



THE VAC VOICE

NEWSLETTER

Co Editors: Dr. Elena Ponder
Dr. Shirley Hardin
Ms. Keltrice Hardin
Dr. Nicole P. Gunn
Ms. Alishia Stacks

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SOROR FRANKIE KEELING: KILLING IT

Delta Style



On April 21, 2018, Soror Frankie Keeling fully embraced her journey with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She wholeheartedly recognized that "Membership in Delta Sigma Theta is a Lifetime Commitment," and she has exemplified this dedication from the very beginning.

Soror Keeling became a proud member of the Valdosta Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in the spring of 2018, along with 14 other line sisters. She was assigned the number "5," a number that biblically signifies God's grace, kindness, and unmerited favor toward mankind. This symbolism is beautifully reflected in Soror Keeling's character and actions.

When asked why it was important to her to become a Delta, Soror Keeling expressed that "It was important for me to be a part of an organization of like-minded women who represent the ideals of service, social justice and sisterhood, which are all important to me." More specifically, she added that "One of my most meaningful Delta experiences was being pinned at initiation by my cousin (big sister) and Soror, Jacquita Vickers. That moment was incredibly special to me, marking the beginning of my journey in Delta.

Another highlight for Soror Keeling was the opportunity to attend her first National Convention in Indianapolis. This experience broadened her perspective and deepened her understanding of the Sorority's widespread impact. She also recalled a particularly special Delta experience when she met all of her Delta cousins in Nashville in 2019. Among them was Frankie Keeling-Henry, who played a pivotal role on the front lines of the Civil Rights Movement in Nashville during the 1960s. This connection strengthened Soror Keeling's sense of shared legacy and purpose, bringing her Delta journey full circle.



Soror Keeling (Con't)



In addition, Soror Keeling has served untiringly in two major offices, Financial Secretary and Treasurer for the Chapter, as well as currently serving as chair of the Heritage and Archives Committee. Moreover, she has participated in several Delta activities, selflessly giving her time and resources to the communities she supports. As an entrepreneur and co-owner of an events venue, she has worked hard to provide exemplary service to her community clientele.

What has been most meaningful to Soror Keeling is the bond she has built with Sorors she didn't even know eight years ago. On days when she's not feeling her best or find herself doubting, there is always a Soror who offers a kind word, a hug, or a smile—lifting her spirit and reminding her of the strength and sisterhood shared among the Sorority. Such bond created among the Sorors encourages her to fully embrace her favorite scripture, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)



Soror Keeling is incredibly proud of her family and her career journey. She is the incredible daughter of Mrs. Patricia Moore and is the mother of two daughters -- Atlanta Police Department Detective Aerica Sauls and Dr. Kirsten Battles-Heath (Deunte) . In 2024, she was blessed with her first grandchild, Taylor McKenzie, and has a grandson arriving in June 2026. She also has two bonus grandchildren, Lilly and Deunte Jr.

Soror Keeling has dedicated 27 years to the Georgia State Government, having served with the Department of Revenue and Labor, and currently the Department of Banking and Finance, where she was recently promoted to Supervisory Manager. She is also an adjunct instructor at Valdosta State University, where she teaches in the Adult Continuing Education Department.

With her graceful demeanor, kind heart, and generous spirit, Soror Keeling continues to embody the ideals of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. In short, Soror Frankie is nothing short of killing it, "Delta Style."

Dr. Shirley H. Hardin, Contributing Writer



The Valdosta Alumnae Chapter gathered at the Bridge Academy in Valdosta, Georgia, for an engaging and thought-provoking book club meeting centered on **Harlem Rhapsody** by Victoria Christopher Murray. As always, the afternoon reflected not only our love for literature but also our commitment to Social Action. Participants arrived with canned goods in hand, collecting donations to support our local food bank and extend care to families in our community.

Harlem Rhapsody offers a powerful historical narrative set during the Harlem Renaissance. The novel explores ambition, love, betrayal, and the complexities of Black excellence during one of the most culturally rich periods in American history. Through richly developed characters and vivid storytelling, Murray transports readers into a world of artistry, activism, and social change, while examining the personal sacrifices often hidden behind public success. The discussion was layered and meaningful, as participants reflected on themes of resilience, identity, leadership, and legacy. The afternoon was filled with insightful dialogue, laughter, and thoughtful reflection, proof that when sisterhood and scholarship come together, something special happens.



Dr. Nicole Gunn - Contributing Writer

On November 9, 2025, the Valdosta Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated hosted a relaxed and engaging Delta Red Carpet Movie Afternoon featuring **Sarah's Oil**. Sorors gathered in fellowship for a casual outing centered on culture, history, and meaningful conversation.

The film, inspired by the true story of Sarah Rector, tells the remarkable journey of a young Black girl who became wealthy at just eleven years old after oil was discovered on her land. Her story highlights resilience, legacy, and the complexities of race and wealth in early 20th-century America.

The afternoon offered members an opportunity to connect, reflect, and enjoy sisterhood in a comfortable setting. It was a simple yet powerful reminder of the importance of supporting stories that uplift our history and celebrate the strength and brilliance of Black women and girls.

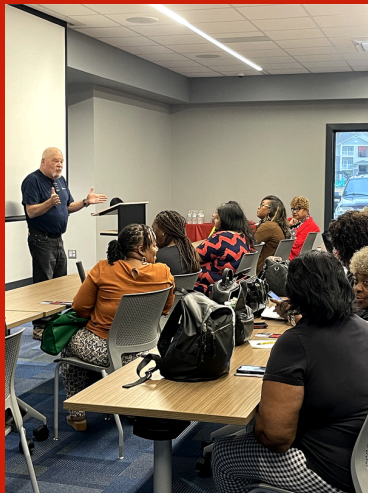


Dr. Nicole Gunn - Contributing Writer



We're Delta Ready!

The Emergency Response Team of Valdosta Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated hosted a Community Preparedness Training on September 29, 2025. This training, in collaboration with the American Red Cross, South Central Office, proved not only informative but engaging with pertinent disaster preparedness and relief information. Mr. David Shoe, a Red Cross Preparedness volunteer, led an enlightening discussion surrounding hurricane and natural disasters including tips for home disaster maintenance and sheltering. This event proved necessary and timely with recent hurricanes in the South Georgia area. Attendees were also educated on emergency response notification systems and access; support was provided by Sorority members to assist attendees with registering for our area's local emergency response system, AlertLowndes.



Jangloria Jeasdale - Contributing Writer

Shine, Lead, Repeat:

The Girl I Am!



The Valdosta Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. hosted an empowerment workshop titled "Shine, Lead, & Repeat: The Girl I Am" for girls ages 11–17 in observance of the International Day of the Girl Child. In alignment with this year's global theme, "The Girl I Am, The Change I Lead: Girls on the Frontline of Crisis," participants engaged in reflective and interactive activities designed to build confidence, creativity, and leadership.

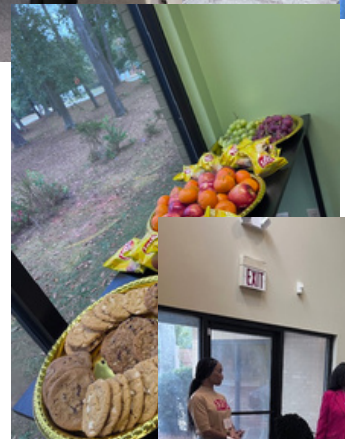
The workshop began with "Frontline Introductions," a lively activity designed to build community and connection. Participants shared their personal strengths and the causes they care about, fostering a supportive and encouraging atmosphere from the very start.

Participants then discussed the meaning of Girls on the Frontline of Crisis, and explored the challenges that impact girls today—such as bullying, peer pressure, mental health concerns, food insecurity, and academic stress. This segment reminded participants that every girl has the power to be a leader and make a difference. They also shared examples of how they are already serving as leaders in their communities by volunteering with organizations that bring awareness to these issues and work to eradicate them.

Following these discussions, participants engaged in "The Girl I Am" affirmation exercise, the Gloss & Growth lip gloss-making STEM segment, and Movement for Motivation, a fun dance-line routine designed to boost energy, confidence, and unity through rhythm and teamwork.

Each participant received a mirror, a makeup bag, a bookmark featuring positive affirmations, and a themed workshop T-shirt as keepsakes from the event.

This initiative reflects the Valdosta Alumnae Chapter's ongoing commitment to empowering, educating, and uplifting young women through the Delta Academy and Delta GEMS programs that promote self-awareness, leadership development, and community engagement. Through intentional and impactful service, the chapter continues to inspire girls to recognize their worth, embrace their voices, and lead with purpose, both now and in the future.



Parading Our Legacy



The Second Annual Black History Month Parade in the Lowndes County and Valdosta City area was a powerful and inspiring celebration of culture, heritage, and community.

The **Valdosta Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.** proudly participated in this meaningful event, demonstrating unity, pride, and deep appreciation for the rich history and lasting contributions of the Black community. It was truly an incredible moment of celebration, reflection, and togetherness throughout our local community.

We were also honored to celebrate Councilwoman Sandra Tooley, the 2026 Grand Marshal and a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Special thanks to the Southern Georgia Black Chambers for organizing this impactful event and bringing the Lowndes County and Valdosta City community together to honor the past, uplift the present, and inspire the future.



Georgia State

Cluster



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Southern Region, hosted the 2026 Georgia State Cluster January 16–18, 2026, at the Savannah Convention Center in Savannah, Georgia. More than 3,000 members gathered for a weekend focused on leadership development, sisterhood, and service. Members of the Valdosta Alumnae Chapter proudly attended the three-day event, joining sorors from across the state in fellowship and learning.

The event marked two historic milestones: the Sorority's 113-year legacy of scholarship, service, and social action, and the 100th Anniversary of the Southern Region. Attendees participated in leadership training, service initiatives, youth programming, and strategic planning aligned with the Five-Point Programmatic Thrust.

"For the Savannah community and the state of Georgia, this event brings together thousands of civic-minded women leaders committed to education, health, economic empowerment, and community service," said Southern Regional Director Amaris L. Johnson. "As we celebrate 100 years of the Southern Region, we gather to honor our legacy and move forward with purpose. Truly, let the good times roll."

The weekend was a meaningful celebration of impact, unity, and continued commitment to service.



Dr. Flena Ponder - Contributing Writer

A Delta Holiday

Wrapped in Service



The Valdosta Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. celebrated the holiday season by extending compassion, generosity, and sisterhood throughout our service areas: Valdosta, Lowndes, Berrien, Brooks, Cook, and Lanier Counties. Many Thanks to Soror Pamela Carter for coordinating this successful effort.

Through our Annual Christmas Service Project, chapter members united to support local families by providing complete holiday food boxes and gifts for children. Sorors donated pantry staples, holiday meal essentials, and gift cards for perishable items such as milk, eggs, and meats — ensuring families could prepare warm and nourishing meals during the holiday season. Members also adopted children and fulfilled wish lists so each child could experience the joy of Christmas morning.

In addition, sorors participated in the Salvation Army Ringing of the Bells community service project at Hobby Lobby, expanding our outreach to support individuals and families throughout the season. Special thanks are extended to Soror Deborah Sykes and Soror Aretha Benson for organizing this service opportunity and encouraging chapter participation.

This initiative embodies Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s commitment to Economic Development, as access to food security and basic necessities strengthens families and communities. Most importantly, it demonstrated that service is not merely an activity, but a shared responsibility carried out through collective action and sisterhood.



*Dr. Jacquita Vickers -
Contributing Writer*

'Tis The Season

On Friday, December 20, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., the Valdosta Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. gathered at Big Nick's Juke Joint for its Annual Christmas Social, welcoming more than 30 sorors for an afternoon filled with joy, laughter, and sisterly fellowship.

The festive celebration was beautifully decorated in holiday splendor and quickly filled with cheer as sorors joined together in song, including a spirited rendition of the "12 Days of Delta." The energy continued throughout the evening as sorors participated in a lively White Elephant gift exchange, shared laughter, and enjoyed line dancing that kept everyone on their feet.



Dr. Jacquita Vickers - Contributing Writer

More than anything, the occasion reflected the love of sisterhood — a time to pause from busy schedules, reconnect, and celebrate the bonds that unite us. Conversations flowed, memories were created, and the warmth of Delta fellowship was felt by all in attendance.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Soror Pamela Carter and the Membership Services Committee for planning and coordinating such a memorable event.

The Christmas Social once again reminded us that while SERVICE is our mission, SISTERHOOD is our foundation — and together, we continue to cherish and strengthen that bond.

SOROR SPOTLIGHT



Goror Terri Lockhart

Visionary Leadership

Dr. Terri Lockhart's visionary leadership enabled Valdosta City Schools to secure its first ever \$3.5 million dollar grant. As the Director of School Improvement & Accountability, she was instrumental in opening new doors of opportunity for programs that will be launched at five area schools. The 21st Century Community Learning Grant is an investment over five years that will fund afterschool programs with tutoring, enrichment, and hands-on learning to help students thrive. We are incredibly proud of Soror Lockhart's visionary leadership.



Goror Cheryl Toliver

Literary Genius

Dr. Cheryl Toliver blends decades of pediatric experience with a love of storytelling to create engaging children's books that both entertain and teach. Her stories feature memorable animal characters who embark on playful adventure filled with curiosity, friendship, problem-solving, and discovery. In addition to children's stories, Dr. Toliver offers practical parenting guides designed to support families through early years of childhood. Her poetry collection offers heartfelt reflections and affirmations that celebrate resilience, faith, and the everyday moments that shape our lives.



Goror Alishia Gaston Stack
Educational Excellence

Soror Alishia Stack's passion for educational excellence shines through with her advocacy with the GaDOE Teacher Policy Fellowship. She works with legislators to advocate for teachers and students through educational policy at the state and national level. Soror Stack's first love is teaching and mentoring. Her experience spans nearly three decades of stellar accomplishments in the classroom and as an instructional leader. While teaching AP African American Studies and Gifted/Honors Government classes, she is also a supervising teacher for student teachers from Valdosta State University, mentor teacher for those just entering the profession and adding certification through GATAPP, and a professional learning facilitator at Lowndes High School.



"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."

-Aristotle

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SOROR SPOTLIGHT



Soror Janida Yancy
Soror Janice Richardson

Rest and Relaxation

Retired Sorors Janice and Janida are all smiles after many, many years of dedicated service with Valdosta City Schools. Dr. Richardson left an indelible print at Valdosta High School with an astounding 40 years of service and her signature “Leader in Me” initiative at the district level. Soror Yancy’s kind, nurturing demeanor continues to garner praise as one both middle schools’ best teachers ever and coveted substitutes at Valdosta Early College Academy.



Soror Thameka Miller Akpan
Social Advocacy

Soror Thameka Akpan was recently the keynote speaker for the Thomasville Alumnae Chapter’s Legacy in Action Luncheon. Echoing the sentiments of legendary Soror Shirley Chisholm, she stressed the importance of living out the impact you want to leave behind—right now, through choices, work, and behavior. She reminded Sorors and guests of their assignment- making contributions by doing things today that make a positive difference people will remember tomorrow.” She expounded, “You’re not waiting to make a difference someday—you are already creating your legacy through what you do today.”



Soror Samantha Napier

Influence and Partnerships

Recently named one of **Georgia Trend** “40 Under Forty for 2025,” Soror Samantha Napier’s commitment to advocating for policies that benefit underserved populations, supporting students, and strengthening families in our schools and community is commendable. She oversees a dedicated team of social workers and collaborates with various local agencies to provide support services to those in need within the Valdosta City School System. Her dedication to serving at-risk children and supporting underserved families in the community is a testament to her mantra “May the work I’ve done speak for me.” The Valdosta Alumnae Chapter is extremely proud of Soror Napier and honors her resilience and care for those in crisis.

Happy Birthday

November

Stacie Fairley - 1

Virginia Crowell - 3

Patricia McRae - 8

Ashley McGhee-Christian - 16

Kenyarda Moore - 25

Liletta Washington - 29

December

Learel "Laura" Chisholm - 3

Cynthia S. Brooklin - 4

Laronda Young - 11

Markaysa Robinson - 14

Deborah Sykes - 14

LaTonia Knight - 22

Lisa Thoma - 25

January

Nicole Gunn - 1

Jessica Flowers - 3

Sharon Walker - 3

Cynthia Wright - 4

Janida Yancy - 5

Frankie Keeling - 10

Angela Carter - 12

Tangela Kimber - 13

Terrie Lockhart - 14

Davina Lee - 20

Christine Freeman - 22

Amanda High - 31

February

Aretha Benson - 9

Catherine Carter - 11

Karen Carson-Cook - 23

Jangloria Teasdale - 24

Amanda Thompson - 21

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Vice President
Tangela Kimber

Recording Secretary
Jangloria Teasdale

Corresponding Secretary
Davina Lee

Financial Secretary
Angela Carter

Treasurer
Frankie Keeling

Internal Audit Chair
Virginia Crowell

Nominating Committee Chair
Tammie Patterson

Nominating Committee Member
Lynn Lee

Nominating Committee Member
Bonita Williams

Nominating Committee Member
Avis Wilson

Arts & Letters Chair
Denise Wright

Delta Academy Chair
Markaysa Robinson

Delta Gems Co-Chairs
Samantha Napier
Laronda Young

ERT Chair
Jangloria Teasdale

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Hospitality & Courtesies Co-Chair
Sharon Walker

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Elena Ponder

Information, Communications, & Technology Co-Chair
Keltrice Hardin

May Week Co-Chair
Elnora Hill

May Week Co-Chair
Virginia Crowell

Membership Services Chair
Pamela Carter

Membership Services Co-Chair
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LaTonia Watkins