

HAPPY NEW (ZTA) YEAR!!

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT, HEATHER WHITFIELD



Dear Sisters,

Where do I begin? I want to start this off by thanking you all for giving me this opportunity to serve as President again this upcoming year as well as giving me the opportunity to have served our chapter as our official delegate at Convention this summer. Last week, I was surrounded by over 1,000 ZTA collegiate and alumnae sisters – sisters all serving their respective chapters, sisters who were actively engaging with each other in celebration of our sisterhood; sisters who also collaborated on how we can elevate and enhance the sisterhood experience for others upon returning home. This was my first convention and I can tell you it will certainly not be my last. Not only was I able to connect with so many sisters from different chapters, both alumnae and collegiate, but I learned so much more about Zeta and my why. It left me full of love for our sisterhood and fraternity and I am ready to kick off our new year. Please check out the recap in this newsletter if you want to learn more about Convention and all the changes and milestones celebrated in Indianapolis. Our own chapter was recognized for all of the work and love our sisters have poured into ZTA's philanthropy as well as our own chapter. People did not know who I was, but they sure had heard of the Houston Alumnae Association! Well done, sisters!

I also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone that served on the board last year! I could not have done it without all of you and you truly helped make this past year a wonderful one for our chapter! THANK YOU! In addition to updating our bylaws and working on our future philanthropic efforts, our current board has been hard at work planning a fun year full of service and sisterhood opportunities, including a paint night at the home of our own artist Lisa Wilson, Bunco!, a Mardi Gras themed social, home decor/refresh tips from our own talented interior designer, Kathryn Spofford, and a cocktails/mocktails class among other outings and get togethers.

First though, we will be kicking off the year with our membership event on August 6th. Kara has planned a wonderful event at Vine Memorial. This will be a great way for everyone to connect with each other, pick up your calendar, and get your dues situated so you don't miss out on all of the fun evites! Please reach out to sisters you may not have had the chance to catch up with lately and invite them to come along as well.

See you all soon!

Zeta love,

Heather Whitfield

CONVENTION RECAP



President and HAA Official Delegate, Heather Whitfield

If you've never gotten the chance to attend a Zeta Tau Alpha Convention, let me tell you, you are missing out! If you've ever wondered what it's like, I'm here to give you all the "good goods" on this past Summer's Convention celebrating 125 year of Zeta Tau Alpha!

Wednesday:

Indy welcomed us with open arms and we were greeted by Indy collegiates.

I was able to tour IO and honestly, it wasn't enough time. Our headquarters are a treasure trove of ZTA history and artifacts. I was even able to locate my chain from Theta Eta in the original chain of chapters. I, of course had to text my other Theta Eta sisters to show them. Honestly, I could have spent hours there and I had fun chatting with some of the sisters about what they wore during their skits. They also had several displays of the jewelry, first designs of our crest, and letters between our original founders. I was also able to tour the office and conference rooms upstairs where all of the ZTA brainstorming magic happens! This tour was such a special treat and a great way to kick off Convention before heading to dinner with other Texas delegates.

We then attended a ZTA birthday full of cake and other games to kick off the week. As part of the birthday bash, ZTA also collected funds and goodies to make birthday bundles for families in Indianapolis.

Thursday:

This was our first official business meeting of the week - opening with the parade of chapter flags. Watching the parade of flags gives a lasting impression of the true size of our fraternity. Our national president, Dinah Jackson delivered our State of the Fraternity Address and then we voted on changes to the bylaws. These changes relate to the structure and job titles of current fraternity volunteer roles to meet our fraternity's current needs. Additionally, some changes were made to the publication schedule of Themis.



ZTA Housing Corporation hosted us all for lunch and several chapters were honored for awards related to housing. Additionally, ZTA honored Bobby Seitz Turnbull with the Loyalty and Commitment Award. This award was given to the sister who has attended the most conventions but has never served on the board. Bobby has attended 26 conventions!!

The afternoon was all about breakout sessions. Included in that, I attended a session, Making Forever, led by Heather Matthews about reasons why sisters do not stay connected after their college days and ways we can help connect and engage and re-engage our sisters.

We closed Thursday night out with our Collegiate Awards Dinner where awards were given for programming, alumnae-collegiate relations and then Crown Chapter. Please be sure to congratulate our University of Houston sisters as Gamma Omega was awarded Crown Chapter this year!

Friday:

This was probably the busiest, but also the most memorable and wonderful day. We started off the morning in our ritual whites for a touching ceremony honoring all of our sisters who have joined the silent chapter and left us over the past two years. This includes Claire Dowden, Frances Bredthauer, Del Dodd, Kay King, Barbara Boek, and so many others.

We then changed into our best pink attire to celebrate all of the fundraising efforts of ZTA with a luncheon hosted by the ZTA Foundation. After announcing the collegiate chapter winners for the Anne Winnes Redmond Service Award, the ZTA Foundation honored alumnae chapters for their service (and philanthropic) efforts based on size (small, medium, and large). I was extremely surprised and thrilled when our chapter was selected as the **SILVER** recipient for this biennium in the service category for a large alumnae chapter. This is such a HUGE honor and a true testament to all of the love and dedication our chapter has poured into **Eat! Drink! Pink!** and our fundraising efforts these past two years! Additionally, ZTA also honored recipients of our Foundation Scholarship (all 77 of them!)



Zeta Tau Alpha also announced the end of their partnership with Bright Pink and continued partnership with the American Cancer Society. Representatives from BCRF also attended the luncheon and shared their gratitude for our support. With the money awarded to BCRF, they were able to apply it to research using AI to help with early detection. ZTA then announced a pledge \$1.25 million dollars in funds for BCRF to help fund another project that uses mammogram data to predict cancer development and provide additional funds for special prevention projects over the next two years. I left that luncheon with such gratitude for the work done by ZTA and with a sense of pride over the impact our sorority and our chapter has made to the fight against breast cancer. Our Foundation President Carolyn Hof Carpenter said it best when she said, "We aren't just pretty in pink, we are pretty powerful in pink."

For dinner on Friday, I was seated among other collegiate and alumnae presidents for our Honor Ring and Alumnae Crown Chapter Dinner. Four Texas Zetas received their Honor Ring including our own District President, Paislea Stolarski. Awards were then given to individual outstanding alumnae members and then Alumnae Crown Chapter. And I'm so excited to share that Houston Alumnae Association received **CROWN CHAPTER!**



We then headed back upstairs so we could change into outfits from our college era! I dug out my ZTA flip flops and stich shirt from my freshman year (circa 2000) and made my way back to the ballroom. ZTA went all out for this and it was a blast! Everyone dressed in their ZTA Era best. ZTA also had crafts, fun photo backdrops, and activities for each era. For the 1890's they even had a photo set up where you could recreate the mystifying nine picture and some Texas Zetas and I had a blast with that one! ZTA also brought in dance instructors who taught us different dances for each decade. I loved that part because they broke it down step by step and we laughed so hard trying to figure out the moves.

Saturday:

Saturday morning was our final business meeting where we elected and installed our new National Council for 2024-2026. I was honored to be in the same room of these incredible leaders. And...for anyone who wants to make the trip, it was also announced that our next convention will be in Palm Springs, CA **July 16-19, 2026** !!! Save the Date!

National Council 2024-2026

National President: Dinah Jackson Laughery
Vice President Collegiate I: Meredith Harris Braselman
Vice President Collegiate II: Stancy Robinson Hagans
Vice President Collegiate III: Jacque Green Lish
Vice President Alumnae I: Kery Reinkemyer Webb
Vice President Alumnae II: Barb Chang-Holt
Secretary-Treasurer: Shannon Ferguson
NPC Delegate: Dr. Katie Peoples Zamulinsky
Extension Director: Karla Lundgren Wheeler

We ended Saturday morning with additional sessions to connect with others about ideas for alumnae programming.

At lunch, we were again honored as a member of the Founder's Club for our fundraising efforts. We were the ONLY alumnae chapter to give \$50,000 over the last biennium as well and for this we received a new beautiful (but heavy!) gift of crystal.

After lunch, Saturday afternoon provided some much needed rest, before our final and biggest awards dinner of the week!

When I say Saturday evening was quite the celebration, I'm not kidding! We all dressed up in our finest and headed down to the ballroom for the loudest dinner yet! During our Saturday Recognition Banquet ("Silver Night"), 34 chapters received shiny silver trays and bowls, symbolizing their achievements and excellence. The members of the 2022-2024 National Council presented these awards. Members in the audience celebrated with applause, noise makers, and even some happy tears. ZTA made sure that we even had ZTA bells to make sure we were heard. I was able to sit with other Texas Zetas and we made sure to celebrate a little extra whenever a Texas chapter was recognized. The evening ended with a sisterhood circle singing "Today & Forever" followed by lots of hugs.

It was the perfect end to convention and left me feeling with such pride and love for our wonderful Zeta Tau Alpha. I encourage anyone who is able to in 2026 to join over 1000 Zeta sisters from all over the country for this experience. I've been told no two Conventions are the same, but if this is any indication of the time had, count me in for years to come! Hope you'll join me!



NEW YEAR. NEW WEBSITE!

We've got an a new and updated website! We hope you will hop over and visit!

STAY CONNECTED - SOCIAL MEDIA

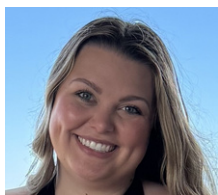
Do you follow HAA on Facebook or Instagram? Don't miss the fun being had in our groups. Here are the links, just click the icons:

HAA uses Evites for invitations - download the app for details.



If you have an announcement that you would like to share, please email us!

HAA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



Vice President - Membership

JOIN US TO KICK OFF THE 2024-2025 ZTA YEAR!!

The Summer Cooler is a great event to attend as a way to connect with your HAA sisters, both new and returning! Don't want to go alone? Bring a sister you want to see there!! We will have the complete calendar ready for you!

Can't make it? (We will miss you), but no problem! Use the below two step process below to complete your membership renewal or [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

**HAA
MEMBERSHIP
DRIVE**

**SUMMER
COOLER** | Aug. 6th 2024
6:30p - 8:30p

Join
HAA

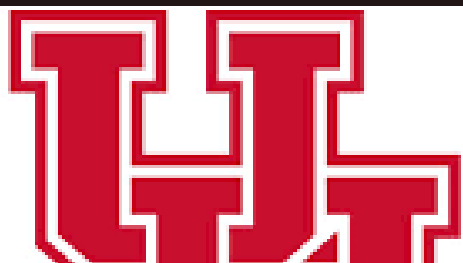
Vine Memorial
7951 Katy Fwy Unit B,
Houston, TX 77024

With your membership, you get to enjoy Day/Night Gatherings, but also get exclusive access to Crown Connections such as Book Club, Ladies Dine Out, Sisters Who Sip (SWS), Service Projects, ZiesTA, and Social.

Two Step Process

- 1) Click [HERE](#) to complete the Membership Form**
- 2) Click [HERE](#) to pay dues**

SAVVY SISTERS



New Season of Zisterhood

Happening: **Now**

Happy (ZTA) New Year!!! Now is the time to join HAA! Whether you're returning, new, or haven't been around in a while but wanting to come back, we'd love to have you.

Membership Drive

Happening: **August 6, 2024 at 630pm @ Vine Memorial.**

See Evite for details!

Alumnae Recruitment Showcase

Happening: **August 16, 2024 at 630pm.** See Evite for details.

Sisters Who Sip*

Happening: **August 17, 2024 at 6pm.** See Evite for details.

Happy Hour, sisters, and fun times—could you ask for anything else? Join this Crown Connection group to check out new bars and hot spots around Houston.

Book Club*

Happening: **August 21, 2024 at 630pm.** See Evite for details.

Join this Crown Connection group for literary discussion as we dish on our latest read. Visit the website for all the books.

Ladies Dine Out*

Happening: **August 27, 2024 at 630pm.** See Evite for details.

Test your taste buds with this Crown Connection group as we venture to new and exciting spots around Houston and try the most amazing food and cocktails.

If you are not receiving Evites for the HAA activities, please [email us!](#)