

Gamma Gamma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Minutes of the business meeting and agenda of the
Spring Celebration of Membership Banquet
Bridges of Poplar Creek
May 8, 2018

Social time 3:30-4:00

President Gerie Kay called the meeting to order at 4:00 and welcomed members and our guests. Our guests for the business meeting and banquet were Dr. Debra LeBlanc, Lambda State President and Melinda Davis, Event Planning and Membership Chair of Lambda State, past Lambda State President (2003-2005) and member of Alpha Theta Chapter.

The officers conducted the Contemporary Initiation Ceremony and welcomed our new members, Karyn Baldwin, Michelle Baldwin, Debra Hopp, and Patricia "Tish" Chapman. A reception line followed the ceremony to allow members to greet and welcome the new members.

Kris Beaudette presented the Reflection. Dinner was then served.

Following dinner, Sandy Cook and Denise Pawelczyk announced the winners of our grants. Jada Coakley was the winner of the Gamma Gamma Recruitment Grant. Steffi Delgado was the winner of the Anne Fussell Scholarship. Both young women attend Hoffman Estates High School and both gave an acceptance speech.

Following the awarding of grants came the Installation of New Officers ceremony. The Alternate Installation of Officers format was used. New officers for the 2018-2020 biennium are: President: Mary Wrobel, First Vice-President: Rose Karner, Co-Second Vice Presidents: Mary Balk and Honora Quinn, Recording Secretary: Kris Beaudette, Corresponding Secretary: Sharon Froehlich, Treasurer: Linda Stolt, Parliamentarian: Linda Szymkowiak.

Sudah Byanna spoke about the Kenneth Young 5k Walk- our service project for May/ June.

An envelope was passed for contributions.

A video was then shown of our Golden Jubilee 50th year Recommitment Ceremony. A video was shown that was sent by Katie McGarvey, our 2014 Gamma Gamma Recruitment Grant recipient as a "thank you" for our support over her years at Loyola.

She was not able to attend in person due to a conflict in her schedule. It was Graduation night for her at Loyola.

The Love of Learning Award was won by Linda Szymkowiak.

The Literacy Award was presented to Chris Chason, who had been nominated by Glenda Klein-Mali. Glenda provided this introduction for Chris:

Gamma Gamma Literacy Award 2018

I'd like to share what I have known for many years about Chris Chason, this year's Literacy Award recipient. Frankly, you would never, ever know about her accomplishments because Chris is very humble and prefers to work behind the scenes. However, she is truly an ambassador in the forefront of community service and current literacy needs. So, let me tell you why Chris is so deserving of this honor:

For 8 years Chris has worked with KIDS HOPE, a District 54 program that connects a neighborhood school with a neighborhood church. Referrals by school social workers with teacher input focus on students from a stressful home life, those lost in the shuffle, perhaps emotionally neglected, and needing a supportive 1-1 relationship. Once a week for 45 minutes throughout the school year, a trained adult meets with a child around school work, games, puzzles, reading books of interest, conversation, thereby increasing her or his self-esteem and confidence to succeed academically. Chris has cared for a variety of students from Armstrong School.

For 15 years Chris has volunteered as a trained tutor with Read to Learn, a Dist. 214 adult and family literacy program that focuses on building vocabulary, writing skills, and reading comprehension. There are spring and fall sessions that each meet for 10 weeks, once a week, for 2 ½ hours. There have been students, often women, from Poland, China, India, Japan, Eastern Europe, Iran, and Mexico, truly an international group motivated to improve their English language skills.

Chris then noticed there were mothers with young children and no babysitter who were unable to attend the Read to Learn classes. So, 4 years ago, Chris, being the creative visionary, started her own English class, "Moms and Tots", where women could also bring their children. They meet weekly for two and a half hours, year around on a consistent basis. There are 13 students enrolled. Focus is academic on reading and writing about what interests them, with an emphasis on vocabulary, grammar and punctuation. Plus, there is homework! Chris prepares her own lesson plans and chooses pragmatic themes that will help students understand their real-life experiences in the U.S. She does her own prolific research by collecting myriad articles from newspapers, magazines, and library books. Just a few examples of her carefully chosen themes are Dr. Seuss, American Culture, National Parks, Crossword puzzles, Women's Equality, Maya Angelou, Emotions, Flu Prevention, Winter Concerns, Stress,

Idioms, Communicating with your Doctor, Community Opportunities. The sessions always end with children's action songs and the children eagerly await to participate. Women and children from Japan, China, and Malaysia have enrolled in this class. Four years ago, Chris also initiated a Summer Enrichment program for students from Read to Learn who want to continue their learning without losing progress over the summer. This six-week series practices reading, speaking, listening in English, and always vocabulary incorporating common life experiences.

So how does Chris market these growth opportunities? Word of mouth spreads the good word; moms tell other moms. They recruit. According to Chris, one student shared, "I like your lessons; they're useful." And that simply was the best praise she could ever receive. Chris volunteers in many other church and community service projects; where there is a need, she responds and implements. Literacy is her passion. So, let's welcome and congratulate amazing Chris Chason as our Gamma Gamma 2018 Literacy Award recipient!

Certificates of Membership were presented by Gerie Kay and Melinda Davis to the following members:

5 years: Amy Bouchard, Tracy Cory, Debbie Faems, and Mary Roeing. There were no 10 and 15 year members this year.

20 years: Cheryl Keifer

30 years: Maureen Briza and Gretchen Mahin

40 years: Judy Briggs, Joyce Dunne, and Jan Kayson

45 years: Marge Fox, Joan Gazdic, Barb Keegan, Mary Salee, and Mary Ann Bilski.

Cindy Nicholson, our member since 2015, was the only retiree this year. Since she was not able to attend, her gift will be delivered to her.

At the conclusion of the evening, the members joined hands and sang The Delta Kappa Gamma Song.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Beaudette
Gamma Gamma Chapter
Delta Kappa Gamma Society International\
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