



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

# Gamma Gram

Summer 2018

*The Professional Connection for Women*

Dear Gamma Gals,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your 2018-2019 President. It is an honor to serve as your leader for a group of amazing and ambitious women.

Thank you to our Awards and Installation Banquet Committee: Michelle Prichard, Adrianna Hyta, Kassy Riggle, Marianna Pena, Elise Rodriguez and Amanda Bassett (Event Chair). It was a magical night filled with delicious food, scholarship winners, awards, amazing raffle prizes, and the installation of the 2018-2019 Board of Directors. My presidential quote for the year is, "Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground." by Teddy Roosevelt. As your President, I plan to honor this quote by assuring that Gamma remains relevant and practical, while fostering innovation and creativity.

This year I challenge our membership to explore something new and step outside of your comfort zone. Whether it is in your personal or professional life, take that leap! Brian Tracy, a speaker and author that specializes in training and development around the world, says, "You can only grow if you are willing to feel awkward and uncomfortable when you try something new." I encourage you to feel a little awkward and uncomfortable and actively participate in WILS. I encourage you to attend an event for the first time, join a committee, tell a colleague about WILS or simply introduce yourself to a member that you don't know. Take advantage of all the opportunities that WILS can provide you!

Your 2018-2019 Gamma Board of Directors has been hard at work developing the calendar of events for this coming year. We will be kicking off with the Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, August 16 at The Old Spaghetti Factory in Fullerton. Lunch includes salad, bread, spaghetti, ice cream and a drink. Cost is \$15 for Members, and \$18 for Guest. Christina Byrne, the Department Manager with OC Transportation Authority, will be presenting "What do you mean I'm in charge?!" Plus, we will be reviewing the budget and discussing our goals for the next twelve months. Mostly importantly, all the 2018-2019 event dates will be released and it's a full line-up of educational, innovative, and inexpensive trainings. I look forward to meeting and growing with each and every member.

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

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City of Costa Mesa  
714-754-5052  
[ashley.thomas@costamesaca.gov](mailto:ashley.thomas@costamesaca.gov)

Treasurer  
**Griselda Lara**  
City of Chino  
909-334-3481  
[glara@cityofchino.org](mailto:glara@cityofchino.org)

Committee Coordinator  
**Nancy Hitt**  
City of Lakewood  
562-866-9771 x2404  
[nhitt@lakewoodcity.org](mailto:nhitt@lakewoodcity.org)

Second Vice President  
**Amanda Bassett**  
City of Mission Viejo  
949-859-4348 x5722  
[abassett@cityofmissionviejo.org](mailto:abassett@cityofmissionviejo.org)

National Delegate  
**Ashley Wysocki**  
City of Rancho Cucamonga  
909-477-2760 x2110  
[ashley.wysocki@cityofrc.us](mailto:ashley.wysocki@cityofrc.us)

First Vice President  
**Vacant**

Secretary  
**Silvia Avalos**  
City of Chino  
909-334-3454  
[savalos@cityofchino.org](mailto:savalos@cityofchino.org)

Past President  
**Adrianna Hyta**  
City of Cypress  
714-229-6787  
[ahyta@cypressca.org](mailto:ahyta@cypressca.org)

## 2017-2018 National Board of Directors

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**Ann Mosack**  
City of Monticello  
763-271-3268  
[ann.mosack@ci.monticello.mn.us](mailto:ann.mosack@ci.monticello.mn.us)

Treasurer  
**Valerie Passarella**  
City of Yorba Linda  
714-961-7185  
[vpassarella@yorba-linda.org](mailto:vpassarella@yorba-linda.org)

Past President  
**Pearl Raya**  
714-313-1030  
[lpraya@pacbell.net](mailto:lpraya@pacbell.net)

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**Julie Alon**  
City of El Cajon  
[jalon@cityofelcajon.us](mailto:jalon@cityofelcajon.us)

Secretary  
**Bobbi Nance**  
Recreation Results LLC  
[bobbi@recreationresults.com](mailto:bobbi@recreationresults.com)

**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](http://facebook.com/WomenInLeisureServicesGammaChapter)



Like us on Facebook!

# National News

## Webinar Series



Women In Leisure Services,  
Chi Kappa Rho, INC.  
Gamma Chapter

**Open to ALL!  
Non Members  
Welcome!**



WILS Gamma Chapter Presents

## CULTIVATING YOUR WHY

A Two-Part FREE Webinar Series By  
Tom Hellmann, CPRP

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

The Professional Connection for Women

# National News

## Webinar Series

### CULTIVATING YOUR WHY

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Discovering your WHY is more about everyday health and not just professional achievement. Tom Hellmann welcomes you all to come engage with him on a personal and thought provoking adventure to navigate life through identifying your purpose and understanding how to live life through it. Together we will explore the challenge to identify your purpose and HOW you begin to apply it to your everyday life.

**8/21/18      10-10:45AM**

#### **EPISODE 1 – UNDERSTANDING & SHAPING YOUR THOUGHTS**

Together we will look at the Golden Circle by Simon Sinek and explore WHAT we do; HOW we do it; and WHY we do it. As recreation programmers and professionals we are challenged to produce quality services to our residents. By using these concepts, we can start thinking about How we do this and WHY we do this. Webinar participants will discuss, share, and explore the benefits of a WHY Style.

**9/18/18      10-10:45AM**

#### **EPISODE 2 – LEARNING FROM WHY - LEADERSHIP**

Discuss how being a leader is not about rank or title but through a choice to take on responsibilities and accountability for the staff and customers. Discover the leader in you and why leading has everything to do with the people in your charge.

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LIMITED TO FIRST 100 REGISTRANTS  
RSVP TO [LGUTFELD@CITYOFMISSIONVIEJO.ORG](mailto:LGUTFELD@CITYOFMISSIONVIEJO.ORG)  
BY AUGUST 20TH, 5PM

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

# Gamma Events

## 2018-2019 Gamma Event Schedule

2018 / 2019 Save the Date	
Annual Business Meeting	August 16
Gamma Webinar-Part 1	August 21
Gamma Webinar-Part 2	September 18
National Meeting	September 20
Fall Food for Thought	October 11
Fall Workshop	November 8
Winter Social	January 10
Winter Workshop	January 24
Networking Night	February 28
Spring Food for Thought	April 2
Awards and Installation Banquet	May 16

**Women in Leisure Services**  
**"The Professional Connection for Women"**

 @womeninleisureservicesgammachapter  
wils-gamma.com

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

**Get Involved and Join a Committee**

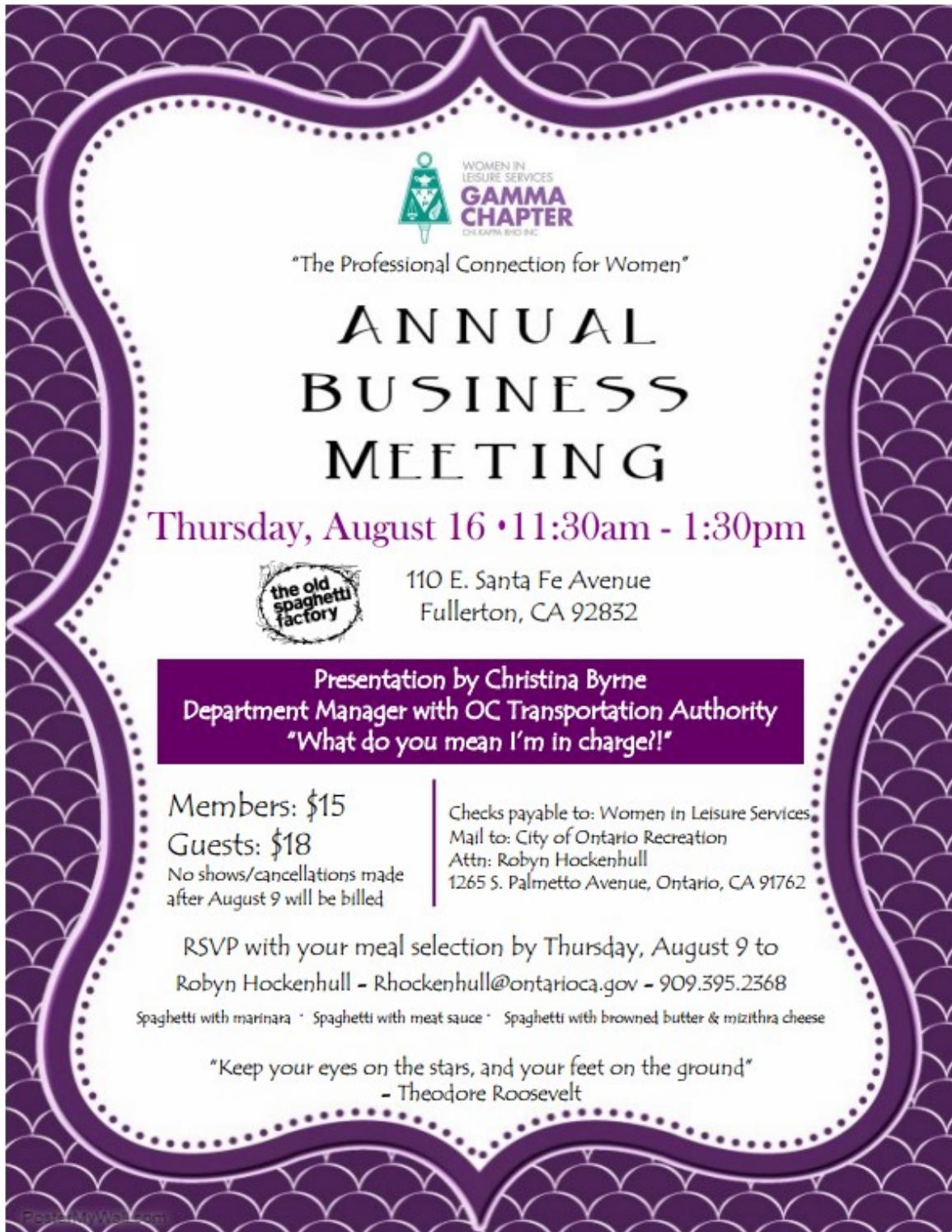
*If you would like to serve on an event committee, please contact Committee Coordinator, Nancy Hitt at nhitt@lakewoodcity.org.*

# Gamma Events

## Annual Business Meeting

Mark your calendars for the first Gamma event of the year, the Annual Business Meeting! Join us for a delicious lunch and listen to guest speaker Christina Byrne from the OC Transportation Authority.

Other items discussed at the event will be the 2018-2019 budget, national news, and the chapter goals for the upcoming year. We would love to see all our Gamma members there and start off the year with a bang!



The flyer features a purple fish-scale pattern background with a white wavy border. At the top center is the Gamma Chapter logo with the text "WOMEN IN LEISURE SERVICES GAMMA CHAPTER OME KAPPA BHO INC." Below it is the slogan "The Professional Connection for Women". The main title "ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING" is centered in a large serif font. The date "Thursday, August 16 • 11:30am - 1:30pm" is below the title. To the left is the logo for "the old spaghetti factory". To the right are the address "110 E. Santa Fe Avenue Fullerton, CA 92832" and a dark purple box containing the presentation details. The bottom section contains information about meal selection, payment, and a quote by Theodore Roosevelt.

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

Thursday, August 16 • 11:30am - 1:30pm

**the old spaghetti factory**

110 E. Santa Fe Avenue  
Fullerton, CA 92832

**Presentation by Christina Byrne**  
**Department Manager with OC Transportation Authority**  
**"What do you mean I'm in charge?!"**

**Members: \$15**  
**Guests: \$18**  
No shows/cancellations made after August 9 will be billed

Checks payable to: Women In Leisure Services  
Mail to: City of Ontario Recreation  
Attn: Robyn Hockenhull  
1265 S. Palmetto Avenue, Ontario, CA 91762

RSVP with your meal selection by Thursday, August 9 to  
Robyn Hockenhull - Rhockenhull@ontarioca.gov - 909.395.2368

Spaghetti with marinara • Spaghetti with meat sauce • Spaghetti with browned butter & mizithra cheese

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

Photo by: www.WWW.COM

# Gamma Events

## Awards and Installation - Recap

Thank you to everyone who was able to come out to support the de-installation of our 2017-2018 Board of Directors and the installation of our new 2018-2019 Board at our annual Awards and Installation Banquet. This year's banquet took place at the Dad Miller Golf Course in Anaheim California where we celebrated and thanked the many individuals who made last year such a success. From those who served on a committee, chaired an event, or won a scholarship, it was truly an evening spent supporting our profession and recognizing some outstanding women in the field. Participants enjoyed Mexican tostadas, ample raffle and fundraiser opportunities, and time networking and catching up with Gamma friends, both old and new.



*Thank you to everyone who made the 2017-2018 Gamma year a success!*

# Gamma Awards

## 2017-2018 Award Winners



### Amanda Bassett – President's Award and Service Award

Amanda became a WILS member in 2016, joining only one committee before happily becoming a member of the board. While Amanda may be new to the Gamma Chapter, she is FULL of passion, drive, and commitment to our organization.

In one year Amanda brought forth and set the ground work for implementation of a Professional Grant program, membership recruitment letter, and new member outreach through emails and numerous phone calls. The passion Amanda has shown for Gamma is unmatched. Throughout the year Amanda has been a constant source of ideas, event suggestions, and a fresh pair of eyes looking at all that we do. She has been dedicated to her duties as 2nd Vice President over membership. Her motivation to provide top notch trainings and events to our membership has inspired many. **Congratulations Amanda!**

### Adrianna Hyta – Helen Green Memorial Citation

Adrianna joined Gamma in 2008 and immediately became involved by actively serving on various committees. She has chaired the Annual Business Meeting and co-chaired the Awards & Installation Banquet. She also served on 6 other Committees. She is the recipient of the Gamma Service award and a Professional Scholarship. Most impressive, though, is her work on shaping Gamma's finances. She began her board service as Treasurer and continues to focus on Finances as she began the Presidential series. She completely revamped the layout of the budget and the accounting system to allow for more transparency, and to expedite the Treasurer's reporting.

She inherited the presidency when the trends of membership and trainings were fluctuating, the direction of the IRS status and the National Board were high priorities, and the board needed to make tough decisions. She always held her head high and redirected any negativity and channeled it into positivity. Last year she took the time to lead the board through several sessions of brainstorming to establish a mission statement for Gamma and themed her entire presidency around it.

Adrianna is a Recreation Coordinator at the City of Cypress, where she has overseen a variety of programs, including senior services, sports, youth programs, preschool program and contract classes. Her supervisor and fellow Gamma members stated: "She is genuinely interested in our profession and puts her heart and soul into the offices she serves. She only wants the best for Gamma, works with a lot of enthusiasm, and is a person that can be truly trusted." **Congratulations Adrianna!**



# Gamma Awards

## 2017-2018 Award Winners

### Kassy Riggle – Service Award

Kassy is a relatively new member of WILS, joining Gamma in 2016. In her short tenure, she has already served on the committees for Bosses Day, Holiday Breakfast, Awards & Installation, and Scholarships. For each of these committees, she has taken an active role, volunteering to create event flyers, sell raffle tickets, handle event check-in, and more!

One of the Committee Chairs she worked with stated: "She is professional, creative, and displays her commitment to WILS by following through with her assignments and making herself available to assist in any way she can."

Another Committee Chair said: "She displays strong initiative and a willingness to take on any task necessary to ensure the success of the committee."

Kassy became involved in the profession through being exposed to recreation classes in college. After taking a few classes and learning more, she realized she wanted to pursue a career in the field. A multi-faceted Gamma Gal, she has completed two years of National Service with AmeriCorps and enjoys riding dressage, drawing, and painting.

In her current position as a Recreation Leader IV with the City of Costa Mesa, she works on contract classes, as well as assisting with special events and the production of the activity guide. **Congratulations Kassy!**



### Susan Peebles – Rookie of the Year Award

The Rookie of the Year Award winners are recommended to the Awards Committee by the First Vice President and Committee Coordinator.

Susan joined WILS after receiving a scholarship in 2017. When asked why she wanted to join WILS, she stated: "Mentorship and professional development. Being surrounded by women who are successful in their careers and who want the same thing for you is beyond special. Having others challenge you and guide you is something that I feel is incredibly important to have throughout one's career. I cannot wait to meet other members and immerse myself in this organization and to carry out this wonderful organization's mission and values."

In her first year of membership, she has already enthusiastically immersed herself in the organization, serving on the Fall Workshop and Scholarship committees.

Susan recently graduated from Cal State Long Beach where she obtained her Master's Degree in Sports Management. And, like many great WILS members before her, she is a member of the City of Lakewood Team!

**Congratulations Susan!**

# Gamma Scholarships

## 2017-2018 Scholarship Recipients

### Graciela Gonzalez - Gamma Scholarship

This year's Gamma Scholarship recipient is Graciela Gonzalez. Graciela currently attends California State University, Long Beach. She is set to graduate in May 2019 with a Bachelor's Degree in Recreation Therapy with a minor in Health Science. While attending school full-time, Graciela works for the City of Signal Hill as a Recreation Leader II. She supervises and implements safe recreational activities for children ages 5-10. Graciela is a member of the Recreation Society at Cal State Long Beach. Last year she volunteered with the Green Prize Festival and Special Olympics. Graciela is the first generation in her family to attend a university. This scholarship will help her focus more on education and less on the financial burden. Graciela's goals include owning her own clinic that will provide access to individuals of physical and recreation therapy services in low-income communities. **Congratulations Graciela!**



### Jessal Salas - Gamma Scholarship

This year's second Gamma Scholarship recipient is Jessal Salas. Jessal currently attends California State University, Los Angeles. She is set to graduate in May 2019 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. While attending school full-time Jessal works for both the City of Paramount and the City of Downey. For the City of Paramount Jessal is the Elderly Nutrition Program & Recreation Coordinator. It's her responsibility to connect with health agencies, market senior activities, plan and book excursions, monthly celebrations, workshops and prepare the newsletters. For the City of Downey, Jessal is an Activity Specialist overseeing the volunteer program while assisting with the youth commission. This scholarship will relieve some financial pressure of working two jobs and attending school full-time. **Congratulations Jessal!**

### Tatiana Costa - Gamma Scholarship

This year's third Gamma Scholarship recipient is Tatiana Costa. Tatiana currently attends California State University, Long Beach. She is planning on graduating this fall with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Recreation with a concentration in Tourism with a minor in Event Planning. While attending school full-time, Tatiana also works for the City of Cerritos as a Recreation Leader III. She supervises the Recreation Leader II's, prepares and coordinates recreation programs and assists with special events. Tatiana is a member of the Recreation Society at Cal State Long Beach and the current President. She also has volunteered for the Special Olympics as a Golf Scorekeeper, Aquatics Awards Helper, Raffle Booth Volunteer, Non-clinical Opening Eyes Volunteer and a Spectator Services Volunteer. This scholarship will assist Tatiana with improving her education. Her plans after graduation include going back to school to obtain her master's degree. **Congratulations Tatiana!**



# Gamma Scholarships

## 2017-2018 Scholarship Recipients

### Lauren Clark - Past President Scholarship

This year's Past President Scholarship recipient is Lauren Clark. Lauren currently attends California State University, Fullerton majoring in Kinesiology. She is set to graduate in December of 2019. While attending school full-time, Lauren works as a Field Supervisor for Intramural Sports at Associated Students Incorporated – Titan Recreation. In Lauren's free time she is a member of the Kinesiology Student Association, LGBTQ Resource Center & Health and Human Development Interclub Council. Lauren likes to participate in SRC Intramural sports and is a member of a beginner's hip hop dance class. This scholarship will help her financially and will also provide her with a network of strong women in the field who can support and empower her to continue working towards her goals. **Congratulations Lauren!**



### Gaelin White - Gamma Scholarship

This year's Gamma Scholarship recipient is Gaelin White. Gaelin currently attends Saddleback College working towards her Bachelor's Degree in Communications with a minor in Public Relations. Next semester she will be transferring to California State University, Fullerton. In addition to going to school, Gaelin also works 25 hours a week for the City of Mission Viejo as the Department Assistant. Her job duties include accounts payable and receivable, budget management, event planning and support, responding to donation inquiries, preparing monthly commission reports and more. Gaelin is currently a student member of California Parks & Recreation Society (CPRS). She is heavily involved with high school and middle school programs through schools and non-profit churches around Orange County. She volunteers at St. Kilian Catholic Church, Mission Basilica San Juan Capistrano, Diocese of Orange, Santa Margarita Catholic High School and Our Lady Queen of Angels. This scholarship will help propel her to reach her goals while relieving the financial strain of college tuition.

Gaelin's passion is to continuously seek improvement and provide equal opportunities to the public to reach a higher quality of living through engaging recreation activities and events. **Congratulations Gaelin!**

### Karyn Piedad - Dolores Thompson

This year's Dolores Thompson Scholarship recipient is Karyn Piedad. Karyn currently attends California State University, Long Beach. She is scheduled to graduate this fall with a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Therapeutic Recreation. In addition to going to school full-time, Karyn also manages two jobs. She works as an Inclusive Recreation Assistant at the Student Recreation & Wellness Center on campus as well as a Recreation Leader for the City of Newport Beach in Youth Programming. She is a member of California Parks & Recreation Society (CPRS), Phi Kappa Theta Honor Society, and Golden Key International Honour Society. In addition to these professional organizations, Karyn is also a member of Cal State Long Beach's Recreation Society. She is currently the College of Health & Human Services Representative and Liaison. This scholarship will help bring Karyn one step closer towards achieving her dream career. During her last semester she will be immersed into a therapeutic internship requiring her to work 40 hours a week for 15 weeks. **Congratulations Karyn!**



# Gamma News

## Gamma Birthdays



### August Birthdays

Lauren Clark	8/2
Pearl Raya	8/6
Erica Green	8/11
Gina Bonilla	8/12
Valarie Frost	8/13
Susan Jones	8/15
Lisa Litzinger	8/15
Candice Smith	8/17
Nettie Nielsen	8/19
Lauren Patterson	8/20
Catherine Schad	8/28
Nancy Beard	8/28
Alta Duke	8/31
Lindsay Marksbury	8/31

### September Birthdays

Thuc Cao	9/4
Brittany Pulkrabek	9/5
Nancy Matthews	9/8
Brianna Moore	9/14
Andrea Terry	9/14
Jessica Ochoa	9/15
Roberta White	9/15
Tatiana Costa	9/16
Jessal Salas	9/20
Marjorie McDonald	9/21
Susan Leto	9/24
Janet Grabowski	9/28
Wendy Cant	9/29

### October Birthdays

Eileen De Leon	10/2
Tracee Davis	10/4
Marnie Smith	10/8
Noemi Lopez	10/10
Shayna Gutierrez	10/17
Danielle Borenstein	10/21
Shaunna Hunter	10/25
Michelle Pritchard	10/25
Karen Plantz	10/26
Elta Braga	10/26
Bonnie Kehoe	10/27
Lois DeLano	10/30
Betty Perez	10/30
Kitty Rudometkin	10/31

# Happy Birthday

## Grant Program

The Women in Leisure Services, Gamma Chapter is proud to offer a grant program to provide financial support to women who seek assistance in attending educational trainings, networking opportunities, or becoming a new Gamma Chapter member.

Grants will be awarded based upon the qualifications of the applicant, as determined by the Scholarship Committee. Grant applications will be accepted beginning August 1, 2018, and must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the event or training date that is being requested in the application.

To review grant eligibility requirements and other grant information, view the application on the Gamma website at [www.wils-gamma.com](http://www.wils-gamma.com) under the scholarship section.

# APPLY NOW!

# Gamma News

## *Names in the News*

Congratulations to **Griselda Lara** for her promotion to Management Assistant with the City of Chino!



Congratulations to **Nicole Duran** for her promotion to Community Services Manager with the City of Lakewood!



Congratulations to **Kelly Garnetti** for her promotion to Community Services Supervisor with the City of Lakewood!



Congratulations to **Theresa Bruns** on her recent retirement with the City of San Dimas! Enjoy every day of your “permanent summer vacation!”

Congratulations to **Lisa Litzinger** on her recent retirement with the City of Lakewood after 34 years of service!



*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

## New Gamma Gal

**Marnie Smith, Recreation Services Coordinator - City of Riverside**

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

I had children in the program at the local community center and I was asked to become a volunteer at the site. After a few months of volunteering, the supervisor asked me if I would be interested in a job. I researched what the job entailed, I applied and have loved it for the last 22 years. I love to help people young and old be the best they can be.

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

Wonder Woman with the lasso to help people tell the truth.

**What is your hidden talent?**

Making soul food.

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

Hardworking.

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

Networking opportunities.



## New Gamma Gal

**Stephanie Gallegos, Recreation Services Coordinator - City of Riverside**

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

I began my career in recreation while in college. I worked for the YMCA in San Bernardino running after school programs as a Recreation Aide and later accepted the position of Program Facilitator for the City of Rialto. There I ran a camp and the after school programming. I realized the huge impact Parks and Recreation has on the community and how lives are significantly touched through our work.

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

Teleportation, so I would have additional time to accomplish things.

**What is your hidden talent?**

I can sing.

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

Ambitious

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

To continue growing through others' experiences, best practices and leadership.



# Gamma Sponsors

The Gamma Board thanks our 2017-2018 Corporate Sponsors:

**Dave Bang  
Musco Lighting**

**Perfect Mind**

**Richard Fisher Associates**

**RJM Design Group**

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.



**We Make It Happen®**



If you are interested in being a 2018-2019 Gamma Sponsor,  
please contact Adrianna Hyta at [ahyta@cypressca.org](mailto:ahyta@cypressca.org)