



# Gamma Alpha Bulletin

## The G.A.B. "Let's Talk"

### President's Message

"In the Good Ol' Summertime, In the Good Ol' Summertime..." It is that good old summertime now and we are enjoying our time off from the stress of forms and tests and records and meetings and teaching and re-teaching and re-teaching again. Every moment, however, we are teachers. I know that I find myself cringing when I note spelling and grammar errors on signs as I am out driving. I wonder why people have such a hard time understanding that  $\frac{3}{4}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  is the same as  $1\frac{1}{2}$  when they are buying things in bulk. I know that their teachers taught them these basics. We are teachers when we read to our children and to our grandchildren. We talk about colors and shapes and concepts and ideas. We expose them to arts and culture through travel and experience. We do volunteer work to help other children expand their world so that they can learn when they come and sit in another teacher's classroom. Our example shows those who see us that learning is a precious thing and that they can achieve that same precious thing by reading and studying and doing what we model for them. We are always teachers and others can always learn from us.

We recently met and put the framework together for a very promising year beginning in September. It was so heartwarming to see so many Gamma Alpha sisters offering

ideas and suggestions and opinions about how to maintain our status as a superb chapter. We will have wonderful guests at our meetings next year. We have some fantastic activities planned. Early career teachers will benefit from our generosity. Troubled young students will be the recipients of our caring. Young women in education will have financial help through our giving. We can and should be proud of ourselves as teachers and as Gamma Alpha sisters.

I remind you to find a memento of your vacation this summer and bring it to the September meeting. It is always fun to see where others have gone and the items that they donate for the vacation raffle. It is good to know that the money we make is used for our fellowship fund. It is good to see "old" faces again. I will be looking for all of your faces and cheerfully showing my old face when September rolls around. Enjoy the summertime and always be aware that you are always a teacher.



So says the prez!  
Carol Anderson

### Inside this issue:

Calendar	2-4
Birthdays	4
Minutes	5
Ed. Foundation	6
NEA & Bullying	7
Books	7
Schools for Africa	8

### Meeting Info



**August 16**

Tour of MCV

**September 21**

First Meeting

**October 7 - 9**

Women in the Arts

**October 19**

Meeting at Jackie's home

**October 21 - 22**

Fall Workshop  
Lansing Lexington

RSVP to Jackie at:

jackie@mysmartfamily.com

\*See calendar for meeting details.

### Mission

*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
promotes professional and personal growth of women educators  
and excellence in education.*

### Vision

*Leading women educators impacting education worldwide.*

### Don't forget these dates!



#### August 16, 2011

##### Tour of Methodist Children's Village

The Methodist Children's Village is one of our philanthropic projects. MCV provides for the needs of abused and neglected children by providing an array of housing, educational, clinical, and therapeutic services. Members interested in touring the facility should meet at 11:00 a.m. at MCV located at 26645 W. Six Mile Road in Redford. The tour is approximately 45 minutes. Be prepared for some walking.

#### September 21, 2011

4:30 p.m.

Hayden's Grill and Bar

39895 Ford Road

Canton (east of I-275)

##### Agenda:

- Bring your dues to the meeting \$75. If you are writing a check, make it payable to Gamma Alpha. If mailing your dues, send to: Cindy Dietz 7329 Gilman Westland, MI 48185
- Service Project: Early Career Educator Bags
- Vacation Souvenir Raffle. Remember to bring your vacation souvenir for the raffle. Include a brief statement on a 3x5 card about how you spent your summer vacation.
- 50/50 raffle (Esther will be selling tickets.)
- Update our contact information and yearbook biographies
- Cider and apple orders from Gamma Alpha's Lynda Neuroth, owner of Ostbaum Orchards. Delivery will be at the October 19th meeting.
- Can you part with a few books that you've finished reading? Bring them to our meeting in September. \$1 for hardcover books or \$.50 for paperbacks. Leftover books will be donated to 'Friends of the Library.' Bring books every meeting except the Holiday Auction.

- Bring your **Recommendation for Membership** form filled out and your candidate to the meeting. Orientation will be in October.
- Speaker: Judy Foster, State Legislation & U.S. Forum Chair; Vice President of MEA-R; will keep us up-to-date with what is happening in Michigan regarding the latest legislation dealing with children, education, and women.

#### October 7-9, 2011

Women in the Arts, Higgins Lake

Women in the Arts Retreat at Higgins Lake (Registration information is in the Summer *Wolverine* and online at [www.deltakappagamma.org/MI](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/MI))

#### October 19, 2011

4:30 p.m.

Jackie Smart's home

20158 Southampton Drive

Livonia (248) 476-8659



##### Agenda:

- Bring your candidate to an English tea (dinner) at the home of anglophile Jackie Smart. Colleen Retherford will lead a brief DKG orientation for candidates for membership. FYI, initiation of new members will be held at the January meeting.
- 50/50 Raffle
- Book Sale
- Speaker: Melissa McDermid will share her yearlong experience as a participant in the Fulbright Teacher Exchange program. Melissa, a Farmington teacher and member of Beta Eta chapter, taught in the primary grades in England.

#### October 21-22, 2011

##### Alpha Iota State Fall Conference

Fall Conference will be held at the Lansing Lexington Hotel in Lansing. There are many great sessions offered. It is only about an hour away from Livonia (no need for hotel unless you want to get away for the night) and inexpensive (registration fee includes lunch.) Fall Registration information is included in the Summer *Wolverine*. You will also find information on the state website [www.deltakappagamma.org/MI](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/MI)

**December 7, 2011**

4:30 p.m. Dinner/Holiday Auction

(Arrive 4:15 for set-up)

Laurel Manor

39000 Schoolcraft Road in Livonia

(Prepayment of \$25 is necessary for this event.)

**Holiday Auction Reminders**

1. For the smaller items, we will sell raffle tickets and have people put tickets into cups and winners will be randomly selected.
2. Some of the larger items will be in the “silent auction” format with pad, pen, a starting bid, and a time cut-off for bids.
3. And lastly, some items will be put on the auction block.
4. Members still need to bring a 3x5 card for each item they donate. On the card, they should describe the item, list the value, and name of the donor. Members should try to bring more than one donation so we will have a variety of auction items. We need to guarantee Laurel Manor at least 50 will be in attendance, so we encourage you to bring guests so we meet our quota and so we aren't the only ones spending money!
5. Suggested items or services that could be donated:
  - Gift certificates
  - Baked goods (homemade or purchased)
  - “Theme” Baskets (holiday, cooking, movie, teacher , grandma’s activity,
  - Holiday items/ decorations/plants
  - Theater, movie, or game tickets
  - Best seller books or books on tape
  - Crafts
  - Massage/haircut/manicure/pedicure
  - etc.

**January 18, 2012**

4:30 p.m.

Hayden’s Grill and Bar

39895 Ford Road

Canton (east of I-275)



Executive Board (President, 1st, 2nd, Vice Presidents, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, and the Treasurer) will meet prior to the meeting at 3:30 to complete biennial reports.

**Agenda:**

- 50/50 Raffle
- Book Sale
- Initiation of New Members
- Speaker: Maria Dismondy is a primary teacher in Plymouth-Canton and author of “The Juice Box Bully” and “Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun.” Maria stated that in today's society, it's important to remind children that, although we are different on the outside, we are very much alike on the inside. Unfortunately, bullying has become a major problem in the United States. It's not only painful for children, but occurring at an increasingly young age. Both of her books are meant to empower children to positively handle tough situations through their timeless messages. Books will be available for purchase.

**March 21, 2012**

4:30 p.m.

Hayden’s Grill and Bar

39895 Ford Road

Canton (east of I-275)



**Agenda:**

- 50/50 raffle
- Book Sale
- Flower Orders (More information in future newsletters.)
- Speaker: Our own Colleen Retherford will speak to us about the community garden she was instrumental in starting in Ann Arbor. Community gardens are “hot” ideas, especially after the attention they received on *60 Minutes* and by the First Lady. Not only do community gardens defray the rising cost of produce and the freshness of your crop is superior to anything you can buy at the grocery store. A portion of the harvest is donated to local pantries and community gardens help our country go green. There may be a book discussion as well. More information later.

# Gamma Alpha Bulletin

**April 21, 2012**

Metro Coordinating Council Luncheon  
More information will follow in future newsletters.

**April 25, 2012**

4:30 p.m.  
Hayden's Grill and Bar  
39895 Ford Road  
Canton (east of I-275)

- 50/50 Raffle
- Book Sale
- Discussion regarding our Service Projects and donations
- Speaker: In Michigan, the lottery is big business. So, why is there still a barrage of school closings and major cutbacks, including layoffs? When you buy that lottery ticket, how much goes to fund education? Our speaker is a representative from the Michigan Lottery will give us the lowdown on the lottery and education.

**May 4-6, 2012**

Alpha Iota State Convention  
Radisson Plaza in Kalamazoo  
Convention and hotel registration will be available in the Winter *Wolverine* and in future newsletters. Please plan on attending.

**May 16, 2012**

Gamma Alpha Birthday Dinner  
4:30 p.m.  
East Side Mario's  
31630 Plymouth Road in Livonia



**Agenda:**

- Birthday Dinner
- (Pre-payment of \$20 will be necessary)
- Honor Friend of Education
- Honor Retirees
- Award Grant-in-Aids

## Summer Birthdays

**July**

6 Lynda Neuroth  
9 Joanna Eiwen  
16 Suzanne Bacinski  
19 Stephanie Smith  
20 Carol Holland  
21 Judy Handley  
30 Judy Morante

**August**

20 Grace Morgan



- Installation of New Officers
- Recommitment Birthday Ceremony

**June 23, 2012**

Planning Meeting

All of our programs are planned by the membership. Be reminded that this meeting is **not** just for Executive Board, but for members who wish to make our chapter vital. Come to our planning meeting armed with ideas **or** suggestions you want Gamma Alpha to be involved with for 2011-2012. Let us know where you would like our meetings to be held. If you know of a speaker, please bring the contact information. The more cooks in this case the better the soup!

Planning meeting and pot luck luncheon will be held at Carol's at 11:00. Bring your favorite potato, pasta, fruit, or green salad to pass. We will need rolls and some healthy snacks to munch on while we are meeting. Carol will have dessert and beverages for us. Carol lives in Canton. Take I-275 to Ford Road (west.) She is off Ford Road approximately 2 miles west of I-275. The sub is Nottingham Forest between Lilley and Morton Taylor Roads. From Ford Road turn north on Willow Creek and then left on Wedgewood. Her address is 5855 Wedgewood. Carol's house is on the left. (734-981-3741) Please RSVP your intentions and what you are bringing to Jackie:

**jackie@mysmartfamily.com**

## DKG Minutes for May 12, 2011



The planning meeting was called to order at 11:18 a.m. at the home of President Carol Anderson.

- Marie, Helen, Cindy, Jackie, Esther, Colleen, Mary Jo, Lynne, Pam Emerson, Carol VandenBrul, Amy, Fran, and Carol Anderson were in attendance.
- May 12, 2011 minutes were approved.
- Treasurer Cindy will call an audit and budget meeting in August.. Carol Anderson, Grace, Jackie and Judi will conduct the audit of Gamma Alpha's books.
- Jackie shared correspondence from grant recipient, Alyssa Sandoval; Friend of Education recipient, Tina Schwarz; and Chapter Woman of Distinction, Lisa Austin.
- Metro Council meeting will be April 21, 2012. Gamma Alpha is in charge of selecting the venue, mixer, and the program. More information will follow in future newsletters.
- A lot of discussion was held regarding the location of Gamma Alpha meetings. Jackie and Esther investigated five restaurants. Pros and cons of the all of the restaurants were discussed. Several other restaurant were ruled out because of location and parking issues. We decided on Hayden's Grill and Bar on Ford Road (east of I-275) for most of our meetings.
- Amy has arranged for a tour of the Methodist Children's Village on August 16 at 11:00. Interested members should meet at MCV. Be prepared for some walking. Jackie will be fill out the application for a Wilma Adams grant for funds to help purchase graphing calculators for the village. Gamma Alpha will contribute \$200 and we will try to get a grant for an additional \$300 (they are expensive.) Also, we will be discussing the possibility of a shower for a first apartment for the young men who "age-out" of the village
- In September, Gamma Alpha will provide tote bags a coffee mug, DKG pen, and a gift card for Office Max for incidental supplies for early career educators in Wayne-Westland Schools. Cindy will compose a note regarding teacher discounts and where to get "free stuff" that will be included in the tote. Information about DKG and Gamma Alpha will be included. The budget meeting will determine the amount of the gift cards.
- We ate lunch and chatted. There were many tasty salads, snacks, breads, deli meats, cheeses, and desserts.
- The remainder of meeting was spent reviewing the membership survey and discussing program possibilities. We had lots of choices for programs and would need to meet at least 15 times this year to squeeze everything in. Please don't be offended if your program wasn't selected. We'll get to you next time!
- The calendar was finally and meetings scheduled. Please review the calendar for specific information. It is too lengthy to repeat in the minutes.
- Jackie and Esther will meet with Hayden's management regarding our meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Mary Jo Dreffs for Carol Palk, Recording Secretary

### THE DKG EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



The Delta Kappa Gamma  
Educational Foundation

Created in 1964 as a non-profit corporation, the Educational Foundation encourages the continuation of innovative and creative educational opportunities. The Foundation spends more than \$150,000 each year to support creative projects, seminars, and professional development. Projects funded for 2011 are taking place in 25 US states, three Canadian Provinces, Afghanistan, Kenya, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gambia, Honduras, Mexico, Sweden, Tanzania and Uganda.

These Projects include purchasing educational materials from books and playground equipment to a mobile library cart. Other projects funded are for an after-school science program, a museum inventory, help for children facing adversity, a writing project for student and may other worthwhile activities.

Projects must meet one or more of the following:

- Support and encourage intercultural understanding.
- Encourage standards of excellence in education.
- Assist and cooperate with schools, colleges, universities and other persons, organizations, trust funds or foundations in support, encouragement, and improvement of education.

On April 30, 2011 the Educational Foundation Board of Trustees approved a project for Seedlings, Braille Books for Blind Children. Gamma Alpha wrote a grant for Seedlings and was awarded \$2,500 for the Rose Project. The Rose Project will provide blind children with free research materials for school projects in Braille.

Project Application Packets are available on the Web site from July 1 to January 3. The next dead-line for Project Applications is January 3, 2012.

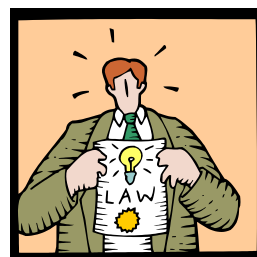
### EXERCISE YOUR VOICE

With all that is happening legislatively that affects practically everything we do and particularly our educational systems, exercising our voice to our legislators has never been more important.

The following is a ranking of most to least effective means when contacting local or international government officials:

1. Personal visit
2. Handwritten short letter
3. Type written letter
4. Phone call to a key office staffer
5. Phone call to the reception staffers in the office

6. Personally written fax
7. Obvious form letter or fax
8. Personally written email
9. Obvious form email



## Confronting the Bullies

By Michael D. Simpson, NEA Office of General Counsel



Most school employees are now well aware of the epidemic of bullying and harassment that continues to plague our nation's public schools. Last year, at least six teenagers committed suicide as the direct result of being bullied at school. It's called "bullycide" and it has to stop. It is a moral and legal imperative. What every NEA member needs to know is that you can be sued personally for money damages if you witness instances of bullying and various types of harassment (based on race, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability) and fail to take action to address it or report it. While school districts have traditionally been the targets of these lawsuits, school employees, in increasing numbers, are also being named as defendants.

### What should a school employee do to help fight this national crisis and avoid being sued?

- **Make sure** your school district has a strong anti-bullying and harassment policy in place.
- **Insist that** your school district educate students about peer harassment.
- **Ask your** school district to provide in-service training for teachers about how to spot bullying, how to respond, and to whom to report it,
- **Even if** the student doesn't want you to report the incident(s) to the administration, you still have a legal obligation to do so. And always put it in writing and keep a copy.
- **If you** witness a bullying incident, intervene immediately. Tell the harasser that his or her behavior is not acceptable.
- **Finally,** model good behavior. Remember, you are a role model to your students.

The Department of Education (ED) has taken a strong stand against bullying and harassment in schools. Last October, ED sent a comprehensive "Dear Colleague" letter to schools explaining their legal obligation under federal law to protect students from student-on-student harassment. The guidance provides examples and describes how schools should respond. NEA has also launched a new campaign: "Bully Free: It Starts with Me" which encourages members to be a caring adult who acts on behalf of bullied students.

## Good Reads



### Sunflowers by S. Bundrick

Caretaker's view of last 2 years of Van Gogh's life.

### Pillars of the Earth by K. Follett.

Sweeping history from XII Century.

### I Remember Nothing by N. Ephron

Humorous comments as she ages.

### Unsinkable - The Full Story by D. Butler

From building to sinking of Titanic.

### What is the What by D. Eggars

Story of a Lost Boy of the Sudan.

### Friday Night Knitting Club by K. Jacobs

Ladies who knit, discuss their lives.

### Unbroken by L. Hillenbrand

Runner, WWII airman, POW in Japan, long life after.

### The Confession by J. Grisham

Innocent man's execution rests on guilty man.

### Raising Jake by C. Carillo

Divorced man gets to know his 17-year-old son.

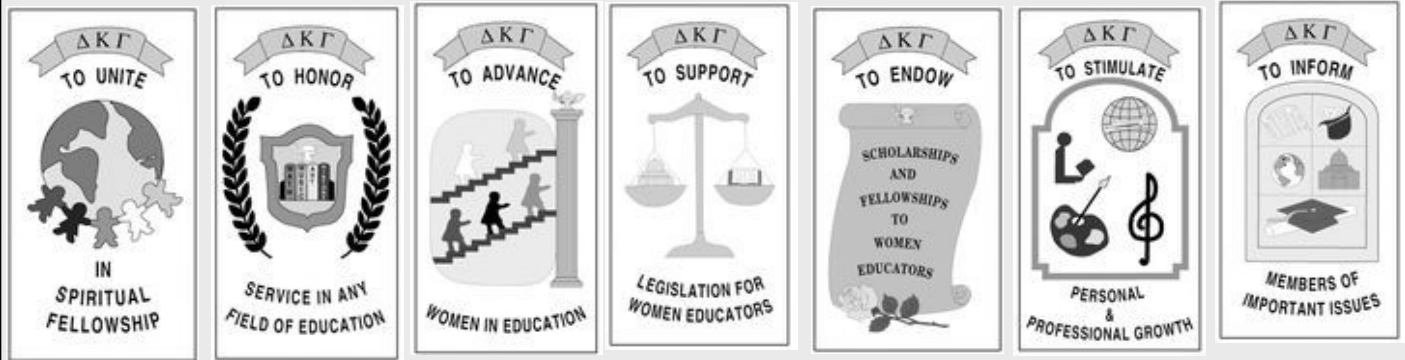
## Attract New Members



How can you attract new members?

1. Talk about our chapter projects in every possible way. Educators want to be involved in doing good works, and such projects attract them to ΔΚΓ. Inspire them to membership.
2. Reconnect with former members and encourage them to be reinstated.
3. Invite colleagues to our chapter meetings, and not just the ones where we want them to spend money!
4. Send letters to school administrators encouraging principals' recommendations for new chapter members.
5. Encourage diversity by inviting members from professions involved in education outside of the traditional classroom.

# Seven Purposes of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



## Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committee Chairmen

### Executive Board

President	Carol Anderson
1st VP/Program	Mary Jo Dreffs
2nd VP/Membership	Colleen Retherford
Recording Secretary	Carol Palk
Corresponding Secretary	Jackie Smart
Treasurer	Cindy Dietz
Parliamentarian	Fran Saenz

### Committee Chairmen

Personal Growth & Service	Amy Wainwright
Professional Affairs	Lynne Elsesser
US Forum/Legislation	Pam Emerson/ Cindy Dietz
Grant-in-Aid	Debbie Ervin
Birthday	Esther Loskowske Helen Mate
World Fellowships	Esther Loskowske
Yearbook/Newsletter	Jackie Smart
Sunshine	Donna Colaianne & Nancy Chiasson
Finance	Judi Fisher
Nominations	Amy Wainwright
Holiday Auction	Mary Jo Dreffs



The project that DKG has adopted is **Schools for Africa**. This is a joint campaign founded by UNICEF, the Nelson Mandela Foundation, and the Hamburg Society to

promote education for children in Africa. The campaign will increase access to quality basic education for children with a special focus on girls, orphans and vulnerable children. UNICEF is working with governments, local authorities, communities and other partners to:

- Build and rehabilitate 1,000 schools;
- Create schools that offer a safe and protective environment where children can learn and play;
- Provide access to clean water and separate sanitation facilities for boys and girls in those schools;
- Supply exercise books, pens, proper furniture and other school and sports materials;
- Train 100,000 teachers to provide children with quality education and basic life skills; and
- Educate children about proper hygiene and HIV prevention; this knowledge is passed on to siblings, parents, and the community at large.

We should consider this for our International project. Here is the information for making contributions.

Please send in checks to:  
*U.S. Fund for UNICEF  
 C/O NGO Department  
 125 Maiden Lane  
 New York, NY 10038*

Include the name of your state organization and chapter on the memo line of your check.