



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

*Member of Detroit Metro Coordinating Council*

*Volume 38 Issue 3 January/February 2018*

## Volume 38 Issue 3

### The G.A.B. “Let’s Talk”

#### President’s Message

Gamma Alpha friends,

Colleen and I are looking forward to visiting with all of you who are able to join us at Cassel’s on Wednesday the 31st. We have left the program open for fellowship and good conversation. The Executive Board will meet from 4:30-5:30 with dinner and a business meeting to follow.

We are really excited about the speakers lined up for our next two meetings this spring! Feel free to invite guests to these meetings. The March meeting with Susan Nenadic “Well Behaved Women Rarely Make History” will be held on Wednesday 3/14 (Pi Day), and the April meeting with Irene Miller “Into No Man’s Land” is on Thursday 4/12. Irene will have her book available for purchase. The cost is \$15 cash/check or \$17 for credit card

Both events will be held at the Northville District Library from 5:30—6:30. Parking is off Cady street by the library and senior center. Dinner is on your own at the restaurant of your choice. Three restaurants in walking distance of the library are the Garage Grill and Fuel Bar, Brick’s, and the Center Street Grille.

You received your electronic copy of the winter issue of the Wolverine on 1/22. You will receive your usual paper copy in the mail in a few weeks. It contains all of the registration materials and information for the State Convention for May 4-6th. Please see page 5 of the newsletter for a copy of

Jackie’s Executive Secretary report, explaining the increase in registration costs is due to how the hotels now write their convention contracts to include meals.

We are a very photogenic bunch! Check out pages 6-7 to see how much fun we had at our Annual Auction as well as our Holiday Happy Hour.

See our January agenda on page 8. Colleen is asking that committee reports be emailed to her at [bettylousmt@hotmail.com](mailto:bettylousmt@hotmail.com) in advance of the meeting. Additionally, teachers won a victory this December in the MEA and AFT’s 3% Case. See the details about the return of your money, also on page 8.

Are you SCRUMptious? A book review, the principles of SCRUM, and the app Trello are outlined on page 9. Be sure to try the tasty recipe you find there too.

We have some lost and found items from the Holiday Happy Hour. Someone left a set of dish towels and hotpads at Carole Lower’s house. Additionally, Carole is missing a knife and spoon. Please check if you brought home any extra silverware when you picked up your serving dishes.

Yours in Gamma Alpha,

Colleen & Amy

#### Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
Treasurer	2
Speaker Flyer	3
Minutes	4
Society News	4
Convention Costs	5
Nov & Dec Photos	6-7
Jan Agenda	8
3%	8
Recipe	9
SCRUMptious	9
Birthdays	10

#### Coming Soon!

**Jan 31st (Wed)**

**Executive Board 4:30**

**Business Meeting 5:30**

Cassels’ Restaurant

43003 & Mile Rd

Northville, MI 48167

**RSVP to**

Amy Wright at

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

(734) 740-4018



Mark your calendars now!



**Wednesday January 31, 2018**

**Place:** Cassels

**Time:** 4:30 - 5:30 Executive Board Meeting  
5:30 - 7:30 Dinner & Program

**Program:** OPEN for conversation and fellowship

**Wednesday March 14, 2018: Women in History Speaker**

**Place:** Northville Library

**Time:** 5:30 - 6:30

**Program:** Susan Nenadic - Well Behaved Women Rarely Make History

- Donation for Basket for Convention (\$10 suggested donation for gift card tree - if you have not contributed already in the fall)
- Dinner to follow

**Thursday April 12, 2018: Holocaust Speaker**

**Place:** Northville Library

**Time:** 5:30-6:30

**Program:** Irene Miller - Holocaust Survivor

- Dinner to follow

**Saturday April 21, 2018**

**Metro Council Lunch**

**Place:** Our Lady of Sorrows  
(School Cafe)

**Time:** 10:00-2:00

**Cost:** \$20

**Program:** Tea



**May 4-6, 2018 State Convention**

**Place:** Marriott Centerpointe Auburn Hills, MI

**Wednesday May 16, 2018 Birthday Dinner**

**Place:** Courthouse Grill

41661 Plymouth Rd  
Plymouth, MI

**Time:** 5:30 - 7:30

**Cost:** TBD (approx \$30)

**Program:** Birthday Dinner

- Chapter Woman of Distinction
- Friend of Education
- Honor Retirees
- Grant-in-aid Recipient
- Initiation of new members (if needed)



**Service Project:** Bring baby outfits to donate to the Sumpter House

**Wednesday June 20 , 2018**

**Planning meeting**

**Place:** Amy Wright's house

35415 John Street  
Wayne, MI 48184  
(734) 740-4018

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

**Bring:** Sign up Genius List for Appetizer, Beverage, Salad or Dessert

- Program ideas



**July 16-20, 2018 International Convention**

**Place:** JW Marriott Austin, TX

See [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) to register



**Treasurer's Notes—Cindy Dietz**

**World Fellowship Basket—** We are making another gift card basket for the State Convention in May. If you did not already donate a gift card or money toward the purchase of gift cards in the fall, now is the time. The suggested donation is \$10. World Fellowship donations are welcome through 4/21, since the Metro Council Lunch is our last event before the Convention.

**Annual Auction—** We raised \$2696, broken down as follows: 50/50 raffle \$307; cup auction \$1640; donations \$328; silent auction \$421. Bar sales were \$204, however we breakeven on the cost of the wine. Ticket sales cover the cost of the meals and cake. Thank you so much for generously supporting our causes!

The Gamma Alpha Chapter of  
THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

## Spring Speaker Series

Wednesday March 14th

Topic: Women's History

"Well Behaved Women Rarely Make  
History"

RSVP by 3/10



Susan Nenadic

<http://historymaven.com/>

Thursday April 12th

Topic: A Holocaust Survivor's Story

"Into No Man's Land"

RSVP by 4/7



Irene Miller

[http://  
www.irenemillerspeaker.com/  
home](http://www.irenemillerspeaker.com/home)

Where: [Northville District Library](#) 212 West Cady Street, Northville MI 48167

When: 5:30-6:30 pm

Cost: Free

Parking: off Cady Street by Library and Senior Center

Dinner: on your own

Restaurants close by: [Garage Grill and Fuel Bar](#), [Brick's](#), and [Center Street Grille](#)

RSVP to [Amosande@hotmail.com](mailto:Amosande@hotmail.com)



Irene Miller's book

*Into No Man's Land*

will be available for purchase.

\$15 cash or check, \$17 credit card



## Volume 38 Issue 3

### GAMMA ALPHA MINUTES

October 26, 2017

Cassel's Restaurant, 5:30-7:00

From Amy Wright's notes, submitted by Colleen Retherford

- Meeting began at 5:30 with Dr. Green-Landau, psychologist, speaking on women's mental health.
- Our six guests were introduced: Nancy Kostin, retired from College of Nursing at Madonna; Karen Marold, teaching at Madonna's College of Nursing; Linda Leedy, Thurston High in South Redford; Dora Ellis, Wayne-Westland 8th grade history; Linda Clark, Northville special education; Margie Seivert, Livonia.
- September 20th minutes were approved, moved by Judi Fisher; seconded by Cindy Dietz. Presidents had no report to give.
- Treasurer's report from Cindy indicated Judy Baker is transferring her membership to the Traverse City area chapter, and the 76 people have signed up for the auction thus far.
- Corresponding secretary report: Oct/Nov. newsletter sent October 18th via email; will send all attachments as PDFs; will pass on raspberry coffee cake recipe from WITA retreat; Colleen will do Sign Up Genius for December holiday get together; March and April meeting date changes were noted, including change in meeting format.
- No Grant in Aid report.
- Service Projects: Judy Morante reports we will continue to support Beverly House & Sumpter House and pay for the girls to participate in the Seedlings Bowl A Thon, which will be March 10th, 2018. Judy asks for new ideas to do with the girls. Judi Fisher reports that Seedlings will have an on-line auction fundraiser from November 1-14th, 2017. Go to [good.com/braillebooks](http://good.com/braillebooks)
- Annual Gamma Alpha Auction: fill out donation forms and bring them with you. Cindy can accept payment for dinner until October 30th. Donna Colaianne will be joining us!
- Old business: Fall workshop – Cindy spoke about sessions she enjoyed, Jackie won our gift card basket, Lynne and Esther also won, and Judi Fisher will need help stuffing registration envelopes. Colleen summarized keynote speaker's address. Women in the Arts: Cindy Dietz and others shared about the craft projects and other aspects of this year's weekend. Next year's dates will be October 19-21, 2018.
- New Business: Guest Linda Clark reports that retiree health care is changing in January so best to get hearing aids before the end of December, 2017. Gamma Gamma auction announced, as well as Zeta Luncheon December 2nd at Laurel Park.
- Next meeting November 5th auction at Laurel Park Manor from 1-4:30. Members should arrive at 12 to help set up.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm, moved by Barb Broadley, seconded by Cindy Dietz.

#### International News

Mark your calendars for the International Convention July 16-20, 2018! See [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) for registration materials, information on the breakout sessions, and a good deal on the airport shuttle service.

Be sure to bring your own bag to the convention this year, as they will not be providing totebags this time.

A new version of the DKG app was recently released. It is now in two parts, one is for use specifically during conventions, and the other is for everyday access to society information. The website was also revamped in December. It al-

lows non-members/perspective members access to explore DKG and better acquaint themselves with the society on an international level.

#### State News

The submission period for the Spring Gallery 2018 is from January 5th to February 1st.

To submit an entry form members should go to the [DKG.org](http://DKG.org) site and click on Apply/Submit, then on Submissions, then on Fine Arts Gallery entry form. They will need to have .jpg photos of their 2D and 3D works and pdf or .com copies of any literary submissions.

Kathleen Rodak, Zeta Chapter  
Michigan Liaison to the Gallery of Fine Arts

**To: Chapter Presidents, PAC Committee Chairs, Executive Board**

**From: Jacquelyn Smart, Gamma Alpha, Executive Secretary**

**Date: January 15, 2018**

**Re: Planning a Fall Conference or State Convention: Why Are We Here & Why Does It Cost So Much?**

Have you ever wondered what goes into planning a Fall Conference or State Convention?

Our official documents require that Alpha Iota State organization have one Spring Convention and one Fall Conference (or possibly more during even years for the purpose of leadership training and the dissemination of Society information.) Specific dates are determined based on:

Calendar

Site availability

Proposed prices

Holiday weekends, football conflicts, and spring graduation dates are avoided as much as possible.

State Conventions are required to move from area to area on a rotation basis. We divide Michigan into four areas – see map. Convention sites are recommended by the previous state president and approved by Executive Board.

Fall Conferences, on the other hand, can be held anywhere in the state. There is no specific rotation, but an attempt is made to select locations throughout the state. This is so local chapters:

Can attend a state event without driving a long distance

Have the opportunity to help organize the event

Hopefully involve more of their membership

There are many contract variables in planning an event. When a site has been recommended, it will be explored. Our needs differ slightly for spring conventions and fall conferences, but sites need to meet our needs which generally include:

Friday night - large meeting function room for Executive Board, smaller room for President Emeritae and the state president to meet prior to Executive Board, and a breakout room for Friday night

Saturday - 4/5 breakout rooms (fall conference and convention,) a room for Funding Our Purposes (fall conference and convention,) large meeting function room for the President's Banquet (convention)

Sunday - large room for Necrology Service and a large meeting function room for the Awards Brunch (convention)

The site needs 50-60 overnight guest rooms with double beds (fall conference and convention)

The availability of food for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are also considerations. The site must be able to serve at least 160 people simultaneously in order for members to stay on schedule or be willing to provide a buffet or similar arrangements to feed our numbers.

Sites are visited and asked to offer a proposal for our consideration. Sites charge anywhere between 21-26% service fee, plus 6% state tax for meals and all services.

Most sites require a Guaranteed Minimum charge or Group Attrition fee. This means that the hotel agrees to block off a predetermined number of hotel overnight rooms and meeting rooms in exchange for the organization guaranteeing payment. If we meet and sell the block of rooms that we guaranteed in the contract **and** meet a set amount of food costs then the amount charged for meeting rooms is discounted or sometimes (but rarely) free. Charges for meeting rooms depend on the amount of square footage. Breakout rooms cost \$300-\$500. Large rooms can cost \$800 to \$1,500 dollars. (Remember service fee and tax are added to this!) If we do not book enough hotel rooms, there will be an automatic charge to bring the site's income up to a percentage of the contractual level, usually 80%. So you can see the importance of booking a room for Fall Conference or State Convention.

*(continued on page 9)*



# Annual Auction



Barbara Broadley with Marie Canzoneri and guests.



Nancy Chiasson, Carol Anderson, Judi Fisher and Judy Morante and guests.



Joanna Eiwen with Donna Colaianne and their guests.



Fran Saenz knows our auction is success due to the support we receive from other chapters!



Carol VandenBrul with Jackie Smart and their family and guests.



Lynne and Sarah Elesesser with their family and guests.

# November 5, 2017 at Laurel Manor in Livonia



The Zeta chapter is always well represented at our auction, and we appreciate their support!



Pam Husson and her guests.

## Holiday Happy Hour December 14, 2017 at Carole Lower's House



Carole took home the best white elephant gift, *The Bathroom Guest Book*.



Linda, Fran and Colleen are all smiles sitting by a crackling fire.



Judy, Carole, Linda Clark, Sarah, Pam, and Linda Leedy know no one goes hungry at the Holiday Happy Hour!



## Volume 38 Issue 3

### GAMMA ALPHA AGENDA

January 31, 2018

Cassel's Restaurant

**\*Chairs, plan to email reports to Amy and Colleen before meeting so that our business meeting can be very brief, perhaps 10-15 minutes at most.**

4:30-5:30 Exec Board Meeting

5:15-5:45 Order dinner

5:45 – 6:00

Welcome – Colleen and Amy

Attendance sheet – Carole Lower

Welcome guests and introduction of prospective members

Previous minutes approval

Presidents' Reports:

Slate of nominees for 2018-2020 biennium

Treasurer's report – Cindy

Corresponding Secretary report – Pam Husson and Amy Wright (including newsletter)

Committee Reports: as needed

Old business

New business

Slate of Nominees for 2018-2020 Biennium

Suggestions for Chapter Woman of Distinction & Friend of Education awards

Next meeting: March 14 at Northville Library 5:30-6:30. Dinner follows on our own.

## Michigan Supreme Court Rules Teachers Get Their 3% Back

After the passage of PA 75, school employees who worked between July 1, 2010, and September 3, 2012, had 3% deducted from their paychecks to fund retiree healthcare. Because this money was taken without the employees' consent and did not guarantee the funds would be used to pay for their healthcare expenses in retirement, the MEA and the AFT filed a lawsuit to get this money back.

Though lower courts ruled in favor of returning the money, the State of Michigan and Governor Rick Snyder appealed the decision. The case was escalated to the Michigan Supreme Court, who ruled in favor of the teachers on December 20, 2017.

If you worked between 2010 and 2012, you should have received an email from ORS this January, stating the amount of money withheld from your paycheck during that time as well as any interest earned. The funds which have been held in escrow by ORS, will be released to the school districts by 1/22/2018. The school districts will then disburse the money to their employees.

According to the MEA, the funds will likely be subject to taxes. FICA withholding depends on each school district. Look for your check in the mail or electronic deposit in February.

The only question now, is how will you spend your three percent?



## VEGETARIAN PAD THAI

from the kitchen of Colleen Retherford



### Prepare garnishes and set aside:

- 1 bunch cilantro, chopped
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 1 lime, cut in wedges
- Roasted peanuts – about ½ cup

### Make sauce and set aside:

- Juice of 1 lime
- 1 TB sugar
- 1 – 2 TB peanut butter
- 1 TB or more Thai Red Chili Paste

### Begin Noodles:

- 1 - 8oz pkg Annie's Pad Thai Brown Rice Noodles – cover with hot water and let set for 8-10 minutes, then drain

### While noodles set, saute:

- 2 TB oil
- 1 shallot chopped
- 1-2 cloves garlic or more, minced
- 1 pkg tofu cubed, or 1 bag Quorn Chik'n Tenders

Push sauted stuff aside, and scramble two eggs in the pan lightly. Add the drained noodles and sauce. Stir thoroughly and heat through. Serve with garnishes – remember to squeeze the limes on to the food!

## How to be SCRUMptious:

A book and app review by Amy Wright

Scrum is a process that can be used to keep track of your projects and keep your projects on track, as well as on time and on budget. This process allows for reflection and aims for greater improvement and efficiency each cycle.

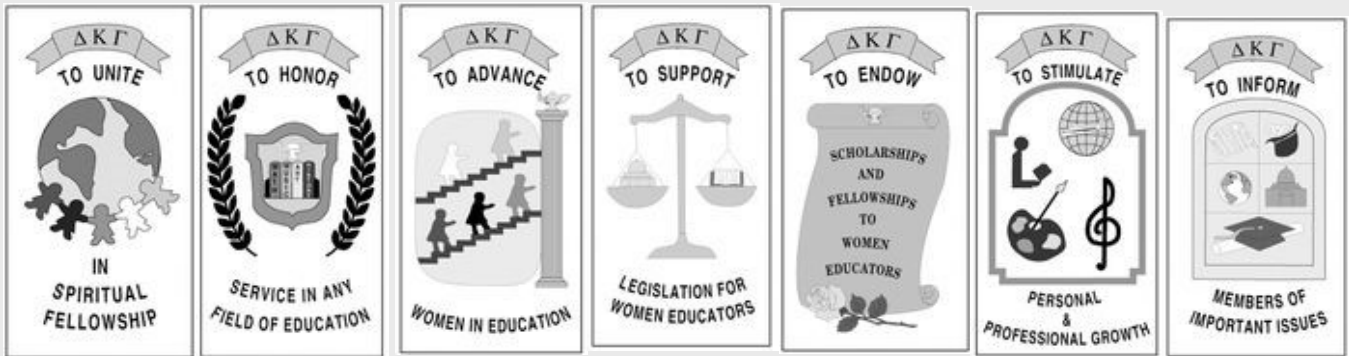
Jeff Sutherland, a co-creator, outlines this process in his book *Scrum: The Art of Doing Twice the Work in Half the Time*. There are 10 steps.

1. Pick a Product Owner. If you are planning an event, this person would have the guest's experience in mind. The goal is not perfection, but to satisfy.
2. Pick a Team of 3-9 people.
3. Pick a Scrum Master, the team coach who keeps them on track and tries to eliminate obstacles.
4. Create a Backlog, a prioritized to-do list of all tasks.
5. Refine/estimate the Backlog. Figure out how much effort each item will take. Each task must create visible value. Define "done".
6. Plan your Sprint, a cycle of time to work on a selected portion of the backlog, 1 week—1 month.
7. Make work visible on a Scrum Board. Here's where the free app **Trello** comes in. This will allow the team to see the backlog progress and communicate.
8. The Daily Scrum is a quick meeting to discuss 3 things: 1st-what did you do yesterday to help the team finish the sprint? 2nd- what are you going to do today to help the team finish the sprint? 3rd—are there any obstacles blocking you?
9. At the end of the Sprint, the team has a Sprint Review/Demonstration meeting. Any stakeholder is welcome to attend this meeting. The team presents only tasks from the backlog that are done.
10. The Sprint Retrospective is a meeting where team members list any difficulties they encountered, so they can eliminate them in the next Sprint. Each team member also lists 1 thing that would make them happier.

The cycle then repeats until the Product Owner is satisfied, and the team concludes their work.

Sutherland maintains that 80% of the value is contained in 20% of the features. This process allows for quick changes and produces maximum value.

## Seven Purposes of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



(Continued from page 5)

Many hotels are telling organizations that they require all meals are to be included in with the registration fee. Such is the case for our Pontiac Convention in 2018. We have no choice. The contract was signed 2 years ago (before I was Executive Secretary) and if we cancel we will lose a lot of money.

Costs in the metro Detroit area are higher than other areas in the state. Therefore, your all-inclusive \$250 registration fee at the State Convention in Pontiac includes our usual registration fee for convention which pay for the meeting rooms, raffle tables, favors, speaker fees, flowers, plaques for Michigan Teacher of the Year, Distinguished Service Award, State Woman of Distinction, and A-V costs; the Friday evening meal, Saturday breakfast, Saturday lunch, the President's Banquet, and Sunday Awards Brunch. I can hear your complaints as I write this. **Don't kill the messenger.** If our events are going to be self-funding, which they must be, we need to make this change when the site requires this from us.

To summarize, after a location is recommended, visited, proposal requested, proposal evaluated, brought to Executive Board for final approval; the actual contract is signed so that state officers and local chapters can begin planning for the State Convention or Fall Conference.



### Happy Birthday Ladies!

#### December

3rd	Pam Husson
12th	Barbara Broadley
30th	Judi Fisher

#### January

1st	Carol Anderson
7th	Donna Colaianne
13th	Mary Jo Dreffs
31st	Marie Canzoneri

#### February

17th	Elizabeth Bunner
19th	Carol VandenBrul
29th	Marge Braun

