



The History of

Sacramento Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

1950-1959

In January 1950, plans were initiated for the establishment of Delta Theta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., in Sacramento. After much footwork by Soror Lucille D. Copeland, and through conferences and correspondence with the Regional Director for the Farwest, Soror Samantha Lee, and past National President, Vivian Marsh, the plan reached its culmination.

The application for a chapter was approved by the National Board of Standards in August 1950. On October 14, 1950, Delta Theta, a mixed chapter, was formally chartered in Sacramento by the Farwest Regional Director, Samantha Lee, assisted by eight members of Kappa Chapter in the home of Soror Sumatra Mulholland, who became the chapter's first president. This marked the first African American Pan-Hellenic Greek Letter organization in Sacramento.

CHARTER MEMBERS:

- Sumatra Mulholland Kirkland, President
- Ruth Johnson, Vice President
- Lucille Deck Copeland, Secretary
- Frances La Rue Walker, Treasurer
- Doris Jackson Woods, Journalist
- Marian Bolden, Chaplain
- Grace Jones, Sergeant of Arms and Parliamentarian

On January 14, 1951, in observance of Founder's Day, the group made its first public appearance at a tea at the Women's Civic Improvement Club Center. The speaker was past National President, Vivian Osborne Marsh, who presented the Chapter to 250 guests.

In October 1952, the Chapter held its first fundraiser, a Bridge Luncheon at the Tuesday Club House. Funds from the luncheon were contributed to a Dean's Discretionary Fund at Sacramento State College to assist needy students. The Chapter was the initial donor to the Fund.

In commemoration of Negro History Week, the group co-sponsored the appearance of Bella Taylor Cooper, artist, in an illustrated lecture "Portraits of Outstanding Americans of Negro Origin".



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Other activities during the 1950s included but were not limited to:

- Scholarship Awards Program Founder's Day Tea
- Jabberwock Career Conference
- Cotillion Ball Hosted Farwest Regional Conference