

THE ZETA PHI ZENITH



A NEW CHAPTER



ze-nith
/'zēnəTH/

The time at which something is most powerful or successful.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The phenomenal Zeta Phi Chapter was chartered on August 13, 2023. Since then, our charter members have hit the ground running to support the Tomball, Texas community. As the president of Zeta Phi, I am grateful for the opportunity to work with women who believe in Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. This year, our community service efforts center around the spiritual, professional and business—the 3 pillars of the Zeta Phi chapter. In doing so, our aim has been to expand our network and the impact of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.

During our chartering ceremony we welcomed Tomball’s Mayor—Lori Klein Quinn. During the month of September, we joined forces with the Lone Star College-Tomball staff in a partnership that helped us reach one of our first goals: blessing nearly 40 local foster children with shoes and backpacks. In honor of healthcare month and in alignment with our aim to help support Black women on their journey toward business ownership, we recently co-hosted a Business and Health Summit that was attended by over 50 participants.

We are elated to report that thus far, we have hosted two informational sessions at which we were not only able to share information about our beloved sorority but promote interest in membership. As we continue to work together as a chapter, we remain prayerful so that we may continue to allow God to order our steps. As a new chapter, our goal is to operate within the vision Lola Mercedes Parker had for business and professional women. The seven women that currently make up Zeta Phi’s membership are truly phenomenal women working and praying together. As we continue to build our chapter, we know there is no “I” in “TEAM,” and no “me” in “us”! The passion that we bring to the community speaks for itself. We are ready to serve.

Tonia Cotton
PRESIDENT, ZΦ CHAPTER

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VISION CASTING: CHARTERING, PRESIDENT'S PLANNING MEETING, AND LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE OF ZETA PHI



The words of Habakkuk 2:2 are often cited by many: "Write the vision and make it plain..." Starting with a vision to bring service to an area of the Houston metropolitan area that had not yet been supported by the work of Iota, the Zeta Phi Chapter was conceived. On August 13, 2023, the Zeta Phi Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated was chartered. Charged with serving Tomball, Texas, the seven charter members of the Zeta Phi chapter celebrated the occasion with the presence of National President Charlotte Berry, National President Elect Wendy Jacques, White Rose Queen Lillian Parker, Southwest Regional Director Rosetta Davis, and a host of dignitaries from the Southwest Region. The esteemed Southwest Regional Director directed the ceremony.

According to [US Census data](#), the city of Tomball, Texas has seen an increase in diversity over the last several years. As Black owned business, churches, and organizations take root in Tomball, Texas, the Zeta Phi chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated has initiated plans to offer support, training, and partnership to local constituents.



On August 27, 2023, the chapter held its first President's Planning Meeting. Strategic plans for the chapter's overall future in relationship to the 2023-2024 sorority year were discussed. Using the framework of the chapter's newly developed pillars--Spiritual, Professional, and Business--members of the executive committee came together to craft a strategic vision and action plan for the high impact work of Iota to support the Tomball community at large.



Fundraising, Fellowship and Black-Owned Business Support

Zeta Phi Strategically Implements a Triple Threat to Heighten Community Awareness of Iota Phi Lambda. Gains Membership Interests in the Process.

Fundraising

On September 17, 2023, Zeta Phi concluded a raffle giveaway on Facebook live. The prize was a 2-night stay at a Black-owned Airbnb accommodation with accompanying private chef service. Future Iota Leader, Makayla Moses drew the winning name. The Zeta Phi chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated would like to thank all who supported these fundraising efforts for our newly chartered chapter.



Black-Owned Restaurant Support



Members of the Zeta Phi Chapter leveraged the September 17th live raffle event as an opportunity to fellowship with one another and patron a local Black-Owned Business: TREZ Bistro and Wine Bar. Zeta Phi Members documented this occasion via Facebook live as the winning name for the chapter's raffled was pulled in front of the establishment. This reservation-hosting establishment was an opportunity to share the news of Iota.

One Band, One Sound: Zeta Phi Fellowship Brings Community Awareness of Iota



As the Zeta Phi chapter continues its strategic push forward, the chapter holds the idea there are very few things more sacred than the bonds of sisterhood and togetherness. For Zeta Phi, fellowship has been employed as a tool to bring awareness to both Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. and the chapter. On August 26 Zeta Phi members, FILS, Men of Iota, friends and family joined other HBCU Band enthusiasts at the Battle of The Bands event held at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas.



Bringing Iota to Tea Time

The Ladies of Zeta Phi participated in a Social Tea by way of an entrepreneurial venture event hosted by Up-Con. exclusively by women for women. Up-Con conferences are events dedicated to celebrating and empowering black women in leadership, entrepreneurship, and content creation. Attendance at the Social Tea presented members of the Zeta Phi executive committee a vendor opportunity to share the history and current programs of Iota Phi Lambda



Interest Meeting Success!

During the month of September, the Zeta Phi chapter hosted two virtual information meetings. In total, 17 women attended and were given opportunity to engage the chapter. A formal RUSH event is forthcoming.



Good Health Wins!

ZETA PHI AND LONE STAR COLLEGE- TOMBALL PARTNER FOR GOOD HEALTH WHILE MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR FOSTER YOUTH



On September 16, 2023, the Zeta Phi Chapter and Lone Star College-Tomball partnered for an innovative Shoe Drive promoting good health through physical activity while engaging in public service. Participants were asked to present a pair of new shoes as their “admission ticket. Shoes were designated to several children living in a local foster home. The event was attended by members of Zeta Phi chapter and its Future Iota Leaders. Members and Pelati of the Epsilon Phi chapter came out to support. The first half of the event was focused on line dancing. Attendees enjoyed fellowship and learned dances taught by the self-named “prince of line

dancing” from the Black-owned dance team the *Line Dance Team and the Royal Court*. Afterwards, guests were physically challenged by Zumba taught by the an instructor provided by Lone Star College-Tomball.



This event brought multiple entities together: Lone Star College-Tomball, Zeta Phi Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda SorORITY, Incorporated, members of the community, and community members who have gained an interest in the sorority. This innovative opportunity was a success on multiple ends as it engaged the sorority’s *Good Health Wins* partnership initiative while giving to youth in need.



ZETA PHI TACKLES BUSINESS WHILE HIGHLIGHTING PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH



In partnership with Entrepreneurs in Christ of Fallbrook Church, the Zeta Phi chapter joined forces with other Houston-area organizations to host a Business and Health Summit on September 23, 2023. Presenters who were identified as successful business owners and entrepreneurs from across the city, shared information about business templates, social media strategies, and the increasing demands on minority-owned businesses.

The event began with an entrepreneurship panel in which five different business owners entrepreneurs shared their challenges, successes, tips and recommendations to the group. Members of divine 9 organizations and auxiliaries were in attendance at this event as participants and volunteers.

The event was distinctly unique in that presentations were underpinned by a common theme: ensuring entrepreneurs not only took care of the health of their businesses, but also their physical and mental health. Medical and healthcare professionals gave discussions on common risks often overlooked by members of the African American community.

My Sister's Keeper: Time for Your Check-up

Taking ownership in our overall health and wellbeing is vital within the African American community. Unfortunately, preventative care is often overlooked for reasons such as historical medical trauma, and limited medical access.

On Thursday, October 5th, the Zeta Phi chapter hosted an evening virtual event in support of Breast Cancer Awareness month. Dr. Angela Nunnery, Primary Care Physician at St. Luke's Health, discussed led the interactive and informative event that allowed Zeta Phi to engage the community in a very important discussion.





Future Iota Leader SPOTLIGHT

"Here's to strong women. May we know them. May we be them. May we raise them"

~Author Unknown

Makayla Moses



In her 11 years of life, Makayla Moses has always been determined. A sixth grader passionate about dance, she auditioned for the Houston Urban Nutcracker in July 2023. Makayla was notified in August 2023 that she has been accepted as a cast member of the upcoming Houston Urban Nutcracker. Makayla will be performing live on stage in December at the Stafford Civic Center. Makayla is the daughter of Zeta Phi member Janelle Moses.

**ZETA PHI FIL
MEMBERSHIP**

The Zeta Phi chapter welcomes youth ages 8-18 who would like to learn and grown in the areas of business development and community service. If you would like more information about the Future Iota Leaders of Zeta Phi, please contact Crissy

Roper, FIL Committe Chair at

finsec@iotazetaphi.com





We See You, Sister!

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE ZETA PHI FAMILY

Congratulations!

Leslie Minniefield has been named the Senior Human Resource Business Partner of a Tomball area firm. We are elated that Leslie has been elevated to this new role. Congratulations, Leslie! Keep shining!



Crissy Roper has recently been named the new Executive Director at a 120-bed skilled nursing facility near the Houston Medical Center. In this new role, she oversees day to day operations of the organization. Congratulation, Crissy! We are proud of you!

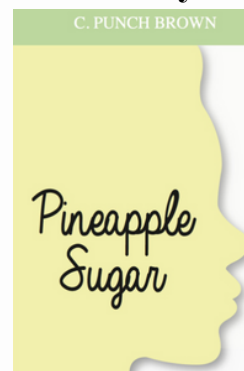


Tonia Cotton and Position Yourself Ministries celebrated completion and publishing of their second book, *Understanding Your Assignment*. The project is a powerful collection of stories told by women who have yielded to the call on their lives. Job well done, Madam President! We are inspired by how your testimony of being a domestic violence survivor has empowered other women to hear God's voice to understand their divine assignment!



October-November Charter Member Highlight

Dr. Cynae Punch Brown



As a child, Dr. Cynae Punch Brown was a classically trained musician, avid reader, and writer. After her mother passed away when she was just seven years, Cynae turned to music and writing to cope with loss. Now a higher education director at the University of Houston-Downtown, as well as a youth choir director, Cynae and her husband are the co-founders of Darby and Allen Publishing company--a creative entity geared toward curating musical and written narratives for experienced and novice creators. Dr. Punch Brown's book, *Pineapple Sugar*, has been reviewed by the Indie Voices Group of the School Library Journal. Her next work, *A Lullaby for Velma's Baby*, is forthcoming. To support or get a copy of Dr. Punch Brown's book and music, follow the link below: <https://www.cynaepunchbrown.com>





Congratulations to our 24th National President of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated:
President Charlotte D. Berry!

On the ZETA PHI HORIZON

- Zeta Phi Chapter RUSH..... October 15th
- Domestic Violence Awareness Program: The Process for the Progress (Virtual).....October 17th
- American Education Week.....November 13th -17th
- UNCF “A Mind Is” Gala (Zeta Phi Chapter Volunteer Participation).....November 18th



23-24 Southwestern Region Officers



Rosetta Davis,
Regional Director



Dr. Valencia Dutton-Hall,
Asst. Regional Director



Dorita Hatchet
Recording/Financial Secretary



Dr. Leticia Speed-Williams
Treasurer



Bottina McKinney
Journalist

The Zeta Phi Chapter would love to hear from you! Please do not hesitate to reach out using our [contact form](#). You may also contact TyRoda Mott, Zeta Phi Corresponding secretary at correspondsec@iotazetaphi.com

website: www.iotazetaphi.com

FOLLOW THE ZETA PHI FACEBOOK PAGE!

IOTA PHI LAMBDA SORORITY, INC. ZETA PHI 2023-2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Leslie Minniefield
1st Vice President
Dean



Wanda McKinnies
2nd Vice President
Treasurer



Crissy Roper
Financial Secretary



Tonnia Cotton
President



JaNelle Moses
Recording Secretary



Cynae Punch-Brown
Journalist



TyRonda Mott
Correspondence Secretary

“PHENOMENTAL SISTERS WORKING TOGETHER”

Tonnia Cotton. President

Leslie Minniefield. 1st Vice President/Dean of Intake

Wanda McKinnies. 2nd Vice President /Treasurer

JaNelle Moses. Recording Secretary

TyRonda Mott. Corresponding Secretary

Dr. Cynae Punch Brown. Journalist

Crissy Roper. Financial Secretary

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



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• • • The Zeta Phi Zenith • • •

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