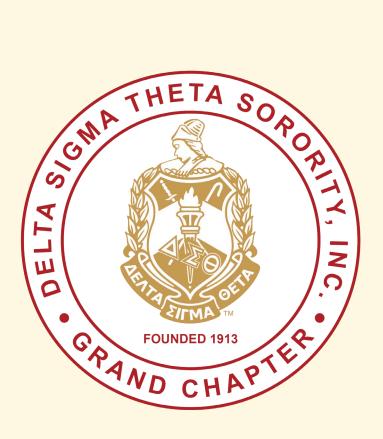
PROTOCOL AND TRADITIONS



MISSION

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated is an organization of college educated women committed to the constructive development of its members and to public service with a primary focus on the Black community.

PUBLIC MOTTO

Intelligence is the Torch of Wisdom

FOUNDERS

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded on January 13, 1913 by 22 collegiate women at Howard University to promote academic excellence and provide assistance to those in need.

Osceola Macarthy Adams Marguerite Young Alexander Winona Cargile Alexander Ethel Cuff Black Bertha Pitts Campbell Zephyr Chisom Carter Edna Brown Coleman Jessie McGuire Dent Frederica Chase Dodd Myra Davis Hemmings Olive Jones Jimmie Bugg Middleton Pauline Oberdorfer Minor Vashti Turley Murphy Naomi Sewell Richardson Mamie Reddy Rose Eliza Pearl Shippen Florence Letcher Toms Ethel Carr Watson Wertie Blackwell Weaver Madree Penn White Edith Motte Young



DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

A Service Sorority Founded in 1913

1707 New Hampshire Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20009 | (202) 986-2400 | Telefax (202) 986-2513



Dear Sorors,

It is my honor to present you with the latest version of the Protocol and Traditions Manual, which has been thoughtfully revised by the National Protocol and Traditions Committee and Documents Review and Management Committee. This manual is essential to our lives in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Incorporated. It outlines the social expectations for us as members and is a tool to help us preserve the rich legacy that was bestowed upon us by our Founders in 1913.

We must not lose sight of who we are as members of Delta Sigma Theta due to advances in technology. Upholding the time-honored traditions of our Sorority is how we find joy in our sisterhood, amplify the power in our voice and share the service in our heart.

A periodic review of our traditions, ceremonies, and protocol is necessary as we continue to evolve how we communicate and conduct business. You are upholding our oath as duly initiated members when you are knowledgeable of the information provided in this manual. Whether you are a new initiate or seasoned soror, this manual will help guide you in your Delta life.

As our ranks continue to increase and grow, let us always remember to model our actions in a manner that brings honor to our beloved Founders, fellow sorors, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Yours in the bond of sisterhood,

Beverly E. Smith

National President & CEO

INTRODUCTION

he *Protocol and Traditions Manual* outlines the most sacred traditions we uphold in Delta Sigma Theta. These time-honored practices have formed the basis of our communal life and must be preserved to ensure that our beloved sisterhood withstands the test of time. It is the duty of every member to uphold Delta Sigma Theta's rich legacy. As such, we must familiarize ourselves with every tool provided to help us live our lives as ideal Deltas should.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated has evolved into a global powerhouse for service, scholarship, and social action since our founding in 1913. As our ranks increase and grow, sisterhood remains our foundation, allowing Delta to spread its roots and blossom into an organization that is exceedingly and abundantly more than our Founders could have ever imagined. A periodic review of our traditions and protocol is necessary to ensure continuity amongst sorors as we are now a sisterhood with over 300,000 initiated members spanning the globe. Regardless of your region or initiated chapter – we are but one in Delta Sigma Theta.

Our traditions have evolved, and we have only recently begun to appropriately document these changes as they were previously only shared orally to protect the Sorority's secrets. Yet as time passed and our membership became more extensive and scattered throughout the world, increased growth, errors, and deviant practices became a problem. That is why a manual of this nature became necessary.

This manual provides us a glimpse into our history while serving as a guidepost for the future. In its pages, you will find descriptions of the traditions and protocol of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. The National Protocol and Traditions Committee has served as a guiding force over this manual since its establishment in 1984 by 18th National President Hortense Golden Canady. Under their leadership, the Sorority's traditions and protocols are safeguarded to ensure that all information presented is accurate and uniform.

In this newly revised edition, you will find clarification regarding attire for Sorority activity, among many other useful enhancements. We also have included colored photos for all official Delta symbols, insignia, colors, regalia, and Omega Omega floral tributes as established by the Ritual and Ceremonies Commission.

As you study this manual, please recall the words of our 16th National President Thelma T. Daley:

"The power is not necessarily in the thought; the power is in the manner in which the thought is reflected."

Let us all do our part to ensure the vitality of our beloved Delta Sigma Theta.

Yours in Sisterhood and Service,

NATIONAL PROTOCOL AND TRADITIONS COMMITTEE

Dr. Crystal L. Adams, *Co-Chair* Jerinda Lewis McDowell, *Co-Chair*

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PROTOCOL

These are the Sorority's traditions and respectful observances that every Delta should follow. These include respect for the Founders, the National President, Past National Presidents, National Officers Emeritae, Regional Officers, and Honorary Members.

RESPECT AND RECOGNITION FOR FOUNDERS

The twenty-two Founders represent the history and ideals of the Sorority and we honor the legacy they passed on to us. The names of the Founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated should be listed on all Founders Day programs.

The Founders should be revered and honored; therefore, use of their pictures should be limited to official documents, posters and wall hangings. Their pictures *are not* for casual usage such as on T-shirts, tote bags, puzzles, screen savers, etc.

RESPECT AND RECOGNITION FOR THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT AND PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Whenever the National President and/or Past National Presidents attend chapter meetings, chapter activities, Rites of Passage, etc., it is the duty of the chapter president, or her designee in her absence, to offer them the opportunity to select how they wish to participate. The National President and Past National Presidents should always be afforded a place of honor at any Delta activity.

When the National President and Past National Presidents enter a Delta assembly (opened or closed), the membership stands and remains standing until these revered sorors are seated. The National President and Past National Presidents are introduced, or presented, in ascending order of their presidency. Upon introduction or presentation, the membership stands and remains standing until each has been introduced or presented. The membership remains seated during the recessional until the National President and members of the dais have exited.

RESPECT AND RECOGNITION FOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR / REPRESENTATIVE

When the Regional Director and/or Regional Representative enter a regional or chapter activity and when they are introduced, the membership stands and remains standing until these revered sorors are seated. The membership remains seated during the recessional until the Regional Director, Regional Representative, and members of the dais have exited.



RESPECT AND RECOGNITION FOR **CHAPTER CHARTER MEMBERS**

Sorors who organized chapters are called Charter members, not Founders. Their names should be listed on the chapter's Founders Day Program.

RESPECT AND RECOGNITION FOR **HONORARY MEMBERS**

The Sorority invites women into honorary membership who are recognized because of their outstanding contributions to society. An Honorary Member is a soror who has distinguished herself by making an extraordinary contribution in her field. Her accomplishments have resulted in a significant impact on the national or global community. Therefore, Honorary Members are held in high esteem and the membership stands when they are introduced to a **Delta-only closed** assembly.

THE BASIC TRADITIONS

The Three Rites of Passage

There are three Rites of Passage as follows:

THE PYRAMID INDUCTION CEREMONY THE INITIATION CEREMONY

Ceremonies *may not* be altered or suspended without the permission of the National First Vice President in conjunction with the National Ritual and Ceremonies Commission.

All sorors are entitled to attend the Three Rites of Passages of any chapter provided she is properly attired. Sorors currently under disciplinary action by the Sorority are not allowed to attend chapter meetings or the following Rites of Passage ceremonies: Induction and Initiation.

Secrets, Passwords, Signs and Grips

The secret passwords, signs and grips are never written but are transmitted by word of mouth from one Delta to another. The letters of the motto should be used only in personal correspondence from one soror to another. (NOTE: Electronic mail is public correspondence.) Sorors should only place their hand over their heart when reciting the "Delta Oath." Sorors are **not** to place their hand over their heart when reciting the Secret motto.

At the time of initiation (and during the new member orientation) into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the chapter president or her designee will inform and demonstrate the handshake, distress signal, and the knock to new members. The handshake is used when greeting known or identified members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. When in doubt, do not use the handshake.

Membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated is a lifetime commitment. Every soror is due recognition and courtesy in any chapter.

GREETINGS

| DELTA GREETING TO A DELTA |
|---|
| The official greeting (title) of those duly initiated into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is "Soror," and it should not be combined with another title. If an additional title is appropriate, for example, say "Dr," "Reverend," "Goror Reverend Dr.," and "International President" are not proper protocol in Delta Sigma Theta. |
| DELTA ADDRESSING A PRESIDING OFFICER |
| At chapter meetings, regional conference, national convention, and closed Delta assemblies the presiding officer should always be addressed as Soror <u>Insert Last Name</u> (e.g., Soror Jones), or Soror <u>Insert Official Title</u> (e.g., Soror President). |
| DELTA GREETING TO A PYRAMID |
| The official greeting for Deltas when addressing a Pyramid is "Little Sister" or "Pyramid" |
| PYRAMID GREETING TO A DELTA |
| The official greeting for Pyramids when addressing members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is "Big Sister." |
| PYRAMID GREETING TO A PYRAMID |
| The official greeting for Pyramids when addressing each other is "Pyramid Sister." |

OFFICIAL DELTA SYMBOLS, INSIGNIA, **COLORS AND REGALIA**

NOTE: All Sorority insignia should be worn properly, respectfully, and in good taste. (Good taste is a reflection of the style and appreciation of beauty that satisfies the Sorority's accepted social and aesthetic standards.)

The Official Delta Symbols



THE SORORITY PIN

The Sorority Pin, designed by Soror Madree Penn White, a Founder, is comprised of the three Greek letters Δ (Delta) Σ (Sigma) Θ (Theta). The nine Jewels in the Sigma represent the Nine Cardinal Virtues described in the Ritual. Each corner of the Sigma contains a pearl dedicated to the Founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Any setting desired may fill the four remaining places in the Sigma.

The pin is worn over the heart only by a duly initiated member of the Sorority. It is pinned to the first outer garment. For example, if a blouse is the first outer garment, it is pinned to a blouse. If a skirt and jacket (two-piece garment) are worn together and the jacket is the first outer garment, the pin is worn on the jacket. If a dress and jacket ensemble is worn, the pin is worn on the dress.



THE PYRAMID PIN

The Pyramid Pin was designed by Epsilon Chapter, The Ohio State University, and adopted in 1920 at the second National Convention. This plain, gold, triangular pin is worn over the heart during membership as a Pyramid. It has three sides, which represent mind, body and spirit.

Delta Insignia



THE FORTITUDE PIN

The Fortitude Pin is a replica of the sculpture Fortitude, commissioned by the Sorority and unveiled at Howard University in 1979 as a tribute to the Founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. It may be pinned on a dress, blouse, and suit or worn as a pendant.



THE DIAMOND JUBILEE PIN

The Diamond Jubilee Pin, a handmade work of art, was created in recognition of contributions of \$1,000 or more to the Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF). Contributors, designated as Diamond Jubilee Deltas, received this pin, which can be worn as a pendant. The Diamond Jubilee Pin was available only through April 30, 1988, after which the die was destroyed.



MILLENNIUM PIN

The Millennium Pin is an original work of art created as recognition for sorors who contributed \$2,200 or more towards the \$1 Million Dollar Howard University Endowment Scholarship. The scholarship was presented to Howard University on the 90th Anniversary of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The Millennium Pin can be worn as a pendant and was made available through 2004.



DELTA ANNIVERSARY PINS

In the spirit of sisterhood, National President and CEO Beverly E. Smith proudly announced the release of the Sorority's 50-year recognition pin and the launch of the first official 25-year pin in March 2019. The 25-year pin has a silver finish and is adorned with nine crystals representing our Nine Cardinal Virtues, while the 50-year pin has a gold finish and is encircled with 22 crystals representing our beloved Founders.

NOTE: All of the above pins (including the Sorority Pin) may be worn with other jewelry in accordance with the individual's own style and taste. However, other jewelry should never be worn in a manner that would detract from any of the official Sorority pins.



THE SORORITY SEAL

The Official Seal of the Sorority is a circular engraving with "Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Grand Chapter" surrounding the Crest. Under the Crest is the founding year, 1913. The Grand Chapter was incorporated in 1930.



THE SORORITY CREST

The Delta Sigma Sorority Crest is the official Coat of Arms. It was designed by Soror F. Ailene Marks and Soror Jeannette Triplett Jones, 6th National President, both of Lambda Chapter. It was authorized in 1934 by the National Executive Committee. The Official Crest is crimson and cream. The Crest is a composite idea expressing graphically the Sorority's public motto: "Intelligence is the Torch of Wisdom." Minerva (Pallas Athena), the Goddess of Wisdom, is atop the shield that bears the torch, the sword, the staff and the three Greek letters Δ (Delta) Σ (Sigma) Θ (Theta). The sword, representing truth, is a part of Minerva's symbolism. The staff symbolizes intelligent leadership. The laurel wreath is the symbol of achievement as used by the Greeks.

The Sorority Crest must be used in good taste. Good taste is a reflection of the style and appreciation of beauty that satisfies the Sorority's accepted social and aesthetic standards.

Delta's National Headquarters staff must approve the use of the Crest by vendors upon inspection of the final product and determine if the product is in compliance with Delta's policies and standards. The use of the Crest, symbols and Greek letters are prohibited and inappropriate for the lining in a casket, on a tombstone, or on a funeral program; and special requests will not be considered.

NOTE: National Headquarters has full discretion regarding when and where to use the official Sorority Crest. The Crest MAY be used for official Sorority business. Refrain from using the Crest for all forms of "Personal Use." The Crest MAY NOT be used as a personal profile picture, banner, cover photo, or as a stand-alone image in videos or slideshows.



THE PRESIDENTIAL SEAL

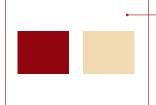
The Presidential Seal is displayed during the Opening Ceremony of the national convention. When not at a national convention, it is displayed in the National President's office at National Headquarters.



THE SORORITY EMBLEM

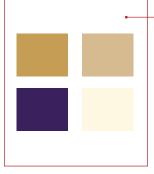
The Sorority emblem is the Goddess Minerva (Pallas Athena), Goddess of Wisdom.

The Sorority Colors



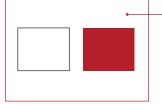
OFFICIAL SORORITY COLORS

Crimson and cream are the official colors of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



ACCENT / ANCHORING COLORS

The colors deep gold, light gold, rich violet, and light cream may be used as appropriate accent colors for Sorority insignia, symbols or marks. Gold may be used as an anchoring color only for ceremonial robes worn at national convention or regional conference. Do not mix other colors. For practical purposes, the colors crimson, Delta red, black, deep cream, and white are the primary colors. (see pages 14-16 for proper attire colors and guidelines). Whenever using a gradient color palette, please adhere to the regulations and guidelines in the Sorority's Brand Style Guide.



THE PYRAMID COLORS

White and red are the official Pyramid colors.

The Sorority Regalia



THE PYRAMID FLOWER

The peppermint carnation is the Pyramid Flower.



THE SORORITY STONE

The pearl is the Sorority stone.



THE SORORITY FLOWER

The purple violet is the Sorority flower.

THE SORORITY OFFICIAL ROBES

Officers wear appropriate robes with Delta insignia. The Jewels wear crimson or red robes.

THE SORORITY PUBLIC MOTTO

The Public Motto is "Intelligence is the Torch of Wisdom."

THE PYRAMID PUBLIC MOTTO

The Pyramid Public Motto is "Scholarship, fellowship, service and a desire to attain all that would ennoble."

The Fundamental Principles



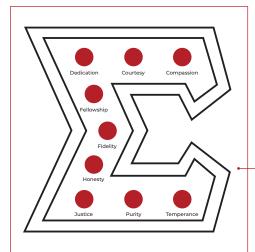
The Fundamental Principles of the organization are embodied in the virtues of the nine Jewels and the "Delta Oath." These Fundamental Principles are represented by the white candle that is used during ritualistic ceremonies and burns throughout the national convention, regional conference, and chapter meeting.

The Torch of Wisdom



The Torch of Wisdom symbolizes the public motto and is represented by the red candle that is used during ritualistic ceremonies and burns throughout the national convention, regional conference, and chapter meeting.

The Sigma



There are nine Jewels in the Sigma and they represent the Nine Cardinal Virtues, which were conceived as basic attributes that all Delta women should strive to attain.

The Nine Cardinal Virtues are: Compassion | Courtesy | Dedication | Fellowship | Fidelity | Honesty | Justice | Purity | Temperance

The Sigma – *Displaying the appropriate Jewel designations*

The Delta Flag



The Delta Flag is crimson and cream with the Sorority Crest in the center and gold fringe around the border. The Delta Flag becomes the Grand Chapter Flag, displayed at all times during the national convention. Between national conventions, the Delta Flag is displayed at National Headquarters.

The Delta Banner



The Delta Banner is displayed at the national convention and the regional conferences at the base of the podium.

Conference or Convention Banner

The regional conference or national convention banner is displayed on the backdrop curtain directly behind the podium. Information on the banner includes the name of the Sorority, and at regional conferences also the name of the region; the national convention or regional conference theme; the chronological number and the year of the national convention or the regional conference; and the city hosting the convention or conference.

GENERAL POLICY

Who Speaks For Delta

It is an established policy within Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated that the National President speaks for Grand Chapter or delegates the authority to a member. When members are present at national programs, interviewed by the media or engaged in varied activities, each person can speak in terms of her own personal role. No one has the authority to speak for or make a commitment for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated unless authorized by the National President. Proclamations of any kind shall be extended by the office of the National President.

Endorsements of issues and testimonies on behalf of legislation, national support of policy-making bodies and other related activities are exclusively within the domain of the National President.

- The regional director or her designee speaks **ONLY** for the region.
- The chapter president or her designee speaks *ONLY* for the chapter.

National Officers / Past Presidents **Honorary Members Speaking Tours**

According to present policy of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the chapter inviting a National Officer, a Past National President, Honorary Member or a member of the National Board of Directors is responsible for *approved* expenses incurred. These approved expenses might include (1) transportation; (2) lodging; and (3) other courtesies (e.g., teas, receptions, flowers, fruits, snacks, etc.).

An invitation should be extended only to those National Presidents/National Officers the chapter intends to host. A selection process is inappropriate after the invitation has been accepted. If the speaker is a person of national reputation, she should be asked if she wants to hold a press conference or meet with community leaders and chapter members. If she approves, contact should be made with all facets of the media.

A written invitation should be extended to the soror(s) at least 60 to 90 days prior to the event. The correspondence should request an immediate response to the chapter president. If the chapter is planning to offer an honorarium as the gift, the offer should be included in the correspondence finalizing the chapter's plans. Transportation arrangements should meet the speaker's approval. The speaker should be greeted upon arrival by the chapter president and/or designated soror(s). Similar departure arrangements are required.

Courtesies are extended at the discretion of the local chapter when sorors, who are national officers or have national reputation and/or responsibility, are invited into a community by an organization other than Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

Official Delta Stationery

The official stationery of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is used only for the official business of Grand Chapter. The official stationary of the Region is used only for the official business of the Region and should always be signed by the Regional Director. The official stationery of the local chapter is used only for the official business of the chapter and should always be signed by the chapter president in addition to the signature of the soror writing the letter. Individual sorors are not authorized to duplicate official letter-head to send personal messages, political correspondence or any other correspondence to other Deltas, non-Deltas, dignitaries or other persons. It is **inappropriate** to use "Soror" as a title on an envelope.

Use of Grand Chapter, Regional and Chapter Rosters

Rosters only are made available to members running for elected office in accordance with the approved guidance of the National Nominating Committee. Candidates may request chapter mailing address labels and chapter email addresses from National Headquarters at a cost to be determined. It is always best to follow current National Nominating Committee guidance.

Responsibility of a Visiting Soror

Chapters should verify membership of visiting sorors. A visitor is required to show proof of membership at the first meeting she attends. An on-site verification of membership process has been established and it is mandatory that it is used by all chapters before granting admittance to chapter meetings and to determine if a soror is in good standing with the organization. Without proper verification of membership (membership card, includes digital card; membership certificate; or letter of verification), a visitor should not be admitted. Digital membership cars are available on the Delta Application "Delta App."

The following must be completed when conducting on-site verifications of membership:

1. PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership card (includes digital card); membership certificate; verification via the Red Zone; or Verification of Membership Letter completed by National Headquarters (allow at least three business days for receipt).

OR

2. VOUCHING FOR SORORS / MEMBERS

Vouching is when a member of the chapter can attest to the veracity of the visitor's claim of membership. Such attestation must be based on knowledge of the visitor's initiation or past activities with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

AND

3. VERIFICATION OF GOOD STANDING

It is necessary to access the list of all sorors/members who have been placed on suspension, probation or have been expelled from the organization.

NOTE: To alleviate disruption at the entrance, the chapter president should be notified in advance and proof of membership should be provided at least five to seven business days prior to the meeting, ceremony, etc.

RAP ORDER FOR MEETINGS AND CEREMONIES

NOTE: WAIT UNTIL RAPS ARE COMPLETED TO PERFORM COMMAND

Various raps are found throughout the *Ritual* and used during meetings and Ritualistic Ceremonies. In the Ritual, rap order instructions will be in italics.

| ONE RAP Attention Be seated End of Ceremony | |
|--|--|
| TWO RAPS Affirm the Sacred Vow Affirm the Sacred Trust | |
| THREE RAPS Sorors Stand | |

PROPER ATTIRE FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION, REGIONAL CONFERENCES, RITUALISTIC CEREMONIES AND MEETINGS

Everyone must wear the appropriate delegate (Voting, Alternate, Non-Voting) badge to all sessions and events at national convention and regional conferences. The Sorority flower, the purple violet, and the Sorority pin are appropriate to be worn at all ceremonies, meetings, and events.

Proper Attire

At ceremonies, officers wear appropriate robes and Jewels wear crimson or red robes. All sorors present and/or participating in official ceremonies must be properly attired. Hats are inappropriate and forbidden for ceremonial participants excluding head coverings due to medical and religious **reasons.** Pants or hats of any kind are **not permitted** to the following ceremonies:

Δ THREE RITES OF PASSAGE

- The Pyramid Induction Ceremony
- The Initiation Ceremony
- The Omega Omega Service

NOTE: Visiting sorors cannot be excused from wearing proper attire at Rites of Passage ceremonies.

- △ GRAND CHAPTER FORMAL OPENING CEREMONY
- △ REGIONAL CONFERENCE OPENING CEREMONY
- A NATIONAL CONVENTION / REGIONAL CONFERENCE MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE
- A REDEDICATION CEREMONY
- Δ CHARTERING OF NEW OR RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF RETIRED COLLEGIATE / ALUMNAE CHAPTER

NOTE: Head coverings due to medical and religious reasons are permitted.

Delta Business Attire

Delta Business attire is appropriate for most occasions except as specifically noted. Business attire is traditionally a business suit, dress, skirt, pants, sleeveless blouse, blouse and blazer – clothing, and religious head-wraps that reflects a professional style. Leggings worn as pants are not considered appropriate chapter meeting attire at any time. Wearing denim of any color and line jackets of any kind or color are inappropriate for any ceremony, Memorial Observance, Omega Omega Service or Chapter Meeting. Ponchos and shawls containing symbols on one side or the crest on one side are appropriate and can be worn as a covering for chapter meetings. Delta's business attire must satisfy the Sorority's accepted business, social and aesthetic standards.

Business Attire Guidelines

Δ NATIONAL CONVENTION / REGIONAL CONFERENCE

- **OPENING PLENARY SESSION** | Solid white attire excluding colored patterned material, which includes any cover-ups, shawls, or sweaters. This is not to include sewing notions such as buttons, snaps, zippers, and jewelry adornments. Hats are inappropriate and forbidden excluding head coverings due to medical and religious reasons. Pants are not allowed.
- MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE | Solid red, white or black attire: however, black is preferred excluding colored patterned material. No combination of the colors is permissible. This is not to include sewing notions such as buttons, snaps, zippers, and jewelry adornments. Pants are not allowed.
- **ECUMENICAL SERVICE** | Red, white, black, business attire or otherwise specified. White is preferred. Hats are permitted.
- **CLOSING BANQUET** | Formal or after-five attire or otherwise specified.

NATIONAL CONVENTION / REGIONAL MEETING / CONFERENCE | Business attire

- Δ CHAPTER MEETING | Business attire; hats are acceptable excluding baseball hats, cowboy hats, bandanas or bucket hats.
- Δ FOUNDERS DAY / REDEDICATION CEREMONY | Business attire, color determined by the host chapter(s)/Region in charge. If Rededication—business attire, excluding colored patterned material which includes any cover-up, shawls, or sweaters. This is not to include sewing notions such as buttons, snaps, zippers, and jewelry adornments. Pants are not allowed.

Business Attire Guidelines continued

- Δ ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CHAPTER | Black business attire excluding colored patterned material, which includes any cover-ups, shawls, or sweaters. This is not to include sewing notions such as buttons, snaps, zippers, and jewelry adornments. Pants are not allowed.
- Δ OMEGA OMEGA SERVICE | Black business attire excluding colored patterned material, which includes any cover-up, shawls, or sweaters. This is not to include sewing notions such as buttons, snaps, zippers, and jewelry adornments. Hats are inappropriate and forbidden for ceremonial participants excluding head coverings due to medical and religious reasons. Pants are not allowed.
- A PYRAMID INDUCTION / INITIATION | Sorors wear black business attire and Candidates wear white business attire, excluding colored patterned material, which includes any cover-up, shawls, or sweaters. This is not to include sewing notions such as buttons, snaps, zippers, and jewelry adornments. Pants are not allowed.
- Δ Denim shall not be worn to any of the functions listed above. Paraphernalia jackets are not appropriate and cannot be worn as a covering.
- Δ The attire for Chapter Executive Board Meetings shall match the attire guidelines reflected in the section of Business Attire.

Business Attire Shoes

Rubber soled or foam bottomed shoes known as beach style flip flops, shower shoes, and sport slides are inappropriate business attire. Sandals or open toed shoes are acceptable.

DELTA EVENTS PROTOCOL

Seating

FORMAL BANQUET

If there is a formal banquet at national convention, there is reserved seating for voting and alternate delegates, nationally elected and appointed commission and committee members and designated others.

At a regional conference, the same persons above plus regional committee members are provided reserved seating. (NOTE: Each soror must wear her own badge and have a ticket for this and all other meal functions.)

Sorors should be considerate and refrain from taking pictures, videotaping, or doing live streams of the dais during the meal and while they are eating. **ONLY** the official National Headquarters photographer may take pictures, videotape, or do live streams during this time.

Chapter, Cluster and State Founders Day Celebrations

DAIS AND RESERVED SEATING

Members of the National Executive Committee, Past National Presidents, and the Regional Director and Regional Representative of the region should **always** have seating on the dais. Honorary Members should have seating on the dais if there is available space. When dais seating is not available, a reserved seating section in the front should be provided for these sorors.

When seated, the National President should assume a position to the **right** of the podium with the presiding officer on the *left* side of the podium (facing the audience).

The National Board of Directors; members of national committees/commissions; regional members of the National Scholarship and Standards Committee, National Finance Committee, National Nominating Committee; and past national/regional officers may have seating on the dais when possible. A reserved seating section in the front should be provided when dais seating is not available.

The chapter president or her designee should determine the appropriate officers to be seated on the dais; and at either's discretion, reserved seating should be available for sorors in special categories or are physically disabled.

PROCESSIONAL AND LINE-UPS

Sorors should be lined up for processionals according to established protocol. Regardless of the event, the National President always enters last.

Order of Processionals

STATEWIDE FOUNDERS DAY

- State/Regional Protocol Chair 1.
- 2. Presidents of Hostess Chapter(s)
- 3. State Coordinator(s) and State Facilitator(s)
- 4. Appointed Chair(s) of Founders Day
- 5. **Designated Chaplain**
- 6. **Honorary Members**
- **7**. National Board of Directors
- Speaker 8.
- 9. Past National Presidents
- National Executive Committee 10.
- Regional Representative 11.
- 12. **Regional Director**
- 13. National President

These positions *are always* seated on the dais:

- 1. **National Executive Committee**
- **Past National Presidents** 2.
- 3. Regional Director of the Region
- 4. Regional Representative of the Region

These positions should be seated on the dais if there is space. A reserved seating section in the front should be provided when dais seating is not available:

- 1. **Honorary Members**
- 2. **National Board of Directors**
- 3. Elected regional members of National Committees (Scholarship & Standards, Finance, and Nominating)
- Past National/Regional Officers 4.

RESERVED SEATING

It is appropriate to designate reserved seating areas for sorors in special categories. Wherever reserved seating is necessary, an ample number of hostesses are needed.

- 1. Hearing and Visually Impaired (Must be closest to the front)
- 2. Physically Disabled
- 3. **National Committee Members**
- **Regional Committee Members** 4.
- 5. Hostesses
- 6. Delta DEARS
- 7. Past National/Regional Officers
- 8. Choir or musician (if a musical selection performed)

Dais Introductions

When introductions of the dais guests are made, the soror making the introductions should begin with the person on her far left and continue to the podium, then shift to the far right and continue to the podium. If there are two or more tiers, she should begin with the top tier and follow the same procedure toward the bottom tier. The National President is always the last person to be introduced.

Sorors should be considerate and refrain from taking pictures of the dais during the meal. Only Pages and authorized individuals (e.g., national headquarters staff, sergeant-at-arms) should approach officers and others on the dais during a national convention or regional conference.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS AT A REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND NATIONAL CONVENTION

The first soror speaking at a regional conference and national convention or assembly greets or acknowledges the sorors in this order: National President, Corporate Officers, Past National Presidents, Regional Director(s), Regional Representative(s), National Board of Directors, Sorors on the Dais, sorors in the Assembly, Good morning/Good evening, I am , (State position and proceed).

OR

National President, Regional Director, Regional Representative, Corporate Officers, Past National Presidents, National Board of Directors, sorors on the Dais, sorors in the Assembly, Good morning/Good evening, I am ______, (state position and proceed).

Greetings for all subsequent speakers are "Madam President," "Madam Regional Director" and "Madam Regional Representative." The soror then proceeds with her report or presentation.

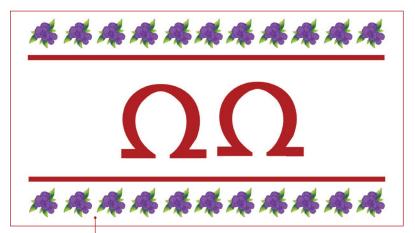
NOTE: In Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, it is never appropriate to say, "Protocol having been established."

OMEGA OMEGA SERVICE

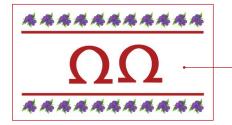
Every soror initiated into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated is entitled to the third Rite of Passage, unless she has been expelled from the organization. The financial status of the soror at the time of her death is **not** a requirement for this entitlement. Non-financial sorors can also participate in the ceremony but only in specific areas of the service. The Omega Omega Service is a **one-time tribute** that Delta Sigma Theta owes their deceased sorors.

The Omega Omega Floral Tribute

The floral tribute is original with Delta, uniform throughout the organization and in keeping with the Ritual of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. It was authorized at the Philadelphia Convention of 1921. The 22 purple violet sprays are symbolic of our Founders. The red symbolizes courage, and the white symbolizes purity. A live floral arrangement may be used.



The floral tribute for national convention/regional conference Memorial Observance is a rectangular, white satin pillow, 4 feet long by 2 feet wide with 11 purple violet sprays across the top and 11 across the bottom and the Omega Omega symbols or words are featured in red in the center of the pillow.



The floral tribute for local chapter Omega Omega Service is a rectangular, white satin pillow, 2 feet long by 1½ feet wide with 11 purple violet sprays across the top and 11 across the bottom and the Omega Omega symbols or words are featured in red in the center of the pillow.

Attire for Omega Omega

Ceremonial participants must adhere to the attire guidelines to participate in the Omega Omega Service as outlined in the Ritual. The Presiding Officer and assistants must dress in black business attire with official robes/white robes. Sorors must be dressed in black business attire (i.e., black dress or suit with black blouse). The official Sorority pin and purple violets may be worn. Pants are never worn for the Omega Omega Service. Hats are inappropriate and forbidden for ceremonial participants excluding head coverings due to medical and religious reasons.

THE DEATH OF PRESENT OR PAST NATIONAL OFFICERS

Death of a National President, Past National President, Honorary Member, National Officer, or Past National Officer

- 1. The family member or chapter president is responsible for immediately notifying the National President and National Headquarters simultaneously of the death.
- 2. Appropriate communication is sent immediately by the National President to the National Board of Directors, Honorary Members, and other persons as deemed appropriate; and lastly to all members.
- 3. The National President or her designee will:
 - designate or authorize the roles and responsibilities for carrying out any representation on behalf of the organization and the Omega Omega Service;
 - conduct and be responsible for the Omega Omega Service; and
 - be responsible for all other related activities (e.g., reception following the service, etc.).

OR

In the death of the current National President

- 1. The family member or chapter president where the National President is a member is responsible for immediately notifying the National First Vice President and Executive Director simultaneously.
- Appropriate communication is sent immediately by National First Vice President to the Executive 2. Director, National Board of Directors, and Honorary Members. Immediately following, a memorandum from the National First Vice President regarding the death is sent to all members.
- 3. The National First Vice President is in charge and presides over the Omega Omega Service.
 - NOTE: Past National Presidents may coordinate with the National First Vice President on the Omega Omega Service.

CODE OF ETHICS

Believing in the worth and dignity of each human being, Delta expects each soror to recognize the supreme importance of the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, and commitment to social responsibility.

Each soror is expected to live up to these ideals by embracing and adhering to the following ethical principles:

- Δ EACH SOROR SHALL REGARD as primary the bond of Sisterhood and the giving of public service.
- Δ EACH SOROR SHALL UPHOLD the Constitution and Bylaws of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.
- Δ EACH SOROR SHALL MAINTAIN high standards of personal conduct.
- Δ EACH SOROR SHALL SUPPORT AND PROMOTE the goals, objectives and programs approved by Grand Chapter.
- Δ EACH SOROR SHALL TREAT all persons with dignity and respect.
- Δ EACH SOROR SHALL EXHIBIT compassionate and courteous behavior toward sorors at all times.
- Δ EACH SOROR SHALL REFRAIN from making false or misleading statements about the Sorority to anyone.
- Δ EACH SOROR SHALL RECOGNIZE her personal responsibility to assist with and promote the development, improvement, and execution of programs designed to strengthen the Sisterhood.
- Δ EACH SOROR SHALL UPHOLD AND SUP-PORT all persons impartially.
- Δ EACH SOROR SHALL REFRAIN from engaging in or tolerating any exploitation or disparaging of the Sorority.

- Δ EACH SOROR SHALL REFRAIN from using her membership in a manner that would be inconsistent with the Sorority's underlying principles.
- Δ EACH SOROR SHALL MAINTAIN the confidentiality of all information deemed as such by the Sorority.
- Δ EACH SOROR SHALL REFRAIN from using the Sorority's property, including any derivative of its name, its symbols, and other trademarks and service marks, for personal and/or commercial use.
- Δ EACH SOROR SHALL EXERCISE sound business principles in conducting the Sorority's affairs.
- Δ EACH SOROR SHALL REFRAIN from engaging in illegal and unsisterly conduct (including any form of hazing); shall use her best efforts to protect the Sorority from any such conduct by anyone; and shall report any such conduct to the appropriate local, regional or national officer.
- Δ EACH SOROR SHALL SUPPORT the Sorority's programs through the payment of all dues and fees approved by Grand Chapter; and
- Δ EACH SOROR SHALL DEMONSTRATE her commitment to public service by participating with her local chapter or nationally.

MISUSE OF DELTA SYMBOLS

- SORORS ARE PROHIBITED FROM USING Delta's Marks in a manner that would defame a. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. or otherwise damage its reputation and goodwill.
- SORORS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO USE such property for any commercial purpose (i.e., b. to make money from using the property or to promote other causes), to authorize any third party to use Delta's Marks for any purpose, or in a manner inconsistent with the Delta Technology Guidelines.
- SORORS CANNOT USE any of the Delta Marks, Insignia or Symbols on body parts, as tattoos, c. shavings, nail art or piercing (other than ear jewelry).
- d. SORORS SHOULD REFRAIN FROM WEARING the Marks, Insignia or Symbols in casinos, nightclubs, bars or any establishment while consuming alcohol that is open to the public.
- SORORS DO NOT BELITTLE other Greek organizations by using their symbols, colors, or e. slogans.
- f. THE SORORITY CREST, SYMBOLS, OR THE GREEK LETTERS ARE NOT approved nor appropriate for the lining of a casket, on a tombstone/grave marker, funeral program, or an obituary section of the newspaper. Similarly, the wording Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is not allowed, except it is permissible for use to acknowledge the deceased soror's membership within the Sorority in the funeral program or obituary section of the newspaper.
- SORORS ARE GRANTED LIMITED USE of Delta's Marks, excluding the Sorority Crest and g. Torch of Wisdom, in personal photographs or videos not used for commercial purposes.
- THE ELEPHANT AND DUCK ARE NOT official symbols of the Sorority and should not be used h. with any official Delta Marks, Insignia or Symbols. Neither should be given as tokens of appreciation in public settings.

DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

ALUMNAE: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated refers to its graduate chapters as alumnae chapters, not alumni chapters. "Alumnae" is pronounced [uh-luhm-nee] and rhymes with "gum tree."

CEREMONY: The forms, procedures, and details prescribed by custom and tradition for carrying out activities prescribed by ritual.

DELTA D.E.A.R.S.: This concept was established by the Golden Life Committee in 1982 as a special membership category for all Deltas verified to be 65 years of age or over. The age requirement was later changed to 62 and is the **only recognized** named age group in the organization. The "D.E.A.R.S." acronym stands for: Dedicated – Energetic – Active – Respected – Sorors. Special designation is provided for them at national convention, regional conference, as well as at the local chapter level.

DELTA DIGNITARIES: National Board of Director Members, Elected Regional Officers, Past National Presidents, and Honorary Members.

DELTA SOUND: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated **does not** have an official "Delta sound or Delta call" (00-00p). At the 36th National Convention, which was held in Washington, DC in 1981, Founder Bertha Pitts Campbell stated that, "Such a call is unbecoming to Delta Sigma Theta sorors." In keeping with our noble heritage, and in response to Founder Campbell's statement, inappropriate sounds should not be made by members of the Sorority.

INTEREST GROUPS: In Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, there are no interest groups. The formation of an interest group is in direct conflict with the *Constitution and Bylaws* of the Sorority. In accordance with this, there **cannot** be any form of secret probation or secret orientation. The first official group with which a person may affiliate in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is the Pyramid Circle.

There is no official designation called Delta Dolls or Delta Divas.

DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS continued

OPEN / CLOSED ASSEMBLY: An "Open assembly" is an activity or event that may be attended by the public. A "Closed assembly" is a ceremony or event for Deltas only. Deltas under disciplinary action by the Sorority are not entitled to attend closed assembly activities.

PARAPHERNALIA: Miscellaneous articles such as clothing, trinkets, shoes, purses, large bags, etc. that has the insignia of a particular organization.

PROTOCOL: Prescribed social usages, etiquette, and acts of courtesy observed by members of the Sorority.

RELATIONSHIP WITH FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated **does not** have a sibling relationship with any Greek-letter organization and has never taken action to adopt the men of any fraternity as brothers. Collegiate chapters are encouraged to affiliate with the National Pan-Hellenic Council and associate with the Pan-Hellenic organizations recognized by their college or university administration. Alumnae chapters are also encouraged to affiliate with the National Pan-Hellenic Councils within their service area.

RITUAL: The established form, words, acts, protocol, and order for a ceremony.

TRADITIONS: The handing down of information, beliefs, and customs by word of mouth, example, or written form, from one generation to another.

OFFICIAL SORORITY SONGS



Delta Mizpah

Delta Prayer

Delta Sigma Theta National Hymn

Delta Sweetheart Song

I Would Be True

Pyramid Hymn

The official songs are never sung as solos or renditions; they are never improvised, changed, or appended to other songs. All verses of the official songs are to be sung. The Delta Mizpah may be sung or recited.

When singing the Delta Sigma Theta National Hymn, sorors form a circle if possible or stand in place, cross right arm over left arm, join hands and sing the hymn together. Following the singing of the Delta Sigma Theta National Hymn, sorors drop their arms and hold the hands of the soror standing next to them to recite or sing the Delta Mizpah.

When singing the Delta Sweetheart Song, sorors should form a circle, hold hands and sway right to left starting on the second word, "may." In repeating the song the second time, the first four phrases may be sung as a solo as the other sorors hum the melody, then all join in singing, "But if she wears..." This song can be sung at Sorority functions and other Greek functions. Exceptions: The Delta Sweetheart Song may be sung to serenade a Delta bride at her wedding reception as she (bride only) stands in the center of the circle. It can also be sung upon any noteworthy accomplishment (e.g., graduation, retirement, birthdays) by a soror and at events of other Pan-Hellenic organizations. The Delta Sweetheart Song is the only song in which there is swaying.

NOTE: As of October 2020, all musical scores have been updated with the exception of the Delta Sigma Theta National Hymn.

Beta Hymn

(Delta Sigma Theta, How We Love Thy Name)



Beta Hymn continued



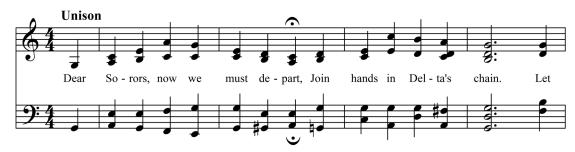
Beta Hymn continued

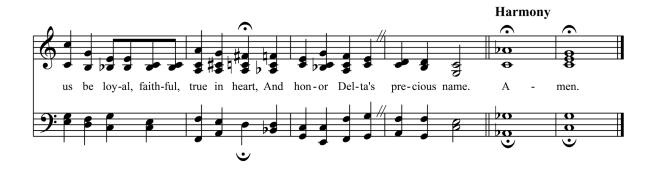


Delta Mizpah

Words and Music by Johanna Gow Bush

arr. Jacqueline B. Hairston revised by Valeria A. Foster



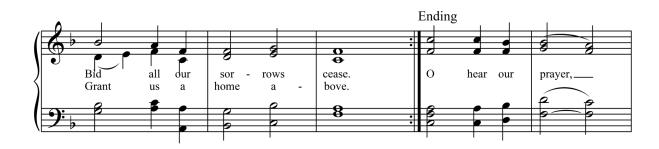


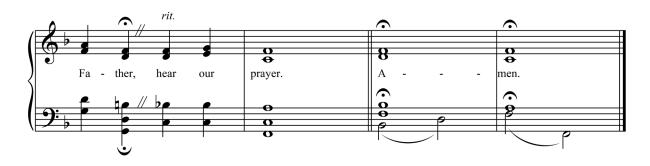
Delta Prayer



Delta Prayer continued







Delta Sigma Theta National Hymn



Delta Sigma Theta National Hymn continued



Delta Sweetheart Song

June Mack Dorothy Jean Swope

Eloise Logan Penn arr. Jacqueline B. Hairston revised by Valeria A. Foster









**When singing the "Delta Sweetheart Song," Sorors should form a circle, hold hands, and sway right to left starting on the second word "may."

I Would Be True



Pyramid Hymn

(Tune: "Juanita")



Pyramid Hymn continued



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Beverly Evans Smith, National President & CEO Cheryl A. Hickmon, National First Vice President Diamond Compton, National Second Vice President Elsie Cooke-Holmes, National Secretary Pamela R. Hill, National Treasurer

NATIONAL PROTOCOL AND TRADITIONS COMMITTEE

Dr. Crystal L. Adams & Jerinda Lewis McDowell, Co-Chairs V. Paulette McNair, Central Region Carla Wilson, Central Region Venida Hamilton, Eastern Region Andrea Phillips, Eastern Region Julia Price, Eastern Region Rhonda Andrew, Farwest Region Cheryl Hudson, Midwest Region Leslie Price, Midwest Region Mary Rose, Midwest Region Therese Griffin, South Atlantic Region Joann Lewis-Nixon, South Atlantic Region Katrina Dorsey, Southern Region Michele Hill, Southern Region Gwendolyn Morris, Southern Region Exa Hartman, Southwest Region Tonya Smith, Southwest Region Gloria Williams, Southwest Region

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS STAFF LIAISON

Lakeisha R. Scott, Director, Customer Support Service Center

NATIONAL DOCUMENTS REVIEW AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Sandra K. Parker, Chair Cheryl Cooper Boyd, Midwest Region Angela Brown, Farwest Region Stephanie Cooper, Farwest Region Helene Fisher, South Atlantic Region Latasha Jennings, Central Region Torey Tolson, Midwest Region Tamera Wells-Lee, Eastern Region

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS STAFF LIAISON

Deirdre Z. Shoulars, Director, Documents Management and Headquarters Policies & Procedures

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2021 DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

National Headquarters Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated



DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

1707 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20009 (202) 986 - 2400 www.deltasigmatheta.org