

# THE BEACON

Issue 2

July 2025



## Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Delta Phi Sigma Chapter, Pittsburgh PA



### 2024-2025 Sorority Year

Welcome to the second issue of **The Beacon**, an external newsletter from the Delta Phi Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated.

This is a snapshot of the work of the Pittsburgh Alumnae Chapter from July 2024 to June 2025. From impactful events, dynamic new members, and the start of exciting ventures - cheers to a job well done and GREATER things to come next year.

Enjoy!

In Sigma & Service,  
*Soror Taylor Hopkins*  
Epistoleus - Delta Phi Sigma Chapter

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## Events

The motto of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated is “Greater Service, Greater Progress”. This is a call-to-action for all women of Sigma to provide positive and proactive community outreach in the U.S. and globally. For the ladies of Delta Phi Sigma, this spirit of service shined in some of the programs held this sorority year.



Sorors Diamond Hill-Dupee and Dr. Anette Nance welcoming guests to the Breast Cancer Awareness Tea.

### Breast Cancer Awareness Tea

On Saturday, October 26, 2024, the chapter hosted their annual Hattie McDaniel Breast Cancer Awareness Tea. The traditional high tea event raises awareness for breast cancer in honor of Hattie McDaniel: the late actress, history-making Oscar recipient, and member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Attendees learned valuable information about women’s health and had the chance to win wellness items, makeup, and other prizes through a basket raffle.

Leading up to the event, the chapter was presented with a Ford Warrior Quilt by the Neighborhood Ford Store for the second consecutive year. The Neighborhood Ford Store, representing 76 Ford dealers in the region, has established a tradition of recognizing positive community impact through the presentation of Ford Warrior Quilts. The presentation took place prior to the Steelers game on Sunday, October 6, 2024, in the Ford Fan Zone of Acrisure Stadium. This honor recognized the chapter’s dedication to raising awareness for breast cancer through the annual Hattie McDaniel Breast Cancer Awareness Tea.



Sorors Diamond Hill-Dupee and Edina Johnson pictured with Ford Regional Manager Dan Balestrieri and Neighborhood Ford Store Chairman Joseph Thurby.

### Step Aerobics Class

In honor of Heart Health Awareness Month in February, Delta Phi Sigma collaborated with Maria B. Fitness to host a free step aerobics workout session: “Step Into Greatness.” Sorors and guests had a fun time taking care of their heart health with a low-impact workout!

Additionally, the chapter was a grant recipient of the Good Health WINs (Women’s Immunization Networks) grant from the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). This funding helped the chapter to share important information about the benefits of vaccination for respiratory conditions at this event and several other events throughout the sorority year.



Sorors and guests in attendance at the “Step Into Greatness” fitness event in collaboration with Maria B. Fitness.



## Events (cont.)



Sorors setting up refreshments for the Annual Youth Symposium at the Kingsley Association Community Center.

### Annual Youth Symposium

The Annual Youth Symposium is a program held every March by alumnae chapters of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. across the country. The program serves as a way to positively impact local youth through educational and engaging activities.

This year, Delta Phi Sigma partnered with the Kingsley Association Community Center to host the event. Young people from all over Pittsburgh explored STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics), wellness, and career planning.

Many other community partners tabled during the event to provide education and resources to youth and their families, helping to make the overall event a success!

### Community Baby Shower

Sigma Gamma Rho has multiple affiliate groups that support the sorority in its mission to enhance the quality of life for women and their families around the world through community service, civil, and social action. One such group, started in 1943, is the Philo Affiliate, with "Philo" meaning Friend.

On Saturday, April 26, 2025 the Philo Affiliate of Delta Phi Sigma hosted its annual Community Baby Shower. This event provided support to expecting mothers in the Pittsburgh community. Leading up to the event, Philos collected donations of baby supplies including diapers, clothing, and personal care products. These donations were utilized to create gift baskets for birthing parents in attendance at the event.

The Philo Affiliate was supported by the Delta Phi Sigma Chapter and their Rhoer Affiliates, another auxiliary group of the sorority. The Rhoer Affiliates are a group of young girls, ages 12 to 18, that learn leadership development, academic and personal skills, community service, and more under the advisement of alumnae Sorors.

The Delta Phi Sigma Rhoer Affiliates assembled NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) kits and raised funds to help make this program a success, showing that service truly starts young!



Philos Shawntaye Sledge, Jaimie Hardy, Deainna Fitzgerald, and Zenae Moore at the Community Baby Shower.

## Community Collaborations

Thank you to the many groups and organizations that helped the Delta Phi Sigma Chapter be GREATER this sorority year!



**PITTSBURGH CHAPTER**  
**A. PHILIP RANDOLPH INSTITUTE**



The Kingsley Association



Maria B. Fitness



Synergy: NY-Based SGRho  
Performance Team



Pittsburgh Chapter

## The start of something GREATER...



On April 9, 2025, the ladies of Delta Phi Sigma achieved a special milestone: the establishment of the non-profit, "Pearls of Purpose" in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This name and organization symbolize the transformative impact of the alumnae chapter, past, present and future.

This was accomplished thanks to the hard work of the Delta Phi Sigma Budget Committee:

- Diamond Davis, Chair
- Dr. Shelly Manns, Vice Chair
- Dr. Lyasha Bishop-Gaines
- Alexis Barlow
- Cheryl Lewis
- Madam Basileus Paulette Davis, Ex Officio Member

## Member Highlights

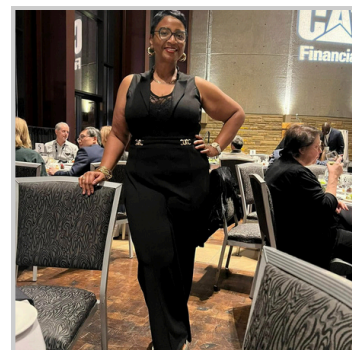
The women of Sigma Gamma Rho are women that continuously excel in all aspects of their lives. The Delta Phi Sigma Chapter is no exception! This year, members completed higher education degrees in various fields, received awards and new job opportunities, and even welcomed new family members! There is no limit to what the DYNAMIC Delta Phi Sigma women can do!



Sorors Dr. Anette Nance and Dr. Shelly Manns received their doctoral degrees from Point Park University.



Sorors posed around a picture of Madam Basileus Davis at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Northeastern Region Conference. Basileus Davis served as the 16<sup>th</sup> Syntaktes (leader of the region).



Soror Kaneitha Kelly received an award for Most Dealer Extended Protection Plans in North America and the Highest Sales Volume in the Northeast Region through her employer.



Soror Amber Hamilton received the inaugural Slippery Rock University's Presidential Above and Beyond Award.



Soror DaChanel Rutherford received her master's degree from The University of Pittsburgh.



Soror Lyasha Bishop-Gaines received her doctoral degree from Point Park University and published a book titled, "Three Months in ACCRA".

## Ruby Sorors



**Dr. Tammy Lineburg**



**Dr. Shelly Manns**



**Arriba Walker**

Several members of Delta Phi Sigma reached Ruby Soror status. This distinction recognizes over 22 years in the Sigma Gamma Rho sisterhood!

## Cultured Pearl



**Paulette Davis**

Madam Basileus Davis, also a charter member of Delta Phi Sigma, earned the status of Cultured Pearl. This recognizes over 50 years in the Sigma Gamma Rho sisterhood!



## New Members

Under the leadership of 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Basileus Edina Johnson, the chapter welcomed the Fall 2024 T.O.R.C.H. Class: QUINT EΣΣENTIALΣ. These five women came together for one common goal and formed a strong bond with one another, bringing in different strengths and qualities to the chapter reflected in their line names.



### Alexis Barlow

#### #1 - Golden Phoenix

Soror Barlow was a former Philo, a friend of the sorority. She has risen from challenges with determination and compassion and continuously shows up for those around her.



### Natori Richardson

#### #4 - Captivating EmpreΣΣ

Soror Richardson is a woman whose charismatic personality and powerful leadership skills inspires loyalty from those she encounters.



### Leslie Howze

#### #2 - Rhock Σolid

Soror Howze is a woman whose assertiveness is a symbol of her stability and support that she shows to her community.



### Tiffany Turner

#### #5 - Σupernova

Soror Turner is a woman who is a star from the moment you meet her. Her broad range of knowledge and experience helps her to guide people and to be someone they can relate to.



### Cheryl Lewis

#### #3 - Σollicitous Σolace

Soror Lewis is a source of comfort and support for others in their time of need and in their time of success.

## Transfer Sorors

The Delta Phi Sigma Chapter also welcomed Sorors transitioning from undergraduate to alumnae status!



Charlette Hardy



Haiyat Oshodi



Cheyenne Rodgers



Kaylee Samuel

## Undergraduates

Delta Phi Sigma actively advises multiple undergraduate chapters in the Pittsburgh region and beyond: Theta Nu Chapter (The University of Pittsburgh), Kappa Lambda Chapter (Indiana University of Pennsylvania) and the Northeastern Region Expansion (NERU) at Duquesne University. Under the advisement of Anti-Basilei Alyson Blackburn (Theta Nu), Eileen Felder (Kappa Lambda), and Renecia Frazier (NERU at Duquesne University), the undergraduate chapters have gained new members, engaged with their campus communities, and exemplified the values of Sigma Gamma Rho.

The alumnae chapter is also the advising chapter for the currently inactive Lambda Gamma Chapter (West Virginia University). Anti-Basileus Dr. Lyasha Bishop-Gaines has laid the foundation for reactivation of the chapter this sorority year.



## DPS Affiliate Groups



### Philo Affiliate

Under the advisement of Philo Advisor Sheena Hancock, the DPS Philos help to carry out the sorority mission in the Pittsburgh area. The affiliate group celebrated a few milestones of their own this sorority year:



Congratulations to the Philo President, Deiana Fitzgerald, on being named one of the Pittsburgh Courier's FAB 40 under 40 award recipients! This honor recognizes her work ethic, especially as the CEO of Revealed Wellness Spa and Dee's Beauty Bar.



The Philos also welcomed a new member this year. A special congratulations and welcome to Philo Zenae Moore!



### Rhoer Affiliate

The Delta Phi Sigma chapter Rhoer Club, under the advisement of Rhoer Advisor Arriba Walker, made meaningful strides in leadership development and community service this sorority year! This included supporting chapter events and attending regional sorority conferences.

## Save the Date!

**April 6 - 11, 2026**

Delta Phi Sigma's 50<sup>th</sup> Chapter Anniversary



In 2026, the Delta Phi Sigma Chapter will celebrate 50 years of sisterhood, scholarship, and service to the Pittsburgh community. A week of events will highlight this milestone, put together by the 50th Anniversary Committee:

- Dr. Shelly Manns, Chair
- Alyson Blackburn, Vice Chair
- Alexis Barlow
- Eileen Felder
- Dawn Golden
- Sheena Hancock
- Edina Johnson
- Cheryl Lewis
- Shandell Posey
- Keanna Seabrooks
- Tiffany Turner
- Madam Basileus Paulette Davis, Ex Officio Member

Mark your calendars and look for updates as we prepare to celebrate!



## Stay Connected



[www.PittsburghSGRhos.org](http://www.PittsburghSGRhos.org)



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Are you a Soror in the Pittsburgh area looking for a chapter home?

*Email us to return to the sisterhood today!*

