



## Women in Leisure Services

Chi Kappa Rho, Inc. - Gamma

*The Professional Connection for Women*

# gamma gram

Summer 2017

Dear Gamma Gals,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your 2017-2018 President. It is an honor to serve as your leader for a group of amazing and talented women.

Thank you to our Awards and Installation Banquet Committee: Kristen Reid, Ashley Ocasio and Taylor Smith for putting together a great event. The Awards Committee and Scholarship Committee did an excellent job selecting and awarding very deserving Gamma Members. Those in attendance were presented the new Mission Statement for the Gamma Chapter, encompassing our purpose, our focus as a chapter, and a vision for the future.

*Women in Leisure Services – Gamma Chapter is an empowering, dynamic, and progressive organization which strives to provide resources for personal, academic, and professional growth through affordable and innovative trainings with enriching networking opportunities to our members and students pursuing community, recreation, and human service careers.*

The 2017-2018 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 17 at Newport Rib Company in Costa Mesa. Featured at the event will a presentation on “Work-Life Balance” by Tamara Letourneau, City of Costa Mesa’s Assistant City Manager. Buffet includes pulled pork and chopped beef brisket sandwiches, bbq’ed baked beans, coleslaw, and southwest chopped salad. Cost is \$10 for Members and \$15 for Guests! I look forward to seeing you at this meeting. We will also be reviewing the budget and discussing our goals for the next twelve months.

I look forward to see you all throughout the year at many of our events.

Your 2017-2018 Gamma President,

*Adrianna Hyta*

***“If you don’t know where you're going, you might end up somewhere else” - Yogi Berra***

# *connect with* gamma

## *2017-2018 Gamma Chapter Board of Directors*

President

**Adrianna Hyta**

City of Cypress

714-229-6787

[ahyta@cypressca.org](mailto:ahyta@cypressca.org)

Secretary

**Silvia Avalos**

City of Chino

909-334-3454

[savalos@cityofchino.org](mailto:savalos@cityofchino.org)

Past President

**Wendy Cant**

Aliso Viejo Community Assoc.

949-243-7747

[wcant@avca.net](mailto:wcant@avca.net)

First Vice President

**Ashley Ocasio**

City of Costa Mesa

714-754-5052

[ashley.ocio@costamesaca.gov](mailto:ashley.ocio@costamesaca.gov)

Treasurer

**Valerie Passarella**

City of Yorba Linda

714-961-7185

[vpasarella@yorba-linda.org](mailto:vpasarella@yorba-linda.org)

Committee Coordinator

**Shayna Gutierrez**

City of Cypress

714-229-6662

[sgutierrez@cypressca.org](mailto:sgutierrez@cypressca.org)

Second Vice President

**Amanda Bassett**

City of Mission Viejo

949-859-4348 x5722

[abassett@cityofmissionviejo.org](mailto:abassett@cityofmissionviejo.org)

National Delegate

**Lydie Gutfeld**

City of Mission Viejo

949-470-3004

[lgutfeld@cityofmissionviejo.org](mailto:lgutfeld@cityofmissionviejo.org)

## *2016-2017 National Board of Directors*

President

**Pearl Raya**

714-313-1030

[praya@pacbell.net](mailto:praya@pacbell.net)

Treasurer

**Valerie Passarella**

City of Yorba Linda

714-961-7185

[vpasarella@yorba-linda.org](mailto:vpasarella@yorba-linda.org)

Past President

**Michele Greenburg-McClung**

City of La Mesa

619-667-1333

[mgreenberg-](mailto:mgreenberg-mcclung@ci.lamesa.us)

[mccclung@ci.lamesa.us](mailto:mccclung@ci.lamesa.us)

Vice President

**Ann Mosack**

City of Bloomington

952-563-8892

[amosack@bloomingtonmn.gov](mailto:amosack@bloomingtonmn.gov)

Secretary

**Tina Eide**

City of Eden Prairie

952-949-8447

[teide@edenprairie.org](mailto:teide@edenprairie.org)

**Gamma Website**

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

**WILS National Website**

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

**Gamma Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/WomenInLeisureServicesGammaChapter](http://www.facebook.com/WomenInLeisureServicesGammaChapter)

# gamma events

## Annual Business Meeting



**RSVP to Ashley Ocasio at  
Ashley.Ocasio@costamesaca.gov or  
714-754-5052 by Thursday, August 10th.**

*No shows and cancellations made after August 10 will be billed.*

**Thursday, August 17, 2017  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Members: \$10 Guests: \$15**

**Newport Rib Company  
2196 Harbor Blvd  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627**

Buffet includes: Pulled Pork & Chopped  
Beef Brisket Sandwiches, Bbq'ed  
beans, Coleslaw & Southwest  
Chopped Salad, Soda, Ice Tea & Water

## 2017-2018 Events - Save the Dates!

Date	Event	Committee Chairs
Thursday, August 17, 2017	Annual Business Meeting	Ashley Ocasio City of Costa Mesa
Thursday, October 12, 2017	Bosses Day	Shayna Gutierrez City of Cypress
Tuesday, November 14, 2017	Fall Workshop	Lydie Gutfeld City of Mission Viejo
Thursday, December 7, 2017	Holiday Breakfast	Silvia Avalos City of Chino
Thursday, February 15, 2018	Winter Workshop	Ashley Wysocki City of Corona
Spring 2018	Mentor Meet and Greet	Lydie Gutfeld City of Mission Viejo
Thursday, May 17, 2018	Awards & Installation Banquet	Amanda Bassett City of Mission Viejo

### Join a Committee

If you would like to serve on an event committee: <http://signup.com/group/826129170011> or  
contact Shayna Gutierrez, Committee Coordinator at [sgutierrez@cypressca.gov](mailto:sgutierrez@cypressca.gov) or 714-229-6662

# *gamma* events

## *Awards and Installation Recap*

The Awards and Installation was held on Wednesday, May 17, at the Cypress Community Center. The 2017-2018 Gamma Board was installed, scholarship and award winners were announced, the new Gamma Mission Statement was introduced and our guests enjoyed a great meal!

Congratulations to the Mary K. Peterson Memorial Merit Award recipient. Valerie Passarella, City of Yorba Linda. As always, it was a great night to socialize with our peers and friends, recognize the hard work of our sponsors, members and supporters, and to install our new President, Adrianna Hyta!



## *National Luncheon*

The Fall National Luncheon will take place in Minnesota this September. For more information, please contact Lydie Gutfeld, National Delegate at 949-470-3004 or email her at [lgutfeld@cityofmissionviejo.org](mailto:lgutfeld@cityofmissionviejo.org).

# *gamma* Scholarships

## *Scholarship Recipients*



**SUSAN PEEBLES**  
GAMMA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Susan is attending Cal State Long Beach and is working on receiving a master's in Sports Management. She currently works for the City of Lakewood as a Recreation Leader II at the Burns Community Center.



**ALEJANDRA GARCIA**  
CORPORATE SPONSOR  
RICHARD FISHER ASSOCIATES RECIPIENT

Alejandra is a student at Cal State Long Beach, majoring in Psychology with a minor in Recreation and Leisure Studies. She works with the City of Downey as a part-time Recreation Coordinator.



**ELSIE RODRIGUEZ**  
PAST PRESIDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Elsie is currently working on obtaining a certification in Recreation Therapy from Cal State University of Long Beach. She works for the Village Management Services as a Recreation Assistant in the City of Laguna Woods.



**CLAUDIA TORRES**  
DOLORES THOMPSON SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Claudia is a student at Azusa Pacific University majoring in Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in Cultural Psychology. She has been working for the City of Chino as a Community Services Supervisor.

# gamma awards



## **Taylor Smith - President's Award**

Taylor Smith joined Gamma in 2008. Over the past 9 years, she's been on over 20 committees. That doesn't include attending events, luncheons, committees, board meetings and conference calls.

Many of us have had the pleasure of working with Taylor on multiple committees and on the Board in 2015-2016 when she was 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. When Taylor was on the Board, she designed the template for the Active Member Payment Database. This was extremely helpful since it was our first year of Pre-Payments for events.

Taylor is a staple of WILS. You can always count on her to be there to greet you at an event. She's the friendly face you typically see at check in. Even at CPRS Conference she's working hard and still promoting WILS. She graciously distributes WILS ribbons, membership applications and scholarship applications each year.

Thank you Taylor for all your hard work and dedication to WILS. I thank you for your support. Congratulations on earning the 2016-2017 President's Award. **Congratulations Taylor!**

## **Valerie Passarella - Mary K. Petersen Memorial Merit Award Winner**



Valerie has been a member of the Gamma Chapter since 2008. Her leadership, professionalism, and ongoing support of the Gamma Chapter make her a worthy candidate for this award. She has been involved in 16 committee and chaired or co-chaired 5 committees.

She served on the Awards & Installation, Winter Workshop (2 times), Holiday Breakfast, Fall and Spring Fundraiser Night (3 times), Scholarships (2 times), Holiday Breakfast (twice), Bosses Day (3 times) and so many more.

She served on the Gamma Board as Treasurer 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, President and Past President. As treasurer she revised the monthly report for the Board of Directors providing more efficiency and transparency into our financial matters.

Valerie has received three Gamma Service Awards and the Helen Green Memorial Citation Award. In 2015, she was elected to the WILS National Board as Secretary and this year was installed as Treasurer.

Valerie's role as program coordinator for the City of Yorba Linda includes responsibility for: Senior Programs, Transportation, Daily Nutrition Program, Contract Classes, Food Distribution/Grocery Program, Senior Bulletin Production, Special Events, Liaison with YL Senior Citizens Club, City Wide Walking Program/Initiative, Department Social Media, and Department electronic monthly newsletter.

Her Superintendent says: She is an eager and outgoing professional, always willing to help and be involved with any project/event the Department has coordinated or been involved with. She has been critical in many of the successes of the Department, including the expansion of social media, enhancement of Senior Health and Resource Faire, implementation of the City Wide Walking Program/Initiative, July 4th Fireworks social media booth, recent park dedications and fun walk/runs, and even the Mayor's State of the City address. You name it, and Valerie wants the opportunity to be involved and grow as a professional.

Additionally, she has been active serving professional organizations for many years serving on the D10 Consortium and Aging Section Board. With all this said, you still don't get the sense of how eager this Gamma Gal is to become a better professional, mentor, and co-worker to those around her. She is passionate about her job and the community she services. Her positivity, friendly, professional, and outgoing attitude make her a great addition to the Yorba Linda team. **Congratulations Valerie!**

# gamma awards

## ***Adrianna Hyta - Gamma Service Award***

Adrianna Hyta has been a Gamma Member since 2005. She has chaired 8 committees, served in numerous positions on the Gamma Board and continues to find new ways to make Gamma shine. She has had a range of responsibilities with her agency including: contract classes and recreation programs, Seniors, youth and adult sports programs, quarterly brochure, day camp, pre-school aged programs as well as numerous special events and special projects such as the transition of registration software and website upgrades.

Adrianna has persevered to revamp our bookkeeping processes to be less cumbersome for future Treasurers. She has an eye for financial details. Adrianna was very flexible in listening to other's ideas and your experience provided valuable input that allowed the Finance Committee to make important recommendations to the Board. She is a master at Excel. Adrianna has wonderful conversation skills and can easily relate to all members. ***Congratulations Adrianna!***



## ***Ashley Wysocki - Gamma Service Award***

Since joining the Gamma Chapter as an active member in 2012, this dynamic, and always bubbly, professional leaped into leadership roles within the organization. Ashley Wysocki has provided educational presentations to members at consecutive Winter Workshops. Furthermore, she proudly hosted a couple of chapter workshops and meetings at a facility within her agency. This very special member has been, and continues to be, deserving of the membership's appreciation. She entered the Presidential Series as 1st Vice President in 2014. As a board member she brought new ideas to fruition, including instituting WILS Wednesdays, an electronic newsletter providing members with pertinent information about chapter events and opportunities. The weekly email communication also decreased the number of weekly emails delivered to members.

Ashley was highly visible during this past year, opening chapter events with an introduction of new members and recognizing Gamma Chapter sponsors. She stepped out of the box and developed a strong partnership with Men in Leisure Service. The two organizations collaborated and offered a well organized and beneficial training this spring in the City of Corona.

The members of this organization thank Ashley for her continued leadership and for sharing her positive and outgoing personality. You are the epitome of what we would call a Wonderful Woman of WILS.



# gamma awards

## **Sue Leto - Gamma Service Award**

Recognition of service in the Gamma Chapter is awarded to another outstanding woman in the recreation field. This Gamma professional has been an active member in the chapter since 1985.

Her leadership in the organization is represented by continuous service as a committee chair or board member. During her tenure as a member she has chaired Gamma's Bosses Day and Awards Banquet events. She has also chaired the Bylaws and Finance Committees, which ensure the organization's ability to orchestrate integrity, fiscal stability, and good practices in governing.

She is already a highly decorated member, having previously won Gamma Chapter's most prestigious award, the Mary K. Petersen Memorial Merit Award and our National Chapter's signature recognition, the Helen I. Pontius National Award of Merit.

Today however, Sue Leto is celebrated in front of her peers and those closest to her for her work as the chapter's current Finance Chair. Sue was able to identify a lack of IRS filing for tax exemption status for both the Gamma Chapter and the National organization. She worked closely and diligently with the Gamma board to identify gaps in financial processing and assisted the Treasurer in creating a revised chart of accounts and year-to-date budget spreadsheet.



## **Valerie Espinoza - First Year of Service**

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

Valerie Espinoza works for the City of Riverside has done a great job helping to coordinate the Winter Workshop. As a new member, Valerie jumped into the Winter Workshop committee with both feet. She was in charge of RSVPs and check in the day of. As each agency RSVP'd Valerie would send a follow-up email to them to ensure they knew what they needed to bring to the workshop to be prepared. At the conclusion of the event, Valerie continued to send follow-up emails and invoices to all of the attendees who had not paid yet. She was successful in collecting 100% of the registration fees. She took a lot of initiative to ensure her responsibilities were taken care of, and provided a lot of great input into the event coordination.

Despite having just given birth a few months ago, she has not skipped a beat, is detail oriented and has represented Gamma and the City of Riverside well. **Congratulations Valerie!**





# gamma gals



## Happy Birthday

### July Birthdays

Katie Distelrath - 1  
Heidi Mazas - 2  
Marian - 2  
JaNell Adams - 3  
Chrystal Chavez - 8  
Colleen Callahan-Litfin - 9  
Silvia Avalos - 11  
Kelly Feldman - 13  
Trudy Nuzum - 17  
Griselda Lara - 19  
Lydie Gutfeld - 19  
Sjany Larson-Cash - 20  
Linda Reich - 20  
Caitlynn Brown - 21  
Michelle Logan Arrigo - 26  
Nancy Rapp - 27

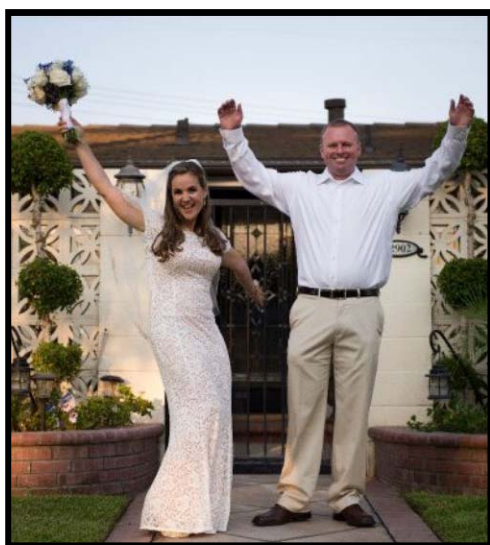
### August Birthdays

Imani Tolliver - 1  
Pearl Raya - 6  
Erica Green - 11  
Gina Bonilla - 12  
Valarie Frost - 13  
Lisa Litzinger - 15  
Susan Jones - 15  
Candice Smith - 17  
Nettie Nielsen - 19  
Marina Rabinovich - 21  
Valerie Espinoza - 27  
Catherine Schad - 28  
Nancy Beard - 28  
Janet Mondragon - 30  
Alta Duke - 31

### September Birthdays

Thuc (Gabbi) Cao - 4  
Brittany Pulkrabek - 5  
Andrea Granados - 5  
Nancy Matthews - 8  
Andi Terry - 14  
Brianna Moore - 14  
Jessica Ochoa - 15  
Roberta White - 15  
Marjorie McDonald - 21  
Katie Boyle - 23  
Susan Leto - 24  
Janet Grabowski - 28  
Wendy Cant - 29

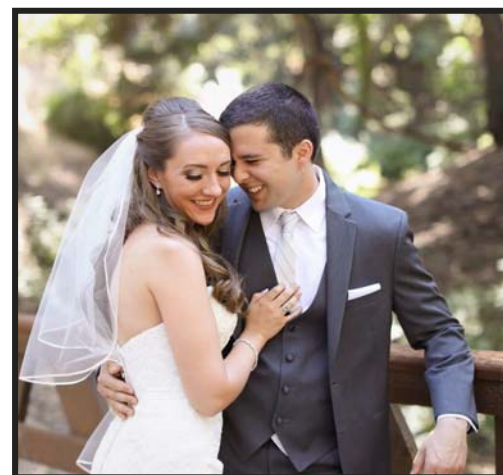
## Names in the News



**Ashley Ocasio**, City of Costa Mesa, married Jimmy Thomas on July 15 in Orange.

**Kudos to the City of Mission Viejo team!** City employees resuscitate man on the tennis court after heart attack. See news article below.

<http://www.ocregister.com/2017/07/14/mission-viejo-city-employees-resuscitate-man-on-tennis-court-after-heart-attack/>



**Joanna Montoya**, City of Yorba Linda, married Jonny Contreras on May 27 in Chino Hills. Afterwards they enjoyed a honeymoon to St. Lucia.

# gamma sponsors

The Gamma Board thanks our 2016-2017 Corporate Sponsors:

- **Dave Bang Associates, Inc.**
- **NUVIS Landscape & Planning**
- **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, trainings and workshops. Along with their support, they also provide 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.



If you are interested in being a 2017-2018 Gamma Sponsor, please contact Wendy Cant at [wcant@avca.net](mailto:wcant@avca.net) or (949) 243-7747.