

# THE IVY CONNECTION

ETA CHI OMEGA

April 2025



## The Heart of Service: A Journey of Grace and Commitment

In January, we were inspired to dig deeper, lead with purpose, and serve with passion—and Eta Chi Omega rose brilliantly to the occasion. With determination and heart, you placed your pumps on the ground, rolled up your sleeves, and adorned your pearls to take on meaningful work. During our "We Are One" AKA Day of Service, we proudly completed not just one, but three impactful community service projects. Together, we collaborated with our undergraduates at the CHIPP™ packing events and Second Harvest projects. What greater way to mentor than by exemplifying true servant leadership, living out the vision of our Founders.

As we step boldly into 2025, Sorors have been hard at work leading and attending committee meetings armed with thoughtful, robust agendas to propel us forward. Time and time again, I've witnessed the beauty of Sorors extending grace to one another—offering guidance, support, and uplifting words. These acts of kindness and compassion affirm the strength of our sisterhood. For this I am especially grateful. Though the work we do is voluntary, its impact is undeniably profound.

The beginning of this year has not been without challenges. Some of our sisters have faced deep personal

losses, illness, and our community continues to grapple with the increase in gun violence. Let us lift those affected in prayer and use these hardships as fuel for our commitment to making a difference. Together, we remain steadfast in our mission to bring positive change where it is most needed.

In brighter moments, we celebrated our cherished Diamond, Soror Melba D. Braud, and her extraordinary seventy-five years of unwavering dedication to the ideals of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Soror Braud is a living legacy—a beacon of grace, compassion, and service whose contributions have strengthened our bond as sisters and uplifted countless communities. She has shown us that service is not merely a responsibility, but a way of life. We are forever grateful for the indelible mark she has left on our hearts and the world around us. May her exceptional achievement remind us all of the power of service and the lasting difference one person can make.

*Tracey Biagas-Hill*

### In this newsletter you can expect:

Basileus Chat

Black Business  
Spotlight

Enhance Our  
Environment

Economic  
Highlights

Birthdays

Reminders

Tech Tip



## Basileus Chat

Do you have ideas for future projects? Are you looking for a Soror to meet up with for a walk in the park? How about chatting over coffee or meeting up for lunch to get to know your Soror(s) and foster sisterly relations?

Look no more. Your Basileus will “pop up” in a neighborhood near you at least once per quarter to get to know the Sorors of ECO better. Feel free to drop in...stop by...or meet up for a friendly chat.



**Second Stop:**  
**Shane’s Famous**  
**Quesadilla Burger**  
**3822 W. Congress Street**  
**Lafayette, LA 70506**  
**Friday, April 25, 2025**  
**6:00 p.m.**



## Support Black-Owned Businesses

During 2025, let us track our spending in Black-owned businesses to monitor the economic impact of our membership. Whether you have your hair done weekly, or like to shop online for fashions or paraphernalia marketed by Black-owned businesses, every dollar counts and makes a difference. While our current International Program tracks spending in June of each year, let us maintain that focus year round.

Please track/enter in spending using the link below:  
<https://forms.gle/GEU8AQ2N7Pf2WmS46>



## Black-Owned Business Spotlight

### **Black Cafe**

518 S. Pierce Street, #100  
 Lafayette, Louisiana 70501  
 (337) 889-3862  
[blackcafelafayette.shopsettings.com](http://blackcafelafayette.shopsettings.com)

### **Incredible Smoothie Cafe**

2429 W. Congress Street, Suite D  
 Lafayette, Louisiana  
[incrediblesmoothiecafe.com](http://incrediblesmoothiecafe.com)  
 (337) 534-0975

### **Ashley Breaux Aesthetics**

Lafayette, Louisiana  
 By Appointment Only  
 (337) 453-7777  
[ashleybreaux.as.me](http://ashleybreaux.as.me)



## Track Your Progress

[Click Here](#)

### Enhance Our Environment

Louisiana is home to about 2,500 native plant species that support healthy ecosystems, wildlife, and local biodiversity. Native plants are low-maintenance, requiring less water, fertilizer, and pesticides while improving soil and air quality. They provide food and shelter for wildlife, help restore habitats, and promote pollinator populations. Beyond ecological benefits, native plant landscapes offer beauty, a sense of place, and cultural significance, making Louisiana's natural heritage something to celebrate and preserve.

#### Importance of Native Plants in Louisiana

- **Adapted to Local Conditions** – Native plants thrive in Louisiana's climate and soil, requiring less maintenance, water, and fertilizers.
- **Environmental Benefits** – Reducing lawn areas in favor of native plants decreases chemical use, improves soil and air quality, and conserves resources.
- **Supports Wildlife** – Native plants provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies, bees, and other beneficial insects, helping sustain local ecosystems.
- **Restores Habitats** – As urbanization replaces natural spaces, native plant gardens create essential habitat "bridges" for wildlife.
- **Promotes Pollinators** – Many pollinators, like butterflies and bees, rely on native plants for survival, aiding in biodiversity.
- **Cultural and Aesthetic Value** – Native landscapes offer a sense of place, showcasing Louisiana's rich natural heritage while reducing the monotony of lawns.
- **Resilience and Sustainability** – Unlike non-native plants, native species have natural defenses against pests and diseases, reducing the need for pesticides.
- **Economic Benefits** – Less reliance on fertilizers, pesticides, and irrigation saves homeowners and communities money while benefiting the environment.

By incorporating native plants into landscapes, Louisiana residents can contribute to a healthier, more sustainable ecosystem.

-Soror Jamillia McKinley

### First Quarter Black Dollar Tracking



Continue tracking  
Spending in  
Black and Women-Owned Businesses  
*\*It's not too late to enter purchases made in early 2025.*

[Click Here](#)



## Birthdays

### April

Breannie Charles (1)  
LaKeshia Reed (5)  
Shirley R. Cormier (6)  
Tracey Biagas-Hill (7)  
Keena Jean Louis (17)  
Cynthia Bernard (21)  
Angela Trahan (23)  
Myra Yvonne Narcisse (28)

### May

Quintella Baskerville (1)  
Tynese BreauX (2)  
Andretta Porter-Williams (3)  
Suzanne Foster (5)  
Verna Calais (7)  
Carmela Nadine Brown (9)  
Dolores Cormier-Zenon (10)  
Patricia Mouton (15)  
Scheresia Russell (19)  
Elizabeth Reaux (20)  
Yolanda Notto (27)  
Chastity Wilson (28)

### June

Yolandria Dauterive (4)  
Breyone Carter (16)  
Brittany Cretchain (19)  
Jeneva Ruffin (21)  
Niccola Ledet-McNair (27)  
Calvary Sampson (28)



**\*\*If your birthday is missing from the list, please complete a Tech Request, which may be found in the Members Only section of [www.akaetachiomega.com](http://www.akaetachiomega.com).\*\***

## REMINDERS:

**DON'T FORGET**

### 2025 Women Build - Habitat for Humanity

- April 5, 2025
- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### LPCG Shred Event

- April 5, 2025
- Robichaux Recreation Center - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m..

### 93rd South Central Regional Conference

- April 30, 2025 - May 4, 2025
- Little Rock, Arkansas

### New Member Orientation

- Saturday, April 26, 2025, Lafayette, Louisiana
- Time & Location: TBA

### Committee Sign-up

- **[CLICK HERE](#)**



## Build Our Economic Wealth

### Money Tips:

If you're looking to grow your savings, a high-yield savings account can be a smart choice over a regular bank savings account. For example, if you deposit \$1,000 in a regular savings account with a 0.05% interest rate, you would earn just \$.50 in a year. However, a high-yield savings account offering 4.00% interest would earn \$40.00 in that same year. That's \$39.50 more! High-yield savings accounts help money grow faster, making them a better option for those who want to earn more without taking extra risks.

-Soror Desiree Lemelle



**Sister Circles  
Coming Soon!**

- \*Saving**
- \*Investing**
- \*Giving**



## Upcoming Chapter Meetings

**April 12, 2025  
10:00 a.m. @SLCC**

**May 17, 2025  
10:00 a.m. @ SLCC**

### Tech Tip

Look for the Link Below in the Members Only Section to submit your Tech Requests.

**Tech Help**

TECHNOLOGY REQUEST FORM

*Thank you for your service!*

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