



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®
Chi Zeta Omega Chapter

Ivy Pride

Volume 4, Issue 03, March/April, 2011

2011 AKA Day at the Capitol

by Sandra Miller

On January 31, 2011, members of Chi Zeta Omega joined AKA's from across the state to participate in AKA Day at the Capitol in Austin, Texas.

It was a wonderful site to see members from every corner of the state engaging in dialogue to influence legislative changes that affect our local communities.

It would not have been possible without the work and coordination of our Connections Committee Chairman, Ms. Sandra Miller, the support of our Chapter President - Shelby Reece who supported us during the entire process and our Northeast Texas Cluster Connections Chairman - Mrs. Felicia Layeni who navigated the waters and made our participation possible.



Photo by: Michelle Moses-Meeks

Hats Off to our Past Chapter President, Ms. June Boswell who did a spectacular job in serving as our spokesperson to our elected officials. And much gratitude to Ms. Marcelle Jones for her quick research of officials and Ms. Sandra Parks and Ms. Darlene Wright for their voices on the issues. Ms. Michelle Moses-Meeks exemplified the typical lady of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority by wearing many hats: hats of Sorority Member, a member of LINKS, Incorporated and Mother. Thanks to all for your representation and making it such a lovely day!

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Upcoming Events

Chi Zeta Omega &
Pearls of Service, Inc
presents

*An Evening of Elegance:
Capturing a Vision Fair*

*2011 Pearls & Ivy
Debutante Ball*

April 16, 2011

7:00 PM

Renaissance Hotel
900 East Lookout Dr.
Richardson, Texas

This event is open to the public.

Websites

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc
www.aka1908.com

Chi Zeta Omega Chapter
www.akaczo.org

A Message from Our President

Shelby Reece



To My Beloved Members of Chi Zeta Omega,

We are in a critical time of the year where we focus all of our energy and efforts on our signature event, the annual Debutante Ball. The Debutante Ball is our chapter's largest fundraising

event. I can't express how urgent it is to support the event from a financial perspective, as well as from a volunteer perspective.

Financially, the monies that we raise provide our Program Committees with the funds they need to support our communities. The funding from the Debutante Ball is the primary source of our chapter programs. So think in terms of our Pearls & Ivy Program, the Community Garden, the upcoming Fitness Extravaganza, and the annual Back to School Drive. In order for us to put on any award-winning service or event, we MUST have funding. And the Debutante Ball provides that funding.

From a volunteer perspective, there is so much to still be done. Decorating the ballroom is a huge effort and usually takes 2 days to complete. There are hostesses that are needed to welcome our members of the sorority, guests, families, and friends. We must ensure that the program runs smoothly. So when the time comes and the Debutante and Cotillion Chairmen reach out to you for support next week, please be sure that you schedule time to donate a few hours supporting our signature event.

Time, Service & Funding

is of the essence at this moment.

See you soon!

Sisterly,
Shelby Reece

Timeless History From the Archives Committee

by Tracee Wysinger

Founder: Anna Easter Brown



Anna Easter Brown was born on April 13, 1879 and passed away on March 5, 1957. She was a part of the "original nine" group of twenty founders in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Ms. Brown graduated from West Orange High School with honors and attended Howard University. While attending Howard University, she worked as the chief evening librarian as she completed classes at the Teachers College Department. On January 15, 1908, Ms. Brown helped founded Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She served as the first treasurer of the sorority. She also helped write the final draft of the sorority's constitution and bylaws. Ms. Brown completed graduate work at Columbia University. As an educator at the high school level for over 30 years, she enriched many students' lives. She began teaching in the fall of 1909 at Brick School in Bricks, North Carolina. In 1926, she accepted a teaching appointment at Booker T. Washington High School in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. She taught social studies and had a critical role in teaching the next generations until her retirement in 1952. She was also a charter member of the Chi Omega Chapter established in Rocky Mount, North Carolina in 1925.

Have You Registered for the 2011 Leadership Conference?

by Robin Coward

If you haven't registered for the 2011 Leadership Seminar Conference, there is still time. You may have missed Early Bird Registration, but the deadline for regular registration is May 16, 2011. "You can cultivate the leader within you" by registering and attending "workshops that will enhance your leadership capabilities."



Giving Love at Hope's Door

by Artisha Wilson

On February 14, 2011, Chi Zeta Omega's Social Justice and Human Rights Committee kicked off one of their many children's activities at Hope's Door Women's shelter by celebrating Valentine's Day with the children and their mothers. Chi Zeta Omega members assisted the children with decorating cupcakes and making cards to give to their mothers.



Hope's Door's Director of Community Engagement, Adela Plasek, stated "This is one of the loneliest days for the women at the shelter." Social Justice and Human Rights Committee Chairman, Kimberly Scott, stated, "In speaking with the ladies, and observing the children, I know that they were appreciative of our time spent with them."

Chi Zeta Omega also donated toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, hair relaxers, conditioner, soap, toilet paper and deodorant.

Hope's Door is a nonprofit organization that opened in 1986 with the 24-hour crisis line as its core service. Today, Hope's Door provides services to women and their children suffering from domestic abuse in Collin, Dallas, and other surrounding counties. All services are provided to the victims at no cost.

To learn more about Hope's Door, please visit the website at: www.hopesdoorinc.org.

Debutantes Donate Health Kits to The Samaritan Inn

by Dewanna Jefferson

Cherise Wright, Debutante Community Service Chairman lead a volunteer service project to support The Samaritan Inn.

Cherise motivated the debutantes to assemble and donate 55 health kits that will greatly benefit the residents of The Samaritan Inn. Quote from Cherise, "They were very grateful to receive them!"

The Samaritan Inn is more than just a place to spend the night. It is a holistic program that teaches self-sufficiency and life skills. To assist the needs of individuals and families before, during, and after a homeless situation, The Samaritan Inn provides interactive, in-house programs for its residents and graduates. Those with special needs are referred to additional programs and resources available within the community to help during their crisis.

To find out more about The Samaritan Inn, please visit the website at www.thesamaritaninn.org.

Debutantes Honor their Mothers at Annual Tea

by Lytesia Jackson

Community members, mothers, daughters and friends attended the annual Mother-Daughter Tea honoring 11 Dallas area senior girls to be introduced at the upcoming Cotillion hosted by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Chi Zeta Omega Chapter and Pearls of Service, Incorporated.



Photos taken by: Rosalyn Garner

'Global Grace – Teas Around the World' was the theme of this afternoon-tea celebrating the special bond between mothers and their daughters as they transition into finer womanhood. It is one of the highlights of the debutante season, which begins during a girl's junior year, and culminates with their "presentation" at the Cotillion at the end of their senior year. During the 24-month program, members participate in interactive workshops led by subject-matter experts, attend field trips, plan and participate in special events, prepare for successful college careers and provide service to the community.

Chi Zeta Omega's Founders' Day Observance

by Patrice Withers



Chi Zeta Omega's annual observance of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Founders' Day was a success! The chapter started the day by attending service at Camp Wisdom United Methodist Church where our anointed sister, Pastor Janet Bell Odom delivered a powerful message entitled: "A Lil Dab Will Do Ya." As we were welcomed, a member stated that we "looked like a beautiful ray of Spring time in our pink and green."

Chapter President Shelby Reece, presented Pastor Odom with a contribution of \$450 to the Camp Wisdom United Methodist Church Food Pantry Outreach Ministry. We all left fired up and pumped about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! What a blessed time we had!

Our day continued with a luncheon at the Texas Land & Cattle Restaurant. During our luncheon we had an opportunity to reflect on Alpha Kappa Alpha women who have been instrumental in our lives. We had an intimate celebratory time of true sisterly bonding and all were blessed from the experience.

Partner Pearl Kick-Off

by Karen Austin

On March 5, 2011, the Membership Committee launched Partner Pearls. The purpose of Partner Pearls is to match seasoned green pearls of Chi Zeta Omega with new pink pearls to Chi Zeta Omega that have joined within the past year. These "partner" pearls will get together periodically over; lunch, dinner, or coffee to discuss life in the chapter as well as build a stronger sisterly relationship. The event was a huge success as we laughed and played games while getting to know each other. Partners found each other based on opposite names that were given such as yin and yang, salt and pepper, black and white. The Membership Committee hopes that these new relationships develop into strong sisterly relationships in, as well as outside of the chapter.



Newly partnered chapter members Veronica Jackson (on the left) and Chapter Secretary, Victoria Odom (on the right) take a moment to pose for the camera as they enjoy the afternoon. When asked, Veronica said she was "excited about this opportunity to get to know Victoria and the chapter better. I've always admired Victoria's spirit and look forward to learning from her."

Chi Zeta Omega 2011-2012

Executive Committee

PRESIDENT
Shelby Reece

1st VICE PRESIDENT
Tuere Davis

2nd VICE PRESIDENT
Deena Rember-Neason

RECORDING SECRETARY
Victoria Odom

**ASST. RECORDING
SECRETARY**
Charyl McAfee-Duncan

TREASURER
Pamela Scott

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Jessica Cofield

ASST. FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Pat Hartman

**CORRESPONDING
SECRETARY**
LaShawn Johnson

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Felicia Layeni

HOSTESS
Patrice Withers-Stephens

KEEPER OF THE DOOR
Tracy Lotten

IVY LEAF REPORTER
Robin Coward

CHAPLIN
Lisa Washington

HISTORIAN
Tracee Wysinger

BUSINESS MANAGER
Cherise Wright

ASSET MANAGER
Beverly Bruton-Taylor

MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Asheley Brown

MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Mary Dedeaux-Swinton

February Pearls of the Month

by Robin Coward

Chi Zeta Omega congratulates members Lytesia Jackson and Zakeia Kennedy for their commitment to the Emerging Young Leaders (EYL) and Pearls and Ivy retreat.



Two lovely ladies worked tirelessly to ensure that the retreat was a success.

Their hard work and devotion to the EYL program is greatly appreciated.

March Pearl of the Month

by Robin Coward



Chi Zeta Omega congratulates member Vicki Deaver for her work on the Chapter Scrapbook and the scrapbooking session with Pearls and Ivy.

Vicki dedicates hours and hours of hard work to produce the chapter scrapbook Chi Zeta Omega uses to showcase all of the work the our chapter does throughout the year.

Her efforts resulted in the chapter being awarded 2nd Place - Chapter of the Year (mid-sized chapter) at the South Central

Regional Conference this year in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

AKA-lades

Mrs. Felicia Layeni, Immediate Past Chapter President has been selected to receive the Community Service Award from The Greater North Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club's of The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.

Ms. Artisha Wilson recently received the coveted Raytheon Tech Honors Award. Only 4% of all Raytheon employees are selected for this award.

Devotional Topic

by Shannon Robinson

If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't complain.--Maya Angelou

Words
of
Wisdom

