**27th Annual Delta Days in the Nation’s Capital**

**“Advocacy in Action: The Power of the Black Vote”**

**February 28 - March 1, 2016**

**Washington Hilton Hotel**

**The Delta Agenda**

**What should it be? What are our priorities?**

**#Deltadays2016**

**@dstinc1913**

**Tampa Delegation:** Dr. Leslie Brown (President, Tampa Alumnae), Heddie Sumpter (Social Action Chair, Tampa Alumnae), Angelica Alexander (President, Tampa Metropolitan Alumnae), Jasmine Mattear (Social Action Chair, Kappa Iota), and Deidra Rogers (Member, Kappa Iota)

**Legislative Assignments/Visits:**

Representative Kathy Castor

Representative Dennis Ross

Ways and Means Committee Meeting (Welfare Reform)

**Focus: Voter Mobilization**

1) Build Coalitions

2) Establish relationships with like-minded organizations that share our vision

3) Get people to the polls - make sure they know what and why we are voting

We must break the chains of silence! We must be the Red Army of 1!

**Key Priorities:**

**\*1) Supreme Court Appointment**: allow the president to fulfill his constitutional duty ***(Section 2, Article 2, Clause 2)*** to appoint a nominee and Senate to fulfill the constitutional duty to review the nomination.

**\*2) Economic Justice/Equitable Wages/Wage Parity** (significant gap between African American women and white women, much greater gap between African American women and men) - support paycheck fairness act.

**\*3) Affordable Care Act** (need to support Medicaid expansion for the working poor) they fall into the Healthcare gap...can't afford premium once other bills are paid. AL, FL, Ga, Idaho, Mississippi , Missouri,

Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas. Stop the numerous attempts by Congress to Repeal ACA.

**4) Educational Reform** – early intervention, continued funding and resources

**5) Voter Suppression (repeal)/Voting Rights Repair –** restore voting rights to rehabilitated felons

**Important legislation:** S2123 HR2944 HR2728 HR3470 HR3406 HR4249

People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will not forget how you made them feel (Maya Angelou) shared by Soror Shackford

Need to engage and empower our community (including other people of color...keep Black people relevant...Think about diversity in terms of who is at the table -color/class/creed

Know the power of the Delta vote...The Red Army...we will vote you out or have someone in the Red Army run against you!

**We must add the social action component back into every programmatic thrust and program**

**The Power of the Divine 9 Vote**

**Voter Registration and Education - moderator Yvette Robinson**

**Alpha Phi Alpha** (Jean Accius)

We must have a 3 prong strategy that translates across categories (National – Regional – Local) and allows us to leverage the talent from within our organizations. We must look for the collective impact and educate!

**Alpha Kappa Alpha** (Sylvia Blackmon -Roberts) Take ACTION (advocacy and communication)

We must educate and motivate, be the voice...begin at the local level.

**Kappa Alpha Psi** (Wade Henderson)

Must use our collective voices to make changes. Most challenging times that Black people are facing. Issues hanging in the balance that we need to address: 1) Supreme court nomination 2) Voting rights act (need it in place) 3) Criminal justice reform.

**Omega Psi Phi** (Ezekiel Zeke Dennison, Jr.)

Voter Registration Education Mobilization (making connections in partnership with the national bar association) Have identified key issues 1) law enforcement body cameras 2) letter writing campaign to share omega agenda globally

**Phi Beta Sigma** (Rogers Barnes)

What we do together that is better than what we do separately. Empower ourselves to have more impact. 1) Coordinated Social activism - working together with other divine nine - minimize repetition 2) building relationships with the White House 3) encourage national activism - political involvement 4) encouraged collaboration

**Zeta Phi Beta** (Krysta Jones)

Building Relationships and Accountability

Educate -Serve - Act

Encourage community and political leadership (join boards, run for office)

Hold elected officials accountable

Offer training/leadership development programs

Promote youth engagement

**Sigma Gamma Rho** (Aisha Braveboy)

Understand the power of the collective vote: Speak truth to power!

Black woman are a political force but remain socially vulnerable. We unfortunately do not have a collective agenda. We must develop our own agenda based on our issues (Medicare, retirement, public policy, etc).

**Iota Phi Theta** (Edgar Johnson)

We must teach our youth Black history. They must know where we have come from...so they understand the importance of their vote and the Black vote.

"The hands that once picked cotton will one day pick presidents (Dr. MLK Jr.)"

**Charge:** Vote whenever the opportunity arises!

**Delta Sigma Theta** (Dr. Paulette Walker)

In collaboration, cooperation, and association the divine 9 must actualize, mobilize, and not socialize. WE must be an Army of 1 to break every chain because it doesn't matter what colors you wear but what you do with those colors.

**Power of the Black Vote**

The Voting Rights Act 1965 was the most compelling piece of legislation written, yet it is continually under attack. We must ask the tough questions that relate to the needs of our people if we are to mobilize them to vote. Reach out and meet them on their level (Is college affordability important to you? Do you have loan debts? What do you stand to lose if you don't vote?)

**Lamont Carey** released 2012...President/CEO Contact Visits

700,000 prisoners released every year. Need access to voting in all states.

Help teach those that are incarcerated how to manage their resources, provide services and support to the family, help with the transition to ensure we can return a productive member to society. Successful reentry must be a collaborative effort between the felon, parole officer, law enforcement, family and community.

**The Honorable Marcia Fudge** (Do the People's Work) Black women must be a catalyst for change. Black women lead in numbers of people voting and greatly influence the vote. "If we can vote for other people...we can vote for ourselves!" Current candidates taking advantage of fear that if people of color become the majority we will treat them like they treated us...but we are Christians!

**The Honorable Brenda Lawrence**

"No one can ride your back if you stand up". The Black vote is being discounted and If you don't use your power you can't effect change!

**The Honorable Laura V. Hall**, National Social Action Commissioner. (Promote education to help our youth be the productive members of society...we must vote)

**Policies under attack:**

Affordable Care Act

College cost (year round Pell grants, 2 yrs free at HBCU and community colleges)

Quality public education

Criminal Justice reform (expects to pass this year)

Living wage jobs

**Strategies on getting policies addressed:**

1) We must VOTE to sustain these initiatives and to make things happen!!!

2) Consider running for/or supporting local school board.

3) Vote for mandatory GED or High School diploma while in prison

4) Include educational component to welfare recipients...create opportunities

5) Ask the released prisoners what they want to do...use their strengths...support their dreams....change their focus.

6) Consider providing info on registering to vote to of age students in school

7) Involve youth through social media

8) Involve youth on the panel...Get their buy in...make issues relatable to the youth...speak their language

9) LISTEN!!

10) Learn how to engage our youth (they talk in sound bytes, they want the headlines)

11) Explain why they are voting (make sure they understand why it benefits them)

12) Interact with our community...don't be afraid to engage those that look like us! We could be that influence that could redirect someone's path. (If you afraid for them to live next to you then you not really trying to help them come up!)

13) Focus on state legislature to avoid gerrymandering...monitor districting.

**What are consequences if we do not vote:**

Repeal of Affordable Care Act

Privatize social security

Rollback Medicaid/Medicare benefits

Supreme Court Justice Appointment

Education spending (going through state with governor/state legislature in control)

Voter suppression

**What happens if the wrong person wins?**

* We must vote for other positions to leverage that power (vote for governor, school board, etc)
* We must remain supportive of our Black elected officials (financially and physically)
* We must remember those that died so we could have the right to vote….we must exercise that right

**Social Action Luncheon Keynote Address - Angela Ausbrooke (PG County State’s Attorney)**

34.6% voter turnout 2014...lowest since WW2! Why don't we vote?

We have become disenfranchised.

How do we get re-enfranchised?

We must recognize that voting gives us Power, Privileges and Rights...it's imbedded in our vote.

True Civil Rights Movement is **Educational Development**

Begin with Education (level the playing field) access to early education programs are needed to prepare our kids for success.

**Economic Development** - need to promote home ownership. Focus on family and preservation...developed economic power to support the Black vote.

**Physical Mental Health** - need healthy mind, body, and spirit. Need more emphasis on mental health. We have to take care of ourselves before we can take care of anybody else. Let's embrace our sisters and brothers.

**Political Awareness &Involvement /International Awareness & Involvement**

Must share our info and our voices must be heard all over the world. We have the power to change this country. We must be politically engaged. Our voices are needed. The vote is the least that we can do....it is the final note after all of the many steps we take be forehand. "Go Further And Do Better" **Be THAT VOICE!!**

**Social Action Charge: Dr. Paulette C. Walker, National President**

Do it for the 22. We are going to be Game changers – follow the pyramid strategy:

The 3 points of the pyramid represent: Father - Son - Holy Ghost

Pyramid means Delta = change

If the 1000 in attendance at DDNC get 22 to vote = 22,000

Then those 22,000 get 22 each to vote = 484,000

Then those 484,000 get 22 each to vote = 10,648,000 – we can make a change!

We must come together on November 8, 2016 on one accord.

We will not be Discounted, Dissolved, Distracted, Disavowed, Disenfranchised, Dismissed, Discharged, Disallowed, etc. We must turn the ships around! We are Charged and Ready to VOTE Victory Over The Enemy!

**Framing the Issues: the 2016 Presidential Election**

**Sherrilyn Ifill (sifill@naacpldef.org)**

* Number one priority is the nomination of the Supreme Court Justice =-Must not be subverted by Congress
* If no Supreme Court Justice is selected then there is No Justice for this term or next term...Senate must do their constitutional duty...They Must Do Their Job!!
* Voting Rights - must focus on local elections as well...have our say in who has dominion/power over our lives.
* Criminal Justice Reform: need to push for legislation. Stop disenfranchisement of our people.

**Wade Henderson henderson@civilrights.org**

When you want to get work done…come to Delta!

Supreme Court appointment will transform justice for years to come. The President must be allowed to make his appointment recommendation as defined under Article 2 Section 2 Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution. We must meet with our Senators and encourage them to do their constitutional duty.

**Donald Cravins, Jr. (Cravins @nul.org.)**

National Urban League is with Delta every step of the way and has been pushing Civil Rights since 1910.

This will be the 1st election in 50 years we don't have the protection of the voting rights. We must push for the Voting Rights Act

Congressional Elections will be extremely important. We must remember that there are currently 54 Republican seats and 44 Democratic seats that make up our Senate at this time. 24 Republican seats are up for reelection (7 are in states that Pres. OBAMA won in his reelection...FL, OH, Il, NH, NC, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania ) and 10 Democratic seats are up for election.

We must Vote. Election for Senate is extremely important. Let's prepare for next year and the future. Due to timeframe of Senate installation on January 3rd, if there is a change in leadership in the senate, the President could have a nomination made and confirmed before he leave office on January 20, 2017.

**Cornell Brooks (cbrooks@naacp.net)**

We must remain on the American Journey for Justice. African-American women lead the nation in voter participation in 2008 and 2012…but there was a drop in 2014. Voter participation, mobilization must be incorporated in our civic engagement at all levels. Never give up, never give in, never roll over....we will march on...

**Special Presentations/Acknowledgements**

**Turning Point Suffrage Memorial:** More than $4000 donated during Ecumenical service will be donated on Deltas behalf. DST has been asked to be a part of memorial.

**Ella McNair** – retired as Delta staff member… stalwart of DDNC - 2016 DDNC named in her honor

**Marquita Sanders** – Affordable Care Act

* Approximately 18 million gained Healthcare coverage since its inception with some plans at less than $50/month.
* 12.7 million enrolled this year
* 90% of Americans have been insured. We all have access to coverage.

We must continue to be ambassadors for affordable healthcare. There is no power without healthcare. We must:

1) Establish a culture of wellness

2) Encourage use of healthcare

3) Educate on how to access Healthcare

**David Johns -** Education

No liberation without education. What we must focus during transition:

1) Focus on Early Learning programs

2) Increase success in STEM and STEAM (access to programs, resources)

3) College completion (reduce need for remedial courses)

4) Reclamation (reengage those that have been pushed out and marginalized )

\*AFAM: Women Lead

\*ESSA: Every Student Succeeds Act (states are now required to draft equity plan....what do we have in our plan...look for disaggregated data (all data standardized) equity in resources (where is the money) educator resources (more skilled working with students with most needs) will ask that school climate data be included as well as an indicator. School plans are expected to be implemented next year. They will also look at suspension data (high risk groups/disproportionate groups).

\*Dual Capacity Framework (we must work together parents & educators)

1) Expose to opportunities early

2) Don't push them to do what we want. Don't squash dreams

3) Have a conversation about their interest (brothers, keepers/sisters supporters)

4) Listen to them...what are they going through?

Let's not over complicate things"

**Delta Fellows**

**(Leadership Development Program...Preparing Future Leaders of Delta)**

**Learned Energetic Accountable Dedicated Enthused Resources of Strength (22 Fellows selected)**

**Eastern Region**

Veronica Delano

Renee Evelyn

Kimberly Robinson

**Farwest Region**

Pixie Borden

Joyce Williams

**Midwest Region**

Marianette Scott

Sarahjini Spencer

**Central Region**

Dejuana Harville

Idolene Williams

**South Atlantic**

Darlene Watkins

Demiria Johnson

Michelle Richardson

Denise Reviere

Janice Winstead

**Southern Region**

Donna Bowman

Amaris Johnson

Sabrina Pallotte

Tayanna Richardson

Christina Stallings

**Southwest Region**

Lisa Harris

Tonya Miragueree

Jennifer Smith

**Fellows charge – Dr. Paulette C. Walker, National President**

Thoughtful and responsible leadership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority:

Handle yourself use your head

Handle others use your heart

Do not go where the path may lead...instead go where there is no path and make a trail

Set the pace for others to follow

Accept the challenge

Forget the mistakes of the past and Press on to the greater promises of the future

Go forth and be the best...Luke 12:4

**DDNC wrap up**

**Recommendations**:

1) Establish network between regional or state chapters (suggested bimonthly conf. call)

2) Collaboration between local chapters on social action events (power in numbers)

3) Encourage sorors to run for office

4) Do mini Public Service Announcements or infomercials highlighting the importance of voting

5) Promote letter writing campaigns (request form letter from national leadership)

6) Read Advocacy in Action: History of Social Action in Delta 1913-2013 (purchase thru DREF)

Never let your passion overcome your purpose! Know why and with whom you are protesting. Remember the 22 were only 22, they did not wear their letters nor did they wear delta colors...it was a larger purpose than Delta. Follow the 22 Pyramid Plan: Educate your 22 on the voting laws...make sure they have appropriate info/documents/ID to vote…Get them to the polls...Vote! Vote! Vote!

Respectfully Submitted: Soror Leslie Brown, President/Delegate

Soror Heddie Sumpter, Social Action Chair/Delegate