

Pearls of Wisdom PEΩ

A publication of Rho Xi Omega Chapter
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

September-October 2009

1498 Reisterstown Road # 369 Pikesville, Maryland 21208-3842

Volume 21; Issue 6

Economics, Service and Partnerships - Year 3

“UNITED WE SERVE”

Rho Xi Omega’s Partnership with Rebuilding Together

Rho Xi Omega answered the “Call to Serve” during President Obama’s Summer of Service! On Saturday, August 8, 2009, seven Rho Xi Omega sorors (and Soror Deborah Childs’ daughter Kayla) and one Epsilon Omega soror transformed themselves into home repair divas! In partnership with Rebuilding Together Baltimore, we joined an effort to help a low-income, disabled couple in the Gwynn Oak neighborhood in Baltimore City. Thanks to **Sorors Gwen Barbour, Sheryl Nelson, Deborah Childs, Cynthia Pace, Kerry McClellan and Yvonne Moten** for joining me for this amazing project. We enjoyed working with Soror Audrey Bennett of Epsilon Omega chapter who joined us.



This project was Rho Xi Omega’s Platform II: The Economic Keys to Success ESP service project for the United We Serve initiative. Rho Xi Omega answered the call from the Corporate office and the International Program Committee to provide “service to all mankind” – while we were on our traditional summer hiatus!

Alpha Kappa Alpha has emphasized the value of homeownership through the national ESP program initiative. In our chapter, we have emphasized the value of homeownership education and foreclosure prevention resources over the past three years. Our project on August 8 focused on *homeownership preservation*. The repairs made will help the family stay in their home without being forced to make difficult economic choices, such as making needed repairs vs. purchasing medication or food.

The family bought their home almost 20 years ago, and the husband became ill soon after they moved in. Both the husband and the wife have overcome a number of serious illnesses. Through it all, they have been unable to afford the types of repairs needed on their home. They were extremely appreciative of our help, and were wonderful hosts and very graciously opened up their home to us. We loved their positive spirit and their good cheer. Our house captain was Jim, an AmeriCorps member with Rebuilding Together, who was very encouraging and patient with us. He was very appreciative of all of our work, which helped him to finish the last project of his AmeriCorps year.

Rebuilding Together Baltimore is a 20 year old local affiliate of the national organization Rebuilding Together. The group has provided repairs to over 1,000

Continued on page 3

Inside this Issue

Basileus’ Message.....	2
Programs.....	3
Soror Spotlight.....	5
Events.....	8
Chapter Operations.....	9
Protocol.....	11
Hodegos Report.....	12
Reminders & Notes.....	13

Message from the Basileus

Greetings Sorors,

Fall has officially begun. The leaves are turning beautiful shades of orange, brown and yellow. Temperatures are fluctuating below what we call sweater weather. While the seasons change, our chapter's focus remains constant. Rho Xi Omega is poised to close out the last quarter of 2009 with pride and meaning accomplishments. However, we must do more than talk about our accomplishments, now is the time to document our successes and programs. To ensure timely submission of reports, sorors should assist committee chairs by compiling information and submitting pictures from chapter activities.

Speaking of chapter activities, pink tea roses go to sorors who recently planned and executed successful programs and events in September and October.

- * Sorors Elizabeth Williams and Michelle Davis Adams and the Membership committee for an enjoyable and informative Chapter retreat. Special guest, Soror Allyson Solomon shared her leadership journey and provided insight to sorors contemplating leadership.
- * Sorors Shawn Millin and Lakeisha Coleman and committee for a successful fun-fundraising Pink Chic cabaret.
- * Sorors Debbie Shannon and Tanisha Adams Dixon and Platform V for coordinating chapter participation in the Witney Lights Domestic Violence Walk.

I will continually reiterate how important it is for **EVERY SOROR to PARTICIPATE** in chapter programs. Beyond making a difference in our communities, it is one of the best ways to bond with sorors. Meaningful service programs continue to be the thrust of Rho Xi Omega. During the year, each soror should have been involved with one Platform either by serving on the committee or participation in a program. If neither is the case, there are still 3 months left in the year to do your part.

Rho Xi Omega chapter needs more servant leaders. Nominations for leadership are currently being sought for several chapter offices and Soror Cassandra Burnett is accepting nominations. Please refer to the Chapter Bylaws and the procedures manual for details. This is the perfect time to communicate with sorors in offices that interest you. Leaders who attract other leaders are strongly encouraged to run for office.

Sorors, thank you again for your unwavering support and service to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Yours in the Sisterhood,

Soror Sheryl

"Leaders are not given authority to better themselves, to enlarge their income or social status, or to improve their standard of living. They are first and always servants of others."

John C. Maxwell – Leadership Promises for Every Day



Chapter Officers

Sheryl Nelson
President

Tracey Barbour, 1st Vice President

Juanita Tynes Tillery, 2nd Vice President

Rose Monroe, Ph.D., Recording Secretary
Nina McFadden, Asst. Recording Secretary
Deanna McCray-James, Corresponding Sec.

Marjorie Edmonds, Treasurer
Shanika Solomon, Financial Secretary

Joanna Langston, Door Keeper

L'oreal Edmondson, Hostess

Cecile Matthews, Historian

Vanessa Ray, Ivy Leaf Reporter

Helen G. Anderson, Parliamentarian

Jan Desper, Chaplain

Angela Burnett, Graduate Advisor-AB

Members At Large:

Autumn Anderson Chandra D. Campbell
Martina Washington LaShawn Williams

Rho Xi Omega Charities' Officers

Alison Riddle-Fletcher, DDS
President

Donna Price, Vice President

Gina McKnight Smith, Pharm. D, Secretary

Pam King-Smith, Treasurer

Shirlene Snowden, Assistant Treasurer

Edith Aydtlett-Whitmore, Financial Secretary

Board Members:

Tracey Barbour Marjorie Edmonds
C. Yvonne Holt Stone Anita Turks Hunter
Sheryl Nelson Elizabeth A. Williams

North Atlantic Regional News – DATES TO REMEMBER

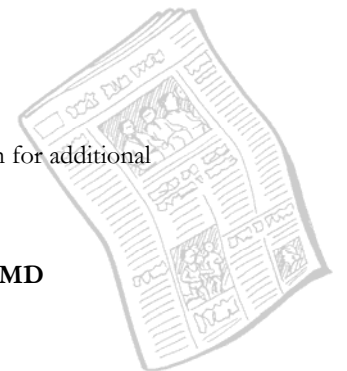
Saturday, October 24, 2009 – Cluster I Leadership Conference

Four Points by Sheraton New Carrollton 8500 Annapolis Road New Carrollton, MD 20784

December 31st – Deadline to submit Regional Conference Assessment. See Soror Shanika Solomon for additional information.

January 24, 2010 – Metropolitan Founders' Day Celebration

March 24 – 28, 2010 – North Atlantic Regional Conference – National Harbor; Fort Washington, MD



homes in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Their key clients are low income homeowners who are elderly, disabled, and/or have children. Rebuilding Together uses a volunteer workforce to make their clients' homes warmer, safer, and drier. Our efforts were featured in the August issue of Rebuilding Together Baltimore's e-newsletter.



The funding for the repairs was primarily provided by Constellation Energy, who sponsored the home. A new roof was donated by a local contractor. On August 4th, Constellation Energy employees took on some of the major repairs that the home needed. On the 8th, we focused on painting the exterior of the home, hanging a new storm door, and re-hanging a laundry room door, installing low-flow faucets in the bathroom and kitchen, laying tile in the bathroom, and patching a hole in the ceiling. There were eight other volunteers on site that day. Many of the repairs made the home more energy efficient, which will help to reduce the couple's BGE bills, and help the environment. Other repairs and improvements to the home included window repair/replacement, faucet on utility tub replaced,

furnace repair, tree limbs cut, attic insulation, drywall patched, carbon monoxide detectors installed, fire extinguisher installed.



Those who volunteered on August 8 received an electronic copy of the thank you letter from the homeowners, which said, in part: *"We will be forever grateful, and always remember the joy and gladness that your presence brought to our home."*

FALL 2009 CHAPTER RETREAT - "Every Soror Shopping for Pearls"

TOP 8 FALL PROGRAM MUST HAVES

MUST HAVE #1 – **HELPING OTHERS TO STAND AND BE COUNTED!!** Census 2010 – Census Day is April 1, 2010! The Connection Committee is exploring ways to connect us with the larger movement to make sure everyone is counted! Join the Connection Committee to participate in this activity. Contact Soror Katharine Carter for more details.

MUST HAVE # 2 –STANDING UP AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. As you should have seen in recent program updates, Rho Xi Omega is joining in the Witney’s Lights Foundation 2009 Walk/5K Run to

Continued on page 4

End Domestic Violence. At NARC, one of the Resolutions passed was in support of Domestic Violence prevention and education. Contact Soror Debra Shannon or Soror Tanisha Adams-Dixon to learn about the caravan of sorors going to Dover, DE to volunteer at the walk on October 3.

MUST HAVE # 3 – WALKING TO FIND A CURE. Making Strides Against Breast Cancer – October 25. Our online website is up and running – Team AKA Rho Xi Omega. Visit http://makingstrides.acevents.org/site/PageServer?pagename=MSABC_FY10_findanevent For questions, contact Soror Tanisha Adams-Dixon

MUST HAVE # 4 – INCREASING YOUR AKATUDE FOR A WEALTHY VISION. “AKAtudes for a Wealthy Visions: Building Wealth in Today's Recession," Saturday, November 7, 2009, 8:00 am – 12:00 noon; Location: bwtech@UMBC, 1450 South Rolling Road, Baltimore, MD 21227

Registration fee of \$25 is required. This workshop is open to all Cluster 1 Sorors and Guests. Registration forms are located on the chapter web site - <http://www.rhoxiomega1988.org/>. Registrants are asked to bring business cards for networking purposes. For questions and additional information please contact Anita Hunter anitahunter3332@comcast.net

In addition, the *1st RXO Platform 1 AKAlades Entrepreneur Award* will be given at the workshop. The awards recognize and celebrate *Entrepreneurial SORORS within Rho Xi Omega*. There will be 6 award categories: New Entrepreneur, Second Chance Entrepreneur, Global Perspective Business, Home Based Business, Green Entrepreneur Business, and Techno Savvy Business. The award nominations are due by Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009 to Soror Myrna Jackson-Cann

MUST HAVE #5 – HELPING OTHER PEOPLE EXCEL. **Day of HOPE** November 21. This year’s partner is the Helping Up Mission in the Jonestown section of Baltimore City. Sorors Dana Davidson & Linda Jones-Coxson are our chairs for this activity, a committee meeting will be scheduled soon. Our model will be similar to last year – donations, possibly serving a meal, and possibly workshops.

MUST HAVE # 6 – LEARNING ABOUT THE CHALLENGES WOMEN FACE AROUND THE WORLD. Stand in solidarity with poor and marginalized women around the world. In honor of the U.N.'s International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17th, the International Program Committee is encouraging us to watch, discuss, and act! A documentary “A Powerful Noise”, a film about women changing the world, was simulcast to hundreds of theatres across the country for International Women's Day 2009. The DVD is now available, contact Soror Tracey Barbour-Gillett for more information.

MUST HAVE #7 – ENJOYING SUMMER VACATION MEMORIES: **CAMP FONT-TASTIC** – A committee is being formed to review the Camp, its goals, and programming. Please let Soror Tracey Barbour know if you would like to join this committee.



Platform I – Entrepreneur Sorors Prevailing

Soror Spotlight



Soror Brenda Bowe Johnson, Ph.D. is the Co-Owner and Vice-President of The Language House, Incorporated. Soror Brenda's daughter, Gyl is the Founder and **President** of the company. The Language House specializes in:

- TESOL/TEFL (Teaching English to Students of Other Languages/Teaching English as a Foreign Language) Training
- Language Training
- Teaching Business English
- Travel Tours to France, Italy, Morocco, and Turkey

We offer exciting locations in Montpellier, France, Marrakech, Morocco, Genoa, Italy and Antalya, Turkey. We have a diverse clientele which includes the United States, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, Europe and North Africa.

Soror Brenda has forty years of experience in education and administration ranging from elementary thru graduate school. Her most recent position was Director, Field Supervision, University of Maryland University College, Graduate School and Assistant Professor. In addition, she is a facilitator and researcher for the Gaston-Porter Women's Health Center.

Why did you decide to start your own business?

Entrepreneurship is a part of my family history. My grandparents and parents had businesses. I have always had little business ventures. When my daughter approached me about the Language House, it was the ideal time. It was exciting.

What were some of your challenges or obstacles, and how did you overcome them?

There are challenges and obstacles in every aspect of life. We trust each other and talk through issues. Marketing is a continuous challenge. With an internet business, one must find creative ways to get clients to view and respond to your websites. Gyl has worked diligently to create ways to keep The Language House visible.

What advice would you give to other aspiring entrepreneurs?

- Research your field
- Reach out to others to form partnerships
- Join organizations to promote your business
- Work at your business daily and pray



“You Got a Pink Slip, How can you Turn it into Green?”

AKAtudes for Wealthy Visions: Building Wealth in Today's Recession workshop - that's how!

When: Sat., Nov. 7, 2009; 8:00 am – Noon

Location: BWtech@UMBC, 1450 S. Rolling Road, Baltimore, MD 21227.

This workshop is open to all Cluster 1 Sorors and guests. Registration forms are located on RXO's website. For questions and additional information please contact Anita Hunter or anitahunter3332@comcast.net.

Key highlights of the workshop include an illustrious slate of presenters:

- **Mischa Toland** of Greatness Now will deliver a dynamic and motivational keynote address. Check her out at <http://www.greatnessnow.org/index.html>
- **Soror Tonya Taylor** of Rising Star Ideas will provide Social Media Secrets - What Entrepreneurs Need to Succeed. For more details on the toolkit visit www.risingstarideas.com.
- Our own **Soror Donna Stevenson Robinson** (<http://www.emslab.com/>) will present a special session entitled “*Show Me the Money!*”

Your choice of three tracks:

- *Track 1* - Tools of the Trade targeted for the new entrepreneur or that woman who is thinking about owning her own business - presented by Paul Taylor from the Small Business Resource Center. (www.sbrcbaltimore.com) Paul is the 2009 Maryland Small Business “District Director Unsung Hero” Award winner!
- *Track 2* – Survival of the Fittest targeted for the seasoned entrepreneur that is looking for tools that will take her to the next level presented by Debbie Owens (www.deborahowens.com) the infamous Wealth Coach on Generation TV!
- *Track 3* – Franchises in this Economy – Franchising Do's and Don'ts presented by Soror Paula Lawson Wright the owner of 17 McDonald franchises! She also is part of the Diva's uncorked in Boston. (www.divasuncorked.com)

The 1st RXO Platform I AKAlades Entrepreneur Award will be presented at the workshop. Come represent and celebrate our own entrepreneurial sorors. There are 6 award categories: New Entrepreneur, 2nd Chance Entrepreneur, Global Perspective Business, Home Based Business, Green Entrepreneur Business, and Techno Savvy Business. Forms are attached and located on RXO's website. **The award nominations are due by Sat., Oct. 24, 2009 to Soror Myrna Jackson-Cann mcjcann@yahoo.com.**

This workshop is open to all Cluster 1 Sorors and guests. Bring your business cards and get ready for some power networking. Registration forms are located on RXO's website. For questions and additional information please contact Anita Hunter anitahunter3332@comcast.net.

Registration fee of \$25 is due by Sat. Oct. 24, 2009 (includes registration and brunch) to Soror Edith Aydlett-Whitmore, P.O. Box 294, Randallstown, MD 21133.

Platform V – Energized, Supportive & Purposeful

Sorors from Rho Xi Omega chapter/Platform V participated in the 5K *Walk/Run to End Domestic Violence* held at Silver Lake Park in Dover, Delaware on October 3, 2009. The walk was sponsored by Witney's Lights. Witney's Lights is named after the late Dr. Witney Holland Rose, a University of Maryland Psychiatrist who was murdered in 2003 by her ex-boyfriend. Witney's Lights is a grassroots non-profit organization committed to eliminating domestic violence through awareness, education, prevention, advocacy, and a commitment to advancing the initiatives laid out in the landmark Violence against Women Act of 1994. The walk raised \$32,529.75 which includes a donation of \$500 from Rho Xi Omega Charities. Sorors in attendance included *Sheryl Nelson, Tanisha Adams-Dixon, Debra Shannon, Rose Monroe, Tanya Green, Michele Leak, Kim Palmore, Martina Washington, and Julia Cayette-Lawson.*

For more information go to www.witneyslights.com



Calendar of Events

October 2009

3rd – PINK CHIC

6th - Finance Committee¹

7th - Membership Committee Meeting²

9th - Scrapbooking Sister Circle⁷

11th - Platforms III & V Meetings⁴

13th - Executive Committee Meeting

16th – Rho Xi Omega Charities Retreat⁸

24th – Cluster I Leadership Conference

26th - Chapter Meeting*

November 2009

3rd – Finance Committee¹

4th - Membership Committee Meeting²

6th – Fundraising Committee⁵

7th – AKAtudes for Business Workshop

9th - Platforms III & V Meetings⁴

10th - Executive Committee Meeting¹

21st – PROJECT H.O.P.E.

23rd - Chapter Meeting*

αA κK αA

Exhibiting Superior Participation...

“Catch the Excitement of Our Operations Committees”

Soror Juanita Tynes Tillery, 2nd Anti-Basileus
(VP.Operations@rhoxiomega1988.org)



THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: Soror Jeri Bentley & Soror Keisha Thomas

- ★ Our fall ‘Fun’draiser, “*Pink Chic*” was held at the Pikesville Fire Hall on Saturday, October 3, 2009. For the second year, this “old-fashioned cabaret” was a “HUGE” success. It was so much fun to go from table to table sharing and partaking of the many delectable foods and delicious libations. On the dance floor, the new wave of “line dances” was the preference and Sorors helped all, who were interested, learn the “Party Walk.” Raffles were held throughout the evening as a thank you to the attendees. Also, blinking bracelets, pins and drink



Soror LaKeshia bottom left & Soror Shawn top right

Sorors Vanessa, Sheryl (President), Angie and Tracey lead the “Party Walk.” glasses added to the ambience and fun. This event was so successful because the hard-working committee, which was co-chaired by *Shawn Millin-Hagood* and *LaKeshia Coleman*. A full page article about *Pink Chic* is in the **October 16th edition of the *Baltimore Times*, on page 2.** Also, you can assess the article by logging on to: http://baltimoretimes-online.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=809&Itemid=31

Before we began the summer hiatus, The Fundraising Committee drafted 2 surveys for us to complete: “The Funds Needed to Operate Programs” and “Possible Fundraisers.” Committee members will report the results of the surveys at the October Chapter Meeting.

THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE: *Soror Helen Griffin-Anderson, Chairman*

This committee is carefully analyzing and reviewing our Bylaws to make any necessary additions/corrections, so that they remain in compliance with our International documents. Soror Helen welcomes your suggestions as they pertain to your office or to a committee you serve on.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: *Sorors Elizabeth Williams & Michelle Davis-Adams*

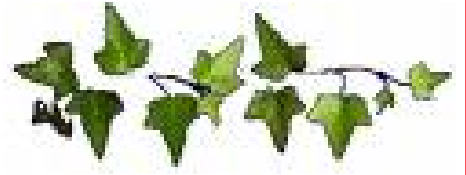
- ★ The Membership Committee planned and executed a wonderful “over night” retreat titled, “Every Soror Shopping for Pearls.” The Retreat was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Timonium, on September 25 & 26, 2009. Friday night was an evening of bonding and enjoying the company of other Sorors. Breakout activities included “Line-dancing,” “Word & Board Games,” “Card Games,” and shopping at the Vendors, who contributed some of the gifts for the raffles that were held throughout the event. Saturday morning began with a continental breakfast, which was followed by our guest speaker, Soror Brigadier General Allyson R. Solomon. Our Protocol Committee modeled proper attire for various Alpha Kappa Alpha occasions. This was followed by a presentation from our Parliamentarian, Soror Helen titled, “*BYLAWS: Good God...What are They Good For? ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING!!!*” After a delectable luncheon, we ended the day “with a kiss!” This unique activity began at registration where you given the name of a Soror, whom you were to observe during the Retreat. Then you were supposed to jot down some special words of praise for your Soror and share it with her at the end of the retreat. The activity culminated with a “Hersey Kiss” on her note card and of course, a big hug and a kiss. Special Kudos to the entire committee and to ***Soror Janet Cooper*** for selecting the perfect venue for this exceptional Retreat.
- ★ The committee is now hard at work planning our reclamation activity, which will be held on **Sunday, November 15, 2009** at **Northwest Hospital’s Educational Center**. Please send the addresses of inactive Sorors, to either *Soror Betty* or *Soror Michelle* so they can be sent invitations.

THE PROTOCOL COMMITTEE: *Soror Judith Britton, Chairman*

This committee is meeting monthly to be certain that Chapter Sorors are aware of proper attire and proper decorum during all Alpha Kappa Alpha events an occasions.



Protocol Corner
Everyone Serves a Purpose!!!



Hodegos Report - Soror L'oreal Edmonson

September Birthdays

4th - Helen Anderson

8th - Anna M. Williams

10th - Syeeta Hampton-El

11th - Dana Davison

14th - Shirlene Snowden

17th - Tanyka Young

26th - Arlisa Ledbetter

28th - Toya Corbett

29th - Cynthia Bruce

October Birthdays

5th - Trace White

12th - Shelvon Skinner

13th - Angela Burnett

19th - Shannon McRae

21st - Normetha Goodrum

22nd - Autumn Anderson

24th - Brittany Pinkney

30th - La'Kesha Johnson

**If you haven't done so, please send your birthday to

or stop by the Hodegos station at chapter meeting.



Condolences & Prayers

IN MEMORIAM.....An Elegant & Sophisticated Pearl

Soror Avonnee E. Brown

Please remember **Honey-Do Sam Brown** in your prayers.

Soror Barbara Forrest on the passing of her mother

Soror Karen Heyward West on the passing of her grandmother

GET WELL WISHES

Soror Juanita Tynes Tillery & Bettye Fitzgerald following a car accident

Soror Brenda Johnson & Soror Angela Burnett after hospitalization

Please remember all these sorors in your prayers and reach out to them via phone, e-mail, mail or USPS.



Congratulations & Tea Roses to.....

Soror LaKeita Carter on the birth of her son, Jarrett Leon "June" Carter, Jr. on October 21st.

Soror Shawn Millin-Hagood on her recent marriage.

Soror Tracey Barbour-Gillett on her recent marriage.

NEWEST LIFE MEMBERSoror Lydia McCargo Redd



Reminders & Notes.....

- 1) **AKA License Plates** - Sorors interested in obtaining NAR-AKA Log License Tag for Maryland Send two checks one in the amount of \$25.00 made payable to MVA and one in the amount of \$20.00 made payable to Rho Xi Omega Chapter. Submit a copy of current vehicle registration card and a copy of current financial card. Please allow 45 days to receive tag. Please send documents and payment to Soror Mary E. Mason.

Sorors please feel free to submit any of the following to the Newsletter Committee for upcoming editions at rxoakanews@gmail.com:

- Any original poems, short stories, artwork or photography you'd like to share.
- Committee meetings, conference calls, Sister Circles, deadlines or events
- Trivia Questions

Calling all writers and photographers, the Newsletter could use your talents. If you'd like to contribute to any the upcoming cover themes, please contact Soror Deanna at rxoakanews@gmail.com. The submission deadline for all issues is the 8th of each month.



Did you know???

1. What pharmaceutical manufacturing company started National Breast Cancer Awareness Month? When?
2. Maryland becomes the first state to pass a law making wife-beating a crime and punishable by 40 lashes or one year in jail in what year?
3. Soror Starlet Marie Jones, more popularly known as Star Jones served on Alpha Kappa Alpha's National Directorate in what position?

Answers to May-June's trivia:

- 1) Texas (Galveston)
- 2) Freedom Day or Emancipation Day
- 3) Dr. Wangari Muta Maathai of Kenya

Pearls of Wisdom is the official publication of Rho Xi Omega Chapter.

Contributed to this Issue: Sorors Tanisha Adams, Sherry Armstead, Tracey Barbour, Judith Britton, Julia Cayette, L'oreal Edmondson, Deanna McCray-James, Sheryl Nelson, Sheila Rolack, Debra Shannon, Juanita Tynes Tillery

Thank You Sorors
Thank You Sorors