My dearest DG sisters,

It was Thursday, October 6, 2016 when I picked up the phone and dialed in to the conference call. Moderated by Brenda Bridges, the former Alumnae Development Consultant for Regions 3, 4 and 5, this call was supposed to ‘discuss how to get the alumnae chapter functioning again’. I did not anticipate offering to take on this task – but, as a Delta Gamma, that’s exactly what happened!

I was initiated at Alpha Xi Chapter-West Virginia in 1983, and served in many collegiate and advisory positions through the years. I thought I was prepared but, it soon became apparent there is a sharp learning curve to reestablishing an alumnae chapter! After a slow start, a change from Brenda Bridges to Jennifer Hall as our Alumnae Development Consultant (ADC), and many long-distances conversations complete with online training, the Fort Myers Area Delta Gamma Alumnae Chapter began to take shape.

As you can imagine, this is not a one person job. With close guidance from our amazing ADC Jennifer, I recruited fellow Alpha Xi sister, Chandra Briers, to be our Vice President of Finance. We had several lovely luncheons but knew we hadn’t yet gained the base we needed to grow. Along the way, Gail Rowland and Lenore Lindsay agreed to jump on board. Our Executive Board was taking shape! During an informal happy hour in early 2018, recent graduates and new SWFL transplants Mallory Hardiman and Courtney Tougas joined our team. We now had the manpower, the knowledge and strength to “Do Good” in reestablishing the chapter!

It is uplifting that so many DGs have stepped up to get this chapter up and running! Together, we have learned how to maneuver DG’s online site, created Facebook pages and personalized our website to share information and create a place so new residents can find us, and laughed our way through brainstorming sessions to plan a calendar of events we hope you find inspiring!

Now we ask a few things of you….

* Let us know that you received this newsletter. Respond to the Evites for events. Give us some feedback so we know if our hard work is targeted in the right direction.
* Understand that we work so it’s difficult for us to be on the phone during work hours. We want to use the email address to answer all of your questions. We promise that one of us will reply as soon as possible to every email!
* Attend an event or two. With a variety of different activities, we think you’ll enjoy what we planned!
* Offer to host an event at your home. Suggest restaurants that may accommodate a luncheon/dinner. Help develop ideas for Foundation programming. This chapter is about Delta Gamma Doing Good in the Fort Myers Area!

We hope you find the attached newsletter interesting and informative! Check out our website for calendar updates at [www.FortMyersArea.DeltaGamma.org](http://www.FortMyersArea.DeltaGamma.org). Find us on Facebook for info and inspiration! Shoot us an email at FortMyersDeltaGamma@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

ITB,

Suzie Nowell, Alpha Xi-West Virginia

President, Fort Myers Area Alumnae Chapter

**Hello Delta Gammas!**

**We are pleased to deliver your**

**2018-2019 Fort Myers Area DG Alumnae Chapter Newsletter**

**and introduce your Executive Board!**

Delta Gamma Executive Offices has been extremely supportive of our desire to reestablish our Fort Myers Area Chapter! Your Executive Board has been hard at work, and our Alumnae Development Consultants have helped guide us every step along the way!

We are a fully-recognized Alumnae Chapter that will continue to adjust our events and locations to meet your needs! Our goal is to strengthen the bond of sisterhood and alumnae support in order to provide Service for Sight opportunities in the Fort Myers area!

**Fort Myers Area Executive Board Members:**

President – Suzie Nowell, West Virginia University Alpha Xi

VP of Finance – Chandra Briers, West Virginia University Alpha Xi

VP of Foundation – Mallory Hardiman, University of Alabama Beta Psi (charter member)

VP of Membership – Lenore Lindsay, Clemson University Epsilon Kappa

VP of Programming – Gail Rowland, Southern Methodist University Alpha Upsilon

VP of Communications – Courtney Tougas, James Madison University Epsilon Nu

**Why “Fort Myers Area”? And, who is included?**

This is our official Alumnae Chapter name from Delta Gamma Executive Offices. Our Chapter includes alumnae from Bonita Springs to Boca Grande -- but all sisters are welcome!

Executive Offices provides us with a list of sisters. We are able to contact DGs who keep their information up to date. If you wish to update your information or alumnae chapter affiliation, please email us at FortMyersDeltaGamma@gmail.com or Executive Offices directly at [www.deltagamma.org](http://www.deltagamma.org).

While we are familiar with venues in Fort Myers, we would LOVE to plan activities in Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda, Bonita Springs – you name it! We welcome your suggestions and need your assistance to find new meeting locations!

**Email suggestions to us at FortMyersDeltaGamma@gmail.com**

**How can you help?**

**First** – We need to know that Executive Offices has provided us with correct information.

Please let us know that you have received this newsletter so we can update you in the system.

If you know someone who needs to be added, please let us know!

If you are a seasonal resident, let us know that also. While we cannot pick and choose what information is sent, at least you will know everything that’s going on!

**Second** – We not only welcome your input, we are asking for your it! Are the events interesting and relevant? Are the locations convenient? Please email your suggestions to us and let us know how you can help!

**Third** – Pay your dues. We are supposed to pay our annual per capita dues until we earn our 50-year pin.

Our local dues are just as important! Local dues fund our small, but necessary, operating budget. With our Chapter’s renewed enthusiasm for local Service for Sight opportunities, your dues and donations will go toward supporting these special endeavors.

**Collegiate Chapter updates**

**FGCU expansion** – Florida Gulf Coast University has decided not to expand or add any Greek organizations at this time. If anything changes, Executive Offices will be the first to know, and will inform us of any needs.

**University of Florida adoption** – Since the FGCU expansion is on hold, we felt that we have loads of energy to spend on a Collegiate Chapter!! At Founder’s Day, we voted to “adopt” the Gamma Theta Chapter at the University of Florida. I have been in contact with their collegiate advisors. They are thrilled to have some “Aunt Hannahs”!!! The Gamma Theta Chapter welcomed 85 new members during their Fall 2018 Recruitment!! Keeping their large class in mind, here are some things we can do for them:

* we can write note cards or letters of encouragement and expressions of what Delta Gamma means to us…that DG is not just for four years of college, it’s for life;
* we can send small, inexpensive anchor or Hannah trinkets which they will use as rewards for “doing good” throughout the school year.

Bring any cards or trinkets to an alumnae meeting, or mail them to:

Suzie Nowell

1141 Paper Fig Court

Sanibel FL 33957

I will forward all items of support to the Gamma Theta advisor!

**Foundation Updates**

**Box Tops for Education**

Yes, we are definitely collecting box tops!! The program is designated for schools with grades kindergarten and up. We will be donating our box tops to the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind in St. Augustine. Each box top is worth .10 cents when the school redeems them from General Mills. Box tops can be found on hundreds of items including canned Green Giant vegetables, Ziploc, Hefty, Kleenex, Old El Paso, Betty Crocker, Scott, Annies, and more. See the whole list at www.boxtops4education.com

Please bring your box tops to a meeting or mail them by May 15, 2019 to:

Mallory Hardiman, VP of Foundation

4530 Winkler Avenue #308

Fort Myers, FL 33966

**Service Hours for Box Tops**

Each alumnae member is eligible to receive two service hours per year for participating in the collection of box tops. If a member wishes to participate in this service collection Foundation activity, a minimum of 30 box tops per member will meet the eligibility for one service hour. A member who collects 60 box tops or more will receive the maximum of two service hours for the year. So, start saving your box tops!

If you have questions or concerns about box tops, please email Mallory at FortMyersDeltaGamma@gmail.com or the Foundation Director: Alumnae Service at alumservice@deltagamma.org.

**Outside Service Hours**

Have you offered your time to a veteran’s group, elementary school? Send Mallory a note as these hours may count toward Delta Gamma service hours!

**Don’t have time to volunteer?**

Be sure to donate to the Delta Gamma Foundation to support scholarships and grants for DGs around the world. Foundation Anchor Grants are available to those affected by Hurricane Florence.

**Lighthouse of SWFL**

Their mission is to enable people of all ages living with a visual impairment or blindness to remain independent, active and productive. We are taking steps to see how our alumnae chapter can “Do Good” at the Lighthouse of SWFL at 35 West Mariana Avenue, North Fort Myers. We will keep you posted on this!

Our hope is to become an Aunt Hannah for a visually impaired child who utilizes the services at Lighthouse. Once we gather all pertinent information on this service, we will share with you. We would love to adopt a family for Christmas. If this plan comes to fruition, we will have a gift wrapping party on December 11!

**There are MANY service opportunities in our area! Please let us know if you have a special project or event that needs our assistance!**

**Stay connected with us on Facebook and check our website often**

**as more opportunities to “Do Good’ arise!**

**Have you paid your 2018-2019 dues?**

Thank you for your support of Delta Gamma Fraternity and the

Fort Myers Area Alumnae Chapter!

Remember that our treasured 50+ year members are not required to pay per capita dues.

**Pay your $25 local dues:**

**Make check payable to**

**Fort Myers Alumnae Chapter of Delta Gamma**

Mail to: Chandra Briers

17019 Tremont Street

Fort Myers, Fl 33908

Online at [www.DeltaGamma.org](http://www.DeltaGamma.org) and click “Pay Alumnae Dues” in the top right corner.

You can also pay online through [www.memberplanet.com](http://www.memberplanet.com)

Local dues are the only funding we have to cover our small, but necessary, operating budget. Your dues help to support local Foundation activities!

With funds from dues, donations and fundraising activities, we can contribute to

Service for Sight at the local and state levels!

We cannot enrich our Fort Myers area without your help!

**Pay your $29 national per capita dues:**

**Make check payable to Delta Gamma Executive Office**

Mail to: Delta Gamma Executive Office

3250 Riverside Drive

Columbus, OH 43221

Online at [www.DeltaGamma.org](http://www.DeltaGamma.org) and click “Pay Alumnae Dues” in the top right corner.

**How to reach us …. We want to keep in touch!**

**FortMyersDeltaGamma@gmail.com**

* **This is our email address.**
* Do you have a question about dues? Need a ride to a meeting? Want to host a meeting?
* Send us an email!
* One of our Executive Board members will reply as quickly as possible!
* Have you received an email from this address? It’s US hoping to reach YOU!

**www.FortMyersArea.DeltaGamma.org**

* **This is our website.**
* The format and general information are set up by Executive Offices – we keep it up to date and personalized for our Fort Myers Area Chapter!
* Click on our website to
	+ - pay your local and per capita dues,
		- look for our Fort Myers Area Calendar of Events (including locations, directions, etc.),
		- photos of events,
		- Executive Board bios, and more!

**On Facebook - Fort Myers Delta Gamma Alumnae Chapter**

* **This is our “public” Facebook page.**
* Anyone can “find” us here! If someone is new to our area, they can send us a message to find out more about our alumnae chapter.
* We post general information here; inspirational quotes about sisterhood and “Do Good Week”.

**On Facebook - Fort Myers Area Delta Gamma Alumnae**

* **This is our “private” Facebook group.**
* The only people who can see the information here are sisters who have asked to join, and who have been approved and added.
* Information posted here may include an address to a meeting at a member’s home or clubhouse, etc.

**EVITES**

If your email is registered with Executive Office at [www.deltagamma.org](http://www.deltagamma.org), you are on our list! You will receive all email correspondence from us and Executive Offices. We send out email invitations called Evites for meetings and events. It is safe to open these emails!

**If you’re not getting Evites, we need your email address!**

Send it to us at FortMyersDeltaGamma@gmail.com or mail it to

Suzie Nowell at 1141 Paper Fig Court, Sanibel, FL 33957

**Mark Your Calendar -- October 2018 - April 2019**

Please watch your email for Evites with updated information

**Friday, October 26 at 5:00**

**Welcome Back!**

**Stillwater Grill, 13451 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33919**

**RSVP by Monday, October 22** to FortMyersDeltaGamma@gmail.com or to the Evite

* Join us for Dutch treat appetizers/dinner/drinks
* Brief DG business meeting with potential guest speaker from Lighthouse of SWFL, Inc.
* Our special guest will be Jeannine Dolinski, Gamma Iota/DePauw University. Bring your checkbook to purchase beautiful jewelry from Jeannine’s Jems! She will have anchor items, as well as other stunning, hand-crafted pieces.
* All proceeds from the sale will go toward our local Foundation activities.

**Monday, November 12 at 5:30**

**Get-U-Cooking!**

**17051 Jean Street, Suite 7, Fort Myers 33967**

* One of our most FUN and popular events!
* This will be a holiday appetizer and dessert cooking class. Cook, visit and EAT!

**Sunday, December 2 at 2:00**

**Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol**

**Florida Repertory Theatre, 2268 Bay Street, downtown Fort Myers, 33901**

* Start the Christmas season by spending the day with your sisters.
* We will meet for lunch prior to the performance. The location is dependent on how many RSVP.
* Watch for your Evite to purchase a ticket in our block of seats.

**January Foundation event TBA**

* We are working to coordinate a hands’ on event at Lighthouse of SWFL. We will keep you posted on their needs and availability.

**February event TBA**

* Happy Galentine’s Day

**Saturday, March 9 time TBA**

**Punta Gorda Isles Yacht Club**

**1780 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda 33950**

* Founder’s Day with the Sarasota Alumnae Chapter. We’re looking forward to this special sisterhood!

**Saturday, April 13**

* End of year Pot-Luck wrap party at a member’s home. Watch for your Evite for the location.

Summer luncheons, dinners and Foundation events will be planned! Watch for your Evite or check the calendar on our website at[**www.FortMyersArea.DeltaGamma.org**](http://www.FortMyersArea.DeltaGamma.org)**.**