

Delegate Report of 89th Southeastern Regional Conference

Although this year's Southeastern Regional conference was held virtually, the Regional Director and her staff, the committee chairpersons, committee members and presenters are to be commended for an outstanding conference. They did an excellent job of updating the membership on the status of the sorority at both the corporate and regional level. They also provided great ideas and information to aid chapters in continuing to navigate in our current pandemic environment.

I attended all three plenary sessions, and the workshops on "Time to Get Constitutional" and "Technology". There are several proposed bylaw amendments that the chapters will be asked to consider this year. They address a number of different areas including 1)adding risk management as a standing committee, 2)reducing the number of terms that a regional director can serve, 3) adding language which clarifies that that chapters are not free-standing organizations and cannot enter into contracts over \$100,000 without the approval from the corporate office, and 4)adding language providing that one co-sponsor of a candidate does not have to be a member of the chapter. A mailing detailing all of the proposed amendments will be sent to the chapters following the regional conference, and they will be voted upon at the Boule this summer. Also, at the Constitutional workshop, the presenters emphasized that although chapters are operating in a virtual environment, it is important for chapters to allow time for members to ask questions and receive clarification before voting on any motions. They also stressed that any proposed chapter bylaw amendments that a chapter bylaw committee receives from a member must be presented to the chapter membership for consideration. While the bylaw committee can offer support for or against the proposed amendments, the chapter membership has the final "say" with respect to whether the proposed amendments will be accepted. The technology committee shared ideas about ways to keep accurate attendance records during the pandemic and animations that can be utilized for PowerPoint presentations. The presenters noted that animations are one way to keep the attention of the attendees, many of whom have grown weary of virtual meetings. They also encouraged the use of interactive presentations to keep the audience engaged.

At the plenary sessions, it was reported that the MIP intake process continues to be on pause for graduate chapters; however, some undergraduate chapters have been permitted to have a modified MIP intake process. 80 undergraduate chapters conducted the modified MIP intake process and approximately 1255 new undergraduate candidates were accepted into the sorority under the modified MIP intake process. Also, many of the undergraduate chapters spearheaded "get out the vote" campaigns on their respective campuses.

It was also reported that goals for each of the sorority's five targets were met notwithstanding the pandemic. The sorority once again exceeded its million dollar funding raising day for HBCUs. With respect to global impact, 148,000 pairs of glasses, 14, 807 shirts and 100,958 dresses were collected. Additionally, over \$50,000 in monetary donations were received, and the Sorority provided Soul to Sole with its largest donation of shoes since its inception.

The CAPs program was successful although it was conducted virtually. It was reported that there was a 60% increase in the number of CAPs students going to college, and that the CAPS students received over 7.5 million in scholarships.

A number of awards were announced. DTO was recognized for the best newsletter, and was also recognized in "Best of the Best" chapters category.

It was reported that for the year 2020, the region had receipts in the amount of \$547, 221 and operating costs of \$671, 859. However, the region still ended the year “in the black” based on its overall assets. The expenses for this year’s regional conference are expected to be \$481, 013, the receipts for the conference are expected to be \$505,353, and the profit is expected to be \$24,340. A total of 6,124 sorors registered for the regional conference, including 1103 undergraduates, and 1746 graduate sorors from Alabama.

The Time and Place committee reported that the 2022 regional conference is slated to be held in Memphis, Tenn, and that both Huntsville and Mobile are under consideration for the 2023 regional conference. The 2024 regional conference will be held in Birmingham, AL.

Respectfully submitted,

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