

## Power of Nine Literacy Project – Meeting Minutes

Date: May 14, 2026

Time: 7:02 PM – 7:43 PM

### Attendees

- Nakisha Chaney AKA
- Matthew Coats AΦA
- Miranda Hill ΔΣΘ
- Leland Walker AΦA
- Jason White ΩΨΦ
- Patrice LaGrand ΣΓΡ

### Developing a Meaningful Program for the 2026-2027 School Year

- Nakisha began the meeting by discussing how we can make a meaningful program moving forward.
  - Using the Summer to develop a year-round calendar of events.
  - 5 suggestions for potential initiatives
    - Rotating classroom readings: Monthly schedule with different organizations visiting schools
    - Book giveaway support: Coordinating and publicizing existing chapter book distribution events
    - Book-to-movie clubs: Periodic events at different education levels (elementary through adult) where participants read, discuss, and then watch film adaptation
    - Children's storytelling event: Partnership with African American Cultural and Historical Museum (AACHM)
    - Literacy and life skills workshops: Practical literacy covering grocery labels, price comparison, election documents, financial literacy, media literacy, and medical records
  - Jason suggested a parent engagement program: Incorporating caring adults into literacy efforts without a stigmatizing approach
  - Matthew suggested that we each organization take one initiative, focus on it, and report on each plan at the next meeting. This would be just for planning and logistical purposes only.

### Program Elements & Assignments

- Rotating classroom readings: Monthly schedule with different organizations visiting schools - assigned to Deltas (Miranda)
- Book giveaway support: Coordinating and publicizing existing chapter book distribution events - assigned to Alphas (Matthew & Leland)
- Book-to-movie clubs: Periodic events at different education levels (elementary through adult) where participants read, discuss, then watch film adaptation - assigned to AKAs (Nakisha)
- Children's storytelling event: Partnership with African American Cultural and Historical Museum (AACHM) - assigned to AKAs (Nakisha)
- Literacy and life skills workshops: Practical literacy covering grocery labels, price comparison, election

documents, financial literacy, media literacy, and medical records - assigned to SG Rhos (Patrice)

- Parent engagement program: Incorporating caring adults into literacy efforts without a stigmatizing approach - assigned to Omegas (Jason)

### Key Topic Discussions

- **Target diverse audiences:** Book-to-movie clubs will span elementary through adult levels, with one or two organizations focusing on each age group
- **Gender-specific programming for older students:** Middle and high school book clubs will separate boys and girls for discussions, allowing fraternities to mentor boys and sororities to mentor girls, while watching movies together
- **Inclusive cultural representation:** While prioritizing Black authors and culture, book selections will include bilingual and diverse cultural content
- **Co-ed classroom reading:** Organizations will read to whoever is present, regardless of gender, for younger students
- **Use the term "caring adult"** instead of "parent" in communications to be inclusive of grandparents, coaches, and other guardians

### Implementation Approach

- Each organization will develop detailed logistics for its assigned program element over the next two weeks
- Planning considerations include: school contact protocols, timing, space requirements, and resource needs
- Calendar development: The group will create a comprehensive 2026-2027 school year schedule showing which organization visits which school each month
- School board approval will be sought, when it applies, once program details are finalized, particularly for classroom readings

### Next, Author & Partnership Opportunities were discussed.

- **Local Black authors identified** for potential involvement:
  - Gerard Allen (Detroit) - children's books, participated in Alphas' Esquire event
  - Two African American authors from Brighter Day book events
  - Marcellus - middle/high school level books
  - Demajae Muray with "ABCs of Activism" (historical figures ABC book)
- **AACHM partnership rationale:** Museum seeks community engagement, not all D9 organizations have strong relationships with the museum, and there is an opportunity to support the institution during attacks on African American history
- **Edith Lewis** (Zeta on AACHM board) may collaborate on museum storytelling event

### Action Items

- **All organizations:** Develop detailed logistics for the assigned program element by May 28
- **Nakisha:** Reach out to IOTAs and Zetas; develop book-to-movie club and AACHM storytelling event plans

- **Matthew/Leland:** Develop book distribution/giveaway support plan
- **Jason:** Develop a parent/caring adult engagement program plan
- **Patrice:** Develop literacy and life skills workshop series plan; connect with Edith Lewis about AACHM collaboration
- **Miranda:** Develop classroom reading logistics plan; consult with Nikita Williams (chair) and Brenda Hill (SOAR president)
- **Patrice:** Share contact information for local African American authors from Brighter Day events
- **Byron:** Contact Sigmas and Kappas about joining planning group

#### **Next Meeting**

**Date:** May 28, 2026

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Zoom:** Literacy Project Planning Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8813530765>

Meeting ID: 881 353 0765