



Soror Spotlight

Our very own Soror Beverly Smith will seek re-election at the 50th National Convention to be held in New Orleans. **Beverly E. Smith** is the current National Secretary for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Executive Director of Stewardship & Development for the Technical College System of Georgia and a Co-Owner (with her husband) of The HR Group, Inc., founded in 1990. Beverly has almost 30 years of experience in the areas of strategic planning, organizational effectiveness and restructuring, human resources, financial management, non-profit organization leadership, and university administration. Her honors include being named a History Maker by The HistoryMakers.com, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving African American history as the missing link in American history. She has been listed in Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in the South and Southeast, American Biographical Institute's 2,000 Most Notable Women, and Who's Who among Black Americans.

Despite her busy schedule, Soror Smith is an active member of our Scholarship and Internal Development committees. We love and appreciate her very much!!



Greetings from the President

I pray that all is well with each of you!

MRAC continues to prove itself as the best chapter in the Southern Region by BEing the Difference for Change in our service area and in our chapter. Thanks to dedicated and committed sorors, our activities and programs during the past three months have been phenomenal. If you have not yet joined a committee or helped to plan an event, I invite you to BEcome a part of the excitement! Please plan to stay after chapter meeting on **May 1st** to learn more about our committees and events and join one committee or assist with one event for the next sororal year.

My sisters, I commend you on all that we have accomplished as we carry out our National President's theme of "A Sisterhood Called to Serve!"

- △ **Rededication Ceremony** – Thanks to membership for providing a wonderful fellowship luncheon afterwards
- △ **PAHM Blood Drive** – 21 MRAC sorors donated blood
- △ **Cotillion Welcome Session** – We have 18 beautiful debutantes who were featured in the MDJ
- △ **Educational Development** – Meets every 3rd Saturday mentoring 61 young ladies
- △ **MRAC MLK Weekend of Service** - Must Ministries and Hosea Feed the Hungry—over sixty sorors participated
- △ **1st Annual Men's Appreciation & Fellowship Breakfast** – Sponsored by the Chaplain's Committee
- △ **Metro-Wide Census Awareness Day** – Chaired by MRAC's PAI ; over 200 in attendance
- △ **Image Building Workshop** –Scholarship Applicants, Delta GEMS and Debutantes; over 100 in attendance

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- △ **New Member Orientation** – 20 new sorors in attendance
- △ **Delta Heritage Day Celebration** – Chapter Attendance was 224;
- △ **International Day of Service** – Over 30 Sorors & family members came out to Walk for Clean Water” Sponsored by MRAC’s IAI Committee;
- △ **Teen Forum** – UpGrade U BE the Difference for Change was a huge success; Attendance 274
- △ **Step Team** won 2nd Place in SMLAC Step Show
- △ **1st Annual Crimson Couture:** Fashion for A Purpose was a huge success—over 400 in attendance
- △ **PAI** attended 12 churches in our service area and attended MSGA’s open house reaching out to over 5,000 in our community to promote the US Census.

It is hard to believe that we have only two more chapter meetings left in this sororal year. I look forward to seeing you at the Reflect and Release session on **April 24th** to dialogue about this past year...what you like and what we can do better as we continue to BE the Difference for Change..

Patsy

Celebration of Life

By: Wilma Davis

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted”. (Matt 5:4)

Finding “PEACE” when faced with the chasm called death, i.e. the void that exists between mortal and immortal life, is hard. Whether the loss of a loved one occurred minutes or years ago; often the wounds are still open, fresh and seeking a balm to heal them.

On Sunday afternoon, December 13, 2009 at the East Cobb Government Services Center, our Chaplain’s Committee hosted a “Celebration of Life” event for Sorors to provide an outlet for healing. The ambiance was festive to remind us of the joy that the Christmas season brings as well as that of the Memories for the loved ones we had come to honor.

We entered to good old toe tapping gospel music and were greeted with gift bags and enticed by cookies and punch. A prayer, led by Chaplain Joyce Lee, was said to invite the Holy Spirit into the assembly...HE was already there. Following a formal welcome by President Patsy Pattman we were treated to a poem, read by Soror Carolyn Jackson; next came beautiful selections by Soror Kimberly Scurlock and she even invited us to sing along. Then the slideshow began...

‘Cuz life is like a SLIDE SHOW
 And all the places I go
 And all the things that I know
 Through all the highs and lows
 ‘Cuz life is like a slide show
 And all the things that I’ve seen
 And all the things that I dream
 You can’t take away from me
 ‘Cuz life is like a slide show

(Slideshow –TI Featuring John Legend)

Attire and Behavior for the National Convention

As we prepare for the National Convention, it is important that we make sure we take the proper clothing. All Plenary Sessions require Delta business attire. At the Opening Ceremony the attire is a **white** suit, dress, or skirt and blouse. Pants of any kind are not allowed. Any wrap for the Opening must be white. The attire for the Ecumenical Service is business red, white or black. We usually wear white. The attire for the Memorial Observance is red, white or black attire. The outfit must be a single color not a combination of colors. Pants are not allowed. The attire for the Closing Banquet is after-five. Evening pants are allowed.

Delta business attire for Plenary Sessions consists of suits, dresses, skirts/blouses, pants/blouses or pant suits. Denim, Khaki, flip flops, hats, shorts, skorts, gauchos, Capris, or any pants that are not full length are not allowed. Remember that pants are not allowed at the Opening and Memorial Observance. Sleeveless outfits are not allowed at Plenary Sessions unless they are covered by a jacket. Paraphernalia jackets are not part of business attire. Be sure to try on outfits before packing. Make sure they are the proper color and they are not too short or too tight. You will not be admitted if your attire is not correct.

Plan to arrive at ceremonies early. After a ceremony begins, you will not be allowed to enter. Do not save seats. Plan to arrive with sorors who plan on sitting together. Do not take the centerpieces at meal events. Be mindful of Delta Dears and sorors who are physically challenged. Some seats and tables are reserved so please adhere to those signs and don't move them.

Attend the Plenary Sessions so you are aware of the procedures at the convention. A Non-Voting Delegate is allowed to speak after two Voting Delegates have spoken. You must go to a numbered microphone and raise the appropriate colored card. If the Chair recognizes you, you state your name, chapter, and region. The Chair will then either call you by name or say, "Yes Soror." Then you can make your comment or ask your question. Non-Voting Delegates may not make or second motions.

Plan to attend at least one workshop at the convention. It is impossible for the chapter president as Voting Delegate to attend everything. Take notes, get the handouts, and bring the information back to the chapter so all of us can benefit. Most of all take the "Good Ole Delta Spirit" with you.

Rituals & Ceremonies/
Protocol & Traditions
Chair, Carolyn Jackson

The forum began with registration where all attendees were assigned to one of four unique groups: Violets, Pearls, Elephants and Fortitude. Sorors were also provided with index cards to anonymously submit questions for the panel discussion. After a welcome from MRAC's 1st Vice President, Wilma Davis, all sorors introduced themselves before participating in a brief icebreaker.

The room was silent, as each of us reflected on the scrolling glimpses of Loved Ones whose earthly existence is no more. Some shed a few tears but most smiled as they saw the joy on each of the faces in the presentation. Perhaps they replayed their own personal slideshow of memories recalling the laughter and special times they had shared and rejoicing that these Angels now dwelled with our Heavenly Father.

When the lights came up, we were invited to share some reflections and words of encouragement with the Sorors and friends in attendance. Then it was time to hear from an Elder. To our surprise and delight this "Elder" came in a 5'2 frame and looked as though she had just edged into adulthood (but she gives all the credit to God for blessing her with "good genes" such that you'd never know her baby daughter was on the other side of 25 ;-).

This was our introduction to Elder Reona Thomas of the New Birth Baptist Church Pastoral Care Ministry. She didn't use a microphone or the podium; she wanted to be up close and personal. Her words of motivation came in the form of glimpses from her life slideshow as a Preacher's Kid who tried to escape her inevitable "calling". She freely shared various trials and temptations from the "enemy" willing her to give up and how God triumphantly brought her through every time.

She discussed in depth the physical toll that grief had caused her resulting in health issues, including depression and the "Aha" moment when she finally realized she had empowered "grief" to do so. Then she shared how she "took back her authority". Using the sword of truth (Bible); having some real personal conversations with the Master; and seeking Counseling from Spiritual Leaders to help feed her soul.



Prior to closing out, this ball of energy, led us in yet another song, shared some recommended reading materials, embraced a few of us (cause that's just her way ☺); then took her seat. After some closing remarks, from the Chaplain, Elder Thomas offered a closing prayer and the traditional fellowship with the Sorors began...but something was different. We all seemed a bit happier, lighter like we were truly "Celebrating Life".

"Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed." (I Corinthians 15:51-52)

Kwanzaa Celebration

By: Pat Allen



At the beginning of the sororal year, a soror asked, “Is Kwanzaa relevant, I mean do people *really* celebrate Kwanzaa anymore?” On the night of the event, a young woman was overheard stating that Kwanzaa was nothing more than an event for people who didn’t celebrate Christmas. Nearly 45 years after Dr. Malauna Karenga envisioned Kwanzaa as a celebration of family, community, and culture, its importance is still being debated.

Between December 26 and January 1, the African-American and pan-African holiday known as Kwanzaa is celebrated. Rooted in ancient history and culture, Kwanzaa brings to the African-American community a time to give special reverence for the Creator and creation, as well as to reflect on a rich ancestral history, cultural values, family and self. In essence, Kwanzaa was created to reaffirm and reinforce the bonds among people by strengthening the bonds of community, common identity, purpose and direction.

The Kwanzaa celebration was hosted in partnership with the historic Zion Baptist Church of Marietta. This year’s principle was Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) and the theme for this year’s Kwanzaa celebration was *Creating Foundations of Prosperity*. The challenging economic condition of our country and our communities made this a very timely and relevant observance. In *Creating Foundations of Prosperity*, several Chapter Committees collaborated to deliver an evening of education and entertainment.

Economic Development provided Life Bridge insurance information to families interested in purchasing affordable coverage, Educational Development engaged Delta GEMS and Delta Academy Girls as program participants and International Awareness & Involvement: Shared a beautiful display of artifacts, jewelry, and photos from the Chapters 2009 service project in Ghana, West Africa.

Kwanzaa is celebrated through rituals, dialogue, narratives, poetry, dancing, singing, drumming and other music, and feasting through activities that demonstrate Kwanzaa’s Nguzo Saba (seven principles): Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith). To achieve the program objective of providing education and entertainment, the committee skillfully integrated the Kwanzaa principles and rituals into the program components. Highlights of the program include:

- **Kuumba – Creativity**-Twenty one (21) children and teens and seven (7) adults participated in craft-making sessions. Additionally, a youth from Total Dance Productions (and member of Zion Baptist Church) provided entertainment.
- **Ujamaa – Cooperative Economics**-A Marietta-Roswell Alumnae Chapter soror led a discussion on “Creating Foundations of Prosperity” and guests were asked to share their understanding of the principle as well as their commitment and responsibility to practice this principle for the betterment of self, family, and black people.
- **Mishumaa Saba – Candles**-Delta Academy girls and Delta GEMS performed the candle lighting ceremony.
- **Zawadi - Gift-giving**-The Arts and Letters Committee provided youth with books and adults with Kwanzaa recipe books.
- **Karamu – Feast**-The Arts and Letters Committee also provided all guests and participants with a meal, consistent with the celebration.

Delta Dears in Perfect Paradise

Grass skirts, loud shirts, torch lights and tropical delights! These things and more were endured at the 4th annual Delta Dear celebration. On a warm April 10th evening, MRAC saluted the Delta Dears in splendid style with a traditional Luau complete with Polynesian ambiance, traditional leis, grass skirts, Hawaiian luau music, tropical drinks, delectable desserts and island food to include seasonal fruit displays, coconut peas and rice, marinated chicken kabobs, grilled baby back ribs and pasta salad. The event entrance walkway was lined with luminaries, the tables were draped in silk floral and each guest was greeted with a beautiful lei and a grass skirt! The only thing missing were the palm trees, tropical sand, a beach and seashells! Say "Hawaii," and you usually think of beaches, sunshine, volcanoes and the hula which is the traditional Hawaiian dance and is a must at every luau. For the surprise entertainment, a traditional Hawaiian dancer dressed in a colorful, flowered skirt and shirt thrilled our dears with exciting, authentic Polynesian dance moves! Move out of the way young sorors and make room for a new group of Hawaiian dancers with sassy and sophisticated moves! Imagine grass skirts that shimmered and shook! Aloha in the Hawaiian language means affection, love, peace, compassion and mercy. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has also come to be used as an English greeting to say goodbye and hello. A hallmark of dedicated energy and respect, our delta dears provide us with wisdom to watch and learn, passion to pursue a purpose, and grace to grow. We celebrate you! Thank you for continuing to pave the way.

Membership Chair,
Laurie Reid

Hats! Hats! Hats!

Quoting from the Dr. Seuss story...

"Hello."

"Hello."

"Do you like my hat?"

"Yes, I like your hat."

"Goodbye."

"Goodbye."

We do like your hat but not at Delta business and ceremonial events. At Opening Plenary Sessions during a Regional Conference or National Conventions, hats are inappropriate and not permitted. (Protocol and Traditions Manual, Page 11.) Plenary sessions are business meetings. Hats should not be worn at chapter business meetings. Hats are also not appropriate at Rites of Passage – Pyramid Induction Ceremonies, Initiation Ceremonies, and Omega Omega Services. Hats should not be worn at Rededication Ceremonies.

Hats are appropriate at Ecumenical Services since this is strictly a religious service. Hats can be worn at luncheons as we have done at several Regional Conference Sisterhood Luncheons.

As a rule of thumb, if the Torch of Wisdom will be lighted, your hat, cap or ear warmer should not be worn. Look stylish in your hat but at the proper occasions.

Internal Development,
Carolyn Jackson

With its emphasis on recommitment to cultural principles and celebration of the good through artistic expression, the Arts and Letters committee believes the impact of the Kwanzaa ceremony on the community reaffirms and reinforces the bonds among all people with a common identify, purpose, and direction for humanity.



Image-Building Workshop Conveys Keys to Success

By: Mirhonda Studevart

Public relations phenomenon Terrie Williams once stated "There are no other people's children." That seems to be the philosophy adopted by the Marietta-Roswell Alumnae Chapter's Cotillion and Educational Development committees as they embarked on an effort to encourage and develop the next generation of successful leaders. The Image Building Workshop was an informative and enlightening event for everyone involved.

On Saturday, February 20, 2010, young ladies from MRAC's Cotillion and Delta G.E.M.S. programs gathered on the campus of Chattahoochee Technical College to prepare for their collective futures. Top-notch professionals across legal, human resources and other industries lent their considerable expertise in addressing various dimensions of how young ladies see themselves and ultimately, present themselves to the world.

A formal welcome and opening remarks from Marietta-Roswell and Chattahoochee Tech hosts set the stage for a day of knowledge and discovery. The tone was positive and professional as Soror Carolyn Miller defined and explored the essentials of character building. Ladies learned that strong character and integrity can become the foundation for a successful future. In another session, Soror Karen Ashley provided a wealth of information as she led a session about effective communication skills. Although today's youth have more resources than ever to communicate, they are sometimes at a loss regarding how to properly articulate their thoughts and present them to peers. Students learned about how to use various communication methods more appropriately. In addition, when speaking to others in positions of authority, participants learned how to assert themselves while maintaining respect and decorum. Then, Ebony Porter-Ike conducted an informative session about professional presence. Through the various sessions ladies learned about ways to present the very best of themselves to those around them.

The initial sessions were an excellent foundation for the lunch event, which featured a fashion show where the 2011 debutantes modeled what and what NOT to wear. The final session of the afternoon was a panel discussion facilitated by Soror Simmons' daughter, Soror Tameka N. Simmons-Mtima. The young ladies appreciated the wealth of information presented. The presenters and supporters felt wonderful about investing in these young ladies and planting seeds for their future.

Delta Passport Success Story

The Physical & Mental Health Committee's "Get Fit For Life" Passport is proving to a success amongst sorors. The Passport was initiated to assist sorors efforts to achieve better health while participating in three National initiatives:

- Lose to Win
- Catching, Coping and Conquering Diseases
- My Cry in the Dark (focus on mental health)

As we enter our final month of the competition, we have several sorors still in the running for the grand prize of a \$150.00 wellness gift basket. Madam President is not eligible for the grand prize, but has consistently reported her activities to the committee. Thank you Soror Pattman for "Being the Difference for Change", through your support of wellness.

Physical & Mental Health Co-chairs,
Nikisha Jones &
Kawana Mitchell



Men's Appreciation Day Breakfast

By: Laurie Reid

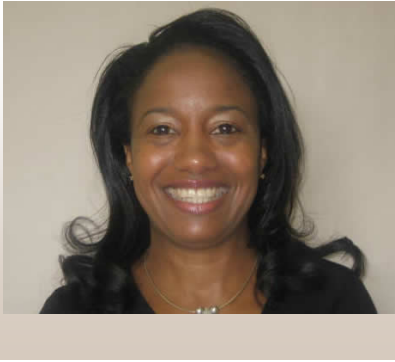
James I, verse 12 states, blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. With a commitment to nurture the mind, body, and soul, the Chaplain's committee hosted an enlightening and encouraging forum specifically geared towards men. In the fellowship of men only; no women allowed, the environment offered a space to freely discuss private issues such as marriage, family relationships and health concerns. During breakfast, Chaplain Brian Wright provided words of encouragement on how to persevere through trials and diversity. The event nurtured friendships and conversations ensued about sports, the job market, the economy and why women really need so many pairs of shoes! Now, how did that discuss prevail!

With a program goal to educate men about significant health issues such as hypertension and prostate cancer, the event fostered our physical and mental health thrust objective to highlight health disparities among Black Men. Our work in the area of prevention and wellness was visibly evident through nurses who provided blood pressure and glucose screenings as well as health information about nutrition, obesity, heart disease and diabetes. Dr. Luther Virgil also provided spoke assertively about these health issues and others. Additionally, the program objective to build and sustain ongoing relationships, provide encouragement and highlight spiritual wholeness was evident through sincere appreciation by the men who attended as well as the sorors who invited them! It has been said that, "appreciation" means to be thankful and express admiration, approval, or gratitude.

It also means to grow or appreciate in value. As you appreciate life, you become more valuable—both to yourself and others." The chaplain committee is to be commended for a worthy and unique effort that valued men, fostered admiration and touched lives. Their ultimate goal for MRAC to show appreciation to the important men in our lives for their support of the work we do in Delta, was truly achieved.



A Closer Look



Join us as the Crimson Gazette introduces more personal aspects of the powerhouses who comprise the MRAC executive leadership. In this issue, let's become better acquainted with...**Second Vice President Laurie Reid**

Laurie Reid recently celebrated her 25th Delta anniversary. Originally from Wilmington, Delaware, "Shalimar" was initiated in 1984 at Tuskegee University, fulfilling her childhood dream of becoming a nurse. Laurie has been an active member of MRAC for six years. Most people are surprised to learn that Laurie is nearly 50 years young! Laurie cites one of her most delightful surprises as marrying her husband after 21 years of friendship. Her mother, author of the "Sistas Can Sa-a-ng" production, is the Delta who most inspires her. Bronze is Laurie's favorite color. The Davinci Code is her favorite book and "Because He Lives" is her favorite song. Laurie loves to dine at Bonefish and vacation anywhere in the Caribbean. Laurie's favorite quote is "You never get a second chance to make a first impression." Laurie is very open to new ideas to preserve and sustain our membership. Laurie loves MRAC because "sorors are direct, friendly and compassionate."

Next issue: Toni Carlisle!

Chapter Information

Meeting Information

Chapter Meetings:

May-Westside Elementary School

344 Polk Street

Marietta, GA 30064

June-Marietta Middle School

121 Winn Street

Marietta, GA 30064

Executive Board Meetings:

3rd Thursday of each month

7:00 pm

Locations will be listed in the Weekly Reminders

2009-2011 Officers

President – *Patsy A. Pattman*

1st Vice President – *Wilma Z. Davis*

2nd Vice President – *Laurie Reid*

Recording Secretary – *Myesha Davis*

Assistant Recording Secretary – *Pat Allen*

Corresponding Secretary – *Tiffany Roan*

Treasurer – *Toni Carlisle*

Financial Secretary – *Mildred Fisher*

Assistant Financial Secretary – *Nicki Nelson*

Marietta-Roswell Alumnae Chapter

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