



December 2008 - January 2009

Women in Leisure Services Gamma Gram

President's Message

With the first half of the year over, there are so many members to thank for their great contribution to Gamma's events. First, **Michelle Khzouz** chaired the August Business meeting which had a great attendance, followed by **Nancy Hogan's** lead with the National Luncheon in Long Beach, great job to both. This was followed by a great Bosses Day, a special thank you goes to co-chairs **Michelle Khzouz and Shelly Myers**. We enjoyed a tour of the OC Performing Art center and the Segerstrom Concert Hall. This was followed by a box lunch outdoors in a relax setting. The Holiday Craft Affair & Life Members Recognition held on November 20th, was quite an experience for **Lydie Delieuze and Rocio Meza**. They took on one of our biggest events and did a fantastic job. With keeping our tag line in mind, "*The Professional Connection for Woman*", we, as the board, are mentoring our newest committee members to make sure they get everything off to the members and encouraging them to bring new ideas..

I know things are getting tighter and your time is becoming limited, we encourage you to try your best to come out to one or more Gamma Chapter programs and activities. It looks like the second half will be just as exciting. The calendar is full for the next five months of exciting programs and activities. Watch out for our upcoming events such as our Holiday Breakfast at PJ Abby's in December, we will recognize our Past Presidents, the January Workshop will be hosted in the City of Orange and our February Workshop will take place in the City of Placentia. Also, watch out for more information on our Scholarships, the Mentoring Program, Golf Classic and Bunko event and the Meet & Greet gathering. We are always looking for committee members, so if you want to be part of a committee, please contact **Jenny Kucera** @ Jenny.Kucera@cityofoc.us.ca. Your expertise would be greatly appreciated.

In preparing for the upcoming year, before you know it, **Michelle Khzouz**, 1st VP, will be seeking committee chairs for the upcoming 2009-2010. If you think you may be interested in taking this leadership role, let her know. If you are not too sure, any of the Board members can give you an overview of the role of a committee chair. It is an extraordinary experience.

As President, my time is devoted to the Gamma Chapter membership, so please do not hesitate to call me. I always welcome calls or emails from our members, if you have a concern about the direction Gamma is going or you just want to let me know we have your support, that would be great...it is always about making the Gamma Chapter the best.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Pearl S. Raya



Gamma Scholarship

California Foundation for Parks & Recreation Scholarship

With great pleasure, Women in Leisure Service Inc. will be sponsoring a California Foundation for Parks & Recreation scholarship in the amount of \$500.00. The Women In Leisure Services scholarship will be presented at the 2009 California and Pacific Southwest Training Conference. The Scholarship Award Breakfast will be held on Friday, March 6, 2009. Our investment will help provide financial assistance to a student who is working to become a future professional in our field. Please watch out for the application notice so you can share the information with a potential applicant.

Information will be distributed soon to apply for the 2009 Gamma Chapter Scholarships

The Gamma Chapter will award graduate and undergraduate scholarships in varying amounts from \$500-\$1,500 to assist in the development of women in the field of Recreation and Leisure Services. The objective of the scholarship is to provide support and recognition to students for personal and professional enrichment through education.

Scholarship applications will be mailed to the membership and will also be available soon on our website at www.wils-gamma.com. The deadline to return applications for the Gamma scholarships is Friday, March 20, 2009. The committee will then screen and rank all applications. The most qualified candidates will be invited to an oral interview.

Scholarships will be awarded to the recipients at the annual Gamma Awards and Installation Banquet to be held in May.

For more information contact Robyn Hockenhuil at rhockenh@ci.ontario.ca.us or (909) 395-2368.

Mentoring Program

I'm sure you've all been anxiously awaiting announcements regarding the Mentor Program. This year, the committee has, along with support from the board, decided to focus on mentoring new members and scholarship recipients with the goal of increasing our retention rate amongst these two groups. It's come to light that many new members and scholarship recipients frequently do not renew after their first year of membership. As more and more active members become life members, it is important to create a warm and welcoming environment to retain and increase our active membership. To learn more on becoming a mentor, or if you're a new member and are interested in connecting with an active member, please contact Liz Tran, ltran@weho.org or Cindy Robinson, cindyr@cityoflapalma.org or check out the Gamma website for updates!

Gamma's turning 50! Donate to Celebrate!

If you haven't heard, the Gamma Chapter of WILS will be turning 50 next year! In an effort to raise funds and celebrate in style, we are asking our members to save your change and bring it to each event. Thanks to Nancy Hogan, there will be banks set up at each event for you to deposit your pocket change and, "Donate to Celebrate!" An account has been started so if you'd like to donate funds or are interested in serving on the committee, feel free to contact Michelle Khzouz, City of Irvine, 14351 Yale Ave., Irvine, CA 92612 or mkhzouz@cityofirvine.org.

National News

Alpha Delegate, Lizka Mendoza has volunteered to lead a WILS 75th Anniversary Brainstorming Committee. WILS will be celebrating 75 years in the year 2010 and we want to get every chapter involved in the planning process. She would like one or two representatives from each chapter to give ideas and input to take to the next National Board Meeting in March, 2009. If you are interested in serving, please contact Allison Brammer by November 1, (562) 866-9771 ext. 2403 or

abrammer@lakewoodcity.org



Names in the News

- Sue Hughes of the City of Signal Hill retired in early October. We look forward to her being a Life Member...we wish Sue the best and hope to see her soon. Congratulations!
- Ruth Raheb's retirement party is Thursday, December 4th at the Costa Mesa Neighborhood Center. For more information, please contact Kathy Sorensen @ ksorensen@cityofsignalhill.org.
- Welcome back Gamma member Michelle King from Reality Entertainment!

Committee Chair Roster

BOSSSES DAY

Chair: Michelle Khzouz & Shelly Myers

HOLIDAY CRAFT AFFAIR

Co-Chair: Rocio Meza

Co-Chair: Lydie Delieuze

HOLIDAY BREAKFAST

Chair: Lisa McPherson

JANUARY WORKSHOP

Chair: Lisa Tamburelli

MEMBER TRAINING FUND

Chair: Stephanie Martinez

MEET AND GREET

Chair: Sylvia Hinojosa

FEBRUARY WORKSHOP

Co-Chair: Kristi Caraveo

Co-Chair: Kelliegh Brown

GAMMA GOLF CLASSIC

Co-Chair: Aly Mancini

Co-Chair: Christie Araiza

Co-Chair: Erica Rodriguez

AWARDS AND INSTALLATION

Chair: Adriana Moran

AWARDS

Chair: Valarie Frost

FINANCE

Chair: Sue Leto

BYLAWS

Chair: Ruth Raheb

PROFESSIONAL MENTORING

Co-Chair: Liz Tran

Co-Chair: Cindy Robinson

HISTORIAN

Chair: Gloria Alvarado

WEBSITE

Chair: Valarie Frost

SCHOLARSHIPS

Chairs: Stephanie Konrad Stabio

Robin Hockenhull

GAMMA GRAM

Chair: Shawntee Holland

NOMINATION/ELECTIONS

Chair: Nancy Hogan

