



*Serving Women Educators from Livonia and Wayne-Westland Schools*

*Member of Detroit Metro Coordinating Council*

*Volume 33 Issue 2*

*October/November 2012*

## **Gamma Alpha Bulletin**

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

#### **President's Message**



The entire executive board hopes you enjoyed our first meeting, and that you're looking forward to another great year together in DKG. It's OUR year to renew ourselves though obviously we don't neglect our other duties. However, we need to be happy and healthy—mentally, physically and spiritually in order to deal with life's many challenges. Enjoy the final days of summer—go to your favorite cider mill (avoid the yellow jackets)—have lunch or a Friday after school get-together with friends you've missed seeing—plan a day for you doing whatever renews you, what gives you joy! Drink in the colors, sights and sounds of fall. Volunteer and share your special talents. Renew old friendships and make those calls you've been putting off. Let your friends help when you're feeling overwhelmed! Lighten the load on your shoulders and your soul! And

remember, we're all here for each other. (George Bell, my first principal at Wayne High used to give the most inspirational first day of school speeches, letting us all know how truly special and appreciated we were—I don't have his talent, but my hopes for us are the same)

Also, in this, the 75<sup>th</sup> year of DKG in Michigan, I encourage you to participate in doing at least 75 good deeds this year before the convention. If each of us does at least three, we'll meet our goal and make this world a better place—what better way to lift your own spirits. Please make a list of these three or so good deeds, take pictures or record them so we can make them part of Gamma Alpha's celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup>!

On behalf of the whole chapter, I would like to thank Carole Lower for opening her home to all of us to meet the apron lady and hear her presentation on a not so well known aspect of women's history. Come, enjoy camaraderie with your sisters in a relaxed setting and learn something new.

As always, please bring your ideas

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#### **Meeting Info**



**October 17**

Carole Lower's House

**October 19-20**

Fall Conference

Muskegon Holiday Inn

**November 16-18**

Women in the Arts

Higgins Lake

**December 5**

Holiday Auction

Laurel Manor

RSVP to Amy at

[amosande@hotmail.com](mailto:amosande@hotmail.com) OR

[wainwrighta@wwcsd.net](mailto:wainwrighta@wwcsd.net)

#### **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*



## Gamma Alpha Bulletin

**Mark your calendars now!**



### October 17, 2012

**Place:** Carole Lower's house  
45766 Fermanagh  
Northville 48186

**Time:** Arrive 4:00-4:30

**Program:**

- Orientation for New Members
- Nancy, the Apron Lady - If we listen to the stories that aprons tell, we can learn about women's historical roles, fashion trends, and 20<sup>th</sup> Century American culture.



**Notes ( Lots of things to bring this month!):**

- Retired members signed up to bring the appetizers and desserts
- Bring service project donations for Cogswell Group Home for Girls
- Bring pre-school donations for Lynda Neuroth
- Bring items for "Green" Basket for convention
- Pam Emerson is the contact for the speaker.

### October 19-20, 2012

**State Executive Board & Fall Conference**  
Muskegon Holiday Inn

### November 16-18, 2012

**Women in the Arts Higgins Lake**

### December 5, 2012

**Holiday Auction**

**Place:** Laurel Manor

**Time:** 4:00-7:30

**Program:** Holiday Auction

**Notes:**

- Arrive at Laurel Manor at 4:00 to set up registration and set up auction items.
- Guests arrive at 4:30.
- Appetizers/Cocktails/Bid on Silent Items/ Tickets in Cups: 4:30-5:00
- Start pulling cup tickets 5:15-5:30 and between dinner courses
- Dinner: 5:30-6:30 (Silent auction ends)
- Live Auction 6:30-7:30



### January 16, 2013

**Gamma Alpha Executive Board Meeting**

**Place:** Mr. Mike's Grill

6047 North Wayne Road  
Westland

**Time:** Arrive 4:00-4:30

Meeting and speaker  
4:30-5:30

Order dinner 5:30

**Program:** Arts and Crafts Beading

**Notes:**

- Executive Board meets one hour prior to the meeting to complete annual reports.



"If we mean to have heroes, statesmen and philosophers, we should have learned women."

Abigail Adams

**March 20, 2013**

**Place:** Mr. Mike's Grill

6047 North Wayne Road in Westland

**Time:** Arrive 4:00-4:30

Meeting and speaker  
4:30-5:30

Order dinner 5:30

**Program:** Estate Sales

**Notes:**

- **Marie is the contact for the speaker.**
- Service project donation to Cogswell Group Home for Girls (ages 12-170 TBD)



**April 20, 2013**

**Metro Council 75<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

**Place:** Greenmead Village

Alexander Blue House

20501 Newburgh Road in Livonia

**Time:** 11:00-2:00

**Program:** Tea to celebrate Alpha Iota State's 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday

**Notes:**

- Metro chapters will provide refreshments.
- Attendees will tour the one-room school-house for the program.



**May 3-5, 2013**

**Annual State Convention 2013**

**Bay City Doubletree Riverfront**

**Bay City, Michigan**

**May 15, 2013**

**Birthday Dinner**

**Place:** East Side Mario's

31630 Plymouth Road in  
Livonia

**Time:** 4:30

**Program:** Honor Friend of  
Education,

Honor Retirees, Award Grant-in-Aid,  
Recommitment Birthday Ceremony

**Notes:** (Pre-payment of \$20 will be necessary)



**June 19, 2013**

**Executive Board & Planning Potluck**

**Place:** Lynne Elsesser's home

20440 Lexington

Northville 48167

**Time:** 11:00

**Program:** Planning Meeting

**Notes:**

- All of our programs are planned by the membership. 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 2012-2013.
- 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 Lynne's at 11:00. Bring your favorite potato, pasta, fruit, or green salad to pass.



"The only advantage of not being too good a housekeeper is that your guests are so pleased to feel how very much better they are."

Eleanor Roosevelt

# Legislative Forum

Here are MEA's recommendations for your area in the upcoming election; (in case you didn't receive a MEA postcard stating the same information).

## CLIP AND TAKE WITH YOU TO THE POLLS

PRESIDENT: Barack Obama

U.S. SENATOR: Debbie Stabenow

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE: no recommendation (idea: go online to Education Insider or Education Newsletter that you should be starting to receive as of Sat. 10-6-12 and see how your Rep. voted on key issues)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE: Gretchen Driskell

SUPREME COURT: Connie Marie Kelley, Bridget Mary McCormack (both full terms) & Sheila Johnson (partial term)

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION: Michelle Fecteau; & Lupe Ramos-Montigny (she is a former teacher who I know from NEA Conventions and from her speeches I know she has her heart in the right place)

U of M BOARD OF REGENTS: Mark Bernstein & Shauna Ryder Diggs

MICH STATE UNIV BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Joel Ferguson & Brian Mossalam

WAYNE STATE UNIV BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Sandra Hughes O'Brien & Kim Trent

----THESE ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT-----  
(don't stop yet!)

PROPOSAL 1: NO Referendum on PA 4/  
Emergency Manager

PROPOSAL 2: YES Protect Working Families/  
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

PROPOSAL 3: YES 25% by 2025/RENEWABLE  
ENERGY STANDARD

PROPOSAL 4: YES Keep Home Care Safe

PROPOSAL 5: NO 2/3 Majority for Taxes

PROPOSAL 6: no position International bridge  
Crossing Amendment

Please don't let your eyes glaze over about these proposals. That's what all sides to these proposals are hoping for; an easy "Yes on the first proposal and No on all the rest" --OR-- an easy "No on the first proposal and Yes on the rest" is what opposing sides are hoping for. We Women earned the Right To Vote in 1919, passed into law 1920, so let's remember to be INFORMED voters just as those forebears fought for us to do!!!

Perhaps after reading and thinking over some of the following info, you may want to write yourself a note next to each proposal, print this out and TAKE IT TO THE POLLS.

## \_\_\_\_ PROPOSAL 1 \_\_\_\_

Applies to cities, currently Flint, Ecorse, Benton Harbor & 2 more who lost jobs and people who pay the taxes for city services so they would be in financial trouble; also could apply to school districts, especially if in the constitution.

*SOURCE: Detroit Free Press and various Sunday morning talk shows.*

## \_\_\_\_ PROPOSAL 2 \_\_\_\_

Applies to us and fellow teachers, firefighters, police, healthcare workers. Teachers already have had a long list of laws passed against us by this governor and legislators in the name of balancing the budget. (My opinion: we can't allow them to take away collective bargaining, what's left; our fellow working teachers need us to STAND BY THEM. Felons aren't and won't be allowed to be hired anyway, per the insulting commercial. Our state can't become a Right-

To-Work State, which is what will happen next; businesses and workers and our kids as workers in this state will get unjust treatment.)

PROPOSAL 3

(Separate email from Spotlight on the News/Chuck Stokes/Ch. 7)

PROPOSAL 4

Would allow Home Health Care workers to organize into a union; which would lead to create standards for them.

PROPOSAL 5

From MEA: it" would require a supermajority 2/3 vote of legislators--THAT COULD BE AS FEW AS 13 (of 38) House Reps. or Senators-before state taxes could be raised or tax loopholes closed. Puts complete power in the hands of a few extreme politicians-- and their corporate CEO friends--to decide Michigan's financial future. Their goal is to protect tax policies benefiting special interests at the expense of the middle class." (Additional opinion: a small number of Senators could have the power to change what the majority wants--how does that make sense? AND it would ALWAYS be in the CONSTITUTION. ) Detroit Free Press: "to get it on the ballot was funded almost entirely by Ambassador Bridge owner Matty Maroun." Opponents of the law--to vote No-- are: Gov. Snyder, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Mich Municipal League, our MEA, UAW. (Wide variety of groups) They say: "thwarts majority rule; complicates changes to any tax." Detroit Free Press

PROPOSAL 6

Your opinion counts here. Use it wisely. You add to my opinion what I've gathered from Detroit Free Press and Sunday talk shows: Michigan needs construction jobs and all related jobs this bridge could bring over countless years. We call ourselves an International Crossing city/metro area, but think of greatly increased truck exports and imports, could lead to increased shipping coming through the Saint Lawrence Seaway and all Great Lakes, expanded Detroit Port Authority shipping and receiving—construction jobs and maritime jobs, more commerce from the world also coming through Canada

(impressive to see those trucks on the Hwy 401 crossing both ways and proud to have a MI license plate then!) New York covers its costs through its bridge and road fees; costs \$20 to get through that state, I can attest.

At our October Meeting I will supply everyone a copy of VOTER RESOURCES: BE AN INFORMED VOTER, courtesy of my public library that compiled 7 websites on issues.

\*\*Citizens Research Council of MI (ballot issues): [www.crcmich.org/election/index.html](http://www.crcmich.org/election/index.html)

\*\*On The Issues: [www.ontheissues.org/default.htm](http://www.ontheissues.org/default.htm)

\*\*Project Vote Smart (candidates): [http:// votesmart.org/](http://votesmart.org/)

\*\*AARP Voters Guide: <http://vote.aarp.org>

\*\*Mich Campaign Finance Network (where \$ has gone in MI politics): [www.mcfn.org/](http://www.mcfn.org/)

\*\*Fact Check (from a public policy center): [www.factcheck.org/](http://www.factcheck.org/)

\*\*Real Clear Politics (reviews and polls): [www.realclearpolitics.com/elections/](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/elections/)

Pam Emerson

## Happy Birthday Ladies



### October

10/21 Alice Duke

10/23 Lisa Austin

### November

11/2 Debbie Ervin

11/5 Amy Wainwright

11/10 Sherry Green

11/17 Pam Emerson

11/24 Christine Smith

11/29 Ellen August



## **The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International** **Gamma Alpha Annual Holiday Auction**



December 5, 2012  
Register/Set-up/Cocktails/Social 4:00  
Hors D'oeuvres 4:30 - 5:30  
Dinner 5:30  
Auction Following dinner 6:30



It's here! Gamma Alpha Chapter's Annual Holiday Auction. You can do your Christmas shopping early this year! Proceeds will be used in part for scholarships given to women continuing or seeking a degree in education, for Early-Career Educators, and for our community service projects.

**Laurel Manor Banquet & Conference Center**  
39000 Schoolcraft Road  
Livonia, Michigan



**Plated Dinner Entree \$30**  
(Prices went up. Sorry for the increase)  
**Garden Salad w/ Ranch or Italian Dressing**



**Homemade Bread**

**Petite Sirloin & Chicken Marsala**

**Garlic Mashed Potatoes**

**Sugar Snap Peas**

**or**

**Vegetarian Choice: Pasta Primavera**

**Peppermint Stick Ice Cream & Brownie w/ Fudge Topping**

**Coffee, Tea, Decaf**

**Cash Bar (Wine)**

Indicate entrée choice: Petite Sirloin & Chicken Marsala or Pasta Primavera.

Make checks payable to "Gamma Alpha."

Send to treasurer, Cindy Dietz, by November 16, 2012.

Please list names of guests and their entrée for name tags.

If you fill a table (8) we can reserve the table for your party.

Cindy Dietz  
7329 Gilman  
Westland, MI 48185  
(734) 427-9399

(President's Message continued from page 1)

on how we can better meet the needs of our members, suggestions for changes and, of course, praise for what your sisters are accomplishing! Happy Halloween and plan for an exciting December auction with your friends and creative donations!

Yours in DKG,  
Lynne

## Starting the year off right!

We had a great turn out for our September meeting!



## The Book Report

Gamma Alpha members were quite busy reading during the hot summer months. Cindy Dietz recommends the following two series.

*Outlander* by Dianna Gabaldon

*A Game of Thrones* by George R.R. Martin

## An Apple for the Teacher

At the September meeting Sandy Becher was singing the praises of her two, new favorite apps:

Keycard—free—can be used in place of most customer loyalty cards, no need to lose out on deals and reward points because you left your cards at home. Best of all less digging around in your purse!

GroceryIQ—free—create grocery lists by typing, scanning UPC labels, or speaking. Check off the items as you shop. This app also lets you clip coupons from coupons.com.

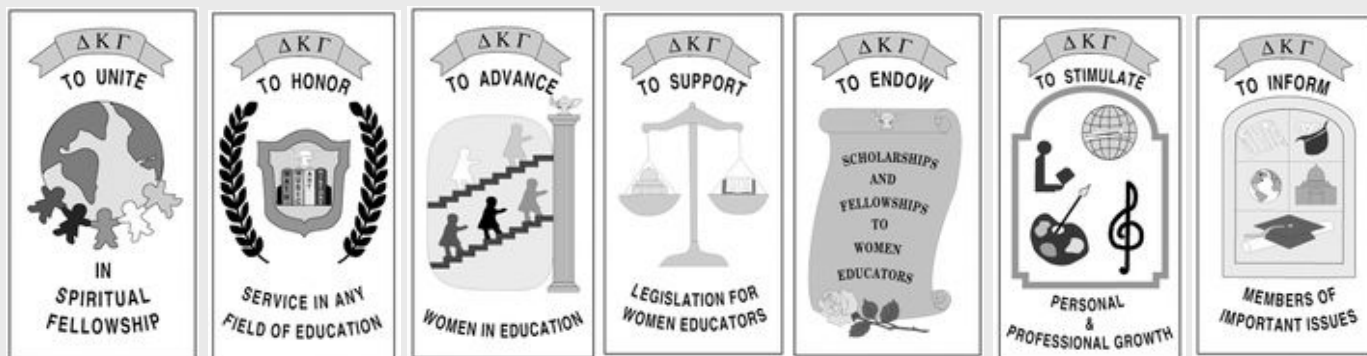


Carole & Jackie carefully chose how to spend their auction tickets.



Lynne wielded the gavel like a pro!

## Seven Purposes of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



### Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committee Chairmen

#### Executive Board

President	Lynne Elsesser
1st VP/Program	Mary Jo Dreffs
2nd VP/Membership	Colleen Retherford
Recording Secretary	Carol Anderson
Corresponding Sec.	Amy Wainwright
Treasurer	Cindy Dietz
Parliamentarian	Fran Saenz

#### Committees

Service Projects	Judy Morante, Amy Wainwright
US Forum/Legislation	Pam Emerson
Grant-in-Aid	Donna Colaianne
Birthday Dinner	Helen Mate, Esther Loskowske, Jackie Smart
Vacation Auction	Cindy Dietz & Esther Loskowske
50/50 Raffles	Donna Colaianne & Joanna Eiwen
Yearbook	Jackie Smart
Newsletter	Amy Wainwright
Sunshine	Barbara Broadley, Ellen August
Finance	Grace Morgan, Judi Fisher, Cindy Dietz, Carol Anderson
Nominations	Carol Anderson, Carole Lower
Holiday Auction	Mary Jo Dreffs, Carol Palk, Debbie Novak, Marie Canzoneri, Ellen August, Jackie Smart



## Attending Fall Art Fairs? Think Holiday Auction

Fall is here...the beautiful colors, cooler air, and fall art fairs! I recently spent a great afternoon at a local art fair and had a thought that it might be a good time to remind everyone to start gathering items for the Holiday Auction. (I picked up 2 cute things at the fair.)

I shop for items to bring (due to my serious lack of creativity), but I know many of you can create wonderful things. I always spend more than I plan (I don't mind because it's for a great cause) so I like to start early. That way I can spread out my spending!

My plan is to bring items for each of the 3 types of auctions we have. Remember, the more items we have the better, but whatever you contribute is greatly appreciated. Ladies, our auction is only as successful as WE make it so get out there and start shopping/creating! December 5 is less than 2 months away!

Mary Jo Dreffs

