

New Orleans Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc
presents

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH KNOWLEDGE, ECONOMIC STRENGTH, AND THE POWER OF THE VOTE

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Belencia D. Breaux, Chapter President
Andrea Thomas-Reynolds, Vice President of Programs

Social Action Committee
Margaret Montgomery Richard, Chair
Hattie M. Broussard, Co-Chair
Adele London, Co-Chair



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9:00 AM Welcome / Acknowledgements
Margaret Montgomery Richard, NOA Social Action Chair

Opening Prayer
Linda McGary, NOA Chapter Chaplain

The Occasion
Belencia D. Breaux, NOA Chapter President

OPENING PLENARY

Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Belencia D. Breaux

“Reimagining Democracy in the US”

Ashleigh Gardere
President of PolicyLink

PLENARY II

9:45 AM Public Meeting
Margaret Montgomery Richard

Introduction of Gina Swanson
Rachael Johnson

Introduction of Panelists
Gina Swanson

Panel Discussion
Joseph Giarrusso, NO City Councilman, District A
Dr. Takeisha Davis, NO East Hospital CEO and President,
Asali Devan Ecclesiastes,
Efforts of Grace and Ashe Cultural Arts Center Executive Director
Royce Duplessis, LA State Senator, District 5
Cashauna Hill, Esq., The Redress Movement Executive Director,
Jason William, Orleans Parish District Attorney

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Call to Action
Congressman Troy Carter, Sr, Louisiana 2nd Congressional District

Thank You and Acknowledgements
President Belencia D. Breaux

Public Meeting Closing & Next Steps
Margaret Montgomery Richard

11:30 AM LUNCH

Introduction of Speaker
Hattie M. Broussard, Social Action Committee Co-Chair

“The State of African Americans in New Orleans”

Asali Devan Ecclesiastes
Efforts of Grace and Ashe Cultural Arts Center
Executive Director

ALUMNAE TRACK

12:45 PM Workshops/ Panels

Room 2108 Fact or Fiction:

- △ Discerning the Truth in the Era of Misinformation and Disinformation Room
- △ Will Sutton, NO Times Picayune
- △ Jeff Thomas, Publisher of Think 504 and WBOK 1230 Owner/Partner
- △ Beverly McKenna NO Tribune Co-Founder and Publisher

Room 2107 From Apathy to Empowerment and Action!

- △ Lady Carlson, Together Louisiana Organizer
- △ Angele DeLarge, Black Voters Matter

Room 2109 Educating Black Children in the Era of Project 2025

- △ Adrinda Kelly, Executive Director, Black Education for N.O. (BE NOLA)
- △ Dr. Tammi Griffin-Major, CEO, Algiers Charter School Association
- △ Jamar McKneely, CEO, Inspire NOLA
- △ Leila Eames, Vice President, OPSB School Board, District

Room 2001 Protecting our Mental and Emotional Health-While Doing the Work

- △ Dr. Andrea Boyles, Tulane University Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Africana Studies, School of Liberal Arts
- △ Dr. Tonya Winfield, Clinical Psychologist and Director, Equal Opportunity and Compliance Division, LA Workforce Commission
- △ Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham, Executive Director and Medical Director, Metropolitan Human Services District

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- 1:40 PM Workshops - Round 2
- △ Fact or Fiction: Discerning the Truth in the Era of Misinformation and Disinformation
 - △ From Apathy to Empowerment and Action!
 - △ Educating Black Children in the Era of Project 2025
 - △ Protecting our Mental and Emotional Health – While Doing the Work

COLLEGIATE TRACK

- 12:45 PM Amplifying Young Voter Voices Part II
- △ Jamya Davis, Gamma Alpha Chapter, Xavier University
 - △ Amaris Frias, Nu Mu Citywide Chapter, Tulane University/ Loyola University
 - △ Faith Roberts, Epsilon Chi Chapter, Southern University at New Orleans
- Moderators: Dr. Sheryl Kennedy Haydel,
Dean, Loyola University School of Music and Media and
Shandrell Briscoe,
Senior Manager of Strategic Communications, Inspire NOLA Charter
Schools
- 1:40 PM Youth Grow Food for the Present and Leadership Skills for a Lifetime
Jonshell Johnson, Education Coordinator, Grow Dat Youth Farm
Joined by Youth Leaders from Grow Dat
- 2:35 PM Closing Remarks
Margaret Montgomery Richard
President Belencia D. Breaux

Dr. Andrea S. Boyles

Andrea S. Boyles is an award-winning author of books, *You Can't Stop the Revolution: Community Disorder and Social Ties in Post-Ferguson America* (UC Press 2019) and *Race, Place, and Suburban Policing: Too Close for Comfort* (UC Press 2015). She is also an Associate Professor of Sociology and Africana Studies at Tulane University.



Dr. Boyles' collective work centers "community" and community-engagement. As a race and gender scholar, and intersectional sociologist and criminologist, her research, writings, and talks cover a broad range of social justice-related topics that include but is not limited to neighborhood disadvantage and interactions; Black citizen-police conflict; crime and disorder; racial-spatial politics; Black social ties, resistance, collective action, and more.

As a public-facing intellectual, Dr. Boyles has received special thanks and been featured in numerous documentaries and short films, such as "Whose Streets?" and "Never Been a Time." She has also authored and been cited in print media like the Washington Post, ABC News, NBC News, Newsweek, The Atlantic and more, with regular appearances between television, podcasts, and public radio including but not limited to nationally syndicated programming.

Dr. Boyles is a native of St. Louis, MO. She holds a B.A. in English and M.A. in Sociology from Lincoln University of Missouri and a Ph.D. in Sociology from Kansas State University, with concentrations in gender and criminology.

Lady Carlson

Lady Carlson has been organizing with the Industrial Areas Foundation since 1991. IAF is a broad based civic and community organization working to identify key leaders in communities and work with them to develop strategies that address their concerns. She began her organizing career as a leader in the Triangle Interfaith Project in Port Arthur, TX. A native of Port Arthur, her first organizing assignment was with The Metropolitan Organization (TMO) in Houston. She was a Senior Organizer with Dallas Area Faith (DAI) and the Lead Organizer with Allied Communities of Tarrant (ACT) in Fort Worth. Ms. Carlson is currently the Lead Organizer with Westside Sponsoring Committee and Together Louisiana.

Nineteen years ago, Ms. Carlson moved to Louisiana and was the Lead Organizer for Northern and Central Louisiana Interfaith. NCLI covered an area that stretched from Alexandria in Central Louisiana to Shreveport in northwest to Monroe in northeast and Lake Providence in the Louisiana Delta. Some of her accomplishments include working with colleagues to create Together Louisiana, the statewide IAF affiliate. In Monroe working with leaders, we created New Opportunities Vision Achievement (NOVA) of Northeast Louisiana, a job readiness program that has moved low-wage earners into good paying jobs. Workers went from receiving public assistance to becoming taxpayers. She was also part of a statewide effort that recently defeated four constitutional amendments. She is currently working to develop a



rural strategy in the Baton Rouge metro region

Part of IAF’s goal is to identify and train local talent in communities and Ms. Carlson is a direct product of that effort. Over the past thirty years, first as a leader then as an organizer, she has worked in various areas of Texas and Louisiana to create broad-based institutions where families learn to act together in their own behalf across race, denomination, socio-economic status, gender, geography and all the lines that separate communities.

Leila Jacobs Eames



Mrs. Eames was born and raised in New Orleans and is a product of the school system in New Orleans. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge with a Master’s in Administration. She also earned certification in administration from Loyola University and the University of New Orleans. Mrs. Eames is a retiree of New Orleans Public Schools where she worked professionally for more than 33 years. She served as a 5th grade teacher, Title 1 Resource Teacher, Title 1 Coordinator of Instruction, and Associate Superintendent of Federal Programs, where she managed a \$50 million annual budget.

Even though she is retired, Mrs. Eames serves as a member of The Pontchartrain Links Chapter where she chairs programming and a commissioner on the Audubon Board. Mrs. Eames also served on two non-profit boards: Eastover Property Owners Association Board and the Non-Flood Protection Management Levee Board and the Lake Forest Charter School Board. In addition, she served as an educational national consultant providing support and assistance to school districts working with teachers, principals, and associate superintendents.

Mrs. Eames attends St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church, and this year she traveled to Ghana on a mission trip with her Links Chapter to help distribute food and supplies. She is the mother of two children and the proud grandmother of five grandchildren. Mrs. Eames enjoys traveling, reading, playing bridge, playing golf, and shopping.

Dr. Tamara “Tammi” Griffin-Major

Tamara “Tammi” Griffin-Major is an experienced management executive and governmental/public affairs specialist with a proven track record of working across constituent groups to formulate powerful collective efforts and transformative partnerships. Mission-focused and driven, Tammi has spent her career serving Greater New Orleans through leadership roles that span civic and professional industry. She currently serves as Chief Operating Officer for the Algiers Charter School Association.



Tammi earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education from Southern University of New Orleans, a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from Xavier University of New

Orleans and a Doctorate of Education in Executive Leadership at the University of Holy Cross. She has also completed leadership fellowships with the Nancy M. Marsiglia Institute of Justice and the Women's Leadership Academy at Loyola University New Orleans.

Born, raised and educated in the City of New Orleans, Tammi is a devoted wife and mother with deep roots in the community. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., The Links, Incorporated and associate mom with Jack and Jill of America, Inc. She has served as a parent volunteer at Jesuit High School and Stuart Hall School for Boys. She is an active parishioner in the St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church Parish Council. She has also served on the board of directors for the Algiers Economic Development Foundation. This year, Tammi was recognized as part of the Top 50 Women Leaders for Louisiana.

Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham

Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham serves as the Executive Director and Medical Director of the Metropolitan Human Services District. She is a seasoned leader in the addiction and mental health care industry, with board certifications in both Adult General and Addiction Psychiatry. Dr. Head-Dunham holds academic appointments at both LSU and Tulane Universities and has an extensive history of leadership at the national, state, and local levels. Her professional strengths include Christian leadership, clinical consultation, community psychiatry, and program development. She earned her medical degree with a focus in Addiction Psychiatry, completed her residency at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and received specialized addiction training at the University School of Medicine



Beverly Stanton McKenna



Beverly Stanton McKenna, who has been the constant in the overall direction and day-to-day operations of McKenna Publishing Co., says she has been preparing for her role as publisher/editor all of her life. As a young girl, McKenna dreamed of a career in journalism and communications. However, limited opportunities for African Americans in the field at that time caused her to major in English instead of journalism at Indiana University. However, McKenna continued to study and kept a close eye on the role and significance of the Black press in the African-American community. Prior to founding The Tribune, McKenna had been a high school English teacher in Washington D. C. She also was a public information officer for the government of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

McKenna is particularly proud to have been able to provide employment and training opportunities for the many young African Americans who have passed through the Tribune's doors in the last 28 years. She is also pleased when readers label The Tribune as a true "voice of integrity" for New Orleans' African American community.

Angele Jackson-DeLarge



Angele Jackson-DeLarge serves as the Louisiana Organizer for Black Voters Matter and is the founder and Chief Strategy Officer of DeLarge Strategies. With over 18 years of experience in strategy, leadership development, and advocacy, she helps mission-driven teams cut through complexity, align around purpose, and drive meaningful impact.

Angele's work lives at the intersection of systems, people, and purpose—supporting leaders through strategic planning, leadership development, and civic engagement rooted in equity and community.

Her approach blends big-picture thinking with sharp execution and a deep commitment to lasting change. She holds a Master of Public Administration from LSU and degrees from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Loyola University's Institute of Politics.

Adrinda "DRIN" Kelly

AA native New Orleanian and proud New Orleans Public Schools graduate, Adrinda "Drin" Kelly credits her incredible teachers for her resilience, drive, and unrelenting belief in the assets of Black education. She currently serves as the Executive Director of Blacks in Education New Orleans (BE NOLA). Drin is passionate about building the capacity of exceptional Black educators to provide a high-quality education to our children while challenging structural relationships of inequity through narrative and systems-change strategies. Prior to her nonprofit work, Adrinda worked as an education editor in New York, where she focused on developing



college preparatory resources for underrepresented students. Immediately prior to BE NOLA, Adrinda was the national managing director of staff diversity, equity, and inclusiveness strategy at Teach For America and led several initiatives focused on strengthening staff and alumni communities of color. Adrinda has written on the intersection between race, history, and education for Teachers and Writers Magazine, Students at the Center, and the Journal of Humanities and Cultural Studies. Adrinda graduated with a B.A. in English from Harvard University and holds an M.A. in Humanities and Social Thought (Global History) from New York University. In 2008 she was a Diversity Studies Fellow at the University of Cape Town. She is an active McDonogh #35 Alumni Association member and a Fall 2018 Pahara NextGen Fellow.

Jamar McKneely



Jamar McKneely is the chief executive officer of InspireNOLA Charter Schools, a charter management organization that educates 5,300 students in seven New Orleans schools: Alice Harte, Edna Karr High School, Eleanor McMain Secondary School, Andrew Wilson, Dwight Eisenhower, McDonogh 35, and Capdau STEAM. In 2013, Jamar cofounded InspireNOLA Charter Schools to transform an educational movement in New Orleans. InspireNOLA is the highest-performing open-admission charter network in New Orleans. One of the pillar attributes of InspireNOLA Charter Schools is the focus on community outreach programs to encourage students socially and emotionally to reach their full potential. Jamar was principal of Alice Harte (K-8) after serving for seven years as a teacher and assistant principal at Edna Karr (9-12). Prior to becoming an educator, he worked as a budget analyst for two nonprofit organizations. Jamar’s educational philosophy is derived from Marian Wright Edelman’s significant quote: “The question is not whether we can afford to invest in every child; it is whether we can afford not to.” Jamar earned both a bachelor’s degree in finance and a master’s degree in educational administration from Southern University in Baton Rouge.

Will Sutton

Will Sutton is a veteran journalist and senior editor who joined The Times-Picayune | The Advocate and NOLA.com as a columnist and editorial writer in late September 2019. Sutton has had a distinguished career in daily journalism, higher education, communications and marketing. He has taught at Hampton University, Grambling State University and Loyola University. He is a former president of the National Association of Black Journalists.

A New Orleans native, Sutton is a 1973 graduate of St. Aug, where he was in the Marching 100. He graduated from Hampton in 1977. He’s was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University where he studied civil rights and apartheid— and critical race theoryin the 1980s as it was being developed. He’s a second generation, life member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He’s been active in one or more chapters everywhere he’s lived. He’s been an Omega Man of the Year, a chapter officer and a district officer.



Jeff Thomas

A dedicated media and technology professional, Jeff Thomas currently serves as a Partner at WBOK 1230 AM Radio in the Greater New Orleans Area, a role held since January 2020. With over five years of experience in this position, he contribute to the station's full-time operations and community engagement. In addition, Jeff Thomas is the Publisher and Editor of Think504.COM, a website and online newsletter that has been informing and connecting the New Orleans community since February 2009. With over 250,000 subscribers, the newsletter is published every Monday and Thursday and serves as a trusted voice on local issues.



With a career spanning over 26 years, Jeff Thomas is also the President of Total Computer Solutions, Inc., where he provide customized computer consulting services. This includes network consulting, database development, website creation, and hardware support for a diverse range of clients. Jeff Thomas is an alum of Xavier University of Louisiana, further grounding their work in a strong commitment to education, technology, and civic leadership.

Dr. Tonya Jones Winfield

Dr. Winfield was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. She is a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother to the BEST seven grandchildren on the planet.

Dr. Winfield holds a Doctorate in Psychology (PsyD) from Grand Canyon University, Doctorate degree in Healthcare Administration from Virginia University of Lynchburg, Lynchburg Virginia a Master's of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor of Science degree in both Criminal Justice and Psychology from Southern University of New Orleans.



Dr. Winfield has a multifaceted professional background to include over 20 years of Law enforcement experience, serving Physical and Mental Health populations and Academic Leadership. She is currently employed with the State of Louisiana and serves as Director to the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Division. Among other rewarding accomplishments and memberships, Dr. Winfield is a proud member of the Illustrious Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, New Orleans Alumnae Chapter, serves as Academic Chair Board member for International High School of New Orleans and is the Co- CEO of "A Journey through Forever", a non-profit organization dedicated to helping homeless youth.

Jamya Davis - Gamma Alpha



Jamya Davis is a member of the Graduating Centennial Class of 2025 at Xavier University of Louisiana, majoring in Political Science with a double minor in History and Public Health. Originally from Orlando, Florida—Jamya enjoys sunshine, palm trees, going to church, listening to music, and spending time with friends and family. She is a proud member of Cohort 4 of the Xavier Exponential Honors Program and actively involved in campus life, including Chi-Alfa Campus Ministries ('22–Present), volunteering at the XULA Library’s Historical Archives (Spring '24–Present), and currently serves as President of the Government and Politics Association Society and Secretary of Academic Advancement for the Student Government Association’s Presidential Cabinet. In Fall 2023, Jamya was initiated into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated through the Gamma Alpha Chapter as a member of the “Forces of For71tude (Fortitude)” line. Since then, she has served as the chapter’s Social Action Chair, leading her committee with great humility and pride. Under her leadership, the committee earned 2nd place for Social Action at the most recent Regional Convention. Deeply committed to Xavier’s mission of promoting a more just and humane society, Jamya looks forward to graduating in May 2025.

Faith Roberts - Epsilon Chi

Faith Roberts is from Cleveland, Ohio, and is currently a Sophomore pursuing a nursing major at Southern University at New Orleans. She serves as the Student Representative on the Faculty Senate, a SUNO Knight Life Media Intern, the Student Government Association Chief Justice Elect, and a manager for the SUNO Baseball team. Faith aspires to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. She was initiated into the Epsilon Chi Chapter in Spring 2025 and currently serves as the Chapter President.



Amaris Frias - Nu Mu Citywide



Amaris Frias is a Senior Digital Media Practices and Communications major at Tulane University. She was initiated into the “Never Mediocre” Nu Mu Citywide Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in Fall 2023 and served as the chapter’s Social Action Chair before stepping into her role of chapter President. Soror Frias has always been passionate about service and social action, with a special interest in prison reform and battling food insecurity. These special interests have manifested in her work to start a free food pantry for students on her college’s campus and fighting for prison reform with non-profits in the city of New Orleans.

Sheryl Kennedy Haydel, Ph.D, APR

Sheryl Kennedy Haydel, Ph.D, APR, is the College of Music and Media Dean at Loyola University New Orleans. Over her 30-year career, she has worked as a journalist, an award-winning public relations executive, and a college professor. She has been twice awarded the Individual Award of Excellence by the Public Relations Society of America's New Orleans Chapter.



Dr. Haydel's academic and administrative journey has taken her to esteemed institutions such as Xavier University of Louisiana, Dillard University, and Louisiana State University. Her research, a compelling exploration of the role of the Black collegiate press in the pursuit of Civil Rights and the contemporary use of social media for branding and activism, is a testament to her intellectual curiosity and commitment to social change.

Dr. Haydel's academic achievements include a doctorate in Mass Communication from the University of Southern Mississippi – Hattiesburg, an MBA from the University of Wisconsin – Madison with a focus in Marketing, a master's degree in Journalism from the University of Maryland – College Park, and a bachelor's degree in Mass Media Arts from Clark Atlanta University where she was initiated into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in the Fall of 1988 via the mighty single letter Sigma Chapter.

Dr. Haydel is a Diamond Life Member of the New Orleans Alumnae Chapter. Her leadership journey in Delta includes serving as the national co-chair of the communications committee for the 2010 and 2019 Delta conventions and a co-chair for the 2025 New Orleans Alumnae's Founders Day celebration.

Shandrell Briscoe

Shandrell Briscoe is a distinguished communications specialist, strategist, and public relations professional with over 15 years of experience across various industries. A proud alumna of Xavier University of Louisiana, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication/Public Relations in 2009 and went on to obtain a Master of Science in Hospitality & Tourism Management from the University of New Orleans in 2013. Her diverse career spans sectors such as hospitality and tourism, oil and gas, and both K-12 and higher education, with notable collaborations including Chevron, Shell, Tabasco, New Orleans & Company, ESSENCE Music Festival, Tales of the Cocktail, Gulf States Health Policy Center, and Xavier University of Louisiana. Currently, Shandrell serves as the Senior Manager of Strategic Communications at InspireNOLA Charter Schools, where she leads initiatives to elevate the visibility of a network of seven schools serving more than 5,000 students. Her expertise includes public and media relations, event production, social media management, graphic design, and video production, all aimed at amplifying the transformative work of InspireNOLA. In recognition of her excellence, she was honored as one of Xavier University's 40 Under 40 in 2023 and has received multiple accolades, including three PRSA Awards of Merit and the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools' 2023 Public Relations Opportunities for Positive Storytelling Award. Shandrell is an active member of the New



Orleans Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and devotes time to community service through organizations like Crescent City Café and St. Mary's Academy. A 2019 Emerging Philanthropists of New Orleans cohort member, her career is a testament to her unwavering commitment to impactful communication and public service, making her a dynamic leader and inspiring force in her field and community.

New Orleans Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to the various individuals and community partners that have all contributed to making this Symposium possible.



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