



Gamma Gamma Ray



Newsletter of the Gamma Gamma Chapter of IL State www.gammagamma75.org August 2019

We wish all the best for our working members, as you start another year of teaching.

Our Gamma Gamma executive board met on August 8th to plan for the upcoming year and share goals and information from our various committees. Most of our executive board members (Cheryl Keifer, Honora Quinn, Mary Balk, Linda Szymkowiak, Denise Pawelczyk, Kris Beaudette, Joan Gazdic, Linda Stolt, Gerie Kay and Mary Wrobel) were able to attend and we had a very productive meeting. Please check out the committee reports to get updates on each of the committees. The program matrix, which gives dates, locations, hostess info and service projects is attached to this newsletter.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- ◆ **August 22-** Celebrating Key Woman Educators: Making a Difference- at Sleepy Creek Vineyard, Fairmount, IL 3:45- 6pm. Dinner and speaker is from 5-6pm. Tickets are \$20. Email our state president if you want to go: pres.lambda.ilstate@gmail.com
- ◆ **August 29 –** Our **Book Club** is gathering to discuss The Death of Mrs. Westway by Ruth Ware at 5:30pm at Rosario's Restaurant: 777 N. Roselle Road in Roselle. Contact Sue Wadkins, our August facilitator, if you are attending: susan.wadkins@sbcglobal.net
- ◆ **September 9- Bernie's Books-** Our shift is from 1-3pm and we are meeting at the Schaumburg Library to drive together to Bernie's Books. Bring a snack or light lunch to eat there before our shift.

- ◆ **September 19-** Our program meeting: **Get and Stay Organized!** at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Membership Committee is hosting and Debra Hopp is giving the reflection. We are collecting school supplies for Huff Elementary School. Please see attachment for the supply list.
- ◆ **September 20-21-** DKG State Organization Executive Board Meeting in Bloomington, IL.
- ◆ **October 22-** Program meeting at Prince of Peace. Judie King and Rose Marie Mincey will be presenting about their amazing trip to Kenya with Ingage Unlimited.
- ◆ **October 26-** Legislative Seminar in Springfield, IL at the Springfield Library. The registration fee is \$35.
- ◆ **October 29-** Our Book Club is gathering to discuss Books That Matter Most by Ann Hood. Cammy Basak is facilitating this discussion. Let her know if you plan to attend.

CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ◆ Jon Fussell was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor and underwent surgery on August 12th. Honie Quinn suggested that Gamma Gamma buy him a special care blanket and our executive board approved that purchase. Please see Care Team news for contact information for Jon.
- ◆ Bernie's Books is a book bank for at risk children. People drop off new and gently used children's books to help Chicago children "read their way to a better life". Gamma Gamma members are volunteering to sort books at the book bank on September 9th from 1-3 pm. If you wish to participate in this great service opportunity contact Sue Wadkins: susan.wadkins@sbcglobal.net
- ◆ Our next program meeting is Thursday, September 19, 2019-Get and Stay organized! With a new school year and our new DKG year starting, it's always a good idea to get organized. Our September speaker, Erin Kelly has 11 years experience in her own business of organization and speaking on this topic. Whether it's your home or office, Erin explains the tools to help you be more productive and save time. Don't forget, we are collecting school supplies for U-46 and Huff school.
- ◆ Lori Mobley, District 54 SEA president will be visiting our September meeting to learn more about our organization and spread the word about our programs and activities to teachers in 54. Be sure and introduce yourselves to her and make her welcome. We are really looking forward to meeting her!

- ◆ We are happy to welcome Lauren Haman, our 2015 grant recipient and former collegiate member, into active membership at our September 19 Gamma Gamma meeting, with a short induction. Even though Lauren has already joined our chapter, we want to welcome her to our membership with a short ceremony. This is a great opportunity for our members to introduce themselves to Lauren and get to know her better. Lauren is starting her new job as a math teacher at Maine South H.S.
- ◆ Cheryl Keifer and the Communications Committee will explain the new online directory and “text tree” at our September meeting.
- ◆ We are collecting gift cards for our collegiate members and scholarship winners, who are still in college. Any gift cards you have and don’t plan to use will be appreciated(ex: Subway, Target, Portillos, Panera, Starbucks, Walgreens, etc) Our members who mentor our college students already give very generously to them and appreciate any additional gift cards we can give. Please give any gift cards to Denise Pawelczyk.
- ◆ We will continue to do our chapter book exchange at our regular monthly meetings this year. If you have a book(s) you have read and wish to donate it, bring it to the September meeting.
- ◆ We’re already starting to plan for our December 3rd auction! There are some changes to the auction this year, and as usual, we need lots of volunteers to help make the auction successful. Please check out the information posted under the Program Committee report in this newsletter for details.
- ◆ Remember to periodically check out our chapter website (www.gammagamma75.org) which is beautifully managed by our webmaster, Kathy Muench. You can print our new yearbook information. All the information in our 2019-20 yearbook can be found on our website. If you have a chance, please remember to thank Kathy for all her hard work putting our yearbook and other essential chapter and state information on our website. We are so grateful for all that Kathy does for our chapter. KMMuench@comcast.net
- ◆ Also, don’t forget to check out our state organization website, www.deltakappagamma.org/IL . You may need to use your member number, found on the back of your yearbook, as a password.

Care Team News:

Please contact [Glenda Klein-Mali](#)(and Mary Wrobel) if you have any news for the Care Team. We also love to hear your good news and celebrations! Let us know what you would like shared with your Gamma Gamma sisters via newsletter or other announcements. We can also be discreet, if you don't wish to announce your situation to all chapter members.

- If you have any extra [Get Well cards, blank note cards or stamps](#), please consider donating them to the Care Team. Our very dedicated Care Team members pay for those items out of their own pockets and we don't want them to stop what they do because of lack of funds. Bring your donations to any of our meeting and give to Glenda Klein-Mali. Thanks!
- [Linda Stolt](#) wants our members to know that every Friday at Hallmark stores, we can purchase a support card(sympathy, get well, thinking of you) for just the cost of tax. You will need a Hallmark Reward Card in order to do this.
- **Jon Fussell** is recovering from brain surgery(removal of a large brain tumor) and loves to hear from Gamma Gamma members. We are like family to Jon and at this difficult recovery time for him, he will so appreciate any cards and letters we send him. Please send cards to his home address:

Jon Fussell
2746 Dalewood Ave SE,
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

- Please keep [Denise Pawelczyk's](#) family in your prayers. Denise's mother has recently been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer.
- As always, please keep up the good wishes and prayers for Charlotte Weber's daughter, Katie. Katie loves to hear from her mom's Gamma Gamma sisters. Here is Katie's address:

Katie Weber
3039 18th Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98144

Many of our chapter sisters have health issues or other situations they are dealing with which prevent them from coming to meetings. If you haven't heard from a Gamma Gamma sister in a while, please take a moment to call or email her. We can all do our part to check on our members and support them when they need us most.

To all our Gamma Gamma sisters, don't forget to let us know if you need our support - The Care Team

COMMITTEE REPORTING

SOCIETY BUSINESS: (Joan Gazdic)

Society Business will meet on August 21 to make a few changes to our rules and procedures with regards to Educational Excellence-Scholarships and the combined Service and Special Projects Committee. We will also update the language in our rules to include new terms used by the state (ex: induction vs initiation). These changes will be presented to the members at our September meeting to be voted on, along with our new 2019-20 budget.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: (Rose Karner)

With the help of **Madelynn Brossard**, the Membership Committee has updated the Gamma Gamma brochure. We will have those brochures at the September meeting for our members to pass out.

Rose Karner is looking for chapter members who want to be on the Nomination Committee, to nominate new executive board members in the spring. Let Rose know if you wish to be a part of this process. rkarner@me.com

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: (Cheryl Keifer)

The Gamma Gamma Yearbook will be online soon! The Communication Committee members will pass out hard copies of member contact sheets, and programs at-a-glance at our September meeting. Remember, beginning this fall we will be using a different system for emergency member contact. The phone tree will no longer be used (except for members without computer access). Instead, 'text alerts' will be used and Cheryl will explain this system at our September 19 meeting.

To get these 'heads up' alerts, we need to have the cell phone number that you would use to receive texts. If we don't have a text-able cell phone number for you, you will only receive the emergency email sent by Mary.

This is all new, and there will be some wrinkles. Thanks so much for your patience. Cheryl Keifer, Communications Committee Chair

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: (Mary Balk and Honora Quinn)

Attached to this newsletter is the updated and final program matrix for 2019-20. Please make note of the dates and places for our upcoming meetings, and check to see if/when you are hostessing, or giving a reflection. We don't want anyone surprised at the last minute.

Our next program meeting is Thursday, September 19, 2019 - Get and Stay organized! With a new school year and our new DKG year starting, it's always a good idea to get organized. Our September speaker, Erin Kelly has 11 years experience in her own business of organization and speaking on this topic. Whether it's your home or office, Erin explains the tools to help you be more productive and save time. We are collecting school supplies for U-46 and Huff school.

It's Never too early to think about the DKG Auction!
This year our Holiday Auction is Tuesday, December 3rd!!!

And times are a changing! There will NOT be "Elf on the Shelf" this year, but a fun 'wine pull' that will take its place. (Hear more on that at the September meeting!) SOOOO if you typically make items for Elf on the Shelf...you get a break this year!

AND as you think about the items you would like to donate for the auction...please consider purchasing more consumable items, such as packaged food items, gift cards, coffees/teas, sweets, certificates for services, spa treatments, dinners, classes, etc. Many of us have reached that point where we are trying to minimize 'the stuff' we accumulate and are trying to downsize and simplify our lives as well as our homes.

Also remember that gift baskets are a great moneymaker at the auction and a fun item to purchase. Grab a friend or two or three and put together a gift basket to donate. Be creative! Listed below are just a few suggestions for gift baskets for the Silent Auction:

- movie night
- outdoor concert picnic
- personal spa items (or recovering from Holiday Stress!)
- hostess baskets
- gardening

- wine baskets
- grandparent survival basket
- new baby basket
- college care package
- staying cozy on a wintery evening
- family game night

AND...most importantly, WE NEED HELP! We need lots of volunteers to make the night successful. For each volunteer, it's not a lot of work so **PLEASE** look for the sign-up sheet at the next two meetings. To get you thinking, here are positions to consider..

- Set-up
- Purchase poinsettias for centerpieces to be auctioned
- Greeter/help carry-in auction items for some of our members
- Sign-in and money collection
- Price & arrange auction items
- Man the 'Garage Sale' table/collect money from purchases
- Sell 50/50 raffle tickets
- Arrange Silent Auction item
- Order food for dinner
- Purchase holiday paper goods for dinner/dessert
- Bring baked item for dessert
- Purchase and bring beverages, ice, and plastic cups
- Auctioneers
- Tally bids and collect money
- Clean-up

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE-Scholarships: (Denise Pawelczyk)

Lauren Hamen is now an active member of Gamma Gamma Chapter! Lauren was excited to become an active member now that she will be teaching math as a first year teacher at Maine South H.S. Lauren has already paid her dues, but we hope to do an informal presentation-style induction for her with our membership at our September meeting.

Please consider donating gift cards for our mentored college students and collegiate members. The girls really appreciate the gift cards and it's a great way for us to support them while they are working to complete their

college educations. Almost any gift cards would be appreciated, but the ones that are most useful to our college girls are the following: Subway, fast food restaurants, Target, Walgreens, Starbucks, Panera, Portillos, etc)

This year instead of Elf on the Shelf at our auction, we are going to have a **Wine Pull**. You can purchase tickets for a chance to get a bottle of wine. We have several bottles of wine, but could use a few more. Wine bottle donations(white or red) worth \$10 or more, would be greatly appreciated.

SERVICE AND SPECIAL PROJECTS: (Kris Beaudette and Gerie Kay)

This committee is newly reorganized and will now plan and manage our monthly service projects along with managing the tasks of the Special Projects committee.

*Our book swap will continue and **Cindy Sheely** will help with taking any leftover books to the local library for donation. Bring your used books to our September 19 meeting!

☼ **The service project for September 19th is school supplies for Huff Elementary School in District U-46. Please see the attached supply list or contact Karyn Baldwin(kbaldwin345@gmail.com) for specific items you can donate to Huff School.**

☼ **Anyone who wishes to attend the Legislative Seminar in Springfield this year, please contact Kris Beaudette. This seminar is always very informative and worth the time and money to attend.**

NEWS FROM IL STATE: www.deltakappagamma.org/IL

Our state name has been officially changed to **Illinois State Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International**. We will no longer use the title, Lambda State. The new state theme for 2019-20 is "Making a Difference", chosen by our new state president, Bev Johns. You can purchase the new biennium pins which show a star fish in the pin. Let Mary Wrobel know if you want to purchase a pin.

[Upcoming state activities:](#)

- ☼ **Celebrating Key Women Educators:** Making A Difference Thursday August 22, 2019 at sleepy Creek Vineyard 8254 E. 1425 North Rd, Fairmount, IL- tickets are \$20. The doors open at 3:45 with dinner and speaker from 5-6.
- ☼ Our state executive board meeting is September 20-21 in Bloomington, IL
- ☼ Legislative Seminar in Springfield on Oct. 26.

UPCOMING MEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Judie King(Aug 17), **Kathy Muench**(Aug 18), **Jo Ann Bechtold**(Aug 19), **Glenda Klein-Mali**(Aug 19), **Jane Born**(Aug 21), **Madelynn Brossard**(Aug 22), **Dayna Prochaska**(Aug 26), **Linda Szymkowiak**(Aug 27), and **Gerie Kay**(Aug 28), **Susan Wadkins**(Sept 1), **Debbie Goodman**(Sept. 7), **Nan Carli**(Sept. 14), **Mary Roeing**(Sept. 30) and **Barb Troeger**(Sept. 30th) and **Cheryl Keifer**(Oct. 1) Happy Birthday, Ladies!

ATTACHMENTS:

- **August Newsletter**
- **Gamma Gamma Programs at a glance 2019-20**
- **School Supply list for Huff Elementary School**

Mary's Missive

It's hard to believe it's already mid-August and it's time to start planning for our upcoming 2019-2020 year. As always, we have lots of things to look forward to and members to re-connect with.

I was asked by our new state president to give the opening speech at our September state executive board meeting, with the topic being Making a Difference. I'm looking forward to this opportunity as I plan to highlight some of the members of Gamma Gamma who have made a difference in our chapter, in our communities and in the world. I am immensely proud of all that our chapter members have accomplished, and I'm glad to have the chance to share their stories with other chapter presidents, state executive board members and chairs.

I hope to see many of you in September. Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer!

Mary