



History of the Oak Ridge Alumnae Chapter

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority is a private, non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide services and programs to promote human welfare. The Sorority was founded on January 13, 1913 by twenty-two collegiate women at Howard University. These students wanted to use their collective strength to promote academic excellence and to provide assistance to persons in need.

The Grand Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. currently has a membership of over 200,000 predominately African-American, college-educated women. The Sorority currently has 900-plus chapters located in the United States, Tokyo and Okinawa, Japan, Germany, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Seoul, Korea, and St. Thomas and St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Oak Ridge Alumnae Chapter was chartered on May 29, 1982 by Soror Kathleen Wright, Regional Director of the Dynamic and Visionary Southern Region. The charter members were:

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|--------------------|---------------|
| Janice Atwater | Ann Cato |
| Vivian Fleming | Alma Fletcher |
| Denise Ford | Brenda Horton |
| Willie Jackson | Anna McCray |
| Vernell Moore | Regina Morton |
| Elizabeth Phipps | Mamie Porter |
| Victoria Steward | Debra Taylor |
| Alice Faye Thomas. | |

These 15 dedicated, talented women envisioned a need to establish a community service organization in the Oak Ridge community. After a year of hard work and commitment, their efforts became a reality. The torch of the 703rd Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was ignited in the Oak Ridge community, “The City Behind the Gates.” The newly formed chapter delved wholeheartedly into various community activities, making DELTA a force to be reckoned with in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.



The major programs of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. are based upon the organization's Five Point Programmatic Thrust, which the Oak Ridge Alumnae Chapter uses to implement its programs and community service projects:

- **Economic Development**

Provide Support to Black Owned Businesses and Organizations

- ✓ Jeff Woods Golf Scholarship Tournament
- ✓ Senior Citizens Recognition Gala
- ✓ Tuskegee Alumni Golf Classic
- ✓ Iota Lambda Bronze Woman Recognition
- ✓ AKA Black History Program

- **Educational Development**

Provide Educational and Enrichment Opportunities for Young People

- ✓ Delta Academy
- ✓ GEM
- ✓ Historically Black Colleges and Universities Exposition
- ✓ "Affair of the Heart" Scholarship Ball
- ✓ Scarboro Day Care Center
- ✓ United Negro College Fund Telethon

- **International Awareness and Involvement**

Provided Relief Aid to Africa

- ✓ Schools Supplies for African Students
- ✓ Operation Shoebox
- ✓ Literary Café featuring local authors and spoken-word artists

- **Physical and Mental Health**

Sponsor Supplies and Seminars

- ✓ Community AIDS Awareness Seminar
- ✓ Bone Marrow Drive
- ✓ National Immunization Drive
- ✓ YWCA Women Shelter



- **Political Awareness and Involvement**

Coordinate and Support Political Issues and Campaigns

- ✓ Voter Registration Drive
- ✓ African Americans Seeking Political Office
- ✓ Recognition of Black Elected Officials

Other local activities include:

- ✓ *Adopt-a-Street Program:* Provide clean-up and beautification to a street in the African American Community.
- ✓ *Oak Ridge Children Museum:* Donated a curio cabinet with “All of God’s Children” figurines, provided bi-monthly clerical support, and serve on the Board of Directors.
- ✓ *Wine and Cheese Social Fundraiser:* Featured works of African American visual artists.
- ✓ *Soror of the Year:* Recognize outstanding Oak Ridge Alumnae Soror.
- ✓ *The Delta Torch:* Publish a monthly sorority newsletter.

The Oak Ridge Alumnae Chapter service area was extended to include Anderson, Roane, Loudon, Blount, McMinn, and Morgan counties. As part of our continuing growth, 34 extremely talented women have been initiated into the sisterhood and have contributed tremendously to the chapter’s success. The chapter currently has 33 financial members. The current president is Soror Dean Sheard.

It is the goal of the Oak Ridge Alumnae Chapter to address the unique needs of our respective communities and to make Delta Sigma Theta Sorority’s presence have a significant impact on the community. As a result of the Oak Ridge Alumnae Chapter’s commitment to serve, the strength to achieve, and wisdom to hope, the name of Delta Sigma Theta continues to be well recognized, respected and honored in our community.

