

Gamma Alpha Minutes

October 18, 2006

Delta Kappa Gamma, Gamma Alpha chapter, met on October 18, 2006 at G Subu's Leather Bottle in Livonia. 14 members attended.

Call to order came at 5:45.

The scheduled program, a presentation on the Tanzania Education Project by Rosalie Zubar, was canceled. Ms. Zubar called that morning with her apologies. She has been ill.

Jackie, Judy and Amy reported on their attendance at the Fall Workshop at Soaring Eagle Resort. Sounds like they had a good weekend with informative sessions and networking time. Only a few quarters, nickels, and dollars were left behind.

A brief discussion about plans for the initiation of new members led to further discussion about attracting and keeping members. It appears that membership in a sorority of teachers may not be as attractive to many women in the profession as it once was. We are all asked to think of ways to keep our society of key women educators alive and vital.

The popular holiday auction was discussed. It is scheduled for November 29 at G Subu's Leather Bottle. Initiation of new members will take place at 5:00. A buffet dinner will follow at 5:30. The auction will begin at 6:30. All members are urged to donate a couple items for the auction. Holiday craft items are always popular. Unique jewelry or collectibles are welcome. Homemade goodies usually go over well. A certificate for a massage or other pampering service is a wonderful auction item. Be creative with your donations and plan to come and bid on all the other items. Bring a guest or two. The success of the auction depends on many bidders. Money raised at the auction is used for our Grant-in-Aid. Hope to see you there with your guests and your checkbook. May you leave with some wonderful purchases. For those who are interested, the Northeast Regional Convention will be held on July 25 – 28, 2007 at Grand Traverse Resort.

Gamma Alpha will co-chair the state convention at the Pontiac Marriott on the weekend of May 4, 2007. Plan to attend and to lend a helping hand.

Gathering adjourned at 7:10.

Carol A. Anderson, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Jackie Smart at 5:20 pm at G. Subu's Leather Bottle in Livonia.

The first order of business was the initiation of two new members, Danielle ____, and Marianne ____. After a brief and lovely ceremony, the two new members were welcomed with a family style dinner and the opportunity to participate in the chapter's popular Christmas auction. 42 members and guests, including friends from other chapters, enjoyed dinner. 5 members arrived later to attend the auction only. It was a lively evening of enthusiastic bidding on the many wonderful items donated by members. Although it was unplanned, the apparent theme for this year was SNOWMEN. Initial figures show that a total of \$1,625.00 was collected. The proceeds will be used to fund three scholarships for college students in education programs. In addition to the auction, a 50/50 raffle was held. Carol Holland was the lucky recipient of \$93.50. On December 13, the next chapter meeting will be held at G. Subu's Leather Bottle. We will decorate and fill stockings for children at the Wayne County Family Shelter.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol A. Anderson
Recording Secretary

The meeting was held at G. Subu's Leather Bottle in Livonia.

20 members attended.

The session convened at 4:00. Esther Loskowske donated 48 stockings that members assisted in decorating and filling with a wonderful assortment of items for children at the Wayne County Family Shelter. All the crayons, pencils, books, pens, erasers, candy, toys, notebooks and other goodies were provided by the members themselves. The spirit of the season was felt by everyone who was a part of this project.

A business meeting followed the activity. Jackie announced that a final accounting of the previous month's auction revealed that \$1738.50 was raised for the chapter's Grant-in-Aid fund.

Gamma Alpha will be responsible for handling registration at the State Convention during the weekend of May 4. The chapter has also agreed to assist the Seedlings organization by selling their fund-raising items to convention attendees. All members are encouraged to help with these activities. According to members who have attended in previous years, the state convention provides a great opportunity for fun and fellowship. Judi Fisher and Jackie Smart have the unique responsibility of assigning seating for the president's banquet at the convention. Jackie modestly announced that she is a candidate for 2nd vice-president at the state level of Delta Kappa Gamma. She has denied any current plans for a presidential candidacy in the future.

There will be an executive board meeting on January 10. All committee chairpersons are asked to e-mail their reports to Jackie before then. No general chapter meeting will be held that month.

The February 7 meeting will be held at Dream Dinners. All who wish to attend must register on line. The address and information is in the newsletter.

The March 7 meeting will be at G. Subu's Leather Bottle.

The annual birthday dinner will be held on April 25. Details regarding time and location will be forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Anderson, Recording Secretary

Gamma Alpha Executive Board Meeting

January 10, 2007

Call to order at 4:35.

Attending were: Jackie Smart, Grace Morgan, Barb Broadley, Judi Fischer, Marie Canzoneri, Amy Wainwright, Mary Jo Dreffs, Carol Anderson

December minutes were reviewed. Motion to accept was made by Barb, seconded by Judi. Approved. Thanks were again expressed to all members who donated items and brought guests. The money earned was the direct result of the many fine donations and the number of guests. Many compliments were offered regarding the location, as well. A big thanks to the committee chair and committee members.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Savings account has \$5493.85. Checking account has \$705.20. (\$41.00 in checking will go toward Joan Lyon's dues.) It is noted that having the newsletter on line is saving money. The much lower cost of printing the yearbook (researched by Judi Fischer) has saved money as well.

CORRESPONDENCE: A letter was received from Lutheran Social Services thanking the chapter for the stockings filled and donated to Wayne County Family Center.

A card of thanks was sent from the family of Elizabeth Williams for condolences on the event of her passing.

COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP: Amy reported that chapter attendance in September was 50%, October attendance was 44%, November attendance was 72% and December attendance was 66%. Average attendance = 58%. Current chapter membership is 33.

Concern about low membership number was discussed. All are encouraged to invite new members and to encourage attendance at all meetings. Some meetings should be designated as meetings to bring guests and some meetings to discuss chapter issues. The honor of membership should be stressed. Activities and programming should be reviewed for meeting the interests and concerns of all members, including younger teachers. It was suggested that initiation take place at a multi-chapter function so that many new members are part of a bigger program. Honors such as Member of Distinction may be presented at multi-chapter functions, as well.

NOMINATIONS: Chair is needed.

PERSONAL GROWTH: Barb will have Gamma Alpha Friend of Education certificates for Deborah Bondy of Seedlings and chef Larry Janes. The two honorees will be invited to the chapter birthday dinner for presentations of the awards.

SERVICE PROJECTS: No report. There was some discussion about exploring new avenues for services. For this year, we will continue with the Wayne County Family Center. Amy suggested a project of donating items such as old towels and comforters to the MI Humane Society for use in their Westland shelter. Other agencies will be considered, as well.

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS: No report.

RESEARCH/LEGISLATION/U.S. FORUM: No report.

FINANCE/MUSIC: Grace announced that at the March meeting, the topic of Identity Theft will be presented by Angela Branch who works on consumer issues for Attorney General Cox. We are asked that this meeting be open to chapter members only.

GRANT-IN-AID: Mary Jo indicated that \$1739.50 was raised at the Christmas auction. Three grants of \$500 each will be offered for women students of education. Former applicants and former recipients are encouraged to apply again.

WORLD FELLOWSHIP: Carol Holland reported by mail that the chapter raised \$110 at the September meeting with the auction of donated vacation souvenirs. Judi and Jackie reminded the board that many chapters donate items for a state convention auction similar our September auction. We will ask the membership if they would like to participate in preparing a theme basket for this year's convention.

YEARBOOK: No report.

NEWSLETTER: No report.

BIRTHDAY/SUNSHINE: The birthday dinner will be on April 25 at G. Subu's Leather Bottle.

HISTORY: No report.

NEW BUSINESS

The MI State Convention will be held in Pontiac at the Detroit Marriott Centerpoint on May 4-6. Gamma Alpha is responsible for working at the registration table. We will need as many members as possible to attend and to work shifts at the table. Workers are needed on Friday in the late afternoon through the evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning.

A motion to re-instate Joan Lyon was made by Barb and seconded by Grace. Approved.

Motion to adjourn was made by Barb at 5:45. Seconded by Marie. Approved.

Gamma Alpha Meetings for April 25, 2007

The meeting and birthday dinner were held at G. Subu's Leather Bottle. (?) members were in attendance.

Social gathering began at 4:30.

Call to order was at 5:00.

Joan Murray introduced an icebreaker activity called "A penny for your thoughts." The conversations that occurred during the activity allowed members to share some interesting bits of information about themselves and their lives.

A Ceremony of Remembrance for Joan Lyon was held. Fran Saenz read a letter that Joan had received from a former student. The very touching letter reminded all of us of the powerful effect that a good teacher can have on the lives of her students.

Five new members were initiated into the chapter. Jennifer Chambers, Kristen Chiasson, Judith Hurley, Karen Scott, and Pamela Emerson became our sisters in Gamma Alpha.

Many thanks to Amy Wainwright for her preparation of the lovely initiation ceremony.

A wonderful family style birthday dinner followed the initiation. New member Karen Scott prepared a birthday cake that received rave reviews.

After dinner, President Jackie Smart presented Friend of Education awards to Debra Bonde and Larry Janes. Debra Bonde is the founder of Seedlings which prepares braille materials for school children. Her dedication to helping visually handicapped children with reading has inspired some members of Gamma Alpha to donate their time and efforts to the cause, as well. Larry Janes is a chef of distinction who has worked in several venues including the public schools to teach others the joy of cooking.

Mary Jo Dreffs announced that Sarah Elsesser, daughter-in-law of member Lynn Elsesser, is the winner of this year's Grant-in-Aid award. Sarah was awarded \$500.00 to continue her pursuit of a degree in education.

Two chapter members were recognized as 2007 Women of Distinction. Mary Jo Dreffs and Carol Holland were thanked for all the effort they have put into supporting Gamma Alpha.

Retirees Mary Lou Flynn, Fran Saenz, and Marianne Reinhard were recognized for their years of service as educators and members of Gamma Alpha.

A 50/50 raffle held by the Service Projects committee earned Cindy Dietz the tidy sum of \$72.00. The same amount was donated to Seedlings.

The meeting was concluded with the birthday dinner candle ceremony and an opportunity for all members to participate in the ABC's of DKG.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00.

Members are reminded to return their completed Membership Program Survey and their Officer Interest and Committee Sign-up forms to Judi or Jackie as soon as possible.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Anderson, Recording Secretary.

Minutes in a Minute or Two
Planning Meeting June 2, 2007

Jackie Smart, Judy Fisher, Mary Jo Dreffs, Amy Wainwright, Cindy Dietz, Barb Broadley, and Carol Anderson met at St. John's Conference Center restaurant for a brunch and planning session at 10:00AM.

Jackie announced that the chapter received awards at the state convention for continuing excellence in producing our newsletter, for our yearbook and for sending chapter reports to the state in a timely manner.

She shared thank-you messages sent to the chapter from Debbie Bonde of Seedlings and from the wife of Chef Larry Janes. Both were grateful for the recognition as a Friend of Education at our April Birthday Dinner.

Cindy reported a checking balance of \$62.00.

Amy reported that membership in the chapter now includes 38 members; this includes 32 members since before the year started, 5 new members and one reserve member.

Jackie is now vice-president of Alpha Iota State and is no longer president of the Metro Council.

As the chapter responsible for selecting the site for the 2008 Metro Council Birthday Dinner, we have selected G. Subu's Leather Bottle.

A calendar for 2007-2008 was planned. Most dates and activities are secure; a few are still in the planning stages.

Respectfully submitted Carol A. Anderson Recording Secretary