



WOMEN IN  
LEISURE SERVICES  
**GAMMA  
CHAPTER**  
CHI KAPPA RHO INC

# Gamma Gram

Spring 2019

*The Professional Connection for Women*

Dear Gamma Gals,

Another year of Gamma is quickly coming to an end, and what a year it has been! This year has been jammed-packed with great events and networking opportunities, at the Annual Business Meeting, National Luncheon, Fall Workshop, Fall and Spring Food for Thoughts, Winter Social and Networking Night. Thank you to everyone who served on committees to make these events happen.

We will be closing out the year with the Awards and Installation Banquet on Thursday, May 16 at the Cypress Community Center. I look forward to an evening of celebrations with award winners, scholarship recipients and the incoming board. As always, a handful of AMAZING baskets will be raffled off and all proceeds will benefit Gamma's Student Scholarship fund for next year. Remember to bring your cash and support the cause!

Also, be on the lookout for your 2019-2020 renewal form, as they have been mailed out and are due back by Wednesday, July 31. Last but absolutely not least, I would like to thank the entire 2018-2019 Gamma Board for their service this year. You all put in an incredible amount of work to make this year a success. What an incredible and productive year it has been, let the progression and empowerment continue for many more years to come!

Your 2018-2019 Gamma President,

*Ashley Thomas*

***"Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground."***  
- Teddy Roosevelt

# Connect with Gamma

## 2018-2019 Gamma Chapter Board of Directors

President

**Ashley Thomas**

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**Vacant**

Secretary

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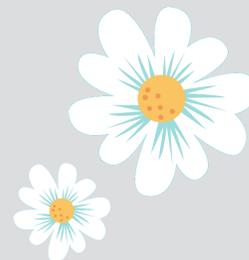
Past President

**Adrianna Hyta**

City of Cypress

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## 2018-2019 National Board of Directors

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Treasurer

**Adrianna Hyta**

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**Gamma Website**

[wils-gamma.com](http://wils-gamma.com)

**WILS National Website**

[womeninleisureservices.com](http://womeninleisureservices.com)

**Gamma LinkedIn**

[linkedin.com/company/wils-women-in-leisure-services](http://linkedin.com/company/wils-women-in-leisure-services)

**Gamma Facebook**

[facebook.com/WomenInLeisureServicesGammaChapter](https://facebook.com/WomenInLeisureServicesGammaChapter)



# National News

## *Update from National*

The Spring National Board meeting, held in Chicago on April 8 and 9 was extremely successful! On April 8, the Board conducted an all-day meeting at Pleasant Home in the Park District of Oak Park. The beautiful historic home served as a setting of lively discussion about National's policy manual and how National can better serve all of the Chapters, including the identification of committees to be formed, developing National goals and objectives, and committing to monthly meetings to continue the conversations. The day ended with a delicious meal at Giordano's, which is truly the world's greatest pizza ever.



On April 9, the Chi Chapter hosted 80 women at an all-day "LeadHERship" training and Spring National Luncheon. Topics included: "Breaking Barriers: The History and Future of the Glass Ceiling," "What Customers Want: Consumer Trends Impacting Your Facilities and Services," a keynote address by Ann Crosby - Strength and Conditioning Coach/ Basketball Operations Director for the Chicago Sky WNBA Basketball team, "Diversifying Your Agency: Coaching Up/ Coaching Out," and "Becoming FemaleED: Fireside Chat with Female Executive Directors about their Journey." The day was filled with motivated women of all career levels from the greater Chicago area, and we look forward to exposing more women to the lasting impacts WILS continues to make as the "Professional Connection for Women."

If you would like more information about National, please contact Gamma's National Delegate **Ashley Wysocki** at [ashley.wysocki@cityofrc.us](mailto:ashley.wysocki@cityofrc.us) for questions and updates!

The National Board is looking forward to the next in-person meeting at the Fall National Luncheon hosted by Delta in San Diego.

# National News

## *National Board Elections*

### Call for National Board Nominations!

The WILS National Board is seeking nominations for qualified individuals serving Women and Leisure Services on the national level.

Interested candidates must have served on Gamma's Board of Directors or as a committee chair.

Positions include:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Past President



For questions about position job duties, please contact Gamma's National Delegate, Ashley Wysocki at [ashley.wysocki@cityofrc.us](mailto:ashley.wysocki@cityofrc.us).

Please complete the nomination form by **Thursday, May 23, 2019** and return to **National Past President, Ann Mosack** at [ann.mosack@ci.monticello.mn.us](mailto:ann.mosack@ci.monticello.mn.us).

The nomination form can be found on Gamma's website at [www.wils-gamma.com](http://www.wils-gamma.com) in the "Latest News" section.



# Gamma Events

## Networking Night - Recap

Networking Night accomplished! Professionals across the Gamma boundaries came out to three different locations (Long Beach, Riverside and Mission Viejo) to meet up with recreation colleagues and network. This event captured the heart of WILS which is "The Professional Connection for Women."

Thank you to each of our location chairs for putting on a great night out!



# Gamma Events

## *Spring Food for Thought - Recap*

Thank you to everyone who attended the Spring Food for Thought on Tuesday, April 2 at Costa Mesa Senior Center. Guest speaker Carol Jacobs gave a presentation on how to maintain a work-life balance when you're trying to advance your career. Thank you to all the ladies that participated in the 50/50! Money raised from the 50/50 will be added to the Gamma Scholarship Fund.



# Gamma Events

## *Awards and Installation Banquet*

Come join us on Thursday, May 16, at the Cypress Community Center from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. for our Awards and Installation Banquet. Experience a night of student scholarship recognition, professional awards, dinner, and fundraising for Gamma scholarships.

**Cash bar proceeds will directly support our student scholarships.**

**RSVP BY MAY 9  
TO TAYLOR SMITH AT  
TAYLOR@RFALAND.COM**

Questions? - call  
714-245-9270  
No shows & cancellations  
after May 9 will be billed.

**MENU INCLUDES:  
CHICKEN WITH SUNDRIED  
TOMATOES & ARTICHOKES  
PENNE PASTA  
ROASTED VEGETABLES  
SALAD & DINNER ROLL  
CASH BAR**



Women in Leisure Services  
Chi Kappa Rho, Inc.  
"The Professional Connection  
for Women"

**WOMEN IN LEISURE SERVICES -  
GAMMA CHAPTER INVITES YOU TO  
ATTEND**

# AWARDS & INSTALLATION BANQUET

## MAY 16, 2019

5:30 - 8:30P.M.  
CYPRESS COMMUNITY CENTER  
5700 ORANGE AVENUE  
CYPRESS, CA 90630

Enjoy a night of student  
scholarship recognition,  
professional awards & fundraising  
for Gamma scholarships

**\$30.00 per person**

"Alone we can do so little, but together we  
can do so much." - Helen Keller

# Gamma News

## Gamma Birthdays

### May Birthdays

Ashley Blair	5/1
Sarah Randall	5/1
Sherri Schmid	5/1
Alejandra Garcia	5/2
Laura Detweiler	5/5
Joanna Montoya-Contreras	5/5
Sally Duff	5/6
Amanda Bassett	5/8
Lois Scott	5/8
Dodie Mosby	5/13
Kelly Garnetti	5/30

### June Birthdays

Oliva Grace Walker	6/4
Taylor Smith	6/8
Genise Homan	6/9
Patty Bailey	6/17
Dena Diggins	6/19
Kristen Reid	6/25
Caitlin Cariaso	6/29
Shelly Meyers	6/30

### July Birthdays

Katie Distelrath	7/1
Marian Last	7/2
Silvia Avalos	7/11
Kelly Feldman	7/13
Trudy Nuzum	7/17
Lydie Gutfeld	7/19
Griselda Lara	7/19
Linda Reich	7/20
Caitlynn Cruz	7/21
Michelle Logan Arrigo	7/26
Nancy Rapp	7/27



## Names in the News



Congratulations to **Caitlynn Brown (now Caitlynn Cruz)**, with the City of Long Beach, who married her husband Gabriel on November 11, 2018.

*If you have exciting news you would like to share with the Gamma Chapter, email Caitlin Cariaso at [ccariaso@lakewoodcity.org](mailto:ccariaso@lakewoodcity.org)*

# Gamma News

## Grant Program

### Gamma Chapter Grant Program

Do you know someone who is interested in joining WILS as a new member? Applicants must be employed in a full-time or part-time capacity in the field of Recreation and Leisure Services, or a closely related field within the Gamma Chapter boundaries. Applicants must also be applying for funds to cover the cost of a new or returning Gamma membership that has been expired for over a year.

#### Courtney Wysocki – NEW Membership

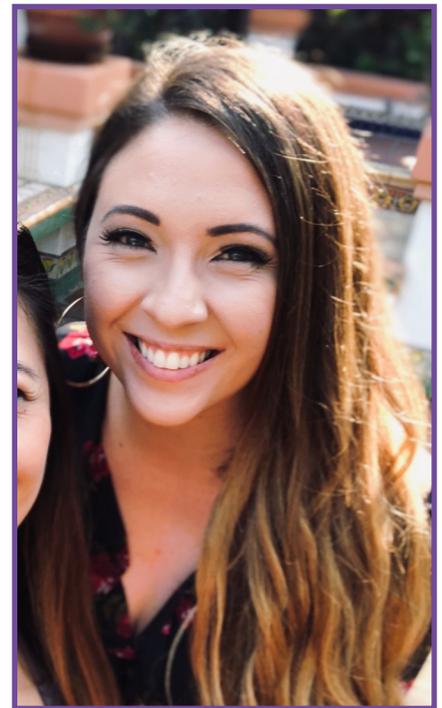
Congratulations to the newest grant recipient!

Courtney has been in the recreation field for 14 years and currently works for the City of Fullerton as a Recreation Supervisor. As an employee of Fullerton, she manages after school programs for at-risk youth. Courtney's work allows her to provide support and opportunities to children and families in the community. Courtney says "It makes me proud to see the growth of every child over the span of a year."

By receiving this grant, Courtney will be able to make connections, friendships, experiences, and impacts that will continue to inspire her passion in the recreation field.

To apply for a grant, visit [www.wils-gamma.com](http://www.wils-gamma.com).

**Grants are available for 2019-2020 New Membership Fees!**



## Election Results for the 2019-2020 Gamma Board

The voting ballots are in and the newly elected 2019-2020 Gamma Board of Directors is (drum roll please) ...

**President** – Ashley Thomas, City of Costa Mesa

**President-Elect** – Shayna Gutierrez, City of Cypress

**Vice President** – Monica Ortiz, City of Downey

**Director of Finance** – Griselda Lara, City of Chino

**Director of Publicity** – Caitlin Cariaso, City of Lakewood

**Secretary** – Nancy Hitt, City of Lakewood

**National Delegate** – Ashley Wysocki, City of Rancho Cucamonga

**Director of Committees** – Amanda Bassett, City of Mission Viejo



# Gamma News

## *New Gamma Gal*

*Graciela Gonzalez, Recreation Leader II - City of Signal Hill*

**What made you decide to go into the field of Recreation and Leisure Services?**

I decided to go into the field of recreation by my major in college. It was not my first option as my major, but once I decided to switch it was one of the best decisions I have made. I currently work as a recreation leader and have fallen in love working with kids through an after school program and summer camps.

**If you could have any superpower, what would it be?**

The superpower I would love to have would be a shapeshifter. This would let me have the ability to have multiple powers at anytime I would like.

**What is your hidden talent?**

I can play four instruments.

**What is one word that describes you?**

Goofy

**What are you looking forward to as a new WILS member?**

As a new WILS member I am looking forward to the networking opportunities and to learn from other members in the field of recreation.



## *New Gamma Gal*

*Tatiana Costa, Recreation Leader III - City of Cerritos*

**What made you decide to go into the field of Recreation and Leisure Services?**

I decided to go into the field of recreation because of the way that my friend described it to me. We were both kinesiology majors before discovering the field of recreation. When she told me that she had changed her major to recreation, I did not know what recreation was. After a semester of seeing her journey in the major, I decided to change my major as well. Within the first month of being a recreation major, I knew that I had made the right decision. For the first time in college, I was truly enjoying what I was learning.

**If you could have any superpower, what would it be?**

If I could have any superpower, I would have the superpowers of Violet, from the Incredibles. It would be awesome to be able to become invisible and to create force fields.

**What is your hidden talent?**

My hidden talent is that I am a great baker!

**What is one word that describes you?**

One word that describes me is creative.

**What are you looking forward to as a new WILS member?**

As a WILS member, I am looking forward to meeting and learning from great leaders in the field of recreation and leisure services.



# Gamma News

## *New Gamma Gal*

*Jessal Salas, Activity Specialist - City of Downey*

### What made you decide to go into the field of Recreation and Leisure Services?

First entering the field I had no idea what path I wanted to take in my life when it came to my career choice. I entered Recreation as a part-time Seasonal cashier for the Aquatics division and enjoyed everything about it. Once I became more knowledgeable about what Recreation was and what it had to offer I knew I found my place. I admire the fact that Recreation is not a single person effort but a team effort. Being in Recreation is a rewarding career since we have the capability to offer programs and services to the community in which can be beneficial. I find pure enjoyment knowing that someday or somehow, I am assisting in the aid of offering a positive experience for those in the community.

### If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

If I could have any superpower, it would be to teleport places.

### What is your hidden talent?

Being crafty such as DIY projects and repurposing home goods.

### What is one word that describes you?

Resilient

### What are you looking forward to as a new WILS member?

I am looking forward to learning from other individual's in the field. I am also looking forward to the overall experience the organization has to offer women.



## *New Gamma Gal*

*Francine Jimenez, Recreation Specialist - City of Costa Mesa*

### What made you decide to go into the field of Recreation and Leisure Services?

I decided to go into the field of Recreation because I enjoy working with the community.

### If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

My superpower would be reading minds.

### What is your hidden talent?

My hidden talent is I can imitate Stitch's voice.

### What is one word that describes you?

Ambitious

### What are you looking forward to as a new WILS member?

I am looking forward to meeting new people and being able to learn and grow in the field.



# Gamma News

## *New Gamma Gal*

*Ashley Blair, Community Services Supervisor - City of Mission Viejo*

**What made you decide to go into the field of Recreation and Leisure Services?**

I was attending college to pursue a career in the fashion industry. During college I was in search of a part time job, and applied for a position with the City of Mission Viejo at a local recreation center. The rest is history, as I fell in love with recreation and the impact it made on the community.

**If you could have any superpower, what would it be?**

I'd love to have the power of creativity. To create things that would help the world and benefit humanity.

**What is your hidden talent?**

I'm a great singer (in the shower).

**What is one word that describes you?**

Patient

**What are you looking forward to as a new WILS member?**

I'm looking forward to becoming involved with the board, committees and networking opportunities. Connecting with fellow members and building lasting relationships.



## *New Gamma Gal*

*Valerie Espinoza, Recreation Services Coordinator - City of Riverside*

**What made you decide to go into the field of Recreation and Leisure Services?**

The reason why I decided to go into the field of Recreation is because I love giving back to the community and assisting the community in any way possible.

**If you could have any superpower, what would it be?**

To run on no sleep! Being a full time working mom there are days where I am exhausted.

**What is your hidden talent?**

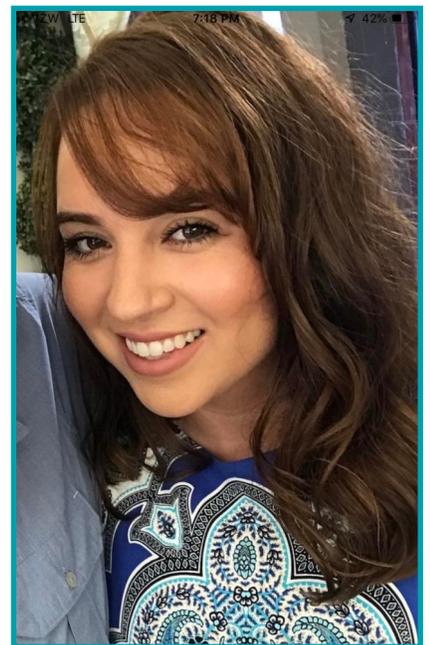
I can make really good cupcakes.

**What is one word that describes you?**

Loving

**What are you looking forward to as a new WILS member?**

I look forward to networking with new people in the profession.



# Gamma News

## *New Gamma Gal*

*April Batson, Recreation Supervisor - City of Yorba Linda*

**What made you decide to go into the field of Recreation and Leisure Services?**

When I was a student at CSULB I had to fulfill a requirement and the only class that fit was a recreation course. I will never forget the professor, she was a bit quirky, but was full of energy and life. The next semester I took another recreation course, changed majors and the rest is history.

**If you could have any superpower, what would it be?**

That I would not need sleep. Being a working mom I never feel like I have enough hours in the day.

**What is your hidden talent?**

I have no hidden talents.

**What is one word that describes you?**

My friends tell me that I am very honest.

**What are you looking forward to as a new WILS member?**

I joined WILS to meet new colleagues and learn more about recreation. I'm always excited to expand my resource pool.



## *Membership Renewal*

*Don't Forget!*

**Membership renewal forms for 2019-2020 have been mailed to Gamma members. Join us next year!**

**Please submit your renewal form and payment by July 31 to:**

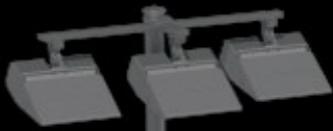
**Amanda Bassett**

**200 Civic Center**

**Mission Viejo, CA 92691**

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The benefits provided by Gamma's sponsors are endless! Gamma Sponsors provide valuable funds which make it possible to provide quality programs, scholarships, and more, all while providing valuable resources for Gamma members and their agencies. Several of our sponsors are also active Gamma members. We encourage you to use the Sponsors section of Gamma's website as a resource; each of our sponsors would be happy to answer any questions you may have about upcoming projects or purchases for your agency.



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