



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

Gamma Gram

Winter 2021

The Professional Connection for Women

Hello Gamma Gals,

I hope you are all continuing to stay safe and enjoyed your time with your loved ones during this 2020 holiday season - cheers to the New Year. The Gamma Board wishes everyone much happiness and good times for the year ahead.

Save the Date for some of your favorite Gamma events. Join us on January 23 as we honor Past Presidents and Life members at the annual Winter Social via Zoom, including a cocktail making event put on by Karon DeLeon and her friend Karen England to support Gamma Student Scholarships. Please mark your calendars for a fun evening of getting to know other WILS members at our Networking Night via Zoom on February 25.

Thank you Silvia Avalos for chairing this year's Fall Food For Thought on Zoom. Attendees had a wonderful time listening to Stephanie Stephens speak about leadership while cooking some delicious dishes all from the comfort of our own homes. The event was free, with a \$5 suggested donation to participate in the event. To date, we have raised \$500 for the Gamma Student Scholarship fund! Thank you to everyone who has donated. We all know how to step up when a fellow Gamma Gal is in need.

Applying for a Gamma Grant is as easy as 1, 2, 3! The Professional Grant Program is designed to provide financial support to women who seek assistance with membership. Apply today! If you or someone you know is pursuing a graduate or undergraduate degree in Recreation, Leisure Services, Human Services, Public Administration, or any closely related field at an accredited college or university and lives within the Gamma Chapter boundaries, please apply or encourage other to apply for a Gamma Scholarship! The application deadline is April 9, 2021. You don't want to miss out!

2021 here we come! The best is yet to come!

Shayna Gutierrez

*"Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it."
- Maya Angelou*

Connect with Gamma

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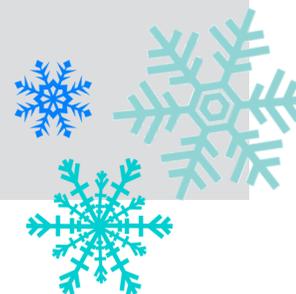
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marianna.pena@costamesaca.gov

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2020-2021 National Board of Directors

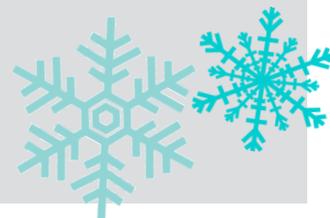
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ahyta@cityofirvine.org

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Bobbi Nance
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708-620-7448
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WILS National Website
womeninleisureservices.com

Gamma Website
wils-gamma.com

Gamma Instagram
[@wils_gamma](https://www.instagram.com/wils_gamma)



Gamma LinkedIn
[linkedin.com/company/wils-women-in-leisure-services](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wils-women-in-leisure-services)

Gamma Facebook
[facebook.com/WomenInLeisureServicesGammaChapter](https://www.facebook.com/WomenInLeisureServicesGammaChapter)



National News

Update from National

Your input is needed with the Strategic Blueprint!
To learn how you can get involved with the Strategic Blueprint, visit www.WomenInLeisureServices.com and click "Get Involved!"

WILS National Strategic Blueprint Call for Member Involvement!

To get involved visit: WomenInLeisureServices.com
Click: "Get Involved!"

For more information on Working Groups visit the "News" tab on National Website.
Watch the December 10 National President message.
Information begins at 1:10 in the video!

Working Group Info & Timeline:

- ✓ Group 1: Organizational Structure
- ✓ Group 2: Organizational Sustainability
- ✓ Group 3: Organizational Relevancy
- ✓ December 2020: Collect names of interested members. Goal to have 3-4 members per group.
- ✓ January - February 2021: Work together to conduct research.
- ✓ March 2021: Provide recommendations to National Board.



The National Board continues to meet via conference call on the third Tuesday of each month at 8 a.m.

If you would like to attend a meeting, or if you have questions or suggestions for the National Board, please contact Gamma's National Delegate
Ashley Thomas
ashley.thomas@costamesaca.gov.

The National Board hopes you and your family's holiday season was filled with love, family and memories!

GET INVOLVED



Gamma Events

2020-2021 Gamma Event Schedule



WOMEN IN
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"The Professional Connection for Women"

Events 2020-2021



Annual Business Meeting - Thursday, October 15

Fall Food for Thought - Thursday, November 12

Winter Social - Saturday, January 23

Networking Night - Thursday, February 25

Women's Mini Conference - May

Spring Food for Thought - Mid June

Awards & Installation Banquet - Thursday, August 12



"Success is liking yourself, liking what
you do, and liking how you do it."

-MAYA ANGELOU



Get Involved and Join a Committee!

*If you would like to serve on an event committee, please contact
Desiree Gurrola at dgurrola@riversideca.org*

Gamma Events

Fall Food for Thought - Recap

Thank you to everyone who attended the Fall Food for Thought on Thursday, November 12 via zoom. WILS raised \$375 for Gamma Student Scholarships including a generous donation of \$250 from CPRS, District 11. CPRS Executive Director, Stephanie Stephens discussed Leadership alongside Chef Steve Salle and friend, Cathy Goff who provided a cooking demo. There was good food, great conversation and a lot of fun.



Gamma Events

Winter Social

"THE PROFESSIONAL
CONNECTION FOR WOMEN"

WINTER SOCIAL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23
4:00-5:30 PM
VIA ZOOM



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ScholarSIPS:

A cocktail making event
to support Gamma Student
Scholarships with
Karon DeLeon and
Karen England of
Edgehill Herb
Farm.

Recognizing Past Presidents and Life Members

RSVP with Francine Jimenez,
by January 15 at
francine.jimenez@costamesaca.gov

\$5 suggested donation benefiting
Gamma Student Scholarships.
Donations will be accepted at
<https://tinyurl.com/WILSWinterSocial>

Thank you to our 2020-2021 Corporate Sponsors:



"Success is
liking
yourself,
liking what
you do,
and liking
how you do
it." - Maya
Angelou

Gamma Events

Networking Night



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"The Professional Connection for Women"

Networking Night

**Thursday, February 25, 2021
5:30-6:30pm, Via ZOOM**

**All recreation professionals
are welcome!**

**\$5 suggested donation benefiting
Gamma Student Scholarships
will be accepted at
<https://tinyurl.com/WilsNetwork>**

**RSVP to Melissa Lynch by February 19th
mlynch@downeyca.org or (562) 904-7223**

*RSVP early OR refer a colleague by
February 5th to be entered twice into the raffle!*

**Socialize with other
women in the field of
recreation, gain resources
and fresh ideas.**

*Success is liking yourself, liking
what you do, and liking how you
do it." - Maya Angelou*

Thank you to our 2020-2021 Corporate Sponsors



Gamma News

Student Scholarship

"The Professional Connection for Women"



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Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it." - Maya Angelou



WILS Scholarship Program

2020-2021

"This scholarship will assist me with school costs, such as books, parking passes, & other school materials. I look forward to being involved in an organization that creates a support system & offers opportunities for networking for women."

- Mistina Gonzales, 2020 WILS Scholarship Recipient

Women in Leisure Services, Gamma Chapter, is proud to announce the 2021 Scholarship Program. Student Scholarship recipients can earn up to \$1,000 in scholarship funds! All completed application information is due by Friday, April 9, 2021.

Apply
today!

For more information contact Annie Sumioka:



(714) 327-7567



Annie.sumioka@costamesaca.gov



wils-gamma.com

Gamma News

Gamma Birthdays

February Birthdays

Kathy Ables	2/1
Amy Pacheco	2/5
Ruth Raheb	2/5
Robyn Hockenhull	2/7
Mariana Pena	2/11
Ebony Perkins	2/13
Mistina Gonzales	2/16
Valerie Passarella	2/16
Cindy-Lu Gans	2/23
Tina Cherry	2/24
Danielle Smith	2/27

March Birthdays

Adrianna Hyta	3/2
Jean Smith	3/4
Michelle Khzouz	3/5
Robin Metz	3/8
Cynthia Street	3/9
Karon De Leon	3/10
Karen Fazlurrehman	3/12
Deana Read	3/14
Susan Peebles	3/16
Gaelin White	3/17
Patricia Fierro	3/17
Georgiann Vanderpool	3/18
Rebecca Sandoval	3/19
Diana Davis	3/20
Lorraine Delarosa	3/22
Monica Ortiz	3/25
Ashely Thomas	3/29

April Birthdays

Kristi McClure-Huckaby	4/2
Stacia Mancini	4/6
Ashley Wysocki	4/11
Sue Hughes	4/16
Elizabeth Bansberg	4/17
April Batson	4/17
Marilyn Huff	4/19
Francine Jimenez	4/24
Kathy Sorensen	4/27
Karin Anderson	4/30



Grant Program

Applying for a grant is as easy as 1..2..3..

1. FILL OUT THE APPLICATION
(it's just 2 questions!)

2. ATTACH YOUR PROFESSIONAL RESUME

3. SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION VIA EMAIL



VISIT WILS-GAMMA.COM/GRANTS TO DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION AND FOR ADDITIONAL GRANT INFORMATION.

The WILS Gamma Chapter Professional Development Grant Program is off to a great start with the following Grant recipients receiving grants for their new membership fees.

Welcome and Congratulations:
Susan Davidson
Maria Sandoval

Get to know these new gamma gals on the next page.

Grants are still available for New Membership fees.
Visit wils-gamma.com/grants for more information.

Gamma News

New Gamma Gal

Susan Davidson, Independent Community Services Professional

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

I was drawn to the field of Recreation and Leisure Service because of my passion for making a positive impact in the lives of others. I feel a sense of satisfaction knowing that I've had a part in creating programs and experiences for the community that range from hands-on experiential learning to community activism to improve their quality of life. I also appreciate my scope of work in the field, as it has allowed me to utilize my strengths in areas of creativity, problem-solving, program development and management, and hone my leadership skills while coaching and mentoring others.

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

If I could possess a superpower, I would want it to be the ability to heal all sickness.

What is your hidden talent?

I make awesome chocolate chip cookies.

What is one word that describes you?

Empathetic.

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

I look forward to connecting with other women in the field and to contributing to the mission.



New Gamma Gal

Maria Sandoval, Community Service Senior Leader - City of Irvine

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

I volunteered for a community center when I was 16 years old and fell in love with the atmosphere. I enjoyed helping kids with homework and assisting the leaders with activities. I felt like I played a big part in each of our participant's lives and I wanted to continue my career with community services and art education.

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

If I could have any superpower, it would be the ability to pause time. Time flies by really fast when you're busy and having the ability to pause time would be very beneficial.

What is your hidden talent?

One hidden talent of mine is speed! I am known to walk, talk, and work fast. It can be very handy when multitasking, working events, and during game competitions.

What is one word that describes you?

Friendly.

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

What I am most looking forward to as a new WILS member is meeting new people. I cannot wait to meet members of WILS and learn about their work experience and how they have handled the pandemic. I am excited to share my experience as well.



Gamma News

Names in the News



Congratulations to **Joanna Contreras** on her baby boy Clayton! Clayton Terry Contreras was born on May 27, 2020. Clayton is a beautiful addition to the Contreras family of 3 and is growing up quickly; working on his crawling skills.



Congratulations to **Gaelin White** on her new position as Account Coordinator at Health+Commerce! Health+Commerce is a female founded healthcare PR agency. We wish her the best of luck on this new adventure!



Congratulations to **Karen Fazlurrehman, Elta Braga, and Robin Metz** on their recent retirement. These Gamma ladies will be recognized as Life Members at Winter Social on Saturday, January 23, 2021.



Karen Fazlurrehman
(City of Ontario)



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Congrats!

Elta Braga
(City of Ontario)



Robin Metz
(City of Riverside)

If you have exciting news you would like to share with the Gamma Chapter, email Andi Terry at aterry@cypressca.org

Gamma News

New Gamma Gal: Elizabeth Bansberg, Senior Activity Specialist - City of Downey

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

I stumbled upon Recreation and Leisure Services while on my path to my teaching career. I instantly fell in love with the community outreach and service.

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

The ability to freeze time.

What is your hidden talent?

Woodworking.

What is one word that describes you?

Determined.

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

I'm looking forward to meeting new people and new opportunities through WILS.



New Gamma Gal: Nathalie Wilcox, Community Services Senior Leader - City of Irvine

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

I wanted to work in the field of Recreation to enhance the quality of life of our community members and share my experiences with others.

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

If I could have any superpower, it would be the ability to super speed!

What is your hidden talent?

My hidden talent is that I am an expert at Tetris.

What is one word that describes you?

Passionate.

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

I look forward to creating professional relationships, exchanging ideas and learning from others.



New Gamma Gal: Kaylie Kontaratos, Recreation Coordinator - City of Cypress

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

I love seeing the impact I make on my community, it is more rewarding than any other career path I have tried.

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

If I could have any superpower, it would be the ability to super speed!

What is your hidden talent?

My hidden talent is that I can DIY almost anything.

What is one word that describes you?

Tenacious.

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

As a new WILS member I am looking to learn from and make connections with other women in my field.



Gamma News

New Gamma Gal

Sarah Gorgano, Recreation Leader IV - City of Huntington Beach and Long Beach

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

I started my first leisure services job when I was 18 years old with the Citizens Business Bank Arena/ Toyota Arena. I fell head over heels for the energy of people coming together to enjoy their free time, to share the love and passion for each event. Bringing a community together is the reason why I am continuing to study as a Recreation and Leisure Studies major today.

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

I would want to make people understand the needs of others and have people understand the way others feel.

What is your hidden talent?

My hidden talent is that I am very empathetic towards people and during events if people feel any discomfort with any situation, I will put my best foot forward to think of a logical and practical solution that will both satisfy and meet the needs of our clients and the facilities needs at the end of the day.

What is one word that describes you?

Charismatic.

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

I am looking forward to linking up with a community of women that are passionate about their careers as I am and meet my future leaders and fellow future colleagues.



New Gamma Gal

Erica Rodriguez, Recreation Coordinator - City of San Bernardino

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

I grew up in recreation. To this day I keep a picture on my desk of myself at two-years old getting ready for my first ballet recital to remind myself of the excitement of learning a new skill and to never give up mastering difficult ones. Recreation provided a source of joy in my life filled with wonderful memories. It built my confidence and expanded my world as a 16 year old Human Services Commissioner for the City of Baldwin Park. I believe Recreation chose me and I have been so blessed by the experiences gained.

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

If I could have any superpower, I would love to fly. It just looks like so much fun. And, you get to travel without a security check. Plus I get to keep all the views along the way that I would lose with teleportation.

What is your hidden talent?

My hidden talent is baton twirling. Another recreation class I took as a child that left a lasting impression.

What is one word that describes you?

Optimistic.

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

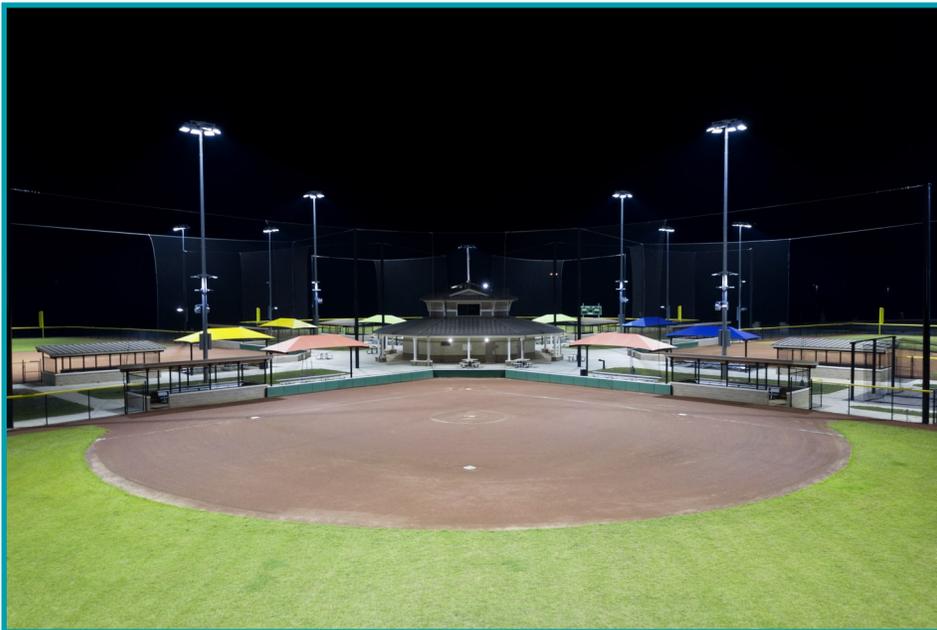
I am looking forward to all the new relationships I will build as a WILS member.



Gamma Sponsors

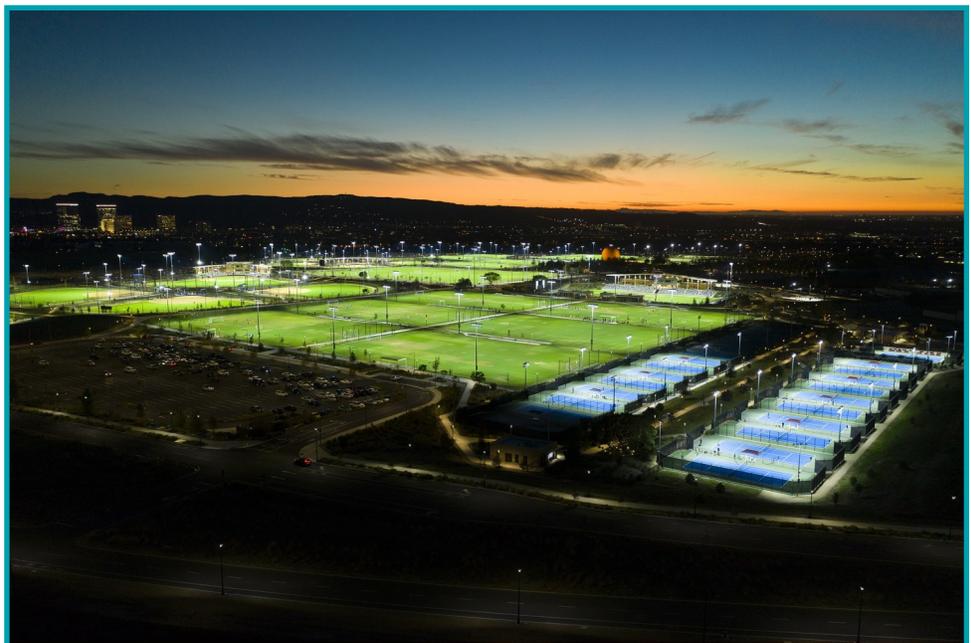
Sponsor Highlight - Musco Lighting

Musco has specialized in the design and manufacture of sports lighting systems since 1976, creating solutions responsible to the needs of players and spectators, surrounding neighborhood, environment, and night sky. Musco's systems have been the sports lighting of choice at neighborhood ballfields, multi-field complexes, county-wide networks of facilities, major stadiums and arenas, and iconic events such as the Olympic Games.



Musco's TLC for LED™ technology is a visionary evolution of the company's system-based lighting solutions, achieving a level of light quality, control, glare reduction, and uniformity never before possible. TLC for LED is the result of Musco's 40 years of experience in sports lighting, minimizing glare and spill light in ways other manufacturers simply can't.

The system is ideal for retrofits or as a solution complete from foundation to poletop, and is backed by a long-term warranty covering every part and all labor.



Contact Musco at (858) 232-1620 or email Karin.anderson@musco.com

Gamma Sponsors

Sponsor Highlight - Miracle Playground Sales



Miracle Playground Sales



Miracle Playground Sales is a leader in recreational equipment known for our expertise, creativity and unparalleled customer service. Our goal is to provide safe, challenging and innovative park, playground and splashpad designs, customized to meet your community's needs.

Miracle Playground Sales strives to be the best partner for your projects offering the finest equipment and superior service in all aspects of the process, before and after the sales.

Our products include:

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Vortex Splashpads
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Greenfields Fitness Equipment
Fibar Engineered Wood Fiber
UPC Parks Precast Concrete Playgrounds
And more...



9106 Pulsar Court, Unit C, Corona, CA 92883
Ph: (800) 264-7225 Email: sales@miracleplayground.com
www.miracleplayground.com

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Miracle Playground Sales
Musco Lighting
Berkshire Hathaway Home Services

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.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2020-2021 CORPORATE SPONSORS



Miracle Playground Sales



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