership Services Sub-Committee meeting, September 23, 2025
- Attended the Risk Management training, September 25, 2025
- Attended the Budget & Finance meeting, October 1, 2025
- Attended the October Joint Presidents Round Table (JPRT), October 2, 2025

- Attended the Ruby Tucker Reading Program (Community Service & RIF), September 17, 2025
  - NoVAC Program Lead, October 8, 2025
- Area Wide Founders Day (AWFD), Public Service Initiative
  - NoVAC Sub-committee members: Bronia Ashford, Myra Caesar, Anshia Crooms, Angela Grubbs, Courtney Hill, Christi Johnson, Twana Maben
  - Kits of Kindness Donation Drive. NoVAC is responsible for the purchase of 500 water bottles. The drive runs until January 15, 2026. Five (5) Area-wide Chapters will pack kits on January 17, 2026, and will be presented during the AWFD event on January 18, 2026. Amazon Wish List (NoVAC purchase water bottles): <https://tinyurl.com/awfd2026>

Membership Services Committee 2025-2026 Theme: “Sisterly Care”

- Updated committee members sign-up lists sent to chairs, September 22, 2025
  - Link to sign up: <https://forms.gle/kvNpFAHxt2h4wNzY7>

“Opportunity for Sisterly Ride Share to SAR Fall Leadership Meeting, September 28, 2025

- Link to sign up: <https://forms.gle/aHcmuYGk5Sva3WpV9>
- Last day to sign up is October 18, 2025. Sign up list will be sent to respondents on October 19, 2025.
- Membership Services committee meeting was held on October 1, 2025
  - Be on the lookout for information about the NoVAC Holiday Fellowship Luncheon to be held on December 20, 2025

Upcoming Activities:

- Partnerships with Delta DEARS Subcommittee
- Finalize location for Holiday Fellowship Luncheon and Madam President approval

Email [Membership@dstnovac.org](mailto:Membership@dstnovac.org) to join or for questions.

Next Committee Meeting Details: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 via Zoom

**2VP (Joy Hill) Program Planning and Development (presented by Christi Johnson)**

Second Vice President Activities Within the Last 30 Days

Activity Reports:

- Send reports to the 2nd VP email following Committee Event/Activity. Please note that “following” is ideally within a few days of the activity taking place.

Delta 5 Point Thrust Areas – PPD Liaisons

- Assist committees with additional support and leadership touchpoint
- Liaisons are also resourcing strategic plans and Grand Chapter’s vision for focus areas/activities
  - Educational development – Lessie Shanks and Pamela Gilchrist
  - Political Awareness and Involvement – Bronia Ashford
  - International Awareness and Involvement – Vicki Morgan
  - Physical and Mental Health – Samia Byrd
  - Economic Development – Patricia Harris

Ongoing Activities:

- South Atlantic Region (SAR) Program Planning and Development Committee
  - Webinar 106 – Relaunching – Dfree – Monetary Grants/Awards – Debt Free – Grand Chapter Partnering with this organization, will be held on September 24, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
  - There is an ask from chapters to participate – Economic Development will present to the chapter on how we can participate in debt elimination.
- Committee assessing community partnerships with emphasis on service areas of Arlington and Falls Church:
  - NAACP, Councils, Social Services
  - Concern continually with those in need – some of the targeted communities would otherwise utilize services

Next Committee Meeting Details: Program, Planning and Development: October 18, 2025; 7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. via Google Meet

### **Corresponding Secretary's Report (Regina Mitchell)**

#### National Headquarters:

- DREF reminder: Calling all Federal Government, Military Employees and Retirees. Join the DREF Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)/ The DREF CFC number is 11213.
- National Headquarters Vacancy Announcements. Two (2) hybrid positions (remote and in-person): LMS Manager and Junior Database Administrator

#### Sensational South Atlantic Region (SAR): @sensationalsar

- Charmed with a Purpose, a SAR fundraising initiative. Sales are open through October 20, 2025.
- SAR Technology Committee relaunched the regional technology census to gain insight into how chapters are leveraging technology.
- SAR Truth Tuesday. SAR Chaplain's Council conducts a weekly prayer call every Thursday at 6:00 a.m. Motivational Moments returned Monday, September 15, 2025. Can be viewed on social media platforms and the SAR YouTube page.
- Call to Action. Virginia Social Action – Gubernatorial Debate took place on Thursday, October 9, 2025.

#### DST Chapter Events:

- Washington DC Alumnae Chapter
  - Hosting a “Fall Walk Passport” Challenge through October 18, 2025. The EastersealsDMV “Walk With Me 5K” is happening today, October 18, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Waterfront Plaza, National Harbor, MD. Bring friends and family!
  - Presents An Evening with Daphne Maxwell Reid: An Intimate and Immersive Event Celebrating the re-release of her cookbook, “Grace, Soul, and Mother Wit: A Cookbook and Memoir.” The event will be held today, October 18, 2025 at 3:45 p.m. There will be a VIP Reception at 3:00 p.m. Location: BLK Canvas Art Studio, 2209 Ritchie Road, District Heights, MD. Cost: \$50 General Admission, \$75 VIP.
- Charlottesville Alumnae Chapter is hosting a special fundraiser in conjunction with Hey Greeks – accessory bundle. Sales through November 15, 2025.
- United Kingdom Alumnae Chapter invites you to join in a celebration of Black History Month through an online auction featuring original works by renowned artists from across the global Black diaspora. Starts October 15, 2025. Immerse yourself in the vibrant world of contemporary Black art & culture and let your imagination explore the depth and richness of these incredible paintings created by our amazing artists. Visit [www.linktr.ee/ukacdstj](http://www.linktr.ee/ukacdstj) for more information.

Community Events: Refer to E-Gram dated October 15, 2026 for more information.

#### Committee Activities or Announcements within Last 90 Days

- E-Gram: 8
- Paper Mail: 30
- Voicemail: 0
- Membership Interest
  - Mail: 13
  - Email: 42
- Number of Ladies Interested in Delta Since 2020
  - We have a log of 258 ladies who have expressed interest in Delta. If you receive any communication from an interest, please forward to [correspondingsecretary@dstnovac.org](mailto:correspondingsecretary@dstnovac.org).

#### Chapter Membership Directory

- The latest Membership Directory posted behind Members Only in September 2025. Currently working on an update. To have your Membership Directory Information updated and included in the next directory release, submit changes to the Financial Secretary using the JotForm. Changes will be reflected in the financial roster, NoVAC Directory, and in NoVAC Google groups.

## E-GRAM

Deadline for next submission is Friday, October 24, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.

**\*\*REMINDER\*\*** as this is “News in a Flash,” we request all pertinent information like date of event, registration details, flyer attachments and no more than five (5) short sentences to describe your event. This update should be copy-paste ready, requiring no additional edits. Please find the submission form at [Here](#).

## **Financial Secretary’s Report (Latonia Evans)**

### Activities September 1 - 30, 2025

Receipts activity logged:

Dues-related payment received Online	95	\$33,789.15
Dues-related payment received In-Person	37	\$11,085.00
Dues-related payment received by Mail	13	\$3,560.00
South Atlantic Regional Necklace received Online	1	\$72.09

### Upcoming Activities:

#### Membership Dues!

- Jotform is currently open for the 2026 membership dues; see Chapter website. Payment Period has been extended to October 31, 2025. Please see Informz email sent on October 8, 2025.
- Payments received between November 1 – December 31, 2025 must include the late fee of \$10.
- Reinstatement fee will need to be submitted after December 31, 2025. Soror will also reflect as non-financial for FY2026 until payment is received.
- Checks and/or money orders are also acceptable via mail. The Annual Membership Dues Forms must accompany payments sent by mail.

#### Dues & Data Processing Nuggets:

- Email/address change requests should be sent to the Financial Secretary to be reflected in the Chapter Roster, not IT, the Webmaster, or the Corresponding Secretary. Sorors will need to complete the NoVAC Directory and Google Groups Information form or the Google Form; see link or QR code.
- Dues’ payments and member information updates, e.g., email/ mailing address, are not processed immediately. Once the Financial Secretary is alerted that a dues payment has been received (via online or by mail), updates will be made to the financial roster. Roster updates are only submitted to Chapter Leadership twice per month, prior to Executive Board and Chapter Meetings. Once updates are submitted, the Webmaster will then process them which then gives Sorors access to our Members Only Portal on the chapter’s website, as well as Chapter correspondence.

#### Purchases:

- Sorors that ordered the “Better Together” Regional pin or the Sensational South Atlantic Pearl Necklaces should make arrangements to retrieve their order or purchase their item(s).

## **Treasurer’s Report (Erica D. Burton)**

### Summary 30 Past Days: 9.1.2025 – 9.30.2025: MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

#### TRUIST Checking 5373 – NoVAC OPERATING

Previous balance as of 8.31.2025: \$ 164,901.20

Total Deposits (includes deposits, credits, and interest): +\$ 47,539.47

Total Disbursements (checks, withdrawals, debits, and service charges): - \$23,868.68

Checkbook balance on 9.30.2025: \$188,571.99

#### TRUIST CHECKING 9183 – NoVAC PROGRAMMING

Previous balance as of 8.31.2025: \$79,698.98

Total Deposits (includes deposits, credits, and interest): +\$0

Total Disbursements (checks, withdrawals, debits, and service charges): - \$0

Checkbook balance on 9.30.2025: \$79,698.98

## TRUIST MONEY MARKET 9086

Previous balance as of 8.31.2025: \$10,553.27

Total Deposits (includes deposits, credits, and interest): +\$.09

Total Disbursements (checks, withdrawals, debits, and service charges): - \$0

Checkbook balance on 9.30.2025: \$10,553.36

### Budget & Finance Updates/Reminders

- Committee met on October 1, 2025
- FY2026 Proposed Budget is behind member portal for review.

### Upcoming Activities:

- Jotform is open for dues payments for the 2026 Sorority Year; all payments must be submitted by October 20, 2025 at 12 noon.
- Chapter will vote on the FY2026 Operating and Programming Budget at the November Chapter Meeting

### **Standing Committees**

#### **Courtesies and Amenities (Bernice Dawson/Tonie Powell)**

Bereavement Notices: We acknowledged the loss of family members during the past month.

- Soror Cheryl Lawrence - memorialized her mother at a memorial service and Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Alexandria, VA on October 1, 2025.
- Soror Candace King –14 y/o daughter, Candis Gabriella King, transitioned on Sunday, October 5, 2025, after a battle with Sickle Cell Disease. Candis' celebration of life was held on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 in Triangle, VA.
- Soror Kellie Rodriguez-Lee - the funeral for her father was held on September 26, 2025 in Camden, NJ.

### Good News:

- Soror Carmen Jewel Head Thornton, who has been selected as a John Hopkins Bloomberg Fellow on Adolescent Health. John Hopkins University Bloomberg Schol of Public Health will be Carmen's academic home as she completes her Doctor of Public Health degree.
- Soror Marie Barnes is pleased to share the blessing that she entered remission from Multiple Myeloma. Your love, support, delicious meals, and continued prayers were/are truly appreciated.
- Soror Fredda White – Great news! Chemotherapy treatments have slowed down the amyloidosis AL, a very good partial result! Soror White will continue monthly chemotherapy through July 2026 and will go back to Boston in a year for re-evaluation tests. Soror White thanks Sorors for their prayers, support, calls, and messages. She is forever grateful and thankful for God's love, mercy, healing, and grace.

### Prayer Requests:

- Soror Cheryl Lawrence. Please continue to lift the family in prayer.
- Soror Candace King and family. We are asking Sorors to keep the King Family in their prayers.
- Soror Marie Barnes as she continues to recover and heal.
- Soror Katresha Bailey, her Soldiers, and their families as they prepare for a nine (9) month deployment,
- Soror Fredda White as she continues monthly chemotherapy through July 2026.
- Soror Kellie Rodriguez-Lee. Please remember Kellie and her family in your thoughts and prayers.
- Continue to pray for all Sorors

### Committee Activities Within Last 30 Days

- Submitted birthday list to E-gram committee for posting.
- The committee continues to provide weekly email updates to the chapter of Courtesies and Amenities communications received.
- Sent floral arrangements or memorial donations to bereaved Sorors.
- Organized breakfast for in-person September chapter meeting.
- Prepared, reconciled and/or submitted necessary vouchers for floral deliveries and refreshments.

## **Social Action (Marian Pegram)**

### Committee Activities Within Last 30 Days

- Participated in Green Valley Day held on September 20, 2025
  - NoVAC hosted a booth at Green Valley Day, Arlington, VA. The event was well attended and NovAC provided voter education. We had over 50 visits to our booth who engaged with our Test Your Civic Knowledge interactive game.
  - Thanks to all who helped staff, set up, and breakdown the booth.
- League of Women's Voters – Arlington/Alexandria Chapter coordination meeting was held on September 29, 2025.
- Get Out the Vote Postcarding with Center for Common Ground
  - The committee distributed 500 postcards to NoVAC members to write to Black voters in Virginia to encourage participation in early voting. All postcards will be mailed by October 20, 2025.
- Debate Watch Party was held on October 9, 2025, 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Busboys in Shirlington.
  - Co-hosted with NVDECS; Pearls of Southeast Arlington (AKA Interest Group); Black Women Roundtable; NCNW; Kappa Alpha Psi (Fairfax); and The Links of Arlington.
- 250 Doors: One Mission – Your Vote Your Voice (Arlington, VA)
  - Door Hanger Distribution for Zip Code 22206 – Partnered with Affordable Homes & Communities (AHC) residents who received incentive for distributing materials. Provided an overview of the project to the residents (10-15 minutes) and then began distribution. Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 11:00 a.m. The Apex, 2910 S. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA.

### Upcoming Activities:

- 250 Doors: One Mission – Your Vote Your Voice (Arlington, VA)
  - Post Card distribution for Zip Code 22206
    - Distribute the cards during the AHC food distribution. Food distribution is every Wednesday. Approximately 60 families in attendance. Generally, it is the same families who attend weekly. Next distribution: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Located at The Apex, 2910 S. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA
    - Mail post cards to African American women living in apartment buildings that we are unable to enter to distribute the door hangers.
  - Distribution for Zip Code 22204
  - Finalizing details for this neighborhood 250 Doors: One Mission – Your Vote Your
- Lead the Line – Early Voting Campaign – 100 Sorors Strong!
  - Encouraging all NoVAC VA residents to participate in early voting for the 2025 Virginia General Election. Please complete the anonymous survey after you've voted and email a selfie with "I Voted" sticker to [socialmedia@dstnovac.org](mailto:socialmedia@dstnovac.org)
- Continued Digital Media Outreach – Every Friday NoVAC Social Media will post voter education information up until the November election.
- Souls to the Poll, October 26, 2025

Next Committee Meeting Details: November 4, 2025, 7:00 p.m., Virtual (may change due to this being election day)

## **Arts & Letters (Celeste Chatman/Anshia Crooms)**

### Committee Activities Within Last 30 Days

- Ongoing planning for Poetry & Art Noir (Chapter Fundraiser in collaboration with the Fundraising Committee)
- Finalized flyer details and officially launched ticket sales through NVDECS
- Formed planning subcommittees to support event execution
  - Entertainment secured

- o Vendors to date: 3 out of 13
- Conducted site visit at the Torpedo Factory on October 3, 2025; review 2024 Noir feedback
- Current ticket sales (as of October 5, 2025): 55 out of 240
- Developing communication strategy, including social media promotion, community email outreach, and D-9 engagement
- Outlining the event run of show

Upcoming Activities:

- o Poetry & Art Noir Returns! Event will be held on Saturday, November 22nd at the Torpedo Factory in Old Town Alexandria. Time: 7:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. Ticket Price: \$80 in advance (\$85 at the door).

Next Committee Meeting Details: Tuesday, October 21 2025, 7:30 p.m.

**Community Service (Felicia Sherrod) (presented by Marche' Solomon)**

Committee Activities within Last 30 Days

- Attended Ruby Tucker Reading Program Training (Community Service & RIF)
  - o Volunteer application approved
  - o Completed mandatory intro session/training, September 17, 2025
- Held Community Service Committee meeting, September 23, 2025
- Continued coordination with Habitat for Humanity for potential future activities

Upcoming Activities:

- November 5, 2025 – Ruby Tucker Reading Program (NoVAC leading)
  - o Link to sign up: DST NoVAC: Ruby Tucker Readers
- November 22, 2025 - NOVA Project GiveBack event (packing project)
  - o Held at Hayfield High School, 7:3- a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
  - o Volunteers needed: Unloaders (6:00 a.m.), Food Box Assemblers (7:30 a.m.), Food Box Loaders (7:30 a.m.)
  - o Sign up will be sent out shortly

Next Committee Meeting Details: Tuesday, October 28, 2025, via Zoom

**Economic Development (Cherisse Aquil)**

Committee Activities Within Last 30 Days

- SAR PP&D Monthly Webinar: Focused on Financial Wellness
  - o Relaunch of the dfree Initiative
    - Partnering with The dfree Global Foundation, Inc. a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering the African American community toward financial freedom through education, training, resources, and professional support.
    - Dfree Challenge Kickoff: SMART Financial Goals – sign up opened October 11, 2025
- Committee Meeting was held on October 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
  - o SAR Chapter dfree Challenge: Preparation and promotion in progress
  - o Planning in Progress: Financial Literacy Webinar, dfree small group sessions, FAFSA webinar
- PP&D Liaison: Soror Patricia Harris

Upcoming Activities:

- SAR Chapter Challenge (dfree) Kick-off (virtual)
- Monthly Financial Wellness Challenge Themes:
  - o October – Kick-off/SMART Financial Goals
  - o November – Cut the Cord (eliminate or reduce one unnecessary expense)
  - o December – Debt Destroyers (track debt payments)
  - o January – Savings Sprint (focus on increased savings, share saving hacks)
  - o February – Wealth Wisdom (attend a DFREE webinar or a financial literacy workshop/participation challenge)

- o March – Generosity Jam (donation challenge – time, money, or talent)
- o April – End of challenge

Next Committee Meeting Details: Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom

Financial Wellness Tip: Know the Difference Between Needs and Wants

Before making a purchase, pause and ask yourself:

- *Need:* Is this essential for my daily living, safety, or well-being (e.g. food, housing, utilities, transportation)?
- *Want:* Is this something that adds comfort, convenience, or enjoyment but isn't necessary?
- **Tip:** Try the 24-hour rule – if it's not a true need, wait a day before buying. Often the desire fades, and your wallet stays happy.

### **Delta G.E.M.S (Valerie Carpenter)**

#### Committee Activities Within Last 30 Days

- Met three times in the last 30 days and welcomed six (6) new committee members
- Worked to establish an agenda for our 25/26 program year
- Email sent to local chapters with GEMS/Embodi programs to collaborate on a college tour
- Working with Risk Management to get committee members and volunteers trained to work with the GEMS
- Flyers were distributed to local schools, rec centers, and social media

#### Upcoming Activities:

- Kickoff Meeting set for October 20, 2025 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library

Next Committee Meeting Details: Sunday, October 19 and Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. via Google Meet

### **Delta Academy (Jasmine Nelson)**

#### Committee Activities Within Last 30 Days

- Wednesday, September 10, 2025 - Delta Academy Committee Planning Meeting. Held at the Richard Byrd Library, Springfield, VA
- Wednesday, October 1, 2025 - Delta Academy Committee Monthly Meeting. Held virtually via Google Meet

#### Upcoming Activities:

- Saturday, October 11, 2025 – Delta Academy Kickoff. Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center, Alexandria, VA
  - o Middle School Administrators/Teachers/Social Workers, we need your help! Please help us advertise to your schools! We would really like to reach more at-risk young ladies!
  - o Chapter announcement with this year’s flyer was sent on September 22, 2025.
- Saturday, November 8, 2025 – November Session - Wilderness Kids Alexandria. Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center, Alexandria, VA
- Saturday, December 13, 2025 – December Session – Holiday Carol Remix/Ugly Sweater Day. Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center, Alexandria, VA

Next Committee Meeting Details: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. via Google Meet

#### Questions/Comments from the Report

*Soror Michelle Smith* - Is it a requirement for the young ladies to live in our service area?

Co-Chair responded that it is not a requirement for the young ladies to live in our service area.

### **Reading Is Fundamental (Veronica Abrams)**

#### Committee Activities Within Last 30 Days

- Participated in the Hispanic American History Month “Read Ins” at Charles Drew and Alice Fleet Elementary Schools between September 29 – October 8, 2025.

- Participated in the October 8, 2025 activity at Ruby Tucker Family Center with the Charity Committee, President and First Vice President. The theme was fire safety. The Alexandria Fire Department did a presentation and allowed children to see the inner workings of their fire truck.

#### Upcoming Activities:

- RIF Committee will participate in the Native American History Month at Drew Elementary the week of November 10th. There are still a couple of volunteer slots available.

### **Physical & Mental Health (Naomi Brown)**

#### Committee Activities Within Last 30 Days

- Planning meetings for World Aids Day 2025
- Brainstorming for Momnibus Project. 5K, and Health Awareness Resource Fair
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month, October 2025

Chapter members were recognized for their years of survivorship

#### Upcoming Activities:

- Health Committee meeting
  - Held every 2nd Monday of the month or one (1) week preceding EC meetings. Members are encouraged to attend. Link is in Members Only calendar.

Next Committee Meeting Details: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 7:00p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Elections Committee (Janae Johnson)**

Run-off for the position of Jewel is required. Voting polls will be open for 15 minutes. Election link will be sent to the same email used for the first vote. Nine (9) positions available. 13 candidates were nominated. 11 candidates received the majority.

#### Questions/Comments

*Soror Beatrice Squire* - Madam President, Request for information: Perhaps I misunderstood: Question: In accordance with RONR, NoVAC's parliamentary authority, will the tellers report state the number of votes cast, number needed for election and the number each candidate received? If not, was there a directive from National, or did NoVAC adopt a special rule at some point not to provide the number of votes each candidate received? Thanks.

The Chair clarified that the election report would include number, number needed, and number received.

*Soror Grace Kataruki* – Will the re-ballot go to Sorors who remain in the meeting, or all Sorors who were initially in the meeting?

*Madam President* responded those who are in the space (Zoom) at the time of the vote will be able to re-vote.

*Soror Sherry Sargent* - Were Sorors allowed to vote for more than nine (9) jewels?

*Madam President* responded no, if you tried to vote for more than nine (9), you would get a big red x.

*Soror Sherese Burgess* - If more than nine (9) had majority, why can't we just take the top nine (9) if it wasn't a tie?

*Soror Antionette Mann* responded According to the APMI for Elections of the Minerva Circle, the chapter must have a run-off elections until nine (9) have the majority vote. It's page 16 of the September 2025 edition.

#### Discussion -

There was robust discussion about extension of the meeting. Members were allowed to make comments Meeting quorum was maintained at 166 Sorors.

*Soror Beatrice Squire* made a motion to extend the time of the meeting until the election is completed.  
*Soror Rhonda Long* second the motion.

Motion: To extend the October Chapter Meeting until the election is complete

Total Votes Cast -166 (73 (2/3 vote) needed to proceed)  
Yes: by visual majority

Motion passed. The October Chapter Meeting will be extended until the election is complete.

### **Elections Committee (Janae Johnson)**

The Minerva Circle members are as follows:

Minerva Circle Associates (9 positions)

Jewels (9 positions)

Conveyor or the Odyssey Experience (1 position)

Keeper of the Muses and the Graces (1 position)

Leader of the Minerva Circle (1 position)

### Minerva Circle Associates

237 eligible voters. 221 votes cast. 111 needed for majority.

- Antionette Rainey received 209 votes
- Antoinette Mann received 210 votes
- Bronia Ashford received 208 votes
- Christina Powell received 211 votes
- Crystal Dickerson received 202 votes
- Deborah Foreman received 202 votes
- Grace Kataruki received 208 votes
- Regina Mitchell received 210 votes
- Samantha Sargent received 213 votes

### Jewels (original vote results)

237 eligible voters. 221 votes cast. 111 needed for majority.

- Anshia Crooms received 174 votes
- Celeste Chapman received 143 votes
- Cheron Reed received 157 votes
- Christi Lee Johnson received 181 votes
- Cynthia Brown received 174 votes
- Dalmyra Caesar received 86 votes
- Erica Burton received 170 votes
- Francine Chance-Smith received 105 votes
- LaNisha Washington received 135 votes
- Lauren Walker received 149 votes
- Patricia Harris received 168 votes
- Tasha (Logan) Charles received 118 votes
- Twana Maben received 123 votes

### Jewels (run-off vote results)

170 eligible voters. 159 votes cast. 80 needed for majority.

- Anshia Crooms received 139 votes
- Celeste Chapman received 114 votes

- Cheron Reed received 119 votes
- Christi Lee Johnson received 146 votes
- Cynthia Brown received 132 votes
- Erica Burton received 139 votes
- LaNisha Washington received 121 votes
- Lauren Walker received 128 votes
- Patricia Harris received 128 votes
- Tasha (Logan) Charles received 113 votes
- Twana Maben received 105 votes

#### Convenor of the Odyssey Experience

237 eligible voters. 218 votes cast. 110 needed for majority.

- Celeste Chapman received 76 votes
- Freda Briggman received 142 votes

#### Keeper of the Muses and the Graces

237 eligible voters. 215 votes cast. 108 needed for majority.

- Michelle Smith received 215 votes

#### Leader of the Minerva Circle

237 eligible voters. 220 votes cast. 111 needed for majority.

- Fawn Coleman received 65 votes
- Jameece Pinckney received 155 votes

#### Declared Results

Minerva Circle Associates (9 positions)

- Bronia Ashford
- Crystal Dickerson
- Deborah Foreman
- Grace Kataruki
- Antionette Mann
- Regina Mitchell
- Christina Powell
- Antionette Rainey
- Samantha Sargent

Jewels (9 positions)

- Cynthia Brown
- Erica Burton
- Celeste Chapman
- Anshia Crooms
- Patricia Harris
- Christi Lee Johnson
- Cheron Reed
- Lauren Walker
- LaNisha Washington

Convenor of the Odyssey Experience (1 position)

- Freda Briggman

Keeper of the Muses and the Graces (1 position)

- Michelle Smith

Leader of the Minerva Circle (1 position)

- Jameece Pinckney

### **New Business**

None

### **Announcements**

*Soror Beatrice Dawson/Susan Norwood* - On Sunday, October 19, 2025, a former chaplain of NoVAC, Rev. Dr. Yalonda N Smith, will be the guest preacher for Women's Health Emphasis Sunday. Scripture 3 John 1-2 at the 11:00 a.m. service. Second Baptist Church, Falls Church, Va. Rev. Ellie's Henderson, Jr. Pastor. All are invited to attend.

*Soror Linda Hitchens* – The Heritage and Archives Committee will be honoring our 25<sup>th</sup> National President, Dr. Paulette C. Walker, at next month's Chapter Meeting. Many of us have had a special relationship with our dear Soror, and we would like to share those memories. We are requesting your help by sending us your favorite photo of yourself with Soror Walker. Please email them to [heritageandarchives@dstnovac.org](mailto:heritageandarchives@dstnovac.org) no later than Monday, October 27, 2025. Thank you in advance.

*Soror Karita Richarson* – Join the Northern Virginia Section of the National Council of Negro Woman, Inc as we continue to celebrate 50 years of service to the Northern Virginia community at our Denim & Diamonds Day Party! Get ready for fun, fellowship, and style! Come dressed in your denim and dazzling diamonds! Win big while giving back with our 50/50 raffle. DJ Ni will be spinning the best R&B and Hip Hop. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Proceeds support NoVA Section's community outreach and youth program. Saturday, November 8, 2025 from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Location: Don Tito, 3164 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201. Tickets are \$50 per person. Purchase tickets here: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/denim-and-diamond-day-party-fundraiser-hosted-by-nova-section-of-ncnw>

Madam President entertained additional questions and comments while we awaited the election results from the Election Committee.

### **Adjournment**

Madam President, Cynthia Batson, adjourned the October chapter meeting at 2:38 p.m. by general consent.

**Submitted by: Misty S. Aycock**

Misty S. Aycock

Assistant Recording Secretary

**Approved:**