



## **2020 Slate of Eligible Candidates and their Personal Statement for Seeking Office**

**Tampa Alumnae Chapter  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc**



**CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF  
MEMBER, NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**SOROR SABRINA AIKEN**

**Actively participate in the design and  
recruitment of the future leadership of Tampa  
Alumnae.**



**CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF  
MEMBER, NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**SHENIKA BAISLEY-WOOD**

**My plan is to provide support to the Nominating Committee and assist with the current vision in place. This committee is already successful in that they are very detailed and focus on policy and procedures. Being apart of this committee is a way for me to learn and grow within our fabulous sisterhood. Additionally, I can bring ideas from having being apart of many chapters due to my military career.**



**CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF  
MEMBER, NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**SOROR ERICKA BETHUNE**

**I believe there are hidden leaders sitting in our organization. I would like to help pull the leadership out of these women the way Delta helped to pull it out of me.**



**CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF  
MEMBER, NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**SOROR TONJA BRICKHOUSE**

I am seeking to serve as a member of the Nominating Committee to be actively engaged in soliciting and receiving nominations of chapter members to continue the strong legacy of the Tampa Alumnae Chapter in carrying out the local, state, regional, and national programs.



**CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF  
MEMBER, NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**SOROR SANDRA COOKE**

My desire to be elected as a Member of the Nominating Committee stems from my interest in participating in the process of seeking out and promoting leadership possibilities for chapter members. I believe that the Nominating Committee is an important component of developing the leadership of the chapter through identifying the potential in members, helping members present that potential, and ultimately presenting a full slate of officers that represents the result of the efforts.





**CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF  
MEMBER, NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**SOROR JANICE CROWLEY**

**My plan/vision as a member of the Nominating  
Committee will be to ensure the process continues to  
be impartial.**



**CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF  
MEMBER, NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**SOROR TONJI JOHNSON**

I have enjoyed attending nearly all planned Tampa Alumnae activities since joining the chapter 2018. Being an active member of the Protocol and Traditions Committee has allowed me to refresh all Protocol and Traditions of Delta Sigma Theta as well as sharing with others. I served on the Founders Day Committee 2019. I am also a participant in the Leadership Initiative Cohort 2019.





**CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF  
MEMBER, NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**SOROR SHARON SEMPLE-HAYES**

"I recognize the importance of having strong leadership with a supportive team that is willing to recruit, provide new skillset and offer the opportunity for growth within the chapter to build new leaders. There are a plethora of talents within our organization. As a member of the committee, I will make a valiant effort to ensure that we are reaching out to our Sisters that are willing to share their talents. Thus, affording everyone a fair opportunity to be involved in the growth process of the chapter. I am reserve but outgoing when it comes to speaking and recruiting new talents. This is my first attempt expressing my interest in the committee. I know there is much to learn and I am willing to do just that. I am willing and able to engage with the chapter to put in the work to assist with the continuous growth new leaders. "



## **CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF MEMBER, NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

### **SOROR DANIELLE WEAVER-RODGERS**

As a member of the Nominating Committee, I will ensure that the elections process is fair and impartial and work zealously to assist the Chair and Co-chair to complete all duties. Since my initiation into the Tampa Alumnae Chapter in 2014, I have been a hard-working, dedicated leader serving as Co-chair and Chair of the Scholarship Committee awarding over \$20,000 in scholarships each year. In these roles, I ensured that the applicants were considered in a fair and objective manner. Also, I have experience with an elections process when I served as Parliamentarian for the Fred G. Minnis Sr. Bar Association and oversaw the nominations committee for the 2019-2020 Executive Board candidates. Sorors, I will continue my commitment to impartiality and humbly ask for your support to become a member of the Nominating Committee.



**CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF  
CO-CHAIR, NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**SOROR RHONDA FLOWERS**

**As co-chair my vision is to support the Chair and members of the committee by ensuring that we maintain the integrity of the nominating process. The vision will be to ensure that all positions are filled with qualified, committed sorors.**





## **CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF CO-CHAIR, NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

### **SOROR JASMINE WHITE-BYNUM**

Per the Tampa Alumnae constitution, the Nominating Committee is responsible for soliciting and receiving nominations from chapter members for all elected officers and positions in order to create a slate of candidates. The success of every alumnae chapter is contingent upon a strong and well-prepared leadership team as well as a slate that encompasses intergenerational talent that can add various experiences to a chapter. It is my goal to recruit and train a slate of candidates in upcoming elections for our chapter as well as equip these candidates.



## **CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIR, NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

### **SOROR TEKEISHA ZIMMERMAN**

If elected Chair, I will work diligently to identify, attract, and secure the best potential candidates to fulfill leadership roles within our beloved Sorority. My vision is based on education and early identification. I will educate our members on the qualifications needed to fill elected roles well before it is time to call for nominations. Using technology, I will work with the committee to create leadership personas that can be housed on our website to educate members on what it takes to become a leader in Delta. Over the next 2 years, I will work with our members to develop Delta Bios that highlight their interests, talents, and leadership skills. These bios will help the committee identify and align sorors with upcoming positions both during election time and in the event, there is a need to backfill a vacancy. Through a platform of education and early identification, I can help enhance our nomination process and implement a forward-looking approach to securing the best candidates to hold office in Tampa Alumnae.





## **CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF HISTORIAN**

### **SOROR N'KEIBA ESTELLE**

Understanding where we come from is important to understanding who we must be for our communities and to one another.

- 1) Preserve Delta DEAR legacies
- 2) Encourage Sorors to preserve chapter activities
- 3) Integrate chapter history into our events with the community.



## **CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

### **SOROR JACQUELINE GRAHAM**

Tampa Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is an amazing sorority of dynamic professional women. I desire to hold the office of assistant financial secretary to give back to our illustrious sorority. As a member of the finance team, I'm aware of the duty to ensure the chapter's resources are appropriately safeguarded, used, and accounted for. I'm honest and dependable. My experience includes: Accounting Clerk II for the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Claim's Adjuster for USAA, Accounts Receivable representative for G. E. Walker medical imaging company, and National Accounts representative for Xpedx. I feel that my experience will aid me perform the duties of this office. My plan as assistant financial secretary is to assist the Financial Secretary provide a full range of detailed financial information to allow informed decision making that will reflect sound business judgement and support the goals and mission of the sorority.



**CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF  
ASSISTANT TREASURER**

**SOROR CHONTA HAYNES**

**Actively seek clear financial stability, decisions,  
and documentation for the chapter while  
seeking opportunities to maximize gain.**



**CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF  
ASSISTANT CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

**DIOAN JOHNSON**

**I want to learn and grow with my current chapter**





**CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

**SANDRA COOKE**

**To accurately read and present the correspondence  
to the chapter, coordinate/disseminate chapter  
newsletter, and other duties as assigned.**





## **CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

**SOROR DEIDRE JOSEPH**

The Corresponding Secretary is responsible for retrieving mail and sharing applicable contents with the chapter, announcing 'For the Good of the Order', and the newsletter. My vision is to continue our Chapter's goal in formalizing a form to be used 'For the Good of the Order' and my vision for the newsletter is to increase participation and input from members. It appears as when newsletter time comes around, its a struggle to get articles. We all have something to share that will benefit the whole, my challenge is encouraging everyone to share.



## **CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF RECORDING SECRETARY**

**LORITA SHIRLEY**

I have served in the capacity of Assistant Recording Secretary for the last two years. During this time frame, I have acquired the knowledge necessary to serve in the capacity of Recording Secretary. This particular role is of interest because it allows me an opportunity to utilize my written and typing skills to accurately document the business of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. It also allows me an opportunity to plan my volunteer work while juggling a full-time job, working as a community volunteer, and being an awesome wife and mother.



**CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF  
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT**

**SOROR ESTELLA GRAY**

"I love the members of Delta Sigma Theta so much that I take it personally when members disengage, serving as Second Vice President allows me to increase my reach and service to our Sorority. Our members are the core of our service, and sisterhood is its identity. My vision will be to build upon my current strategy that addresses member sustainability and chapter growth, meeting members at their critical point of need, building members from the inside out. "



## CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

### LINDA PORTER

As a candidate for second vice-president of the Tampa Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, it will be my plan to get more Sorors involved by clearly making them aware of the duties of the Standing Committee and how serving within a capacity conducive to fitting within their stage of life works best for all parties. It will be my responsibility to motivate Sorors and peak their interest for a call to action and service. Accountability and commitment are key factors. Successful practices require building relationships and engaging user groups for the long term. Complacency can be a killer to any relationship, while pressure is a form of manipulation. I desire to do neither. I'd like to identify areas of greatest interest and have Sorors go to work! The philosophy of working smarter not harder will be the vision during my term.





## **CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT**

### **TINA FERNANDEZ**

Our five-point programmatic thrust is the lifeblood of our sorority. My platform titled, “Level Up” has a three-prong approach which focuses on leveraging our expertise and leadership development:

Through the Partner Up prong, we will leverage and enhance our chapter through strategic alliances within the areas of our Five Point Thrust, Social Action, and Arts and Letters.

The Lead Scholar Symposium, an optional leadership development one-day event for our scholarship applicants will be designed to help facilitate their transition as a collegian student leader.

The Violet Ambassadors Initiative will align chapter members as an adviser, for a specific initiative, leveraging their passion or area of expertise, while freeing their time to serve on other committees.

My platform is strategic, with facets to support our mission by addressing community needs and the development of our members.

Together we will take the chapter to new heights of excellence.





## CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

### KAREN BEARD

Becoming chapter President for Tampa Alumnae has been one of my long-term leadership goals. It is my desire and passion that our chapter continues to build a legacy of providing stellar programming, superior service and action driven advocacy. My commitment to fulfill the outlined duties and responsibilities of this position, along with a continued strategic focus on our membership, technology, programs, and sustainability, will ensure we remain mission driven. I have had the opportunity to serve with four-chapter presidents as 2nd and 3rd Vice President. In these positions, I learned the importance of leadership in our chapter, its members and working towards chapter goals and outcomes. It is my desire to be instrumental in moving the chapter's vision forward, a leader in local and global communities. I intend to ensure that our trajectory is always one of forward thinking thus ensuring our continued relevance, in this community.



## **CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT**

### **TAYANNA RICHARDSON**

I desire to be elected as President of the Tampa Alumnae Chapter to ignite sorors to lead, engage, achieve and progress our chapter to higher heights. My vision is to uphold our legacy of leadership through member development, cultivate and enhance our present level of engagement in the sisterhood and our community, as well as devote meaningful efforts to sustain DSTTA's indispensable presence in the Tampa Bay area. Innovative reclamation efforts and continuous member development will be one of my foundational priorities. During my tenure, we will devote efforts to increasing our engagement in impactful programs and activities for the community as well as fortifying our bonds of sisterhood. Together, we will continue to achieve greater recognition on local, state, regional and national levels for transforming lives through our service to the community. Finally, we will place greater emphasis on sustainability by focusing on the execution of our strategic plan.