** SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY, INC.**

 **Alpha Upsilon Sigma**

 ***“A Non-governmental Organization Associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information”***

**Eureka T. Rucker, Anti-Grammateus**

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Sorority Meeting

December 7, 2019

East St. Louis City Hall, East St. Louis, Il.

**Members Present:** R. Andreya Ayers, Laurie Baker, Jeanie Brown, Nancy Byrd, Ruthie Cabine, Georgianna Clanton, Alisha Coleman, Vannessa Curtis, Edna Farmer, Barbara Fleming, Jessica Fort, Ashley Golliday, Jan Griffin, Katina Hardin, Marian Harris, Micheline Harris, Pamela Hughes, Harriet Jackson-Lewis, Pamela Jones-King, Dorothy Lloyd, Denise Merritt, Wenifred Nash-Bell, Carolyn Perkins, Tommie Randolph, Cindy Reed, Eureka Rucker, Ethel Shanklin, Zikisha Shanklin-Young, Deborah Smith, Mary Smith-Floyd, Carolyn Spencer, Nakeesha Tolden-Mosely, Shelia Williams

Basileus Shelia Williams called the meeting to order at 2:40p

* Meditation by Soror Dorothy Lloyd
* The pledge was recited

**Correspondence** – A thank you card was received from Soror Andrea Tolden-Hughes

* Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Sigma chapter will be hosting their 68th annual southwestern regional conference. They have asked for our support during this time by sponsoring their chapter with a financial contribution.

**Action Item:** Soror Farmer made a motion to do a full-page ad for $150. Motion properly seconded by Soror Ayers. Motion carried.

* A thank you card was received from Soror Verna Tolden
* A Christmas card was received from St. Jude Children’s Research hospital
* A thank you card was received from The Griffin Center
* Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Nu Chi chapter sent a letter to Alpha Upsilon Sigma chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. thanking us for our work in the community and to say Happy Founders’ Day. They also brought us a large sheet cake for our founders’ day

**Action item:** A motion was made my Soror Farmer to approve November 2019 meeting minutes as submitted. Motion properly seconded. Motion carried.

**Basileus Report:** Basileus Williams attended the Basileus boot camp and got some ideas from other Basilei around the region on how to keep our chapter exciting. Every meeting will be different. We will be changing the structure to keep the meeting’s interesting.

The regional conference is coming up soon. If you have not signed up for the bus Soror Ingram needs to know immediately. There are only 20 seats left. There is no price yet because the price depends on how many people will be on the bus. As soon as this information is received it will be sent out to the chapter.

Soror Carpenter is at Memorial Rehabilitation Center. She would like visitors. Soror Merritt has visited her recently. Soror Shanklin states that she plans to be home after this upcoming Wednesday.

**Anti-Grammateus Report:** (please see emailed report)

**Anti-Basileus Reports**

* **1st anti basileus** – A couple of months ago a membership survey was discussed. A lot of information was received from this. We would like to now take this information and give a visual of what was said. And then come up with some ideas to improve the chapter. We are gearing up for TORCH 2020. If you know of anyone who is interested please give Soror Katina Hardin their names and phone number.

There are several sorors who would like to reactivate. Soror Shanklin asks that we get started to bring these people back to the sorority.

Soror Andrea Green from Gamma Phi Sigma in Houston Texas was introduced to the chapter. She will be transferring to Alpha Upsilon Sigma chapter. She has chaired her chapter’s all white party for the last 3 years. She was also the chair of the branding committee. She has been here for about a month. She is employed at Washington University and she is married with 4 children and 4 grandchildren.

* **2nd anti basileus** – (please see emailed report) Soror Ayers attended the advisor’s academy in Rosemont, Il. The message is for the advisor to be the resource that the undergraduates need so that they will transition into a graduate chapter. They had a successful informal rush. There were 11 candidates to express interest. They are planning for a Spring 2020 TORCH class to start in January. They have a donation for Project Cradle Care. They were hoping to do a regional induction, but this will not happen do to the cost of getting everyone to regionals. There was a lot of support during founders’ week. They will be having a second informal rush for those who were interested that could not make it to the initial informal rush.
* **3rd anti basileus** – Soror Baker attended the Advisor’s academy. She interacted and invited sorors to our party. Delta Beta is planning to have a TORCH class in Spring 2020. They have been taking care of business and have gotten their 990-form completed. Delta Beta does not want to conflict with Gamma Beta’s calendar. They do not plan on having an informal rush. They plan to start their calendar on 1/15/20. They have elected not to do the regional induction due to the cost.

**Standing Reports**

**Epistoleus** – In the month of November founders’ week was completed. The Christmas party last night was a blast and a great time was had by all. Soror Shanklin-Young is working on putting some things in place for this position going forward. She has been involved in a group on Facebook and would like to incorporate some of this into her current position. She has not received any pictures from any of the events that have been held this year thus far and she is need of these for the scrapbook for the regional competition. There was discussion regarding the Epistoleus having a camera as they used to have one several years ago. It was determined that Soror Shanklin-Young manages the chapter Facebook page and Soror Hardin manages the Instagram and Twitter accounts.

**Philo Report –** (please see emailed report)

**Rhoer Advisor** – The Rhoer meeting was held on 12/7/19. The Rhoer Club Christmas sleep over will be held on 12/20/19 at 8p at Advisor Farmer’s home. They will do a gift exchange and have their toy raffle drawing. Breakfast will be held the next day as well as a visit to the nursing home where they will sing carols and pass out socks that they have purchased. The Rhoers will be hostesses at the Cotillion dressed in their royal blue or gold party dresses. Approximately 14 Rhoers will attend the Central Region Conference on 3/12/20-3/15/20. The Rhoer round up will be held on Saturday, 1/11/20. The Rhoer bake sale will be Saturday 1/11/20 before sorority meeting. The fashion show will be held on 3/1/20. Soror Andreya Ayers concluded the meeting with a special safety workshop.

**Cotillion Report –** A sheet has been passed around for those that are definitely going to attend. Adults tickets are $65 and children’s tickets $35. There are 5 debutantes. There were 3 in the monitor. The other 2 will be in the paper next week. The 5 escorts will be in the paper on 12/20/19. Soror Zikisha Shanklin-Young is commended for getting the ads together for the graphic artist. The debs went to the Fox for their night out and the thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thank you to Soror Pamela Hughes for helping Soror Andrea Tolden with the script. The cotillion will be held on Saturday 12/28/19 at 6:30p in the grand ballroom of the Hilton St. Louis Ballpark Hotel. 1 S. Broadway, St. Louis, Mo. The tickets will be held at the registration table.

Five debutantes will be presented at the 52nd Debutante Tiara Cotillion:

1. Adrianne Gines, the daughter of Ms. Crystal Gines
2. Destiny Jackson, the daughter of Mrs. Yonnie Black and granddaughter of Philo President Debra Hamilton-Tidwell

1. Cydney Perkins, the daughter of Mrs. Tessa Whitfield-Perkins and the niece of Soror Paulette Whitfield-Black

1. Jordan Simms, the daughter of Ms. Sherry Simms
2. Rhoer President Kaelei Williams, the daughter of Mrs. Geneka Gully-Williams and granddaughter of Basileus Shelia Williams

**Rhosebuds** – The induction was held on the same day as Soror Carpenters’ sisters’ funeral so the induction was not able to be canceled. There were 3 Rhosebuds that were inducted. Thank you to Soror Vannessa Curtis for handling all of the registration and collecting the money.

**Youth Symposium** – The Youth Symposium will be held on Saturday 3/28/20. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12/18/19 at 6:30p. Please start to bring your school supplies donations to the January, February and March meetings. If you’re interested in joining this committee please see Soror Ayers.

**Social Action Committee –** Soror Pettiford represented our chapter at the meeting. Every 10 years the census is completed. This is how the county gets their money for funding. In Brooklyn only 66% of the people were registered as citizens. Cahokia had 71%, O’Fallon 74% and East St. Louis had 69%. This affects food stamps. They have jobs if anyone is interested. These jobs pay $17/hour. The schools have a program for pushing the census.

**Founders’ Week** – The 2nd annual blue and gold day party was a huge success. The attendance was doubled from last year. This was held at the Culture Café in East St. Louis, Il. Sunday the sorors visited the Basileus’ church. Veteran’s Day was spear headed by Soror Cindy Reed. The chapter started a library for them. There was an unveiling. Soror Spencer brought her students over and they did a speech on “I am a veteran.” A plaque was presented to the veterans for their dedication to our country and community. Wednesday book bags were packed to prepare for Operation Big Book Bag. Thursday sorors went to Gordon Bush Elementary to distribute the bookbags. Friday was Family and Friends bowling night. Saturday was our 1st sisterhood fun walk. After the walk we fellowshipped at the Golden Corral. Sunday was the 78th Annual Scholarship Tea. Past Rhoer Dana Merritt gave an exceptional speech. State Representative Latoya Greenwood was the keynote speaker. Rhoda G provided the entertainment. Thank you to Sorors Cory Patton, Cindy Reed, Denise Merritt, Harriet Lewis, Jan Griffin, Gina Walker and Jocelyn Abdul-Rasheed for spearheading events during founders’ week. The rededication ceremony was a game changer. Soror Farmer and her chants changed the dynamic of the night. A great time was had by all.

**Joseph Center** – The library was donated to Martha Watts, the women who started the center. This center was named after her husband Joseph. She was not able to attend the event; however, Soror Reed spoke with her and she was overwhelmed that the sorority did this for her. A special thank you to Soror Perkins whose idea this originally was.

**Christmas Party** – The report will be delivered in January. All of the receipts are in. The party was a lot of fun. Aimee Hart did an awesome job entertaining. Soror Randolph did a wonderful job with the gifts.

**Project Cradle Care –** if you want to make a monetary or physical donation please contact Soror White-Nicholson. If you brought a gift to the meeting Soror Golliday will be collecting them today.

**Fairyland** – (please see emailed report) Soror Hughes states that Fairyland will be held on 5/31/20 at the Caseyville Community Center. The theme is “The Enchanted Kingdom of Love and Courage.” The parent meeting will be tomorrow at 4p. 8 invitations were sent to girls and 5 invitations to boys. They will be taking applications through 12/28/19. If you know of any girls or boys between 6-11 please let Soror Hughes know.

**NPHC –** The raffle that was scheduled for November was postponed to December. President Cary will send us a time and date for the canned good drive. It is usually at the Catholic Urban Center on 157. Wear your blue and gold. All Greek Week has been scheduled for 3/22-3/29. Please start to think about what soror can get these awards. Criteria was attached to the handout. We are hosts for the December meeting so show up and support in your colors. This meeting will be held on 12/19/19 at East St. Louis City Hall at 6p. Soror Vannessa Curtis is the representative for the all Greek Week.

**Tamiochus:** - (please see report) Opening balance as off 10/22/19 was $52,007.55. Deposits were $7,820.12 for a total of $59,827.67. Total revenues were $7,510.85 for an ending balance of $52,316.82. Scholarship savings account balance is $14,022.75. There was no interest accrued and no deposits so the balance stayed the same.

**Action item** – A motion was made for the report to be filed for audit. Motion properly seconded. Motion carried.

**Scholarship:** Soror Barbara Fleming states that Former Rhoer Christina Burrell, who attends Clark Atlanta University, is now a Soror.

**Grammateus:** Monies were received from the following sorors: Etta Pettiford, Annissa Stanley, Chakaio Benton, Christie Liddell, Andreya Ayers, Wenifred Nash-Bell, Vannessa Curtis, Carolyn Spencer, Carolyn Perkins, Ruthie Cabine, Harris, Barbara Fleming, Edna Farmer, Jeanie Brown, Georgianna Clanton, Davis, Verna Tolden, Pamela Hughes, Nancy Byrd, Tommie Randolph, Alisha Coleman, Patricia Galloway, Harris, Eureka Rucker, Andrea Tolden-Hughes, Mary Smith-Floyd, Laurie Baker, Cory Patton, Deborah Smith, Shelia Williams, Ethel Shanklin, Cindy Reed, Ashley Byrd and Mildred Drake-Washington

**Announcement:**

Meeting adjourned at 4:25pm with the singing of the Sorority Hymn

Sisterly Submitted,

**Soror Eureka T. Rucker, Anti-Grammateus**