The Ivy Times

JANUARY 2023

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® | Delta Rho Omega Chapter

DELTA RHO OMEGA

#AKADROlegacy

Leadership
Engagement
Growth
Activism
Community-Focus
You!

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Cover Photo: Brooklyn Bridge; Teresa Escobar, photographer
Inside Cover Photo: Delta Rho Omega celebrates Founders' Day in Tarrytown, NY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MONIQUE OKUMAKPEYI
Basileus

VACANT
First Anti-Basileus

WANDA BERRY JOSEPH
Second Anti-Basileus

ANGELA CAREY ADAMS
Grammateus

VACANT
Anti-Grammateus

CHRISTINA HODGES
Tamiouchos

YVETTE MACK
Anti-Tamiouchos

ANNUNCIATE HOPKINS-POPE
Pecunious Grammateus

CHJAME JONES
Epistoleus

BERNARDA VILLALONA
Parliamentarian

GABBY CUDJOE WILKES
Chaplain

SIMONE BELGRAVE
Ivy Leaf Reporter

SECOYA HOLMES
Hodegos

NEFIE WHITE
Hodegos

CELESTE' LEWIS
Graduate Advisor

DORCAS MILLER
Philacter

DANA WILLIAMS-TINSLEY
Philacter

CAROLE JENKINS
Historian

CHRISTINE RUDISEL
Archivist

IRENE AJAGBE
Business Manager

KATUISCA LAWRENCE
Business Manager

REGINA DAVIS
Member-at-Large

PEGGY GRIFFITHS
Member-at-Large

JOANNE JOYNER-WELLS
Custodian

TANYA STEWART
Panhellenic Representative

TIMELESS TREASURES

Carole Jenkins
Sylvia Stovall
Sonja Davis
Patricia Ramseur

Carole Brinkley
Tomasina Boone
Yolanda Holmes

Dawn M. Baskerville
Octavia Hill
Victoria Thomas
Susan Hobson-Ransom

From the desk of the Basileus...

Happy New Year Sorors!

In Alpha Kappa Alpha, we are "Soaring to Greater Heights of Service and Sisterhood." In the Notable North Atlantic region, we are the F.I.R.S.T.! We have fellowship, innovation, respect, service, and we thrive!

Sorors, in Delta Rho Omega, it is our duty to uphold our L.E.G.A.C.Y. We have a rich history of sorority and community LEADERSHIP. We must be ENGAGED in the sisterhood *and* the service. We will continue to GROW as a desirable chapter home for sorors who wish to reconnect with the sisterhood. Our ACTIVISM will inform and register voters, while advocating on behalf of our legislative goals. Our programs will be COMMUNITY-FOCUSED, and YOU will be proud of your affiliation with a chapter that has captured a vision fair for 75 years.

It is the honor of my Alpha Kappa Alpha life to serve as your basileus. This is a privilege and a responsibility that I do not take lightly, and I am grateful that you've granted me an opportunity to serve. Please, do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you in any way.

Sisterly

Soror Monique

Soror Monique Okumakpeyi
Basileus

"If you're going to live, leave a legacy. Make a mark on the world that can't be erased." ~ *Soror Maya Angelou*

Second Anti-Basileus' Message

Happy Founders' Day Month!

Greetings Sorors,
Happy New Year and Happy 115th Founders' Day month. We are soaring to greater heights of service and sisterhood, and I am energized and inspired after attending the International Founders' Day Celebration in D.C. There's one thing that stuck with me in learning about our Founders and it's that each had a special gift or talent. I am reminded of the theme from our chapter retreat "Strengthening the Ivy by Shining Our Sister's Pearls and Sharing Our Gifts".

Did you know?

Our Founders were among the fewer than 1,000 Negroes enrolled in higher education institutions in 1908, and the 25 women who received Bachelor of Arts degrees from Howard University between 1908 and 1911. Nine juniors and seniors constituted the founding members.

Seven sophomores who were extended an invitation for membership without initiation were endowed with Founder status. Led by Ethel Hedgemon (Lyle), the nine Howard University students who came together to form Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority were the scholastic leaders of their classes. Each also had a special talent or gift that further enhanced the potential of this dynamic group.

Source: https://aka1908.com/news-events/news/?open_article=5910

BLESSED AND ADDRESSED BY MRS. CELESTE'

Grace and Peace during this Season

With the start of the new year, we welcome our newest members of the Graduate Advisory Council of the Alpha Mu Chapter which include the following Sorors: Monique Okumakpeyi, Serena Castellano, Annunciate Pope, Imani Benoit, and Adero Green. In addition, we welcome back the following Sorors who will remain on the Graduate Council: Zena Mine, Susan Hobson-Ransom, Antonia Hope, Mecca Hawkins, and Randa Henry-Jenkins.

About the Author

Soror Celeste' Lewis

Alpha Mu Graduate Advisor 2023

Alpha Mu Spring '87

Holiday Toy Drive

In conjunction with Public School 213 in East New York, Brooklyn, the Alpha Mu chapter participated in the Hope Toy Drive. The chapter raised contributions by themselves, along with the help of family, and friends who also provided donations via an Amazon gift registry. All toys and other donations were greatly appreciated!

Holiday Party

On December 2nd of 2022, the Alpha Mu chapter hosted a holiday party at Rustik Tavern. There were plenty of games and sisterly fun. A good time was had by all in attendance!

Respectfully Submitted,
Soror Celeste' Lewis
Alpha Mu Graduate Advisor

Hodegos Connection

"As long as life lasts and beyond, I shall see the beautiful deeds done to help others less fortunate and the lovely hands of all the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha outstretched to the aid of others who, mentally, morally, and physically, are still poor and needy; and I will always thank God that I had some small part in it."

- Founder Ethel Hedgemon Lyle

Soror Secoya Holmes

Soror Nefie White

Greetings from the Hodegoi

As sorors of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® at this juncture of our servant-leader journey, let our tireless commitment to each other be the fragrance left behind. You are never too young or too old to set a new goal or to dream a new dream! Let us embrace January 2023 differently... Let us be Intentional with our Choices, Commitment and New beginnings! Positive support and authentic connections can foster growth and move mountains! Let's throw kindness around like confetti this new year & be the “difference” that makes someone’s entire world better!

JANUARY BIRTHDAY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wishing you a blessed birthday Sorors!

January 5
Soror Toni-Ann Craft
Soror Chascidy Reeves

January 6
Soror Jaccara Smith
Soror Morgan Webster

January 8
Soror Zena Mine
Soror Dionna Rogers

January 14
Soror Myra Briggs
Soror Kia Charles
Soror Gabrielle N. Piper

January 16
Soror Tracy Field-Samuels
Soror Tonya O. Plear

January 17
Soror Angela Carey Adams

January 21
Soror LaJwanne A. Louis

January 27
Soror Tiffany Pierre
Soror Kimberly Yarde

January 28
Soror Devin Graham

January 30
Soror N'Keya N. Peters-Camille
Soror Marie Paris Wilson

January 31
Soror Patricia Ramseur

January Birthday Expressions/Shout Outs

✤ Our favorite quote from Birthday Queen, Toni-Ann Craft is “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.” — Jeremiah 29:11.

✤ Our favorite quote from Birthday Queen, Marie Paris Wilson is “ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Phillipians 4:13 KJV

✤ Our favorite meme from Birthday Queen, Zena Mine is...

Congratulatory Remarks & Special Announcements

✤ The inaugural issue of the North Atlantic Region's newsletter, The F.I.R.S.T. Edition is available now! This newsletter is an EXPERIENCE - designed to be immersive, engaging, and inclusive. Special thanks offered to our very own DRO Members, Soror Dawn Baskerville, The NAR Communications Committee Chairman; Soror Carole Brinkley, Chief of Operations; and Soror Brandi J. Bradshaw, Managing Editor of the newsletter.

✤ Soror Gabby Cudjoe Wilkes is featured in a New Year's Day segment for the gospel radio show, Get Up Mornings with Erica Campbell. “Lord Do It For ME in 2023!”...Soror Gabby

✤ Soror Brandi Bradshaw is appearing on FBI: Most Wanted, S4 Episode 9 on Tuesday, Jan. 3rd at 10pm EST on @cbstv and @paramountplus!

✤ Soror Latifah Reed-Furby and husband (honey do) Brandon Furby are expecting their first child, a baby girl, in March 2023. Please continue to uplift them in prayer.

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers...

✤ Soror Nakyia Douglas and family as they mourn the passing of her beloved uncle, Mr. Kirk P. Cohen.

✤ Soror Onida Coward Mayers and family as they mourn the passing of her beloved father, Ricardo Enrique Coward.

✤ Soror Kelli Yates-Thompson and family as they mourn the passing of her beloved father-in-law, Chester Thompson.

Celebrating your Metallic Year!

Congratulations on your commitment to active membership!

Diamond Soror Myra Briggs
Gamma Theta - 1948

Pearl Soror Carole Jenkins

Pearl Soror Lorretta Easley-Gipson

Silver Soror Nailah Flake-Brown

Silver Soror Mary Jemison-Head

Silver Soror Miatheresa Pate-Alexander

Silver Soror Keisha Rogers

J. MARJORY JACKSON PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARSHIP CLUSTER AUDITIONS

IVY ROSE FOUNDATION

DELTA RHO OMEGA

01.31.2023
7PM

CONTESTANTS WILL COMPETE TO WIN A $1000 SCHOLARSHIP

For further information contact
Celeste Lewis - Chairperson

jmj@ivyrosefoundationinc.org | **347-251-2522**

Zoom Meeting ID: 837 1249 2449 | **Passcode: 796889**

North Atlantic
REGIONAL CONFERENCE UPDATES

Serving You F.I.R.S.T. in the City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly AKAfection

Pennsylvania Convention Center
March 9-12, 2023

REGISTRATION

On-time registration concludes on January 15 at a rate of $230 per graduate soror. Late registration concludes on January 31 and is subject to a $100 late fee.

DIAMOND, PEARL, GOLDEN, SILVER LUNCHEON

Congratulations to all sorors celebrating a milestone anniversary at NARC. Honorees must submit their information and upload a photo by February 3 for inclusion in the luncheon program.

LEGACY PARADE

Advance registration is required for all sorors participating in the legacy parade. The deadline to register is February 10.

RUTH C. EASLEY LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE

Sorors are invited to join the inaugural class of the Ruth C. Easley Leadership Training Institute. The first session takes place on Thursday, March 9 from 9am to 4pm. Applications are due February 1.

Soror Spotlight

Soror Monique Okumakpeyi

BASILEUS

On November 12, 2022, Soror Monique Okumakpeyi was elected to serve as the 27th basileus of Delta Rho Omega chapter. In this interview, I explore the vision she has for her term and learn how she plans to build on the chapter's legacy of leadership.

Submitted by Soror Simone Belgrave

Q: We know you are going to hit the ground running. What chapter operations and/or areas do you plan to tackle first?

A: We have a lot of great things going on in Delta Rho Omega, but sorors aren't always plugged in to those experiences that foster sisterhood and provide opportunities to serve. I've asked our Technology Chair to explore a membership management platform that will help foster better communication and calendar planning in the chapter. I'm also passionate about leadership development and aspire for the chapter to truly engage in succession planning. I aim to tackle that by appointing vice-chairs to our committees.

Q: What is your vision for Delta Rho Omega Chapter for the next two years and beyond?

A: While we may no longer use a chapter-specific logo, by no means are we without a brand. Delta Rho Omega's brand is the reputation and legacy that we have built over the past 75 years. Now, and in the future, I want us to lean into that legacy. I envision a growing, multigenerational membership where sorors build cherished relationships while doing the work of the sisterhood. I fully expect our continued leadership in the sorority and in the community.

Q: Delta Rho Omega is 75 years old!! We are so proud of the innovative programs and stellar service we continue to provide to the Brooklyn community and beyond. How do you plan to build on the legacy of the visionary Basilei who have paved the way for you to serve?

A: I am blessed that every former basileus in Delta Rho Omega sincerely offered herself as a mentor and resource as I lead the chapter. I know their perspective and insights will be invaluable as I serve. I also have so much respect for our rich history. There is no need to reinvent the wheel, when the foundation we're provided is so strong.

Soror Monique Okumakpeyi with Charter Member Ollie Dent at Delta Rho Omega's 60th Anniversary celebration.

Okumakpeyi AKAs: Sorors Monique Okumakpeyi, Irene Okumakpeyi Ajagbe, and Heaven Okumakpeyi

Q: How would you like the chapter to celebrate its 75th Anniversary?

A: This almost feels like a trick question, because there are so many ways for us to effectively reflect on 75 years of Alpha Kappa Alpha's presence in Brooklyn. We can put on fancy dresses and high heels to dance the night away...or conduct 75 acts of service...or have a solemn remembrance of the charter members who were bold enough to expand the sorority's New York City footprint outside of Manhattan. However we celebrate, I want it to be worthwhile...and with a smile.

SOROR SQUAD

Meet your Soror Squad Liaisons...

Soror Faith Corbett

Soror Kelli Yates-Thompson

Soror Faith and Soror Kelli are here to help you and Soror Wanda Berry Joseph, Membership Chair keep track of Soror Squad events and offer support. Flip the page to explore Delta Rho Omega's Soror Squad options!

Book Lovers Squad – Sorors Monae Priolenau and Sheena McCall

Fitness Squad – Soror Kimberly Gustus-I'm PowHerful Fitness

Sisters Enjoy

The Joy Squad

Sorors unleashing the power of joy!

AKA Sorors are called to this incredible sisterhood in the spirit of service, but we cannot pour from empty cups.

Sisters Enjoy brings Delta Rho Omega Sorors together to commune in acts of intentional joy so that we can continue to serve with open hearts, charitable minds, and joyful spirits.

Join Us

- ☑ Need a spark in your spirit?
- ☑ Want to have more fun this year?
- ☑ Craving meaningful connection?
- ☑ Serious about sisterhood?
- ☑ Love uplifting others?
- ☑ Need to pour into yourself?

Sign Up
https://tinyurl.com/DROJoySquadSignUp

#softlife Squad– Soror Secoya Holmes

Soror Spirit Squad – Soror Tamika Goodridge

SOROR SPIRIT SQUAD

DO YOU ENJOY OCCASIONALLY SIPPING FINE WINES, SPIRITS & COCKTAILS?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN INTRODUCING YOUR PALETTE TO NEW THINGS?

DO YOU ENJOY TIME WELL SPENT WITH SORORS?

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT
SOROR TAMIKA GOODRIDGE
646.269.8050

Snapshots of sisterhood...

(Left) Soror Nefie White and Soror Ingrid Lewis-Martin

(Right) Sorors Celeste Lewis, Monae Priolenau-Jones, Susan Hobson-Ransom, and Brandi Greene

(Left) Delta Rho Omega Spring 2005 initiates enjoying a pre-December chapter meeting brunch.

(Right) 2022 Holiday Party Committee

(Left) Lifelong Sisterhood Committee Holiday Celebration

(Right) Delta Rho Omega's seasoned Sorors: Lorretta Easley-Gipson, Delores Cloyd-Goldstein, Myra Briggs, Pat Ramseur, Mary Jemison-Head, Jackie Charity, Mable Robertson

Delta Rho Omega Basilei: (left to right) Sorors Victoria Thomas, Yolanda Holmes, Carole Brinkley, Patricia Ramseur, Monique Okumakpeyi, Susan Hobson-Ransom, Carole Jenkins, Sylvia Stovall, Octavia Hill, and Dawn M. Baskerville

Delta Rho Omega Spring 2022 initiates at the Holiday Party (left to right) Sorors Jessica Sweeting, Tiffany Pierre, Tiffani Greenaway, Brandi Greene, and Tiffany Allen

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Basileus Office Hours

Calls and emails will be responded to within 24 hours.

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Brooklyn, NY 11205

Sisterly Serving You F.I.R.S.T.

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