

Social Action is the   
of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

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PRESENTED BY:

THE SCHAUMBURG-HOFFMAN ESTATES ALUMNAE CHAPTER –  
SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 21, 2016

# *Social Action is the Heart of Delta Sigma Theta*

## **Our History: Early 1900s**

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- Prior to 1890, black women concentrated primarily on mutual aid and benevolent work
- Early 1890s, self help and organizing nationally to champion key issues began to take root.
- “Race women” [of the Black Women’s Club Movement] began actively promoting racial progress & struggling for racial equality.

The first public act of community outreach and defense of liberties was performed by the Delta Sigma Theta founders during their participation in the [Women's Suffrage March in Washington D.C., March 1913](#).



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## **Our History: Early 1900s**



Our 22 founders (7 of them elected officers of AKA), desired reorganizing to address higher purposes like public service & women's advancement.

To establish DST as serious and credible in the area of Social Action, key prominent black women, such as Mary Eliza Church Terrell and Mary McLeod Bethune were invited as honorary sorority members  
**GENIUS STRATEGY !**

- Delta Oath written by Mary E. C. Terrell in 1914
- In 1927, The National Vigilance Committee, Delta's first Political Action Committee was launched at 9<sup>th</sup> National Convention (active 1929-1939).
- Implemented social service programs in the 30s that help distribute everyday provisions during The Great Depression



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## **Our History: 1930s, 40s, and 50s**

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Delta begin forming coalitions to broaden its political reach. Our sisterhood saw its social action platform move into political activism through The National Library Project

**Joined Joint Committee on National Recovery (JCNR)** – advocated for African Americans to have fair access to new created government jobs during The New Deal

**National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)** – supported its legal civil rights fights morally, actively and financially

**National Urban League (NUL)** – supported its economic battles. The NUL helped DST with its 1941 Job Analysis and Job Opportunity Project (led by Dorothy Height), a long standing economic project of Delta enduring two decades.

**National Council of Negro Women (NCNW)** – lifelong affiliation established given joint membership of many powerful women such as Sorors Mary McLeod Bethune and Dorothy I. Height.

**American Council on Human Rights (ACHR)** – promoted civil rights legislation

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## **Delta Dear Trivia!!**

In the early 1950s, what powerhouse **Delta Dear** was actively serving as chair of the Coordinating Committee for the Enforcement of District of Columbia's Anti-Discrimination Laws (of which the ACHR was collaboratively supporting)?

## **MARY CHURCH TERRELL**

Soror Terrell was almost 90 years young and still **ACTIVELY** working on behalf of the race!



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## **Our History: 1960s**

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By 1962, DST felt that its social action program had become too decentralized. It had spread itself too thin. This served as the impetus for its push to establish its own internal social action and education committee. Delta Sigma Theta's Social Action Commission was formed in 1963. The time had come for Delta to **TAKE THE LEAD!**

<b>Little Rock Nine</b>	Delta went down to assist Daisy Bates and the nine black high school students <b>BEFORE</b> the sit-ins, national press defiance, the “badge of honor” jailings and job losses, & the NAACP was comfortable with Bates’ methods of direct challenge. DST supported when few others did!
<b>March on Washington</b>	DST’s 1963 Freedom and Equality Resolution, pledged the sorority’s “total commitment to the Aug. 28 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom...”
<b>Civil Rights Act of 1964 Voting Rights Act of 1965</b>	Worked closely with civil rights organizations, especially Clarence Mitchell, chief political advocate for the NAACP. Deltas were the <b>ONLY</b> black group actually operating at the Capitol.

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## **Our History: 1960s**

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Given our dedication to public service and success in lobbying for the CRA of 1964 and VRA of 1965, Delta gained the attention of President Lyndon B. Johnson. We developed and amicable working relationship with the Johnson administration, continued to be a presence on Capital Hill as President Johnson launched his War on Poverty and made new appointments to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

**Soror Frankie Muse Freeman confirmed to U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Sept. 1964**

**Soror Shirley Chisholm elected to New York State Assembly in 1964 and U.S. House of Reps in 1968**

**Soror Barbara Jordan elected to Texas State Senate in 1966 and U.S. House of Reps in 1972**

**Soror Patricia Roberts Harris appointed Ambassador to Luxembourg by Pres Johnson**

Engaged Delta in legislative issues such as:

- School Desegregation
- School Busing
- Women's Rights

Engaged Delta in the establishment of national programs such as building affordable housing (partnership with Humanity for Humanity) and implementing Head Start programs across the nation.

*Soror Muse stressed **“that each individual [was] personally responsible for participating in social action.”***

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## **Social Action Definitions ...**

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- 1. SOCIAL ACTION**, as defined by Delta Sigma Theta, identifies existing public policy on an issue OR the need for public policy. It is “a plan to TAKE ACTION to affect public policy and its ONGOING ADVOCACY activities.”
- 2. PROGRAMS** as defined by DST are COMPREHENSIVE PLANS to respond to societal problems. These plans consist of many projects and are long range.
- 3. PROJECTS** as defined by DST are SPECIFIC EFFORTS to help reach a program goal. They are one time efforts that can be repeated and usually short in duration.



# *Social Action is the Heart of Delta Sigma Theta*

## **What Is Our Charge?**

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To develop the membership's appreciation of Delta's potential for influence in the community.

To increase the membership's knowledge of current local, state, and national issues so that every Delta will be an informed and effective citizen, advocate, and voter.

To encourage the membership's active participation as individuals in political activity.

To influence the enactment of legislation, national and local, of particular interest to African-Americans and women.

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Delta DIVA Quiz

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**What is Social Action?**

**Affecting public policy and ongoing advocacy!**

# *Social Action is the Heart of Delta Sigma Theta*

## **DST Social Action Plan: National**

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### **Social Action is a pressing priority!**

- Develop the membership's appreciation of Delta's **potential for influence** in the community
- **Increase the membership's knowledge** of current local, state and national issues so that every Delta will be an informed and effective citizen, advocate and voter
- Encourage the membership's **active participation as individuals in political activity**
- **Influence the enactment of legislation**, national and local, of particular interest to African-Americans and women
- **Maintain vigilance** over action or inaction by local judicial and administrative agencies and officials
- Cultivate, in the membership, a person-to-person **relationship with the community power structure**
- **Join and volunteer leadership** in civic and other social action organizations, including diverse groups
- Encourage increased appointment and upgrading of African American women in **policy-making**
- Mobilize efforts to increase international awareness and involvement

# *Social Action is the Heart of Delta Sigma Theta*

## **DST Social Action Goals: Regional, Chapter**

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### **DST Midwest Regional Goals**

- Improved law enforcement relations
- Preserving Delta's history
- Environmental justice
- Voter registration, education & advocacy
- Collegiate support

### **DST Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates Goals**

- **Register** fifty (50) new voters
- **Engage and educate** at least 80% of newly registered voters
- **Verify** 50% **voting** rate of newly registered voters in 2016 Presidential Primary & General elections
- **Educate, energize** and drive chapter **action** on issues of social and political importance. Current focuses:
  1. Racial Profiling
  2. Stop and Frisk Policies
  3. Environmental Justice Issues
  4. Political Advocacy
  5. Educational Inequities

# *Social Action is the Heart of Delta Sigma Theta*

## **SHAC Social Action Plan:**

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- Educate sorors on Delta Sigma Theta's rich social action history
- Facilitate better understanding of Social and Political Activism
- Socialize national, regional and chapter social action goals and initiatives
- Encourage engagement in reaching Schaumburg-Hoffman Estate Alumnae Chapter's voter registration goals
- Assist committees and clusters with identifying viable social action program and project opportunities
- Work with committees and clusters to effectively capture and document social action plans and accomplishments

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Delta DIVA Quiz

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**Name two of SHAC's social action focus areas.**

**Racial Profiling**

**Stop and Frisk Policies**

**Environment Justice**

**Political Advocacy**

**Educational Inequities**

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## **Voter Registration: Delta's Increasing Voter Awareness (D.I.V.A.)**



**2015  
Organizer  
Toolkit**

For sorors interested in facilitating a robust voter registration event, portions of information in this toolkit can be used as a resource. Information includes:

1. Event planning tips
2. Volunteer recruitment and training
3. Event logistics and focus
4. Voter contact best practices
5. Post event follow up

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## **Voter Registration: State Website for Illinois**

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**[www.cookcountyclerk.com](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com)**

**<http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections>**

- Elections Home
- Your Voter Information
- 2015 Elections
- Info for School Board
- Candidates
- Register to Vote
- Elections Results
- Election Data
- Early Voting
- Vote by Mail
- Polling Locations
- Accessibility/Assistance
- Provisional Voting
- Elections Judges training and pay
- Upcoming Election Dates
- Info for Candidates
- Electoral Board
- News Room
- Directory of Elected Officials
- Map Room
- E-Certification Tool



# *Social Action is the Heart of Delta Sigma Theta*

## **Voter Registration: Illinois Online Voter Registration**

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<https://ova.elections.il.gov/>

- Illinois voter registration lookup
- Illinois voter registration change of address
- Illinois voter registration card
- Illinois voter registration statistics
- Illinois voter registration online
- Illinois voter registration requirements
- Illinois voter registration status
- Illinois absentee voter registration

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## **Voter Registration: Important Illinois Dates**

<b>PRIMARY ELECTION – MARCH 15, 2016</b>	
2/16/2016	Last day to register to vote (online)
	Grace period registration and voting
02/17/2016	First Day
03/15/2016	Last Day
	Early voting for primary
02/04/2016	First Day
03/14/2016	Last Day
<b>GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 8, 2016</b>	
03/17/2016 - 10/11/2016	Register to vote for General Election
	Grace period registration and voting
10/12/2016	First Day
11/08/2016	Last Day
	Early Voting for Election
09/29/2016	First Day
11/07/2016	Last Day

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## **Voter Registration: Top Reasons You Should VOTE !**

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- **Voting is a way to speak your mind and let your voice be heard!**
- **One voice, one vote really does count!**
- **Our children are depending on us to represent their voices too!**
- **Voting changes communities!**
- **Vote to effect change!**
- **Believe it or not, voting is a way of honoring our history!**
- **Last but not least, because it gives you credibility!**

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## **Voter Registration: Voter Registration Next Steps**

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- 1. Register** a total of 50 new voters before Oct. 11, 2016 (last day of online registration for the 2016 Presidential Election)
- 2. Engage and educate** at least 80% of newly registered voters
- 3. Follow up** with all newly registered voters to track actual voting rate.  
Target is 50%

**WE CAN DO THIS SORORS!!!**

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Delta DIVA Quiz

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**In DST's Social Action arena, what does D.I.V.A. stand for?**

**Deltas Increasing Voter Awareness!**

**Dates that IL residents can register to vote in the 2016  
General Election...**

**March 17 – October 11, 2016**

# *Social Action is the Heart of Delta Sigma Theta*

## Driving Social Action: Social Action Project **IDEAS**

Physical and Mental Health	Assisting community members with healthcare education and enrollment
Scholarship and Education	Creative civics/political science youth education
Emergency Response Team (ERT)	Distribution of emergency (Kits) to senior citizens
Fundraising	Exposure of SHAC's Social Activism at major events
Arts and Letters	Book Club focus on DREF's <i>Advocacy In Action - 100 Years of Social Action in Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.</i>
Social Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Voter education</li> <li>➤ Chapter and community mobilization to support critical areas of community need (e.g. Flint water crisis)</li> <li>➤ Work with politicians to influence legislation and public policy</li> </ul>
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Voter Registration at public events</li> <li>➤ Identification of local politicians, important issues and partnership opportunities</li> </ul>

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## **Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates Alumnae Chapter NEXT STEPS**

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- 1. Support Destination 22 Initiative** – Donate \$22 to assist collegiate sorors attending Delta Days in the Nation’s Capital
- 2. Achieve our voter registration goal:** Register 31 additional people to vote by Oct. 11, 2016
- 3. Remain engaged and informed on 2016 Presidential Election information. Disseminate the information to circles of influence!**
- 4. Chapter committees and clusters work with SA liaisons** to identify social action opportunities in existing and future work
- 5. Increase focus and identify** social action opportunities in the areas of 1) racial profiling, 2) stop and frisk, 3) political advocacy regarding federal and state gridlock, and 4) educational inequities in funding and academic outcomes
- 6. Begin capturing social action goals and accomplishments** utilizing social action template

**Like our founders and other sorors before us, we are refocusing and redefining our social action efforts. It is a journey. Be a part of it!**