



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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Special Meeting

8/3/2020

Special Meeting

Members Present: Jocelyn Abdul-Rasheed, Linday Ashford, Andrey Ayers, Laurie Baker, Chakaio Benton, Juliette Boone, Jeanie Brown, Warletta Brookins, Latrice Buckner, Ashley Byrd, Nancy Byrd, Ruthie Cabine, Georgianna Clanton, Alisha Coleman, Vannessa Curtis, Elaine Dandridge, Jamie Davis, Carla Deboe, Edna Farmer, Barbara Fleming, Jessica Fort, Jan Griffin, Katina Hardin, Marian Harris, Marlene Harris, Micheline Harris, Robin Harris, Aimee Hart, Pamela Hughes, Harriet Jackson-Lewis, Pamela Jones-King, Wanda LeFlore, Christi Liddell, Angela Lyles, Crystal Martin-Nicholson, Denise Merritt, Leneshia Moyegun, Wenifred Nash-Bell, Ak'iya Perry, Cindy Reed, Eureka Rucker, Zikishia Shanklin-Young, Ingrid Shelton-Williams, Carmelita Spencer, Annissa Stanley, Geraldine Thomas, Verna Tolden, Andrea Tolden-Hughes, Nakeesha Tolden-Mosley, Gina Walker, Ratesha White-Nicholson, Shelia Williams, Erin Wilson

Basileus Shelia Williams called the meeting to order at 7:06p

- Σ Soror Jocelyn Abdul-Rasheed identified the unidentified numbers on the call
- Σ Meditation by Soror Nicholson
- Σ Madame Parliamentarian reviewed the rules for the meeting so that the meeting could run efficiently and timely
- Σ Quorum was established as 64 out of 87 members were present on the call

Point of Order by Soror Andrea Tolden. She states that the standing rules need to be adopted.

Action Item: Soror Shanklin made a motion to accept the standing rules as read. Motion properly seconded by Soror Andrea Tolden-Hughes. Motion carried. (poll was used 49 yays and 0 nays)

Basileus Report: She would like to be transparent with the chapter. The executive board met yesterday and we would like to have proper communication with the chapter. We need to start being sisterly to one another. If you see something wrong say something. Use your voice. Otherwise the problem will continue and we would like to be a strong chapter again.

Bylaw Amendment: Article 8, Meeting Section 1. The current language reads: Unless authorized by the executive board the regular meeting of Alpha Upsilon Sigma chapter shall be held the first Saturday of each

month with the exception of September and January when they shall be held on the second or third Saturday of the month, whichever is more appropriate.

If adopted the proposed language will read: Unless authorized by the executive board the regular meetings of Alpha Upsilon Sigma chapter shall be held the first Saturday of each month with the exception of September and January when they shall be held on the second or third Saturday of the month, whichever is more appropriate. Regular meetings may be held via telephone conference call or other electronic media. At a minimum all members must be able to hear each other simultaneously.

The rationale behind this suggested change is that our current bylaws allow for our chapter to conduct special meetings electronically; however, it does not specify if regular meetings can be held electronically. The bylaws do not prohibit meeting electronically. As stated in the chapter administration strategy in response to Covid 19 that was sent out on 5/4/2020 from headquarters...if the chapter bylaws do not already have a provision for the chapter to meet electronically and the chapter bylaws do not explicitly prohibit meeting electronically then chapters may still do so by including the notice of a proposed amendment to the bylaws to allow for electronic meetings with the exact language included within the chapter meeting notice. Since bylaws go into effect as soon as they are adopted the amendment shall be the first item of business after establishing a quorum exists.

A chapter vote was taken regarding the amendment to the bylaws and there were 52 yays and 0 nays. The recommendation has been adopted.

At our last meeting on 6/13/2020 we discussed that we purchased Zoom for \$150. We need to ratify this with the body. Poll was launched. Results of the poll are 54 yays and 0 nays for using Zoom as our platform for our virtual meetings.

Chapter Updates: We are coming to the end of our Sorority year. New officers will not be installed until after September 1st 2020. These orders have come from headquarters.

Point of Order by Soror Tolden. Have we established that everyone on the call is financial. Soror Lewis stated that everyone on Soror Rucker's list is financial, so if your name was called you are financial.

Soror Carla Deboe would like to know if we are getting updated cards for the new year. Baslieus Williams states that she is not sure, but she will find out. Soror Farmer states that you do not get new cards until your head tax is paid.

Soror Shanklin-Young would like to know about the statement regarding all of the sorors on the call being financial. Does this mean that the sorors are completely paid in full or is this the \$350 that was approved by the basileus for up to March. Soror Lewis states that this is for the \$375 that was discussed several months ago when were supposed to have voted, but the voting was pushed back for various reasons. Soror Shanklin asked if all sorors should be paid in full since it is in the end of the sorority year. In order for Sorors to vote they need to be 100% paid in full. Soror Lewis states that she will be emailing those sorors who owe a balance by Wednesday morning.

Action Item: Soror Tolden-Hughes made a motion that we extend full payment of dues until Saturday before the election. Motion properly seconded by Soror Tolden.

Statement by Soror Golliday. She states that there is no need to take a vote. She states that it came from nationals that we can extend the payments until September due to COVID. So we are following national guidelines.

Soror Tolden withdrew her motion after Soror Golliday's statement.

Question by Soror Shanklin would like to know when would these sorors need to pay.

Question by Soror Ayers. She states that it is her understanding that the email that was sent from nationals regarding the extension of dues was for the upcoming sorority year. National and Regional dues have been extended until 12/31/2020.

Soror Crystal Nicholson states that the upcoming dues have been pushed out until December. She states that most of the chapter has paid their dues. There may be 4 or 5 individuals who have not paid fully.

Soror Ingram states that the dues that were extended were national and regional, but not local.

Soror Ratesha White-Nicholson states that we do not know everyone's financial situation during the pandemic and sorors were given them amount of \$375 to be able to vote so since this is the amount that was given then this amount should stand.

Soror Hardin states that it is not the sorors fault that elections kept getting pushed back. We should honor our word and should take this into consideration.

Soror Tolden-Hughes would like to place her motion back on the floor.

Soror Aaron stated that the email that was sent from nationals on 5/19/2020.

Action Item: Soror Hardin made a motion that we leave the prorated dues graced by the chapter in place. Motion properly seconded by Soror Cabine. Motion carried. (35 yays and 9 nays)

Question by Soror Shanklin-Young. She states that we have a live motion on the floor due to Soror Tolden-Hughes putting her motion back on the floor so we cannot vote on another motion.

Question by Soror Ayers. She would like to know since the money is not due until Saturday if this is enough time for the financial team to process the payments. The financial team states that this is enough time. All Sorors who have officially entered the race are financial.

Soror Tolden-Hughes motion was voted on. There were 35 yays and 9 nays. Motion carried.

Our chapter had some grievances that were handled within the executive board. Due to privacy we will not reveal the names. We know that we are sisters. When there is a grievance it has to be handled correctly. There was an executive board meeting yesterday and the grievances are being handled within the board. Soror Walker would like to know where it is written that the executive board handles the grievance. Madame Parliamentarian states that according to the code of conduct it depends on whether the soror is an officer or just a member of the chapter. Basileus Williams states that the we have a grievance committee appointed that

handles the grievances for non-officers. The grievance panel consists of: Gina Walker, Ashley Golliday and Geraldine Thomas.

Soror Golliday states that she cannot find anywhere in the bylaws, code of conduct or standard operating procedures where the executive board can just do away with a grievance.

Point of Order by Soror Tolden. She states that the executive board handles all business until we have another meeting. In the interim on a local level if there are emergencies or anything dealing with grievances the executive board has that power to do things that the chapter cannot do. This is called executive powers. We can in an executive meeting vote and even vote officers out if needed. As a chapter we cannot name the individuals who are involved in the grievances. If an individual in the chapter is sanctioned it can be said that said individual has been sanctioned, but the reason why cannot be mentioned.

Soror Golliday states that she just read the bylaws and they state that for an officer, the Grand Basileus shall render decisions for elected officials within 30 days. She states that since our local bylaws do not address this then we should refer to our national bylaws. She would like to know that since this is in the bylaws then how can the executive board make a decision. She also states that our bylaws do not address the executive board. Madame Parliamentarian read from the Code of Conduct regarding grievances of a local member.

Soror Farmer called point of order. She states that even if the executive committee was left out of our bylaws if you look at the regional and national bylaws there has always been an executive committee and the executive committee determines policy. She states that the executive committee made a ruling yesterday and it stands. Soror Golliday states that according to the bylaws the executive committee is to consist of just the immediate past basileus and not all of the past basilei. She states that in this case what was ruled on by the executive body is invalid. Madame Parliamentarian states that our chapter bylaws do not address who comprises our executive board.

Point of order by Soror Tolden-Hughes. She states that a body cannot overrule an executive body's decision.

Action Item: Soror Walker made a motion to extend the time for debate on the grievance update. Motion properly seconded by Soror Ayers. Motion carried. (57% yays and 37% nay) Debate extended for 5 mins.

Soror Golliday states that since the executive board closed the grievances then they should be disclosed to the body. Soror Ingram states that a soror can always refile their grievance if they feel that it was not handled appropriately. Soror Buckner states that since we have spent so much time speaking on these grievances can they just be disclosed to the body because they are being discussed and many members do not know anything about them.

Soror Tolden-Hughes states that what we can disclose is that there were three grievances filed; however, they were not done appropriately according to our code of conduct. What the executive board did was followed the disciplinary action handbook. If a grievance is filed it has to be done in a timely fashion and according to the rules in the disciplinary action handbook. The grievances were not ruled on by the executive board. The grievances had to be thrown out because they were not done appropriately.

Soror Walker states that according to the last executive board meeting that was held Soror Tolden-Hughes stated that the basileus had 60 days to respond. She states that it was difficult for the basileus to put together a grievance committee. She states that the last grievance was done within a timely fashion, but it is being thrown out as well.

Election Update: The proposed slate of nominees consists of: Basileus, Soror Shelia Williams, First Anti-Basileus, Soror Katina Hardin and Soror Laurie Baker, 2nd Anti-Basileus, Soror Roberta Andrey Ayers and Soror Zikishia Shanklin-Young, 3rd Anti-Basileus, no applicants, Grammateus, Soror Harriet Jackson-Lewis, Anti-Grammateus, Soror Eureka Rucker, Tamiochus, Soror Crystal Martin-Nicholson, Epistoleus, Soror Pamela Hughes, Nominations Chair Person, Soror Ethel Shanklin. The candidates were notified on 7/20/2020. They are all financially current.

Each soror nominated from the floor must submit an application to each member of the nominations committee by midnight, Tuesday, 8/4/2020 so that they can have time to meet and vet the individuals. Please make sure that each member of the committee gets a copy of the application. The committee members are Geraldine Thomas, Wenifred Nash-Bell and Ethel Shanklin.

Soror Golliday nominated Soror Nakeesha Tolden-Mosley for 2nd Anti-Basileus.

Soror Katina Hardin nominated Soror Ashley Golliday for Nominations Chair.

Action Item: Soror Shanklin made a motion to close the elections and adopt the slate. Motion properly seconded by Soror Thomas. Motion carried. (45 yays and 0 nays)

Voting will be held on this Saturday between 10a-12p at City Hall. Soror Baker states that this is not enough time to give everyone the opportunity to vote. She would like another option for those sorors who are unavailable. Soror Tolden-Hughes states that according to Robert Rules or Order we have to make voting available for everyone. Basileus Williams states that she will discuss this with the nominations committee and she will send out the response to the body.

Announcements:

The international board of directors has been announced and is as follows:

Grand Basileus: Rasheed Liberty

International First Grand 1st Anti-Basileus: Marica Harris

International First Grand 2nd Anti-Basileus: Te'Lor Allen

Anti-Grammateus: Vanessa Tyson

Grammateus: Rhonda Davis

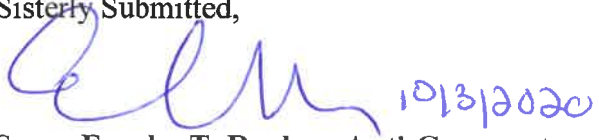
Grand Anti-Grammateus: Khalilah Shabazz

Grand Epistoleus: Tameka Williams-Clark

Editor in Chief of the Aurora: Richelle Jones

Meeting adjourned at 9:00p.

Sisterly Submitted,



Soror Eureka T. Rucker, Anti-Grammateus