

THE MHVAC TIMES

A Mighty Newsletter

FALL 2023



WELCOME BACK !!!

Greetings Sorors! We're so glad to be back and to be sharing our newsletter with you. With the season of Fall in full swing, comes the desire for transition and reinvention, while honoring the goals set earlier in the year. For the Sorors of the ***MIGHTY*** Mid-Hudson Valley Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., this couldn't be more accurate.

With November being officially recognized as RECLAMATION MONTH, we are bursting with excitement to share all that our chapter has been involved in.

We hope that this newsletter motivates and encourages you to return to the sisterly embrace of your MHVAC Sorors, or to get reconnected to our sorority as a Member-At Large. Delta needs YOU!

Between welcoming our Spring 2023 line into our illustrious sisterhood, leadership and collective chapter presence at regional and national events and conferences, as well as community outreach and events, we've been hard at work! Through it all, we maintain a steadfast commitment among our chapter members to grow in sisterhood and service. We welcome you all back with a recap of what we've been up to, and the wonderful things to come from us within the communities we serve!

With Sisterly Love,
Soror Watkins
MHVAC Communications Chair

MID-HUDSON LEADERSHIP AT THE 56TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Indianapolis, Indiana was flushed with Crimson & Cream this past July for the 56th National Convention. A time for fellowship and opportunities to connect with Sorors from all over the country, as well as sessions and workshops on leadership , social action , luncheons , worship service and more for all to attend and enjoy. Among the attendees were our Chapter President Soror Williams, our First Vice President, Soror Coffield and our 2nd Vice President Soror Barrett.

Having the Mid-Hudson Alumnae Chapter represented at the convention was and continues to be a source of pride and excitement within the chapter. When asked about her experiences over the six-day period, our Chapter President had this to say:

“The National Convention was an awe-inspiring opportunity to engage in Sisterhood, Scholarship, and Service. We dedicated time to ensure that the business of Delta was taken care of and also had time to celebrate our Sisterhood and one another”

Reflecting on the many connections made with other Sorors and gathering in the spirit of sisterhood and jubilation, our 2nd Vice President offered the following:

“The love of our Sisterhood at the 56th National Convention started from being greeted by Sorors at the airport to arriving in Indianapolis, to being at the opening ceremony surrounded by a sea of thousands of Sorors and witnessing the new honorary members being inducted into our illustrious sisterhood was the highlight of my experience (i.e. : Soror Ketanji Brown Jackson) !!!

The Plenary Sessions were informative, and I attended the "National Program Planning" workshop. We were separated into groups and discussed and shared our best practices. Our group actually shared email addresses to have future Zoom meeting to stay in touch! This was an Awesome Convention!”

We now await the next National Convention, to be held in 2025.

We can't wait and are already counting down the days!



Welcoming our Spring '23 Line: 20 Pearls of Higher DeSTiny



“Oh, to be a Delta Girl!” ...

This sentiment and many more were echoed among the twenty incredible women who proudly crossed into the Mid-Hudson Valley Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, on Sunday, April 16th, 2023. From the “Ace” to the “Tail”, the 20 Pearls of Higher DeSTiny are as multifaceted and eager to make a lasting and positive impact on their community, as the groundbreaking organization that they have pledged themselves to.

Our newly minted Sorors include educated and accomplished women in the fields of mental health, veterinary medicine, social services, accounting, business consulting, law enforcement, cybersecurity, education, organizational development, public health administration, law, community health and even a former Ms. Newburgh! Five Sorors on our Spring '23 line hold doctorate degrees. On a sentimental note, the line also included a mother and daughter who crossed together, as well as three members who are now able to call their own daughters Soror!

(con't next page)

Welcoming our Spring '23 Line: 20 Pearls of Higher DeSTiny



This is also the first line to cross into the MHVAC since the COVID-19 pandemic and the tumultuous social and political happenings of 2020.

It is perhaps no accident that such a unique and diverse group of women have arrived now, ready willing and able to contribute to the important, ongoing work of the chapter and sorority as a whole. While this includes the uplifting of our service area with various chapter specific events and initiatives fueled by the Five-Point Programmatic Thrust, it also encompasses forming and maintaining connections with their prophytes. At the root of this, is the line's desire for fellowship, support, sisterhood and learning from the more experienced members about putting their best foot forward as Delta Women. MHVAC President, Soror Williams had this to say about the chapter's newest members:

"Mid-Hudson had the absolute privilege and honor to welcome the Twenty Pearls of Higher DeSTiny. This amazing and powerful group of Sorors is destined to make magnificent contributions to our community and sisterhood as we

**L.I.F.T. (Leverage Intentional Fortitude Together).
And what does being a Delta mean to some of our newly minted Sorors?**

"Being a Delta means helping the Black community to live more productive lives through education and empowerment...Serving people who look like me is my passion."

- Soror Brookes, SPR '23

"Delta means Sisterhood every day in every way!"

- Soror Robinson, SPR '23

"Being a Delta is my dream...and life is too short not to live your dream."

- Soror Rush, SPR '23



*“Calling all Deltas to the floor!
We got some here,
but we need some more!”*

November is Reclamation Month!

The Mid-Hudson Valley Alumnae Chapter of
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated
WANTS YOU to come back home!

There are so many exciting things happening within the Mid-Hudson Valley and we'd love for *all* of our Sorors working or residing in our communities to be part of this special time. It's never too late to reaffirm and reclaim your place as an active and involved member!

We lovingly welcome you to attend an upcoming event, reach out to fellow Mid-Hudson Sorors to fellowship or attend our next chapter meeting, held every second Saturday of the month at 10AM. Please contact us via email at info@mhvadst.org for further details if you plan on attending our next meeting!

We can't wait to see you there!

EASTERN REGION NY METRO & NY UPSTATE CLUSTER MEETING 2023



On Saturday, November 4th, 2023, Sorors from the Mid-Hudson Valley Alumnae Chapter joined hundreds of Sorors from other chapters across the New York Metro and Upstate New York area for our Eastern Region's Annual Cluster Meeting. Held at the Cultural Arts Center Theater on the campus of SUNY Rockland Community College, the day began with Attendees receiving a warm and spirited welcome from Sorors who volunteered as greeters, hospitality and check-in liaisons! Among the volunteers throughout the day were quite a few members of our Mid-Hudson Valley Alumnae Chapter!

Sorors enjoyed a day of fellowship, sisterhood and informative workshops which focused on regional and national initiatives, goals, best practices for doing the work of Delta and improving upon and elevating sisterhood among members. Each Cluster meeting is a wonderful opportunity to meet, connect or reconnect with Sorors from other chapters, further solidifying our bonds of Sisterhood, Scholarship, Service and Social Action! Sorors in attendance were treated with direct addresses from Eastern Regional Director Soror Rosie Allen-Herring and Eastern Regional Representative Soror Jerra Holdip.

EASTERN REGION NY METRO & NY UPSTATE CLUSTER MEETING 2023



Harlem World: MHVAC at the 54th Annual African American Day Parade

Since its debut in Harlem on September 21st of 1969, and held every third Sunday in September hence, the African American Day Parade or AADP, has become an iconic event which proudly and unapologetically celebrates and showcases our culture, accomplishments and heritage across all areas, while paying homage to our ancestors.

The Sorors of the Mid-Hudson Valley Alumnae Chapter came in full force, joining in with fellow Sorors from six other chapters, as well as other Divine Nine organizations to march and dance in the parade. This sea of Sorors (in matching tee shirts made especially for the event) made us proud as they made their way up the renowned Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard on and around our very own float!



Soror Roach, who took the lead on guiding group decoration of the float recalls “Sorors were hard at work creating balloon garlands, attaching tinsel curtains and hanging red drapery to the float, ensuring Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was presented with flair and creativity!” Our Chapter President, Soror Williams took her place on the float alongside other NYMCC presidents. Other chapter members present included Sorors Hill, Hunter, Riley, Singleton, Smithwick and Wike-Gray; all taking part in strolls specially created by the Sorors of New York Alumnae Chapter.

Soror Singleton, when asked about her experience representing Delta and MHVAC shared “I felt privileged to take part in the AADP! It was a memorable experience participating in my very first parade. It was an unexpected workout, but it was so much fun to be ‘on a stage’ representing our illustrious sorority, while inspiring and engaging with the crowd who showed us so much love!”

Sisterhood & Service Over Summer 2023



**Sorors with Mayor Torrance Harvey of Newburgh, NY
for the city's National Night Out**



**MHVAC at the John Flowers Annual Community Day
held at Mansion Park in Poughkeepsie, NY**



**Attending the It Takes a Village
Back to School Community BBQ in Middletown, NY**

Sisterhood & Service Over Summer 2023



Sorors on Juneteenth 2023



Sisterly bonding and laughs at our inaugural Family & Fun BBQ

Sorors go Pink for the Cure: MHVAC Deltas at the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk

*Sunday Funday with a
purpose!*


Mid-Hudson Valley Alumnae Sorors showed up in large numbers to support and participate in the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk! Held at the Woodbury Premium Outlets in Monroe, NY, the festive and uplifting event kicked off at 9AM with music, fun and groups of individuals from local organizations, high school football and cheerleading teams and businesses cheering the walkers on. Support, fundraising and contributions towards a cure for breast cancer is especially close to the hearts of many of the Sorors who participated. Among those who walked were survivors and those currently battling, as well as those who walked in the memory of a loved one. MHVAC Team Leader Soror Brookes was happy to that we had raised \$2,406.43 in donations for the American Cancer Society.



Dutchess County Meet the Candidates!

On Thursday October 19th and Thursday October 26th, the Mid-Hudson Valley Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in collaboration with the Dutchess County branch of the NAACP co-hosted Meet the Candidates forums. Both events were a special opportunity for community members to meet and ask questions of the Democratic and Republican candidates running for various roles in local government.







Sponsored by the
Northern Dutchess NAACP
& Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, INC.
Mid-Hudson Valley Alumnae Chapter



MEET THE CANDIDATES

When: Thursday, October 19th, 2023
Time: From 6:30PM to 8:30 PM
Where: Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center
12 Vassar Street, Poughkeepsie, NY

Please join us for this special opportunity for community members to get to know your candidates and discuss the issues that matter to you the most!

 KENYA ADSDEN (D)	<p>COUNTY CLERK</p>  BRAD KENDALL (R)
 ANTHONY PHILIP PARISI (D) MAJOR CRIMES BUREAU CHIEF DUTCHESS COUNTY	<p>DISTRICT ATTORNEY</p>  MATTHEW WEISHAUP (R) CHIEF ADA DUTCHESS COUNTY
 HON. JOSEPH A. EGITTO (R)	<p>FAMILY COURT JUDGE</p>  JAMES ROGERS (D)

Dutchess County Meet the Candidates!

 **NAACP**
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

 **DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.**
ALUMNAE CHAPTER
FOUNDED 1913

Sponsored by the
Northern Dutchess NAACP
& Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, INC.
Mid-Hudson Valley Alumnae Chapter

MEET THE CANDIDATES

When: Thursday, October 26th, 2023
Time: From 6:30PM to 8:30 PM
Where: Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center
12 Vassar Street, Poughkeepsie, NY

Please join us for this special opportunity for community members to get to know your candidates and discuss the issues that matter to you the most!



MAYOR

YVONNE FLOWERS (D)



ANTHONY LAROCCA (R)

COUNTY EXECUTIVE



THOMAS W. ZURHELLEN (D)



UPCOMING EVENTS

in the Mid-Hudson Valley and Beyond

We hope to see you there!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!!

THE NEW YORK METRO COORDINATING COUNCIL PRESENTS

J15

NYC 2024

GET FANCY AFFAIR

COCKTAIL ATTIRE: DRESS TO IMPRESS

JANUARY 13, 2024

TIME: 8PM-UNTIL

ELSIE ROOFTOP
1412 BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY
25TH FLOOR

