

**Gamma Alpha Bulletin
"The G.A.B."**

2003-2004 CALENDAR



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November 20- (Note- This is a **Thursday**.) Initiation of New Members at William D. Ford Career Technical Center. Chris Smith arranged a buffet at the center costing \$20. This includes beverage and dessert. Chris needs to get an accurate count of members who plan to attend this meeting by November 6. Please mail checks for your meal made out to Gamma Alpha to:

Cindy Dietz
Address in Yearbook

by November 6. **Joan Cady** and the **Membership Committee** will preside over the Initiation Ceremony prior to dinner. After our meal, President Judi Fisher has arranged a speaker from "SEEDLINGS". We hope to see everyone there. P.S. Bring the blankets and scarves you took home to finish from October's meeting.

December 10- Executive Board **and** interested members will meet at Hayes Elementary at 4:30 to discuss the remainder of our activities, fill in reports and await a needed winter break.

January 28- Business Meeting and Field Trip to Twelve Oaks to Build-a-Bear. Please let Lynne know if you plan to attend so the store can have enough staff to assist. Details TBA.

February 18- Professional Affairs will sponsor Chef Larry Janes at Hayes for a cooking demonstration. Details TBA.

March 24- Reading Month activities with the residents from the Wayne County Family Center. Details TBA.

April 21- Birthday Dinner Details TBA.

April 30, May 1 & May 2- Alpha Iota State Convention will be held in Kalamazoo. Registration information will be in the Winter *Wolverine*. I am a member of the State Program Committee and many fine sessions are being

Reminders

- Check out our website at: www.migammaalpha.org for pictures from October's meeting.
- No December Newsletter
- \$20 check for Initiation dinner to Cindy by November 6.
- Next month: Executive Board at Hayes Elementary. All members are invited.
- Please send your current email address to Jackie Smart so the newsletter can be sent directly to your computer. jackie@mysmartfamily.com

Happy Thanksgiving

Judi's Gems

Dear Gamma Alpha Sisters,

Each year 182,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer and 43,300 die. One woman in eight either has or will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. In addition, 1,600 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 400 will die this year. www.thebreastcancersite.com is a website that gives information about breast cancer and the issues surrounding it. It takes less than a minute to go to their site and click on the pink box (pink window in the middle) which donates a mammogram for free to underprivileged women. This doesn't cost you a thing. Their corporate sponsors and advertisers use the number of daily visits to donate mammograms in exchange for advertising. Pass it along to people you know.



Judi Fisher, Gamma Alpha President



2003 IPD Conference
December 4-6, 2003
Hyatt Regency, Dearborn
**Learning, Leadership and
Change in Action**

The MEA officers and Executive Director invite and welcome you to the 2003 Instruction and Professional Development Conference. This conference is MEA's premier event dedicated solely to the professional learning of all education employees and members of the greater learning community. See www.mea.org.



During the Fall Workshop, Judi and Cindy we caught playing chimes following the luncheon. All 129 members present played different chimes to accompany the *Delta Kappa Gamma* song. It sounded beautiful and was fun!

Legislation Update

Here are some suggestions for writing to your National or State government officials. Remember to:

- Write legibly: type if possible.
- Be courteous and reasonable.
- Be sure you are writing to an elected official who can help solve your problem.
- Write to your representative or official, not one from another district or state unless you are communicating with members of a committee holding hearing on your issue.
- Personalize your letter. Form letters are not very persuasive.
- Know the issue and make your point in one page.
- Identify a bill by number and popular name if possible.
- Write to say you approve of actions, not just to complain and oppose.
- Write to say "thank you" for their support when the issue is resolved.

If you would like some practice in writing letters to the government, the NEA [Education Insider](#) suggests you sharpen your pencils and let your elected hear from the constituency.

Early Retirement Incentive plans that offer health benefits until the retiree is eligible for Medicare are at risk under the "Age Discrimination in Employment Act." The Senate "Prescription Drug and Medicare Improvement Act of 2003" (S. 1, Sec. 631) would clarify that the coordination of employer-provided retiree medical benefits with Medicare (or a counterpart State plan) does not violate the Act. A House/Senate conference committee is negotiating a final bill.

NEA supports Sec. 631. Without Sec. 631, school districts are unlikely to offer pre-Medicare health coverage to retirees.

Tell Congress: "Please do not make it legally impractical for my school district to continue its retiree medical plan. Include Sec. 631 of S.1 in any final Medicare prescription drug bill."

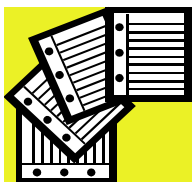
Tips provided by the U.S. Forum website.
Early Retirement Incentive article-NEA [Education Insider](#), October 17, 2003

- 10 Sherry Green
- 15 Judy Kolassa
- 16 Diana Markley
- 24 Chris Smith
- 29 Elaine Oppen



November Bird-Days!

Minutes in a Minute



October 22, 2003

The meeting was held at Hayes Elementary School in Livonia. We started the meeting by beginning to work on the crafts for the Homeless Shelter. **Grace Morgan** did a good job of preparing

the fabric and giving directions on how to complete the two activities. While we were working we also enjoyed pizza, salad, and pop. There were 21 members present and 1 guest.

The **Business** part of the meeting was called to order by President **Judi Fisher** at 5:20 p.m. **Chris Smith** gave a report on the plans for dinner at our November 20 meeting. The meeting will be at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. There will be a buffet dinner from the culinary arts department. Dinner will be a pasta, chicken, salad, green beans, drinks and desert. If anyone would like to have a vegetarian pasta dish, just let **Cindy Dietz** know when you make your reservation for dinner. Cindy needs to know who is planning on coming for dinner so I can let the chef know how much food to prepare. The cost of the dinner is \$20.00. If you are having the vegetarian meal, you will be served where you are sitting. You need to let Cindy know by November 6.

Old Business:

Yearbook: If you want a new picture in the yearbook, send it to Colleen Retherford at Adams. **Membership:** Next month is the Initiation Ceremony of new members. Joan Cady is in charge of the ceremony. December 10 is an **Executive Board** meeting at Hayes. Any interested member can attend. **January meeting:** Lynne needs to know how many people will be attending to ensure there is enough staff at the Build-a-Bear

store. May 22: **Metro Council Birthday Luncheon** will be at Laurel Park Holiday Inn. **International Convention** this year will be in Minneapolis: July 27-31. February 18 meeting with **Chef Larry Janes** will be at Hayes Elementary. We will be asking the Alpha Iota State President, **Judy Foster**, to come to this meeting.

New Members:

- 1) **Chris Morin** was nominated by Cindy Dietz. Chris is a Special Education teacher at Wayne Memorial High School in Wayne-Westland.
- 2) **Tracy Ann Moers Vaughn** was nominated by Cindy Dietz. She teaches at Wayne Memorial High School.
- 3) **Laura Oliver** was nominated by Cindy Dietz. She teaches English at Wayne Memorial High School.
- 4) **Nancy Chiasson** was nominated by Cindy Dietz. She is a 4th grade teacher at Taft-Galloway in Wayne-Westland.
- 5) **Karen Dodds** was nominated by Esther Loskowske. She is a classroom reduction teacher at Elliott Elementary in Wayne-Westland.
- 6) **Amy Wainwright** was nominated by Lynne Elseser. She is a German/Social Studies teacher at Wayne Memorial High School and John Glenn.
- 7) **Dr. Cindy Swift** was nominated by Carol Anderson and Bonnie Franka. She is currently working in the Curriculum Department. She is a former teacher and principal in Wayne-Westland.

Barb Broadley made the motion to accept all 7 nominees as new member. **Marie Canzoneri** seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Abby Roach is still residing in Florida. She was interested in information about the Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame in Lansing. The address is 213 W. Main Street, Lansing. Hours: Noon to 5:00 p.m. on Wed., Thurs., Friday. Noon to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Website- www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org

[Michiganwomenshalloffame.org](http://www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org)

Resignations:

Grace announced that **Aggie Quirk** was going into the hospital for appendectomy surgery and will be resigning. **Susan England** has also resigned. If there are any other resignations, they will be in next month's minutes.

Cindy Dietz mentioned a website for getting lesson plans, benchmarks, and Professional Development activities. It is michiganteacher.net You can key in how far away you want to go for the Professional Development. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Smith, Recording Secretary

International Dates



July 27-31 -75th Diamond Jubilee "From the Sparkle of the Past to the Brilliance of the Future"

Greater Minneapolis Convention Center
Minneapolis, Minnesota

The goal is to have one member from each chapter present at the convention in Minneapolis. Interested travelers should see Judi Fisher or www.deltakappagamma.org for more information regarding the convention.



State Dates

April 30, May 1 & May 2-

The State Convention will be held in Kalamazoo. We will be staying at the newly renovated Radisson in downtown Kalamazoo. The registration information will be in the Winter Wolverine. See www.deltakappagamma.org/MI for more information.

[deltakappagamma.org/MI](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/MI) for more information.

(Continued from page 1)

offered at this convention. For those teachers who need CEUs, sessions are being offered to fulfill those requirements. The city of Kalamazoo has many wonderful museums and excellent shopping, too. See you in Kalamazoo.

May 22- Metro Council Birthday Luncheon celebrating the 75th anniversary of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Our Chapter Founders are requested to attend in order to be part of the 75th Birthday Celebration. It will tentatively be held at the Holiday Inn next to Laurel Park. We want a good turnout, so mark your calendars. More information later.

June 3- Planning meeting for 2004-2005 at Hayes Elementary. Executive Board, committee chairmen and interested members should attend. Bring exciting meeting ideas. Details TBA

I have never heard anyone whom I consider to be a good teacher claim that he or she is a good teacher- in the way that one might claim to be a good writer or surgeon or athlete. Self-doubt seems very much a part of the job of teaching: one can never be sure how well it is going.

-Joseph Epstein

Gamma Alpha Executive Board
2002-2004

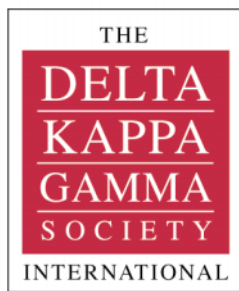
Empowerment Through Literacy and Numeracy

Judi Fisher:	President
Lynne Elsesser:	First Vice President
Joan Cady:	Second Vice President
Chris Smith:	Recording Secretary
Jackie Smart:	Corresponding Secretary
Cindy Dietz:	Treasurer
Grace Morgan:	Past President

Gamma Alpha Newsletter and Archives can be found online at:

www.migammaalpha.org

Contact Jackie Smart, with information for future newsletters.



FOR KEY WOMEN
EDUCATORS