



**“CARING Makes
A Difference”**

Gamma Alpha Bulletin “The G.A.B.”

Inside this issue:

Birthdays	3
President's Message	2
Minutes	2,3
Fall Workshop Registration	5-7
ICE Campaign	4

Reminders

Check out our yearly calendar, forms and photos on Gamma Alpha's website at:

www.migammaalpha.org

Meeting Information:

September 28, 2005

Steak & Ale (Ann Arbor Road & I275) at 4:30.

Meeting first followed by dinner.

- Mail dues to Cindy Dietz or bring to the first meeting.
\$73 for Active Members
\$58 for Retired Members
- Bring vacation souvenir to the meeting. Proceeds go to the World Fellowship Fund. Wear your pin and nametag.
- Seek out a prospective member and bring her to the October meeting. Fill out *Recommendation for Membership* form (on website) and bring it to the Sep-

Legislation Update Medicare Modernization Act

The Medicare Modernization Act, if all goes according to plan, will take effect on January 1, 2006. Its implementation will affect MPSERS retirees on that date.

On July 29, 2005 John Winn, Nancy Ellis, and Barbara Brotherton, President of MEA-Retired, attended the presentation of what the MPSERS Health Initiative Review Committee (HIRC) is going to recommend to the MPSERS Board for adoption on August 18.

HIRC has worked diligently along with Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) to fathom the meaning of the controversial Medicare Modernization Act MMA to determine its impact on our retirement system. MMA has the potential to return from \$83 million to \$86 million to the retirement system for continuing to provide prescription drug benefits to its retirees. An additional program, Medicare Advantage PDP, targeted to begin 2007, could raise that amount to \$140 - \$150 million per year.

In short, the Health Initiative Review Committee is recommending that:

- MPSERS coordinate with Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit beginning January 1, 2006
- Identify and modify current policies necessary to comport with MMA guidelines
- Pursue Medicare Advantage opportunity (a combination of Medicare Parts A, B, and D that is not available until 2007)
- Pursue implementation of a Health Savings Account (applies to pre-retirees and retired non-Medicare retirees)
- Pursue strategy in the event MMA incentives are reduced or eliminated

Considerations (complications)

Federally Mandated \$37 Fee

Anyone can sponsor a plan and sell memberships to people for a \$37 a month fee. Companies who do this will be called Plan Sponsors. MPSERS will be considered a Plan Sponsor. Current law does not allow MPSERS to charge the federally mandated \$37 fee. Barring a technical amendment to Michigan law, MPSERS will absorb the \$37 fee into its current plan. MPSERS and HIRC have no say in this policy decision and the current plan is that retirees will not see the \$37 taken out of their pension benefit.

Judi's Gems

Dear Gamma Alpha Sisters,

I am beginning my last year as president and the Nominations Committee does **not** have a chairman! Past Presidents are on the committee, but they need a "leader". The committee's responsibility is to seek out members willing to serve on Executive Board and prepare a slate of officers for the 2006-2008 biennium. Working on this committee is a good way to get involved and get to know some of our your *sisters* a little better.



Our chapter has 8 meetings each year. The committees try to make meetings valuable to you. Please put Gamma Alpha on your calendars and make attending meetings a priority. Meetings can be a time to renew friendships with colleagues and retired friends and make new members feel welcome. In order to streamline meetings, we will begin promptly at 4:30 and eat *afterwards*. Members with little ones can be in and out within an hour. Those who want to socialize can do so during dinner.

Fall Workshop is in Frankenmuth and the State Convention is at the Grand Hotel this year. These are great places for shopping, dining and attending a session or two! Attending State functions is one way to become active in the Society. Signing up for a committee is another way to get involved at the State level. I am co-chair of the World Fellowship Committee. The registration forms are in the *Wolverine*, in the newsletter and on our web-site.

Judi

Remember to **RSVP** to Lynne 5 days before the September 28 meeting.

Minutes in a Minute

Minutes for May 5, 2005

The Birthday Dinner was held at Rocky's. Thanks to Gina and her committee for organizing this event.

Alice D. was in town from St. Helen.

Congratulations to Carly Bradford (Western) and Sarah Elsesser (U of D Mercy) on receiving the \$500 Grant-in-Aid awards.

State Convention news:

- Cindy Dietz was selected as Chapter Woman of Distinction.
- Our yearbook received an *Outstanding* award.
- Our newsletter received a third place award and \$10.

Jackie retired June 14 after 36 years of teaching. Joan Cady retired but was unable to attend the Birthday Dinner.

Abby sent us a note from Florida.

Minutes in a Minute

Minutes for June 1, 2005

Members present brainstormed ways to streamline meetings and make them more affordable for younger members. Meetings will be held first and dinner and socializing after the meeting.



The 2005-2006 calendar was set. There are many great meetings being planned. The calendar is included in the newsletter.

At our first meeting we want to have chairman briefly talk about their committee's responsibilities and recruit members to be on a committee. Committees will be responsible for meetings. In case you forgot, the following are Committees and Chairs. Some are open and need a chairman.

- **Membership** Marie
(October-Orientation, November- Initiate New Members, March-Fashion Show)
- **Nominations** _____
(Prepare Slate of Officers, May-Installation of New Officers)
- **Finance** Cindy
(August- Prepare budget and audit books)
- **Research** _____
- **Professional Affairs** Marge
(October- CPR Program for infants through elderly)
- **Personal Growth** Barbara
(November- Annual Holiday Auction)
- **Service Projects** Esther

(February- *Essential Needs Bags* for women at Wayne County Family Center)

- **Music**
(Monthly meeting music, Holiday Auction, Fashion Show)
- **Legislation** Cindy
(Keep chapter informed regarding legislation issues via newsletter and NEA/MEA website)
- **Birthday Dinner** Gina
(May- Select venue, honor retirees, assist Nominations in Installation of new officers)
- **World Fellowship** Carol H.
(September- Vacation souvenir raffle, *Theme Basket* for Convention preparation and maintenance, collect coins from forgetful members for pins and nametags)
- **Grant-in-Aid** Mary Jo
(March- Select recipients, May- Presentation of the award at the Birthday Dinner. Application is on the website.)
- **Yearbook-** Colleen R.
(Update member information, get book to members early)
- **Newsletter** Jackie
(4-5 newsletters, reminders, maintain website)
- **Empathy** Carol A. & Nancy
(Birthday Cards, flowers)
- **Historian** Sherry

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Smith, Recording Secretary

International Update



www.deltakappagamma.org

Concern, Support Embrace Great Britain Members

Concern, support and love are extended from throughout The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International to our Great Britain members. May they feel the embrace of genuine spiritual fellowship as they and loved ones recover from Thursday's terrorist attacks. Our hearts go out to all of you.

As of Friday afternoon (8 July), International Headquarters has not received word that any GB members sustained direct losses.

July Birthdays

- 12 Valerie Penn
- 16 Suzanne Bacinski
- 20 Carol Holland
- 21 Judy Handley

August Birthdays

- 1 Sue Briody
- 11 Joan Cady
- 18 Abby Roach
- 20 Grace Morgan

September Birthdays

- 6 Pat Curd
- 9 Cindy Dietz
- 19 Helen Mate
- 30 Jackie Smart

(If I left you off the birthday list, please let me know.)



Two Good Reads by Jennifer Weiner

In Her Shoes- It's hard to imagine two sisters more different than 30-year-old Rose Feller and her 28-year-old sister, Maggie. But as both embark on a journey of self-discovery, they learn they have more in common than they ever realized. ***In Her Shoes*** is a fine book for anyone who knows the struggle of stepping out from behind a sibling's shadow.

Good in Bed- When Cannie Shapiro, a witty but overweight reporter for the *Philadelphia Examiner*, opens the latest issue of *Moxie*, a trendy woman's magazine, she's shocked and horrified to find an opinion piece by her ex-boyfriend, Bruce, that not only talks about their sex life but also about her insecurities about her weight. Hurt and even more insecure, Cannie signs up for an experimental weight-loss program. But then Bruce unexpectedly reenters her life when he phones to tell her of the death of his father. From there, it's a rollercoaster ride of ups and downs, wild success and bitter lows, during which Cannie finds success, peace, and even love.

(Continued from page 1)

Enrollment in Part D - - DO NOTHING

MMA requires that any individual may choose to join any Plan they wish. Individuals may join a plan after November of 2005 and before May of 2006. Companies across the nation are developing Medicare Part D Plans. They will be using all of their marketing strategies to lure MPSERS retirees away from the MPSERS program. MPSERS cannot stop anyone from joining another plan.

However, Blue Cross Blue Shield has already arranged to have all MPSERS retirees **automatically** enrolled in the Part D program. As MPSERS Retirees we need to do NOTHING to participate, and what's more, if we do join another plan, **even if by accident or deception**, we will lose our current drug benefits from MPSERS. To continue coverage in the Retirement System drug plan:

- do not enroll in Part D on your own or with another PDP
- do not refuse or cancel the Retirement System's Part D enrollment or be disenrolled by Medicare
- do not be enrolled with another Plan that offers drugs to Medicare Members

Required Information

MMA participation will require gathering of personal information by Medicare. At this point BCBS, who is dealing with the feds about this, is not certain just what information will be required. They indicate that for most folks Medicare already has enough information and that BCBS can provide most of whatever else they need. However, if Retirement System members are asked to provide additional information to the Office of Retirement Services (ORS) or Blue Cross Blue Shield, the information must be provided or automatic enrollment will not proceed for that individual.

In Case of Emergency Campaign "ICE"



The Ambulance Service has launched a national "In Case of Emergency (ICE)" Campaign.

The idea is that you store the word "ICE" in your cell phone address book, and against it enter the number of the person you would want to be Contacted "In Case of Emergency".

In an emergency situation ambulance and hospital staff will then be able to quickly look at your mobile phone and find out who your first contact should be and be able to contact them.

It's so simple that everyone can do it. For more than one contact name use: ICE1, ICE2, ICE3, etc.

It really could help the emergency services in doing their job.

Alpha Iota State Fall Executive Board and Workshop



“Caring Makes A Difference” October 7-8, 2005 Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center Frankenmuth, Michigan

Please Print: Use one form for each person

Name: _____
Last First Title

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Name Tag Should Read: _____

Chapter: _____ City: _____

Present Office or Committee: Chapter: _____ State: _____

International: _____

Are you the Chapter President? _____ Are you the Chapter President's Substitute _____

Years of Membership _____ Are you a first timer? _____

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND

Registration Fee:

Postmarked by September 7, 2005 \$35 \$ _____

Postmarked after September 7, 2005 \$45 \$ _____

Certified Educational Units (CEU):

Registration fee \$10 \$ _____

Total Amount enclosed in **U.S. Dollars** \$ _____

Make checks payable to Delta Kappa Gamma

Photo Release: “I grant permission to Alpha Iota State of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International to use my photograph in the Wolverine and/or on the Society website.” Yes No

Signature _____ Date _____

Handicap Assistance: There is elevator service to guest rooms. There is elevator service to all convention functions. If you require special guest room accommodations, please notify the hotel staff directly when you make your reservations.

In order to earn the State Certified Educational Units (CEU) you must do the following:

1. Register for the Credit on your registration form. \$10 for member, \$20 for non-member.
2. Sign a sheet at the registration desk when you check in (State Required Form). A sheet will be in your packet.
3. Attend a minimum of three sessions for credit.
4. Be stamped in and stamped out of each session.
5. Turn in your Official Attendance Sheet and your evaluation sheet. There will be a special bucket at the registration desk.

Please mail this form and payment in U.S. Dollars to:

**Claire Rettenmund
1818 Carmanbrook Parkway
Flint, MI 48507
810-238-0836
cerbirder@yahoo.com**

Cancellation: A person having to cancel will receive a refund provided her written request is post-marked by September 7, 2005. (Standing Rule 7:01 of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International). Requests for cancellations must be sent to the same person to whom the registration form was sent.

DIRECTIONS TO THE BAVARIAN INN LODGE AND CONFERENCE CENTER:

TRAVELING FROM THE NORTH

Take I-75 South past Saginaw. Take Exit 144, turn left onto Dixie Highway. Follow this for 2 miles. Turn left onto Junction. (This will turn into Genesee). You will go 5 miles until you reach the intersection of Genesee and Main Street. Turn right and follow Main Street to the third traffic light. Just past the two large restaurants, turn left and cross the Wooden Covered Bridge. The Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center will be on the left.

TRAVELING FROM THE SOUTH

Take I-75 North past Flint. Take Exit 136, turn right on Birch Run Road. Follow it for 2 miles to the second traffic light. Turn left onto M-83 (Gera Road). Go about 5 miles into Frankenmuth. At the second traffic light, turn right and cross the Wooden Covered Bridge. The Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center will be on the left.



Bavarian Inn Lodge & Conference Center

"Downtown Frankenmuth - Across the Wooden Covered Bridge"

One Covered Bridge Lane • Frankenmuth, Michigan 48734 • (989) 652-7200 • Fax: (989) 652-6711

Visit us on the internet at www.bavarianinn.com

RESERVATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR DELTA KAPPA GAMMA ARRIVING OCTOBER 7, 2005

ROOM RESERVATIONS BY MAIL:

Complete this form with your specific arrival and departure dates. Return this form directly to the Bavarian Inn Lodge with an advanced deposit of the first night's lodging per room plus 11% Tax to guarantee your reservation or your reservation will be canceled due to a lack of deposit. We require 48-hour notice of cancellation for deposit refund. This reservation form and your remittance payment (check, money order, or credit card) must be received by the Bavarian Inn Lodge 30 days prior to your arrival date.

Reservation Confirmation will be sent upon receipt of approved payment. Room requests are based on availability and are taken in the order of deposit receipt. Please indicate your first and second room choice and number of rooms needed. Rooms with more than 4 guests per room are subject to an additional \$10 per person per night. Rooms not reserved by **September 7, 2005** will be released and become available on a first come, first served basis. A 6% State Sales Tax and 5% County Hotel Tax are applicable. If traveling with pets, please contact the Bavarian Inn Lodge for boarding facilities.

ROOM RESERVATIONS BY PHONE:

To make your Bavarian Inn Lodge Reservations by phone, please call direct 1-888-77-LODGE. Be sure to mention you are attending the Delta Kappa Gamma Conference (Account #10459Y)

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA ACCOUNT #10459Y

Check In Time: 3 p.m. Check Out Time: 11 a.m.

ARRIVAL DATE: _____ DEPARTURE DATE: _____

CHOICE OF ROOMS	NO. PEOPLE	NO. ROOMS
<input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Standard Rooms 1-4 Guests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Balcony Rooms 1-4 Guests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$175 Whirlpool Suites 1-4 Guests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$175 Family Suites 1-4 Guests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Cribs <input type="checkbox"/> Roll aways		<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Non Smoking Preferred (Taken Based on Availability)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barrier Free Rooms (Taken Based on Availability)		

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

TELEPHONE NO.: _____

EMAIL: _____

Make Check or Money Order Payable To:

**Bavarian Inn Lodge
One Covered Bridge Lane
Frankenmuth, MI 48734**

C.C. # _____ EXP: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

**We accept American Express, Master Card, Visa,
and Discover**

(Make a copy of this form for your records)

?? Mystery Members ??

Initiated in 1996. Chapter Woman of Distinction in 1999. Former first grade teacher and Learning Consultant. Currently Elementary Director of School Development. Employed by Wayne-Westland. Serves as President of Northville Board of Education.

Who Am I?

Initiated in 1980. Chapter Woman of Distinction in 1990. Chapter President 1988-1990. Currently ACAT teacher at Webster. Employed by Livonia. One of her interests is teaching swim aerobics.

Who am I?

Initiated in 1980. Chapter Woman of Distinction in 1995. Retired from Wayne-Westland. Taught second and sixth grades. Learning Consultant at Adams Middle School.

Who Am I?

Initiated in 1979. Served as President 1982-1984. Chapter Woman of Distinction in 1983. Retired from Livonia Public Schools. Served on almost every committee in Gamma Alpha.

Who Am I?

Use your yearbook to discover who these mystery members are.

Gamma Alpha Executive Board

2004-2006

Caring Makes a Difference

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

Gamma Alpha Newsletter, Forms, Photos, and Archives at:

www.migammaalpha.org

Contact Jackie with information/corrections/accolades



Gamma Alpha
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Livonia, MI 48152

Address Label