

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®  
Iota Omega Chapter  
67<sup>th</sup> Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference Delegate Report  
Richmond, VA  
March 12-15, 2020



Kathy W. Moore, Basileus-Delegate  
Chauntrell Guilford, Anti-Basileus-Delegate  
Soror Jessica Bethea, Delegate  
Soror Allison Davis, Delegate  
Soror Monta Fennell, Delegate  
Soror Tourean Johns, Delegate  
Soror Sandra Johnson, Delegate  
Soror S. Michelle Layne, Delegate  
Soror Denise McKinney, Delegate  
Soror Melanie Patterson, Delegate  
Soror Rhonda Steward, Delegate  
Soror JaNae' Taylor, Delegate

Sorors of Iota Omega Chapter, thank you for the opportunity to represent Iota Omega as the twelve member delegation at the 67<sup>th</sup> Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference (MARC). Per our Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® *Constitution and Bylaws* and *Manual Of Standard Procedures*, “Regional conferences are for the most part study sessions designed to clarify procedures and resolve problems of the chapters within a region through workshops, discussions, demonstrations and other types of group activity” (*Manual Of Standard Procedures, Regions/Regional Conferences, page 9*). Sorors attend conferences to increase their knowledge and skill sets to better serve Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, our chapter, and our communities.



**Conference Report Title: Public Meeting & Reception**

Delegate Submitting the Report: Chauntrell Guilford & Monta Fennell

Low music in the background, echoed by laughter, smiles and uncertainty of Sorors from the Mid-Atlantic Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® resonated throughout the banquet hall as the reception was closed to the public. The reception was open to registered sorors only. Heavy hors d’oeuvres were served buffet style with water and punch. The hors d’oeuvres included meatballs, lumpia, cheese, crackers, fruit, punch and fruit infused water. Unfortunately many sorors were not able to partake in the food, as there was not much provided.



Madam Regional Director, Jennifer King Congleton greeted members of the Mid-Atlantic Regional during the closed



Sorors JaNae’ Taylor, Selina Joseph, Monta Fennell an Chauntrell Guilford

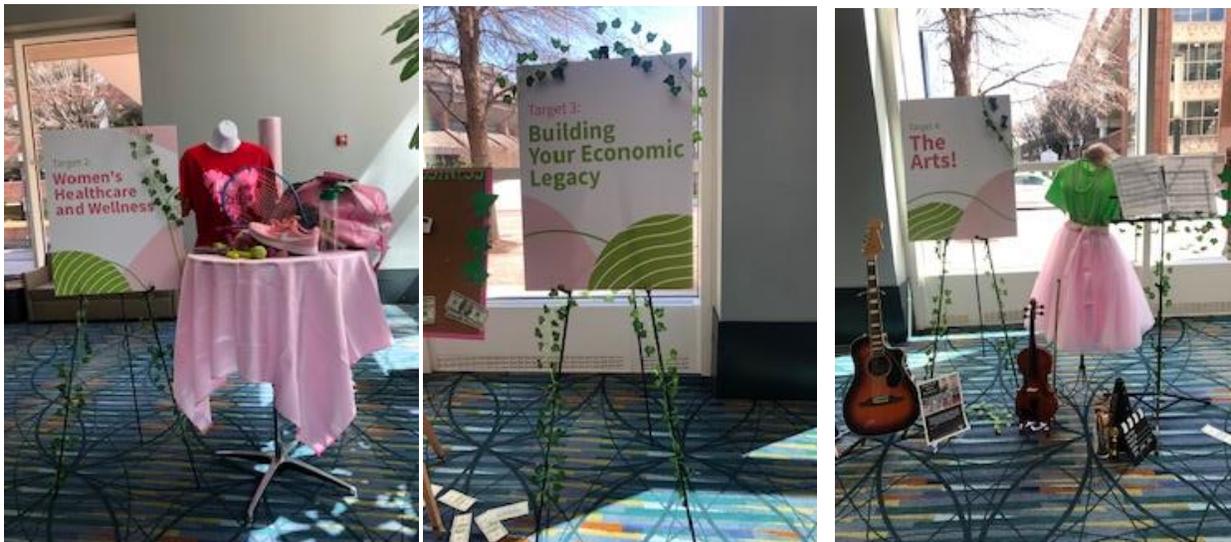


public meeting reception with a warm sisterly smile and hugs as she made her way to the front of banquet Hall. Madam Regional Director Jennifer King Congleton addressed the sorors present. She explained the reception is a closed session then thanked the hosting chapters for all of the work they completed while preparing for the conference. She also stated that she had been in contact with the International Supreme Basileus, Glenda Glover, and we would be proceeding with the conference. As of now, we will continue with business as normal and the schedule will be adjusted as needed to fit in as much business as possible. Adjustments will be made as necessary for the safety of our Sorors and families. In regards to COVID-19 and the conference, she explained that when decisions have to be made, they would be made with our safety in mind.

The Central region is having their regional conference the same time as ours; however, all other regional conferences have been postponed. Soror Congleton ended by telling sorors we are in a safe zone.

Madam Regional Director announced that due to a mandate from the Governor regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak that the public meeting was cancelled.

Photos of hallway displays walking to public reception



Sorors Adrianna Nottingham, Jessica Bethea, Anordia Weatherly, Monta Fennell, Michelle Layne, Carla Perry, Krystal Belfield, Violet Hoyle and Chauntrell Guilford.

## Conference Report Title: Graduate Advisor Fireside Chat - “Pink Table Talk”

Delegate Submitting the Report: Soror Allison J. Davis

The “Pink Table Talk” was an informative and interactive discussion among Graduate Advisors of the Mid-Atlantic Region to break out into groups facilitated by the MAR GAC to discuss questions received from Graduate Advisors, in the region regarding the following topics/categories: MIP, Risk Management Challenges, Operational, Academics and Corporate/Miscellaneous. As each attendee arrived Sorors Allison Davis and Denise McKinney greeted them and asked them to sign in as they were given a slip of paper that indicated



Theme and tees worn by the MAR GAC

which group they would be a part of, for the breakout discussion groups. Pink Table Talk opened with greetings from Soror Mamie Locke, Chair of the MAR GAC followed by an ice breaker, led by members of the regional committee. Madame Regional Director, joined us before the breakout group discussions and thanked us for our dedication and service as Graduate Advisors and members of Graduate Advisor Committees within our chapters. She also addressed concerns and some arising issues within the undergraduate chapters in our region, while reminding us that it is our responsibility to encourage, develop, foster and nurture our undergraduates to do the right thing as well as the importance of encouraging them to remain active and transfer into a graduate chapter upon graduation. During the break out into the various groups, members of the MAR GAC facilitated the discussions of the aforementioned topics by reading the questions to their assigned groups and allowed for discussions and interaction on the various questions, which included perspectives from the various Graduate Advisors, who were representative of various universities, various levels of experience, as well as variant perspectives from real life situations that may have occurred during their tenure or at the respective universities. As one of the facilitators of the MIP, Pink Table Talk group, I felt the discussions were very informative and allowed the Graduate Advisors to participate collectively in the discussions while interactively sharing knowledge, addressing concerns and or issues that they may have experienced; all while sharing best practices and strategies. The event was designed and led by the MAR GAC in conjunction with our Regional Director. Photos while in session were not permitted. I was able to capture the below photo of Madam Regional Director, Jennifer King-Congleton addressing the attendees during a quick recess.



## Conference Report Title: Graduate Advisors’ Institute Level II

Delegate Submitting the Report: Rhonda Steward

The Graduate Advisors’ Institute level II training was facilitated by Soror Joyce Gilchrist, Co-Chairmen Graduate Advisors Certification Committee and along with other committee chairmen from the Mid-Atlantic Region. Soror Gilchrist discussed the role and responsibility of a Graduate Advisor.

Soror Vanya Allen, International Risk Management Task Force representative explained the different types of risk that the sorority is facing reputational, chapter operational, operation, and financial risk. The sorority's biggest risk is hazing and reputational. Hazing is at the top of the list.

Reputational risk is the threat or danger to the reputation, good name and legacy of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Chapter Operational risk occurs when you have inadequate, ineffective and outdated policies.

Operation risk personal injury incidents on chapter premises and at chapter events are on a rise.

Financial Risk occurs when a chapter fails to adhere to guidelines as provided in the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority fiscal and fitness book. The co-mingling of personal and sorority funds is a financial risk.

The following topics were covered during the Graduate Advisors Certification:

- Membership
- Membership Intake Process
- Program Targets for
- Financial Toolkit

As a review, the room was separated into four groups to discuss the different scenarios and provide feedback to the whole group.

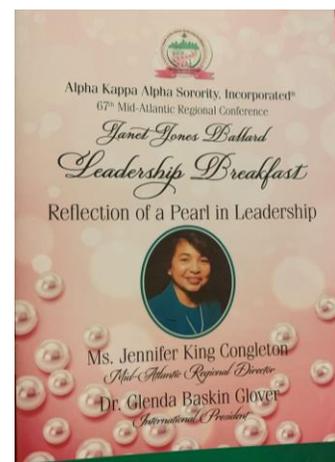
Thank you for the opportunity to represent Iota Omega as a delegate at the 67<sup>th</sup> Mid-Atlantic Regional conference.

### **Conference Report Title: Janet Jones Ballard Leadership Breakfast**

Delegate Submitting the Report: Kathy W. Moore

Highlights from Friday morning, March 13, 2020: Designated as "Scarf" morning, kicked-off with "The Janet Jones Ballard Leadership Breakfast". The Leadership breakfast was a wonderful sold out event celebrating leadership within the Mid-Atlantic Region. The program theme was "Reflection of a Pearl in Leadership". The breakfast is named in honor of Soror Janet Jones Ballard served as the eighth Mid-Atlantic Region Director (1974-1978) and as the 22<sup>nd</sup> Supreme Basileus (1986-1990).

Dais guests entered and were seated. The welcome was brought by Soror Patricia Janes, Leadership Breakfast Chairman, Upsilon Omega chapter. Dais guests were introduced by Soror Doris Moseley. A musical selection was rendered by the Upsilon Omega Chapter Chorale titled "Ride the Chariot". Grace was delivered by Soror Lisa Townes, Leadership Breakfast Co-Chairman and breakfast was served.



During breakfast a slide presentation, “Soror Janet Jones Ballard: Reflection of a Visionary Leader”, was shown featuring contemporary sorors who knew and grew up with Soror Janet. They shared their stories/memories of Soror Janet along with her leadership style and goals.



Soror Mary Hicks, Basileus-Upsilon Omega Chapter, introduced the keynote speaker Soror Eva L. Evan, 24<sup>th</sup> Supreme Basileus. Soror Eva’s presentation from Detroit, Michigan was pre-recorded. This was another first as the keynote speaker presentation was pre-recorded. Soror Eva shared treasured moments of Soror Janet’s life as a leader with an address titled, “A Legacy of Leadership, Scholarship, Service and Sisterliness”.



Soror Eva L. Evan, 24th Supreme Basileus

Soror Eva was very sincere as she reminisced about Soror Janet Jones Ballard being an innovative and courageous individual. She was a visionary leader and possessed superb organizational skills, artistic genius and unparalleled commitment to promoting HBCU’s. She truly was an uncompromising advocate for service to all mankind. Life was not always easy for her, but she kept her head up and was courageous to the very end.

The scripture verse in Galatians 6:9, (“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not”) came to mind as I listened to Soror Eva’s fond memories of Soror Janet. Alpha Kappa Alpha women all over the world are reaping the benefits of our dear soror’s hard work. Thank you both Soror Janet Jones Ballard and Soror Eva L. Evans. We are forever grateful.



Soror Kathy Moore, Soror Lorraine Corry-Moore and Soror Nadine Vargas Stewart at the Leadership Breakfast

Awards were presented by Soror Monica Darden, Chairman, Mid-Atlantic Regional Awards Committee.

- ✓ Graduate Leadership Award (Outstanding Leadership in the Region)
  - Soror Vanya Allen, Sigma Tau Omega
- ✓ Bernadine Stoneham Smith Bailey Award (Journalism)
- ✓ Annie L. Harvey Award (Outstanding Leadership)
  - Soror Rhonda Scott-Johnson, Omicron Chi Omega
- ✓ Pauline C. Morton Award (Alumna Basileus of the Year)
  - Soror Trista Pope, Upsilon Omicron Omega
- ✓ Margaret B. Moss Award (Outstanding Retired Soror)
- ✓ Elizabeth Schmoke Randolph Award (Civic Leader)
  - Soror Shameika L. Rhinehart, Alpha Zeta Omega
- ✓ Caroline L. Lattimore Award (Outstanding Achievement in Education)
  - Dr. RaJade M. Berry-James, Sigma Tau Omega
- ✓ Dorothy Boulding Ferebee Award (Public Health Award)
  - Dr. Octavia M. Cannon, Alpha Lambda Omega
- ✓ Wanza Bagnall Webb Award (Service to Children with Special Needs or Seniors)
  - Zeta Chi Omega Chapter



Madam Regional Director, Jennifer King Congleton delivered heart felt closing remarks.



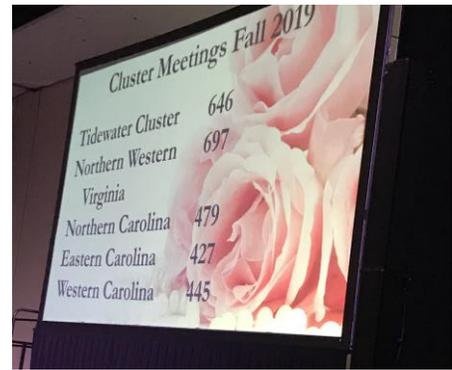
### **Conference Report Title: First Plenary Session**

Delegate Submitting the Report: Denise C. McKinney & Melanie Patterson

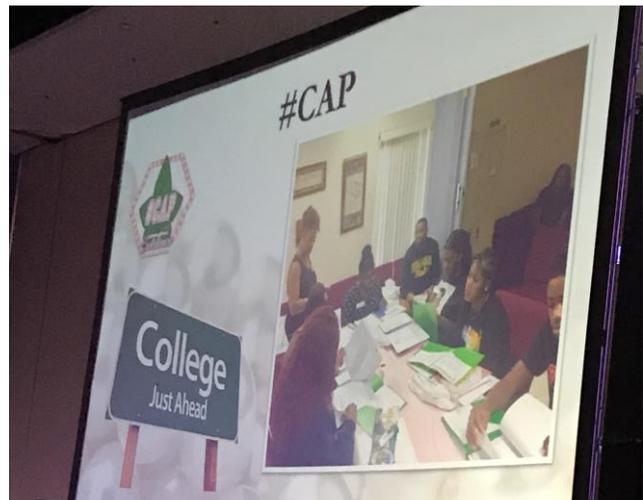
Madam Regional Director, Soror Jennifer King Congleton, called the first plenary session to order on Friday March 13, 2020 at 9:37am. Madam Regional Director proposed amendments to the agenda for only pertinent items to be covered in the first plenary session due to the COVID-19 state of emergency. Madam Regional Director, Soror Jennifer King Congleton was able to conclude two items of business. Madam Regional Director presented the state of the Region Report and since this is an election year the International Nominating Committee Representative, Soror Nadine Vargas Stewart presented the two Certified Candidates for the Mid-Atlantic Region. Soror Congleton recognized some notable figures who passed this year; 21st International Supreme Basileus Faye B. Bryant, Dr. Katherine Goble Johnson, and Gigi Bryant. The theme of the first session was 'Best of My Love'.

Our Mid-Atlantic Regional Director, Jennifer King Congleton, began with the State of the Region and officially welcomed all Sorors to the conference. She noted the current region active membership of 8,000 and 1,000 new members added (Fall 2018-present) this past year. Soror Congleton focused her address reviewing the state of the region. She stated that all Sorors are responsible for protecting 'the brand' by not participating in any hazing and following protocol. Soror Congleton said, "Do the right thing and things we do right." She went on the report there was a 27% increase in attendance at the Tidewater Cluster meeting requiring a larger venue and 700 members of the Tidewater were present at the conference.

- Membership growth- >8,000 active members and 1,000 new members
- Due to COVID-19 no update on current MIPs at this time
- Commitment to no hazing; doing the right thing in our sisterhood; making this a collective effort
- Chapter operations- service projects over the last year were highlighted
- Fall 2019 Cluster was the largest attendance compared to 2018 cluster attendance
  - Tidewater cluster 646- 27% increase
  - Northern Western Virginia 697
  - Northern Carolina - 479
  - Eastern Carolina cluster -427
  - Western Carolina cluster-445
- Leadership development- fellows program (5- fellows from MAR)
- 2019 Undergraduate Roundup- Thanked the graduate advisors council
- Excellence in Giving – giving Tuesday EAF >\$415,000; 22 endowments capitalized
  - 60% of chapters in MAR- silver, gold or platinum with EAF – highest % of all 10 regions

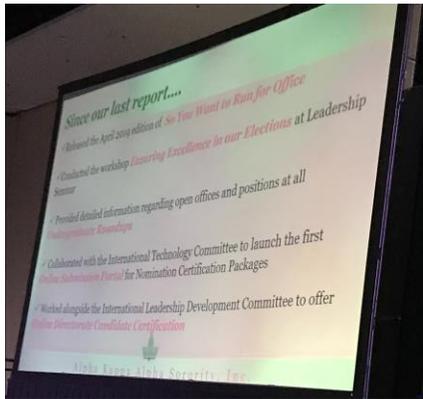


- Programs of Service
  - Target I- chapters donated >1.5 million dollars to HBCUs in one day; 15 HBCUs in the region
  - Target II- heart health; caregivers' day; breast cancer awareness- 103 3D mammograms rural NC and VA
  - Target III-825,000 in minority businesses in MAR- financial literacy programs
  - Target IV- >100 of students and adults exposed to the arts such as Harlem Renaissance
  - Target v- Soles4Souls children and adults to walk to school and work daily; eyeglasses donations – 1.1 billion have near vision



Iota Omega chapter's #CAP students were spotlighted in the State of the Region address of Mid-Atlantic Regional Director Congleton

- Target v- Soles4Souls children and adults to walk to school and work daily; eyeglasses donations – 1.1 billion have near vision impairment- >1,000 pairs of eyeglasses; 342 shirts and >7,000 pillowcase dresses for girls. MAR has exceeded its 4-year goal for dresses in two years.
- “She changed the world”- women suffrage partnership with Delta Sigma Theta
- MLK Day of service was highlighted with community events around the region
- Founders' Day- reclaimed members; reactivation efforts
- Memorial- Soror Marjorie Hill Bench unveiling - November 17<sup>th</sup> Lynchburg, VA
- Archives Day at Virginia State University
- Leadership Seminar- AKA University Nashville, TN
- Communications – quarterly newsletter is entirely electronic - more social media presence
- Spiritual care team- prayer line Wednesdays 6:45am-7:00am



Soror Congleton reported that Protocol chairs traveled throughout the region training others. The region has 5 representatives in the leadership fellows and multiple Sorors are campus queens. Soror Congleton said the undergraduate roundup was a success while embracing excellence. She recognized the graduate advisors for their hard work nurturing the undergraduate sorors. The Mid-Atlantic Region gave \$400,000 to the 20<sup>th</sup> Supreme Basileus Barbara K. Phillips EAF and 60% of the chapters in the region reached silver and gold status. She stated, “We are the mightiest region.”

Programs- Target 1 raised \$1.5 million in a day for HBCU for life and mentored over 1500 students in the region in the #CAP program and they were able get assistance with completing college applications. Target 2- Pink goes red activities, caregivers’ recognitions day shedding light on the emotional and spiritual draining feat it is for them. Breast cancer awareness impact day 103 women were able to receive mammograms in rural North Carolina and Virginia off I-95 on the AKA Mammogram Bus. These women normally would not have been able to receive a mammogram due to lack of funds and or insurance. She shared a few women cried tears of joy because they would not have been able to get to a facility for their checkup. Target 3 Building your Economic Legacy reported commerce at 825 minority owned businesses in the region and the variety workshops offered ways to build a financial legacy. Target 4- The Arts listed 100’s of students and adults have visited museums, watched plays, held book clubs, went to jazz concerts and other topics relevant to the sorority. Target 5- Global Impact Day the committee collected shoes for adults and children to be able to walk to school and work. Soror Congleton reported that more than 1.1 million have a vision impairment with thousands of glasses going to those in need. 7,000 pillowcase dresses and 348 pillowcase shirts were made for children to be able to wear to school in Africa.

The Connections Committee AKA LEADS- continue to hold voter registration drives in the important election year. Sorors drove others to the polls and turned out for several local elections. In Raleigh, NC a commemoration of the anniversary of the Women’s’ Suffrage Movement protecting women’s right to vote was held on MLK Day of service. Sorors across the region marched, served food, cleaned pantries, restocked shelves in food banks and many other acts of service. A joint Founders’ Day celebration was held with the North Atlantic Region in January with record numbers attending. A bench unveiling in Lynchburg, VA in honor of Soror Marjorie Hill marking November 17<sup>th</sup> as her day.



Soror Kathy Moore and Soror Myra Burton enjoy the first plenary session

The communications team updated their technology and sent an electronic newsletter and has a strong presence on social media with over 1,000 followers the Mid-Atlantic Region is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest on the main AKA page. During these tumultuous times a spiritual care team prays Wednesday mornings from 6:45-7 am prays for the nation, sorors, leaders, and families.

Soror Nadine Vargas Stewart, Mid-Atlantic Region Representative to the International Nominating Committee shared Ensuring Excellence in the Sorority's elections in April 2019 and presented the slate of sorors that are running for office. She said the nomination packets can sent electronically. In January 2020 the biennial certification was held in Chicago. Madam Regional Director-Soror Jennifer King Congleton is seeking her second term as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Director; and Soror Nadine Vargas Stewart is also seeking her second term as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative to the International Nominating Committee. The "Call by the Chair for further nominations from the floor was conduct by the Supreme Grammateus, Soror Chelle Luper Wilson-South Central Region. There were no nominations from the floor, therefore both Certified Candidates were confirmed for their respective offices and will be "Ratified" during the upcoming 2020 Boule. Madam Regional Director ended her state of the region with lyrics from the Emotions "You've Got the Best of My Love."



Supreme Grammateus Chelle Luper Wilson leading the charge for the acclamation of a second term for Mid-Atlantic Regional Director Jennifer King Congleton

International Nominating Committee-Certified candidates for international positions

Two- International Second Supreme Anti-Basileus

One- International Supreme Grammateus

One- International Supreme Tamiouchos

Three- Undergraduate Member-At-Large

Regional Offices

North Atlantic Regional Director- Soror Mary Bentley Lamar

Mid-Atlantic Regional Director- Soror Jennifer King Congleton

Mid-Atlantic Region Representative to the International Nominating Committee- Soror Nadine Vargas Stewart

Number of candidates for Regional Director from other regions yet to vote:

- South Atlantic Region- One
- Great Lakes Region- One
- South Eastern Region- One
- South Central Region- Three
- Central Region- One
- Mid-Western Region- One
- Far Western Region- Four



Soror Colita Fairfax, Soror Renee' Escoffery-Torres and Soror Kathy Moore enjoy the first plenary session

The First Plenary Session was adjourned. The 67<sup>th</sup> Mid-Atlantic Regional conference was adjourned by Mid-Atlantic Regional Director, Jennifer King Congleton on Friday March 13, 2020 at 11:32 am.

## Conference Report Title: Jewels Luncheon

Delegate Submitting the Report: Soror Kathy W. Moore

The Precious Jewels Luncheon was the last event of the conference. The program was abbreviated due early adjournment of the conference. The Dais was not present, but Madam Regional Director, Jennifer King Congleton was in attendance to celebrate the induction of our jewels. The video presentation of photos of all of the jewels inductees played throughout the luncheon.

The parade of newly inducted jewels is the highlight of the luncheon. The parade began to the delight of all sorors present. Iota Omega honorees included Silver Star Sylvia Spratley, Silver Star Ye-Vetta Wilson-Worst and Silver Star Kim Jenkins. A beautiful full page ad to honor these sorors was published in the 67<sup>th</sup> Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference Souvenir Book.

Soror Cassandra Hines, Xi Upsilon Omega chapter presided. Greetings were brought by Soror Susan Williams, Co-Chairman. The Occasion was delivered by Soror Sylvia Johnson. A fantastic and moving dance performance by Dolce Dance of Newport News, Virginia captivated the sorors in attendance. A mesmerizing spoken word oratory was given by Soror Robinette Cross and a praise dance was performed by Ms. Naketa Proctor.

Grace was followed by a hot delicious lunch!

Regional awards were not announced at the luncheon and chapter Basilei were directed to the registration area to pick up awards and gifts on behalf of their respective chapters.

The honoree charge was given to our Diamond, Golden and Silver Star inductees. All inductees were saluted with thunderous applause from attendees.

Madame Regional Director, Jennifer King Congleton gave warm heart felt closing remarks. Soror Congleton asked sorors to continue to pray as we are in the midst of a coronavirus pandemic that is placing our region into lockdown. She asked everyone to adhere to all CDC restrictions in order to combat the pandemic. She employed sorors to depart quickly and safely.



*NOTE: The conference was adjourned early on Friday March 13, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic mandates set by Virginia Governor Ralph Northam. The chapter delegation was unable to report on any other activities following the completion of the Jewels Luncheon.*



Above: Silver Star Soror Sylvia Spratley  
Below: Silver Star Soror Ye-Vetta Wilson-Worst



## 67<sup>th</sup> Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference Photos

