President’s Message...

Dear Sorors:

Happy New Year! I hope your year has started on a very positive note. Mine sure did! I was able to attend the DC Area-Wide Founders Day celebration held on Saturday, January 7 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Washington, D.C. The celebration commemorated our Sorority’s 104th Anniversary and featured DST National President Paulette C. Walker. Other than the Centennial National Founders Day held in 2013, the 104th Celebration (Rededication and Luncheon) held last week was the largest Founders Day gathering that I have ever attended; there were nearly 1,800 sorors in attendance, coming primarily from chapters in the Nation’s Capital area. It was indeed an inspiring time… a time for rededication, rejuvenation, and renewing sisterly acquaintances.

On the actual founding date of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., January 13, in this New Year, Baltimore Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter members will gather at Pejus to celebrate our sisterhood. The informal, social event will occur from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; $20 fee covers food items. Hope you are able to share this time of fellowship as we celebrate each other and our beloved DST. Please “Save the Date” of Sunday, March 12, 2017 for the BMAC formal commemoration of Founders Day. The event will be held at the Forum Caterers with Soror Ramona Williams serving as chairperson and Soror Joanne Robinson as co-chairperson. Stay tuned for more details.

This week of our founding also finds BMAC serving as a continuing partner in the Basketball Academy being held at Morgan State University on January 12-14, 2017. Volunteers are still needed; please contact Soror Stephanie V. Lee to sign on as a volunteer via email Svirginialee@yahoo.com. It is an honor for our chapter to continuously support this activity and be an integral part of its success in empowering youth in our community. Calling all sorors…we got some here, but we need some more. Sorors, you are enthusiastically urged to participate in the Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Holiday Parade on Monday, January 16th at 12:00 noon. Baltimore Alumnae Chapter is coordinating the DST participation in the annual parade held in Baltimore City and is welcoming Deltas from all area chapters. Let us join our Sorority’s city-wide effort to “represent” and honor the legacy of the legendary civil rights leader. Please contact me if you are interested, and I will share the practice schedule and other pertinent information.

Kudos to Soror Maria Hopewell and Beverly Pollard, chair and co-chairperson, for doing an excellent job in raising scholarship funds and reaching out to Baltimore City students to apply for scholarships awarded by our chapter. The applications were due January 9th and the review process will soon be underway.

Let’s all get on board with saving money. Grand Chapter has released an initiative of the “Financial Fortitude for the Total Woman” program which charts how to save $1,378 in one year. Check the chart in the December edition of the National President’s monthly message to learn how it all adds up: www.25thword.org; password is GIFT.

In This Issue...

- Public Service
- Membership
- Finance
- Birthdays
- Announcements
Another national initiative in the area of Economic Development is the Women-Owned Businesses Plan Competition. Participants must submit their Business Plans by email to DSTWOBPC@DELTASIGMATHETA.ORG by 11:59 p.m. on January 31, 2017. The email must include a cover page with the name and email address of the local Delta Chapter, and a self-certification that the participant meets the Eligibility Requirements for the Women-Owned Business Plan Competition.

Before concluding, I ask that you join me in sending healing thoughts to all of our sick and shut in members, namely Soror Shea Webb who has been recovering from surgery needed for an injury sustained in October 2016 and to Soror Julia B. Anderson (charter member) who is enduring a long illness.

I would like to share a few “housekeeping” notes, as I wrap up this message. If you need the latest edition of the DST Ritual, please know that I have copies for sale. Sorors are encouraged to utilize current documents to conduct Delta business. Many sorors recently attending an Omega Omega ceremony were using outdated Rituals published in 1991. Secondly, please be advised that the Call to Convention for the 53rd National Convention of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. contains the most up-to-date details, and it is available in the Members Only Portal on the Grand Chapter website www.deltasigmatheta.org.

As I emphasized in my December message, many financial obligations are due during the first few months of 2017. Let’s manage our outlay of cash by spreading the payments out and not let everything come due all at once. I am repeating below the recommended schedule included in my December message. This schedule may help all of us who intend to travel to Las Vegas for Delta’s biennial convention August 3-9, 2017.

- **January**  
  Pay your local/national Sorority membership dues

- **February and March**  
  Save funds to pay convention registration

- **April**  
  Pay convention registration fee and reserve hotel and secure roommate

- **May**  
  Book travel arrangements (air, train, or automobile)

- **June and July**  
  Save funds for discretionary spending at convention

It’s a brand New Year, sorors, giving us another full opportunity to demonstrate that Baltimore Metropolitan Alumnae is “Shaped to Its Purpose” ready to Serve, Lead, and Empower our local communities.

Yours in Delta,

**Joe Ann Oatis**  
Chapter President
Happy New Year Sorors! January is a very important month in the history of our beloved Sorority. On January 13, 1913 - 22 dynamic women set out “to make the world a better place.” BMAC continues that tradition today. Please make an effort to support the 1913 party and commit to participate in at least one service project during the month of January.

In addition, the Program Planning and Development committee is beginning the process of the development of 2017-16 program plans for the chapter. All public service committees are asked to plan a face-to-face meeting in January which will be attended by PPD committee members. More details will follow.

Peace and Blessings to you and your family in the New Year.

BASKETBALL ACADEMY

Volunteers are needed as chaperones, ticket sellers and team/cheerleader check-in. We also need our youth under 11 to serve as ball boys or girls.

Please plan to volunteer on one of the three dates especially Thursday January 12th and Friday, January 13th.

BMAC has been one of the sponsors of the Educational/Athletic Program for the Basketball Academy since 1998.

Our Chapter President, Joe Ann Oatis, Stephanie Lee and Kathie McLaughlin are a part of the Steering Committee that plans the three day event.

**Snow date is January 21, 2017.

DDBC (Delta Diva Book Club)

January: Friday Night at Honeybee’s - Andrea Smith
February: The Girl on the Train - Paula Hawkins
March: The Perfect Mistress – ReShonda Tate Billingsley
April: The Syndicate (Brick and Storm) - Carl Weber
May: Portrait of a Hustler - Tonya Wilson
June: Home - Harlan Coben

Feel free to read along and let us know how many violets you would give the book. Books are rated from 1 to 9 violets.

The Little Library

The Little Library located at the front door of Matthew Henson Elementary will always be in need of books for children. We ask that you bring books to the school or at any time drop them off at the school office for the Little Library.

Dunbar High School Community Library

Our book collection for Dunbar High School for their community library is ongoing. We would like to thank you for your generous donations of literature and look forward to receiving more. We have BMAC book labels that will be placed on the inside of each book. Thank you in advance for your contribution. Bring books to chapter meeting or take labels and deliver the books to Dunbar. The books can not be over 5 years old and must be nearly new. Please do not bring in books that you would throw into the trash can.

Soror Victoria Christopher Murray will be at the Enoch Pratt Free Library - Waverly Branch, 400 East 33rd Street, Baltimore, Md. 21218 on Wednesday, February 8th at 6:30pm. She will be discussing her book Lust (A Seven Deadly Sins Novel).
Scholar Spotlight – ONESHA SMITH

Hi

This is Onesha Smith and I attend McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland. I have not declared a major yet, so I am undecided. I would like to take courses in subjects I like and then pick one I really take interest in. So far for my fall semester I have Elementary Spanish, Introduction to Psychology, English Composition and my first year seminar class, Doctor Who and Megacognition. My favorite classes are my Introduction to Psychology class and my first year seminar class. I found it funny how easy I was able to adjust to college and how much I was scared of not doing well in college. I found out how important sleep is in college. Time goes by so fast in college. I’m adjusting fine to college demands by having good time management, having a daily planner and calendar white board to stay on top of what’s due for each class. My least favorite classes are Spanish and English because it’s a challenge to learn any new language and I don’t like English because my professor doesn’t show a passion in her field so I lost the passion for the course. The one thing I love most is the people here and the environment. McDaniel is on a hill so when I go to eat or study I always have an amazing view of nature and Westminster which is very therapeutic for me. Choosing McDaniel College was the best decision I made in my life, I feel right at home here. I love that it’s a small college so there are a lot of opportunities to meet new people and get involved in your college community. I didn’t know that college books would be so expensive and that the professors expect you to have your books on the second day of class. My books came to seven hundred and fifty dollars and if it wasn’t for this scholarship I wouldn’t have half the books I needed on time to receive a grade. Anyone planning on going to college should adopt good study habits, get organized, and prioritize your time.

Onesha Smith

Scholarship Traveling Tour

In an effort to spread the word about the BMAC Scholarship, the committee visited several schools to meet parents and students to explain the application process and answer any questions. We have distributed over 150 applications during FAFSA and Financial Aid Nights at the following high schools: Green Street Academy, Baltimore Polytechnic High School, Reginald Lewis High School and Mergenthaler High School. The committee members were well received by the schools, parents and students.

Violets to BMAC

The scholarship committee would like to thank the entire chapter for their generous support of all of our fundraisers this year. To date we have raised over $3800 for additional book scholarships and funds are still coming in. Special thanks to Doris Jackson for being the winner of Delta Basket for the third year in a row.

Scholarship Application Tips for Students

TEN WAYS TO MAKE SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS LOVE YOU

TIP #1: APPLY ONLY IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE.
Read all the scholarship requirements and directions carefully to make sure you’re eligible before you send in your application.

TIP #2: COMPLETE THE APPLICATION IN FULL
If a question doesn’t apply, note that on the application. Don’t just leave a blank space. Supply all additional supporting material, such as transcripts, letters of recommendation and essays.

TIP #3: FOLLOW DIRECTIONS.
Provide everything that’s required, but don’t supply things that aren’t requested—you could be disqualified.

TIP #4: NEATNESS COUNTS.
Always type your application, or if you must print, do so neatly and legibly. Make a couple of photocopies of all the forms before you fill them out. Use the copies as working drafts as you develop your application packet.

TIP #5: WRITE AN ESSAY THAT MAKES A STRONG IMPRESSION.
The key to writing a strong essay is to be personal and specific. Include concrete details to make your experience come alive: the who, what, where, and when of your topic. The simplest experience can be monumental if you present honestly how you were affected.

TIP #6: WATCH ALL DEADLINES.
To help keep yourself on track, impose your own deadline that is at least two weeks prior to the official deadline. Use the buffer time to make sure everything is ready on time. Don’t rely on extensions—very few scholarship providers allow them at all.
TIP #7: MAKE SURE YOUR APPLICATION GETS TO WHERE IT NEEDS TO GO.
Put your name on all pages of the application. Pieces of your application may get lost unless they are clearly identified.

TIP #8: KEEP A BACK-UP FILE IN CASE ANYTHING GOES WRONG.
Before sending the application, make a copy of the entire packet. If your application goes astray, you’ll be able to reproduce it quickly.

TIP #9: GIVE IT A FINAL “ONCE-OVER.”
Proofread the entire application carefully. Be on the lookout for misspelled words or grammatical errors. Ask a friend, teacher or parent to proofread it as well.

TIP #10: ASK FOR HELP IF YOU NEED IT.
If you have problems with the application, don’t hesitate to call the funding organization.

REMINDER: The deadline for the BMAC Scholarship is January 9, 2017.
On Thursday, December 15th we gathered to receive pertinent information regarding estate planning. It was a very informative session provided by Soror Marlene A. Johnson, Esquire. She stressed the importance that each of us needs a durable power of attorney and an advanced directive that covers medical decisions. Emergencies happen at all ages and the consequences of not having these legal documents in place can not only be costly but may have a negative impact on our care. It was stressed the “If we fail to plan, we plan to fail.” We should be planning for both Life and Death. We were provided with this website for an advanced directive created by the State of Maryland which can be found at: http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Health%20Policy%20Documents/adurective.pdf

Additionally we discussed issues such as distributing wealth, deed changes and the advantages of pre-paying for death services.

The next workshop will focus on Insurance and will be held on February 16, 2017 at place to be announced.
Sorors, welcome to 2017!! We hope that you all had an enjoyable time ringing in the New Year!! 2017 brings a fresh start and fresh events for us to continue strengthening our sisterly bond. Below is a collage of photos from our Holiday Fellowship at Bowman’s Restaurant following our December Chapter Meeting. We hope you all had a great time and if you were unable to attend, there’s always next year!

Happy New Year BMAC and Happy 104th Founders Day
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated!

New Member Orientation

If you missed the New Member Orientation back in October, never fear because we are holding another Orientation Saturday, February 11th, at 9:30am before Chapter Meeting. Our agenda will be a brief history of BMAC, Chapter information, and a question and answer period. If you would like to attend, please send me an RSVP to Soror Schelli Collins at 2ndvicepresident@bmacdst.org or text at 443-740-1295 by Sunday, February 5th so that we will be properly prepared.

BMAC Committees Want You!!

Sorors our BMAC Committees are in need of your participation! Please consider joining 1 or 2 or 4 or more committees this Sorority year 😊. Just stop by the Membership table at the beginning or end of Chapter Meeting and sign up for the committee(s) of your choice(s)!

BMAC Bling On Sale!!

The Membership Committee continues to sell the gorgeous “BMAC Bling” t-shirt, sweatshirt (hoodie), and tote bag for your wearing and carrying pleasure. The short sleeve t-shirt is available for $31, the long sleeve t-shirt for $36, the sweatshirt (hoodie) for $48, and the tote bag for $21. You may place your order at the Membership table before or after Chapter Meeting.

BMAC Name Badges!!

If you are interested in ordering a name badge, please stop by the Membership table before or after Chapter Meeting. The cost is $10 per badge.

“A New Year, a New Start, and a New Way to Go…”

Baltimore Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter ~ “Shaped To Its Purpose”
Service, Leadership and Empowerment
Did You Know…..?

**Stephanie V. Lee** was Chapter President from 1997-1998 and BMAC participated…

- In the 1997 AFRAM with a Chapter display and bone marrow testing.
- In the Charles Drew Blood Drive.
- In the Sickle Cell Walk-A-Thon.
- In the 3rd Annual Chapter Retreat. The Theme was Finding and Using the Power Within.
- In Sisters Steppin Out with local Alumnae Chapters.
- In a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Dr. Betty Shabazz Leadership Academy at Pleasant View Gardens.
- In a Pre Kwanzaa Celebration.
- In the Annual AIDS Walk.
- In a reclamation sponsored Family Bowling night.
- In the 2nd Annual Red and White Scholarship Ball.

**And…..**

- Co-Sponsored the Dance Theatre of Harlem.
- Sponsored a Depression Screening Workshop by the Physical and Mental Health Committee.
- Presented Voter Education Workshops to the Head Start Parents.
- Donated gloves, mittens and $50.00 to AFRO Mrs. Santa.
- Donated $125.00 to Grand Chapter’s Christmas Party Recipient NAACP Legal Defense Fund.
- Began our relationship with the Basketball Academy.
- The 1998 Founders Day Speaker was The Honorable Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge, Court of Appeals (now retired).
- Executed a successful parent workshop on MSPAP at Harlem Park Elementary School.
- Continued our fundraising efforts at Camden Yards.

For ten days out of the year, all National Park Service sites that charge an entrance fee will offer **FREE admission** to everyone:

- January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- February 20: Presidents’ Day
- April 15-16 and 22-23: Weekends of National Park Week
- August 25: National Park Service Birthday
- September 30: National Public Lands Day
- November 11-12: Veterans Day Weekend

**Links to DMV (DC, Maryland & Virginia) National Parks –**

[https://www.nps.gov/state/dc/index.htm](https://www.nps.gov/state/dc/index.htm)
[https://www.nps.gov/state/md/index.htm](https://www.nps.gov/state/md/index.htm)
[https://www.nps.gov/state/va/index.htm](https://www.nps.gov/state/va/index.htm)
How can I pay off the credit card debt I racked up over the holidays?

It's a common occurrence once the holiday season winds down — you reluctantly look at your credit card statement and wince at all the purchases you made over the holidays. Fortunately, there's no need to panic. Consider using one of the following strategies to help pay it off.

**Make a lump-sum payment.** The best way to pay off credit card debt is with a single lump-sum payment, which would allow you to pay off your balance without owing additional interest. Look for sources of funds you can use for a lump-sum payoff, such as an employment bonus or other windfall. However, most individuals find themselves getting into credit card debt due to a lack of cash on hand in the first place, so this may not be an option for everyone.

**Pay more than the minimum due.** If it's not possible for you to pay off your balance entirely, always be sure to pay more than the required minimum payment due. Otherwise, you'll continue to carry the bulk of your balance forward without actually reducing your overall balance. You can refer to your monthly statement for more information on the impact that minimum payments will have on your credit card balance.

**Prioritize your payments.** If you have multiple credit cards that carry outstanding balances, another payoff strategy is to prioritize your payments and systematically pay off your credit card debt. Start by making a list of your credit cards and prioritize them according to their interest rates. Send the largest payment to the card with the highest interest rate. Continue making payments on your other cards until the card with the highest interest rate is paid off. You can then focus your repayment efforts on the card with the next highest interest rate, and so on, until they're all paid off.

**Transfer your balances.** Another option is to transfer your balances to a card that carries a lower interest rate. Many credit card companies offer highly competitive balance transfer offers (e.g., 0% interest for 12 to 24 months). Balance transfers may enable you to reduce interest fees and pay more against your existing balance. Keep in mind that credit cards often charge a fee for balance transfers (usually a percentage of the balance transferred).
Baltimore Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
 Presents

PARTY LIKE IT’S

1913

13 JANUARY

Please join us on

FRI DAY, JANUARY 13, 2017
5 TO 9 P.M.
Peju’s Restaurant and Lounge
1724 Woodlawn Drive,
Baltimore, MD 21207

Free hors d’oeuvres
Signature 1913 cocktail $5 all night
Drink specials until 7pm
Casual Attire

Tickets On Eventbrite - $20
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bmars-1913-party-tickets-29467196177
Contact: fundraising@bmarsdt.org
A BMAC PRAYER FOR 2017

Our God who is our Creator, The giver of life, the source of our strength and the hope of our tomorrows. We thank you for the possibilities within Delta Sigma Theta that you have given us. You have given us sisters and friends and we are grateful. Move our gratitude to become compassionate for the friendless and a companion for the lonely.

You have given us meaningful work within our organization and we are so grateful. Please move our gratitude to become generous toward those who are empty and patient with those who are without purpose. You have given us food and again we are grateful. Move our gratitude to a desire to assist the hungry and give us the energy to give greater service. We love You and are grateful that You gave 22 women the energy and vision to begin Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Continue to guide and direct us in this New Year so that You will get the glory and the honor. And it is in the name of Jesus who is The Christ we pray this prayer. Amen

Rev. Dr. Kathryn Carver
January, 2017

NOMINATING

A Year for Nominating

Nominations!! Nominations!! Nominations!! Nominations!! Nominations!!

Call for Nominations go out January 2017.

January 31, 2017 – Deadline for Nominations to be emailed to nominating@bmacdst.org or mailed to

BMAC DST
P.O. Box 992
Baltimore, MD 21203

Elections will be held April 8, 2017 at Chapter Meeting!

The Nominating Committee can assist you in getting your information together to have on hand. If you would like more information, please contact nominating@bmacdst.org.
**Calendar**

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<tr>
<th>2016 - 2017 Events</th>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Founders Day</td>
<td>January 13, 2017</td>
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<td>Delta Days in the Nation's Capital</td>
<td>March 2017</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
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<td>53rd National Convention</td>
<td>August 3 – 9, 2017</td>
<td>Las Vegas, NV</td>
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**Baltimore Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter**

**JANUARY 2017**

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*Baltimore Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter – “Shaped To Its Purpose”*  
*Service, Leadership and Empowerment*
**HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY SORORS!**

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<td>Olakehan Kamau-Nataki</td>
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The mission of Metro Delta News is to notify the membership of chapter meetings, activities, and events. The Metro Delta News aims to promote and acknowledge the services of the Baltimore Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter. It is the voice of the chapter that summons members to work. It shall encourage devotion to God, and our beloved sisterhood. It shall foster academic excellence, cultural enrichment, physical and mental awareness, and social action. It shall make known the achievements of Sorors that reflect our nine cardinal virtues, service, and education. It shall be a resource for the membership and recognize their labor.

Baltimore Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter
~ P.O. Box 992 ~
Baltimore, Maryland 21203
410-578-1913
bmac_dst@yahoo.com
Patricia Hodge-Mack, Editor
Shauntell L. Campbell, Assistant Editor
Newsletter Committee:
Cynthia Horton, Michelle Wynder, Patsy Nwagbaraocha, Terry Smalley, Shea Webb and Schelli Collins

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**Spirit in the Arts**

At the January chapter meeting, Spirit In the Arts tickets will be available along with patron lists, ads and sponsorship forms. Each Soror is responsible for at least 2 tickets (minimum). Remember, if we sell 400 tickets we will be making a significant contribution to the 2017-2018 public service budget. We need your support. A special presentation will be made along with scholarship recipients being honored.

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**2016 BMAC Stay at Home Tea Basket Winner –**

**Soror Doris Jackson**

w/Treasurer, Jennell Rogers, Chapter President, Joe Ann Oatis and Scholarship Chair, Maria Hopewell

**The Holiday Basket of Cheer winner**

**Fred Montgomery**

Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.

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The mission of Metro Delta News is to notify the membership of chapter meetings, activities, and events. The Metro Delta News aims to promote and acknowledge the services of the Baltimore Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter. It is the voice of the chapter that summons members to work. It shall encourage devotion to God, and our beloved sisterhood. It shall foster academic excellence, cultural enrichment, physical and mental awareness, and social action. It shall make known the achievements of Sorors that reflect our nine cardinal virtues, service, and education. It shall be a resource for the membership and recognize their labor.