

Central Arkansas Alumnae Chapter, (501) 227-0858

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President's Message: Spring is in the Air

Greetings Sorors!

It is sisterhood month! Please make sure you reach out to our sisters during this month. There are many faces that we have not seen in some time and I want you to know that I personally miss you. The National Membership Services committee has come up with several ways for us to celebrate Sisterhood month. Please look for our activities as CAAC's membership committee puts those activities together.

In addition, it is that time of year when we start planning for 2007-08 fiscal year. If you have ideas of programs or activities that our chapter should undertake, please contact the appropriate chair with your ideas. If you are not sure where an activity may fall, please let me know.

At the end of our Sisterhood DID earlier this month, Soror Cheryl Stuart provided us with 4 questions that I challenge each of you to answer. If you feel like sharing your responses with me, please email them to dst4life95@yahoo.com. Your responses will be kept confidential.

1. What am I personally doing to promote Sisterhood in Delta?
2. What is my Chapter doing to promote Sisterhood and the ethic of Commitment?
3. What should my Chapter be doing to develop the concepts of Sisterhood and Commitment?
4. After _____ years in Delta, why am I still committed to the mission of the Sorority?

Sisterly,
Erica Jenkins, President

CAAC Reminders

- Δ Founders Day – March 24 at 11a.m.
- Δ Dues due by March 24, add a \$5 late fee after the date.
- Δ Chapter meeting April 14 at 11a.m.
- Δ Advisor Training April 14 in Houston
- Δ Ronald McDonald House April 16
- Δ Delta Academy/GEMS April 21



CAAC



Game Night

By: Claudette Barbee

"Spades", "Bingo", and "Taboo" were the name of the games during Central Arkansas' Game Night held Saturday, January 27, 2007 at the Eagle Hill Apartment Club House in Little Rock, AR. Participants of all ages joined in the fun as the group entered into the world of high stakes entertainment.

Anybody for Bingo? Well, bingo was the start of a wonderful evening as the first shout came from our teenage guests as they led the way in the most wins for the night.

Sorors laughed, strategized, and gave up the ghost as they pressed on for the winning number. The evening continued with our famous "Taboo", led by hostess Contessa Smith. As she presented the rules, Sorors gathered their teams and got ready to meet the challenge.

There was a good deal of food, fellowship and "Good Ole Delta Spirit" as Sorors enjoyed refreshments and friends. But this is not how the story ends, as there must be a rematch in the "Tournament of Spades".

Two teams faced off in a battle to the finish, but victory was not to be earned as they each ended winning one game.

Sorors Latasha Hutson, Luciana Vineyard and Contessa Smith were the winners of the Tunica hotel/casino one night stay certificates.

Delta Spotlight Soror Veronda McQuay-Brown

By: Angela Austin

Soror Veronda McQuay-Brown is the daughter of Hollis and the late Linda McQuay. She was born Oct. 31, in Hamburg, AR; the youngest of three. She has two brothers, Kenneth and Carlos (deceased). She is married to Dexter Brown, a man of KΑΨ. Although she is not a mother, she has helped her brother, Kenneth, raise his twin daughters.

She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with emphasis in Quantitative Methods & Computer Information Systems from the University of Central

Arkansas (UCA) May 1994.

Soror McQuay-Brown has served as a Programmer Analyst for Dillard's Corporation for 12 years and is currently a Realtor with McKinney Associates Realtors. She has aspirations of starting her own appraisal business.

Soror McQuay-Brown was initiated into the Lambda Upsilon Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Spring 1994 as #10 of "16 Queens of Crimson and Cream. She currently serves as Chaplain for CAAC and is the Arkansas Coordinator for the Delta Challenge Home Initiative.

Veronda grew up in the Church of Christ Holiness,

USA, but moved her membership to First Baptist North Little Rock after marriage. She is the former Director of Children's Church and Sunday School teacher. She is currently the events coordinator for Couples in Christ Ministry.

Soror McQuay-Brown's motto is: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13

Red & White Day at the State Capitol

By: Erica Jenkins

On Tuesday February 6, 2007, over 30 Sorors from chapters all over the state convened for "Red and White" Day at the State Capitol. The agenda began with Sorors registering, meeting and greeting each other in the Aegon Building, across the street from the steps of the Arkansas State Capitol. The room, packed to capacity, served as the platform for several speakers who donated their time to educate us on current issues within the African American community.

Soror Exa Hartman started the event by welcoming Sorors and encouraging everyone to be open to the information they were going to receive and to take the information back to members of their chapter as we move forward in our communities. Social action is the bedrock of Delta Sigma Theta, but there are times when it seems as though we have moved away from this commitment.

Levi Thomas, Executive Director of United Family Services and Jannie Cotton, CEO of Professional Counseling Associates spoke about the juvenile justice system in the state of Arkansas. United Family Services strives to find alternatives to locking our children up in detention centers. The agency works to provide counseling, mentoring, electronic monitoring, drug screens, and other mechanisms to help our youth stay on the right track. He spoke of the disproportionate number of African American youth who are being incarcerated. Juvenile justice in many ways has turned into "baby jail," and it reflects the same discrimination we see in the prison system.

Dr. Katherine Mitchell discussed the educational system and our youth. She discussed ways parents can get involved in their student's school lives; Mitchell gave several excellent examples of how to approach teachers to get the best results. She noted when parents let teachers know at the beginning of the year they care about their child's education, students stand a better chance of the teacher caring about the child's education. She encouraged Sorors to volunteer at the school, become involved in the PTA, attend school functions and meetings so the school feels your presence.

Dr. Albert Kittrell, Medical Director at the Arkansas State Hospital discussed the mental health system, specifically the forensic unit. The forensic unit at the Arkansas State Hospital is the unit that houses patients who have a mental illness and have gotten in trouble with the law. Many times the stigma of having a mental illness in the Black community prevents a person from receiving the initial treatment they need. When this occurs, it leaves a person more vulnerable to fall into circumstances that may lead to arrest. We have a duty in our community to recognize mental illness exist and treatment can help. We cannot afford to continue to stigmatize persons with mental illness and allow them to fall into a system that does not look out for their best interest.

A wonderful lunch was provided by Elegant Renditions – a Delta-owned business. During lunch, several members of the Black Caucus joined us. They were very excited about our gathering and asked for our support on several issues. They also discussed the difficulty of being minorities in a majority environment. We owe it to our representatives to support them in the fights they take on for our community – the Black community. One of the issues that they asked us to consider supporting was the rights of pregnant women prisoners. When a woman prisoner is pregnant and in the hospital to give birth, they continue to have them handcuffed and shackled. There is armed security in the room and most of the time the women are non-violent offenders. In addition, the women that are mostly affected are African American women.

After lunch, Sorors convened on the steps of the capitol for a photo opportunity. We then went inside for more photos, one of which was taken with the Governor Mike Beebe. He requested to meet with us when he heard we were having Red and White Day – what an honor! The day ended with us visiting the Senate and the House, where we were recognized by the members of the Senate.

The day was wonderful, educational, and energizing. Most Sorors came away from the day remembering how much work is left to be done in the Black Community. As part of each Soror's registration packet, they received handouts from the Covenant with Black American and a pocket guide of all the legislators in the state. I encourage every Soror to purchase and read a copy of the Covenant. It outlines steps that we can begin to take to make a difference in our communities. I also encourage Sorors to contact their social action chair or chapter representative who attended "Red and White" day to get addresses, phone numbers and emails of their representatives. Write to them and let them know how you feel about issues within our community. Don't send standard letters that say the same thing. Take the time to take an interest in the policies and laws that shape our world. Take the time to voice your concerns. Take the time to stand up for those who can't. Take the time to honor the principles on which our sisterhood was founded. Take the time to honor our founders and re-ignite our sisterhood's passion for social action!!!



Exa and Tressa participate in Red & White Day at the State Capitol.



CAAC Deltas pose for a picture with Gov. Mike Beebe



Deltas from across Arkansas smile for a photo in front of the state capitol.



Form the strut line--Sorors have so much fun.



Tia receives the Princess award.



CAAC Sorors gather for a DID at the chapter retreat

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Come Grow With Us!
www.caacdeltas.org

A Time to Relax...Renew...Restore

By: Claudette Barbee

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh

...Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

On the evening of Friday, March 2, 2007, Central Arkansas Alumnae Chapter (CAAC) Sorors took time to embark on a journey to Relax...Renew...Restore. CAAC participated in a "Sisterhood Retreat" that focused on "Sisterhood" through activities that catered to developing friendships, bonding and fellowships, and showing love towards one another. Sorors spent quality time together without discussing Delta activities, use of cell phones or television.

The weekend was a wonderful time to relax and get away from the hustle and bustle of work and family; Sorors just focused on sisterly love.

Sorors arrived with blankets, sleeping bags, pillows and yes stuffed animals. They found a bunk bed to sleep on and started to mingle and fellowship. An evening of games, relaxing activities such as karaoke, body and foot massages, and the sharing of a wonderful meal was enjoyed. A special sister received a "Princess" award and was crowned with a beautiful tiara and presented a certificate. Sorors talked, laughed, slept and awakened to an enjoyable breakfast and morning activities. Sisters participated in an interactive group activity which allowed them an opportunity to present creative ways for us to relax, renew, restore and become better, more productive, effective

mothers, wives, friends and of course "sisters".

The retreat was definitely a time to build relationships with Sorors we see at meetings but really do not know, a time to cry with one another about a painful experience or a joyous occasion, and most significant, a time to laugh with and at one another in sisterly love. Everyone had a magnificent time in the name of D-E-L-T-A.

As CAAC "reach out and touch" our Sorors during this March 2007 Sisterhood Month, we are reminded that even as we embrace "One Mission, One Sisterhood Empowering Communities" we must remember to embrace "One Family, All Sisters Lifting Each Other through Committed Friendship, Fellowship & Love".



DST Mission

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