



BRADFIELD BRIEF

May 2025



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MAY REMINDERS

Every day can be the **beginning** of something beautiful

You are capable of **blooming** like May flowers

Celebrate your wins, **big or small**

There are days you harvest and days you plant the **seeds**

 Embrace your uniqueness and let your light shine 

“NOT FOR OURSELVES, BUT FOR OTHERS”

SUGGESTED MOTHER'S DAY READS



Spring is here, and the Beyhive is buzzing; Oprah has revealed that she has selected Matriarch by Tina Knowles as her latest Book Club selection.



Just in time for Mother's Day, Ms. Tina's memoir is the story of raising—and being raised by—powerful Black women. Beginning with her childhood in segregated Galveston, Texas, Knowles writes candidly about her family history, her time on the road with Destiny's Child, watching her iconic children take flight on the global stage, overcoming infidelity, and coming into her own at age 70. "Writing a book about your life is a scary thing," Knowles confessed. "It's almost like having a baby." Learning that Oprah had not only read the book but loved it enough to select it for her Book Club "made it all okay"—and came as a total shock."

BLACK ENTERPRISE composed a list of reads celebrating different aspects of Black motherhood. Here are a few of them.

1) **Anna Malaika Tubbs: The Three Mothers:**
How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation

2) **Jacqueline Woodson, Red at the Bone**
Red at the Bone tells a multi-generational story of womanhood. The main character is Melody, a Brooklyn teenager raised by her grandparents. While Melody feels her grandparents' healthy love, curiosity leads her to uncover the shocking details of her mother, Iris, who birthed Melody as a teenager. She discovers that Iris was conflicted over an unplanned pregnancy and her independence

3) **Brit Bennett, The Mothers**
Brit Bennett's debut novel follows a strikingly beautiful and rebellious Nadia Turner. After her mother's suicide, Turner falls into the arms of a pastor's son and football star, Luke Shepard, whose promising football career is cut short by an injury.

4) **Dani McClain, We Live For The We: The Political Power of Black Motherhood**
There is no solid blueprint for parenthood, so McClain set out to understand how to raise a Black daughter in a racist society. The Columbia University graduate spoke to Black mothers active in social movements.

5) **Ann Petry, The Street**
Lutie Johnson is an attractive and stoic woman living on Harlem's infamous 116th Street with her 8-year-old son, Bub. Set in the 1940s, Johnson, who has survived the emotional toll of an alcoholic father and a cheating husband, is determined to create a safe space for her son, Bub.



Interview with a Centenarian

by Weenonah Chambers

Recently, I had the privilege to sit down and talk with Soror A. Pearl Hunt after her March 2, 2025 100th birthday celebration. Soror Hunt is a member of Eta Chapter in Ft. Worth, TX and has been a member of Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated since 1966.

Question: We see your name as A. Pearl, what does the letter A stand for?

Answer: “My legal name is Addie Pearl. Addie is my grandmother’s name and Pearl is my mother’s name. I always cherished my mother’s name and loved to be called Pearl, so when I joined Eta Phi Beta, a mentor suggested me to just use the A. and from that time on I enjoy being called A. Pearl in honor of my mother.”

Question: Did you grow up in a large family?

Answer: “No, my mother was an only child and my father was an only child, so I had no aunts and uncles. I had only one sister. I always wanted a brother and would always try to claim the boys at school to be my brother.”

Question: How many children do you have?

Answer: “I was blessed with 5 children, 2 boys and 3 girls.”

Question: Are you a real Texan or a transplant?

Answer: “I am a native Texan, bred and born.”

Question: Have you always worked, or did you stay at home as a homemaker?

Answer: “I have worked since I was in my twenties. I worked as a school secretary for twenty years. After retiring from that job, I began working with the Sickle Cell Disease Association. My then soror, Joyce Ann Brown was Director of Mothers and Fathers for the Advancement of Social Systems which helped people being released from prison adjust to life outside prison walls asked me to join her in that effort. At the same time, my husband and I opened our Income Tax Preparation Service (H&H Tax Service) which we closed in 1990. We operated both businesses in the same building.

As far as employment, the thing that I am most proud of is being the first woman to be named to the Fort Worth Transportation Board. I worked also for the Fort Worth Tarrant County Appraisal Board for six years.”

Question: My, my, you have been a busy lady.

These days what does your daily schedule look like?

Answer: “Actually, I have no set routine. I have breakfast and then get ready to watch “The View”. I’m very socially minded and keep abreast of local and national political occurrences, changes, challenges, wins and failures.”

Question: I take at least 5 pills a day. How many pills do you take daily?

Answer: “None”

Question: “Are there any words of wisdom that you would like to share with us?”

Answer: “Yes, treat people the way that you want them to treat you”.

Question: What all inquiring minds want to know. What is the secret to your great physical and mental health longevity?

Answer: “No secret at all. It is only by God’s grace that things are as well as they are. I have never smoked, never drank, never had a weight problem, I’m just blessed.

Question: Can you please leave us with a word to live by?

Answer: “BE KIND”





Obtaining the Floor

I believe that just about everyone has experienced, at least once, a meeting where multiple individuals were trying to speak at once. This can create distraction, irritation, and even frank pandemonium.

To maintain order and proper decorum at meetings, there is a proper procedure for someone to be recognized to speak. It's called "obtaining the floor." Let's see exactly what that means.

Central to recognition of a speaker is recognition that the Chair, President, or similarly titled person deserves acknowledgement and respect. This person runs the meeting, acknowledges, and then allows a meeting participant to speak.

It is inappropriate to interrupt someone who is currently speaking.

It is inappropriate to garner attention through signaling that you want to be "next up" to express an opinion or to make a motion. According to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised - RONR (12th ed.) 3:30, before a member in an assembly can make a motion or speak in debate (the parliamentary name given to any form of discussion of the merits of a motion) she must obtain the floor, that is, she must be recognized by the chair as having the exclusive right to be heard at the time.

Steps for Obtaining the Floor:

1. Wait until any prior speaker(s) have finished.
2. Address the person in charge by saying "Madam Chair", "Madam President" or other appropriate form of address.
3. Wait until this person recognizes (acknowledges) you by nodding or stating your name. At large meetings, or where you are unknown, you may have to walk to a microphone and state your name, chapter, and chapter location.
4. Once you finish speaking (i.e. making a motion or debating a motion), you go back to your seat and hence, "yield the floor."

Exceptions to the Above Steps:

1. If a member made a motion and has not spoken on the matter, she is preferentially entitled to speak.
2. A person may not be recognized to speak a second time while a motion is being discussed if others who want to speak about it have not had the chance to speak. RONR (12th ed.) 42:9 states that no member who has already had the floor in debate on the immediately pending question is entitled to it again on the same day for debate on the same questions so long as a any member who has not spoken on that question claims the floor.
3. To be equitable, the chair may attempt to alternate recognizing members who oppose and favor a motion.

As sisters, we help each other to master and remember protocols. It doesn't hurt either to pick up and peruse the latest edition up RONR in Brief. Of course, rest assured that during meetings like Regional Conferences and Boules, rules governing the meeting will be prominently displayed at the beginning of the program booklet in an effort to assure that every voice desiring to speak on a given subject is heard.

Written by Soror Karen M. Mathews,
Northern Region Parliamentarian

April 17-19, 2025 Work Trip to Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated Headquarters

The information contained in our headquarters is not just a collection of dates, events, and names. It is the story of who we are, where we came from, and how we got here. It is a reminder of the triumphs and tragedies, the successes and failures, that have shaped our sorority. Our history matters because it teaches us valuable lessons and helps us understand the present and prepare us as we continue to move forward.

While in Detroit, the group was invited to Pensole Lewis College of Business by Violet Lewis Ponder, the granddaughter of Violet Lewis who was the first President of Lewis Business College. Photos below are displays of fabrics and examples of a project that was done for Pepsico.



The visiting sorors attended the monthly meeting of Alpha Chapter, Soror Fanella Felton, chapter President



Pictured between Soror Rhodes and Grand Basileus is Violet Ponder, the granddaughter of Violet Lewis



See the report of the visit on page 6

Accomplishments and Report of the Trip to Headquarters

This was a very productive trip of fact finding, plan formulating , and identifying, much needed upgrades. Work Team: Grand Basileus, Sonda Bradfield, 1st Anti Basileus, Juanita Jones, NIT Chair, Lisette Williams, Grand Historian, Andrea Foy, and Executive Director, Robbie Rhodes.

Accomplishments

- Set up the desktop computer and connections to the scanner and printer with the assistance of Soror Williams.
- Purchased a web cam with speakers.
- Uploaded programs for appropriate scanning use.
- Purchased new telephone equipment with forwarding features and the capability to add additional lines, if necessary.
- All securities for Windows are in place and protected.
- The Microsoft 365 account is updated with 1 terabyte of memory to aid with digital record keeping.
- Reviewed the digital filing system for developing enhancements to our present filing system.
- Purchased a docking station to support new devices needed to accommodate multiple USB ports.

Remaining *(These are Need to Dos and Ongoing Tasks that were identified)*

- Review Naming Convention on existing files and matching with record retention policy that is under review.
- Grand Historian Andrea Foy is working to fill the gap to update information for the dates 2012-2024. This addendum to be ready for the 2026 Boulé.
- The president of Pensole Lewis College of Business requested a donation from Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. We, in return, asked Dr. Violet Ponder to request that Dr. Edwards design a shoe or insole of a shoe for Eta Phi Beta.
- Many Constitution and Bylaws and Rituals are missing and cannot be located at headquarters.
- A Foundation Bylaws review request has been sent to Grand Director of Education Kimberly Shoulders regarding honorary and life membership and what that means.
- Regional Directors names and dates will no longer be placed on plaques and displayed at headquarters. They will be copied digitally and placed on the National Website.
- Director Rhodes will be contacting chapter and regions to return their conference books and programs. If regions or chapters want their documents returned it will be at their own expense. If the documents are not requested to be returned, Director Rhodes will scan and retain a copy digitally and paper copies will be disposed of.
- Past Presidents will be placed on national website. Presently they are displayed in different types of frames and no one sees the photos. Visitations to our National Headquarters are sporadic to none.
- Financial officers have been instructed to forward their transition documents to headquarters on a thumb drive or upload digitally. Office space is very limited for retaining boxes and boxes of paper records

There is much work to do as needed change is identified and plans implemented. A lot was accomplished. It was not the intent to resolve all issues during this visit, but the team did a great start to formulate and set up a plan to take us to a more efficient way of documenting and preserving our history.

Special recognition and appreciation goes to Executive Director Robbie Rhodes for her hospitality and openness to change and to NIT Chair Lisette Williams for her technical advice, assistance and expertise.

Upcoming Regional Conferences

Regional Registration forms, Medical & Health Forms, and Hotel Booking Forms can be accessed in each week through our weekly announcements



SAVE THE DATE
for the
ETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED
27TH BIENNIAL
MID-EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
JULY 17 - JULY 19, 2025
Hilton Columbia Center
924 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803-744-7800

Host Chapter
Epsilon Beta Chapter
Lugoff & Columbia, SC
Deanna Mihelich, Chapter President
"Not For Ourselves, But For Others"

Brenda McLean Ross
MER REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Renee Pauch
MER ASST. REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Sonda Bradfield, National President



SOUTHEASTERN REGION
29th Biennial Regional Conference
July 24 -27, 2025

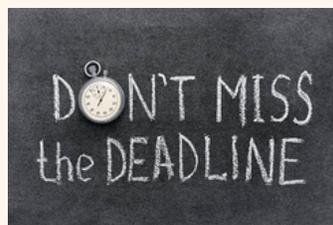
DoubleTree by Hilton
100 Fairway Drive -Deerfield Beach, FL
Phone: 954-427-7700

Host Chapter: Iota
Michelle Brimberry, Basileus
Fort Lauderdale, FL

DIANA S. GREENE, SER REGIONAL DIRECTOR

CAROLYN TAYLOR, ASST. SER REGIONAL DIRECTOR
Sonda Bradfield, Grand Basileus

Booking Link: ETA PHI BETA
<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/derdttdt-90k-9b5bba0c-94a9-4008-96af-45d97447fdb1/>



Sorority Year 2024-2025
Due Dates

Click below for pdf document with important due dates for the Sorority year.

[Sorority Year 2024-2025 Due dates](#)



In the month of June you will receive the

BEELINE

Please be sure that you get your Community Service Successes during the 2024-2025 Sorority Year included. Submissions (20 word description and 1 clear photo) should be sent to Bbriefnews@etaphibetasorority.org by May 17, 2025.

Thank you.

“NOT FOR OURSELVES, BUT FOR OTHERS”