



# IOTA BULLETIN

**JUNE 2022**



**LOLA MERCEDES PARKER  
FOUNDER**

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## FOUNDER'S DAY EDITION



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**DOROTHY WHITE  
23RD NATIONAL  
PRESIDENT**



# Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated

"Business and Professional Women Building the Foundation  
for Generational Financial Empowerment"

## End of the Year Message

Sorors, as we come to the end of another chapter in Iota's history, we thank God for the women who decided to start this sorority that has impacted the lives of many women and children. The 2021-2022 sorority year marked yet another successful chapter for Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., as we continued to make worthwhile contributions to the community despite the prolonged restrictions of Covid-19. We experienced growth in membership, increased our collaboration opportunities, strengthened our focus on the health and wellness of our members and the community, and developed innovative and relevant programs. However, in addition to the accomplishments, we also suffered the loss of many valued members of Iota.

Sorors, we continued our march towards 1,929 members and 100 chapters, with the inductions of more than 135 new members and the chartering of four new chapters during this sorority year. This was a great beginning, but as we prepare to celebrate 100 years, to meet our goals we must induct at least 700 new members and charter 35 additional chapters. In order to accomplish our goals of 1,929 members and 100 graduate and undergraduate chapters by 2029, we have expanded the duties of the membership committee to include developing and designing a national membership campaign. We recognize that in order to remain relevant and maximize our impact in the community, we must depend on membership growth. Not only do we need members to carry out the numerous Iota programs and projects, but new members bring in fresh ideas, diversity and enthusiasm.

Since the convention, Iota has participated in several activities with our affiliates and other organizations. We increased our interaction with our most visible affiliate, the National Council of Negro Women by serving on the Affiliate Advisory Committee, participating in the Affiliate Circle Meeting, and serving as a Circle Leader for the 2021 Affiliate Assembly. Several members of the Board and I attended the National Urban League Virtual National Convention and the "State of Black America" Symposium. Iota also collaborated with three business sororities, Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc., and Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority, Inc., to sponsor a Small Business Saturday Pop-Up Virtual Shopping Mall. In my role as President of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, I participated in the Black Women's Agenda (BWA) COVID-19 Facebook Live Town Hall Meeting. We also collaborated with the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Committee to produce a video for Women's History Month. This project was spearheaded by Soror Betty Wilson-Jones, the chair of the Leadership Conference Committee, National Executive Director Vonetta Martin, and Michelle Greene, our National Journalist.

## Continue

today's youth, where we not only teach financial literacy and entrepreneurship, but also the principles of leadership and ethical behavior.

I recently heard a sermon entitled "Burn the Boat." The idea was that many people do not fully commit to a plan or idea, because they already have a built-in exit plan. If the boat is still available, you have an avenue of escape. But if you burn the boat, you have to make it work, there is no other way out.

Some of our members join Iota as a stepping stone to other organizations, so they never fully commit to the work and success of Iota. They already have an exit plan in mind when Iota fulfills its purpose. The only way we can be assured that we are still here for the next ninety-three years, and our impact is widespread, is to fully embrace the vision of our founder and fully commit to the future of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.

As we come together on this first day of June 2022, we rededicate our talents, ingenuity, imagination, and creativity to the mission upon which Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. was built. We pledge to fully embrace the principles of Iota as penned by our founder, Mrs. Lola Mercedes Parker, to serve the community and encourage our members.

Sorors, we can only accomplish these goals if we burn that exit plan and fully commit to the future and longevity of Iota. As Pat Riley, the basketball coach stated, "There are only two options regarding commitment; you're either in or you're out. There's no such thing as life in-between."

Enjoy this day, fully commit to the success and longevity of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. and Have a wonderful Founder's Day!

Sisterly,

*Dorothy M White*

23<sup>rd</sup> National President



# *Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.*

## FOUNDER'S DAY MESSAGE

June 2022

"Business and Professional Women Building the Foundation for Generational Financial Empowerment"

Sorors,

Today is Founder's Day 2022. Today we are ninety-three years old, can you imagine the tenacity and resolve needed to survive for ninety-three years. The longevity of our existence illustrates that our founder, Mrs. Lola M. Founder and her six friends built a foundation that is still relevant today. The programs and projects were developed in a manner that still addresses the issues of today. They have stood the test of time.

As we look forward to our centennial birthday in 2029, we acknowledge that we are firmly "grounded in respect for the past", but we must continue to grow for the future". To prepare for the future, we must set goals to ensure that we will be relevant ninety-three years from today. As an organization, we understand that change is unavoidable and also essential to our growth. We must commit ourselves to fulfill the dream and mission of our Founder and her six friends. The mission, they envisioned, for Iota was one of inspiration, encouragement and assistance for women and youth. As Marcus Garvey stated, "A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots."

So, today as we celebrate our 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday, we pledge to build upon the ideas and aims of our founder, look towards the future and set goals to ensure that we survive for another ninety-three years. We must also address the risk factors that may affect the future liability of Iota. During the next seven years we will strive to carry out the goals we are putting in place now to grow our membership, enhance our programs and projects, strengthen our relationship with our affiliates and develop more organizational partnerships. These goals will allow us to make a greater impact in the community. They will also help us to meet the challenges of social and racial injustice, voting rights and health care equity for our communities.

But, Sorors, we must also reevaluate our organization and develop strategies to encourage more participation in our programs and projects; Streamline our path to leadership, making sure that we are taking advantage of the skills possessed by our membership; Clarify and update our Bylaws, making sure that they are clearly stated and understood; Develop the pathway to earning CEU credits for our membership; Design a benefit package that comes with membership; And most of all we must come to grips with purchasing and sustaining a national headquarters. We are losing valuable archives that can never be replaced because they are housed across the country in members' homes. We must strengthen our ability to reclaim our material from individual homes and relocate them to a central headquarters that does not change from one administration to another.

And, lastly, as an organization charged with working with youth, we must encourage more chapters to work with our youth, including organizing a Future Iota Leaders Auxiliary. A structured youth group provides the best opportunity for us to have a sustained impact on



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today's youth, where we not only teach financial literacy and entrepreneurship, but also the principles of leadership and ethical behavior.

I recently heard a sermon entitled "Burn the Boat". The idea was that many people do not fully commit to a plan or idea, because they already have a built-in exit plan. If the boat is still available, you have an avenue of escape. But if you burn the boat, you have to make it work, there is no other way out.

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Sisterly,

*Dorothy M White*  
23<sup>rd</sup> National President

Soror Charlotte Maull



Soror Lillian Parker



Soror Stephanie Dilworth



Soror Phyllis Shumate



Soror Marcella L. Morrison



Soror Doris Browning Austin



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## What Does Founder's Day Mean To Me?

First, the celebration of our annual Founders' Day for me – for us all, it is the most important day in the sorority year, a day when we remember the Founders of the organization and value their legacy. We are indebted to the seven women who had the vision that led to the creation of an organization that set into movement a position where women could continue to contribute to the leadership and vision that expressed the intention of providing young women of color a gateway to economic empowerment. We owe them a debt of gratitude, and this is one motivation for honoring them on Founders' Day each year.

I also perceive Founder's Day as our way of broadening our legacy and passing the torch to the next generation. The lesson to be learned is that we didn't light the torch. It was given to us by others. That action charges all recipients with the answerability of protecting its glow by upholding protocols, amplifying our impact, and reaching the table of decisions makers.

Again, it is also a day on which we celebrate achievement – our many achievements, individual and collective; second, it is an important occasion for the whole organization to be together in spirit – the whole is stronger than the sum of its parts. This sisterhood is a great organization that has stood the test of time and has a great history; and to remember that our agenda is germane.

Lillian F. Parker  
18th National President



## What Does Founder's Day Mean To Me?

June 1, 1929 – Founder's Day for Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. has an endearing meaning for me as the sorority's 19th National President. I am proud of my membership in this sisterhood of business and professional women who have accepted the vision of our founder, Lola Mercedes Parker, and seven other ladies answering the founding call. They gave impetus to a new way of thinking that challenged, encouraged, and empowered women to "get out of the box" of the male-dominated business field. I applaud the courage of these business executive secretaries (whose male employers' success was primarily due to the excellence of efficient administrative secretaries) to search for ways to elevate themselves and other competent ladies. They united in a sisterhood, they challenged biases and prejudices to women, and they sought and encouraged training that would make them even more qualified and efficient. I truly admire the strength and determination that changed the workplace and the respect given to the business skills, knowledge, and abilities of women in our society.

Today, this vision has expanded to include scholarships for sorors and students interested in business careers; to encourage entrepreneurship, to seek higher education and training, and to advocate for the rightfully deserved higher incomes that will impact our economic recognition and wellness. When I see new ladies joining our sisterhood, I know that they have embraced the vision of our founders. We are small enough to be unique and great enough to be recognized for our business and professional accomplishments that are making a notable difference in our society. I love Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. and plan to rededicate myself to the goals and ideals on June 1, 2022.

From the Desk of: Charlotte M. Maull  
19th National President





## **What Does Founder's Day Mean to Me?**

Founder's Day is a time of rededication. It is a time when I renew my commitment to Iota and all that our beloved sisterhood means to me.

On Founder's Day, I reflect on my gratitude for my Iota journey. As I celebrate the legacy of Soror Lola Mercedes Parker, I express my appreciation for the bonds of lasting friendships that I have developed with my Iota sisters – deep connections that have made my 50-plus years as an Iota so rewarding. I also reflect upon how thankful I am for my role as a mentor for younger sorors. It has been a blessing and a privilege to encourage them, as I was encouraged by my Iota mentors.

From The Desk of Phyllis Shumate  
21st Nation President



## **What Does Founder's Day Mean to Me?**

Founder's Day, for me, is a time of reflection and renewal. Founder's Day gives me the opportunity to set aside time to reflect upon the past Sorority year and my work (whether through my chapter, my region or nationally) towards the vision Lola M. Parker and her friends set before us all those years ago. So much of the concerns and challenges for women in 1929 are the same currently in 2022. It is imperative that we, as a business and professional women's organization meet those challenges in our communities. Therefore, Founder's Day is also a time for envisioning the future work that Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated can and will do.

Founder's Day brings the Sorors together in a common goal and helps us to strengthen our bonds of sisterhood and community. We are all so busy throughout the year, Founder's Day gives us a time to stop, breathe, and relax. Founder's Day is a time of celebration and a special time to lift our hearts in unity for IOTA.

Sisterly,

Stephanie Dillworth  
22nd Nation President



# Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.

Business and Professional Women Building the Foundation for Generational Financial Empowerment

## LEBRUM, HAITI



Sorors, several weeks ago, I approached the National Board with the idea of sponsoring a national humanitarian initiative by supporting the people of Ukraine. After careful consideration and discussion with members of the Board and other Sorority members, we have decided to switch targets and focus on the opportunity to develop a relationship with the village of Lebrun, Haiti.

I have found that Haiti is still in dire need of basic needs to educate, house and care for its people. Because of her connections, I asked our National Executive Director Vonetta Martin to identify charities in Haiti that work directly within the communities. She contacted Mr. Serge Bellegrade, a respected member of the Organization of American States, who teaches Haitian Creole to volunteers traveling to Haiti and lives in Silver Springs, Maryland to recommended several organizations working in Haiti.

After reading information about the two organizations that he recommended, we have selected to partner with **HavServe**, a nonprofit organization operating in the village of Lebrum. HavServe comes from the understanding that is you have, you can serve. If you have time, you can serve. If you have compassion, you can serve. If you have resources, you can serve. If you have knowledge, you can serve. Its motto is: If you Have, you too can Serve.

**HavServe** is a 501© (3) nonprofit organization, Tax ID 27-2525894, founded by Carline Brice-Mesilus, a native of Haiti, who works as a Training and Development Consultant in Maryland. It was established after the earthquake of 2010. HavServe is a volunteer service network incorporated in Maryland, dedicated to partnering with targeted communities in rural Haiti to rebuild and provide sustainable basic services primarily in the areas of education and youth development. They support community-led developments through volunteerism, by empowering villagers with education, training and basic services necessary for them to play a role in determining their own future. Their technical experts are all 100% per bono, thereby reducing the cost of operation. I encourage you to read more about this organization, including their HavServe Shop: A Sustainable Gift Catalog, on their website, [HavServe.org](http://HavServe.org).

You may purchase items, such as school supplies, textbooks, sewing machines, or purchase sponsorships for individuals. Purchases cost varies from \$2 to \$300.00. There were several



## Continue

sponsorships and items listed in the catalog that relate to our mission, one in particular, addresses the needs of women engaged in business vocations.

After viewing the catalog, the sponsorship of a woman entrepreneur seems to best fit our purpose and mission. As we prepare to celebrate Founder's Day, what better way to honor the memory and vision of our founder than to encourage entrepreneurship that will benefit the survival of the family and the village. So, we have decided to purchase a sponsorship for several women entrepreneurs as a national humanitarian initiative. The cost is \$200.00 per year per entrepreneur.

We are asking our members and chapters to support this national initiative for Founder's Day, with a goal of engaging in a long-term partnership with the village of Lebrum, Haiti. As we celebrate 93 years of service, we applaud the work that each chapter has provided within their individual communities. This national humanitarian initiative will give us the opportunity to expand our service on a global level, to actively participate in a way that will have a positive impact on an entire village.

We are asking each chapter to support the goal of raising \$5,580 to empower the women of Lebrum, by donating \$93 to this national initiative. This will allow us to sponsor 20 women entrepreneurs and buy at least 20 goats. This important sponsorship program will allow for self-sufficiency and empowerment for the women of Lebrum. But we can only achieve this goal with the help of our members. If you would like to participate in this initiative, please submit your chapter donation to our national financial secretary by May 28<sup>th</sup>.

The National Executive Board thank you for participating in this humanitarian initiative as we strive to make a difference in the global community by empowering women across the globe.

"Behind every successful woman is a tribe of other women who have her back." Written by Anonymous

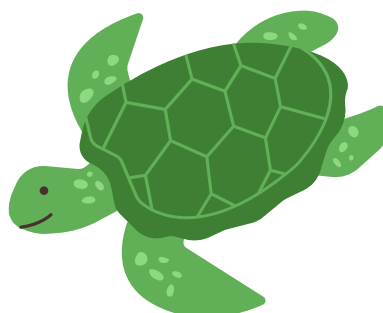
Sisterly,

*Dorothy M White*

Dorothy M White  
23<sup>rd</sup> National President

"One of the lessons that I grew up with was to **always stay true to yourself** and never let what somebody else says distract you from your goals."

- Michelle Obama





# National Executive Board

Soror Vonetta Martin



National Executive Director

Soror Dorothy M. White



National President

Soror Charlotte D. Berry



National President Elect

Soror Rosetta Davis



Southwestern Regional Director

Soror Phyllis Moore



Southern Regional Director

Soror Carolyn Bell



Far Western Regional Director

Soror Valerie Pullen



Eastern Regional Director

Soror Dr. Cheryl Scott



Central Regional Director

Soror Michelle Greene



National Journalist

Soror Tanesha Mosley



National Recording Secretary

Soror Lana J. Samuel



National Financial Secretary

Soror Nicole Ford



National Treasurer



## IMPORTANT MAY DATES TO REMEMBER



### Celebrating Founder's Day June 1, 2022



June Observances	
June 2022 is Observed as	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day PTSD Awareness Day National Men's Health Month National Safety Month LGBT Pride Month
June 1	Founder's Day
June 5	World Environment Day
June 8	World Oceans Day
June 14	Flag Day
June 19	Father's Day
June 19	Juneteenth
June 21	Summer Begins/Summer Solstice
June 23	Public Service Day
June 27	PTSD Awareness Day
June 30	International Day of Parliamentarism

## MISSION

**To unite in a sisterhood qualified business and professional women who will encourage, inspire, nurture, and assist persons engaged in business vocations.**

# HAPPY

# Father's Day

I'm so lucky to have you Dad

## A Salute to Fathers

In our lives, there is a special person called a father. This person may be a biological father or a special male friend. As we celebrate Father's Day, we all remember stories about these special people. Some of the stories are funny, some are full of love and encouragement and others are full of sorrow. Some of these incidents are recent and others may have happened years ago during our childhood. But he is someone who is always there to guide us.

What Is a Father?

Who constitutes a father,  
At what task makes it so?  
Does it happen slowly,  
Or should we all just know?

Is a father there from birth,  
Or can they join at a later date?  
Do they have to be related,  
So many questions to debate.

Maybe there is a number,  
Of diapers one has to change.  
Can they be your favorite person,  
Or must they be a little strange?

I think a father is someone,  
Who loves unconditionally,  
There is no perfect formula,  
To who a father can be.



Julie Herbert



# *Congratulations to our 2022 Graduates*



For some, graduation may seem like a lot of fuss over nothing, huge crowds, long speeches, and extra cost. Still, to others, especially in the African American community, graduation is a very special milestone in our lives. It signifies an important event that the whole family celebrates. This year is significant for many, because it will offer you a chance to celebrate in public after two years of virtual or postponed ceremonies due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whether you are graduating from high school, college or post-graduate studies, you are concluding years of hard work to finally reach the end of a journey. You have proven that you have the ability, the tenacity, and the resilience to achieve a milestone in your life.

While graduation may be the end of one journey, it is also the beginning of another, whether it is more education, advancement at work, or the start of a new career. So, to all Iota graduates, college and post-graduates, we say congratulates to you as you take that next step in your life's journey. You have achieved a major life goal, one that may have been years in the making. As Malcolm X stated, "Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."

We want to wish a special congratulates to our graduating seniors from Delta Phi, Howard University and Delta Rho, Alabama State University. We want to congratulate you on your accomplishments as you enter the "adult world" of job seeking and living on your own. It is a world filled with possibilities and we wish you the best as you step into that world. Remember this quote from Sandra Day O'Connor "Now the first suggestion is to aim high, but be aware that even before you have reached your ultimate professional destination, if you always strive for excellence, you can and should have a substantial impact on the world in which you live."

I also encourage you to continue your Iota journey by connecting with a graduate chapter wherever you relocate. Again, congratulates and best wishes for all your tomorrows.

Graduating members from Delta Rho, Alabama State University:

Soror Iyanah Scarbrough	Soror Sh'Nya Pickett	Soror Takeria Chapman
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Graduating members from Delta Phi, Howard University:

Soror Chase Rectorr	Soror Carizma Forbe	Soror Sh'Nya S. Pickett
Soror Fatou Drammeh	Soror Nya Parker	Soror Skylar Anthony
Soror Kristalyn Billips	Soror Natasha Wright	

# Happy GRADUATION

May you always have new opportunities come your way, and may you be always successful in your life. Happy Graduation!

## ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY



**Soror Chapman**  
Major: BS Computer  
Information System



**Soror Scarbrough**  
Major: BS Criminal Justice



**Soror Pickett**  
BS Accounting Degree







Soror Chase Rectorr



Soror Carizma Forbe



Soror Sh'Nya S. Pickett



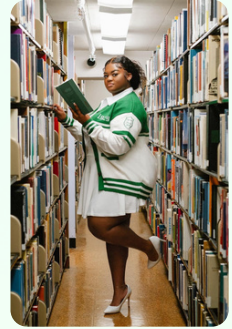
Soror Fatou Drammeh



Soror India Jackson



Howard University



Soror Jordan Moore



Soror Nya Parker



Soror Skylar Anthony



Soror Kristalyn Billips



Soror Natasha Wright

# HOWARD UNIVERSITY DELTA PHI



# Spotlight Southwest Region New Charter



Congratulations to Southwestern Region on their latest new chapter in Little Rock, Arkansas. On May 1, 2022, Southwest Region started a new chapter with the Induction, Chartering, and Installation of Officers for the Zeta Lambda Chapter.

**Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.**  
Southwestern Region



Virtual Ceremony  
Induction/Charter/Installation

Sunday May 1, 2022  
5:00 p.m.

**ZETA LAMBDA CHAPTER**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dorothy White, 23rd National President

**National Theme:** "Business and Professional Women:  
Building the Foundation for Generational Financial  
Empowerment"

Rosetta Davis, Southwestern Regional Director

**Regional Theme:** "Empowered Women:  
Together We Achieve the  
Extraordinary"



**INDUCTEES**

<i>Genseng W. Nunerley Craft</i>	<i>NaQuita Freeman</i>	<i>LeAndra Grant</i>	
			
<i>Lakesha Hinton</i>	<i>Charless Jackson</i>	<i>Shonta Moon</i>	<i>Arleja Stamps</i>
			

## **Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.** **Zeta Lambda Chapter Charter**



Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., authorizes the establishment of the Zeta Lambda Chapter in Little Rock, Arkansas. The said chapter shall be designated the Zeta Lambda Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., and will be subject to the Bylaws and Regulations of the Sorority.

### **Charter Members**

LeAndra Grant  
Shonta Moon

Charless Jackson  
NaQuita Freeman  
Genseng Nunerley Craft

Lakesha Hinton  
Arleja Stamps

In Witness Whereof, we the duly authorized officers of the National Board of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., founded in Chicago, Illinois in 1929, have affixed our signatures this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2022 and the 92<sup>nd</sup> year of the Sorority.

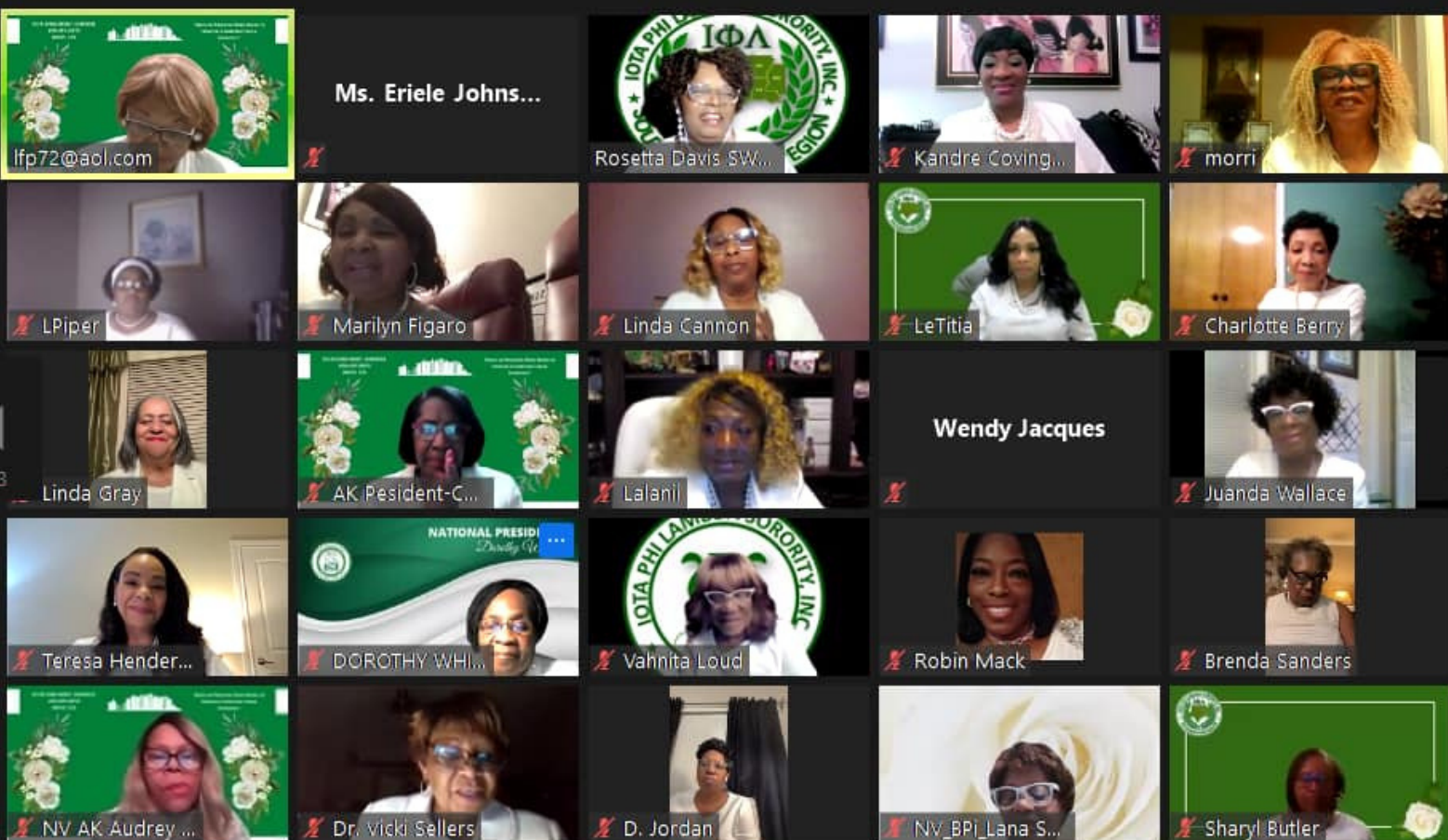
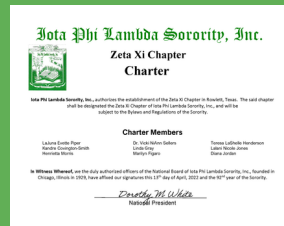


*Dorothy M. White*  
National President



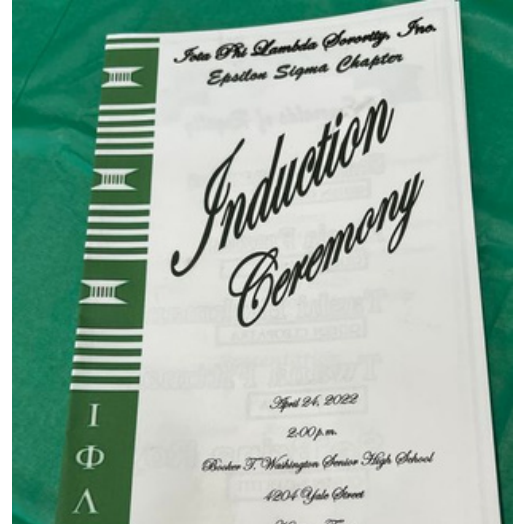
# Southwestern Region Charter

Congratulations! To Southwest newest Charter Zeta Xi Chapter, Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.





Southwest Region welcomed five new Sorors, also known as the Five Emeralds of Royalty, into Epsilon Sigma chapter. Congratulations to our newly inducted Sorors.



## SAVE THE DATE

### SATURDAY, JUNE 11 AM EST

### PRESS RELEASE TRAINING



On Zoom 11 June at am EST  
That is at 10 am CST, 9 am Pacific, and 10 am  
Mountain Time. This meeting is open to all Sorors of  
Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.

Soror Dr. Kendra Norman Holmes founder and publisher  
of The Royal Trumpet will be the speaker.

ID 840 3902 4727  
943254

Connect with us at <https://linktr.ee/iotaphilambdasorority>



# Parliamentary

Donna Mitchell announced iteration three of the newest members who passed the National Association of Parliamentarians membership exam.

Congratulation and job well done to these 12 ladies of Iota Phi Lambda

Sorority Inc. I'm so proud of you! Connie Anglin, DeAndrea L. Hughes, Valencia Dutton-Hall, Ty Dst, Katrina Stewart Warren, LeTitia Speed, Vee Jordan, Wilma Dunn, Tara L. Cook, Micah Saraha Moore, Vivian Vanwright and Barbara Dillard.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
on passing your National Association  
of Parliamentarians membership exam !

