



Jacqueline A. Dillard, President

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April 14, 2015

Soror Coachman,

Please accept the Kansas City (MO) Alumnae Chapter (349) submission for the **Social Action Award** for recognition at the 52nd National Convention – Central Region Luncheon. Sorors Dionne Greenfield and Patricia Jones are the Co-Chairs of our Social Action Committee.

If you have any additional questions, you can contact me at president@dstkcmo.org or (816) 668-7539.

Sisterly,

Jacqueline A. Dillard, President
Kansas City (MO) Alumnae Chapter
Member Number: 211458

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

KANSAS CITY (MO) ALUMNAE CHAPTER

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE VOTER REGISTRATION PROJECT:

“Voter Education, Voter Registration, and Voter Participation

&

MEDICARE EXPANSION AWARENESS

PURPOSE:

An educated and informed voter is a powerful voter. The Kansas City Alumnae Chapter used our influence and interest in the welfare of our city by focusing on three (3) areas of our Voter Registration Project; voter education, voter registration, and voter participation efforts in the Kansas City Area Schools. Our Social Action Committee, also lead the efforts in informing our community on where our state stood on Medicare Expansion.

DESCRIPTION:

The Kansas City (MO) Alumnae Chapter took an active interest in the welfare of our city by focusing voter registration and education efforts in the Kansas City Area Schools. The participants represented charter and public institutions.

Voter Education was very important for our Social Action Committee in which they hosted a Deputy Registrar training to ensure sorors had the tools and knowledge to properly register our young voters.



Our kick-off date for our Voter Registration Project was, National Voter Registration Day, held on September 23, 2014. It officially ended on March 11, 2015, which was the last day to register for the primary election, held April 7, 2015. However, we did have an opportunity to register additional voters after the deadline.

At our September sorority meeting we presented Sorors with **Voter Registration** postcards (which does not need a registrars signature) and asked them to register at least one person on National Voter Registration Day. The Social Action Committee members set up voter registration at three urban high schools on that day (Lincoln Preparatory College, Paseo and Northeast High Schools). At each school there was a team of at least one Soror who was a registrar and 4 other Sorors. The Sorors spoke to not only the students who were eligible to register but to all students. Members followed up with two additional high schools before the registration deadline in October 2014. Because of our efforts, registered students were able to vote in the November midterm election. At that time we had registered 35 new voters.



The second phase of our voter registration outreach was held in February 2015. Once again we registered students at 3 additional urban high schools

(East, Southwest and Alta Vista High Schools.). We registered 53 students before the deadline and 10 after. Our total registration was 63.

The next step of our program was to educate the newly registered voters before Election Day. **Voter Participation** included members of the Social Action Committee volunteering with the Election Protection Program which was co-sponsored by the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute and the KCMO Branch of the NAACP. Sorors from the undergraduate chapter of Lambda Epsilon volunteered to stuff snack packs and voters' right materials for poll monitors. Members of the three organizations were dispatched to voting polls in the urban core. They passed out the voters rights for Missouri to voters and made sure the voters had not had problems voting. The Wards and precincts chosen were based on the number of voters at the polling place. These packages served more than 150 volunteers and poll workers.

The Social Action Committee members were given a mentee to communicate with before the respective elections. Students that we registered in September and October were able to view our "22 Reasons Why You Should Vote". This was also part of our Social Action Plan to increase voter education and turn-out. Sorors, family members and even Past National President Cynthia M.A. Butler-McIntyre, and Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II held messages urging the community to vote on Election Day. For twenty-two days, with Election Day being the 22nd, we featured a voter fact, voter rights information and messages throughout social media.



Not only did we encourage our students to check in every day, we involved the chapter in spreading the messages to friends and family. In both phases before the election, we asked the mentors to do the following:

- Contact your mentee and thank them for voting;
- Check to see if they had received their voter registration card. If they had not received their cards a week before the election, they were told to contact the election board immediately; and
- Guide the registered students to the election board website so they could familiarize themselves with the ballot and ask any questions they had.

Research shows African-Americans between the ages of 18 and 26 register but do not vote because no one follows up with them. Our voter participation component included:

- Contacting the mentee the day before the election to make sure they were prepared to vote and knew their polling place; and
- Calling or texting them on Election Day to see if they had voted, did they need a ride and if they were not voting, why.

Our discussions with them on why it was important to vote also took place in both the registration phase and education phase.



Another high school we visited was Alta Vista. Alta Vista is a Hispanic Charter school where we registered 20 seniors. It is not a school with a large student population. The 20 students represented about 95% of the graduating class. We worked with the American History teacher who had discussed the importance of registering and voting before we came to the school. After we completed the voter registration component, Soror Miller and the teacher made our education and participation component part of the classroom instruction. They also reached out to the Guadalupe Center (who sponsors the school) to arrange for rides to the polls.

The Municipal General Election is June 23 and we will be sending all of the young people we registered postcards to remind them to vote.

Aside from our Social Action Voter Registration Project, we also centered our agenda on **Medicare Expansion**. We partnered with State Representative Gail McCain-Beatty to host a panel of participants, from health care administrators to health care facilities to discuss Affordable Healthcare Act and implications on the regional and national level.



Representatives from the Social Action Committee were sent to participate in sessions held at the State Capital in Jefferson City, and meetings at our local Health Department. These forums and meeting were to gain a broader understanding of the impact of Medicaid Expansion and garner support from the community while bringing awareness.

Whether it was rallying at the state capital, a community parade for Medicare outreach, informational tables at community events or forums with high school students our social action efforts were intentional.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline A. Dillard, President
Kansas City (MO) Alumnae Chapter

