



1 dedicated to the emulation of the objectives and ideals of the sorority; and

2 WHEREAS, sorority members Myrtle Tyler, Gladys Warrington, Joanna Houston,  
3 Josephine Johnson and O. Goldia Smith first incorporated Zeta Phi Beta Sorority on March  
4 30, 1923, in Washington D.C., and in 1939, the sorority was incorporated in the state of  
5 Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated was the first organization to charter  
7 a chapter in Africa in 1948; to form adult and youth auxiliary groups, the Amicae,  
8 Archonettes, Amicettes, and Pearlettes; and to be constitutionally bound to a brother group,  
9 Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated; and

10 WHEREAS, since 1972, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated has enjoyed a  
11 partnership with the March of Dimes in an effort to encourage women to seek prenatal care  
12 within the first trimester of pregnancy, thereby increasing the prevention of birth defects and  
13 infant mortality; and

14 WHEREAS, the sorority sponsors over 175 Stork's Nests, designed to promote  
15 prenatal care participation and healthy behaviors during the pregnancy, serving over 28,000  
16 women; and

17 WHEREAS, Zetas Helping Other People Excel (Z-HOPE) is an outreach service  
18 program that has six primary objectives, corresponding measures of success and a  
19 mechanism for chapter recognition; and

20 WHEREAS, the National Educational Foundation of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority,  
21 Incorporated is created and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes  
22 with the principle activities and purpose of the trust being to award scholarship grants to  
23 worthy students for the pursuit of higher education; to conduct community educational  
24 programs which will aid in the educational and vocational improvement in individual and  
25 community living standards; to engage in activities which will aid in the educational  
26 development of all women; and to engage in any appropriate research related to the purposes  
27 of the foundation scholarship; and

28 WHEREAS, the Southern Region traces its origins to when a beautiful visionary,  
29 Roberta F. Bell-Sims was elected as the National First Anti-Basileus serving through 1934,  
30 who moved Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated to the "Mighty" Southern Region in 1929,

1 and which has for the past 81 years been effectively carrying out the programmatic thrust  
2 of its national presidents as well as fulfilling the needs of the sisterhood; and

3 WHEREAS, there is no explanation or mention of "Boule" before this; and

4 WHEREAS, at the same Boule in 1929, Roberta was appointed to serve as the  
5 Southern Regional Director and given the assignment of organizing a region to be comprised  
6 of Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama and from 1929 to 1934, Roberta  
7 organized new chapters in every section of the region; and

8 WHEREAS, between 1937 and 1943, the region grew into the largest region in the  
9 sorority, being named "The Mighty Southern Region", because it was so strong and gave  
10 such excellent leadership to the national body; the region growing so rapidly and so large  
11 that eventually all states except Texas and Louisiana were reassigned to other regions; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1937, the Southern Region invited the Boule to Houston, the first  
13 held south of the Mason-Dixon line, where forty-five voting delegates attended; and

14 WHEREAS, the region is proud to have three very active Past Grand Basilei who  
15 have added and continue to add wisdom, guidance, and stability to the region - Lullelia  
16 Walker Harrison from Houston, is the 12th Grand Basileus, Isabel Morgan Herson from  
17 Baton Rouge, is the 16th Grand Basileus and Dr. Barbara West Carpenter from Baton  
18 Rouge, is the 21st Grand Basileus; and

19 WHEREAS, the achievements of the "Mighty Southern Region" are remarkable and  
20 in many cases have set a precedent in Zeta as the Southern Region is the only region to hold  
21 a separate auxiliary leadership conference; and

22 WHEREAS, the first undergraduate chapter established south of the Mason-Dixon  
23 line was Theta Chapter at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, in 1923 and Lambda Gamma  
24 Chapter of McNeese State University in Lake Charles was the first undergraduate chapter  
25 established on a predominantly white college campus in the South in 1969; and

26 WHEREAS, the first executive office of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated was  
27 located in Houston, at 1721 Worms Street, and in 1948 Houston Amicae was the first to be  
28 granted a charter by national; and

29 WHEREAS, the first fully paid life members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated  
30 were Gertrude Jimson and Eola Lyons Baker of Alpha Gamma Zeta Chapter in New

1 Orleans; and

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3 WHEREAS, the first graduate chapter to be chartered in the region was Gamma Zeta  
4 on April 3, 1925, in Shreveport, by Zetas in the teaching profession; and

5 WHEREAS, the oldest active graduate chapter in the region is Kappa Zeta in Dallas,  
6 established in 1931 which held Blue Revue, a national scholarship observance, in 1933 and  
7 presented at the 1933 Boule; and

8 WHEREAS, the first honorary member from the Southern Region was Barbara Ann  
9 Webb-Spriggs, a concert singer from Houston, receiving the honor in 1952; and

10 WHEREAS, the first regional youth retreat was held at Bishop College in Dallas in  
11 June 1979, and the first Southern Region youth director was Hattie Marshall of Gamma  
12 Omega Zeta in Houston; and

13 WHEREAS, the Southern Region was the first to hold a joint Sigma/Zeta Leadership  
14 Conference (Gulf Coast Region/Sigma and Southern Region/Zeta), in Lake Charles in 1987  
15 and initiated the Project SOS (Save Our Sons) in New Orleans in 1989; and

16 WHEREAS, the Southern Region is the only region that functions without state  
17 meetings since there are only two states in the region; and

18 WHEREAS, Zeta's national and local programs include endowment of its National  
19 Education Foundation; community outreach services; and support of multiple affiliate  
20 organizations and Zeta chapters and auxiliary groups have given untold hours of voluntary  
21 service to educate the public, assist youth, provide scholarships, support organized charities,  
22 and promote legislation for social and civic change.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
24 commend and congratulate the "Mighty" Southern Region of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority,  
25 Incorporated and welcome the sorority to New Orleans on June 2-4, 2011 for its 82<sup>nd</sup>  
26 Southern Regional Leadership Conference and Youth Retreat.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
28 Southern Region of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

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DIGEST

Willard-Lewis

SCR No. 35

Commends the "Mighty" Southern Region of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated and to welcome the sorority to New Orleans on June 2-4, 2011 for its 82<sup>nd</sup> Southern Regional Leadership Conference and Youth Retreat.