



*A Letter from Your Basileus,
Mary K. Clark Tillman*

Xi Zeta Zeta Chapter – San Jose, CA

June 16, 2018

My Dearest Sorors of Xi Zeta Zeta Chapter,

I want to personally thank each and every one of you for entrusting in me, the position of your Chapter Basileus for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 sorority years. It has truly been a humbling and challenging experience that has taught me so much about my chapter, as a whole; each of you as your unique selves; and most importantly, myself. Additionally, this position has allowed me to branch out and step outside of some of my comfort zones to create lifelong and blessed relationships in and out of this chapter. During my term, I have to say that we, as a chapter, have shared a plethora of laughs, smiles, hugs, tears, agreements and disagreements, successes and hardships, gains and heart-wrenching losses. Nonetheless, we stuck through it like Sorors should and do!

WE will forever be remembered as that chapter that made state conference history at the 2017 California State Leadership Conference by having the largest number of registrants. Not to mention, we even broke the regional conference numbers! Let us, as a chapter remember the planning meetings, conference calls, shopping trips, and text messages we shared amongst each other as we lifted each other up with encouraging words to successfully execute our hosted conference. YES, WE DID THAT!!!

WE shall never forget how we rolled deep into our Bay Area blue and white events, like the annual Sigma-Zeta picnic and Founders' Day luncheons; the Black Joy Parade; the Macy's Black History Month Fashion Show at Valley Fair; the women's shelter holiday dinner and other community happenings. But, we didn't only come in deep, we came in FINER...dressed like our most honorable founders would've wanted it. YES, WE REPRESENTED WELL!!!

WE will forever hold in our heart those Sorors we lost in our chapter. Triumphant Sorors LaToya Barnes and Thadarine McIntosh taught us that a loss is A LOSS, as we supported and even fought with one another, like real families do when we experience a death. Nonetheless, we did what we had to do to honor the both of them, and in our heart of hearts, we know that they look at us with pride and appreciation, and their spirits still shine through in the work we do. YES, WE TRULY ARE FAMILY!!!

WE grew our Zeta Youth Auxiliaries and were able to get six chapter members "green-lighted" as official advisors to support our girls. Our ZYA Coordinator and her advisors did a remarkable job in nurturing our ZYA to do some pretty awesome things and they continue to amaze me as they grow from "Girls to Pearls". YES, WE LOVE THE BABIES!!!

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WE held two of the most successful and talked about Finer Womanhood Scholarship Brunches in 2017 and 2018, but then again, this could just be me being biased because they happened to be in my term ☺. Our Silver Zeta and NPHC Sisterhood acknowledgement award themes were awe-inspiring and impressive, to say the least. From the dedicated coordinators, event decorations, guest speakers, hilarious Soror emcees, impressive scholarship awardees, and overall atmosphere, I remain proud of this chapter. YES, WE EXEMPLIFY SISTERHOOD AND SCHOLARSHIP!!!

Lastly, WE were honored to induct three new members into our sisterhood and chapter after being on an almost ten-year hiatus, as we healed ourselves from within before bringing in anyone. May they grow in the light of Zeta and represent this chapter as those before them. Alternatively, may we support and assist with nurturing their Zeta lights and “be a protection, one for the other” always. YES, WE GOT NEW BLOOD!!!

Sorors, I hope that as your Basileus, you all felt my heart and intentions for this sisterhood and our chapter; I hope that you felt my sincerity and how serious I take our oath; I hope that you were able to feel my friendship for you as an individual; and I hope that you felt my earnest apologies in the mistakes I may have made. I am not a perfect woman, and far from a perfect leader, but you all have made me want to be better and that is what I strive to do in my everyday life. This experience has been a pleasure and I wouldn’t trade it for the world, because without it, I wouldn’t be the Soror who stands before you today. Again, THANK YOU!!!

With Sisterly Love Always,

Soror Mary K. Clark Tillman

Soror Mary “Kat” Clark-Tillman
Basileus

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