

# GAMMA NEWS

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SPRING 2026

MISSION

STATEMENT

The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation supports and encourages intercultural understanding and educational excellence.



There seemed to be a theme to the 2025 – 2026 programming on supporting good health in ourselves and on agencies which fill the needs of others.

The **November** meeting was held via Zoom with speaker Robbin McSurley, registered dietician, who spoke on how nutrition supports our mental health.

She made the recommendation of a Mediterranean diet loaded with fruits and vegetables and replacing meat with beans as protein. A diet such as this is linked to anti-inflammation in the brain and healthier mental wellness.

The Activities Director of Inn at Bear Trail, Lambert Diehl, spoke at our **February** meeting via Zoom. She spoke about the various activities she arranges for the seniors at the Inn at Bear Trail to encourage physical movement, mental engagement, and social interactions in order to help seniors live life in an optimum manner. These same activities are applicable for any age to keep or improve health.

In **April** the chapter met at the Ronald McDonald House of Columbus. An informative and thorough tour was enjoyed. Our tour guide, Mike Amfahr, told a few stories of how residents, adults and children, have touched his heart. The house is designed to meet the social, personal, and physical needs of all ages of its residents during a difficult time when their child is a patient at Children’s Hospital.

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Newsletter Editor  
Janet Halter



### President's Message

I was able to check off a bucket list item this February when Tim and I went to Kenya. to see animals in the wild. It was inspiring to feed giraffes that were in a sanctuary used to breed Rothschild giraffes to increase their populations in African sanctuaries. The baby giraffes would spit out the alfalfa pellets in favor of the sweeter brown pellets that were in the bowls we were given to share with the giraffes. We watched orphaned elephants at another sanctuary take the milk bottles in their trunks to hold while getting their lunch time feeding. There are dedicated people who work tirelessly to save the animals whose parents have died or been killed.

Seeing these rescue efforts reminds me of the challenges that current classroom teachers face as legislators, who have little (if any) training in education, pass legislation that limit what teachers can teach. As retired educators, we must look for ways to support current classroom teachers. We must let legislators know that erasing history and banning books has never served to make society better. Teaching acceptance of other cultures and empathy for those displaced from their homelands due to political strife creates a kinder society. Teaching our students about diversity, equity and inclusion should not be a crime, but a goal. Hopefully, we can face the challenge ahead of our nation and know that what we do can make a difference.

Michele Koenig



**DUES** - \$69.00 Please mail your check to Michele Koenig postmarked by June 15th. Make the check out to Gamma Chapter. You may add a donation for Grant in Aid. Please, notate on memo line.

## GRANT IN AID

There were 8 Grant in Aid checks awarded this year. There was one who reported, Amani James Perry who teaches special needs students at Eastgate Elem. She used her gift to organize a candy-gram and tiger tickets incentive program building wide. The school students enjoyed these programs and wants them repeated. She will be awarded a second check next year and perhaps she will be able to grant their wish!

## Grant Project Proposal

A proposal is being developed to support classroom teachers using more of the chapter funds, and this will give more opportunity for chapter outreach and growth. Chapter members interested in helping with the criteria for this proposal can let Michele Koenig know.

## UPCOMING NEW BIENNIUM SLATE OF OFFICERS

President—Michele Koenig

First Vice President—Sandie Trask-Tyler

Co—Secretary Mary Cardinal

Co—Secretary— needs to be filled

Parliamentarian— needs to be filled

Please let Michele Koenig know if you are willing to fill the needed vacancies.

We will vote on officers at the Zoom chapter meeting on Monday, May 11th @ 7:00 pm.

Dorene Henschen has agreed to continue to serve as treasurer.

## *Upcoming Program Events*

⇒ Founders' Day Banquet

Wednesday, May 13th

⇒ Thursday June 11

Meeting & Potluck at Judy's Condo Clubhouse

⇒ DKG International Convention

June 30—July 4 Aurora, CO

⇒ September

Hanby House, Westerville



- Esther Panning April 1
- ◆ Judy Valentine April 17
- ◆ Katherine Wheeler April 18
- ◆ Dorotha Fuhrman May 7
- ◆ Ellen Clark May 17
- ◆ Mary Guinther June 12
- ◆ Reba Barney June 25
- ◆ Dorene Henschen July 21
- ◆ Martha Poland July 26
- ◆ Sandra Trask-Tyler August 1
- ◆ Rosemary Conroy August 12

## News From Members

**Judy Valentine** wants to thank all of her Gamma sisters for their cards, calls, and prayers following her fall and recovery time.

**Esther Panning** has a new address

The Inn at Winchester Trails  
6401 Winchester BLVD  
Canal Winchester, Oh 43110  
Rm 606

**Sally Tossey** has a new address

Danbury Commons  
2870 Snouffer Rd Apt 105

## BOOK CORNER



Horse: A Novel.....by Geraldine Brooks.....historical fiction.....Dorene Henschen

Wayward Girls.....by Susan Wiggs.....historical fiction.....Alida Pletcher

Walking With God.....David Jeremiah.....spiritual.....Willa Mullins

Band of Sisters.....by Lauren Willig.....historical fiction.....Janet Halter

Gamma member Linda Wright and her husband Bill started off 2026 with a trip to Singapore to visit their son David, a third generation high school teacher, and his wife. They also went on a Vietnam cruise. "Singapore's diversity is evident in so many ways; the people, the cuisine, the religions, the languages. We felt very comfortable and safe while visiting there. Vietnam is a beautiful country and the Vietnamese have found their way to forgiveness for the American war." In March, the Wrights visited Iceland, a country of contrasts: volcanoes and glaciers, hot springs and iceberg lagoons. "We thought that the weather changes rapidly in Ohio. We experienced rain, sleet, hail, snow wind and sunshine all within two hours, rinse and repeat. With proper layering, we stayed warm and dry and were able to experience so many beautiful sights."



Supergrove trees in Singapore



Iceberg on Diamond Beach, Iceland



Market in Saigon, Vietnam



Lanterns, Nha Trang, Vietnam



## Minutes of Gamma Chapter Meeting February 28, 2026

The Gamma Chapter meeting was called to order by President, Michele Koenig, at 10:07A.M. via Zoom with ten members and two guests present.

**Thought for the Day**, given by Dorene Henschen, were poems on mental health and one looking ahead to Spring.

**Program** was “How Activities Benefit Our Mental Health” by Lambert Diehl from the Inn at Bear Trail followed by Grant-in-Aid recipient, Imani James Perry who shared how she used her grant.

The business meeting resumed at 10:45.

**Minutes** of the January meeting were read by Mary Cardinal and were approved as read.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Dorene Henschen reported that all Grant-in-Aid checks were delivered in person to the recipients along with information about Delta Kappa Gamma. Three checks have still not cleared. Two CD’s came due in February; one was put into another CD while the \$2000 from the other was put into checking. 3 more CD’s of \$15,000 each will be coming due in the next couple months. Ending checking balance for January was \$7470.30, Business Savings, \$8813.02; Grant-in-Aid, \$1461.11; and Scholarship \$4307.17. Report filed for audit.

**New Business:** We are fund heavy so discussion followed on what chapter projects might be possible with some of the funds. **Motion** made by Sandra Trask-Tyler and seconded by Linda Wright, that \$500 awards be given to our former schools for educational needs. Discussion followed and the motion was voted down. **Motion** made by Linda Wright and seconded by Sandra Trask-Tyler, that monies from the CD’s be put into a separate account for chapter projects. Motion passed. A committee composed of Linda Wright, Michele Koenig, Sandie Trask-Tyler, Dorene Hensche, and Katherine Wheeler will meet on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 to pursue ideas for using the funds and present them to the chapter members.

**Friendship:** Sympathy was extended to Sandra Trask-Tyler and Tia Tyler on the passing of her mother/grandmother. Judy Valentine is recovering from a broken elbow and will start PT on March 9th. Sally Tossy’s new address is Danbury Columbus, 2870 Snouffer rd. Apt 105, Columbus Ohio.

World Fellowship will be collected in April and June. The March meeting will be on March 26<sup>th</sup> from 7P.M. to 8P.M. and will be at the FESTA location in Hilliard. Registration is required.

**Nominations:** Let Michele know if you are interested in serving as an officer for the next biennium.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:49 A.M.

Mary Cardinal  
Co-Secretary

