



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
DKG Michigan State Organization
Serving Women Educators from Western Wayne County
Gamma Alpha is a Proud Member of Detroit Metro Coordinating Council
Summer 2025
Volume 45 Issue 4

GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN

Presidents' Message



Judy Morante & Pam Emerson, Co-Presidents

As we get excited for summer and the chance to enjoy the stunning outdoors of Michigan, I want to take a moment to look back on our wonderful year with Gamma Alpha!

I hope you've had as much fun as I have with all our activities. I was thrilled to answer all the recent Jeopardy questions about Mary Todd Lincoln, especially since I got to meet "Mrs. Lincoln" at two of our meetings!

And can I just say, scavenger hunts on Zoom are a blast!

I always look forward to our auction, Christmas Party, and Birthday Dinner — they're such great opportunities to connect and have fun with all of you.

Most of all, let's continue to spread positivity about education and celebrate the joy of being teachers. Here's to an amazing 2025-26 DKG year ahead!

Judy

'Teaching kids to count is fine, but teaching them what counts is best.'

Bob Talbert

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This is the link for Zoom meetings.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5760748757>

Meeting ID: 576 074 8757

Password dkg or

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 76 074 8757

**Next Meeting In-Person
Planning Meeting
June 7, 2025
12:00-2:30 P.M.**

See you there!

2024-2025 Calendar

Zoom link for meetings

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5760748757>

Meeting ID: 576 074 8757

Password dkg

or

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 576 074 8757



June 7, 2025 Gamma Alpha – Chapter Planning Meeting

We're kicking off our next year of **fellowship, service, and inspiration** — and we need **your voice and your vision!** Please join us for our **Chapter Planning Meeting** as we gather to brainstorm, collaborate, and plan meaningful programs and service projects for the upcoming year. Jackie sent a Sign Up Genius to everyone, but here it is again.

Date: Saturday, June 7, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: 20158 Southampton Drive, Livonia, MI 48152

Gamma Alpha will provide pizza, salad, iced tea, and lemonade to fuel our ideas.

You're not obligated to bring anything, but if you'd like, **appetizers, desserts, or wine** are always welcome!

We'd love your help with:

- **Speaker Suggestions:** Many of you belong to other organizations and may know engaging speakers. Please bring names and contact information. If you can't attend, email your suggestions to Jackie.
- **Service Project Ideas:** Help us plan meaningful support for **Beverly House**.
- **Metro Coordinating Council:** Bring ideas and input for our contribution to the upcoming MCC meeting.

This is a great opportunity to **connect, contribute, and shape the future** of our chapter. Your ideas and energy make all the difference — and your presence will make the afternoon even better!

Please RSVP by June 6 to Jackie at jackie@mysmartfamily.com

We're looking forward to planning with you!





SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

June

19 Fran Saenz

19 Tara Cooper

25 Pam Sayre

July

4 Karen Marold

9 Joanna Eiwen

16 Suzanne Bacinski

30 Judy Morante

August

22 Beth Banker



What Are We Reading?

The Thursday Murder Club

By Richard Osman

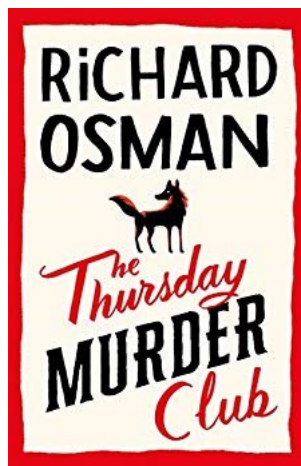
My husband recently introduced me to Richard Osman's *The Thursday Murder Club* mysteries, and I absolutely loved it! As a fan of cozy mysteries, this book was exactly my cup of tea. Published in 2020, Osman's debut novel is both entertaining and heart-warming. The plot is clever, and the characters are wonderfully drawn. It's the perfect read for teachers looking to unwind while still engaging with meaningful themes. Fortunately for me, it's the first in a series.

The setting is a quiet retirement village in England. The story revolves around four unlikely amateur sleuths—Elizabeth, Joyce, Ibrahim, and Ron—who meet weekly to solve cold cases. When a local developer is found murdered, the group suddenly finds themselves at the center of a real investigation, one filled with twists, humor, and heart.

The novel explores themes such as aging, friendship, justice, and the enduring value of experience. It particularly shines in celebrating the intellect and resourcefulness of older adults, especially women like Elizabeth and Joyce, who are often underestimated. Their sharp minds and deep compassion offer inspiration and a powerful reminder that purpose and impact don't fade with age.

This is an excellent read for women, as the female leads take charge of solving crimes with empathy and intelligence. Osman strikes a perfect balance between humor and suspense, making this a refreshing escape after a long day. It's also a great choice for book clubs or classroom discussions focused on detective fiction, character development, or intergenerational relationships.

If you're an educator looking to relax while still appreciating meaningful storytelling, *The Thursday Murder Club* is definitely for you!



Minutes May 15, 2025

Our 46th Birthday Dinner is not an official business meeting, but we have to enter a few items in the official minutes.

We had the State President Karen Lessnau-Scott and her Visitation chair attend the dinner at Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall restaurant in downtown Northville.

Linda Dobrzeniecki shared some convention memories with the group.

Co-President Judy Morante presented the Friend of Education Award to William Hundley, owner of the Tuscan Café in Northville.

Grant-in-Aid chair, Joanna Eiwen presented checks to two Wayne-Westland teachers, Karen Dickelman and Adriana Tilley. They each received a check for \$500 and will receive another \$500 check when they attend a 2025-2026 meeting.

Co-President Pam Emerson and Jackie Smart presented Lifetime Service Awards to five members: Judi Fisher, Carol Anderson, Margie Sievert, Carole Lower, and Judy Morante for the commitment to teaching and service to DKG.

Co-President Judy Morante presented the Chapter Woman of Distinction award to Margie Sievert. Congratulations, Margie.

Cindy Dietz presented anniversary pins to:

Esther Loskowske-45 years

Fran Saenz-45 years

Jackie Smart-35 years

Cindy Dietz-30 years

Liz Frazier-25 years

Gamma Alpha received the Award of the Rose and the President's Award from the state organization for meeting certain objectives. We also received an attendance award for participation at the state convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Sievert Co-Recording Secretary



Grant-in-Aid

Just in case you know a teacher who might need a grant for a project of further education.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Gamma Alpha Chapter
Grant-in-Aid Application



Michigan
State Organization

DKG stands for The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. DKG is an international honor society with 60,000 members that promotes the professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. Gamma Alpha Chapter primarily consists of women educators from Wayne-Westland and Livonia schools. Gamma Alpha engages in projects that support the community. We award one or two \$1,000 Grant-in-Aid funds for early career educators for continuing education or classroom projects. Five hundred dollars is presented to the awardee at our spring dinner. The awardee is encouraged to bring a female teaching colleague to the dinner. Meals will be provided by Gamma Alpha. The remainder of the grant, \$500, will be awarded at one of the fall meetings the awardee chooses to attend. The awardee will give a brief talk about how she has utilized the grant. She is also encouraged to bring a colleague to this meeting. Applicants complete the following:

Part I

Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____
Email _____
School and District _____

Part II

Write an essay, no longer than one page, of your current responsibilities, accomplishments, and how you wish to use the grant money.

Part III

Include one letter of recommendation with your application.

Return this form by February 28 to:

Joanna Eiwen

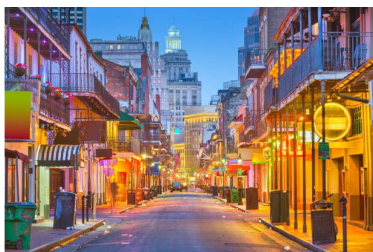
jeruth@att.net

or

Karen Moscsa

klmosca@hotmail.com

DKG International Convention



Coming to New Orleans, Louisiana
July 30 - August 2, 2025

GET INSPIRED!
MAKE VALUABLE CONNECTIONS!
EXPLORE!

Registration is now open

Visit www.dkg.org for more details

Partnered with UNICEF USA since 1997, DKG



is currently supporting
G.I.R.L.S. Fund. This fund
provides educational access
for girls in Africa through
UNICEF's "Girls Initiative

to **Revitalize Learning and Success**" (GIRLS)
Fund.

The initiative aims to:

- 1) **Get a better understanding** of the current barriers and bottlenecks facing girls in Africa;
- 2) **address harmful social norms** that impede prosperity of girls;
- 3) **Deploy technology** to accelerate results in girls' education;
- 4) **Mount global advocacy and leadership** through a Global Platform; and
- 5) **Develop a Technical Advisory Panel** (TAP) to tap into expertise on gender equality and women's empowerment and change the trajectory of learning and earning outcomes for girls and young women.

Our annual auction profits help to support the G.I.R.L.S. Fund. Go Gamma Alpha.

Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committees



Co-Presidents:

Judy Morante & Pam Emerson

Co-Vice-President & Membership:

Amy Wright & Jennifer LaRose

Co-Recording Secretary:

Linda Dobrzeniecki & Margie Sievert

Treasurer:

Cindy Dietz

Parliamentarian:

Pam Sayre

Immediate Past Presidents:

Judi Fisher & Jackie Smart

Committees

Grant-in-Aid: Joanna Eiwen & Karen Mosca

Newsletter/Yearbook: Jackie Smart

Personal Growth & Service Projects:

Carole Lower

Finance: Judi Fisher

Sunshine: Fran Saenz

50/50: Cindy Dietz

Auction: Jackie Smart

Websites

DKG International

www.dkg.org

DKG Michigan State Organization

www.dkgmichigan.org

DKG Gamma Alpha

www.migammaalpha.org

Birthday Dinner May 15, 2025 at Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall



Delta Kappa Gamma created the Friend of Education Award to recognize individuals, organizations, or businesses that support students and teachers. Gamma Alpha would like to present the Friend of Education award to William Hundley for his support of students with special needs. William is the owner of the Tuscan Café in Northville.



Joanna presented the first half of the Grant-in-Aid checks to Adriana Tilley and Karen Dickelman. Both are teachers in Wayne-Westland and will receive the second half of the award when they attend a 2025-2026 meeting.

Birthday Dinner

Margie is Gamma Alpha's 2025 Chapter Woman of Distinction and was honored at the State Convention on May 4th. The Chapter Woman of Distinction is an award that honors a member who has given significant service to the chapter. Margie also received the Lifetime Service Award for her service in DKG. Judy presented the CW of D award to Margie.



Birthday Dinner

The purpose of the **Lifetime Service Award** is to honor members who have either reached 50 years of membership or are 80 years of age or older. This award provides an opportunity for us to recognize and celebrate those members who have made significant contributions in their fields of education and within DKG. These remarkable women have had a positive impact on education world-wide and have improved the lives of countless children locally. Their accomplishments are an important part of the Society's history and the legacy of our chapter. Judy Morante, Carole Lower, Judi Fisher, Carol Anderson and Margie Sievert received the Lifetime Service award. Carol Anderson was unable to attend. Margie is on the previous page.



Jackie presents the LSA to Judi.



Pam presents Carole (above picture) and Judy's LSA.



Birthday Dinner

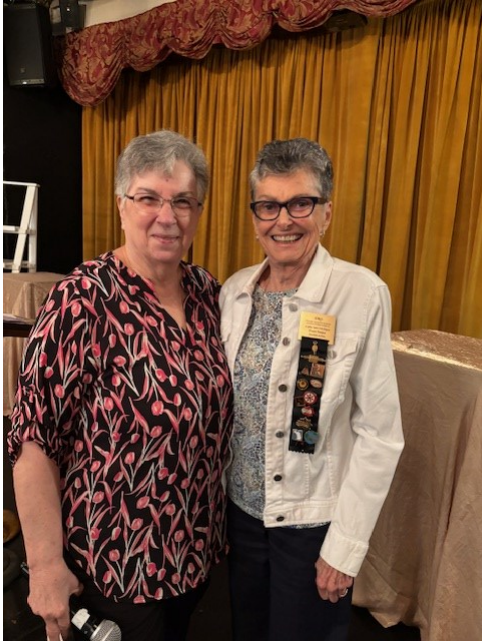
The 46th Birthday Ceremony spelled out GAMMA ALPHA with a little help from our friends.



Birthday Dinner Attendees



Birthday Dinner



Left - Fran receives her 45 year pin from Cindy. Right—Carole Lower is standing with the energetic Service Projects committee. Below Left - Joanna with our grant awardees and their guests from Wayne-Westland Schools. Bottom Right - Cindy and Jackie received 30 and 35 year anniversary pins.



What's Causing Teacher Burnout?

National Education Association (NEA) highlights several important factors that can lead to teacher burnout, based on recent surveys and feedback from educators. This is a brief summary of the article from NEA TODAY April 7, 2025.

Student Behavior and Discipline Challenges

Many educators find that managing student behavior can be a significant source of stress, which often contributes to feelings of burnout.

Insufficient Compensation

Teachers frequently face low salaries and inadequate financial support, which can lead them to take on extra jobs or use their own money for classroom supplies. This situation can create additional stress and dissatisfaction.

Lack of Respect and Autonomy

When teachers are left out of important decision-making processes, especially when policies are created by those outside the education field, it can be disheartening. This loss of professional autonomy can significantly add to feelings of burnout.

Excessive Workload and Time Constraints

Many teachers report that they don't have enough time during the school day to complete important tasks like lesson planning and grading. This can lead to longer work hours and a struggle to maintain a healthy work-life balance.

Compassion Fatigue

Being continuously exposed to students' trauma and emotional challenges can lead to compassion fatigue. This condition can make teachers feel emotionally exhausted and less able to empathize, which can increase feelings of burnout.

Systemic and Structural Pressures

Frequent changes in policies, high-stakes testing, and underfunded schools create additional challenges for teachers, making it harder for them to focus on teaching and engaging with their students.

To tackle the issue of teacher burnout, we need to make some meaningful changes. This includes better compensation, more support for educators, and involving teachers in policy decisions. By doing so, we can create a healthier and more respectful working environment for everyone in education.



Taken from an article by Tim Walker, Senior Writer/Editor
April 7, 2025 NEA NEWS
NEA TODAY

Metro Council Members Step Back in Time at Michigan Flight Museum's Rosie the Riveter Exhibit

Members from the Metro Council recently visited the Michigan Flight Museum, where history came alive through an immersive experience focused on Rosie the Riveter and the iconic Willow Run bomber plant. The visit offered a powerful glimpse into the vital roles women played on the home front during World War II.

At the center of the experience was the story of *Rosie the Riveter*—the cultural icon who symbolized the millions of women who joined the industrial workforce to support the war effort. These women, many of whom had never held factory jobs before, took on roles in manufacturing, assembling aircraft, vehicles, and weapons while men were serving overseas.

The Willow Run plant, located in Ypsilanti, was once the largest bomber factory in the world, known for its groundbreaking production of B-24 Liberators. At its peak, it produced one bomber every hour and employed thousands of women, many of whom defied societal expectations to contribute to the war effort.

During the museum visit, members explored exhibits that showcased personal stories, photographs, and artifacts from the era. The highlight for many was an interactive display where visitors could try their hand at riveting—offering a tactile connection to the work done by the original “Rosies.”

The experience not only enriched our understanding of women’s history and industrial innovation but also inspired ideas for bringing these stories back to their classrooms. By learning about the resilience and contributions of women during wartime, we hope to empower the next generation with lessons in courage, adaptability, and civic duty.



Claire Dahl spoke to Metro Council at the Michigan Flight Museum. Attendees earned 2 free SCECH credits for the trip.

Metro Council Trip



Diane and Cindy try their hand at riveting at the Michigan Flight Museum. It was harder than it looked!

Below:

Diane and Linda exploring the museum exhibits. It was a fun day. We ended up at the Cracker Barrel in Belleville for food, laughter, and camaraderie.



State Convention at Soaring Eagle



From May 2 to May 4, the women of DKG Michigan gathered at the Soaring Eagle Resort & Casino in Mt. Pleasant. The State Program Committee provided excellent sessions and opportunities to earn free SCECH credits. The Friday night Polynesian themed fundraiser for the AIM Foundation was enjoyable for everyone, featuring Hawaiian dancers and a murder mystery!

Top Left: Photo booth fun with Cindy, Jackie, Judi, Linda, and Jessica in the back row. Judy and Pam are in the front row.

Top Right: Jessica and Amy

Left: Linda and Jessica

Bottom: New State Officers Amy Wright, Julie Pease, Carol Dean, and President Colleen Retherford.

Colleen was a Gamma Alpha before she move to Kalamazoo a few years ago. Congratulations, Colleen.

